

# Why I Volunteer at FOSDEM, and You Should Too!



# Who Am I?



## My Role

Developer  
Advocate at  
Grafana Labs

## My Home

Based in  
(usually) sunny  
Barcelona

## My Passion

Building  
inclusive tech  
communities



I love learning how community events work

# My First Volunteering Experience



## Friday build-up

Brown paper everywhere,  
unloading trucks, setting  
up rooms!

## During the event

Info Desk shift, sell  
t-shirts, help attendees  
navigate FOSDEM

## Sunday tear-down

Cleaning up the aftermath – and dinner with  
volunteers!

It was **chaotic**, but also **rewarding**

# My Experience This Year

## Devroom support

I am volunteering at the

**Software Performance DevRoom**





# What's In It For You?

## The human connection

### Inspiring Stories

Meeting students who traveled with nowhere to sleep, just to be part of this incredible community

### Serendipia

I met Pablo Vigo, from [Barcelona Free Software](#), led to long-term collaboration back home

### Giving back

The feeling that you helped make FOSDEM happen, however small the task



FOSDEM 26



# What's In It For You?

And the orange or blue t-shirt!



# The Community Organizer's Perspective

How do you run a 10k+ in-person volunteer-led event?

## The miracle

FOSDEM is a logistics marvel with 10,000+ attendees and a massive number of parallel tracks, online streaming

## Core team vs. volunteers

Year-round organizers integrate one-time volunteers for concrete tasks in a self-organized way

## Your choice

Choose what you want to do and how much time to spend, from a couple hours to a full afternoon



Volunteering is a **masterclass** in **community events organization** you can take home



# How to Find Volunteering Opportunities

It's easier than you think!



## Devroom CfPs

Read the fine print! Some Devrooms ask for volunteers in their CfPs

**FOSDEM] Call for participation: Software Performance Devroom - FOSDEM 2026**

zamazan4ik [zamazan4ik@gmail.com](mailto:zamazan4ik@gmail.com)  
Thu Nov 6 17:22:32 UTC 2025

- Previous message (by thread): [\[FOSDEM\] CfP for FOSDEM'26 HPC, Big Data, and Data Science Devroom](#)
- Next message (by thread): [\[FOSDEM\] Call for Participation: Package Managers Devroom at FOSDEM 2026](#)
- Messages sorted by: [\[date\]](#) [\[thread\]](#) [\[subject\]](#) [\[author\]](#)

Hello!  
We are delighted to announce the Call for Participation for the "Software Performance" devroom at FOSDEM 2026!  
This is our first time doing this devroom, so let's make it interesting for everyone together!

About the devroom  
=====

Software Performance is a huge and important topic nowadays: it shapes user experience, infrastructure cost, scalability, and even sustainability.  
Yet, every open source project tackles performance in its own way: through tools, methodologies, trade-offs, and practices.

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<https://lists.fosdem.org/pipermail/fosdem/2025q4/003692.html>

- \* November 30th 2025: Deadline for submission of proposals
- \* December 15th 2025: Announcement of acceptance + final schedule
- \* February 1st 2026: Devroom day, in-person in Brussels.

### Volunteers

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We will also call for volunteers to help us run the event and help us with the devroom operation.  
Please email the organizers, in case you are interested.

### Organizers

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You can reach out directly to the organizers, if you have a specific request or question:



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## Fediverse / Social

Look for posts from DevRoom

organizers looking for help

Orlin Vasilev · 1st  
Cloud Native and Open Source Advocate | CNCF Ambassador | Project H...  
2w •

#FOSDEM 2026 #Community dev room still has some available slots for volunteers:  
- Door management  
- Time Keepers

Sunday 1st of February!

If you want to join us DM me or [Laura Czajkowski](#) or [Shirley Bailes](#)!





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## Call for Volunteers

Watch for the "Call for Volunteers"

post at [fosdem.org](https://fosdem.org)

# I am convinced, where do I sign up?

<https://volunteers.fosdem.org>

The screenshot shows the FOSDEM Volunteering website. At the top, there's a banner with a green background featuring many people's faces. Below it, the main navigation bar includes Home, Tasks, Docs, and Sign in.

The main content area has a purple header with the text "FOSDEM Volunteering". Below this, a sub-header says: "This is a site that brings all the volunteers together. Find all the cool tasks that you are interested in! Problems? For bugs you can report an issue at [Github](#)."

On the left, there are several sections:

- FOSDEM**: A free and non-commercial two-day event organised by volunteers to promote the widespread use of free and open source software. The goal is to provide free and open source software developers and communities a place to meet.
- Documentation**: Task documentation for Volunteers can be found on [doc.volunteers.fosdem.org](http://doc.volunteers.fosdem.org).
- Volunteering**: FOSDEM needs you! Every year, the FOSDEM team is assisted by an enthusiastic team of volunteers to help out with various tasks and make the event a fun and safe place for all our visitors.
- Location**: FOSDEM 2026 will take place at the ULB in Brussels, Belgium, within many of the buildings on the Solbosch campus.
- Stay Informed**: Join the Volunteering chat channel on Matrix: #fosdem-volunteers on matrix (webchat). You can also subscribe to receive updates from the mailing list [here](http://doc.volunteers.fosdem.org).

The right side of the screenshot shows a "Tasks" page with a grid view. The columns are labeled: I'M IN!, TASK, WHEN, VOLUNTEERS, and LOCATION. The rows represent different days and tasks, such as "TRANSPORTATION" on Thursday and "BUILDUP" on Friday. Each task row has checkboxes for signing up and colored boxes indicating the number of volunteers available or signed up. For example, on Friday, there are tasks like "Buildup (arrival 12 noon)" with 25/25 volunteers available, and "Buildup (arrival 3pm) (NOT NEEDED)" with 17/25 volunteers available.



# Hear from other volunteers!

<https://dev.to/edithturn/volunteering-at-fosdem-my-best-way-to-experience-the-conference-2ph3>



 Edith Puclla  
Posted on 9 ene • Edited on 11 ene

## Volunteering at FOSDEM: my best way to experience the conference

FOSDEM is huge, busy, and full of amazing open source energy. But behind all the talks, devrooms, booths, and hallway conversations... there's one simple

### Tips if it's your first time volunteering

- Wear comfortable shoes (you'll walk a lot).
- Bring a water bottle and a snack.
- Keep your phone charged (maps + coordination).
- If you're unsure, ask. It's normal.
- Pick one short shift to start; you can always add more later.



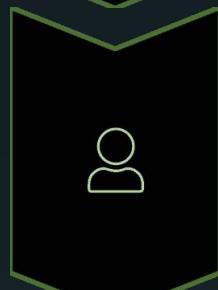
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# Join the Volunteers!



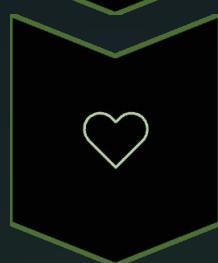
## Don't Just Attend

Experience FOSDEM from the inside



## Choose your task/s

Read the volunteer documentation and show up



## Become a volunteer!

See you there

Volunteer at FOSDEM 2026





# Thank You!

<https://eyeveebee.dev/why-i-volunteer-at-fosdem-and-you-should-too>

