Pull request abandonment in OSS communities (for contributors)

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* 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 why contributors have abandoned their 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)

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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 pull requests do you submit in an average month?

○ Not sure

○ 1-3

○ 3-5

○ > 5

Q4 You abandoned a pull request because?

☐ Personal: I had no time to make OSS contribution

☐ Personal: I was not interested at the pull request any more

☐ Personal: I moved on OSS tasks of higher priority

☐ Artifact: The pull request was not needed anymore

☐ Artifact: The pull request was not as desired as expected

☐ Artifact: The pull request was a work-around

☐ Technical: I had limited domain expertise to carry out the requested changes

☐ Technical: I disagreed with integrators' requests

☐ Technical: The trivial change is not worthy of the arduous process of updating a pull request (*e.g.*, rebase, squash)

☐ Technical: I was not familiar with the specific process of updating a pull request

- ☐ Social: I received no answers from integrators
- ☐ Social: Integrators did not reach consensus on changes
- ☐ Social: I felt ignored by integrators (*e.g.* late feedback)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

[   ]

Q5 When you were unable to complete my pull request, you

- ☐ just left it there
- ☐ closed it with a comment describing the reason
- ☐ handed over the pull request to someone
- ☐ Other (please specify)

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Q6 If someone pick up your abandoned pull request, you would prefer to ?

- ☐ explain the idea of my pull request more clearly*, e.g.*, the detailed use case
- ☐ offer additional simple assist, *e.g.*, writing test cases
- ☐ help project integrators to review the new pull request
- ☐ let it be and I will not follow the new pull request
- ☐ Other (please specify)

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Q7 Would you like to pick up a pull request abandoned by others ?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ It depends on
  - ☐ whether it is a significant time investment
  - ☐ whether it is important or valuable
  - ☐ whether I am familiar with it
  - ☐ whether I need it
  - ☐ whether I am interested in it
  - ☐ Other(please specify)

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Q8 Do you have anything else to tell us about pull request abandonment?

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