

GitHub is an incredibly effective way to collaborate on development projects. Providing a open-source for anyone with an internet connection to have an avenue where they can share code. Include source inspection and easy viewing of commit histories.

Before you try to get involved with a project, *read all documents related*. This may include away of contributing and formatting commit messages, a certain rhythm of collaborating that the contributors have agreed to, or even syntactic standards that have been established. These guides are maintained by the people who also maintain the codebase and the master branch.

Reading through the commit messages and perusing the code style can tell you a lot about a project. Read through the project's documentation, and adopt the vocabulary used so that your contributions maintain continuity and portray a similar voice.

The general workflow that GitHub supports is fairly simple.

1. Fork the target repo to your own account.
2. Clone the repo to your local machine.
3. Check out a new "topic branch" and make changes.
4. Push your topic branch to your fork.
5. Use the diff viewer on GitHub to create a pull request via a discussion.
6. Make any requested changes.
7. The pull request is then merged (usually into the master branch) and the topic branch is deleted from the upstream (target) repo.

Within this workflow, you may see many variations for any given project

GitHub offers GitHub Issues, which is a robust way of creating documented, interactive, automated conversations about bugs or features for any given project. While Issues can be disabled, they are enabled by default.