

Rootbeer Project Overview

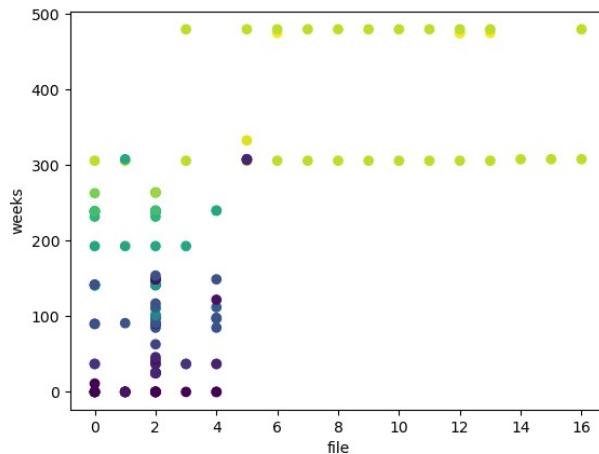
Rootbeer is an open-source Android library that detects whether a device has root-level access, meaning the user of the device has complete access to the system. It is used by many mobile applications that need to enforce security. The library is maintained under the [scottyab/rootbeer GitHub repository](#). The repository has 2.8 thousand stars, and 504 forks, indicating its popularity in the Android app development community. As of February 2nd, 2026, the repository contains 202 commits across 27 contributors. The last recorded commit was a Gradle optimization on October 4th, 2024. This means the code base has been stable for more than a year.

Contribution summary

Most of the development has been concentrated among a few people. According to the GitHub contributor API, the top five maintainers of the source code account for two thirds of all contributions to the code files only. The remaining contributors supplied 10 commits or less to the code files.

Activity patterns and developer focus

To understand when and where developers spent their time, the scatter-plot below displays weeks since the project started on the y-axis against each source code file on the x-axis. each color represents another author.



Observations from the scatter plot:

- The left-most files received intense attention in the first weeks. The colors show these edits were mostly made by the primary maintainers.
- The horizontal lines at around 300 and 475 weeks indicate weeks where many files were touched by multiple authors. These correspond to large updates.
- Many files show only a few dots, meaning they were stable once established. This suggests a good API was built in the initial versions.

Useful git commands and tooling

During this lab, the following git commands were useful:

- **git clone** was helpful in gathering the necessary repositories from both my group and the linked repositories.
- **git checkout -b** was helpful when I wanted to create and swap to a new branch in the same command.
- **git blame** helped me ensure that my scripts were providing correct information about what authors touched every file.
- **Repository link:** <https://github.com/Ekinn7188/Group-2>