

Contributing to OSS

Ioannis Canellos

2020-06-10 Wed

Contributing to Opensource

The 10 minute guide to

- ▶ Why
- ▶ What
- ▶ Which
- ▶ When
- ▶ How

Ioannis Canellos

About me

- ▶ ASF member
- ▶ Committer
 - ▶ Apache Camel
 - ▶ Quarkus
- ▶ Creator
 - ▶ Fabric8 Kubernetes framework
 - ▶ Spring Cloud Kubernetes
 - ▶ Dekorator
- ▶ Red Hatter (hint: why)

Why #1: You CAN get paid for it

- ▶ Sponsorship
- ▶ Get an OSS job

Why #2: It's a strong point in your CV

Proof

- ▶ skills
 - ▶ code reading
 - ▶ code writing
 - ▶ problem solving
 - ▶ communication
- ▶ passion
- ▶ commitment (and sheer @#!&\$#ing will)

Achievement

- ▶ Committer
- ▶ PMC

Why #3: You learn alot

- ▶ Contributing -> feedback loop Art of learning - Josh Waitzkin
- ▶ Diversity
 - ▶ styles
 - ▶ tools
 - ▶ patterns

Why #4: Meet your heros

The are only two sports in the world . . .

What #1: Code

- ▶ Too obvious
 - ▶ Test
 - ▶ Fixes
 - ▶ Features

What #2: Documentation

What #3: Report issues

Acknowledges

- ▶ There are people using the project
- ▶ There are people using the feature

Essential

- ▶ Community building
- ▶ Steering the project to the right direction

"Knowing the issue is 50% of the work"

What #4: Community engagement

- ▶ Forums
- ▶ Mailing lists
- ▶ Stack overflow
- ▶ Talks
- ▶ Videos
- ▶ Blogging

Which #1: New vs Established

New

- ▶ Simple codebase (?)
- ▶ Crossing the chasm
 - ▶ Community
 - ▶ Contributors
- ▶ Less visibility

Established

- ▶ Complex codebase (?)
- ▶ Larger contribution volume
- ▶ Harder to stand out
 - ▶ Quarkus: 93 open pull requests ATM (hint: when)

Fact

- ▶ In ASF incubator:
 - ▶ A podling **MUST** invite 1+ committer(s)

Which #2: Day job related

- ▶ Motivation
- ▶ Time
- ▶ Multiple gains

True story:

- ▶ 1st contrubtion: Job related fix **Apache ServiceMix**
 - ▶ Meet the right people
 - ▶ Community engagement
 - ▶ IRC
 - ▶ Mailing lists
 - ▶ Introduced to **Apache Karaf**
 - ▶ Become an **Apache Karaf** committer
 - ▶ Started using **Apache Karaf** at work
 - ▶ Hired by **FuseSource** to work on **Apache Karaf**

Which #3: Passion

- ▶ Ephemeral contributions (limited value)
 - ▶ A bug getting fixed
- ▶ Long term participation (bigger returns) (hint how)
 - ▶ Recognition
 - ▶ Committership
 - ▶ Influence
 - ▶ Job
 - ▶ Cool T-shirts

If you don't like it you can't sustain it!

Find something you are passionate about!

How #1 Google Summer of Code

- ▶ A 3 month program for students
- ▶ Mentoring from OSS organization
 - ▶ ASF
 - ▶ Eclipse
 - ▶ Red Hat
 - ▶ more

<https://summerofcode.withgoogle.com/>

How #2 Github

- ▶ Read the contributors guide
- ▶ Familiarize with git and pull requests
- ▶ Search for issues labeled:
 - ▶ Good first issue
 - ▶ Low hanging fruit

Tips #1: It's a marathon

Size doesn't matter!

- ▶ A big contribution will get some attention
- ▶ It's the long run that gives recognition

True story

- ▶ Ioannis P. & Apache Camel
 - ▶ Created an excellent component
 - ▶ camel-hazelcast
 - ▶ Didn't sustain the effort
 - ▶ Not even listed at contributors page
 - ▶ I often get credit for camel-hazelcast

Tips #2: Code first, talk later or not ...

- ▶ Easier to communicate an idea in code
- ▶ Give them a glimpse of the future Pragmatic Programmer:
Stone soup

True stories

- ▶ Ideas rejected on paper
 - ▶ How about creating a DSL for manipulation Kubernetes resources?
 - ▶ Fabric8 Kubernetes Framework
 - ▶ What if we generated Kubernetes manifests using APT?
 - ▶ Dekorater

Tips #3: Do talk

- ▶ Communication is important
 - ▶ Coordinate with others
 - ▶ Build bonds

Tips #4: Don't be a jerk

- ▶ Be polite!
- ▶ Be friendly!
- ▶ Don't be self entitled!
- ▶ Don't take it out on others!

Tips #5: Don't be intimidated

Putting your code out there can be scary

- ▶ You will make mistakes
 - ▶ **Everyone** does
 - ▶ Even the **legends**
 - ▶ And it's ok
 - ▶ But there might be those times ...

True stories

- ▶ I've been devsplained on field where I am undeniably an expert
- ▶ I've been insulted and yelled for committing pom.xml with SNAPSHOT deps

Nothing can beat the joy and reward of contributing!

Tips #6: Just do it

Your favorite motivation speech goes here!

Thank you for your time!