Highsoft Fair Use Policy for Highcharts

Guiding Principles and Best Practices

Introduction

This fair use policy for Highsoft software (Highcharts) serves as a set of guidelines that delineates the acceptable use of Highcharts when downloaded or retrieved from Highsoft's CDN (Content Delivery Network). This policy replaces any previous fair use policy and carries forward its principles while introducing new regulations to protect the rights of Highsoft as the software creator and copyright owner and providing users with a framework for responsible usage. By adhering to this fair use policy, individuals and organizations can ensure that they are utilizing Highcharts in a manner that is authorised by Highsoft and respects Highsoft's intellectual property rights and, at the same time, promotes fair use and innovation.

CDN & Fair Usage Policy

Background

Highsoft's CDN, hosted via Cloudflare, is a globally distributed network of servers designed to ensure faster load times, improved reliability, and reduced latency for our customers. The Highcharts CDN primarily serves developers looking for quick access to Highcharts scripts for testing or small-scale projects.

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Fair Usage & License Compliance

To maintain high service availability and control operational costs, Highsoft enforces a Fair Usage Policy for CDN access:

- The Highcharts CDN is intended for manual browser-based usage, not for large-scale automated requests.
- Batch/scripted usage may, at Highsoft's sole discretion, result in rate limiting and/or blocking.
- Customers must maintain an active Highcharts Advantage plan to benefit from CDN-hosted resources and hereunder to gain access to the latest version of Highcharts.

Although openly available, usage of files from our CDN is restricted and hereby mentioned terms and conditions. For production, distributed applications, bulk requests, CI and any usage causing large request volume with same origin you should instead install Highcharts via npm and provide your own distribution.

Note that when retrieving Highcharts code via our CDN, you automatically access the most up-to-date version of our software. To qualify for this benefit, you must maintain an active Highcharts Advantage plan. If you're uncertain about the specific Highcharts version covered by your license, please

reach out to our sales team at sales@highsoft.com, and we will gladly verify the information for you.

License Compliance & Enforcement

Commercial Use Requirements

This fair use policy mandates that a commercial license is required for any commercial use of Highcharts when using the CDN. Unauthorized commercial usage will be subject to enforcement actions.

Automated Enforcement Mechanisms

Highsoft may use automated monitoring of charts loaded via the CDN to assess usage patterns and ensure compliance with this fair use policy. If a chart is used in a way that does not comply, automated actions such as blocking access or issuing a warning may be taken. Among the enforcement mechanisms we may use are:

- Automated request logging via Cloudflare to monitor traffic patterns.
- CDN usage analysis to detect potential license violations.
- Domain verification to link CDN traffic to known licensed customers.
- Automated web crawling to identify unauthorized usage and potential license violations across publicly accessible websites.
- Referer & user-agent validation to enforce policy adherence.

Best Practices for Responsible Use

To ensure compliance with this fair use policy, users should adopt the following best practices:

- Seek Permission: When in doubt, always seek permission from Highsoft before using Highcharts.
- Credit the Creator: Properly attribute Highcharts to its original creator when used in any public or academic setting.
- Limit Usage: Use only the amount of Highcharts necessary to achieve your purpose, avoiding excessive use.
- Review Licensing Agreements: Carefully review and adhere to the licensing agreements associated with Highcharts.

Conclusion

Adhering to this fair use policy for Highcharts downloaded or retrieved from Highsoft's CDN is essential for maintaining ethical and legal standards in software usage. By understanding the principles of fair use as defined by Highsoft and practicing responsible behaviour, users can contribute to a respectful and innovative software ecosystem. Whether for educational purposes, research, or suggested improvements, Highsoft's fair use policy provides a valuable framework that balances the needs of users and the rights of creators.