

About Me

Hey 🙋, I am Hetarth.

A Software Developer and an Open
Source Enthusiast from India 🇮🇳!



Raise your hands 🙌 if you've ever felt like you don't know enough to start contributing to an open-source project.



**You don't need to know
Julia to contribute!**

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Getting Started for Contributors!

A common myth or perhaps a fear!

Q. What if I break something?

Ans: **It's okay, to make mistakes.**
Mistakes are a crucial part of learning!



Types of Contributions



Contributing **Beyond
Code**
(No Code)

For new folks, who are eager to help but don't know ins and outs or the most optimal ways to do things in Julia.



Less Code, Big Impact
(Low Code)

For people with some experience in programming but still feel like far from being an expert.



**Advanced Code
Contributions**
(High Code)

For the ones with sufficient knowledge of programming and open-source.






Contributing Beyond Code (No Code)

- **Improving documentation:** Discovered a clearer example, simpler method, or missing info in the Julia docs? Contribute by starting a discussion, issue, or PR!
- **Translating content:** Don't underestimate translation, your language skills can open doors for learners across the world.



Contributing Beyond Code (No Code)

- ➔ **Organizing Events:** Help grow the Julia community by volunteering or organizing meetups, workshops, or hackathons.
- ➔ **Creating tutorials and blogs:** As a learner, you bring a valuable etic(outsider) perspective use it to create tutorials that make Julia more accessible.

 Aspect	 Emic	 Etic
Definition	Insider's perspective , understanding culture or system from within	Outsider's perspective , analyzing culture or system from an external view
Who	Experienced contributor or maintainer	Beginner or new learner
Viewpoint	Knows how things work from inside the system (assumptions, internal knowledge, technical depth)	How things look from outside. Fresh perspective ; identifies pain points.
Ideal For	Refactoring or maintaining code	Writing tutorials, identifying confusing docs, asking key questions



Less Code, Big Impact (Low Code)

- **Testing:** Help by testing on platforms/OS maintainers don't have, reporting bugs, and writing isolated unit tests that catch errors and edge cases early.
- **Issues:** By reporting bugs clearly and organizing issues with labels, templates, and priority sorting, you help maintainers reduce cognitive load and speed up project improvements.




Advanced Code Contributions (High Code)

- **Transferring Knowledge:** If you're experienced in open source but new to Julia, you can still contribute by applying your knowledge from other tools and communities.

Leading the Way, A Maintainer's role

Some common things you may have already heard or know,

- **Being kind and patient in reviews**
- **Adding relevant labels like "good first issue", "beginner friendly" to issues**





 **Recognizing the efforts:** Highlighting contributors work publicly helps build confidence and strengthens their connection to the project.

🧠 **Inside the Mind of a Contributor:** When guidance is limited, contributors rely on trial and error, figuring out setup, structure, and contribution flow themselves. This slows down progress and creates friction.

Let's take a look at the decision journey of a potential [contributor's thought process...](#)



Finding inspirations from others: Open-source is vast, and many communities have innovative practices worth learning from like for example,

- **VSCode** uses a **community voting system**  to prioritize new feature requests.
- **Laravel** encourages proposing new features via **GitHub Discussions**  and contributor ownership in coding.
- **AdonisJS** showcases great tutorials and demos through their **"Cookbooks"** .
- And lastly, **Julia** has a **well-designed**  contribute page with clear guidance for newcomers.

What holds people back?

➔ **“What if I make mistakes?”**

Everyone makes mistakes, it is what makes us human. Don't be afraid of it, instead take it as a learning opportunity.

➔ **“What if my work isn't good enough?”**

We all start somewhere, no one is asking you to submit code worthy of NASA's coding principles. On the other hand, always be open to feedback, listen and be open to change.

Final Takeaways

- ✓ Start small, start today.
- ✓ Every contribution counts.
- ✓ Diverse contributions grow communities.
- ✓ You don't need to know Julia to contribute.

**The true power of
open source lies in the
idea that no one
builds alone.**

Thank You! ❤️

Happy to connect! ❤️



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