

Report on
Open Source Engineering

24CS02EF

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Under the Guidance of

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Contents

- About the Linux Distro I Used — Ubuntu
- Encryption and GPG
- Sending Encrypted Email
- Privacy and Open-Source Tools I Used
- About the Open Source License I Used — Apache License
- Navidrome Self-Hosted Music Server
- Open Source Contributions (PRs) and Their Status
- LinkedIn URLs

About the Linux Distro I Used — Ubuntu

I used Ubuntu, one of the most popular Linux distributions. It is beginner-friendly, stable, and has a clean user interface, which made it easier for me to adapt in the beginning. I installed it as a dual-boot along with Windows, and every time I selected Ubuntu from the boot menu, it felt exciting—like entering a different world of computing.

Ubuntu is based on Debian and uses the APT package manager, so installing and updating software is simple with commands like `sudo apt install`. It comes with strong community support, thousands of free packages, and great documentation.



What I liked most is:

- It was easy to navigate even as a beginner.
- Terminal commands helped me understand the system deeply.
- It is stable for long-term use.
- Perfect for learning open source tools, Git, servers, and development.

Encryption and GPG

GPG (GNU Privacy Guard) is an open-source tool that helped me understand how encryption works to protect communication. It uses the idea of public-key cryptography, where each person has two keys: a public key that can be shared with others and a private key that must be kept safe. When someone wants to send you a secure message, they use your public key to lock (encrypt) it, and only your private key can unlock (decrypt) it. This process ensures that even if someone intercepts the message, they cannot read it.

Why It Matters?

While learning GPG, I understood how encryption gives privacy, stops unauthorized access, and confirms whether a message is actually from the right person through digital signatures. It also made me realize how important encryption is in open-source systems and secure communication. Overall, using GPG helped me learn the basic principles behind data security, authenticity, and the protection of sensitive information.

Sending Encrypted Email

Learning how to send an encrypted email helped me understand the actual importance of secure communication. In this method, the sender encrypts the message using the receiver's public key, which means only the receiver—with their private key—can open and read it. This adds a strong layer of protection because nobody in between, including email providers or attackers, can understand the message. Even if someone tries to intercept or access the email, all they would see is unreadable encrypted text.

During this task, I understood how encryption ensures privacy, maintains data integrity, and builds trust in communication. I learned how digital signatures help verify that the message truly came from the correct sender and was not changed along the way. This activity also showed me how real-world systems protect sensitive information such as passwords, personal details, and confidential data.

Overall, sending an encrypted email using these concepts gave me practical exposure to how cybersecurity works, and it helped me appreciate how important encryption is in both personal and professional communication.

Privacy and Open-Source Tools I Used

Throughout this course, I worked with several open-source tools that focus on user freedom, privacy, and transparency. Using these tools helped me understand how open-source software gives more control, avoids unnecessary data collection, and supports secure communication. Here are the five tools that I personally used and learned from during this journey.

The Five Tools I Worked With

1. **Debian** – A stable, privacy-respecting Linux distribution that follows strict open-source principles. Debian does not include unnecessary tracking or telemetry, and it gives full control to the user. It helped me understand how a secure and reliable operating system functions.
2. **gedit** – A simple and clean text editor available on most Linux systems. I used it to write notes, edit configuration files, and create small scripts. It is lightweight, completely open-source, and perfect for basic editing without any privacy concerns.
3. **Visual Studio Code** (Open-Source Version) – A powerful and flexible code editor. It supports extensions, multiple programming languages, and has features like debugging and version control. The open-source version respects user privacy and works extremely well for coding tasks.
4. **Mozilla Firefox** – A privacy-focused web browser. Firefox blocks trackers, fingerprinting, and unwanted scripts by default. While using it, I learned how important browser privacy settings are in protecting personal data online.

5. **Signal** – A messaging app designed with complete privacy in mind. It uses end-to-end encryption for all chats, calls, and media. Signal helped me understand the importance of encrypted communication and how modern apps maintain user confidentiality.

Working with these tools showed me how open-source software can be a safer and more transparent alternative to many closed platforms. Each tool—whether for browsing, messaging, editing, or system use—focused on giving control back to the user. This experience made me more aware of how privacy and security can be improved with the right software choices.

About the Open Source License I Used – Apache License

For my open-source work, I used the Apache License, which is one of the most popular and flexible open-source licenses. This license is known for giving users a lot of freedom while still protecting the original creators. The Apache License allows anyone to use, modify, distribute, and even commercially use the software, as long as proper credit is given to the original authors.

One important feature of the Apache License is that it provides a patent license, which means contributors cannot later claim patent rights against users of their code. This makes the software safer to use in real projects. Another important point is that it requires the copyright notice and the license text to be included whenever the project is shared, ensuring transparency.

Navidrome Self-Hosted Music Server

Navidrome is a lightweight, self-hosted music streaming server that lets you access your personal music collection from anywhere. It works similar to Spotify, but the major difference is that your music stays on your own server, giving you full privacy, control, and flexibility. Navidrome is fast, easy to deploy, and works even on low-resource systems.

Key Features

- Stream your entire music library from any device.
- Clean, responsive, and modern web interface.
- Supports multiple users with individual playlists.
- Works with mobile apps that use the Subsonic API.
- Extremely lightweight and fast to set up.

Installation Steps (Using Docker)

Docker makes the installation simple and clean because everything runs inside a container.

1. Install Docker on your system.
2. Pull the official Navidrome Docker image.
3. Create two folders on your system: one for your music and one for Navidrome's data.
4. Run the Navidrome container by mapping the ports and folders.
5. Open the browser and visit <http://localhost:4533>.
6. Create your admin account and start adding your music files.



My Experience

Hosting the Navidrome music server was one of the most interesting and practical experiences for me. This was my first time using Docker, and I learned how containers work, how to create them, and how to map ports and directories properly. Seeing the server run successfully and being able to stream my own songs through the web interface felt very exciting.

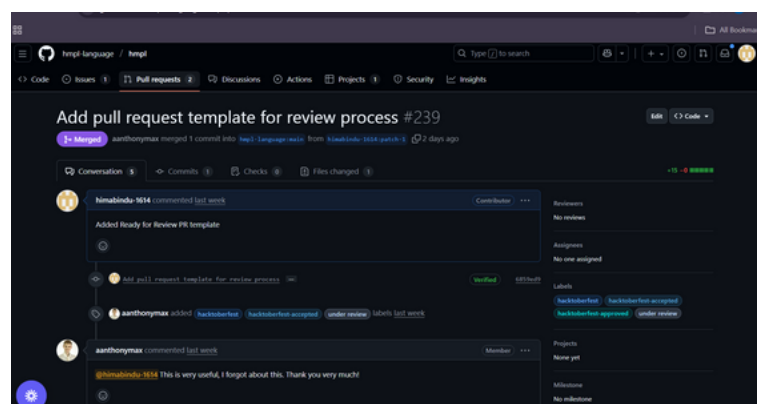
It gave me a Spotify-like experience, but the best part was knowing that everything was hosted on my own server, not a third-party platform. This project helped me understand self-hosting, basic networking concepts, and how open-source server tools function in real life. Overall, it turned out to be a valuable and satisfying hands-on learning experience.

Open Source Contributions (PRs) and Their Status

During this course, I contributed to open-source projects on GitHub and successfully got my pull requests merged. This experience helped me understand how real-world collaboration works in the open-source community.

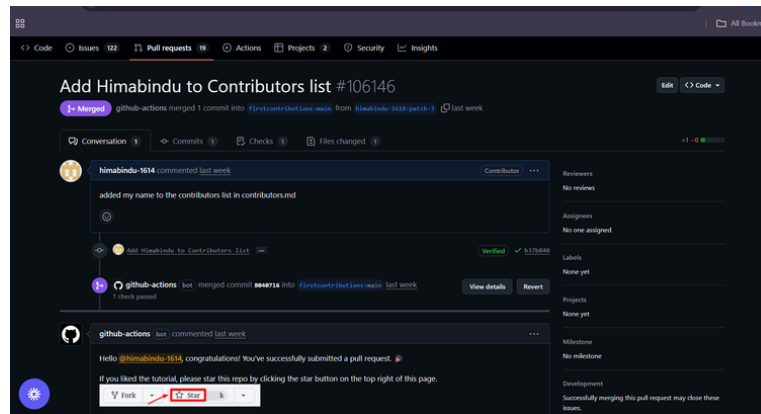
- **HMPL Contribution (Merged)**

I contributed to the HMPL Language project by improving parts of their documentation that were unclear and needed better formatting. I rewrote sections to make them more readable and beginner-friendly. This pull request was reviewed by the maintainers and successfully merged, which gave me confidence in contributing to real open-source projects.



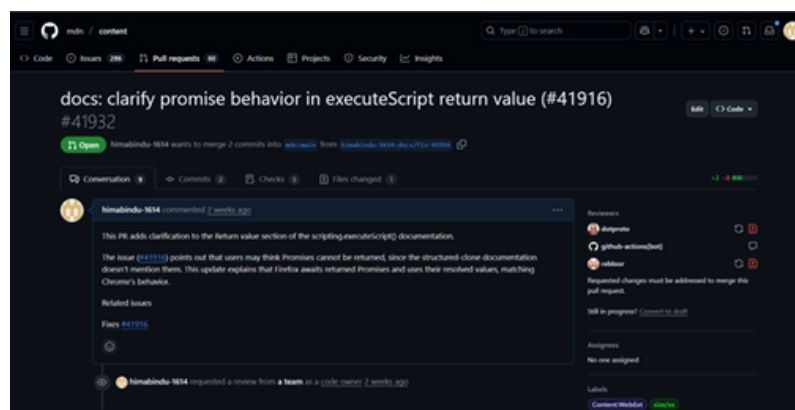
- **First Contributions (Merged)**

For the First Contributions repository, I added my name to the contributors list as part of their beginner-friendly workflow. Even though it was a simple change, it taught me how to fork, clone, create a branch, make edits, and submit a proper pull request. This PR was also merged, marking my first official step into the open-source community.



- **MDN Content Contribution (Open)**

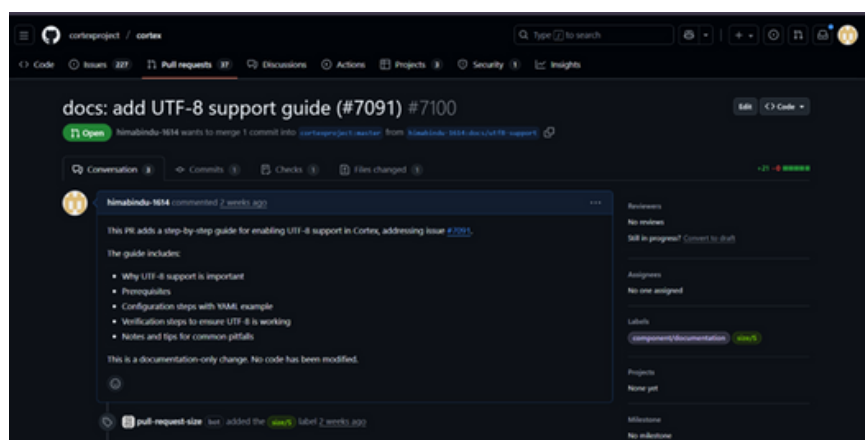
I also contributed to the MDN Content repository by submitting a pull request to improve the documentation for one of their pages. The maintainers reviewed it, but it has not been merged yet. Even though the PR is still open and unmerged, the experience taught me how strict documentation standards are, how important clarity is, and how discussions happen in large open-source communities.



- **Cortex Project Contribution (Open)**

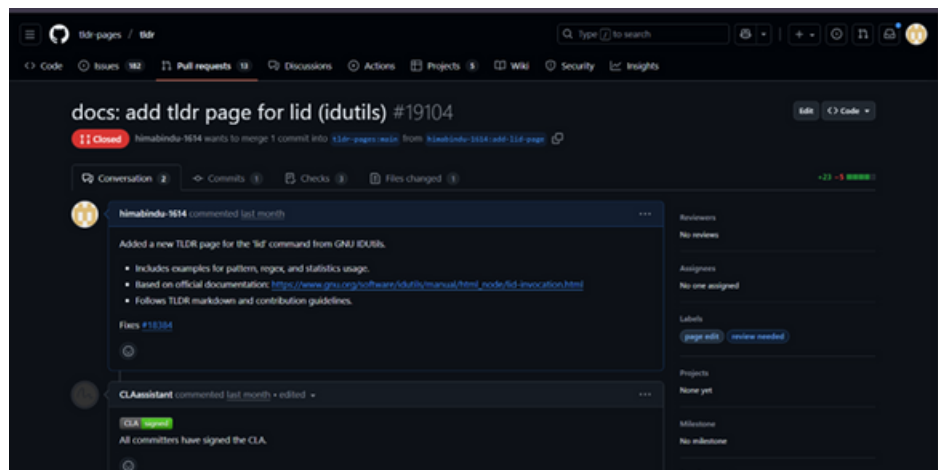
I submitted a pull request to the Cortex project repository to add a guide for enabling UTF-8 support in their documentation. The PR includes a step-by-step walkthrough of why UTF-8 is important, prerequisites, configuration examples, and verification steps. A

lthough it has not been merged yet, I went through the full contribution workflow—forking the repo, creating a branch, adhering to documentation standards, and responding to reviewer feedback. This experience helped me understand how large-scale open-source projects maintain quality control and why clear, precise documentation is crucial.



- **·tldr-pages Contribution (Closed)**

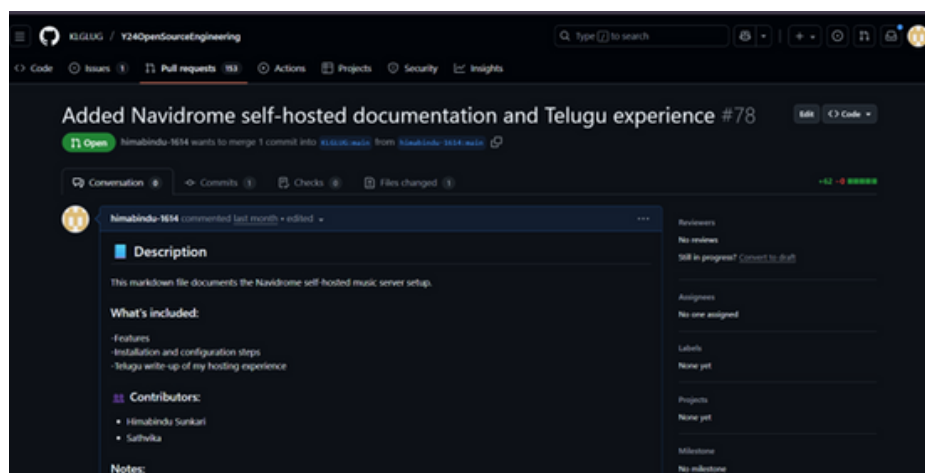
I made a contribution to the tldr-pages repository by submitting a pull request to add a new command example and improve the explanation for better clarity. However, this PR was eventually closed without being merged. Even though it wasn't accepted, the process helped me understand how strict and structured their guidelines are, especially for documentation-heavy projects. I learned how maintainers review wording, formatting, and consistency, and this experience helped me improve my writing and understand community expectations in open-source projects.



• KLGLUG Y24 OSE Contribution (Open)

In this contribution, I added a documentation file to the KLGLUG Y24OpenSourceEngineering repository based on my experience of hosting a self-hosted server. I wrote the document in my local language.

This PR was about sharing practical knowledge in a way that is accessible to others. Even though it was a simple contribution, it helped me understand how valuable localized documentation is in open-source projects and gave me confidence in contributing meaningful content to the community



LinkedIn URL's:

- **Self-Hosting Server**

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/himabindu-sunkari-3665b535a_opensource-kluniversity-foss-activity-7382296992141582336-GGbk?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAFlu-r4BzxlTHbNw29Dt8vJWQpxTRcElZkk

- **PR Merge**

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/himabindu-sunkari-3665b535a_opensource-hacktoberfest-klu-activity-7390058822393868288-YG9E?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAFlu-r4BzxlTHbNw29Dt8vJWQpxTRcElZkk

- **Blog**

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/himabindu-sunkari-3665b535a_a-short-reflection-on-how-i-learned-linux-activity-7398975006506098688-OtLV?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAFlu-r4BzxlTHbNw29Dt8vJWQpxTRcElZkk