



# Documentation and Open-Source



When Brandon asked me to do a presentation on the role of documentation in open-source, I wasn't sure what to make it on, whether it'd be open source tooling or documentation best practices.

So I started thinking about what I would talk about the issue from the very top:



Before I talk about what documentation does for open source, I want to first philosophize on why we do open-source at all.

And I'm not talking about the pros and cons, or the successes associated with open-source software. I mean, more fundamentally, what's the point of sitting down and shipping some open-source project?

# Why?

- Good practice?

Is the main reason to work on OSS to consider it “good practice” for your “real job”? Maybe. If you code in the open, you’ll get feedback (and critique) on your style from all sorts of internet trolls.

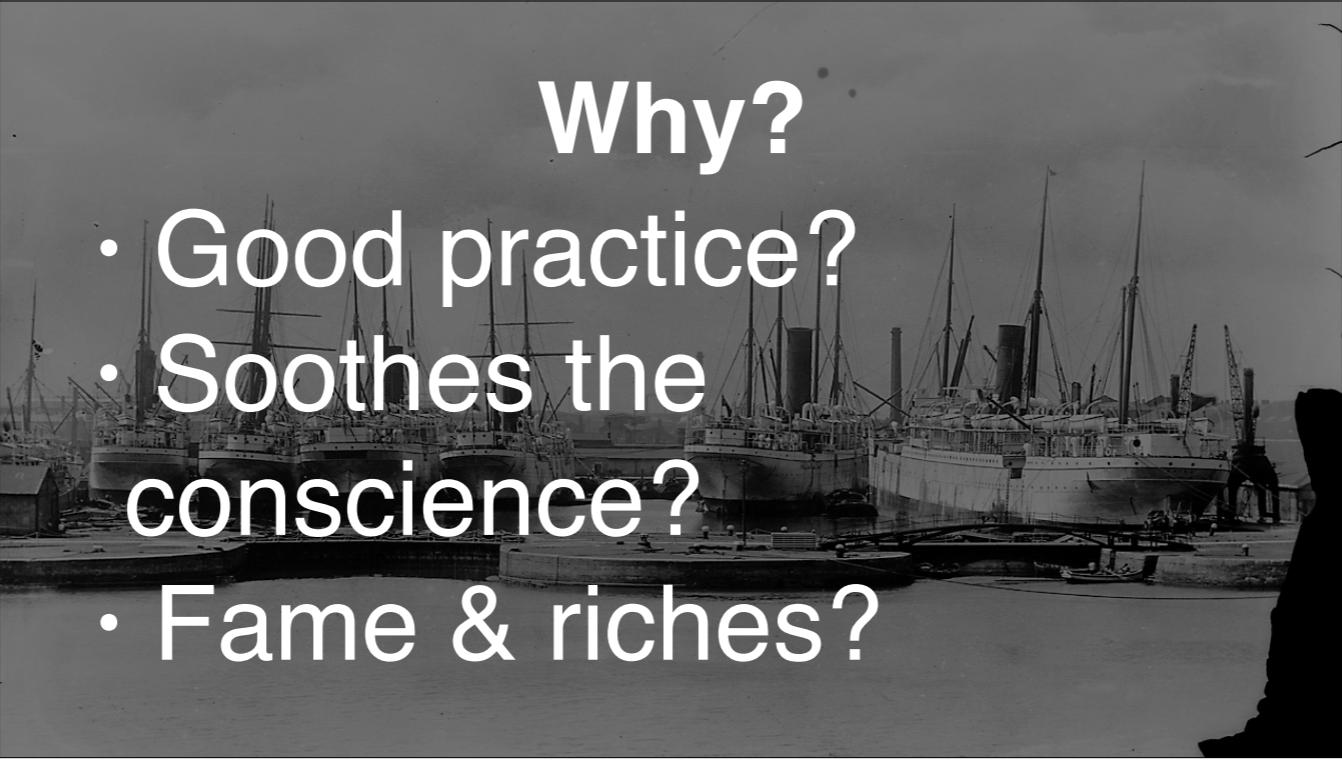
That will in turn force you to apply those same skills to your closed-source office job. Or maybe...



Why?  
• Good practice?  
• Soothes the  
conscience?

Maybe we're motivated to do open-source because it quells our guilt. Maybe we believe in open systems because it's the right thing to do, you can't put a price tag on knowledge, share and share alike, fuck the man, information wants to be free...

... I just felt my beard grow a little bit there.

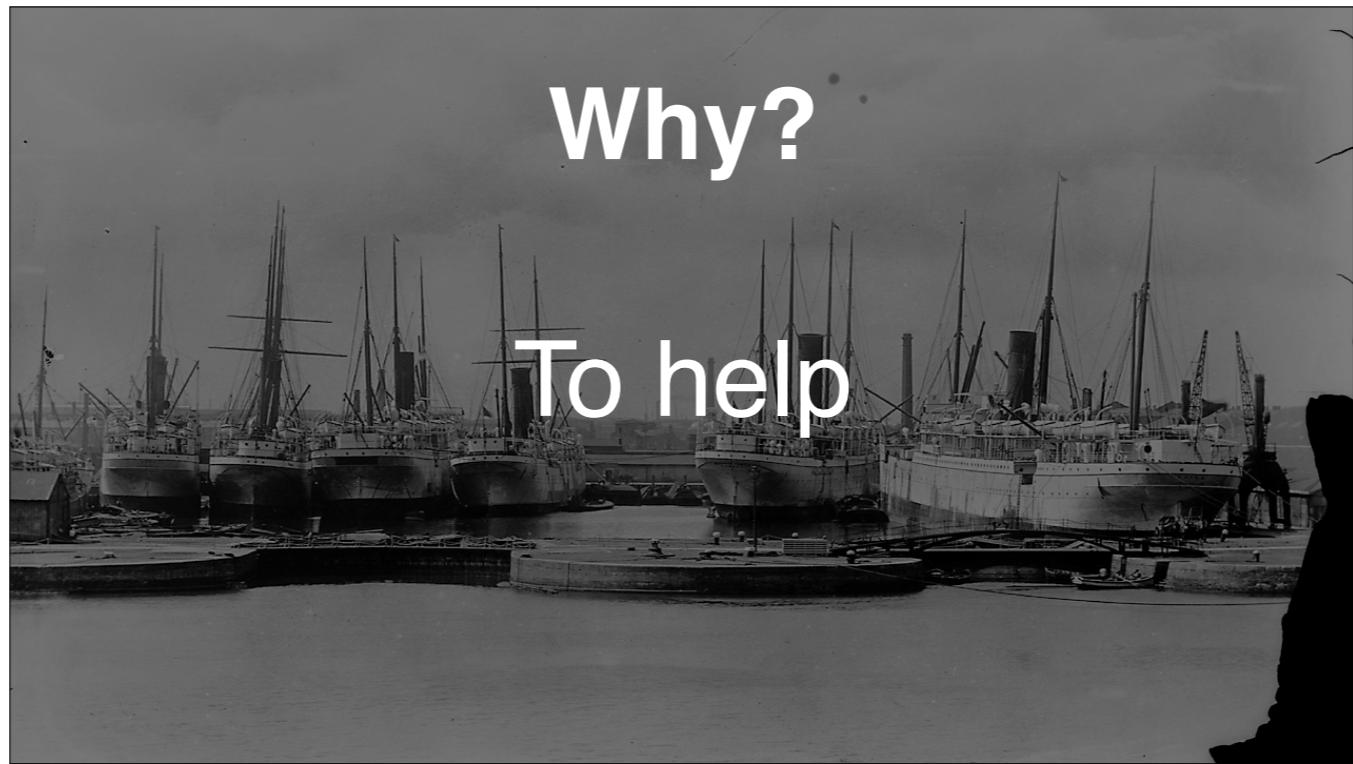


# Why?

- Good practice?
- Soothes the conscience?
- Fame & riches?

If you're doing OSS to achieve fame and fortune and recognition, you're probably doing it for the wrong reason.

No, I think the real motivator behind doing open source is...

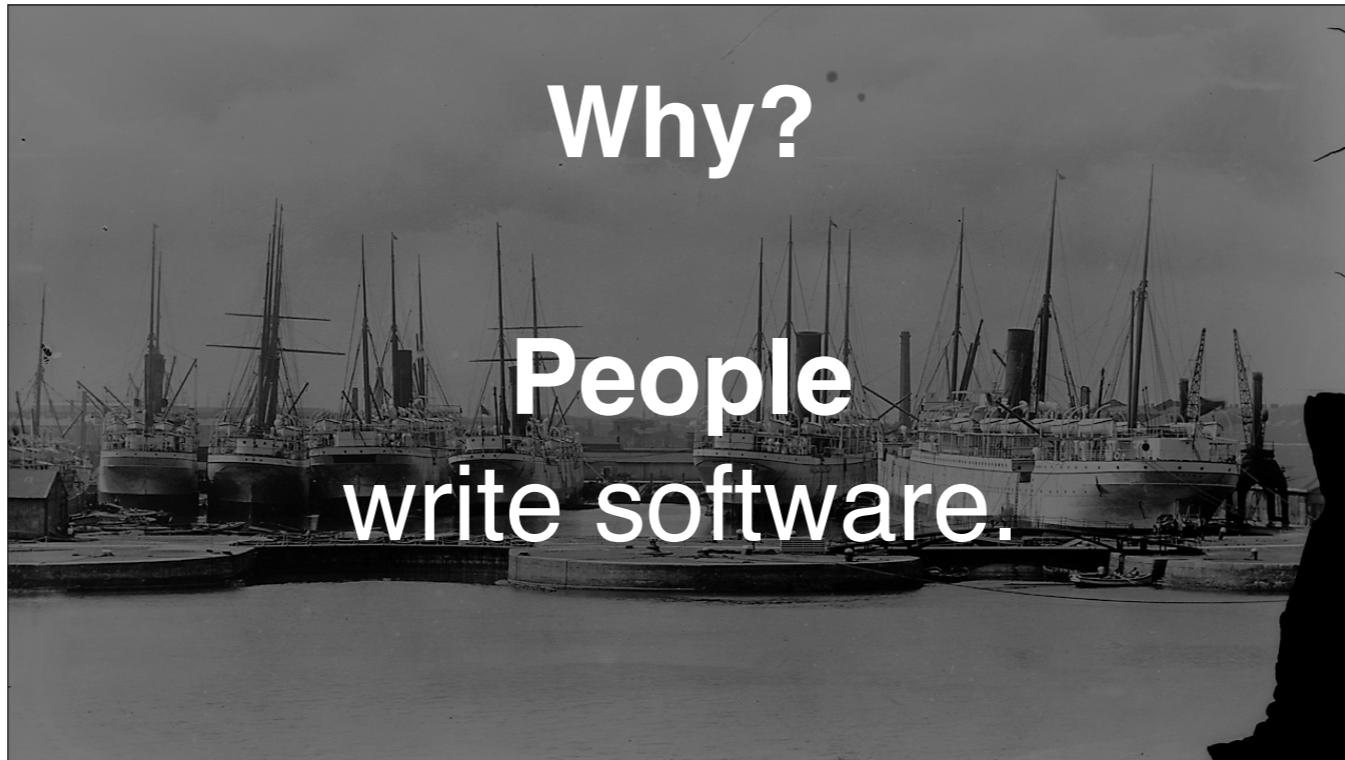


To help. More specifically:



To help people.





When we talk about open-source projects gaining momentum in banks, in governments, in corporations, what we're really talking about are people that make up those organizations using open source software.

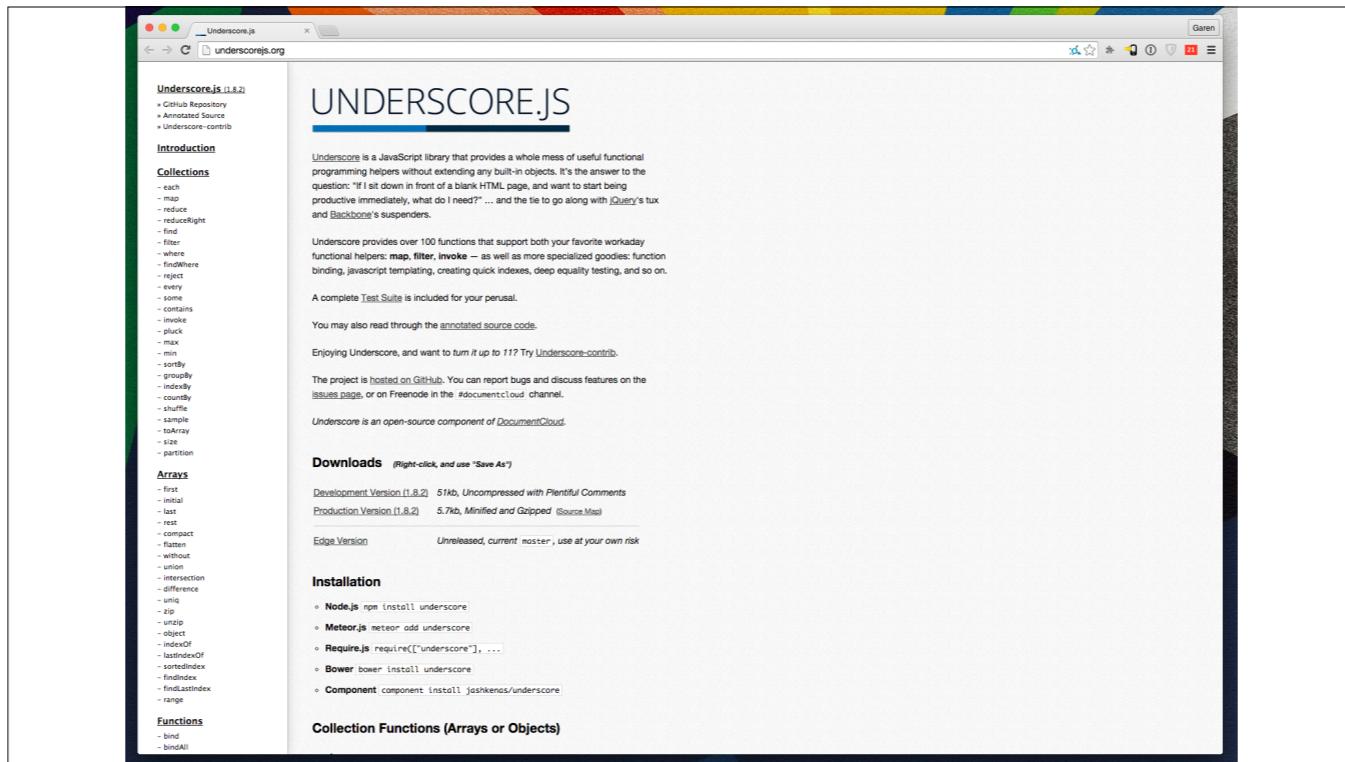
Just as regular software is consumed by users, the main consumer of open source is people writing software.

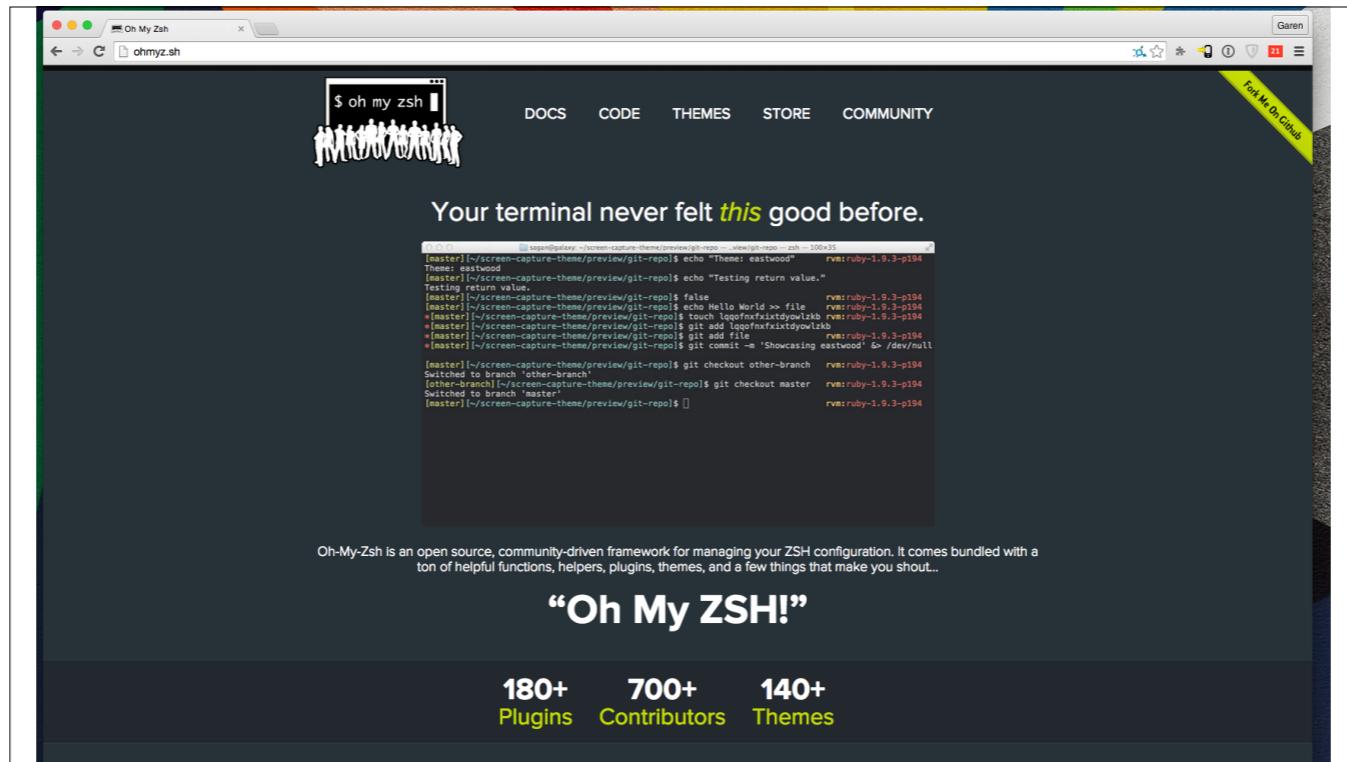


We write open source software for a variety of reasons. Perhaps there's an interesting problem to be solved, or you're dissatisfied with a set of existing solutions, but ultimately, I think, the best open source projects are those that are motivated by wanting to help people.

You think, "I've gone through this horrendous task, and I want to make sure no one else needs to."  
Or maybe you think: "The bullshit people have to put up with is ridiculous!"

As an example, you only need to look at a handful of popular projects on GitHub, like



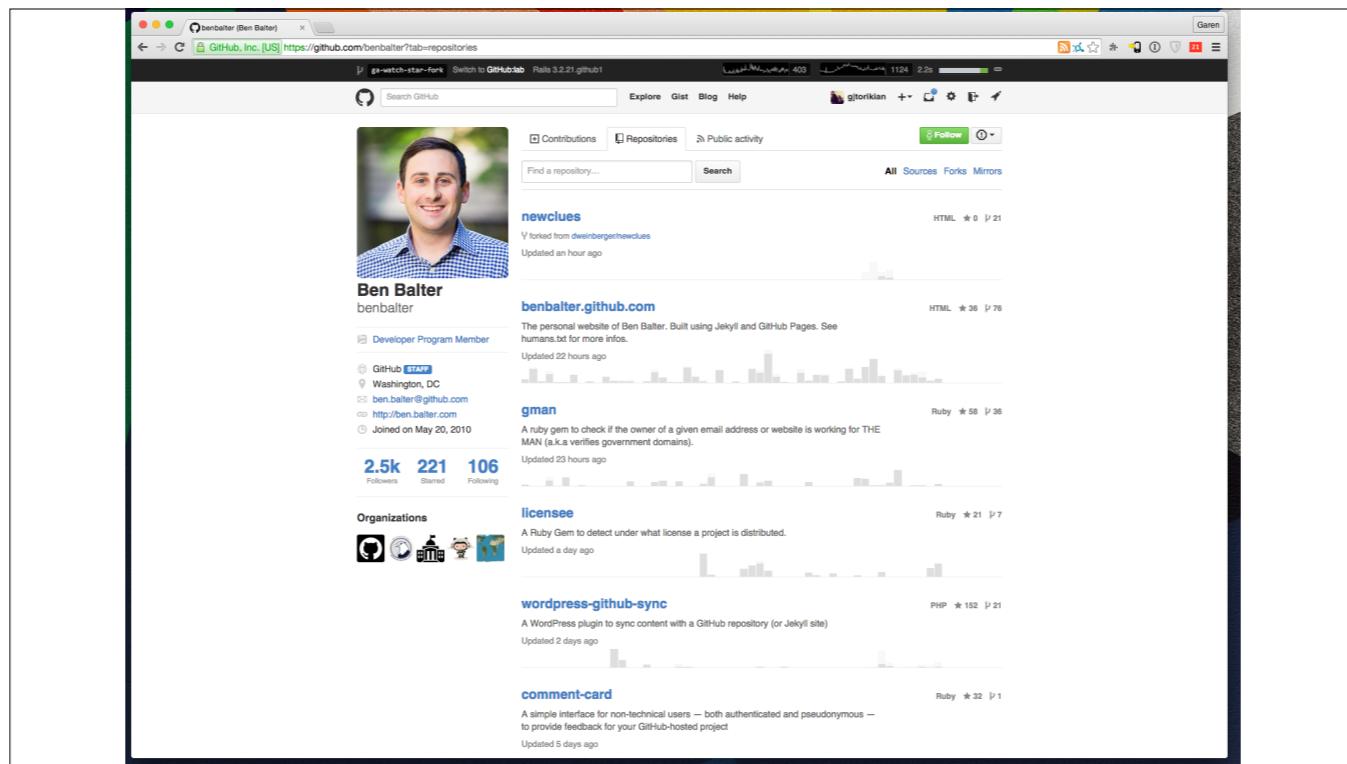


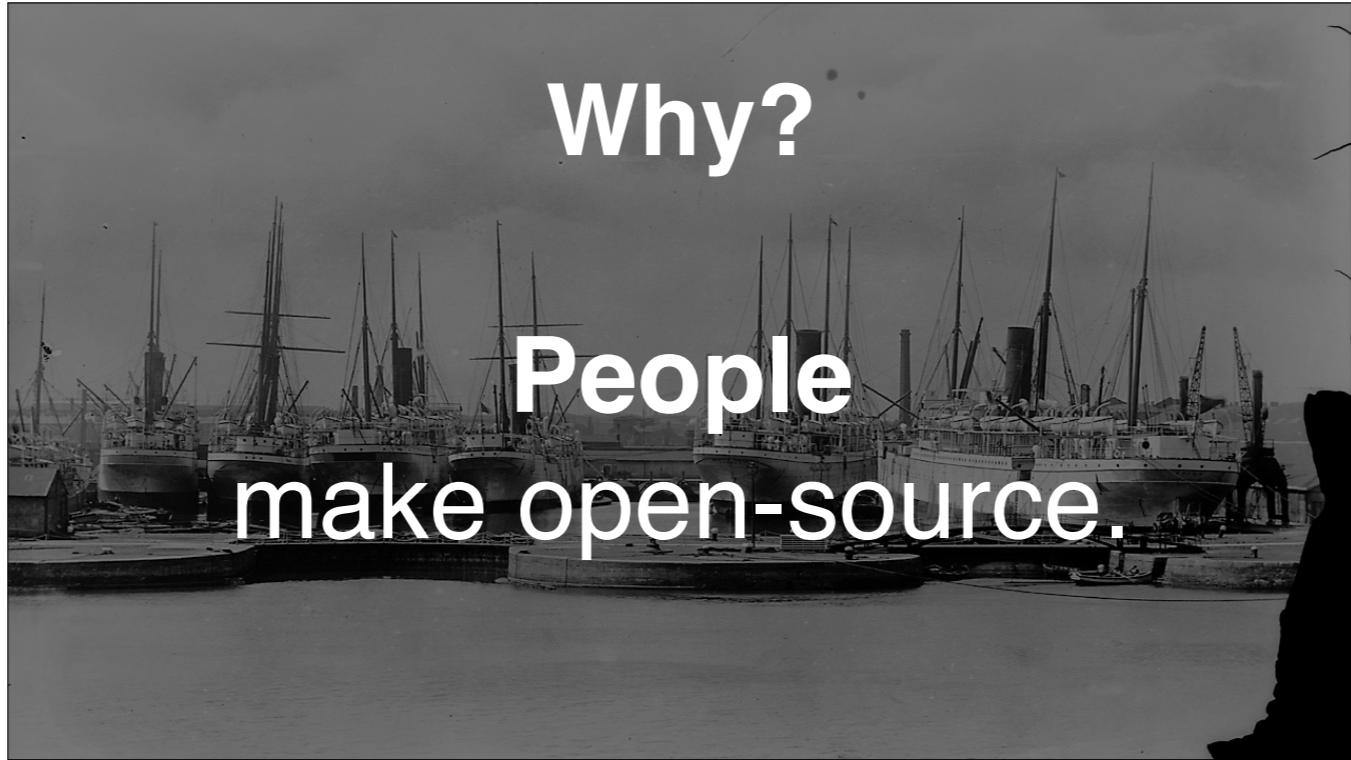
**“Oh My ZSH!”**

**180+**  
Plugins

**700+**  
Contributors

**140+**  
Themes





all of these projects were started because they were solving problems for other people.

Now, when we talk about people making open-source, what I really want to emphasize is



that communities of people make open source. The most successful open source projects aren't the ones where one guy sits off in a cave with an internet connection and churns out lines of code (even if that guy is still Ben).

The most successful projects are the ones where a community is formed and develops, and contributors go back and forth between the project and their implementations of their project. Communities in open-source are both the users and writers of software.



# Documentation's Role

So that gets us to the point of this talk: what's documentation's role here?

I'm not going to talk about why you should write README, or how great GitHub Pages are great for your projects, or any of that crap.

I want to get to a deeper fundamental question of what documentation does.

# Documentation's Role

- Help clueless people
- Provides marketing
- Reflects intended use

Documentation, of course, helps orient people in the right direction, and helps them make use of your code

It also provides some splashy marketing. It shows off your project with a branded URL to pass around.

Most importantly, though, the documentation you provide shows how you intend your project to be used.

# Documentation's Role

- Help clueless people
- Provides marketing
- Reflects intended use

I'm short on time, but I really want to hone in on this final point of reflecting intended use.

Whether you consciously intend to or not, what you write about your project represents an image to people of how you want them to use your project.

# Documentation's Role

Here's how you  
should use this.

Documentation in an open source project goes beyond just “how you should use this”

# Documentation's Role

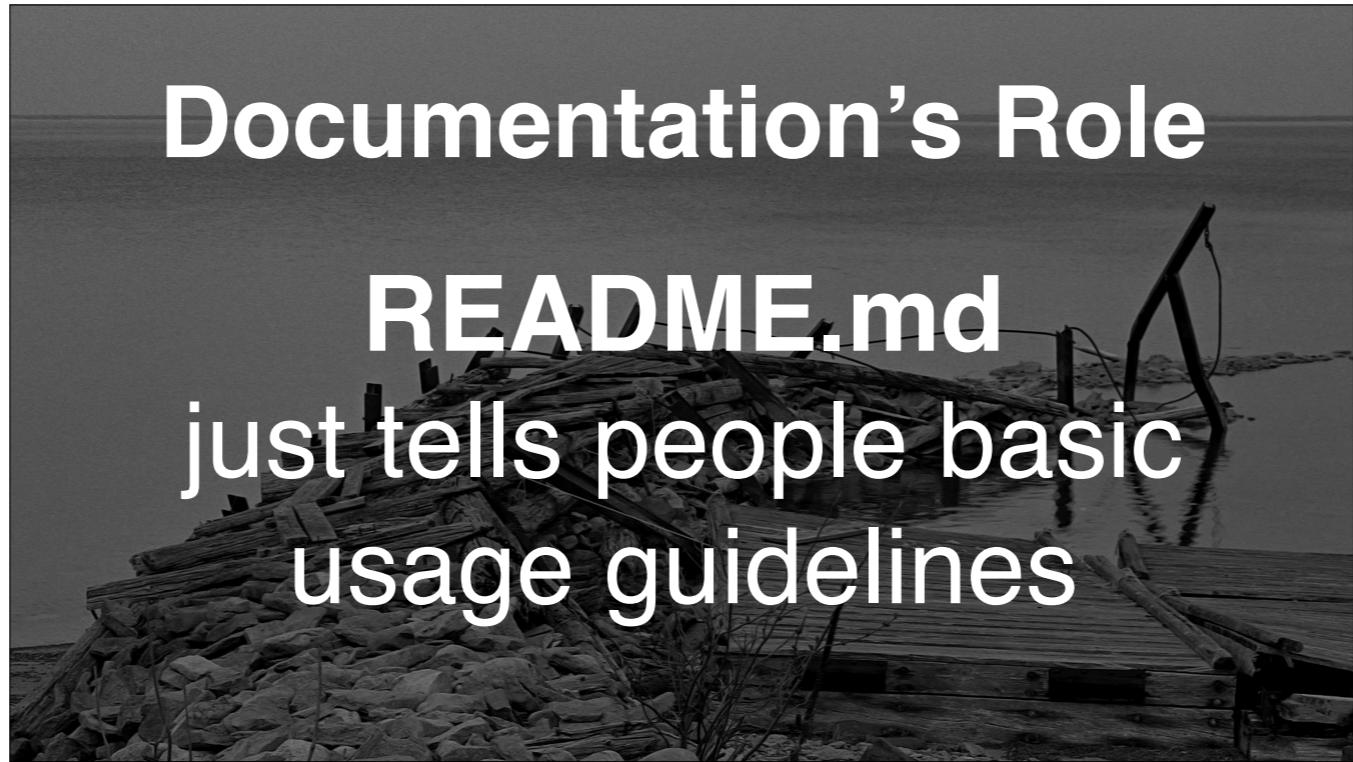
Here's how I want you  
to use this.

Documentation tells the consumers of your project, “This is how *I want you* to use this.”

# Documentation's Role

## **README.md**

just tells people basic  
usage guidelines

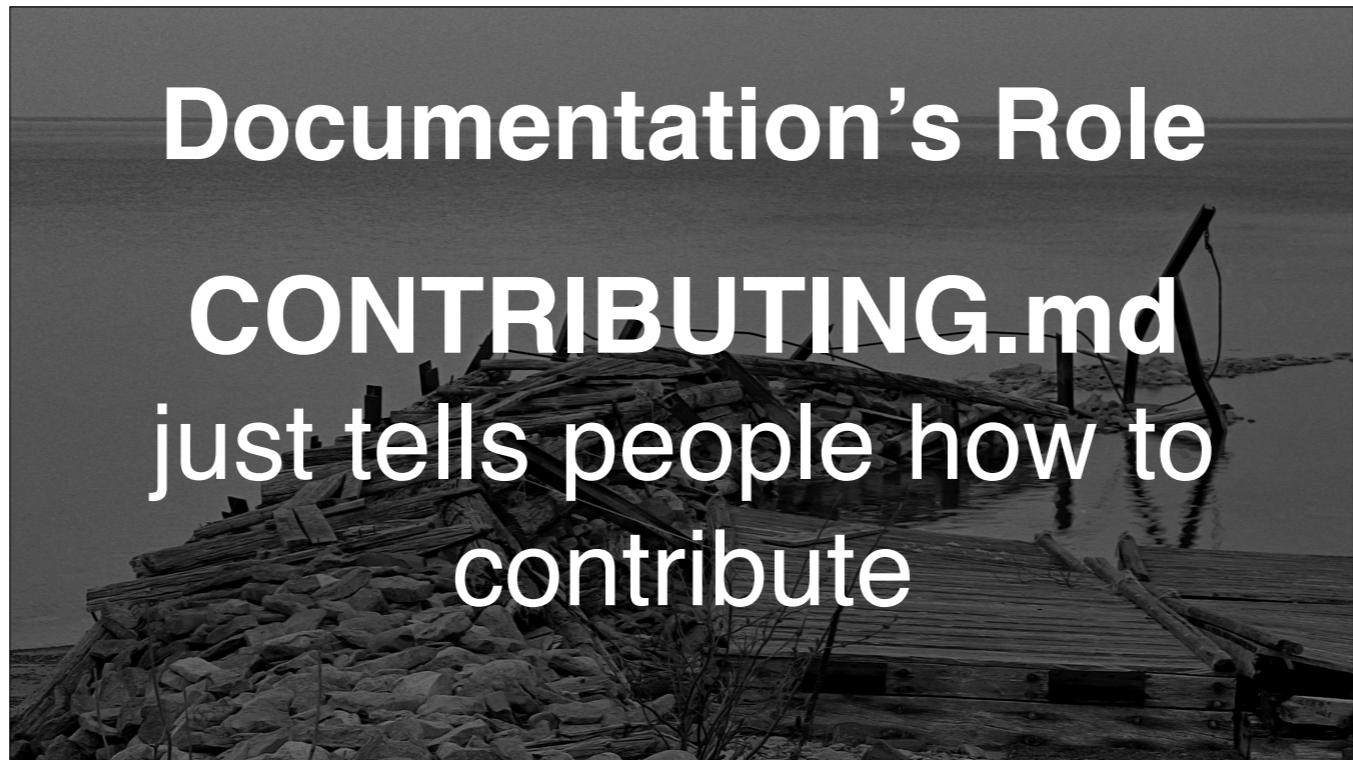


If you take a look at the most basic form of documentation on GitHub, the README, it's a simple set of quick instructions that offer some basic guidelines.

# Documentation's Role

## **CONTRIBUTING.md**

just tells people how to contribute



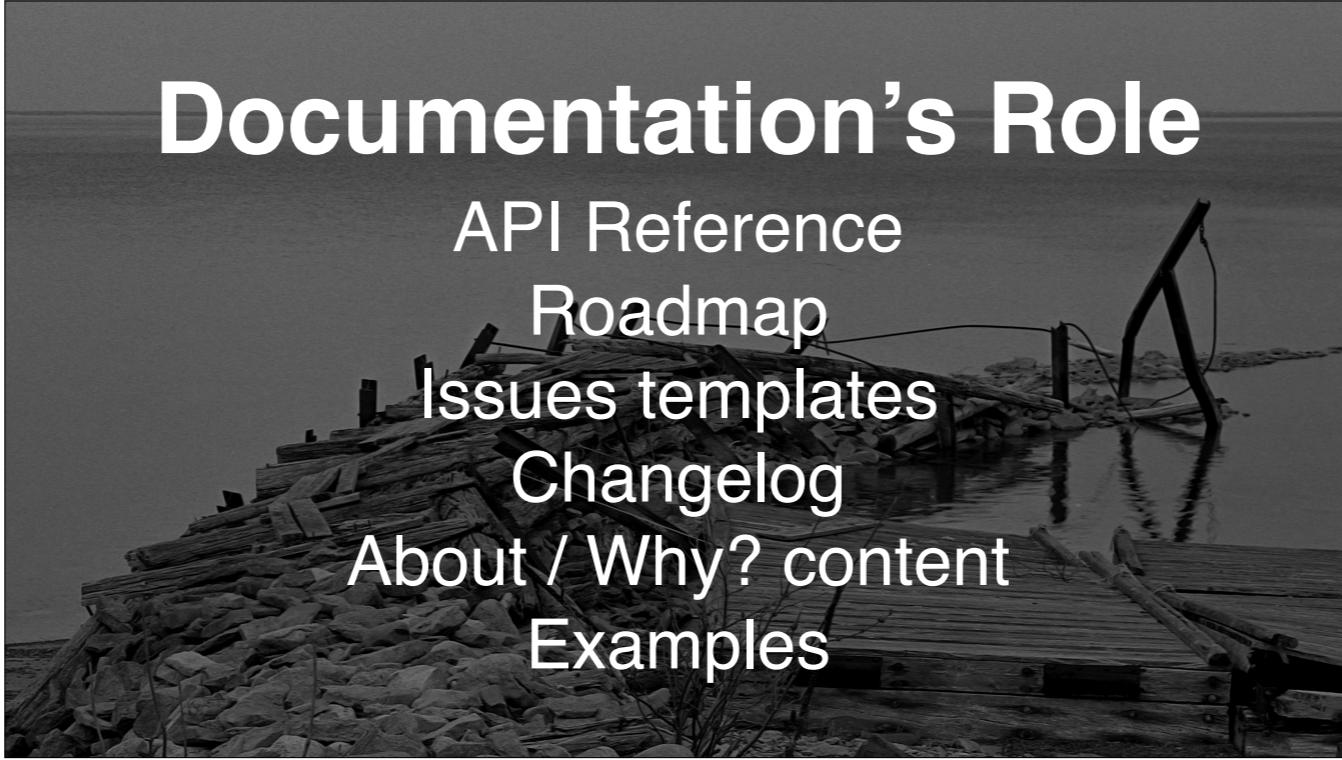
The other form of “simple documentation” we have is the CONTRIBUTING guide. With this file, you’re basically stepping beyond “here’s how I want you to use this,” and veering into “Here is how I want you to help.”

# Documentation's Role

And everything else?

But what about everything else?

# Documentation's Role



API Reference  
Roadmap  
Issues templates  
Changelog  
About / Why? content  
Examples

In terms of docs for a OSS project, an API references, roadmaps, templates for issues, Changelogs, website content, examples...the list goes on and on.

All of these are types of documentation. And the type of documentation you choose to highlight, the one you place value in, is the one you want a community to spring forth from.

Providing a roadmap shows that you have a projected set of goals your care about communicating.

A changelog shows that you care about telling people what's changed in each release.

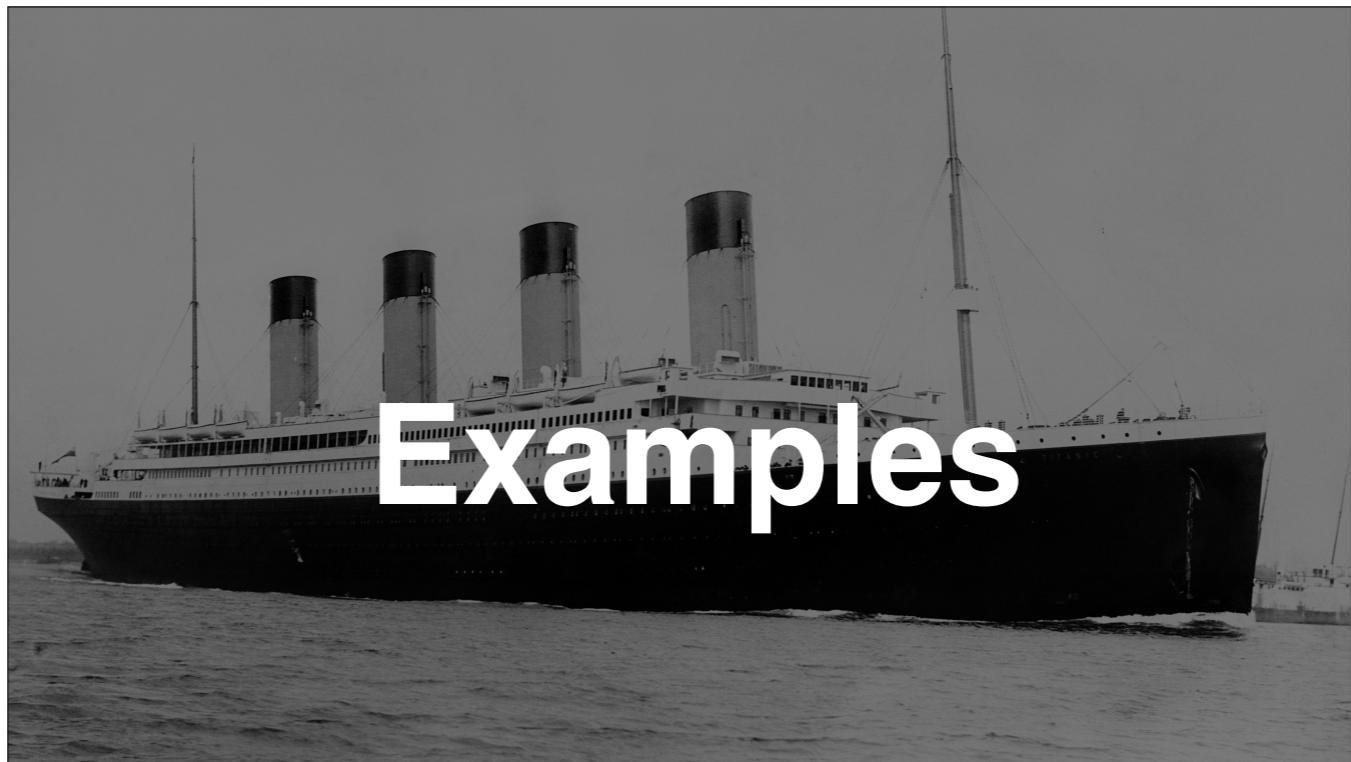
Issues templates shows how you prefer feedback to come in (and that you like feedback).

# Documentation's Role

Documentation  
shows what you value.

Your documentation shows people what you think is important.

And what you value is what your community will grow from.



So let's show off with some examples.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Atom API documentation. The URL in the address bar is <https://atom.io/docs/api/v0.186.0/TextEditor#instance-onDidChangeCursorPosition>. The page title is "TextEditor". The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with sections for "Essential Classes" and "Extended Classes". The "TextEditor" class is highlighted in the "TextEditor" section of the sidebar. The main content area provides a detailed description of the `TextEditor` class, mentioning its purpose as representing essential editing state for a single `TextBuffer`. It also discusses how multiple editors can be created for the same file in different panes and how changes are reflected across them. Below this, there is a section titled "Accessing TextEditor Instances" with a code snippet demonstrating how to observe editor instances using the `atom.workspace.observeTextEditors` method. The final section, "Buffer vs. Screen Coordinates", explains the difference between buffer coordinates (which wrap and fold) and screen coordinates (which do not). A code example shows how to insert text into an editor.

Version: latest Search API docs

**TextEditor** ESSENTIAL [View source](#)

This class represents all essential editing state for a single `TextBuffer`, including cursor and selection positions, folds, and soft wraps. If you're manipulating the state of an editor, use this class. If you're interested in the visual appearance of editors, use `TextEditorView` instead.

A single `TextBuffer` can belong to multiple editors. For example, if the same file is open in two different panes, Atom creates a separate editor for each pane. If the buffer is manipulated the changes are reflected in both editors, but each maintains its own cursor position, folded lines, etc.

### Accessing TextEditor Instances

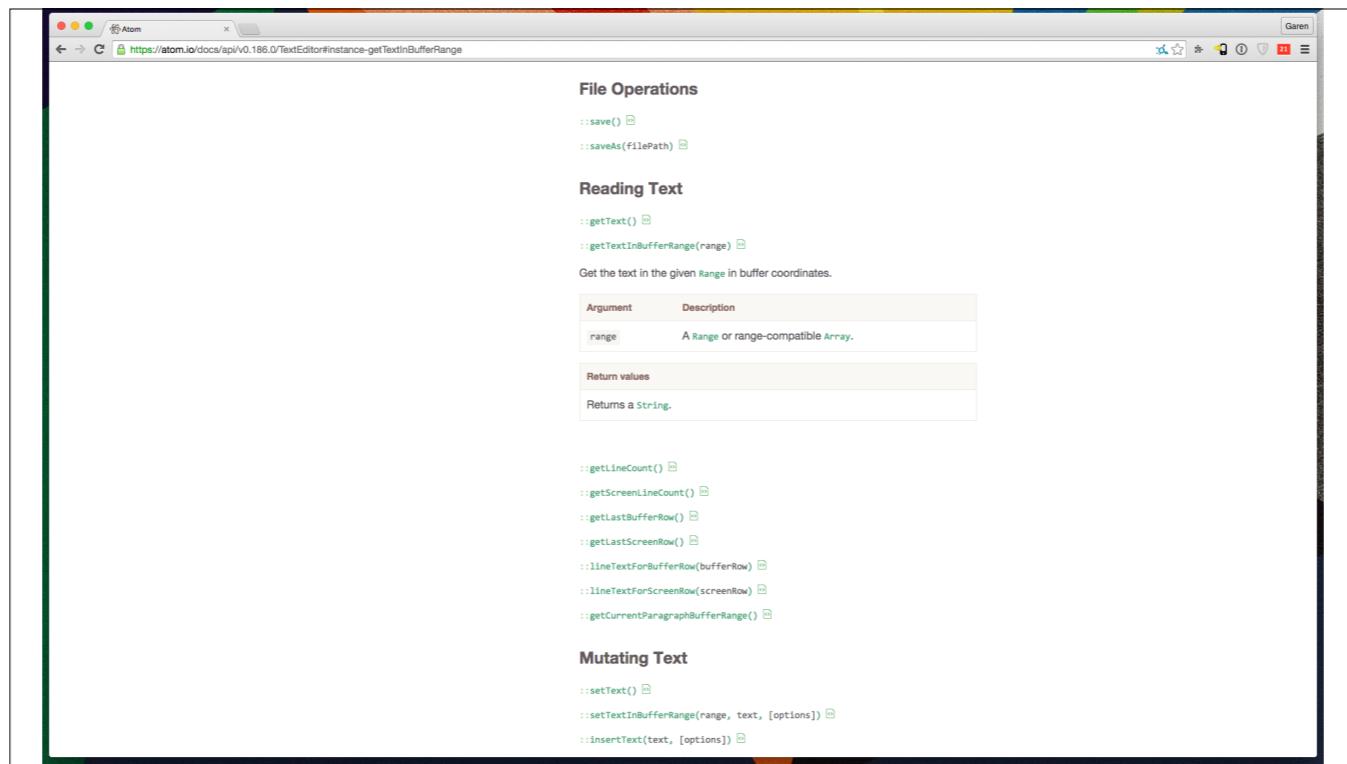
The easiest way to get hold of `TextEditor` objects is by registering a callback with `::observeTextEditors` on the `atom.workspace` global. Your callback will then be called with all current editor instances and also when any editor is created in the future.

```
atom.workspace.observeTextEditors (editor) ->
  editor.insertText('Hello World')
```

### Buffer vs. Screen Coordinates

Because editors support folds and soft-wrapping, the lines on screen don't always match the lines in the buffer. For example, a long line that soft wraps twice renders as three lines on screen, but only represents one line in the buffer. Similarly, if rows 5-10 are folded, then row 6 on screen corresponds to row 11 in the buffer.

Your choice of coordinates systems will depend on what you're trying to achieve. For example, if you're writing a command that lumps the cursor up or down by



The screenshot shows the Atom Documentation website. At the top, there is a dark header bar with the Atom logo, navigation links for Packages, Themes, Documentation, Blog, and Discuss, and a Sign in button. Below the header, a message reads "Read Atom's documentation or browse [the API docs](#)". There are two input fields: "Version: latest" and "Search guides". The main content area is titled "Guides" and contains a list of topics:

- Getting Started
- Customizing Atom
- Creating a Package
- Creating a Theme
- Publishing a Package
- Writing Specs
- Converting a TextMate Bundle
- Converting a TextMate Theme
- Contributing
- Contributing to Core Packages
- Debugging
- Your First Package

Below this, another section titled "Advanced Topics" lists:

- Configuration
- Developing Node Modules
- Keymaps
- Serialization

In the bottom right corner of the screenshot, the text "(OLD)" is displayed in red.

**Atom Flight Manual**

**1 : Getting Started**

- 1.1 Why Atom
- 1.2 Installing Atom
- 1.3 Atom Basics
- 1.4 Summary

**2 : Using Atom**

- 2.1 Atom Packages
- 2.2 Moving in Atom
- 2.3 Atom Selections
- 2.4 Editing and Deleting Text
- 2.5 Find and Replace
- 2.6 Snippets
- 2.7 Autocomplete
- 2.8 Folding
- 2.9 Panes**
- 2.10 Grammar
- 2.11 Version Control in Atom
- 2.12 Writing in Atom
- 2.13 Basic Customization
- 2.14 Summary

**3 : Hacking Atom**

- 3.1 Tools of the Trade
- 3.2 Package: Word Count
- 3.3 Package: Modifying Text
- 3.4 Creating a Theme
- 3.5 Debugging
- 3.6 Writing specs
- 3.7 Converting from TextMate
- 3.8 Summary

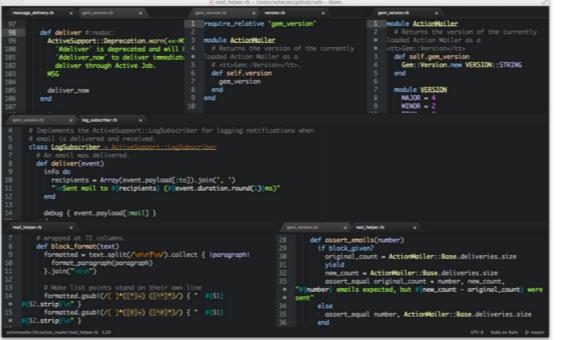
**4 : Behind Atom**

- 4.1 Configuration API
- 4.2 Keystrokes In-Depth

**2.9 Using Atom : Panes**

## Panes

You can split any editor pane horizontally or vertically by using `cmd-k` arrow where the arrow is the direction to split the pane . Once you have a split pane, you can move focus between them with `cmd-k cmd-arrow` where the arrow is the direction the focus should move to.



Multiple panes

Each pane has its own "items" or files, which are represented by tabs. You can move the files from pane to pane by dragging them with the mouse and dropping them in the pane you want that file to be in.

To close a pane, close all its editors with `cmd-w` , then press `cmd-w` one more time to close the pane. You can configure panes to auto-close when empty in the Settings view.

**(NEW)**

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the React Top-Level API documentation at <https://facebook.github.io/react/docs/top-level-api.html>. The page has a dark header with the React logo and navigation links for DOCS, SUPPORT, DOWNLOAD, BLOG, and GITHUB. The main content area is titled "React.createClass" and contains the following information:

**React.createClass**

Create a component class, given a specification. A component implements a `render` method which returns **one single** child. That child may have an arbitrarily deep child structure. One thing that makes components different than standard prototypal classes is that you don't need to call `new` on them. They are convenience wrappers that construct backing instances (`via new`) for you.

For more information about the specification object, see [Component Specs and Lifecycle](#).

**Code**

```
ReactClass createClass(object specification)
```

**React.createElement**

Create and return a new `ReactElement` of the given type. The type argument can be either an html tag name string (eg. `'div'`, `'span'`, etc), or a `ReactClass` (created via `React.createClass`).

**Code**

```
ReactElement createElement(
  string/ReactClass type,
  [object props],
  [children ...]
)
```

**React.cloneElement**

Clone and return a new `ReactElement` using `element` as the starting point. The resulting element will have the original element's props with the new props merged in shallowly. New children will replace existing children. Unlike `React.addons.cloneWithProps`, `key` and `ref` from the original element will be preserved. There is no special behavior for merging any props (unlike `cloneWithProps`). See the [v0.13 RC2 blog post](#) for additional details.

**Code**

```
ReactElement cloneElement(
  ReactElement element,
  [object props],
  [children ...]
)
```

**REFERENCE**

- [Top-Level API](#)
- [Component API](#)
- [Component Specs and Lifecycle](#)
- [Supported Tags and Attributes](#)
- [Event System](#)
- [DOM Differences](#)
- [Special Non-DOM Attributes](#)
- [Reconciliation](#)
- [React \(Virtual\) DOM Terminology](#)

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the React documentation at <https://facebook.github.io/react/docs/interactivity-and-dynamic-uis.html>. The page title is "Interactivity and Dynamic UIs". The main content area features a heading "A Simple Example" followed by a code block:

```
Code
var LikeButton = React.createClass({
  getInitialState: function() {
    return {liked: false};
  },
  handleClick: function(event) {
    this.setState({liked: !this.state.liked});
  },
  render: function() {
    var text = this.state.liked ? 'like' : 'haven\'t liked';
    return (
      <p>
        <onClick={this.handleClick}>
          You {text} this. Click to toggle.
        </p>
    );
  }
});

React.render(
  <LikeButton />,
  document.getElementById('example')
);
```

Below the code, there is a section titled "Event Handling and Synthetic Events" with the following text:

With React you simply pass your event handler as a camelCased prop similar to how you'd do it in normal HTML. React ensures that all events behave identically in IE8 and above by implementing a synthetic event system. That is, React knows how to bubble and capture.

The screenshot shows a GitHub browser window with a sidebar containing examples of various Git commands. The sidebar is organized into sections with bolded command names:

- git remote add**  
\$ git remote add rtomayko  
> git remote add rtomayko git://github.com/rtomayko/CURRENT\_REPO.git  
  
\$ git remote add -p rtomayko  
> git remote add rtomayko git@github.com:rtomayko/CURRENT\_REPO.git  
  
\$ git remote add origin  
> git remote add origin git://github.com/YOUR\_USER/CURRENT\_REPO.git
- git fetch**  
\$ git fetch mislav  
> git remote add mislav git://github.com/mislav/REPO.git  
> git fetch mislav  
  
\$ git fetch mislav,xeabus  
> git remote add mislav ...  
> git remote add xeabus ...  
> git fetch --multiple mislav xeabus
- git cherry-pick**  
\$ git cherry-pick http://github.com/mislav/REPO/commit/SHA  
> git remote add -f mislav git://github.com/mislav/REPO.git  
> git cherry-pick SHA  
  
\$ git cherry-pick mislav@SHA  
> git remote add -f mislav git://github.com/mislav/CURRENT\_REPO.git  
> git cherry-pick SHA  
  
\$ git cherry-pick mislav@SHA  
> git fetch mislav  
> git cherry-pick SHA
- git am, git apply**  
\$ git am https://github.com/defunkt/hub/pull/55  
[ downloads patch via API ]  
> git am /tmp/55.patch

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Jekyll documentation at [jekyllrb.com/docs/collections/](http://jekyllrb.com/docs/collections/). The page has a dark theme with a yellow header bar. The main navigation includes links for HOME, DOCUMENTATION (which is highlighted), NEWS, HELP, and VIEW ON GITHUB. The DOCUMENTATION menu has a sub-menu for 'Collections'. On the right side, there's a sidebar with sections for 'GETTING STARTED' (Welcome, Quick-start guide, Installation, Basic Usage, Directory structure, Configuration), 'YOUR CONTENT' (Front Matter, Writing posts, Working with drafts, Creating pages, Variables, Collections, Data Files, Assets, Blog migrations), and 'CUSTOMIZATION' (Templates, Permalinks). A red banner at the top of the content area states '!! Collections support is unstable and may change' and 'This is an experimental feature and the API may change until the feature stabilizes.' Below the banner, the text explains what collections are and how to use them. A code snippet shows how to add a collection to the config file.

**Collections**

!! Collections support is unstable and may change  
This is an experimental feature and the API may change until the feature stabilizes.

Not everything is a post or a page. Maybe you want to document the various methods in your open source project, members of a team, or talks at a conference. Collections allow you to define a new type of document that behave like Pages or Posts do normally, but also have their own unique properties and namespace.

## Using Collections

### Step 1: Tell Jekyll to read in your collection

Add the following to your site's `_config.yml` file, replacing `my_collection` with the name of your collection:

```
collections:
```

branch: master [jekyll](#) / lib / jekyll / document.rb

willnorris 8 days ago always include file extension on destination files

6 contributors

285 lines (254 sloc) 8.723 kb

```
1 # encoding: UTF-8
2
3 module Jekyll
4   class Document
5     include Comparable
6
7     attr_reader :path, :site, :extname, :output_ext
8     attr_accessor :content, :collection, :output
9
10    YAML_FRONT_MATTER_REGEX = /\A(---\s*\n.*?\n?)^((---|\.\.\.)\s*?\n?)/m
11
12    # Create a new Document.
13    #
14    # site - the Jekyll::Site instance to which this Document belongs
15    # path - the path to the file
16    #
17    # Returns nothing.
18    def initialize(path, relations)
19      @site = relations[:site]
20      @path = path
21      @extname = File.extname(path)
22      @output_ext = Jekyll::Renderer.new(site, self).output_ext
23      @collection = relations[:collection]
24      @has_yaml_header = nil
25    end
26
27    # Fetch the Document's data.
28    #
29    # Returns a Hash containing the data. An empty hash is returned if
30    # no data was read.
31    def data
32      @data ||= Hash.new
33    end
34
35    # The path to the document, relative to the site source.
```



## Active Record Basics

This guide is an introduction to Active Record.

After reading this guide, you will know:

- ✓ What Object Relational Mapping and Active Record are and how they are used in Rails.
- ✓ How Active Record fits into the Model-View-Controller paradigm.
- ✓ How to use Active Record models to manipulate data stored in a relational database.
- ✓ Active Record schema naming conventions.
- ✓ The concepts of database migrations, validations and callbacks.

### 1 What is Active Record?

Active Record is the M in [MVC](#) - the model - which is the layer of the system responsible for representing business data and logic. Active Record facilitates the creation and use of business objects whose data requires persistent storage to a database. It is an implementation of the Active Record pattern which itself is a description of an Object Relational Mapping system.

#### 1.1 The Active Record Pattern

[Active Record was described by Martin Fowler](#) in his book *Patterns of Enterprise Application Architecture*. In Active Record, objects carry both persistent data and behavior which operates on that data. Active Record takes the opinion that ensuring data access logic as part of the object will educate users of that object on how to write to and read from the database.

### Chapters

1. [What is Active Record?](#)
  - [The Active Record Pattern](#)
  - [Object Relational Mapping](#)
  - [Active Record as an ORM Framework](#)
2. [Convention over Configuration in Active Record](#)
  - [Naming Conventions](#)
  - [Schema Conventions](#)
3. [Creating Active Record Models](#)
4. [Overriding the Naming Conventions](#)
5. [CRUD: Reading and Writing Data](#)
  - [Create](#)
  - [Read](#)
  - [Update](#)
  - [Delete](#)
6. [Validations](#)
7. [Callbacks](#)
8. [Migrations](#)

api.rubyonrails.org

Search

- ▶ files
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- ▶ TestCase < ActiveSupport::TestCase
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- ▶ ActiveSupport
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- ▶ Float < Object
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- ▶ I18n
- ▶ Integer < Object
- ▶ Kernel
- ▶ LibXML
- ▶ MissingSourceFile < Object
- ▶ LoggerSilence
- ▶ Marshal

**column\_defaults()**

Returns a hash where the keys are column names and the values are default values when instantiating the AR object for this table.

Source: [show](#) | [on GitHub](#)

**column\_names()**

Returns an array of column names as strings.

Source: [show](#) | [on GitHub](#)

**content\_columns()**

Returns an array of column objects where the primary id, all columns ending in "\_id" or "\_count", and columns used for single table inheritance have been removed.

Source: [show](#) | [on GitHub](#)

**inheritance\_column()**

Defines the name of the table column which will store the class name on single-table inheritance situations.

The default inheritance column name is `:type`, which means it's a reserved word inside Active Record. To be able to use single-table inheritance with another column name, use the column `:type` in your own model for something else, you can set `inheritance_column`:

```
self.inheritance_column = 'zoink'
```

Source: [hide](#) | [on GitHub](#)

```
# File activerecord/lib/active_record/model_schema.rb, line 186
def inheritance_column
  (inheritance_column ||= nil) || superclass.inheritance_column
end
```

**inheritance\_column=(value)**

Sets the value of `#inheritance_column`

Source: [show](#) | [on GitHub](#)

**quoted\_table\_name()**

Returns a quoted version of the table name, used to construct SQL statements.

Source: [show](#) | [on GitHub](#)

**reset\_column\_information()**

Releases · octokit/octokit.rb

GitHub, Inc. [US] https://github.com/octokit/octokit.rb/releases

Garen

Releases Tags Draft a new release

**v3.8.0**

 pengwynn released this 19 days ago · 6 commits to master since this release

- #564 Raise `Octokit::RepositoryUnavailable` when a repository resource is blocked - @Palleas
- #566 Support for get latest release, get release by tag name - @zqzas

**Downloads**

-  [Source code \(zip\)](#)
-  [Source code \(tar.gz\)](#)

 v3.7.1

-> 517a89b

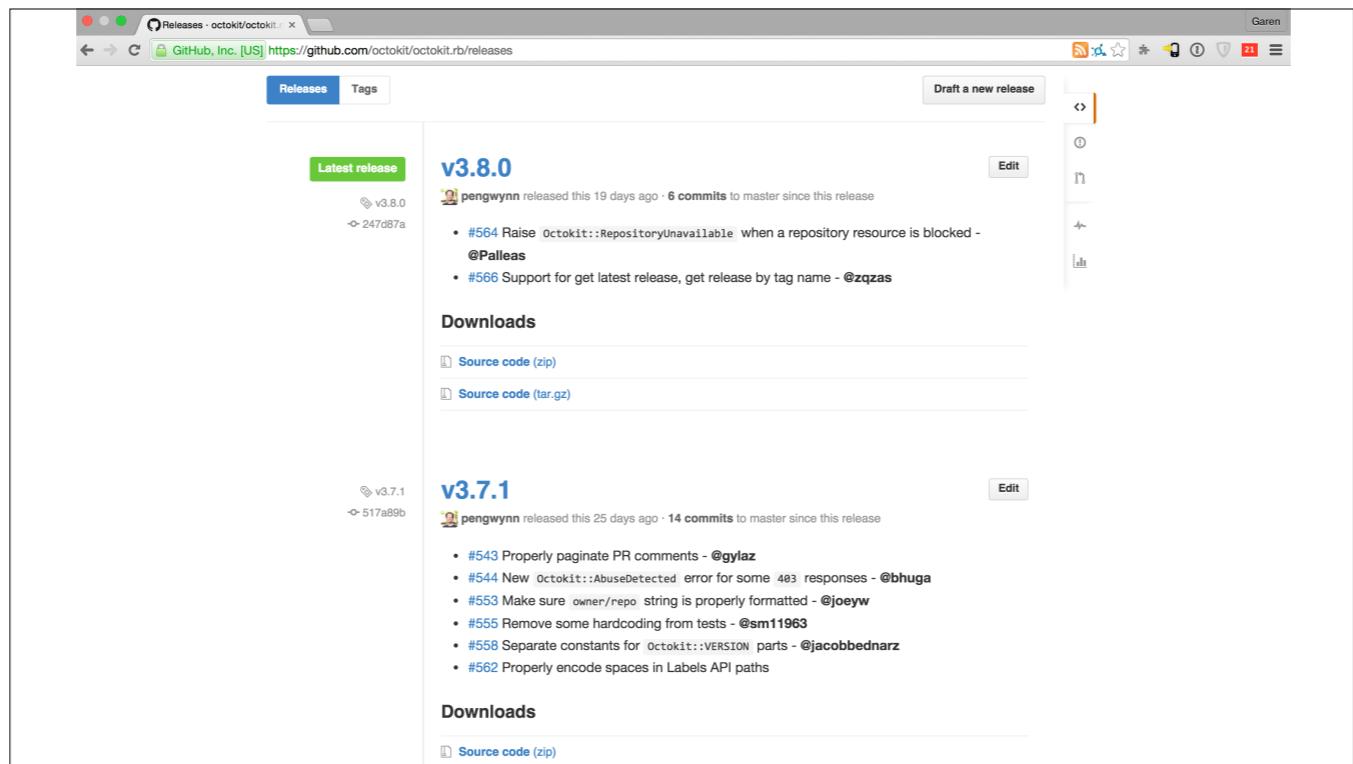
**v3.7.1**

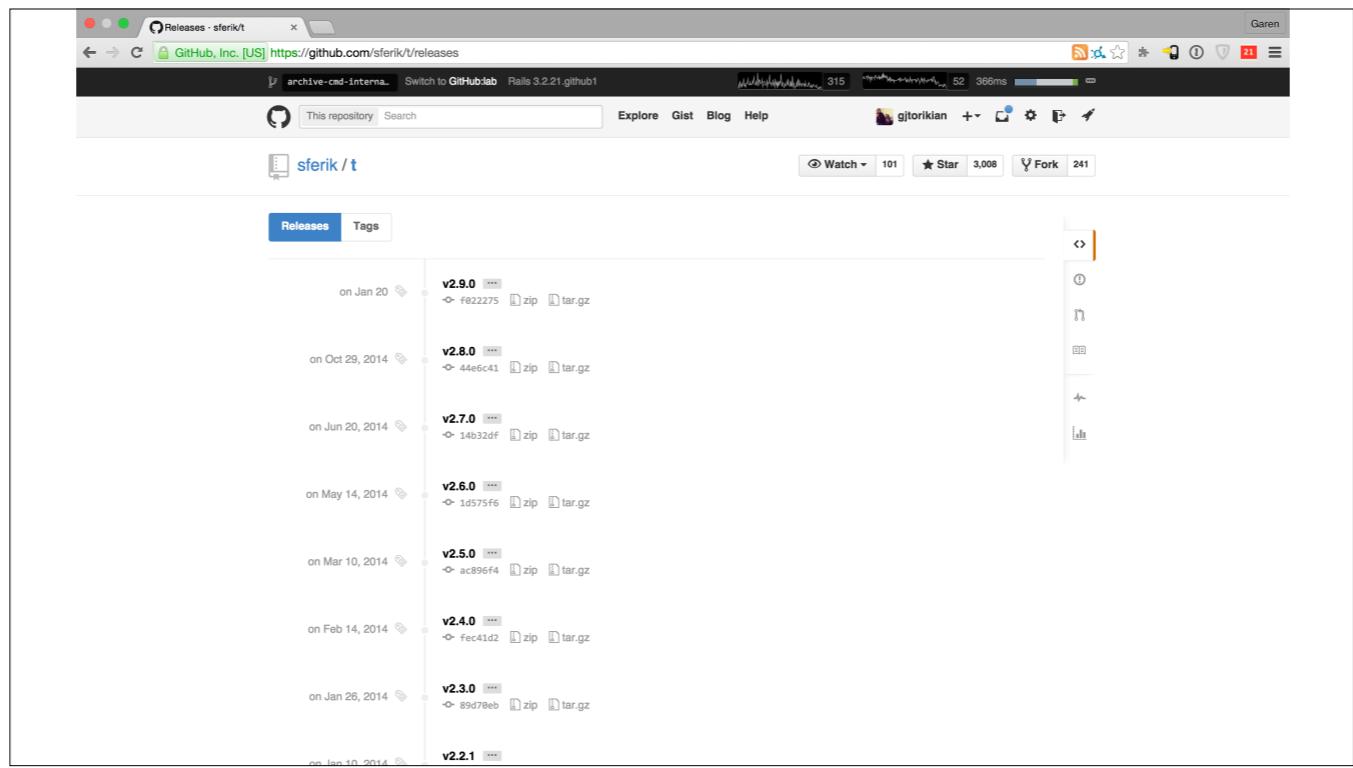
 pengwynn released this 25 days ago · 14 commits to master since this release

- #543 Properly paginate PR comments - @gylaz
- #544 New `Octokit::AbuseDetected` error for some 403 responses - @bhuga
- #553 Make sure `owner/repo` string is properly formatted - @joeyw
- #555 Remove some hardcoded from tests - @sm11963
- #558 Separate constants for `Octokit::VERSION` parts - @jacobbednarz
- #562 Properly encode spaces in Labels API paths

**Downloads**

-  [Source code \(zip\)](#)





github/gitignore

GitHub, Inc. [US] https://github.com/github/gitignore

Garen

VVV.gitignore ensure single trailing newline a year ago  
VisualStudio.gitignore Small fix: missing space 16 days ago  
Waf.gitignore added Waf.gitignore 4 years ago  
WordPress.gitignore sort WordPress.gitignore 9 months ago  
Xojo.gitignore Ignores \*.xojo\_\*state 6 months ago  
Yeoman.gitignore Create Yeoman.gitignore a year ago  
Yii.gitignore Merge remote-tracking branch 'origin/master' into pr506 a year ago  
ZendFramework.gitignore Fixed binary gettext files rule: .po -> .mo 7 months ago  
Zephir.gitignore Added comments for Zephir 9 months ago

README.md

## A collection of `.gitignore` templates

This is GitHub's collection of `.gitignore` file templates. We use this list to populate the `.gitignore` template choosers available in the GitHub.com interface when creating new repositories and files.

For more information about how `.gitignore` files work, and how to use them, the following resources are a great place to start:

- The Ignoring Files chapter of the Pro Git book.
- The Ignoring Files article on the GitHub Help site.
- The `gitignore(5)` manual page.

### Folder structure

The files in the root directory are for `.gitignore` templates that are project specific, such as language or framework specific templates. Global (operating system or editor specific) templates should go into the `Global/` directory.

### Contributing guidelines

We'd love you to help us improve this project. To help us keep this collection high quality, we request that contributions adhere to the following guidelines.

- Provide a link to the application or project's homepage. Unless it's extremely popular, there's

branch: master  **gitignore / R.gitignore**

 **arcresu** on Nov 28, 2014 Merge pull request #1263 from jangorecki/master

7 contributors 

14 lines (10 sloc) | 0.173 kb

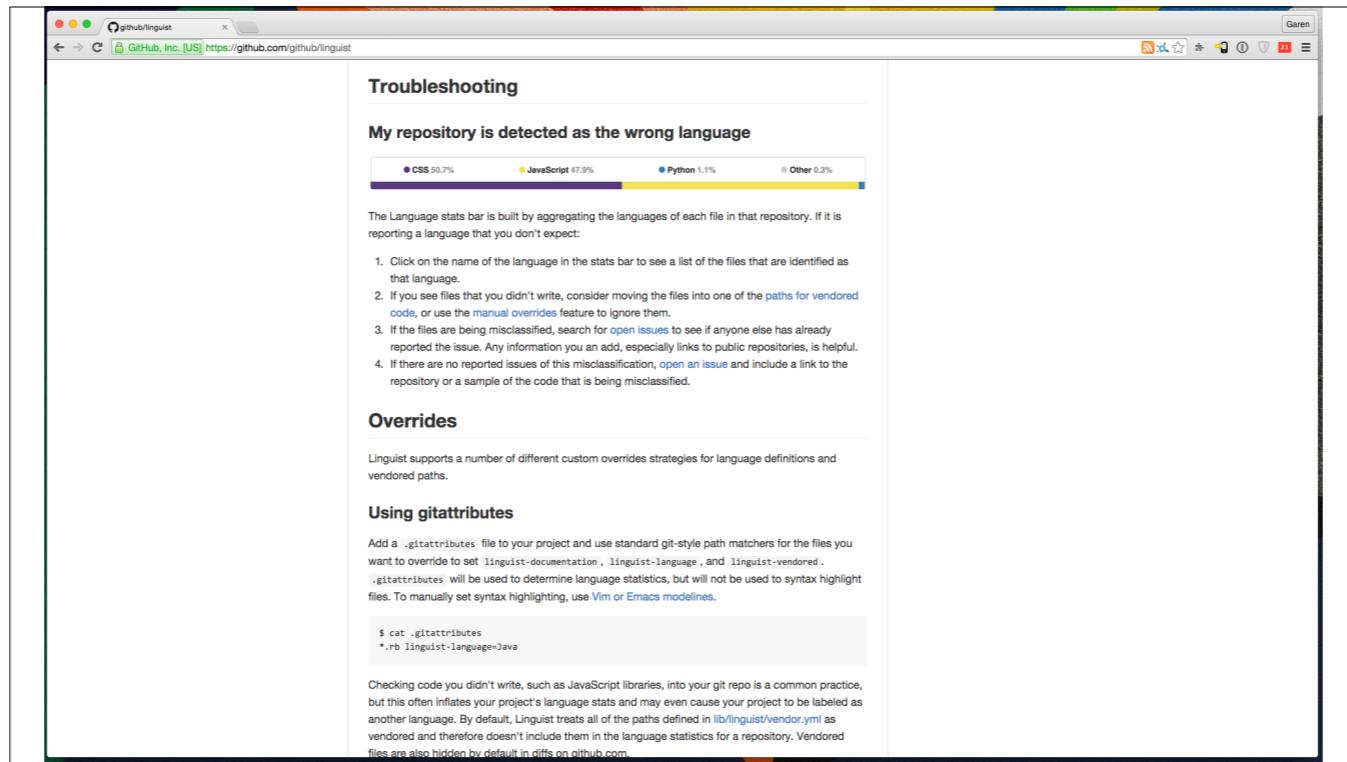
1	# History files
2	.Rhistory
3	.Rapp.history
4	
5	# Example code in package build process
6	*-Ex.R
7	
8	# RStudio files
9	.Rproj.user/
10	
11	# produced vignettes
12	vignettes/*.html
13	vignettes/*.pdf

Raw Blame History  

testing / .gitignore or cancel Want to use a .gitignore template? Choose .gitignore: R ▾

<> Edit new file Preview Spaces 2 No wrap

```
1 # History files
2 .Rhistory
3
4 # Example code in package build process
5 *-Ex.R
6
7 # R data files from past sessions
8 .Rdata
9
10 # RStudio files
11 .Rproj.user/
12
```

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the GitHub Linguist troubleshooting documentation. The page title is "Troubleshooting" and the main section is "My repository is detected as the wrong language". A horizontal bar at the top shows language statistics: CSS 50.7%, JavaScript 47.9%, Python 1.1%, and Other 0.3%. Below the bar, a note explains that the stats are aggregated from all files in the repository. A numbered list provides steps to troubleshoot: 1. Click on the language name in the stats bar to see a list of files. 2. Consider moving files to vendor paths or use manual overrides. 3. Search for open issues if files are misclassified. 4. Open an issue if no one else has reported it. The "Overrides" section follows, noting that Linguist supports custom override strategies. The "Using gitattributes" section explains how to use a .gitattributes file to define language mappings. A code snippet shows an example entry: \$ cat .gitattributes \*.rb linguist-language=Java. A note at the bottom cautions against including vendor code in the repository's language stats.

## Troubleshooting

### My repository is detected as the wrong language

The Language stats bar is built by aggregating the languages of each file in that repository. If it is reporting a language that you don't expect:

1. Click on the name of the language in the stats bar to see a list of the files that are identified as that language.
2. If you see files that you didn't write, consider moving the files into one of the [paths for vendored code](#), or use the [manual overrides](#) feature to ignore them.
3. If the files are being misclassified, search for [open issues](#) to see if anyone else has already reported the issue. Any information you can add, especially links to public repositories, is helpful.
4. If there are no reported issues of this misclassification, [open an issue](#) and include a link to the repository or a sample of the code that is being misclassified.

### Overrides

Linguist supports a number of different custom overrides strategies for language definitions and vendored paths.

#### Using gitattributes

Add a `.gitattributes` file to your project and use standard git-style path matchers for the files you want to override to set `linguist-documentation`, `linguist-language`, and `linguist-vendored`. `.gitattributes` will be used to determine language statistics, but will not be used to syntax highlight files. To manually set syntax highlighting, use [Vim](#) or [Emacs](#) modelines.

```
$ cat .gitattributes
*.rb linguist-language=Java
```

Checking code you didn't write, such as JavaScript libraries, into your git repo is a common practice, but this often inflates your project's language stats and may even cause your project to be labeled as another language. By default, Linguist treats all of the paths defined in `lib/linguist/vendor.yml` as vendored and therefore doesn't include them in the language statistics for a repository. Vendored files are also hidden by default in diffs on GitHub.

We've found 183 repository results Sort: Most stars

**github/gitignore** ← → ★ 22,818 ⚡ 8,289  
A collection of useful .gitignore templates  
Updated 11 days ago

**github/hubot** ← → CoffeeScript ← ★ 7,639 ⚡ 1,637  
A customizable life embetterment robot.  
Updated 2 days ago

**github/hub** ← → Go ← ★ 5,919 ⚡ 532  
hub helps you win at git.  
Updated 7 days ago

**github/android** ← → Java ← ★ 5,781 ⚡ 2,855  
GitHub Android App  
Updated 5 days ago

**github/linguist** ← → Ruby ← ★ 2,733 ⚡ 1,146  
Language Savant. If your repository's language is being reported incorrectly, send us a pull request!  
Updated 2 days ago

**github/hubot-scripts** ← → CoffeeScript ← ★ 2,653 ⚡ 1,692  
DEPRECATED, see <https://github.com/github/hubot-scripts/issues/1113> for details - optional scripts for hubot, opt in via hubot-scripts.json  
Updated 9 days ago

**github/markup** ← → Ruby ← ★ 2,423 ⚡ 2,043  
The code we use to render README.your\_favorite\_markup  
Updated 4 days ago

[Advanced search](#) [Cheat sheet](#)

The screenshot shows a list of GitHub repositories. Red arrows have been drawn from the star count numbers (22,818, 7,639, 5,919, 5,781, 2,733, 2,653, 2,423) to the star count icons in each repository card. The repositories listed are: github/gitignore, github/hubot, github/hub, github/android, github/linguist, github/hubot-scripts, and github/markup.