

Pull request abandonment in OSS communities (for integrators)

Pull request are never perfect and ready to merge when submitted. Contributors should expect that their code will go through at least one round of review and update, until their pull requests meet the merge standard. However, we have observed that some pull requests appear unfinished and abandoned by their submitters. Take [rails/rails/#16202](https://github.com/rails/rails/pull/16202) as an example, integrators suggested several improvements, but the contributor did not respond. Finally, the pull request is closed for lacking response from the contributor.

We are interested in the impact of pull request abandonment and how project integrators deal with the abandoned pull requests. We are grateful for your feedback according to your experience in OSS communities.

Q1 How would you best describe yourself?

- ☐ Developer working in the industry
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Full time independent developer
- ☐ Academic researcher
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Q2 How many years of OSS development experience do you have?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ <1 year
- ☐ 1-3 years
- ☐ 3-5 years
- ☐ 5-10 years
- ☐ >10 years

Q3 How many OSS projects are you a core member or collaborator of?

- ☐ None
- ☐ 1-3 projects
- ☐ 3-5 projects
- ☐ 5-10 projects
- ☐ >10 projects

Q4 What is the impact of pull request abandonment?

- ☐ Waste my effort spend on code review
- ☐ Clutter the pull request list
- ☐ Cost me additional effort on more careful close (e.g., ping contributors for confirmation before close)
- ☐ Disorder or delay the scheduled milestone or release
- ☐ Hinder the landing of inter-dependent pull requests
- ☐ Cause unintentional repeated patches for the unsolved issue
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Q5 How did you deal with an abandoned pull request?

- ☐ I just closed the pull request
- ☐ I merged the pull request as it is and iterated over it
- ☐ Takeover: I took over the pull request and finished it
- ☐ Takeover: I recommended a reviewer of the pull request to take a crack at it
- ☐ Takeover: I requested another core member to pick it up
- ☐ Takeover: I pinged the related sub-team to take care of it
- ☐ Takeover: The offline internal meeting assigned someone to own the pull request
- ☐ Takeover: The originator entrusted the pull request to someone
- ☐ Advertise: I left an advertising comment in the pull request or the original issue
- ☐ Advertise: I assigned a specific label (e.g., "help wanted") to the pull request or the original issue
- ☐ Another contributor spontaneously picked up the pull request and finished it
- ☐ I choose the duplicate or similar pull request as an alternative
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Q6 Would you have negative impression on contributors who have abandoned their pull requests?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ It depends on
 - ☐ the frequency that this happens
 - ☐ the reason behind the abandonment
 - ☐ what the pull request is about
 - ☐ where the discussion lead
 - ☐ Other(please specify)

Q7 Do you have anything else to tell us about pull request abandonment?