Team Null-Set Project Zulip
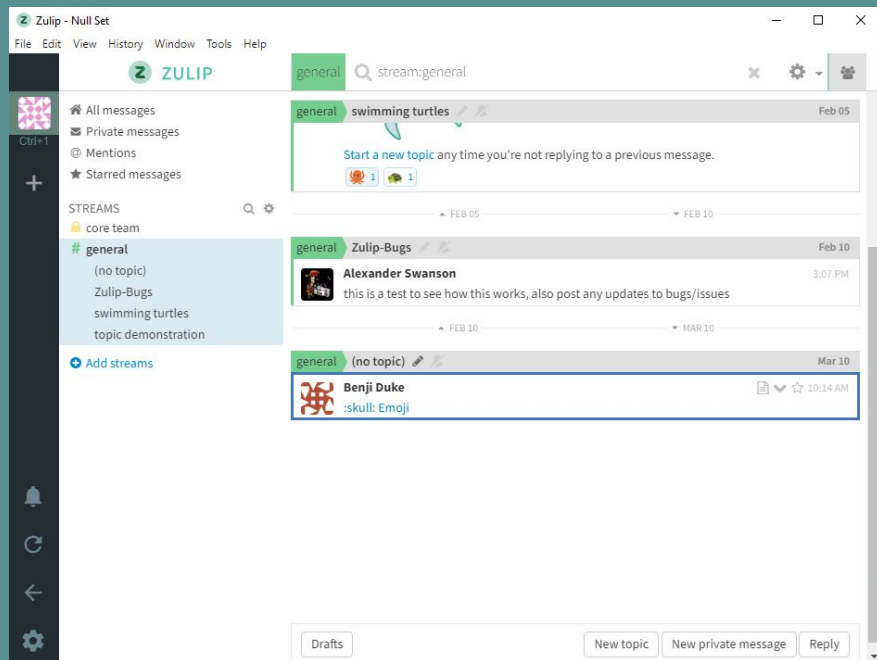
Benji Duke

Tino Pimentel

Alex Swanson

What is Zulip

Introduction to Zulip, what we know of how it works, the people who made it:

Zulip is an open source group chat application.

Developed by founder Tim Abbott and his startup company named Zulip, Inc. Based in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 2014.

Used by open source projects whenever a real-time chat system that can process thousands of messages a day is needed.

Dev environment

Getting started with Zulip, our team first had to set up the Development environment by following the instructions on Zulip's GitHub.

The development environment is used to edit and update the code to solve issues and fix bugs.

Once up and running, the dev environment will refresh upon any changes made to the code, allowing the developers to immediately test changes.

Contributing to Zulip
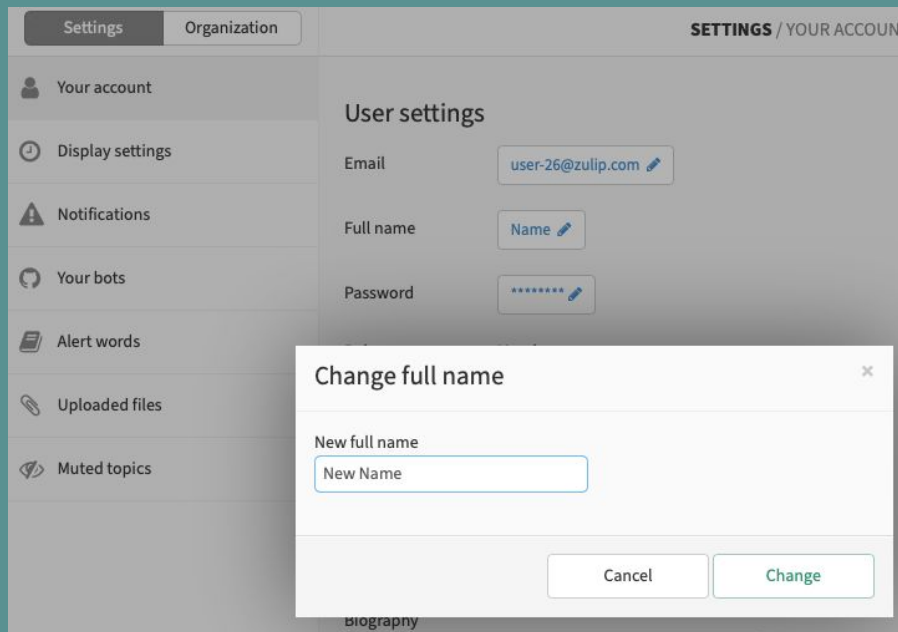
Included in the documentation on the Zulip GitHub is a contributing guide.

The community is very welcoming, and include tags for open issues that are good for first time contributors.

Ways to contribute: Solve an open issue. Update documentation. Or find a bug and create a bug report to notify the community.

Accomplishments

Learned how Zulip works by looking into open issues on their GitHub and diving into the problem.

Bug fix example: Upon changing the user name, the change is not immediately reflected in the settings menu.

First we replicated the bug in the dev environment, and tracked down the cause.

We were able to add three lines of code to the JavaScript settings file that fixed the bug.

Issues

Turnover time on different issues. The community is very active, and often issues we work on are solved by others first.

Being junior developers, unable to solve issues that go beyond our understanding.

We required input from more senior members of the development community to find good issues to work on.

The project is constantly changing over time, and keeping the development environment up to date is essential.

Lessons Learned

The importance of coordinated team work ethic.

The value of an Open Source Project

Persistence with community driven projects.