Building a Career in open source

**Vaishali Thakkar
(@kernel_girl)**
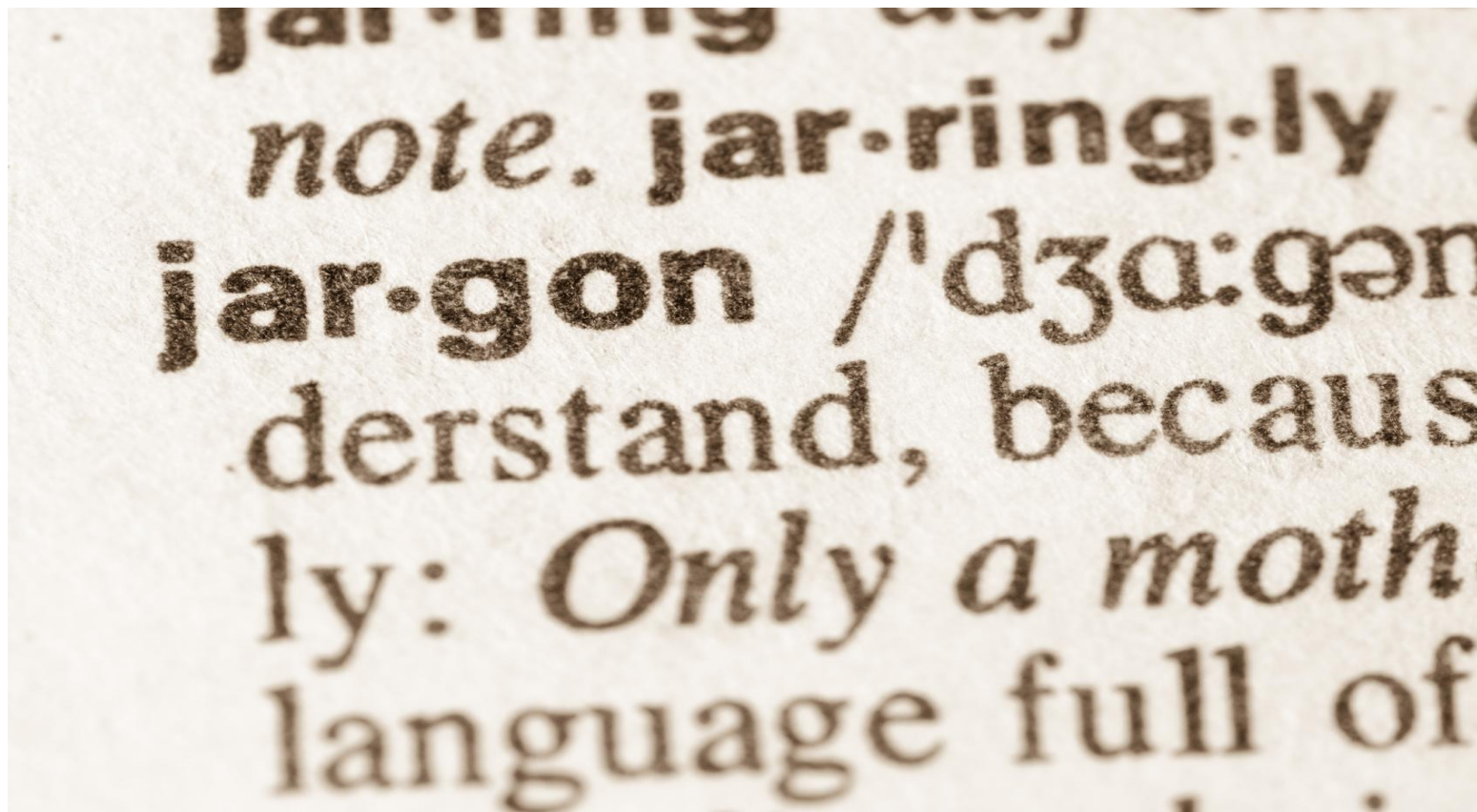
Who Am I

- **Freelance {Linux Kernel engineer, FOSS program architect, occasional tech writer, tech speaker}**

- **Outreachy co-coordinator for Linux Kernel**

- **Rails Girls Summer Of Code co-organizer**

- **Associated with bunch of other open source stuff**

What This Talk Is About

- **Understanding Open Source: What, Why, How**

- **Ways to work in open source projects**

- **Process of getting involved with open source projects**

- **Open Source Internship programs: GSoC, Outreachy, RGSoC**

- **Open Source and Jobs: Tech industry and How**

What This Talk Doesn't Include

Open Source: What

Open Source: What

- Open source allows you to
  - Use it
    - Install it

    - Run it

    - Build Business

Open Source: What

- Open source allows you to
  - Use it

  - Study it
    - Open Learning

    - Allows to use it the way you like

Open Source: What

- Open source allows you to
  - Use it

  - Study it

  - Modify it
    - Add features

    - Fix the bugs

Open Source: What

- Open source allows you to
  - Use it

  - Study it

  - Modify it

  - Share it
    - Share with community

    - Open culture

Open Source: Why

- **Passion for open source and technology**

Open Source: Why

- **Passion for open source and technology**

- Open Contribution

Open Source: Why

- **Passion for open source and technology**

- Open Contribution

- Open Collaboration

Open Source: Why

- **Passion for open source and technology**

- **Open Contribution**

- **Open Collaboration**

- **Open Education**

Open Source: Why

- **Passion for open source and technology**

- **Open Contribution**

- **Open Collaboration**

- **Open Education**

- **Be part of big projects**

Open Source: Why

- **Passion for open source and technology**

- **Open Contribution**

- **Open Collaboration**

- **Open Education**

- **Be part of big projects**

- **Professional development**

Open Source: How

- Open sourcing your own projects

Open Source: How

- Open sourcing your projects

- Scratching your own itch

Open Source: How

- Open sourcing your projects

- Scratching your own itch

- Open problem solving

Ways to work in open source projects

- **Bugs**
  - **Find it**

  - **Report it**

  - **Fix it**

Ways to work in open source projects

- **Testing**
  - **Use tools**

  - **Test new features**

  - **Performance and regression testing**

Ways to work in open source projects

- **Documentation**
  - **Contribute to existing docs**

  - **Make tutorials**

  - **Write blogs and articles**

  - **Add new docs**

Ways to work in open source projects

- Other ways
  - Translation

  - Localization

  - Community involvement and helping others

  - Support

Process of getting involved with open source projects

- **Choose a project**
  - **Interest in software**

  - **Interest in learning more about the project**

  - **Interest in practicing your technical abilities**

Process of getting involved with open source projects

- Choose a project

- Set up an environment in your local machine

Process of getting involved with open source projects

- **Choose a project**

- **Set up an environment in your local machine**
    - **Install Linux distro and git**
    - **Clone the source code**
    - **Get familiar with version control system[git] and web hosting services [github, gitlab etc]**
    - **Set up necessary tools to run and test the projects**

Process of getting involved with open source projects

- Choose a project

- Set up an environment in your local machine

- Join mailing lists, IRC channels, Gitter rooms

Process of getting involved with open source projects

- Choose a project

- Set up an environment in your local machine

- Join mailing lists, IRC channels, Gitter rooms

- Get familiar with the project: Read docs/blogs, watch conference talks, read mailing archives, tinker with source code

Process of getting involved with open source projects

- Choose a project

- Set up an environment in your local machine

- Join mailing lists, IRC channels, Gitter rooms

- Get familiar with the project: Read docs/blogs, watch conference talks, read mailing archives, tinker with source code

- Solve issues

- Repeat

Open source internship programs

- **Google Summer of Code**
  - 3 months internship program run by Google

  - 100+ open source organizations

  - Eligibility: 18+ and University student

  - Takes place once a year in summer

  - Stipend: 2400$, Certificate and Goodies kit

  - Website:
    https://summerofcode.withgoogle.com/

Open source internship programs

- **Outreachy**
  - 3 months internship program handled by Software Freedom Conservancy

  - 15+ participating organizations

  - Targeted for underrepresented group in open source

  - Runs twice a year [summer and winter]

  - Stipend: 5500$ + 500$ [conference travel reimbursement]

  - Website: https://www.outreachy.org/

Open source internship programs

- **Rails Girls Summer Of Code**
  - 3 months scholarship program

  - Eligibility: 18+ and women/LGBTQ

  - Runs once a year [summer]

  - Stipend: Based on location

  - Website: https://railsgirlssummerofcode.org/

Other open source opportunities

- **Bootcamps**

- **Conference scholarships**

- **Recurse center**

- **Open source project mentorship programs [Season of KDE]**

- **Diversity initiatives**

Open Source tips

- **Respect other contributors and their work**

- **Be patient to follow through with commitments**

- **Be open for ideas and learning**

- **Focus on constructive criticism only [Your code != you]**

- **Be visible: Write, Speak, Talk about your work**

Open Source and tech industry

- All big companies have open source organizations with different departments
  - Support

  - Testing

  - Development

  - Documentation

  - Developer Advocacy

  - Project Evangelism
- Open source jobs report by Linux Foundation: https://www.linuxfoundation.org/events/open-source-jobs-report-2017/

Open Source Job Seeking

- **Resume and portfolio building**

- **Networking**

- **Applying for jobs**

- **Online Collaboration**

Open Source Careers

- **Working**
  - **In Companies**

  - **With companies**

  - **For companies**

  - **For projects**

Questions?

Useful Links

- **Resources:**
  https://github.com/nerdyvaishali/Resources/wiki/Resources-to-find-open-source-and-tech-conferences

- **My other talks:**
  https://github.com/nerdyvaishali/Talks

- **Diversity initiatives:**
  https://github.com/cristianoliveira/awesome4girls