Onboarding Guide to the Rokwire Community

https://rokwirecommunity.substack.com/p/onboarding-guide-to-rokwire-community

R Rokwire Community

Welcome to Rokwire Community! The Rokwire initiative is now open-source, and is looking for contributors on a number of fronts. You may have heard of Rokwire in conjunction with the Illinois App and Safer Illinois. But there is so much more! While Rokwire enables the data integration capabilities of the existing applications, it is also a means to build information tools for a wide range of community settings.

Taking a broader perspective, we also coordinate open-source activities related to the Smart, Healthy Communities Initiative, the mission of which is to stimulate innovation using smart technology to make society

safer, foster better decision making, and increase wellness. We also partner with various research units and institutions both inside and outside of academia.

To get started learning standard technical terminology and other high-level documentation, get connected with the Rokwire Community Wiki, located on Github.

What is a Contributor?

We approach the role of an open-source contributor from a broad perspective. The traditional role of open-source software contributor is supported, but we are also interested in contributors who can realize the full potential of the platform and its implications. This involves a wide range of activities, including but not limited to: contributing ideas in our open discussion forums, contributing to our Github repositories, developing research related to or enabled by the Rokwire platform, becoming involved in a collaborative paper or talk, or formally licensing the platform to create your own application. We are particularly

interested in supporting members of underrepresented groups with opportunities for professional growth.

Starting off..... To learn more about the tools, public events, technical documents, and opportunities related to the Rokwire platform, please visit our Community Navigator. For a more elementary introduction to the technical details and how to apply Rokwire to your problem of interest, visit our Community Wiki. As the community manager, I also publish a weekly post at the Rokwire Community blog. Each week, you will find a new emerging idea and or opportunity for potential contributors to engage with.

Internal vs. External Contributors. We sometime distinguish between internal and external collaborators. As there are a number of people who have been working on the Rokwire platform since before making the platform open, internal contributors have a different perspective on Rokwire, and thus have different community needs. But if you are a newcomer (external contributor), don't let this distinction deter you from establishing a collaboration! While internal and external people have

different expectations and needs, they are welcome to contribute to the community in any way they can.

Basic Communication. Generating conversation around new initiatives is important. To serve this need, we have a Slack team and Discord server devoted specifically to community discussion. These channels will be most active during one of our community events, such as a Hackathon, lecture series, or live stream. But you can initiate discussion with your peers anytime! We also welcome suggestions for updates to the existing codebase, in addition to more visionary and longer-term discussion threads. All communications are bound by the Rokwire Community Code of Conduct.

Licensing and Contributing

We use an Apache 2.0 license. Any contributor who is not an employee of the University of Illinois whose official duties include contributing to the Rokwire software, or who is not paid by the Rokwire project, needs to sign our Contributor License Agreement (CLA) before their

contribution can be accepted. If you are not familiar with working in an open-source community, please see our video tutorials "Welcome to Open-source" (26 minutes) and "Version Control for Distributed Working" (32 minutes).

Please see our licensing section of our Wiki main page and licensing documentation for specific forms and a copy of the Apache open-source license.

Contribution Types

Open Discussion Forums. One easy way to contribute is to pose a question or raise an issue for community discussion. This should be a question or discussion point that is not easily answered by consulting the Community Wiki or existing documents such as the Rokwire white paper.

Github Repositories. Rokwire has a Github organization, which contains many public repositories containing the code base of Rokwire and its associated applications. This Github organization also hosts a

separate repo for Rokwire Community, which hosts many of the gateway participatory activities listed here. Be sure to submit all pull requests, bug reports, and new feature requests using our standardized templates.

Documentation, Collaborative Documents, and Tutorials. We are always developing technical documentation for the Rokwire and Smart, Healthy Communities Initiatives that will be accessible to multiple audiences. This includes contributing to our Wiki, soliciting ideas for topical scope, and working to publish both technical and academic papers on Rokwire-related issues. This might range from visionary descriptions to standard technical documents and from software architectures to research problems in adjacent fields. While the projects will be managed using platforms such as Google Docs and Box, check the Rokwire Community project board on Github to find specific opportunities.

Maintenance and Design. We value contributions that maintain our shared resources as well as contribute to the design of new features and capabilities. Help to maintain our community in a number of ways: keep

documentation updated, serve to organize our community discussion and events, file bug reports on code, and more. This is a critical yet underutilized feature of open-source communities — and it can be a quick route to participation. You can also participate in feature and capability design with our partners at the STRAT Lab (Siebel Center for Design, UIUC).

Rokwire-related Research. We are also interested in research-intensive applications of the Rokwire architecture. Take a look at the research page for what kinds of research are currently being sponsored by our open-source community. Whether it is an application for self-report data or as a means to stitch together spatial data, please join the conversation!

Reports, Requests, and Developing an Instance. To make a bug or accessibility report, or if you have an idea for a new feature request, please visit the appropriate wiki stub for links and instructions. If you are interested in developing an instance of Rokwire for your community, or licensing an instance of Safer Illinois for your campus, please have a look at our Licensing Guidelines and our Terms of Service.

What am I contributing to?

Rokwire is a mobile software platform, an Initiative, and an open-source Community. Rokwire (the mobile software platform) is an open-source set of building blocks and data connectors that can be assembled into mobile apps that enable smart communities. Customized functions developed in the form of capabilities and talents can be developed atop this platform and result in customizable interfaces.

The Rokwire Initiative is also known as the University of Illinois Smart Healthy Communities Initiative. The smart communities initiative is a way to think about broader implications of Rokwire platform adoption. This includes enabling research related to Survey Design, Human-computer Interaction, Computer Science, and interdisciplinary studies.

The Rokwire Community is the open-source community that serves contributors interested in developing on top of the Rokwire platform. The Community also works with people interested in contributing to the

Rokwire initiative and enabling research related to both the platform and initiative.

If you are an advanced open-source contributor, be sure to consult our Open-source Community Contributor Master Plan. Here you will find the many paths to success we have identified from our interactions with the contributor community and our external partners. Find your path, or just find new opportunities to contribute.

Contributing as an Individual or Organization

All ready to get working? Then consult our workflow, code reviews, and documentation community standards. Our contributions packager is coming soon, and will allow contributing organizations to submit entire capabilities for review by our internal development team. See how your efforts fit into the scheme of the community at-large by consulting the Rokwire Community contributor master plan.

How to Get Started Programming with Rokwire. The best way to get started with Rokwire is to clone or fork our Building Blocks API

repository on Github. This repository includes a README with instructions on how to get started. For more advanced users, we host an interactive documentation system on Swagger that works with an API Authentication key. Please contact our Community Manager (rokwire-open-source@mx.illinois.edu) for more information.

The API will allow potential contributors to work with the Rokwire building blocks and create application-related things on top of them, such as capabilities and talents. In the future, we will make contributing to Rokwire easier through a Contributions Packager and a Developer's Sandbox.

Interacting with our Github Repositories. Rokwire maintains its open-source software code on Github. If you would like to make an open-source contribution, please start by joining our discussion board for App development. Once you get feedback, you then create a Github issue with a concise description of your proposed contribution. We have a video tutorial on working with Github issues, so you can get an idea of

the desired scope and workflow. Consult our <u>table of open repositories and codeowners</u> to engage with our internal development team.

Engage in a Student Project. As a student, you can contribute while building your portfolio/resume by engaging in an internship or research practicum. Take a look at our <u>Project Catalogue for Student Contributors</u> for more information on past and current projects. We participate in programs such as the <u>UIUC iSchool</u> research practicum and Google Summer of Code. <u>Contact us</u> for more information.

Be a Course That Contributes! We are looking for course instructors who might want to incorporate Rokwire or the Smart, Healthy Communities Initiative into their course curriculum. These contributions can range from working with open-source software tools to learning about how open-source can be applied to a range of pedagogical aims. <u>Contact us</u> for more information.

Links

Website, Blog, Twitter (Rokwire Community), Github (Rokwire Community), Github (Rokwire), LinkedIn (Rokwire), YouTube (Rokwire)

Good First Issues

Check out our good first issues to get started. These are high-level issues that will help you get oriented towards a distinct area of contribution. Good First Issues will be refined as you progress in your interactions with the community.

Issue Number	Description
#13	High-level Introductions to Building Blocks and Capabilities
#43	Maintain Existing and Create New Wiki Stubs
#44	Developing Demos and Tutorials
#63	Get Involved in an Open Publication!
#69	Submit Ideas for Collaboration

If you are interested in addressing a specific issue, please see the Rokwire Community Issues tracker for more detail.

Sculpt the Discussion

We host conversations on a variety of topics on our Slack team and Discord server, including #hci (Human-Computer Interaction), #health, #open-papers, #media-streams, and #tutorials.

Video Guides

Check out the video guide on our Wiki, including: Welcome to Open Source!, Community Resources, How to Address Issues, How to Make a Pull Request, and Open-source Ethos.

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