







This is an [audio story](#).

## PSA: You can subscribe to a GitHub Issue without leaving a comment


by [Jared Watts](#) • 2018-05-23 • 400 words • 4 minutes

I was penning this popular VS Code feature request yesterday<sup>1</sup> when I spotted a disturbing trend: **more than a dozen comments containing nothing more than a `<img alt="GitHub Octocat" data-bbox="400 100 450 150"/>`**



This independent workforce survey reveals new insights into freelancing in America. Key findings: Freelancers earned an estimated \$1 trillion this year, are highly educated, growing.

### This is problematic

You can derive by how many  reactions these comments received that they're not appreciated by others. Why might that be? Because every new comment on the issue gets emailed to every person subscribed to the issue. Imagine how much mental energy is wasted by thousands of developers having to open/delete these emails which provide zero value. I get upset just thinking about it.



This is an optional caption describing the soundtrack from the audio above.

### But why?

Why is this happening? Surely folks know that we can show our support for issues using emoji reactions. GitHub introduced that feature over two years ago. It's not exactly undiscoverable, either. Emoji reactions are used en masse. These `<img alt="GitHub Octocat" data-bbox="400 100 450 150"/>` comments themselves have received multiple reactions, after all.

Which begs the question: What would William Shatner say?



### Check out this sunset!

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### Another heading

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The full report by Quartz and the Freelancers Union can be found [here](#).

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### Final thoughts

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### An image with no caption

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