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Journey to Becoming an OpenTelemetry Approver

Jamie Danielson

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Jamie Danielson

Telemetry Engineer at Honeycomb
Approver on OpenTelemetry JS

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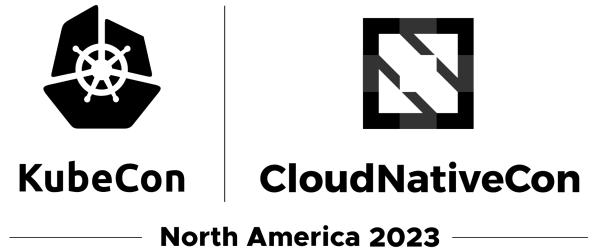
Learn in public

> **The first time I used git, it just made sense.**
> - no one, ever

Learn in public



- Learn by doing

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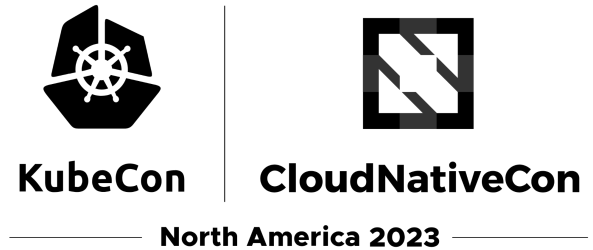
Learn in public



- Learn by doing
- Practice even the small things

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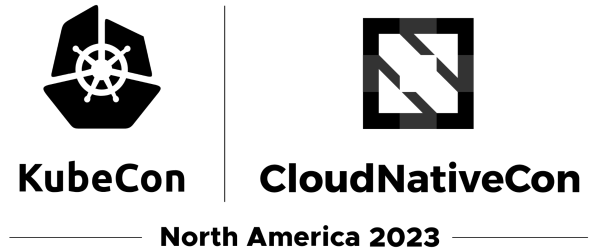
Learn in public



- Learn by doing
- Practice even the small things
- Gain confidence each step

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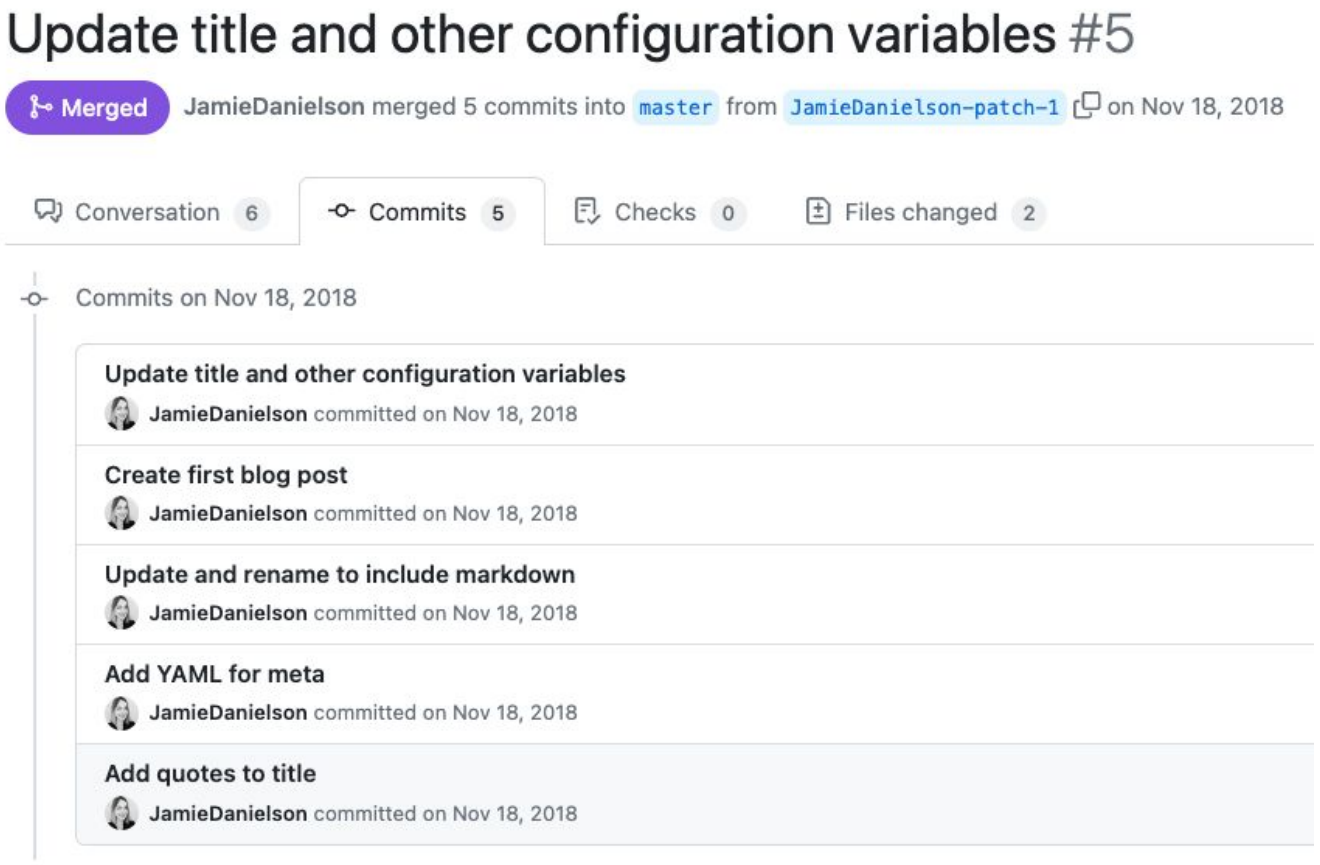
Learn in public



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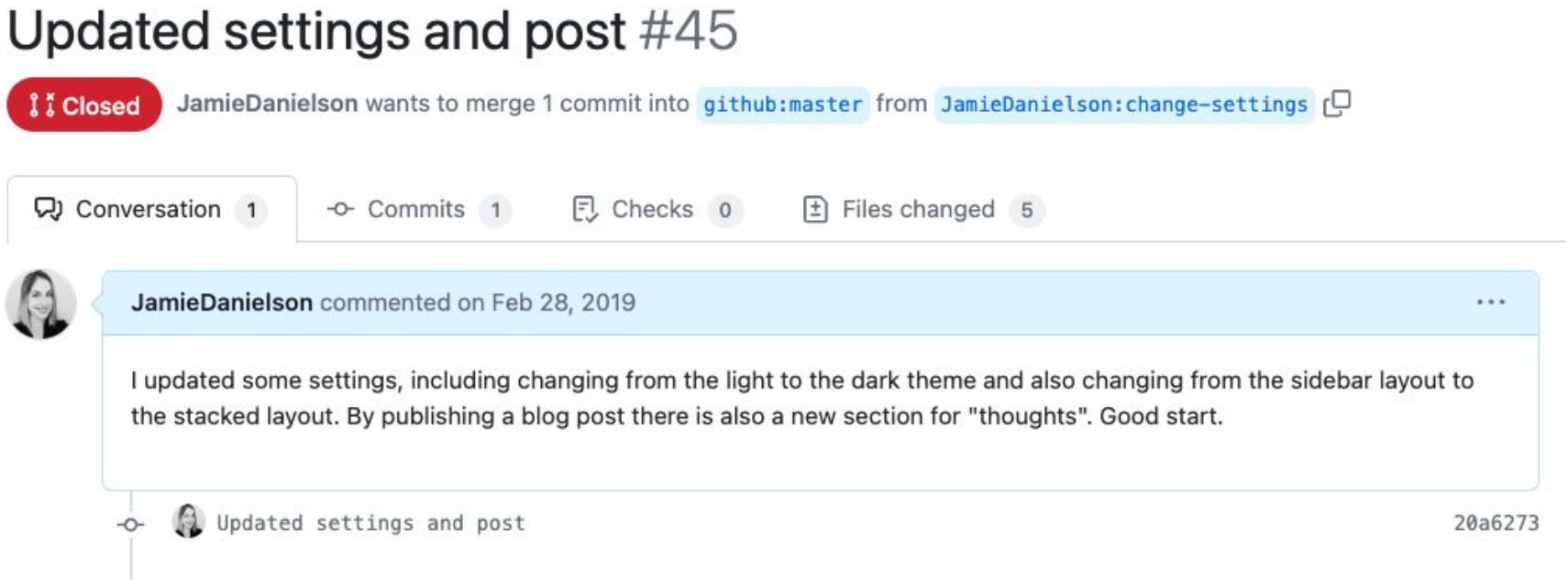
Learn in public



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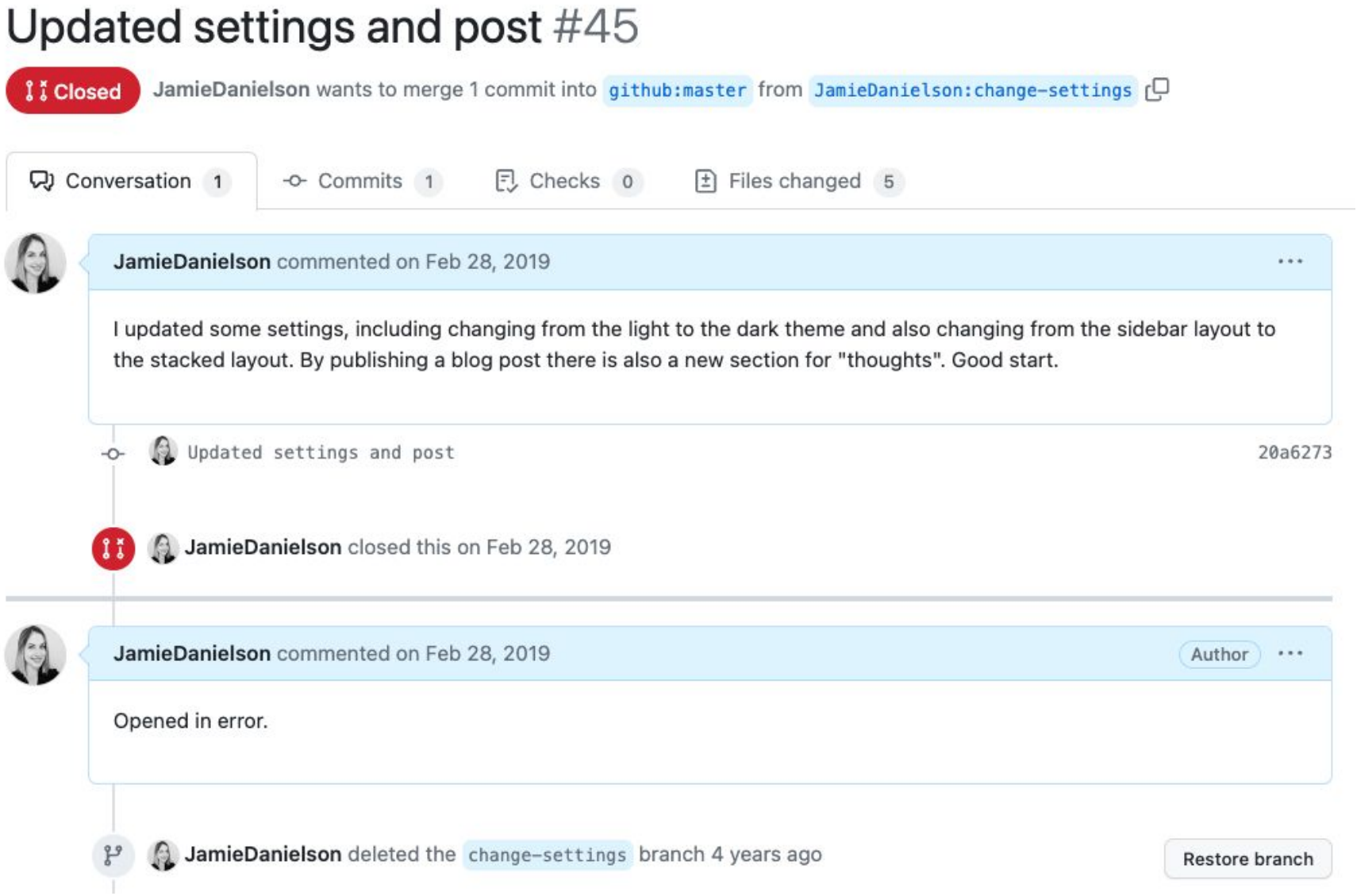
Learn in public



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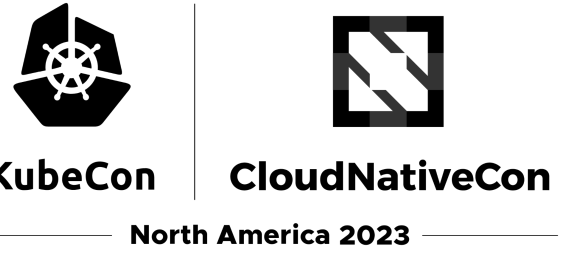

Learn in public

You will be wrong. **A lot.**

And that’s okay.

Keep going.

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Read the contributing docs

Read the contributing docs

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- README
- Contributing doc
- Issue templates
- PR templates
- Discussions, Wikis, Pinned issues

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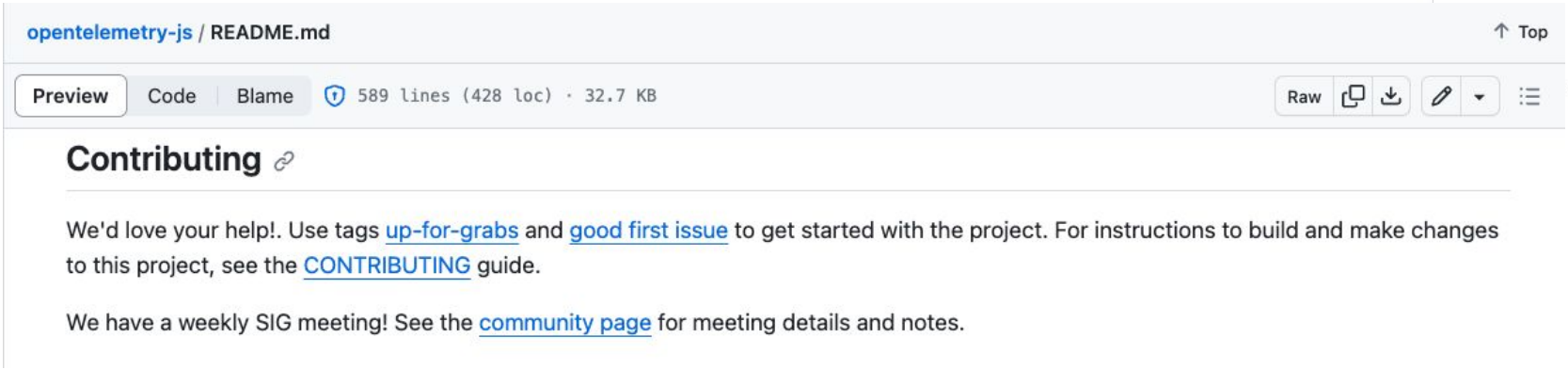
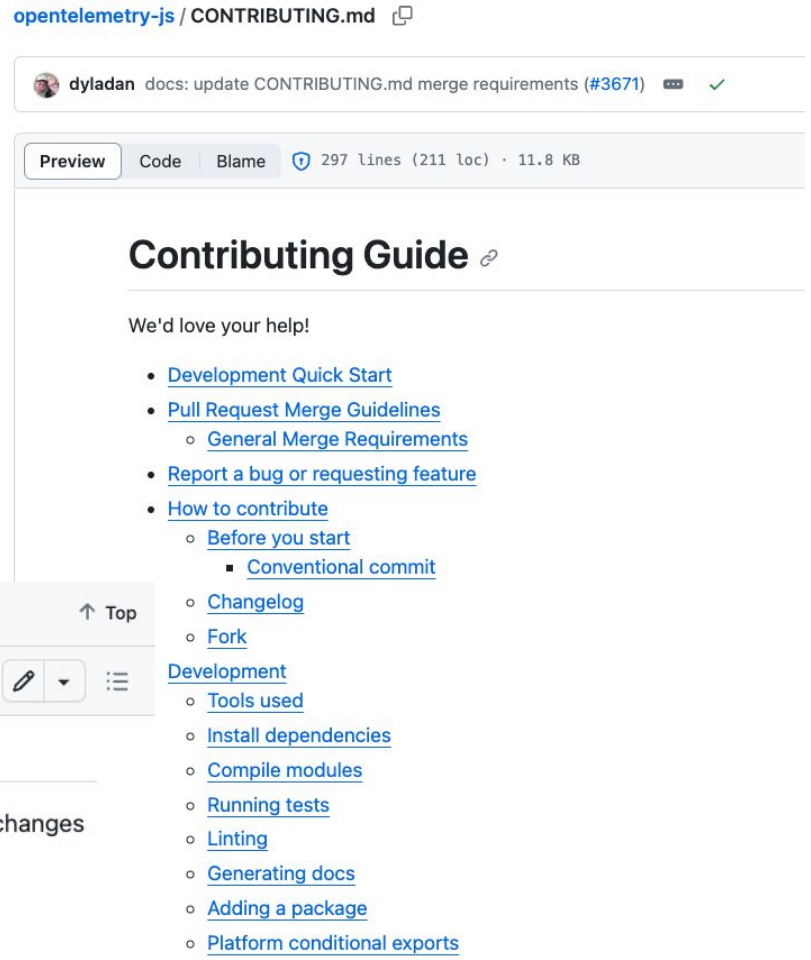
Read the contributing docs

Most repos will have a contributing doc or at least a section in the README for how to work with the project.





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Read the contributing docs

Issue templates and PR templates are there to guide you AND to make things go faster.

Preview | Code | Blame — 33 lines (24 loc) · 984 Bytes

name	about	labels
Feature request	Suggest an idea for this project	feature-request

Is your feature request related to a problem? Please describe

Describe the solution you'd like to see

Describe alternatives you've considered

Additional context

Preview | Code | Blame — 33 lines (20 loc) · 482 Bytes

name	about	labels
Bug report	Create a report to help us improve	bug

What version of OpenTelemetry are you using?

What version of Node are you using?

What did you do?

What did you expect to see?

What did you see instead?

Additional context

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Read the contributing docs

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Issue templates and PR templates are there to guide you AND to make things go faster.

Preview | Code | Blame | 43 lines (30 loc) · 1.66 KB | Raw

Which problem is this PR solving?

Please include a summary of the change and which issue is fixed. Please also include relevant motivation and context. List any dependencies that are required for this change.

Fixes # (issue)

Short description of the changes

Type of change

Please delete options that are not relevant.

- [ ] Bug fix (non-breaking change which fixes an issue)
- [ ] New feature (non-breaking change which adds functionality)
- [ ] Breaking change (fix or feature that would cause existing functionality to not work as expected)
- [ ] This change requires a documentation update

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Non-code contributions are valuable

Non-code contributions

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- Public documentation

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Non-code contributions

Developers see about a

50%

productivity boost when documentation is up-to-date, detailed, reliable, and comes in different formats (e.g. articles, videos, forums).

https://octoverse.github.com/2021/creating-documentation/

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Non-code contributions

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- Public documentation
- Examples

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Non-code contributions

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- Public documentation
- Examples
- Blog posts

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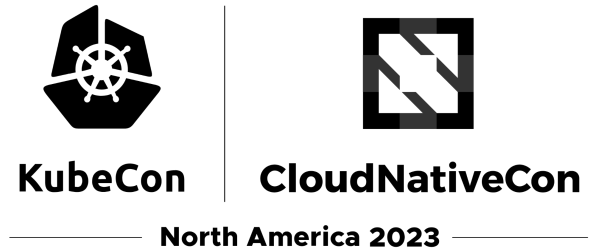
Non-code contributions



- Public documentation
- Examples
- Blog posts
- Opening bug reports

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Non-code contributions

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- Public documentation
- Examples
- Blog posts
- Opening bug reports
- Slack and online forums

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Be as clear as possible

Be as clear as possible

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Be as clear as possible

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- Don’t make assumptions

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Be as clear as possible

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- Don’t make assumptions
- Make the implicit explicit

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Be as clear as possible

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- Don’t make assumptions
- Make the implicit explicit
- If you’re unsure, ask

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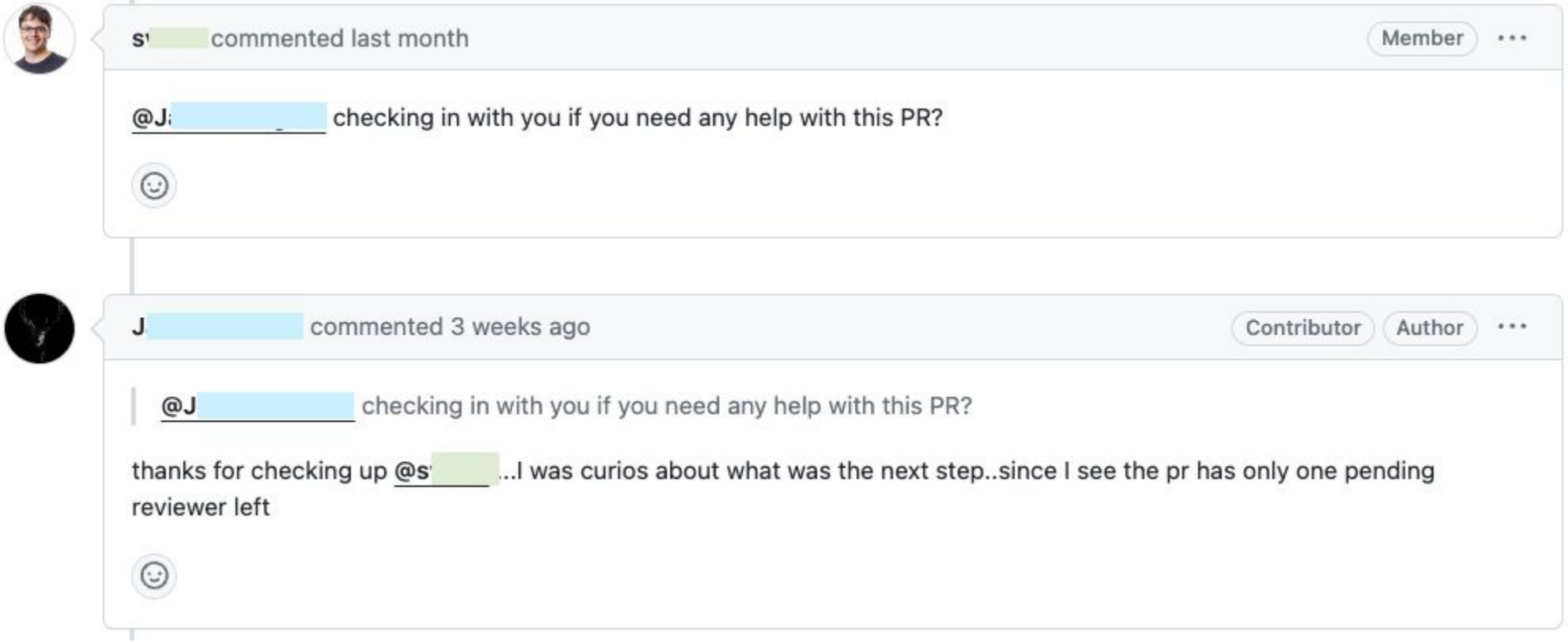
Be as clear as possible



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Keep showing up

Keep showing up

- Consistency is key

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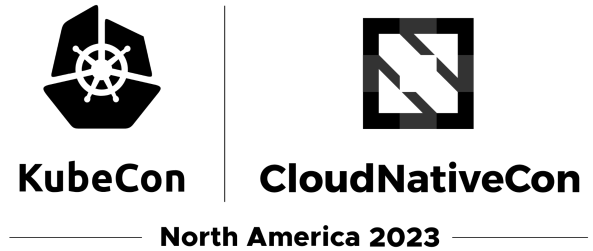
Keep showing up



- Consistency is key
- Every interaction builds trust

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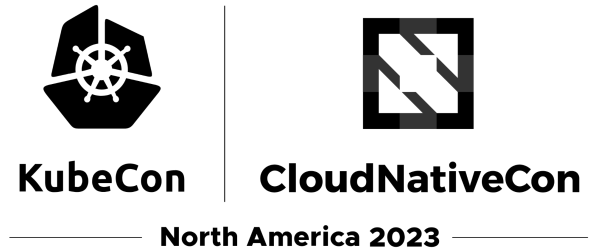
Keep showing up



- Consistency is key
- Every interaction builds trust
- It is who you know… but not like that

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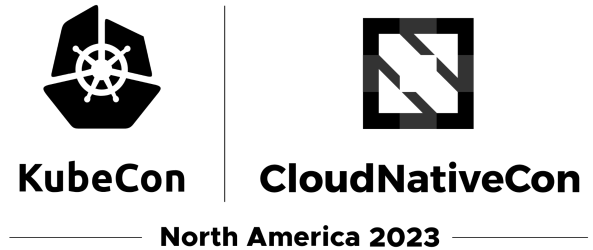
Keep showing up



- Consistency is key
- Every interaction builds trust
- It is who you know… but not like that
- More code = more maintenance

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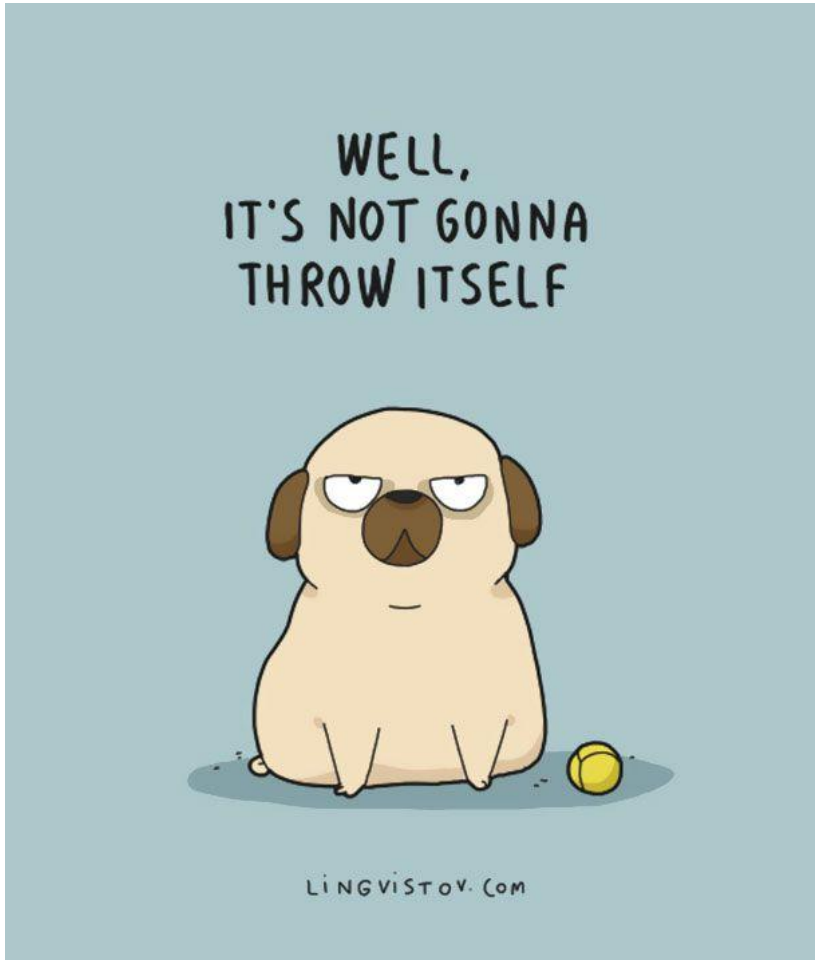
Keep showing up

free as in puppy

not

free as in beer



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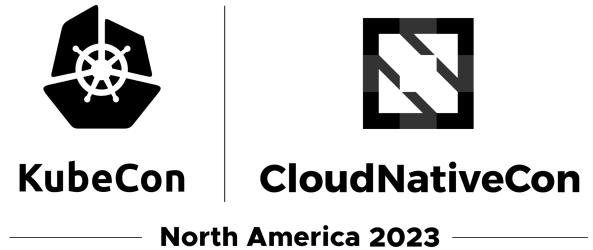
Keep showing up



- Contributions to repos
- Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings
- Community Slack (CNCF slack)
- Social Media

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Recap

- **Learn in public**
  - Gain confidence each step

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Recap

- Learn in public
  - Gain confidence each step
- **Read the contributing docs**
  - Follow guidelines for how to interact with the project

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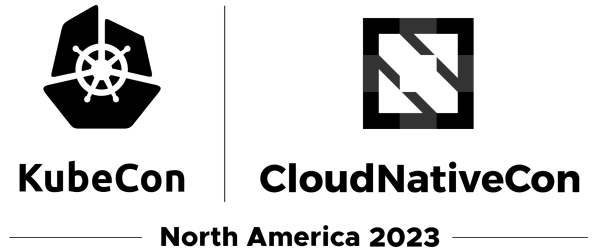

Recap

- Learn in public
  - Gain confidence each step
- Read the contributing docs
  - Follow guidelines for how to interact with the project
- **Non-code contributions are valuable**
  - Docs updates make a big difference

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Recap

- Learn in public
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- Read the contributing docs
  - Follow guidelines for how to interact with the project
- Non-code contributions are valuable
  - Docs updates make a big difference
- **Be as clear as possible**
  - Don’t make assumptions

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Recap

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  - Gain confidence each step
- Read the contributing docs
  - Follow guidelines for how to interact with the project
- Non-code contributions are valuable
  - Docs updates make a big difference
- Be as clear as possible
  - Don’t make assumptions
- **Keep showing up**
  - Consistency is key

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Feedback

Stop by the Honeycomb booth!

Booth N22

Resources