

# Meetup Reference

February 1st, 2018

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Welcome to Write the Docs - SLC!

Today, Jeff Swindel will talk about contributing to open source projects.

Use this handout as a reference during and after the presentation.

## Community

### Open source is open

- You should contribute to projects that interest you.
- Ask yourself: Can I benefit from contributing?

## Get Started

### First stop: GitHub

- The Readme is critical.
- Some projects also have a bonus "Contributing Guidelines" document with more thorough instructions than a Readme.

## Readme

### Project priority: Readme

- Some Readmes are very useful, others not so much.
- If the project already had a great Readme, read it to learn more about the project and how you can contribute.
- If the project Readme is not very informative, you've already found an area where you can contribute to the project!
- Guidelines for writing a great Readme (see Resources below)

## Contribute

### Read, ask, change, and commit

- If the project already has clear documentation, follow the existing instructions to find out how to contribute.
- Otherwise, check out existing contributor activity to see who's the most active, and reach out to them to ask questions.
- Most projects are linked to an IRC or Slack community where you can get help.
- Submit a pull request and create a branch, make your suggested changes, commit back to master.

### Resources

-<https://mapzen.com/blog/open-source-docs/>  
-<https://medium.com/@meakaakka/a-beginners-guide-to-writing-a-kickass-readme-7ac01da88ab3>  
-<https://github.com/blog/1184-contributing-guidelines>  
-<https://opensource.com/tags/doc-dish-column>  
-<https://opensource.com/business/15/5/write-better-docs>  
-<https://yangsu.github.io/pull-request-tutorial/>

# Agenda and Info.

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## **April meetup**

Gwynne Monohan will speak during the first week of April.

Location: Salt Lake county.

## **Write the Docs Portland 2018**

When: May 6-8

Tickets available now, but expected to sell out.

Contact Ashley or Kyle if you'd like more info about the conference

(including how to convince your manager: <http://www.writethedocs.org/conf/portland/2018/convince-your-manager/>).

Also, you're invited to attend our quarterly planning meeting. The next will be in mid-May. Please contact an organizer if you'd like to attend or be involved in planning.

## **Agenda**

### **Welcome**

- > Housekeeping
  - > Help yourself to snacks
  - > Location of restrooms
  - > Please check in at <http://bit.ly/wtd-slc>
- > Mission of WTD
  - > Learn docs best practices
  - > Welcome to all tech professionals
  - > Code of conduct

### **Contributing to Open Source** (presentation by Jeff Swindel)

- > Jeff is a SysAdmin, and an avid open source contributor who has a history of success making his workplace more efficient through improved documentation.

### **Q&A**

- > Ask Jeff or the group pressing questions.

### **Small group discussion**

- > What is your experience with contributing to Open Source?
- > What have you found so far that works / doesn't work?
- > How do you fit O.S. contributing into your busy schedule? Can you share any tips with others?

### **Closing remarks**