

Free, But Not Always Easy: An Introduction to Open Source Contribution

Dr. Jim Bowring, Stefanie Elling, Ashanti Long, Jacob Roddam, Sarah Sayce, and Michael Shestko

Open source software enables developers to freely contribute and manipulate source code allowing for continuous maintenance and improvement. Zulip, an open source chat and communicative software, uses Github contributors to fix its issues and bugs. Successful contribution requires finding the bug, fixing the code, and submitting a pull request. If a pull request is approved by administrators, the issue is closed. Compared to other open source projects, Zulip's clear documentation and communication resources assisted in successfully closing issues and solving bugs.