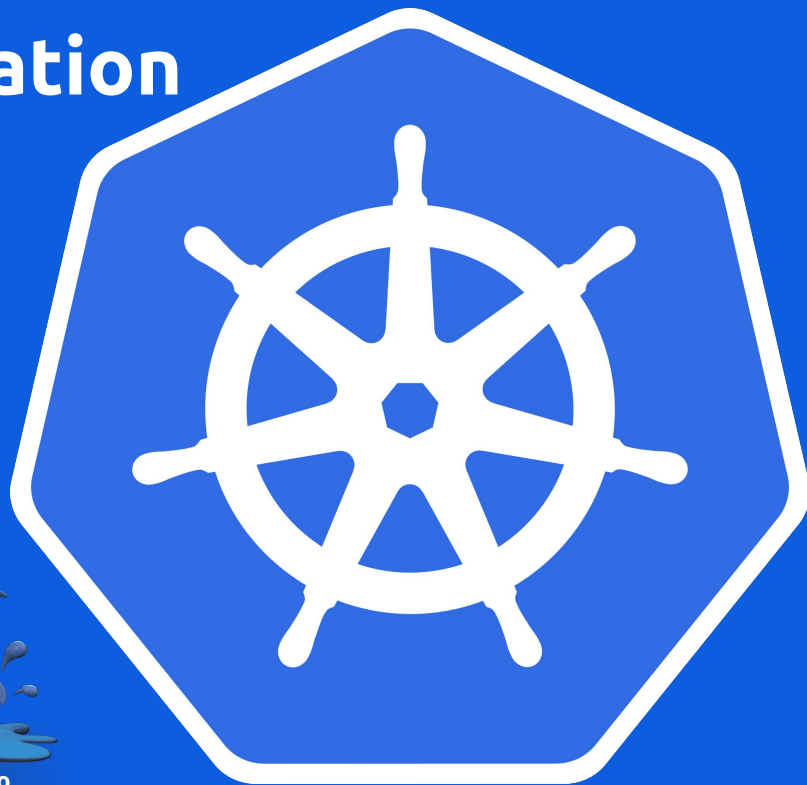


# Kubernetes

---

## New Contributor Orientation

March 2025



Phippy & Friends are Open Source (CC-BY) CNCF mascots. Learn more at: <https://phippy.io>

# Housekeeping

---

- This meeting is recorded and will be published on YouTube.
- This meeting abides by a [Code of Conduct](#).
- Please **use the chat to ask questions** throughout!
  - There will be a chance to ask questions verbally at the end.
- You can find these slides in the [kubernetes/community/mentoring/new-contributor-orientation](#) repo on GitHub

<https://kubernetes.io/community/code-of-conduct/>

# Agenda

---

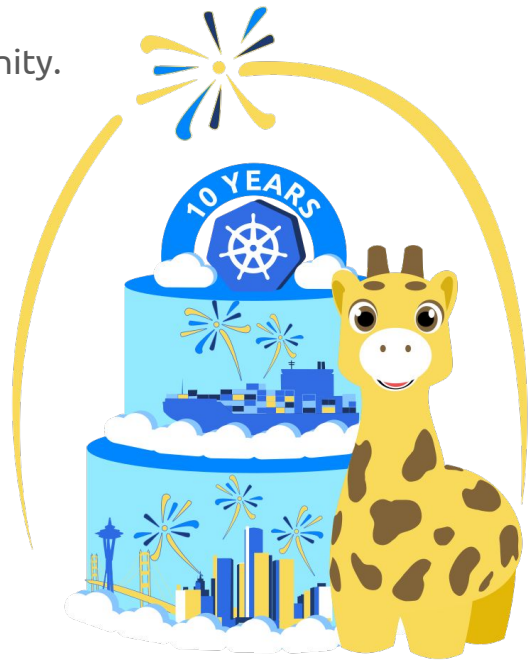
This meeting is meant to **orient** you in the Kubernetes community.

## Presentation (40 min)

- Welcome to Kubernetes!
- What is Kubernetes?
- Kubernetes Community Structure
- What does it mean to be a “Contributor”?
- How to Start Contributing
- Current Work Opportunities
- Contribution Pitfalls

## Q&A (20 min)

- Ask Us Anything!



# Today's Hosts (EMEA/APAC)



**Mario Fahlandt**

SIG K8s Infra

SIG ContribEx

Comms Subproject Tech Lead

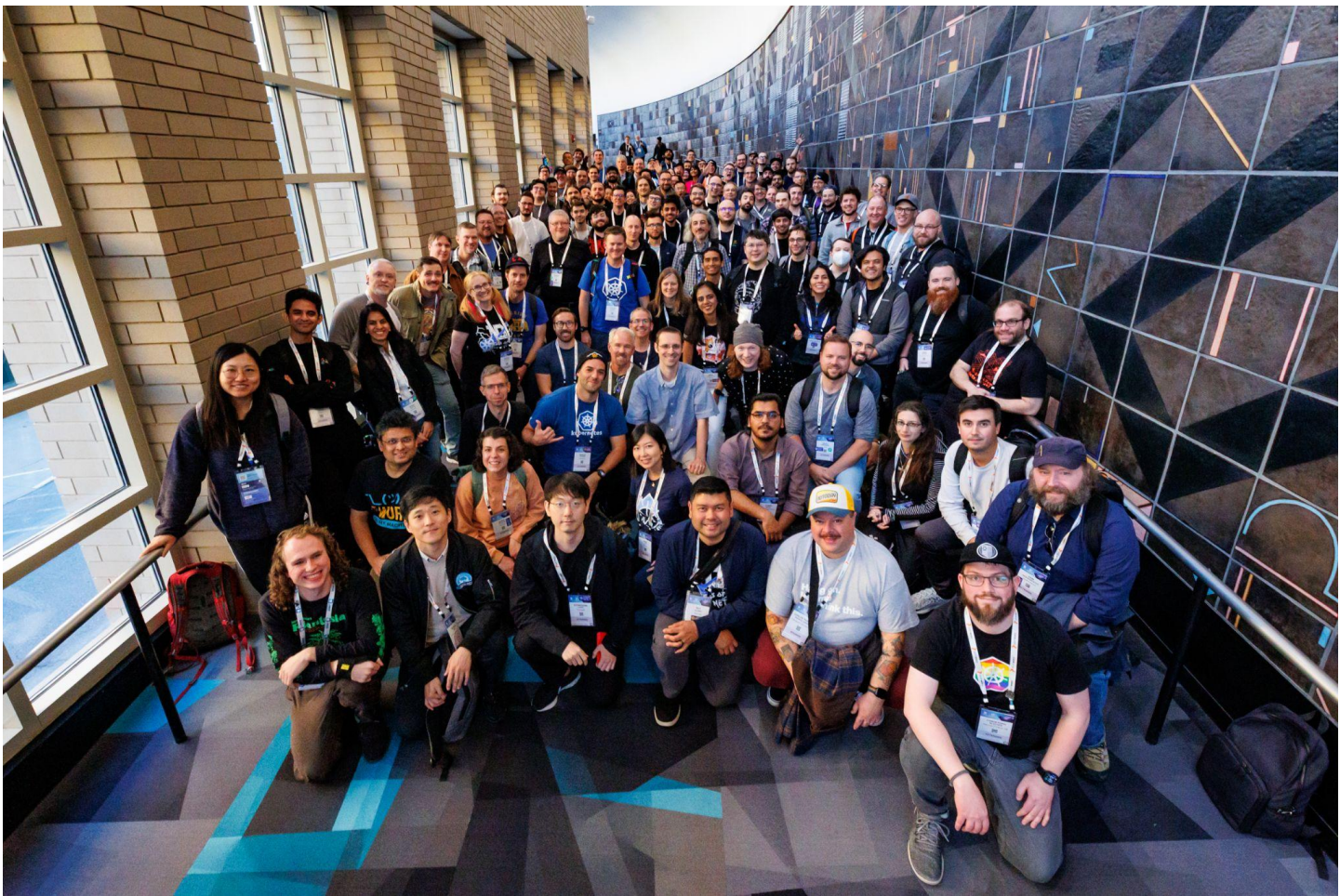
# Today's Hosts (AMER)



Darshan Murthy  
SIG Storage

# Meet Kubernetes!





Kubernetes Contributor Summit NA 2024



## Community Snapshot - November 2024



**94.8k**

**Contributors**

**4.56M**

**Contributions**

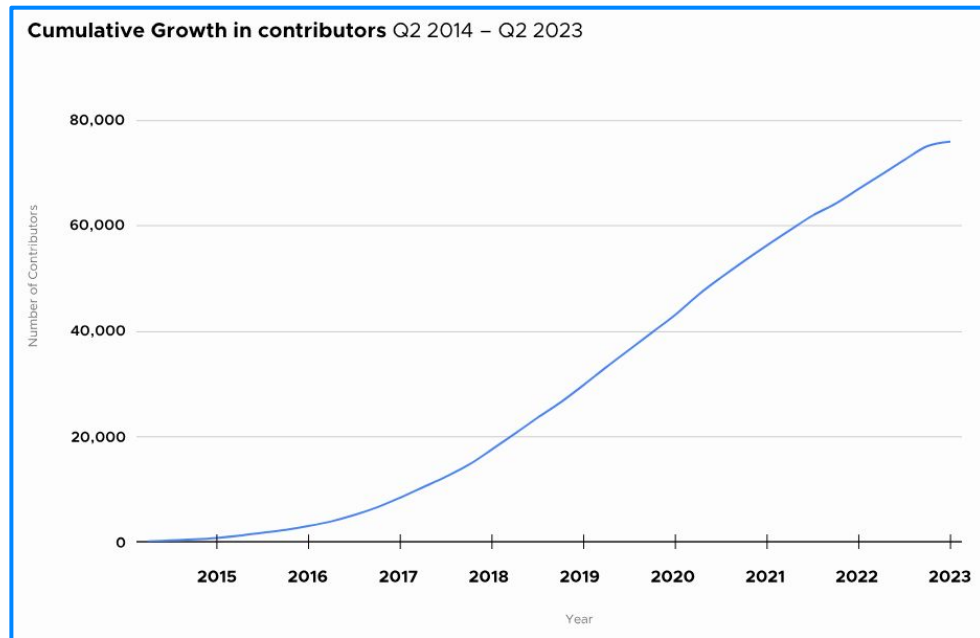
**7.8K**

**Reviewers**

Stats from [Kubernetes Devstats](#), Mar 24 2025



# Contributor Growth 2014-2023



Graph from the [2023 Kubernetes Project Journey Report](#)

# What is Kubernetes?

(Koo-bur-neh-tees)

## Open-Source Project

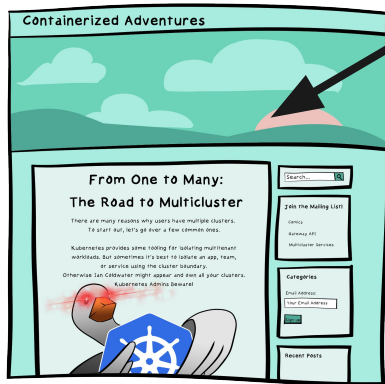
The open source project is hosted by the Cloud Native Computing Foundation (CNCF).

Kubernetes is the second-largest open-source project in the world after Linux.

## Container Orchestration Platform

Kubernetes, also known as k8s, is an open source container orchestration engine for automating deployment, scaling, and management of containerized applications.

# Kubernetes in a Nutshell



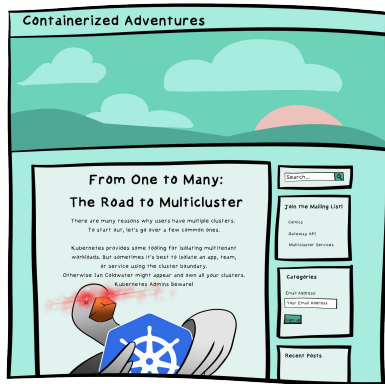
Businesses have a lot of apps they need to run, like:

- Websites, wikis
- HR/Payroll applications
- Inventory Management Applications
- etc

**App**

(The thing you want to run)

# Kubernetes in a Nutshell



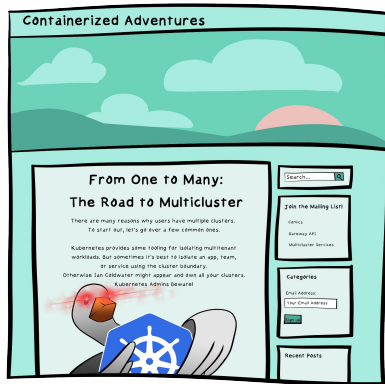
App

(The thing you want to run)

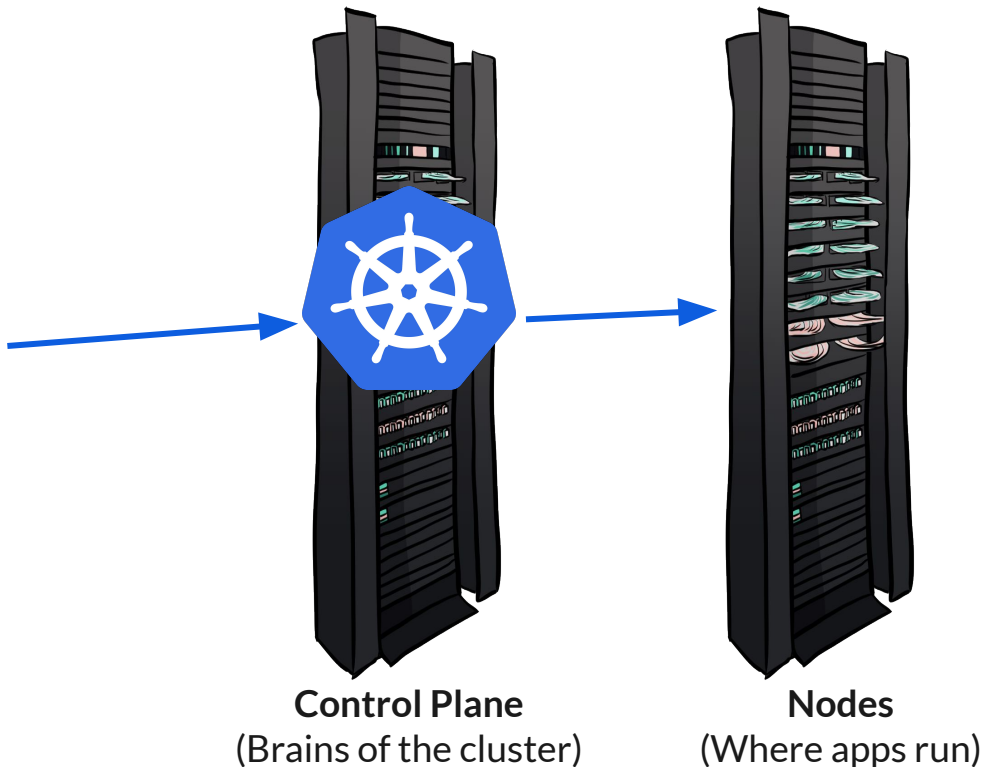


Businesses also have a lot of computers to run these applications on.  
(Yes, these are computers.)

# Kubernetes in a Nutshell



**App**  
(The thing you want to run)



# Kubernetes Community Structure



# Community Structure



- The Foundation which Kubernetes is part of.
- Non-Profit Organization
- Provides/manages funding & various guidance & services

## Steering Committee

- 7 Members
- Elected by Kubernetes Org Members
- Interfaces with CNCF
- Whole-Project Scope

## SIGs / WGs Special Interest / Working Groups

- Work Areas within Kubernetes
- IE. Networking, Release, Docs, etc.
- SIGs = constant
- WGs = topical/temporary

## Subprojects

- Created by SIGs.
- Groups that execute on specific work/projects.



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# Kubernetes Community Structure



24

Special Interest Groups

7

Working Groups

3

Committees

# Kubernetes Community Structure

**Project**

Does work that affects/supports the entire project.  
Collaborates with all other groups.  
All other groups depend on the work of these groups.

**Horizontal**

Has deep, broad technical focus.  
Owns core functionality from a project architecture perspective.  
Depends on the work of the “Project” groups.

**Vertical**

Has deep, specific technical focus.  
Depends on work of the “Horizontal” and “Project” groups.

**Key**

**SIG**

**Working Group**

# Kubernetes Community Structure

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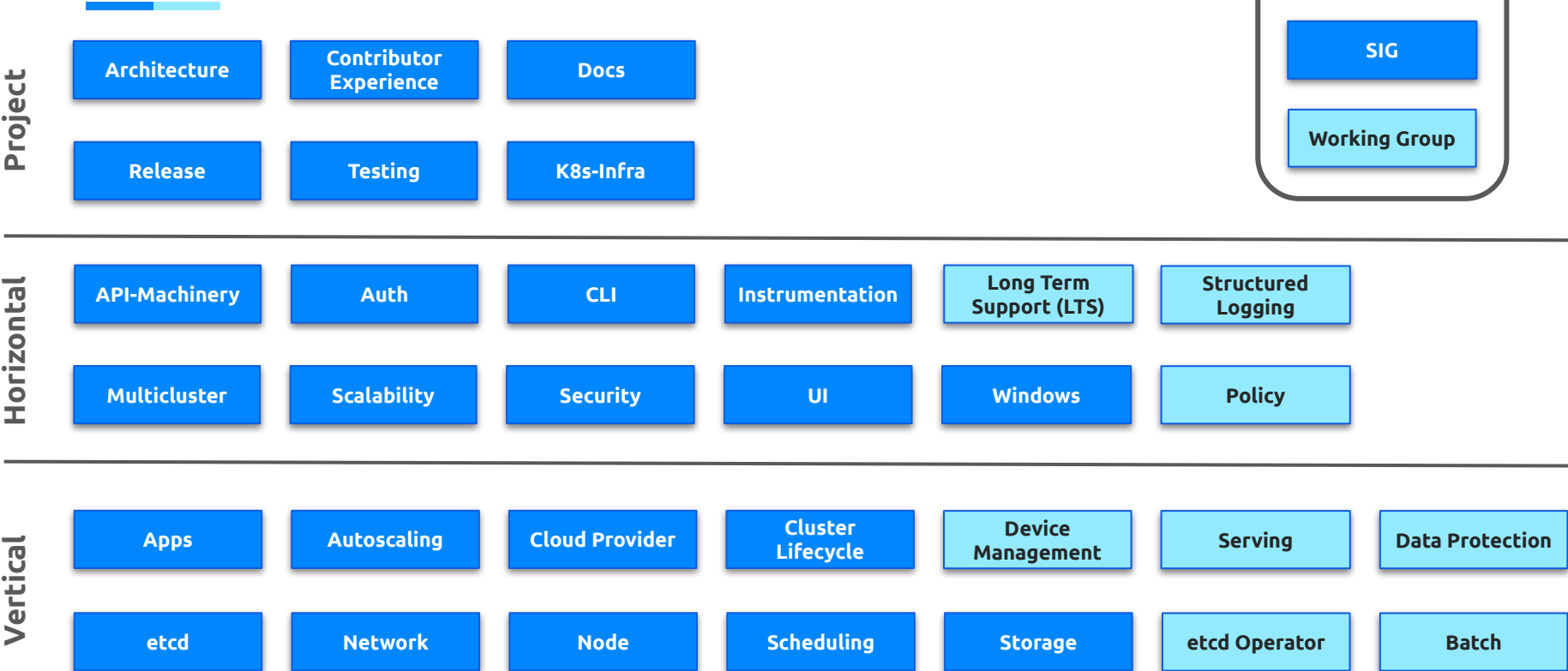
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Has deep, specific technical focus.

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# Kubernetes Community Structure



# Why Contribute?

# There are many reasons to contribute!



- Your job requires it
- Grow specific career-related skills
- Network & make connections with other professionals
- Cool Technology
- Enjoy being part of the community

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- Your job requires it
- Grow specific career-related skills
- Network & make connections with other professionals
- Cool Technology
- Enjoy being part of the community

**Think carefully about why you want to contribute!**

**What does it mean to be a  
“Contributor”?**



# What Counts as a “Contribution”?





# What Counts as a “Contribution”?



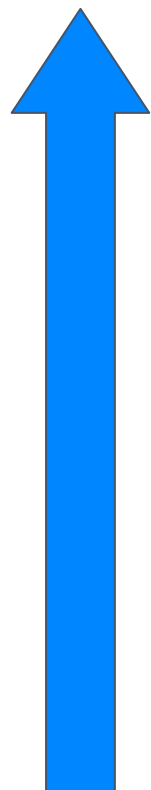
Any work that you do to support the open source  
Kubernetes project!

# What Counts as a “Contribution”?



- Taking notes during a community meeting
- Asking a question on Slack
- Correcting a grammatical or spelling error in documentation
- Implementing a new feature, or part of a feature
- Commenting on a KEP (Kubernetes Enhancement Proposal) or issue
- Filing an issue
- Writing a blog post
- Helping a fellow contributor work through a problem
- ... and much more!

# The Contributor Ladder



SIG Chair / Tech Lead

- Set priorities and manage the SIG and its subprojects
- Interface with the Steering Committee

Subproject Lead

- Set priorities and approve proposals for subproject
- Responsibility & leadership for entire project across all repos/directories

Subproject Owner

- Subject matter expert for repository/directory
- Highly experienced, aids in triage & mentorship for scoped area

Approver

- Approve contributions for acceptance
- Highly experienced reviewer and contributor in subproject

Reviewer

- History of reviewing; reviews frequently
- Authorship in subproject

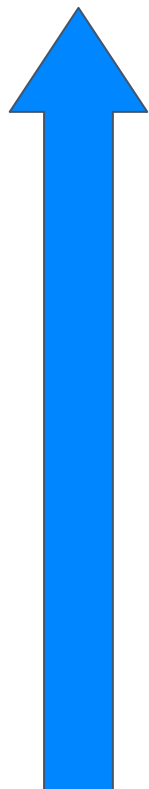
Member

- Active contributor to the project
- Sponsored by two Reviewers

You  
Are  
Here

Non-member Contributors

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You'll be ready for **Org Membership** when the contributors you work with know your work and will vouch for you as sponsors.

for repository/directory  
in triage & mentorship for scoped area

for acceptance  
reviewer and contributor in subproject

reviews frequently

Reviewer

- Authorship in subproject

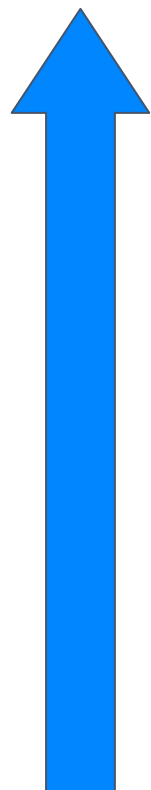
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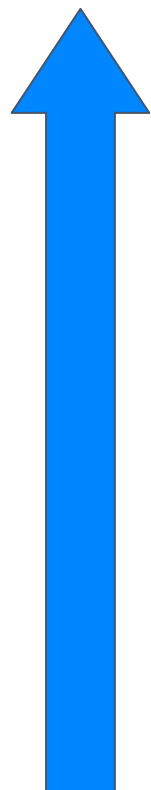
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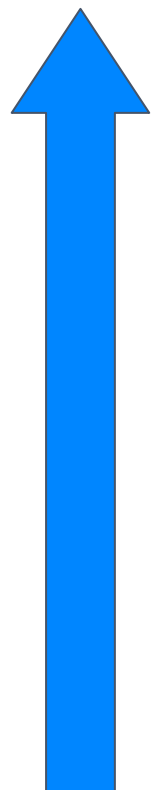
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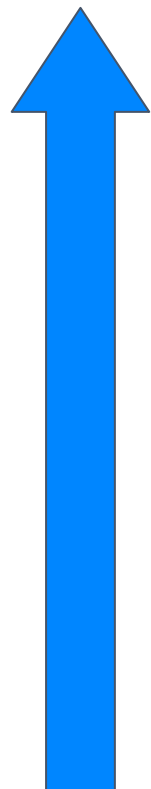
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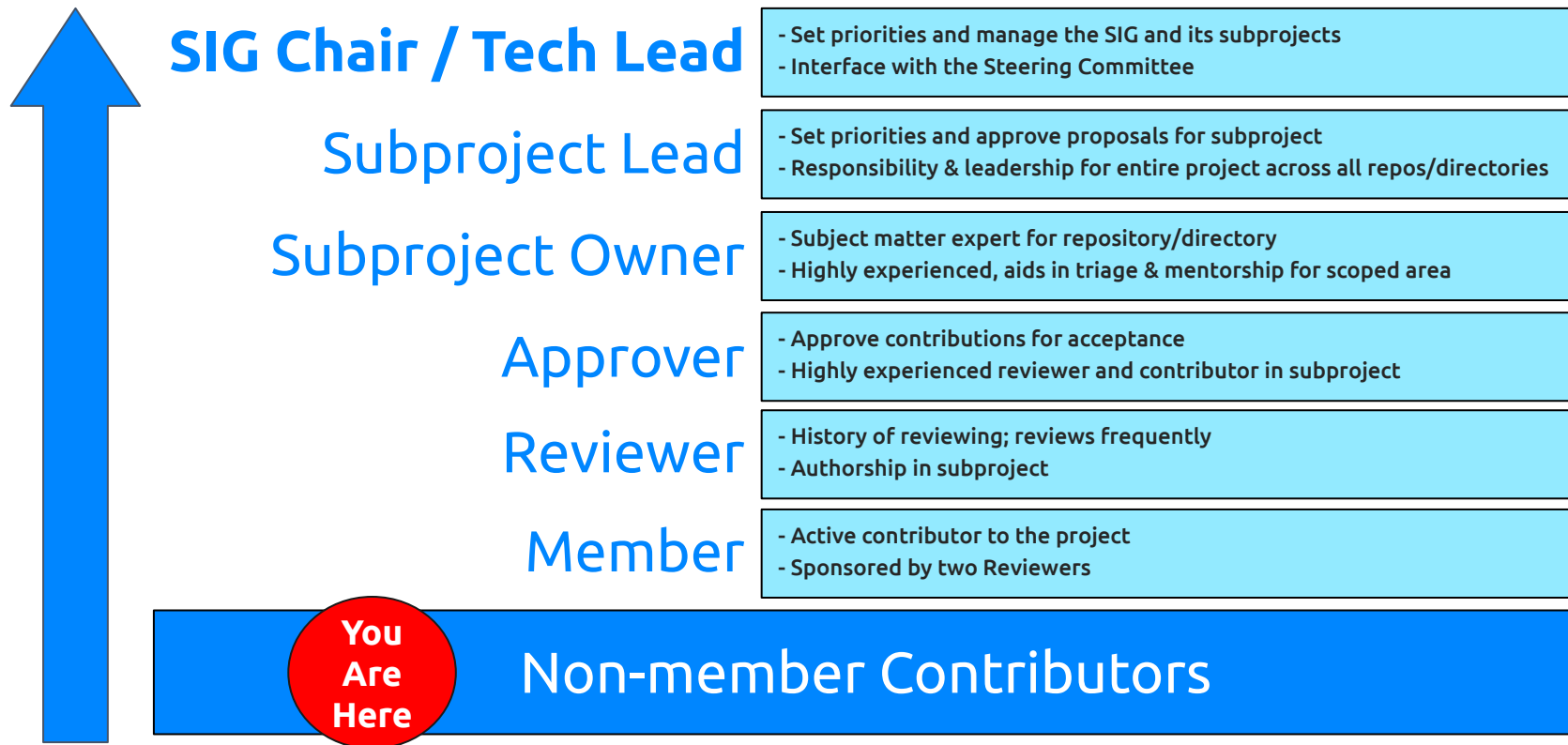
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You  
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Non-member Contributors

# The Contributor Ladder



## **You're not tied to one SIG or Project!**



The ladder represents how ownership might build, but  
paths are not always so linear!

# How to Start Contributing



## Just Join a SIG!



The fastest way to learn and make yourself useful is to find a SIG and/or subproject you're interested in, start attending meetings, and KEEP attending meetings.

# Join the Kubernetes Slack & the K-Dev mailing list!



The Kubernetes Slack is the primary way the community communicates casually.

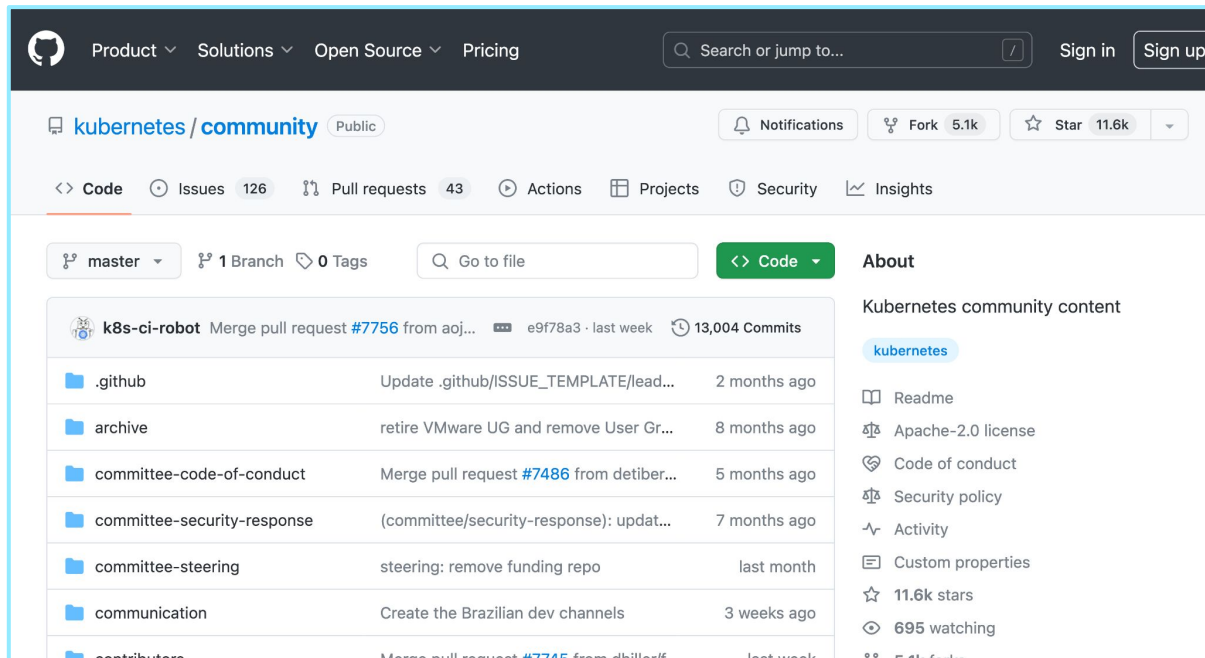
<https://slack.k8s.io>

The Kubernetes Developer Google Group is the primary way the community shares announcements <https://groups.google.com/a/kubernetes.io/g/dev>

# How to Learn About SIGs



# Find Info About All the SIGs & WGs in k/community



The screenshot shows the GitHub repository for the Kubernetes community. The repository is named 'kubernetes / community' and is public. It has 11.6k stars and 5.1k forks. The repository is managed by 'k8s-ci-robot'. The main branch is 'master', and there is 1 branch and 0 tags. The repository contains a list of files and folders, including '.github', 'archive', 'committee-code-of-conduct', 'committee-security-response', 'committee-steering', 'communication', and 'contributors'. The 'About' section on the right provides information about the Kubernetes community content, including the README, Apache-2.0 license, Code of conduct, Security policy, Activity, Custom properties, 11.6k stars, and 695 watching.

Product ▾ Solutions ▾ Open Source ▾ Pricing

Search or jump to... / Sign in Sign up

kubernetes / community Public

Notifications Fork 5.1k Star 11.6k ▾

<> Code Issues 126 Pull requests 43 Actions Projects Security Insights

master ▾ 1 Branch 0 Tags Go to file <> Code ▾

k8s-ci-robot Merge pull request #7756 from aoj... e9f78a3 · last week 13,004 Commits

.github	Update .github/ISSUE_TEMPLATE/lead...	2 months ago
archive	retire VMware UG and remove User Gr...	8 months ago
committee-code-of-conduct	Merge pull request #7486 from detiber...	5 months ago
committee-security-response	(committee/security-response): updat...	7 months ago
committee-steering	steering: remove funding repo	last month
communication	Create the Brazilian dev channels	3 weeks ago
contributors	Merge pull request #7745 from dillerf...	last week

About

Kubernetes community content

kubernetes

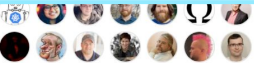
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<https://git.k8s.io/community>




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sig-api-machinery	generate 2023 Annual Report boilerplates	2 weeks ago
sig-apps	generate 2023 Annual Report boilerplates	2 weeks ago
sig-architecture	generate 2023 Annual Report boilerplates	2 weeks ago
sig-auth	generate 2023 Annual Report boilerplates	2 weeks ago
sig-autoscaling	generate 2023 Annual Report boilerplates	2 weeks ago
sig-cli	generate 2023 Annual Report boilerplates	2 weeks ago
sig-cloud-provider	generate 2023 Annual Report boilerplates	2 weeks ago
sig-cluster-lifecycle	generate 2023 Annual Report boilerplates	2 weeks ago
sig-contributor-experience	generate 2023 Annual Report boilerplates	2 weeks ago
sig-docs	generate 2023 Annual Report boilerplates	2 weeks ago
sig-etcd	generate 2023 Annual Report boilerplates	2 weeks ago
sig-instrumentation	generate 2023 Annual Report boilerplates	2 weeks ago
sig-k8s-infra	generate 2023 Annual Report boilerplates	2 weeks ago
sig-multicluster	generate 2023 Annual Report boilerplates	2 weeks ago
sig-network	generate 2023 Annual Report boilerplates	2 weeks ago
sig-node	generate 2023 Annual Report boilerplates	2 weeks ago
sig-release	generate 2023 Annual Report boilerplates	2 weeks ago



+ 1,265 contributors

### Languages



- Jupyter Notebook 51.9%
- Python 24.6%
- Go 18.8%
- Shell 4.2%
- Other 0.5%

<https://git.k8s.io/community>

# Example SIG Repo Walkthrough

What  
does the  
group  
do?

README.md



## Contributor Experience Special Interest Group

Developing and sustaining a healthy community of contributors is critical to scaling the project and growing the ecosystem. We need to ensure our contributors are happy and productive, and that there are not bottlenecks hindering the project in, for example: feature velocity, community scaling, pull request latency, and absolute numbers of open pull requests and open issues.

The [charter](#) defines the scope and governance of the Contributor Experience Special Interest Group.

## Meetings

Joining the [mailing list](#) for the group will typically add invites for the following meetings to your calendar.

- Regular SIG Meeting: [Wednesdays at 9:00 PT \(Pacific Time\)](#) (Biweekly). [Convert to your timezone.](#)
  - [Meeting notes and Agenda.](#)
  - [Meeting recordings.](#)
- Regular SIG Meeting (APAC/J/NZ timezone friendly): [Wednesdays at 7:30 UTC](#) (Biweekly, interleaved with the Regular SIG Meeting). [Convert to your timezone.](#)
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README.md



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*When do they meet?*

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# Example SIG Repo Walkthrough

---

## Leadership

---

### Chairs

The Chairs of the SIG run operations and processes governing the SIG.

- Kaslin Fields ([@kaslin](#)), Google
- Nabarun Pal ([@palnabarun](#)), VMware

*Who are  
the points  
of contact?*

### Technical Leads

The Technical Leads of the SIG establish new subprojects, decommission existing subprojects, and resolve cross-subproject technical issues and decisions.

- Madhav Jivrajani ([@MadhavJivrajani](#)), VMware
- Priyanka Saggu ([@Priyankasaggu11929](#)), SUSE

# Example SIG Repo Walkthrough

## Contact

- Slack: [#sig-contribex](#)
- [Mailing list](#)
- [Open Community Issues/PRs](#)
- GitHub Teams:
  - [@kubernetes/sig-contributor-experience](#) - General Discussion
  - [@kubernetes/sig-contributor-experience-leads](#) - Chairs and Technical Leads
  - [@kubernetes/sig-contributor-experience-pr-reviews](#) - PR Reviews
- Steering Committee Liaison: Bob Killen ([@mrboobytables](#))

Join by visiting  
**slack.k8s.io!**

*How do I  
reach out?*

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Join for announcements,  
the SIG calendar, & access  
to some docs.

*How do I  
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*How do I reach out?*

Join the Kubernetes “Dev”  
Google Group (k-dev)!

[https://groups.google.com/a/kubernetes.io/g/  
dev](https://groups.google.com/a/kubernetes.io/g/dev)



# Where to Find SIG Meetings - k8s.dev/calendar

The screenshot shows the 'Community Calendar' page on the Kubernetes Contributors website. The page has a dark blue header with navigation links: Welcome, Blog, Documentation, Community, Resources, Events, and a search bar. A left sidebar contains a search bar and a 'Resources' section with links to 'Community Calendar', 'Services and Requests', 'Kubernetes 1.31 Release Information', 'Default Branch Migration', and 'Enhancements'. The main content area is titled 'Community Calendar' and 'Meetings in the Kubernetes Community'. It includes a note 'Displayed times are in your local timezone' and a date range 'Sep 1 - 7, 2024'. Below this is a table of meetings for Monday, September 2, 2024, with columns for time and meeting name. The meetings are listed with blue dots indicating their status.

Monday, September 2, 2024	
7:00am - 7:25am	<a href="#">SIG autoscaling</a>
8:00am - 9:00am	<a href="#">SIG Docs Localization Subgroup Monthly Meeting</a>
9:00am - 10:00am	<a href="#">AWS Cluster API Meeting (bi-weekly)</a>
9:00am - 10:00am	<a href="#">KCSNA2024 Planning</a>
9:00am - 10:00am	<a href="#">Kubernetes SIG Apps</a>
9:00am - 9:30am	<a href="#">[sig-auth] Public Issues &amp; PRs Triage</a>
1:00pm - 1:30pm	<a href="#">Deadline for SIG Testing agenda items</a>
3:00pm - 4:00pm	<a href="#">[SIG-NETWORK] Gateway API Meeting</a>
9:30pm - 10:30pm	<a href="#">Cluster API Provider for IBM Cloud Bi-Weekly Meetings</a>

# Current Work Opportunities



# Evergreen Opportunities



## Most SIGs

- Meeting Note Taking
  - Always available
  - Subproject: Most that have meetings
  - No Experience Required
  - See the meeting invite/attend the meeting for details

## SIG ContribEx

- SIG Spotlight Blog
  - Always available
  - Subproject: Comms
  - No Experience Required
  - More Info: [SIG Spotlight Blog Process](#)
- Maintainer Summit Staff
  - 2x per year
  - Subproject: Events
  - Org Membership Required
  - More Info: [Events Team](#)

# Evergreen Opportunities



## SIG Docs

- PR Reviews - anyone can review
  - [PR Wrangler shadow program](#)
- New Contributor Meet & Greet
  - First Tuesday of the Month at 10:30 UTC
  - More info on [k/community/sig-docs](#)
- SIG Arch
  - General call for help. Get to know a broad area of the project!
  - Skills: Willingness to dive in, learn, be engaged over a significant period of time.
  - Pop in to Slack to learn more!

# Tasks with Skill Requirements



## Can I pick up this task?

Often, the community needs help with important tasks that **require certain skills** to complete. If a task mentions required skills, that usually means the group **doesn't have someone who can teach you those skills**. Ask questions before picking up a task with skill requirements!

The following calls for help have skill requirements.

**These tasks are not likely to be a good fit for you if you do not already have the requested skills.**

# Current Calls for Help



## SIG ContribEx

- Website Maintenance
  - Help maintain k8s.dev
  - **Skills:** Knowledge of Hugo Docsy required
- Mentoring Program Management
  - Help setup, support and execute the Kubernetes group mentoring program.
  - **Skills:** Organization skills, planning, communications.
  - Help the community keep track of the various mentoring programs we work with (ie. LFX, Google Summer of Code, etc.)
  - **Skills:** Familiarity with the Kubernetes community (org membership?), program management, communications
- Elekto
  - Elekto is our homegrown software to run elections for the community.
  - **Skills:** Python, Flask

# Current Calls for Help



## SIG Docs

- Blog Reviews
  - Help review proposed blog PRs
  - **Skills:** Familiarity with the [style guide](#), [content guide](#), [submitting a blog page](#), and [reviewing PR guide](#)
- Localization
  - **Skills:** Familiarity with English and at least one other language

## SIG Testing

- Help with Prow
  - **Skills:** Familiarity with prow
- Conformance Testing ([Hydrophone](#))
  - Feedback and help enabling adoption of new conformance testing tools for end users.

# Current Calls for Help



## SIG Network

- Gateway API
  - Ingress Nginx Gateway API Implementation - build from scratch!
  - General call for help
- API Reviewers
  - **Skills:** Longstanding familiarity with the project in the area of SIG Network

## SIG Release

- Release Automation help
  - **Skills:** coding/scripting, willingness to develop deep familiarity with the release process over time

## SIG Security

- Help Kubernetes understand and address CVEs
  - **Skills:** Familiarity with CVEs and security concepts



# Common Contribution Pitfalls



# The “Good First Issue Trap”

- Decide to Contribute
- Pick Up a “Good First Issue”
- ???
- Profit!!!

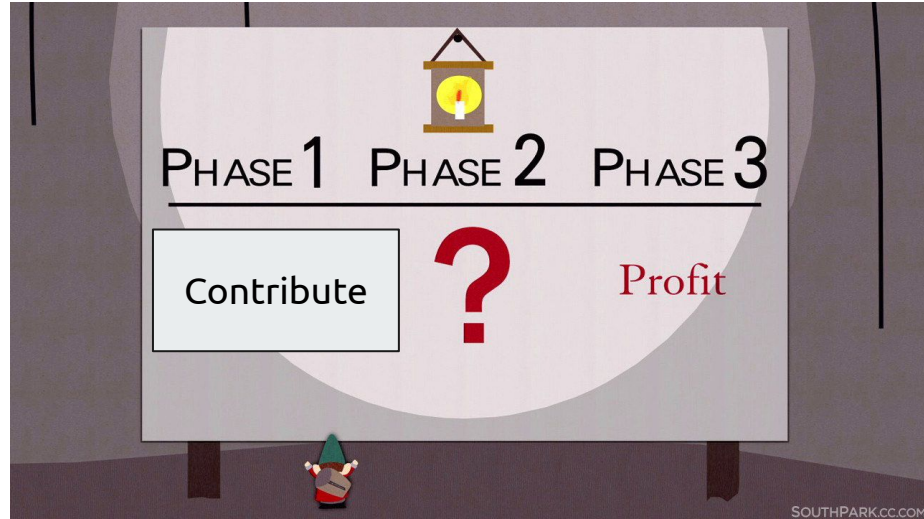
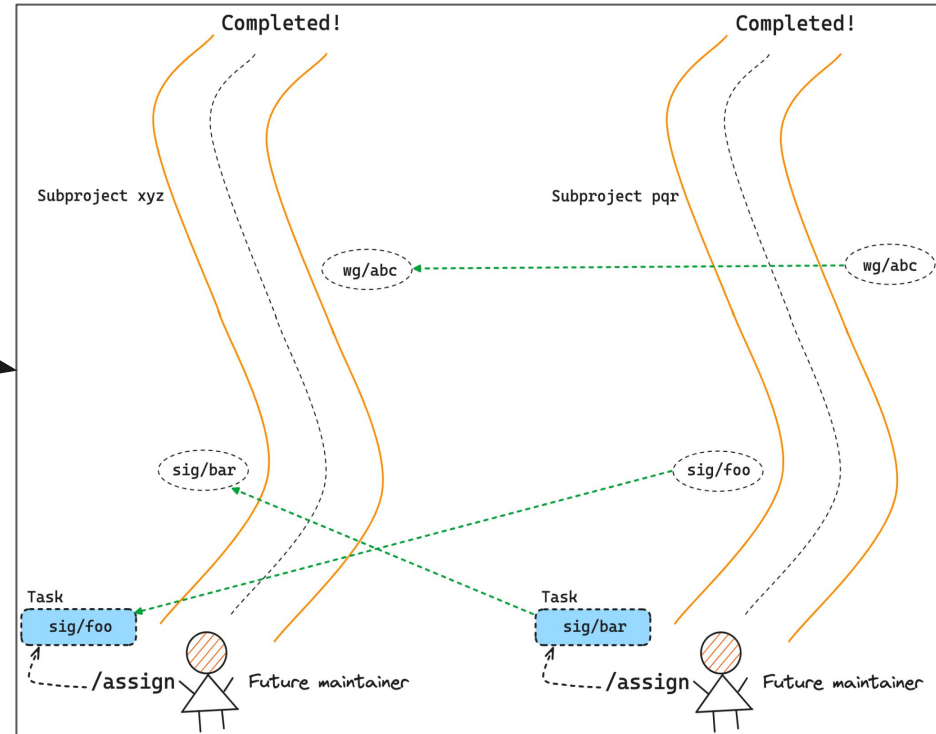


Image from: <https://knowyourmeme.com/memes/profit>

# The “Good First Issue Trap”

- Decide to Contribute
- Pick Up a “Good First Issue”
- ???



Often, more collaboration is required than you expect.

Most new contributors get lost somewhere in here.

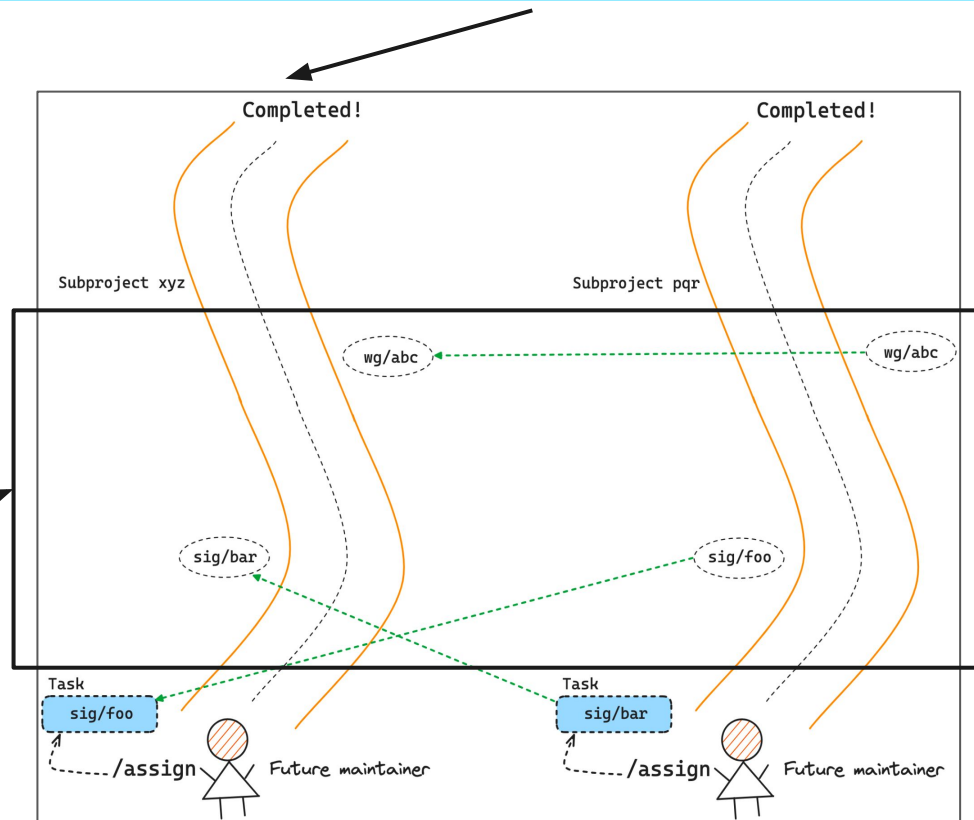
Often, more collaboration is required  
than you expect.

And never make it here.

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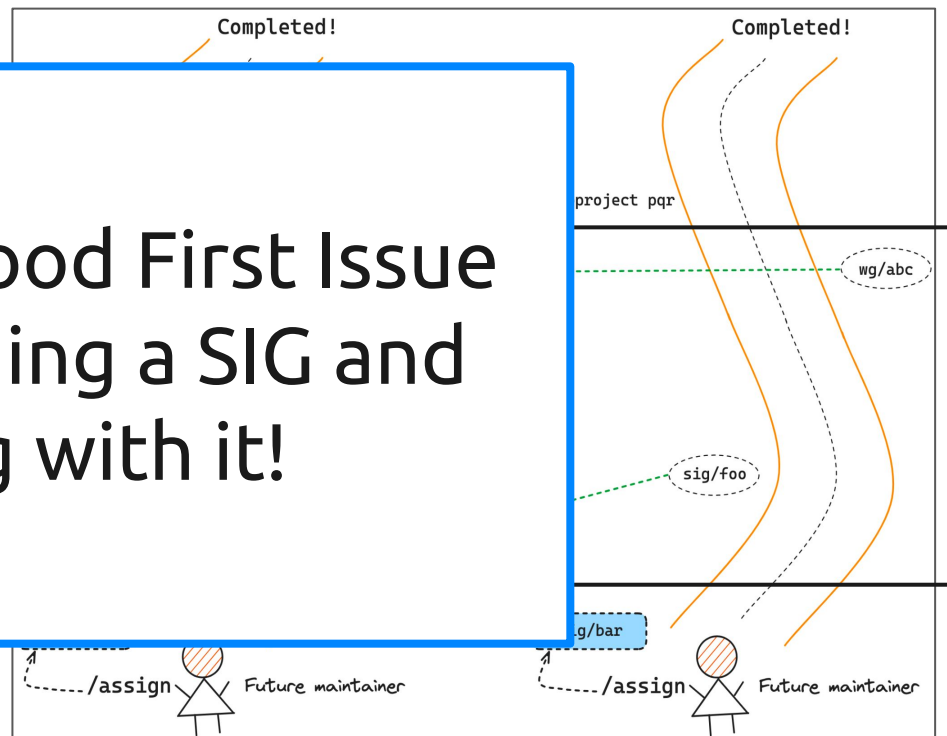
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## The “Good First Issue Trap”

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- Pick U
- ???

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Avoid the “Good First Issue Trap” by joining a SIG and sticking with it!



Often, more collaboration is required than you expect.

# Embracing The Entropy



**If you're feeling overwhelmed, you're doing something right!**

- Kubernetes has a lot of moving parts, and picking up a task that might seem tangible can also prove to be overwhelming! There are a few reasons:
  - Undocumented context
  - Alien terms and language
  - Long and multiple review cycles
- But there is good news: if you decide to embrace this entropy, the results of sticking around will compound.

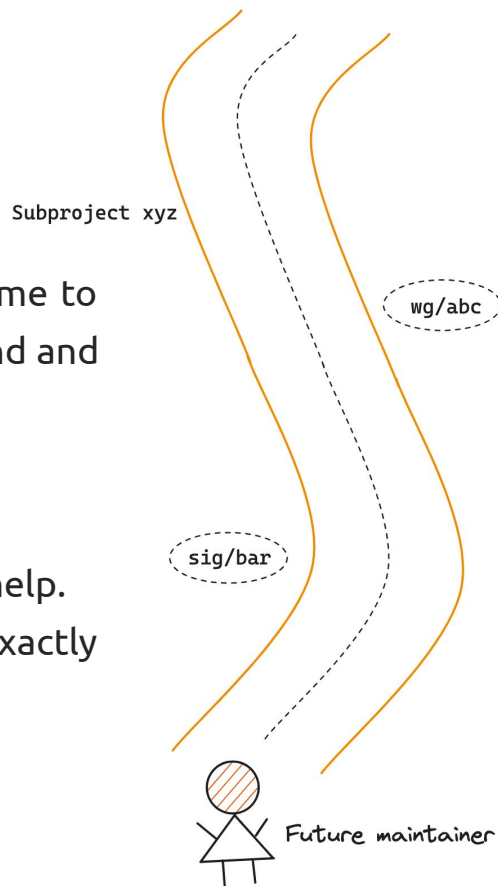
# Finding Your Place in the Community

## Law of Mobility!

As you're starting off in a large project like Kubernetes, it takes time to figure out what is the best fit for you, so take your time, float around and keep learning!

## We need your help!

Regardless of your skillset or background, we could really use your help. We just might need to work together for a while to figure out exactly *how*.





# Resources & Come Join Us!

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- Join the Kubernetes Developer Google Group (k-dev): <https://groups.google.com/a/kubernetes.io/g/dev>
- Check out [kubernetes/community](https://kubernetes.io/community/) for an overview of our community.
- Follow the New Contributor Guide ([k8s.dev/guide](https://k8s.dev/guide/)) to get familiar with various contributor tools and processes.
- The First Contribution Guide([k8s.dev/guide/first-contribution/](https://k8s.dev/guide/first-contribution/)) will walk you through the process for your first Pull Request (PR)
- Check out the Resources List at <https://bit.ly/kubernetes-resources>
- Come join us in the Kubernetes slack: <https://www.slack.k8s.io>
  - Join the [#kubernetes-new-contributors](#) channel
  - Join the channels of 1 or more SIGs you're interested in

It's not always too easy to get started and its understandably frustrating, but if you can stick around, it's vastly worth it.

We would love to help you stick around, so please join us!

*We look forward to working with you, learning from you, and welcoming you as future maintainers!*

**Q&A**