

Our first open source contribution.

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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]



Figure 2: MentorshipSystem[2]

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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 projects 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 changes 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 immediately 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:

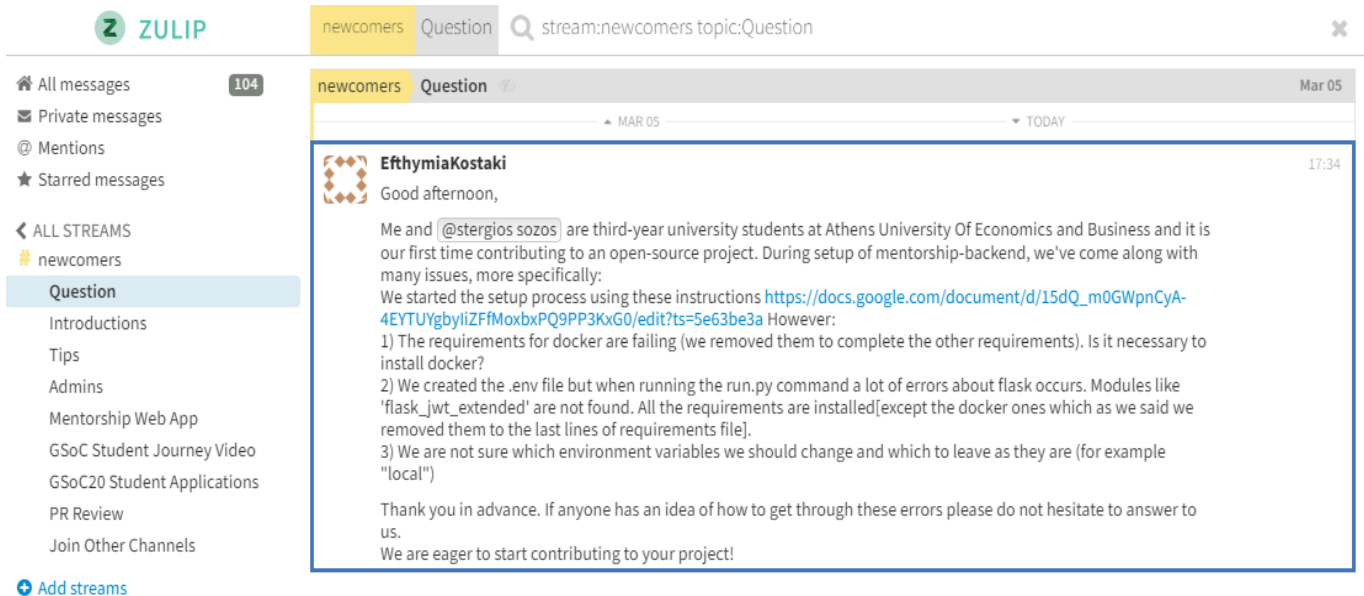



Figure 3: Setup Problems


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!



Isabel Costa - GSoC20 Admin

(EDITED)

17:49



EftymiaKostaki

said:

Good afternoon,

Me and [stergios sozos](#) are third-year university students at Athens University Of Economics and Business and it is our first time contributing to an open-source project. During setup of mentorship-backend, we've come along with many issues, more specifically:

We started the setup process using these instructions https://docs.google.com/document/d/15dQ_m0GWpnCyA-4EYTUYgbylIZFfMoxbxPQ9PP3KxG0/edit?ts=5e63be3a However:

(...)

Thank you in advance. If anyone has an idea of how to get through these errors please do not hesitate to answer to us. We are eager to start contributing to your project!

@EftymiaKostaki

1) The requirements for docker are failing (we removed them to complete the other requirements). Is it necessary to install docker?

Its not mandatory to install Docker. For me it helps a lot, because I don't have to install on my local machine all the dependencies

2) We created the .env file but when running the run.py command a lot of errors about flask occurs. Modules like 'flask_jwt_extended' are not found. All the requirements are installed[except the docker ones which as we said we removed them to the last lines of requirements file].

my idea is that, for having errors like flask_jwt_extended not found, it must be because requirements.txt was not installed. What is the environment you are running in? Windows, Linux, ...? Did you create a virtual environment and run pip as this: `pip install -r requirements.txt` ?

3) We are not sure which environment variables we should change and which to leave as they are (for example "local")

For environment variables I would leave local. So you dont have to worry with setting up a remote database, for now.

[\[Condense message\]](#)



stergios sozos

(EDITED)

18:27



stergios sozos

said:

Hello,

1)We tried installing docker but it requires Windows 10 pro, so we dont have that option unfortunately

2)We are using windows 10, and after creating the environment we install the requirments except for the docker

3)We left local as it is but we are also unsure about the rest of the vaiable sas its not explained what should we changem and if we should change it.

**We are activating the environment like this venv\Scripts\activate, as the source command is not found in windows



Isabel Costa - GSoC20 Admin

18:36



stergios sozos

said:

Hello,

1)We tried installing docker but it requires Windows 10 pro, so we dont have that option unfortunately

2)We are using windows 10, and after creating the environment we install the requirments except for the docker

3)We left local as it is but we are also unsure about the rest of the vaiable sas its not explained what should we changem and if we should change it.

1) Its unfortunate that Docker does not support windows home ([as per this message on docker forum](#))

2) Can you please create an issue on github (mentorship-backend), and put there screenshots and these details, in this way other people can see the issue and comment there if that is the case for them. Also for me to see screenshots and understand better what is the error you are getting and what you did, the steps you followed. Once you create the issue can you put the link here?

3) here's a guide on what each environmnet variable means: <https://github.com/anitab-org/mentorship-backend/wiki/Environment-Variables> isn't that clarifying?

@stergios sozos

YESTERDAY

TODAY



EftymiaKostaki

10:13



EftymiaKostaki

Hello thank you very much for your help! I am sending also how we managed to solve the problems following these instructions so if someone has the same issues with us can try what we did:

- Delete all docker requirements from requirements.txt
- Run again the command pip install for the requirements
- Run python run.py

Thanks again!



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 deployed 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

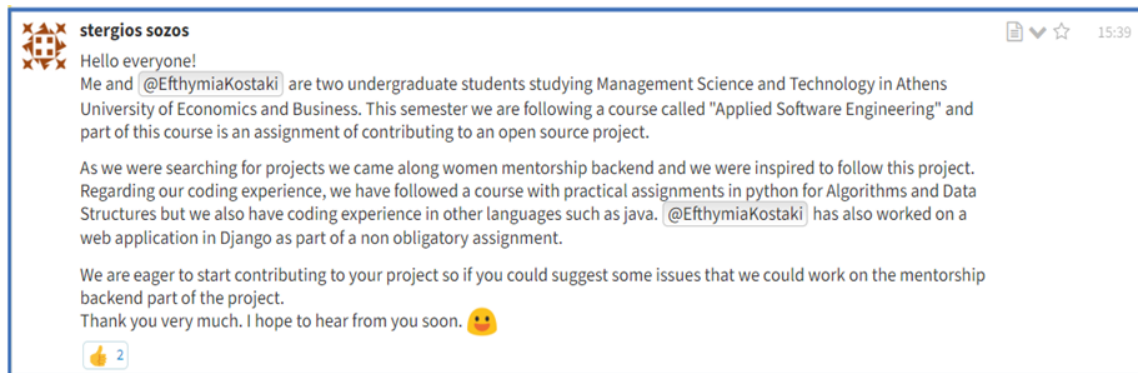


Figure 5: First Communication


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

Create Quality Assurance table for Update Task API #473

 **Closed** isabelcosta opened this issue on 3 Mar · 9 comments



isabelcosta commented on 3 Mar · edited ▾

Member

😊 ...

Description

As a developer,
I need to know what are the test cases for a certain API,
so that I can write new unit tests.

As a tester,
I need to know what are the test cases for a certain API,
so that I can perform manual tests on the API.

The task is to come up and add a quality assurance table to the docs in the `/docs` folder.

Acceptance Criteria

Update [Required]

☐ Add test cases for Update Task API


Definition of Done

☐ All of the required items are completed.
☒ Approval by 1 mentor.

Estimation

3 hours

Assignees

 StereiosSozos —unassign me

Labels


Category: Documentation/Training
First Timers Only

Milestone

No milestone


Linked pull requests

Successfully merging a pull request may close this issue.

 Create Quality Assurance table for ...

Notifications

Customize

 Unsubscribe

You're receiving notifications because you were mentioned.

2 participants



 

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 our questions soon after we sent them. Firstly, we thought that new unit tests were required, combined with the quality assurance table, but after our communication 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 strategy 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 it is. 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 struggled 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 {token 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 immediate 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 verify his email address. These 3 cases should be separate and specified. 3) We referred the users with pronouns and we had to make it general ("the user" instead of "he"). 4) We had to fix merge conflicts 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

Fix description messages on Mentorship Relation #554

[Edit](#)[New issue](#)

StergiosSozos opened this issue 28 days ago · 5 comments



StergiosSozos commented 28 days ago · edited

Contributor



Description

As a developer, i need to see the same way for displaying messages on the backend server. so that i can follow the same pattern on the messages im writing. Right now the messages are shown in 2 ways:

Code	Description
200	Task comment was updated successfully.
400	Comment field is missing. Comment must be in string format. The comment field has to be shorter than 400 characters. This mentorship relation status is not in the accepted state. You have not created the comment and therefore cannot modify it.
401	The token has expired! Please, login again or refresh it. The token is invalid! The authorization token is missing! You are not logged in this mentorship relation.
404	User does not exist. Mentorship relation does not exist. Task does not exist. Task comment does not exist. Task comment with given task id does not exist.

Code	Description
400	{'message': 'User is already an Admin.'}
401	{'message': 'The token has expired! Please, login again or refresh it.'} {'message': 'The token is invalid.'} {'message': 'The authorization token is missing.'}
403	{'message': 'User is now an Admin.'}
404	{'message': 'User does not exist.'}

Assignees

StergiosSozos —unassign me

Labels

Category: Coding

Category: Documentation/Training

Category: User Interface

Milestone

No milestone

Linked pull requests

Successfully merging a pull request may close this issue.

[Fix Swagger UI http response docu...](#)

Notifications

[Customize](#)

Unsubscribe

You're receiving notifications because you were assigned.

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

Edit

New issue

Open

StergiosSozos opened this issue on 12 Apr · 5 comments · May be fixed by #549



StergiosSozos commented on 12 Apr

Contributor



Description

As a user,when i try to complete a task I need to know what I did wrong and why what I expected did not happen.

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 problem too, that the relationship is not accepted.

To Reproduce

Steps to reproduce the behavior:

1. Send a relationship request from user1 to a user2
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)
4. See the error message, about the task not existing, but not about the relationship not having been accepted

Expected behavior

The message should inform the user trying to complete the task that the relationship is not accepted too.

Assignees

StergiosSozos —unassign me

Labels

Category: Coding

Type: Enhancement

Milestone

No milestone

Linked pull requests

Successfully merging a pull request may close this issue.

fix: Return error message when rela...

Notifications

Customize

Unsubscribe

You're receiving notifications because 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, which 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 prioritized, 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 specific 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 hardcoded 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.



isabelcosta commented on 6 Mar • edited ▾

Member  

Description

As a contributor,
I need some more description on Swagger docs,
so that I can easily understand what the app is about.

Maybe you could add the link to the wiki, and the full description of the app, link to Android app.
These are just ideas.. I'm not sure what is the best, but I know this can definitely contain some more information.

Mocks

I tried this out myself, staying something like:

Mentorship System API ^{4.0}

[Base URL]
<http://localhost:3000/swagger.json>

API documentation for the backend of Mentorship System
System blah blah
<https://github.com/isabel-org/mentorship-android> ^{blah}

default	Default namespace	>
Users	Operations related to users	>
Admins	Operations related to Admin users	>
Mentorship Relation	Operations related to mentorship relations between users	>
Models		>

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 maintainer 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 strategy 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 to 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 where 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 immediate 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:

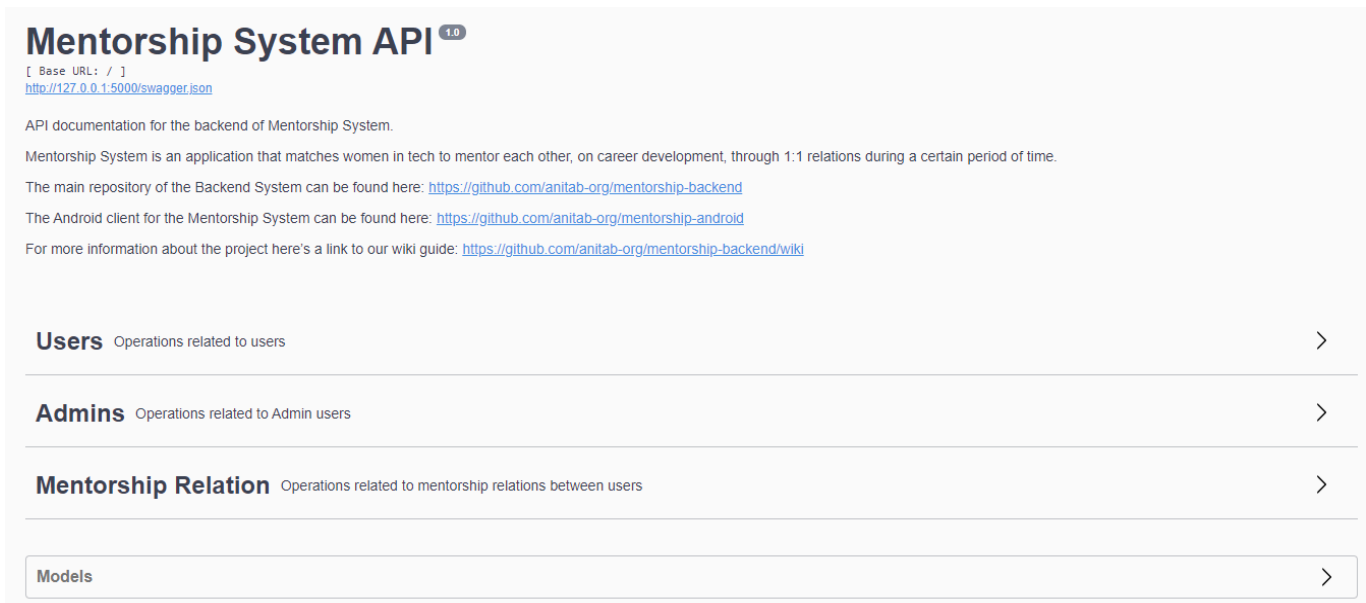


Figure 10: Change in the UI

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



```
8 app/api/api_extension.py
3 api = Api(
4     title="Mentorship System API",
5     version="1.0",
6     - description="API documentation for the backend of Mentorship System"
7     + description="API documentation for the backend of Mentorship System. \n \n"
8     + "Mentorship System is an application that matches women in tech to mentor each other, on career development, "
9     + "through 1:1 relations during a certain period of time. \n \n"
10    + "The main repository of the Backend System can be found here: https://github.com/anitab-org/mentorship-backend \n \n"
11    + "The Android client for the Mentorship System can be found here: https://github.com/anitab-org/mentorship-android \n \n"
12    + "For more information about the project here's a link to our wiki guide: https://github.com/anitab-org/mentorship-backend/wiki"
13    # doc='/docs/'
14    )
15 + api.namespaces.clear()
16 # Adding namespaces
17 from app.api.resources.user import users_ns as user_namespace
```

Figure 11: Code change

4.4.7 Happy Moments!

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

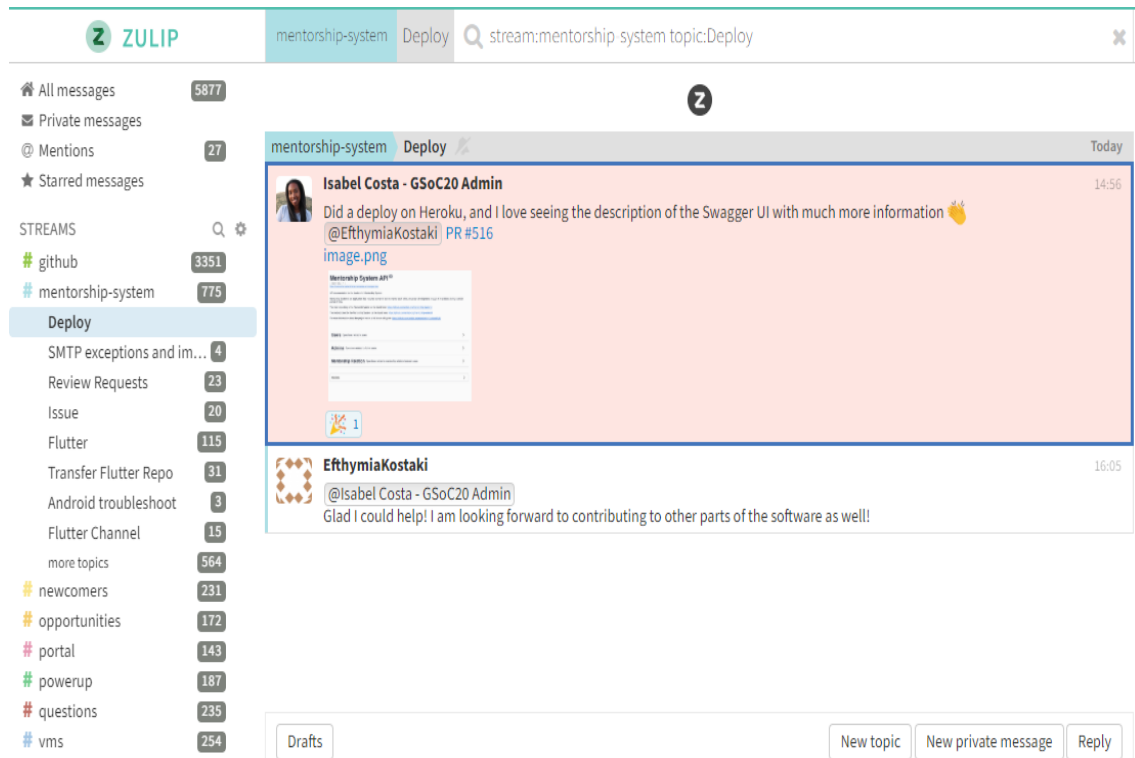


Figure 12: Happy Moments!

4.5 Issue 5 - Title of issue to be added

Pull Request - Efi

4.5.1 Issue

A section

4.5.2 Communication with the team

A section

4.5.3 More subsections

A section

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>