Our first open source contribution.

Efthymia Kostaki t8170055@aueb.gr Stergios Sozos t8170129@aueb.gr

May 2020

Abstract

The procedure of contributing to an open-source project was unique and unlike anything we have done before. All the phases for this assignment, from researching for the open-source project to selecting one and starting working on it, urged us to work more professionally and to create production-ready code.



Figure 1: AnitaB [1]



Mentorship System

Figure 2: MentorshipSystem[2]

Contents

1	Pro 1.1	Project Selection Process 1 Troubleshooting				
2	Mei					
3 Initial Communication with the community						
4	Our	contribution	8			
	4.1	Issue 1 - Create Quality Assurance table for Update Task API -				
		Merged #473	8			
		4.1.1 Issue	8			
		4.1.2 Communication with the team	9			
		4.1.3 Our work	9			
		4.1.4 Testing	9			
		4.1.5 Code Reviews	10			
		4.1.6 Change	10			
	4.2	Issue 2 -Fix description messages on Mentorship Relation - Merged				
		#554	10			
		4.2.1 Issue	10			
		4.2.2 Communication with the team	12			
		4.2.3 Our work	12			
		4.2.4 Testing	12			
		4.2.5 Code Reviews	12			
		4.2.6 Change	12			
	4.3	Issue 3 - 'Complete task' not including all the necessary informa-				
		tion when request id is not in accepted mode - $Accepted~\#537$	12			
		4.3.1 Issue	12			
		4.3.2 Communication with the team	14			
		4.3.3 Our work	14			
		4.3.4 Testing	14			
		4.3.5 Code Reviews	14			
		4.3.6 Change	14			
	4.4	Issue 4 - Improve the description of the app on the Swagger UI				
		docs - Merged #482	14			
		4.4.1 Issue	14			
		4.4.2 Communication with the team	16			
		4.4.3 Our work	16			
		4.4.4 Testing	16			
		4.4.5 Code Reviews	17			
		4.4.6 Change	17			
	, -	4.4.7 Happy Moments!	19			
	4.5	Issue 5 - Optimise code for repeated code in 'app/api/dao/user.py'	00			
		'get_user_dashboard'- Accepted #418	20			
		4.5.1 Issue	- 20			

		4.5.2	Communication with the team	21
		4.5.3	Our work	21
		4.5.4	Testing	22
		4.5.5	Code Reviews	22
		4.5.6	Change	23
	4.6	Issue 6	3 - Title of issue to be added \dots	24
		4.6.1	Issue	24
		4.6.2	Communication with the team	24
		4.6.3	More subsections	24
	4.7	Issue 7	7 - Title of issue to be added	24
		4.7.1	Issue	25
		4.7.2	Communication with the team	25
		4.7.3	More subsections	25
5	Cor	clusio	n	25

Introduction

The methodology we used for this assignment can be split into two main parts. Firstly, in the selection of the open-source project we worked in a structured way, so we did research individually in projetcs of our interests and focused in specific programming languages. We categorized our findings and decided on the project. The second part is how we worked in the open-source project itself. We worked on already made issues and issues we identified. Each one of us was assigned to a specific issue, and he/ she undertook namely all the work on this issue, regarding branching, writing, communicating, opening a Pull Request and solving changes required using Github. For solving each of the issues mentioned we worked together, via Teamviewer, we agreed and implemented all the changes we would propose. All the chages we are suggesting and discussions are available on Github in the specific issues we are mentioning.

1 Project Selection Process

We utilized all the resources for finding an Open Source Project and we found more useful for us the site CodeTriage where we could explore different projects according to their programming language. Also, it was really important for us that the project we would choose would have an impact in the society. We organized the projects according to the frequency of updates, the variety of contribution from different nationalities, gender etc. and how often where pull requests accepted, issues generated, if there were issues for first-time contributors and the number of pull requests needing review versus the ones closed or accepted. These metrics helped us understand if a project was 'alive' and if it was interesting for us to work on it. We focused mainly in JAVA and Python.

We chose three of these OSS projects to install and build and also discussed with Mr Gkortzis our choices and their implementation. Due to operation system requirements (Windows) we disregarded one of them, Pretix, and focused on the other two. We successfully built Mentorship Backend and that's the project we worked on.

To sum up, the reasons why we chose Mentorship Backend are these:

- Python language
- Use of Google Python Style Guide,
- Guidance with resources for contributing and Commit Message Style Guide,
- Communication on a daily basis on zulip chat using different communication channels for each problem,
- Focus on issues for First Timers,
- Meaningful impact in mentoring women in tech,
- Interested in trying to contribute to the project also on the Android development part.

1.1 Troubleshooting

Of course, we were not able to build the projects immidiately since we had some setup problems. We asked the community on Zulip to guide us through this process and if they knew how to solve our problems. Here is the questions we asked summarized:

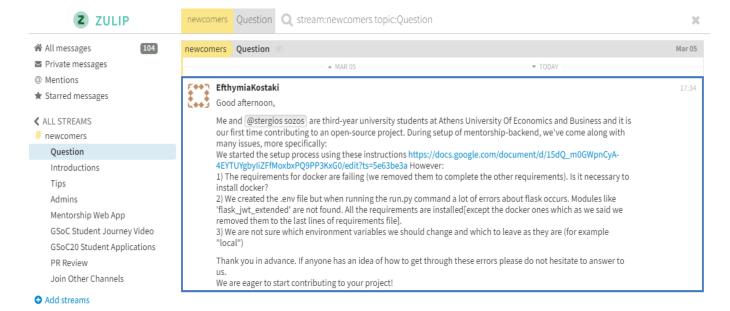


Figure 3: Setup Problems

After a vary insightful discussion with the community we were able to build the project and also share our insights in how we solved these problems if a new contributor wants to set up this project!

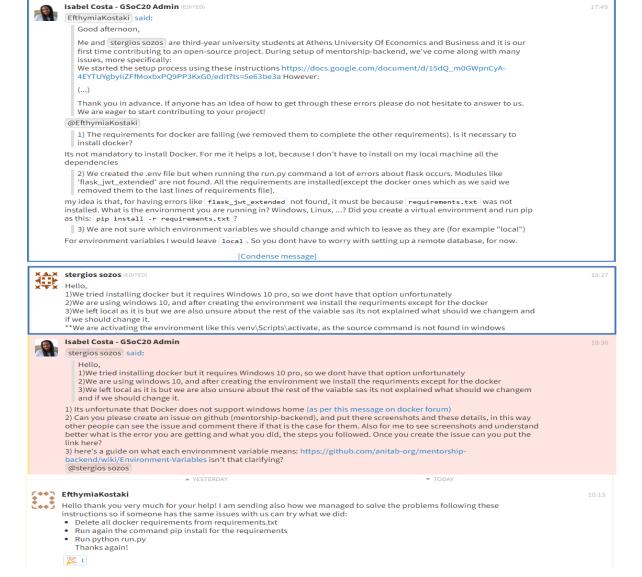


Figure 4: Setup Discussion

2 Mentorship Backend

Mentorship System is an application that matches women in tech to mentor each other, on career development, through 1:1 relations during a certain period of time. The project is deplyed in Heroku in this link: https://mentorship-backend-temp.herokuapp.com/. The backend is based on a REST API. There is also the Android client of the app for creating the interface for the users. [3]

The repository has the following permanent branches:

- master: This contains the code which has been released.
- **develop**: This contains the latest code. All the contributing PRs must be sent to this branch. When we want to release the next version of the app, this branch is merged into the master branch.

3 Initial Communication with the community

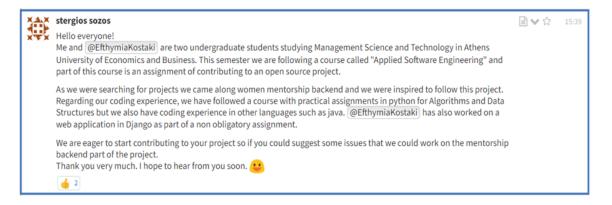


Figure 5: First Communication

4 Our contribution

Here is a full list of the parts of our contribution in a wide range of aspects such as quality assurance, user interface, code and testing.

4.1 Issue 1 - Create Quality Assurance table for Update Task API - Merged #473

4.1.1 Issue

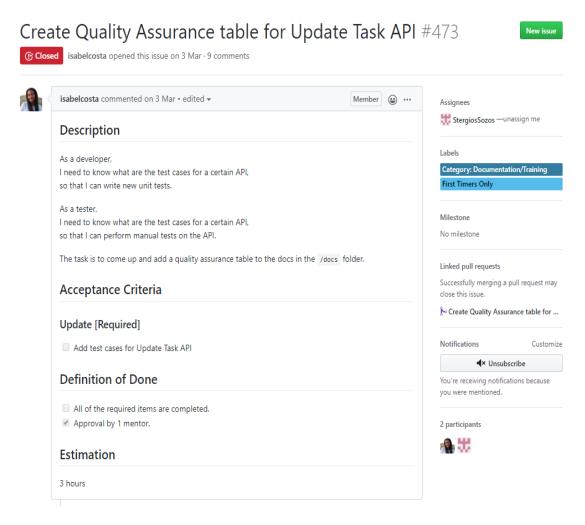


Figure 6: Issue 473

4.1.2 Communication with the team

This issue was labeled for first-time contributors so we asked if we could work on this issue to understand the project better. The main maintainer was really helpful and answering out questions soon after we sent them. Firstly, we thought that new unit tests were required, combined with the quallity assurane table, but after our comminucation it was clear to us that only the table had to be completed, as the tests already existed. While doing this table, by executing some tasks, we found out that there was a possible problem, and an issue had to be raised, as the maintainer agreed.

4.1.3 Our work

We worked in the default develop branch for this issue. We came to realize that this was a wrong startegy so in all other issues we created a specific branch for them. We tried to write meaningful messages in our commit messages always following the commit style guide suggested by the project. When we thought that the commit message was not understandable enough we wrote a body in our commit messages and documented further our change.

Regarding the way we created the table, firstly we found the file that we had to change, which was easy as the creator of the issue had already mentioned which one is it. Then the difficult part was understanding what exactly we had to write on the table and how to test it. After going through the test cases to take some ideas on what we could test on the backend server, we tried to create an account on the server. We used temp mail, as it was suggested, and created 4 profiles, so we could test all the possibilities we wanted. For example, we needed a user with a non-verified email, and one with verified. Then, we strugted a lot to find out the parameters-arguments that were needed for completing the task we wanted. For example a "token" was required but there was nowhere any explanation about this token. After some searching, we realised that when a user is logging in the server, the success message also provides this token. But even the way that we needed to insert the token was unusual, as we had to write "Bearer jtoken here;" Finally, when we had our users ready, and new how to use the backend server, we finally tested all the scenarios and write them down in the table.

4.1.4 Testing

Since this change was a change in the UI we did not need to run local testing or write new tests. Instead, our changes were visible in github, as the file was written in markdown language and that's how we verified that our changes were visible and correct. Also, we verified that the continuous integration testing in Travis CI was passing.

4.1.5 Code Reviews

Our pull request received immidiate feedback and reviews. our first PR needed some important changes: 1) We were checking multiple failing variables, but only one was required each time. For example we were testing the result of the task with arg1 and arg2 causing the task to fail but arg1 was enough and a separate test for arg2 was required. 2) We were describing a variable/argument as "wrong" but we did not specify why it was wrong. For example, a user could not exist, or he could have not accepted the terms, or even not verufy his email address. These 3 cases should be separate and specified. 3) We reffered the users with pronouns and we had to make it general ("the user" instead of "he"). 4) We had to fix merge conflocts as the PR was approved later. Also, other contributors viewed our changes and accepted them.

4.1.6 Change

- 4.2 Issue 2 -Fix description messages on Mentorship Relation Merged #554
- 4.2.1 Issue

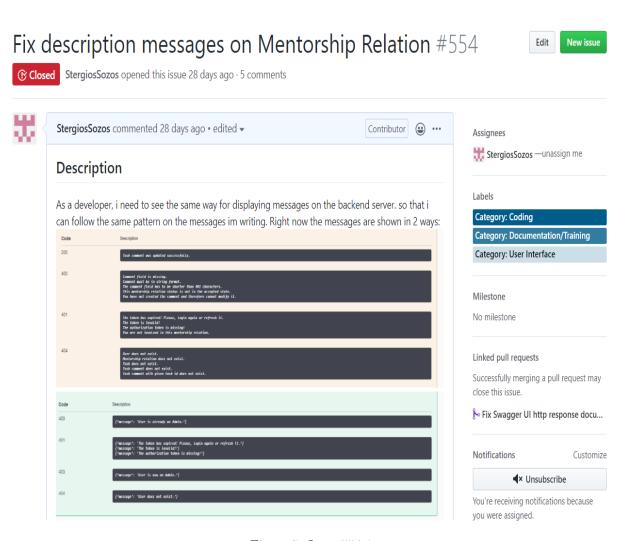


Figure 7: Issue 554-1

- 4.2.2 Communication with the team
- **4.2.3** Our work
- **4.2.4** Testing
- 4.2.5 Code Reviews
- **4.2.6** Change
- 4.3 Issue 3 'Complete task' not including all the necessary information when request id is not in accepted mode Accepted~#537
- 4.3.1 Issue

"Complete task" not including all the necessary information when request id is not in accepted mode #537 ① Open StergiosSozos opened this issue on 12 Apr · 5 comments · May be fixed by #549 StergiosSozos commented on 12 Apr Contributor 😛 ··· Assignees tergiosSozos —unassign me Description Labels As a user, when i try to complete a task I need to know what I did wrong and why what I expected did Category: Coding not happen. Type: Enhancement I observed that when a request id is not accepted and a user tries to complete a task (which does not exist, as a task cannot be created) the message is about the wrong task, but it should show the initial Milestone problem too, that the relationship is not accepted. No milestone To Reproduce Steps to reproduce the behavior: Linked pull requests 1. Send a relationship request from user1 to a user2 Successfully merging a pull request may close this issue. 2. Do not accept that request from user2 3. Try to complete a task (the number will be random as a task cannot be created) 🎵 fix: Return error message when rela... 4. See the error message, about the task not existing, but not about the relationship not having been accepted **Notifications** Customize **Expected behavior ◄×** Unsubscribe The message should inform the user trying to complete the task that the relationship is not accepted You're receiving notifications because too. you were assigned.

Figure 8: Issue 537

4.3.2 Communication with the team

We had already talked about this issue with the maintainer in a PR, so after the maintainer's approval, we opened a new issue, and got assigned to it. We also clarified, that the solution suggested on this issue, is giving higher priority to a specific argument, whih was the state of the relationship status, instead of the one that was then highest, which was the existence of the task.

4.3.3 Our work

We added an if statement before the existings one, so that it will be prioratized, and included the new possible responses on the responses board on the backend server. After that we changed the hardcoded status (i.e. 400,401 etc) to http status. Then, we changed the way messages were printed into f strings and added some blank spaces that were needed. Finally, we wrote a unit test for the added if statement.

After the original

4.3.4 Testing

Initially, we didn't have any unit testing for the speific change, and we tested it only on the backend server, and we also confirmed that the continuous integration testing in Travis CI was passing. After our PR was reviewed and after all the changes requested had been done, an additional test was asked, a unit test. To create this, we needed to also add a user to the database and create a new relation of this user with another user.

4.3.5 Code Reviews

The main part of the PR was approved, and only some minor changes were asked, regarding new standards(http status instead of harcoded numbers, f strings for printing messages) and a blank line to separate visually validation sections. After these minor changes, a unit test was asked.

4.3.6 Change

4.4 Issue 4 - Improve the description of the app on the Swagger UI docs - Merged #482

4.4.1 Issue

This issue was referring to the description of the app which the developers view if they have cloned the repository locally or in the deployed app remotely in Heroku.

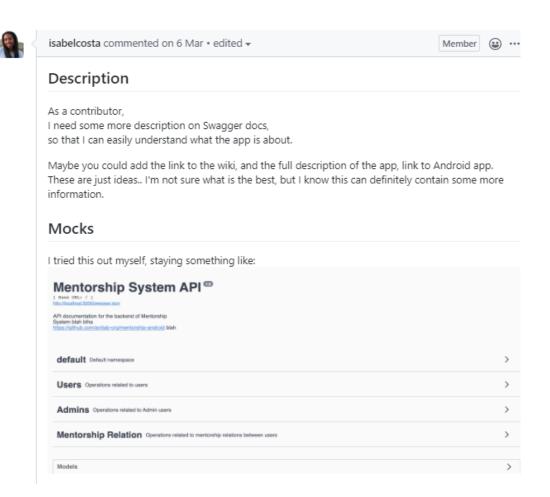


Figure 9: Issue 482

4.4.2 Communication with the team

This issue was labeled for first-time contributors so we asked if we could work on this issue to understand the project better. The main maintainer was really helpful and answering out questions soon after we sent them. We realized while working on the issue that there was an issue with the namespaces since there was a default namespace which was not referring to any API. We decided to ask about this if this was intentional or it was a problem in the UI. In figure shown above this problem is visible in the 'default namespace' resource. Isabel (the main mainteiner and creator of the project) told us that this was really an issue and that she did not know how to solve it. She suggested that if we solve this problem we can commit the change in the current pull request so as to further expand it so it includes the solution of this problem as well.

4.4.3 Our work

We worked in the default develop branch for this issue. We came to realize that this was a wrong startegy so in all other issues we created a specific branch for them. We tried to write meaningful messages in our commit messages always following the commit style guide suggested by the project. When we thought that the commit message was not understandable enough we wrote a body in our commit messages and documented further our change.

Regarding the initial issue, it turned out to be hard for us t understand which part on the project we should change in order for our changes to be visible in the User Interface. We used Atom, the text editor, to find the parts of the software which had the initial description we wanted to change. They were two, the swagger.json and the api_extension.py file. Since we did not know which was the correct file we should change we decided to change both of them. The correct one turned out to be the api_extension.py file. We were able to view our changes locally.

Regarding the new part of the issue we identified and proposed, we needed to understand were the problem was coming from. It could have been from the call inside the specific resources or in some other part of the project. We searched a lot and found the documentation of the flask_restplus library which was used in the file we wanted to change. We found the method Api() and which parameters it could include and we were able to change the arguments and change the name of the 'default namespace'. The documentation however, did not help us fix the actual issue which was to remove this resource. We searched again and found out that this library was actually open-source. In the issues of the Github repository we were able to find an issue about the same problem we had and a suggested solution to it. By implementing this code we were able to solve the issue.

4.4.4 Testing

Since this change was a change in the UI we did not need to run local testing or write new tests. Instead, our changes were visible in the localhost in our browser and that's how we verified that our changes were visible and correct. Also, we verified that the continuous integration testing in Travis CI was passing.

4.4.5 Code Reviews

Our pull request received immidiate feedback and reviews. Since the change was in the User Interface, Isabel asked us to include a screenshot of the change proposed in the description. Also, other contributors viewed our changes and accepted them.

4.4.6 Change

The merged change is this:

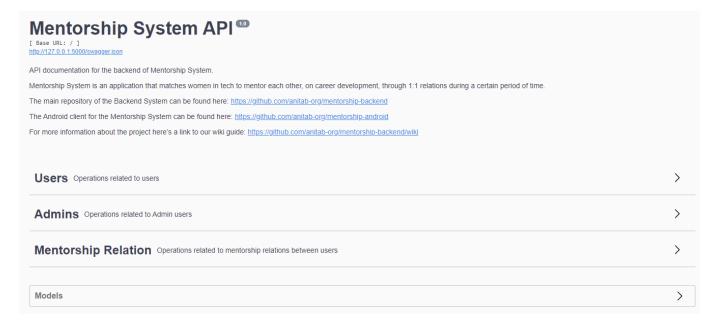


Figure 10: Change in the UI

This change required to change these files and add new code:

```
▼ 8 ■■■■ app/api/api_extension.py 

☐

ΣŤΞ
         @@ -3,9 +3,15 @@
            api = Api(
               title="Mentorship System API",
               version="1.0",
              description="API documentation for the backend of Mentorship System"
             description="API documentation for the backend of Mentorship System. \n \n"
               + "Mentorship System is an application that matches women in tech to mentor each other, on career development, "
               + "through 1:1 relations during a certain period of time. \n \n"
               + "The main repository of the Backend System can be found here: https://github.com/anitab-org/mentorship-backend \n \n"
               + "The Android client for the Mentorship System can be found here: https://github.com/anitab-org/mentorship-android \n \n"
               + "For more information about the project here's a link to our wiki guide: https://github.com/anitab-org/mentorship-backend/wiki"
                # doc='/docs/'
    + api.namespaces.clear()
    16
          # Adding namespaces
            from app.api.resources.user import users_ns as user_namespace
ΣĮΞ
```

Figure 11: Code change

4.4.7 Happy Moments!

The creator and main maintainer of the project congratulated us for our effiort and change in the UI which urged us to find other aspects of the software in which we could contribute.

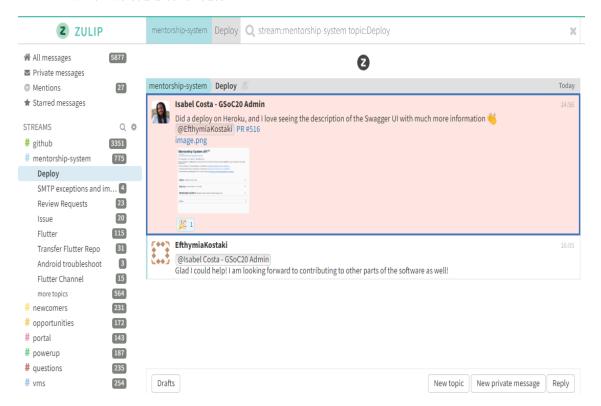


Figure 12: Happy Moments!

4.5 Issue 5 - Optimise code for repeated code in 'app/api/dao/user.py' 'get_user_dashboard'- Accepted #418

4.5.1 Issue

This issue required simplifying a method which was around 200 lines in to less. We successfully removed 70 lines with repeated code.

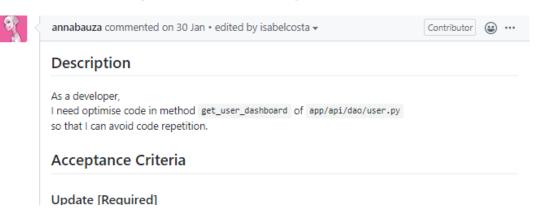


Figure 13: Issue 418

4.5.2 Communication with the team

It was crucial for us to understand how we could verify that our changes were correct and that the project was having the same functionality as before. So we asked in the issue how we could verify that or if it was necessary to write some new unit tests. The maintainer told us that we should just verify that the unit tests are working as before.

4.5.3 Our work

We created a specific branch for this issue first locally and then add this branch to our remote repository. We tried to write meaningful messages in our commit messages always following the commit style guide suggested by the project. When we thought that the commit message was not understandable enough we wrote a body in our commit messages and documented further our change.

Firstly, we realized that the as_mentor and as_mentee dictionaries were exactly the same and that we could delete the initialization of one and copy it to the other one. Since, these dictionaries had also subdictionaries we found out we should not copy them using the traditional copy() method since in some occasions when changing the subdictionary in the one dictionary could actually change the other one as well. To solve this problem, we found out the copy library which offers a method named deepcopy() which could solve our problem. We used this method and successfully deleted 15 lines of repeated code.

The second part of our work was to create a method which could remove further the repeated code. All the dictionary was assessed this way for more than 100 lines:

```
as_mentee["received"]["completed"] = [
    relation.response
    for relation in mentee_received_relations
    if relation.state == MentorshipRelationState.COMPLETED
]
as_mentee["received"]["cancelled"] = [
    relation.uuresponse
    for relation in mentee_received_relations
    if relation.state == MentorshipRelationState.CANCELLED
```

After we understood which was the problem we tried to experiment and decide which parameters should this method have. We decided that these two were enough. First, the mentor_or_mentee_received_or_sent which would include the relations of the mentee or the mentor and if these relations are received or sent and the mentorship_relation_state_wanted which could take one of these values:

- PENDING
- CANCELLED

• COMPLETED

• REJECTED

This method is static as they are all the other methods in this file and has a for loop similar to the initial one taking use of all the arguments and returns a list to be added in each subdictionary.

4.5.4 Testing

Since the maintainer told us that we do not need to write unit tests about our change we verified that all the local testing was passing and of course that the continuous integration testing in Travis CI was passing.

4.5.5 Code Reviews

Unfortunately, this pull request has not been reviewed yet but we asked the main maintainer to do that as soon as possible. She said that she does not have much bandwidth and will try get back to us in that as soon as possible.

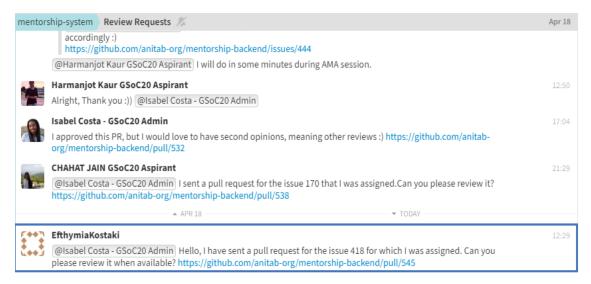


Figure 14: Issue 418 - Ask for review

4.5.6 Change

Our proposed change is this: @staticmethod def get_state (mentor_or_mentee_received_or_sent, mentorship_relation_state_wanted): value = [relation.response for relation in mentor_or_mentee_received_or_sent if relation.state == mentorship_relation_state_wanted] return value as_mentor = copy.deepcopy(as_mentee) as_mentee ["received"] ["accepted"] = UserDAO.get_state(mentee_received_relations, MentorshipRelationState.ACCEPTED) as_mentee ["received"] ["rejected"] = UserDAO.get_state(mentee_received_relations, MentorshipRelationState.REJECTED) as_mentee ["received"] ["completed"] = UserDAO.get_state(mentee_received_relations, MentorshipRelationState.COMPLETED) as_mentee ["received"] ["cancelled"] = UserDAO.get_state(mentee_received_relations, MentorshipRelationState.CANCELLED) as_mentee ["received"] ["pending"] = UserDAO.get_state(mentee_received_relations, Mentorship Relation State . PENDING) as_mentor["received"]["accepted"] = UserDAO.get_state(mentor_received_relations, Mentorship Relation State . ACCEPTED) as_mentor["received"]["rejected"] = UserDAO.get_state(mentor_received_relations, Mentorship Relation State . REJECTED) as_mentor["received"]["completed"] = UserDAO.get_state(mentor_received_relations, MentorshipRelationState.COMPLETED) as_mentor["received"]["cancelled"] = UserDAO.get_state(mentor_received_relations, Mentorship Relation State . CANCELLED) as_mentor["received"]["pending"] = UserDAO.get_state(mentor_received_relations, Mentorship Relation State . PENDING) as_mentee ["sent"] ["accepted"] = UserDAO.get_state(mentee_sent_relations, Mentorship Relation State . ACCEPTED) as_mentee ["sent"] ["rejected"] =

```
UserDAO.get_state(mentee_sent_relations,
            Mentorship Relation State . REJECTED)
as_mentee["sent"]["completed"] =
            UserDAO.get_state(mentee_sent_relations,
            Mentorship Relation State . COMPLETED)
as_mentee ["sent"] ["cancelled"] =
            UserDAO.get_state(mentee_sent_relations,
            Mentorship Relation State. CANCELLED)
as_mentee["sent"]["pending"] =
            UserDAO.get_state(mentee_sent_relations,
            Mentorship Relation State . PENDING)
as_mentor["sent"]["accepted"] =
            UserDAO.get_state(mentor_sent_relations,
            Mentorship Relation State . ACCEPTED)
as_mentor["sent"]["rejected"] =
            UserDAO.get_state(mentor_sent_relations,
            Mentorship Relation State . REJECTED)
as_mentor["sent"]["completed"] =
            UserDAO.get_state(mentor_sent_relations,
            Mentorship Relation State . COMPLETED)
as_mentor ["sent"] ["cancelled"] =
            UserDAO.get_state(mentor_sent_relations,
            MentorshipRelationState.CANCELLED)
as_mentor["sent"]["pending"] =
            UserDAO.get_state(mentor_sent_relations,
            Mentorship Relation State . PENDING)
```

4.6 Issue 6 - Title of issue to be added

Pull Request - Efi

4.6.1 Issue

A section

4.6.2 Communication with the team

A section

4.6.3 More subsections

A section

4.7 Issue 7 - Title of issue to be added

Pull Request - Efi

4.7.1 Issue

A section

4.7.2 Communication with the team

A section

4.7.3 More subsections

A section

5 Conclusion

Contributing to an open-source project enriched our understanding of program development and urged us to try to establish possible improvements. We were able to express our opinion with facts and use the terminology we learned during the course. We researched a lot with or without the guidance of the open-source community and offered feasible solutions. In the future, we want to continue contributing to other open-source projects.

References

- [1] https://github.com/anitab-org
- [2] https://github.com/anitab-org/mentorship-android
- [3] https://github.com/anitab-org/mentorship-backend