



Exercise 5.1: Dealing with a Non-Responsive Maintainer

You have submitted a patch to a subproject maintainer and have received no response for a few days. You should:

- Quietly resend the patch every day until there is an acknowledgment of receipt, acceptance, or rejection. You can even use an automated email bot to do this.
- Since the maintainer is ignoring you, you should send the patch set to the entire project, through a mailing list if that is an appropriate channel. Make sure to tell people you are doing this because the maintainer is not doing their job and you are routing around them.
- Send a follow up inquiry referring to the patch to the maintainer, possibly resubmitting. Make sure you know the person's normal workflow and response times to see if you are being singled out. See if you can ascertain if the maintainer seems to be active but ignoring you, or is inactive in general.

✔ Solution 5.1

Obviously the last answer is most appropriate. You need to be patient and respectful. When you achieve the exalted status of being a maintainer you will learn how stressful, time consuming and often thankless a task it is. Maintainers are squeezed by contributors from below, and by upstream leaders and reviewers from above.

As usual there is not one exact protocol to follow. But be a good citizen and appreciate the work people do and next time you have a change set, your treatment can only be better.