

Making first contribution to Open Source

By Cynthia Rich, GitHub

Intro to Git

- Distributed version control system
- Problems with centralized system - difficulties in managing multiple features, merge conflicts
- Goto octoverse.github.com for some interesting stats.
- Interesting projects
 - github.com/realpython/python-guide
 - github.com/nasa-ipl/open-source-rover
- Github Marketplace
- Evolution of a contributor
 - User -> bug finder -> Recommender -> Reviewer -> Fixer

Making contribution

- Pulled github.com/githubtraining/pin-me
- Added a new json file in _pins/ folder. They use jackal to convert json to yaml.
- probot.github.com - Automating GitHub workflows.
- Repos can have its own template to be filled when submitting a pull request.
- For large features, create an issue first, discuss with the project maintainers before creating a pull request.
- For this class
 - Created a fork from the parent repo
 - Clone the forked repository locally
 - Make changes, stage, commit.
 - Push changes to the remote
 - Create a pull request
 - Fill in the details and submit

How to pick a project to work on and find issues to work

- Example: Microsoft
- Look for "Issues need help" under the repository description
- Some metrics to pay attention to while choosing a project

- Is it actively maintained?
- Are the contributors active? How many contributors?
- README.md file - typically user perspective first, and then contributors' perspective followed in a writing a readme file.
- Read the LICENSE file
- Read the contributor's guide
-

I was expecting a deeper session on how to find interesting repos to work on, get started, contribute and collaborate with the other contributors. This talk was rather more about intro to Git and GitHub. They spent only a few minutes of submitting a pull request.