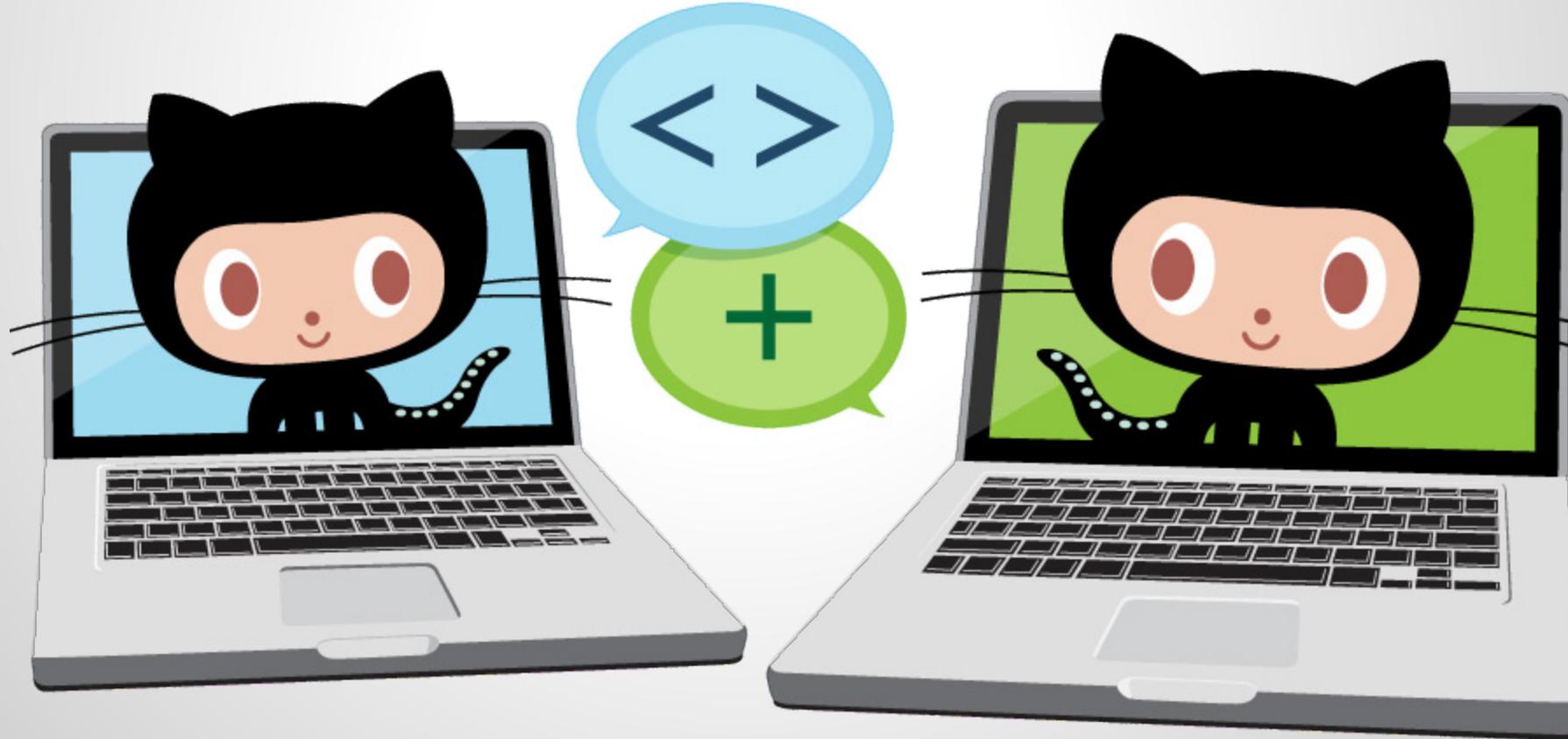


Being a Good OSS Contributor

Jeremy Mikola



Who's using open-source software?

Who has ever...

- Posted on the mailing list or forum
- Collaborated in IRC
- Answered a question on Stack Overflow
- Written a technical blog post
- Opened an issue on GitHub
- Attended a hack day event
- Submitted a pull request

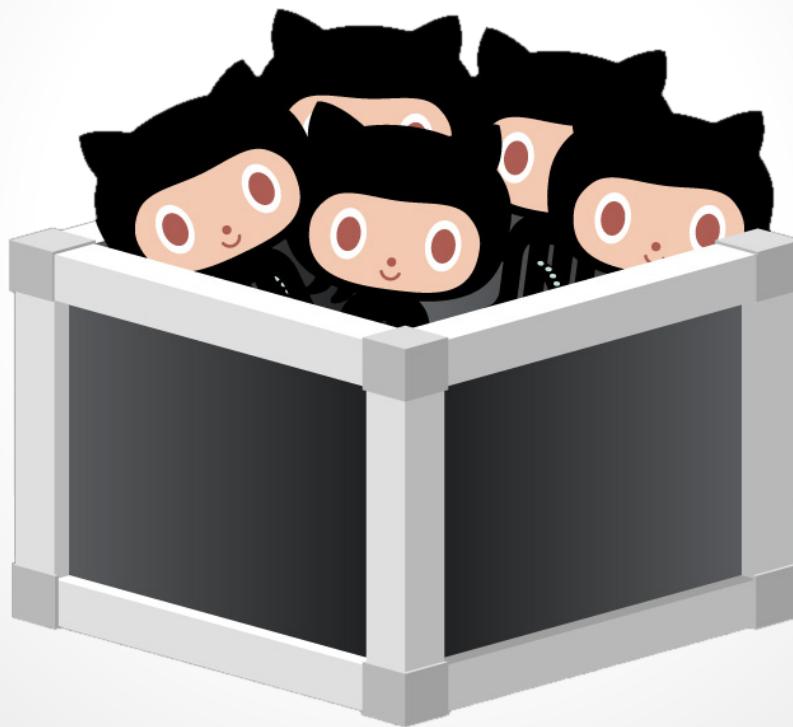
There is no shortage of opportunity.



OSS projects need...

Evangelism

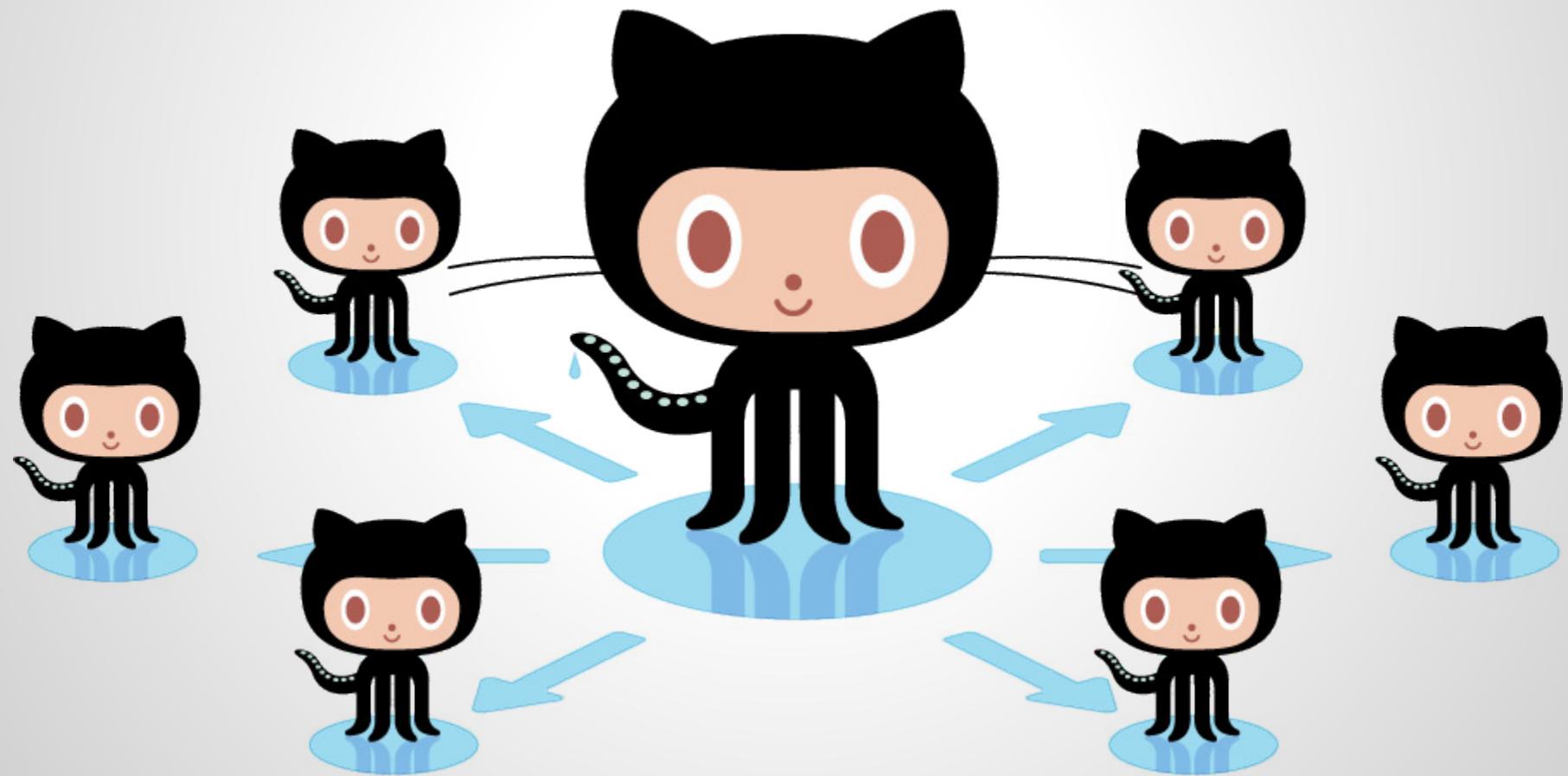
Support



Documentation

Development

Evangelism



How do we...

Discover open-source projects?

Elect to use them?

Become motivated to contribute?

Share Your Experience

- For current and prospective users
 - Blog posts
 - Case studies
 - Growing the community
- For project members
 - Answering RFC's
 - Weighing new features or changes
 - Highlighting what works and doesn't

Feedback Guides Decision Making*

Praise → Reinforcement

Criticism → Reevaluation

*Except when it doesn't

Don't Omit Criticism

Positive feedback loops are dangerous.

The best criticism is constructive.

Good decisions require objectivity.

A close-up photograph of a traditional Chinese chess (Xiangqi) set. The pieces are made of light-colored wood and are arranged on a light-colored wooden board. The board features a central square and several holes, likely for the movement of the elephant and horse pieces. The pieces include the King, Queen, Minister, General, and various horse and elephant pieces.

Be an advocate, not a fanboy.

Documentation



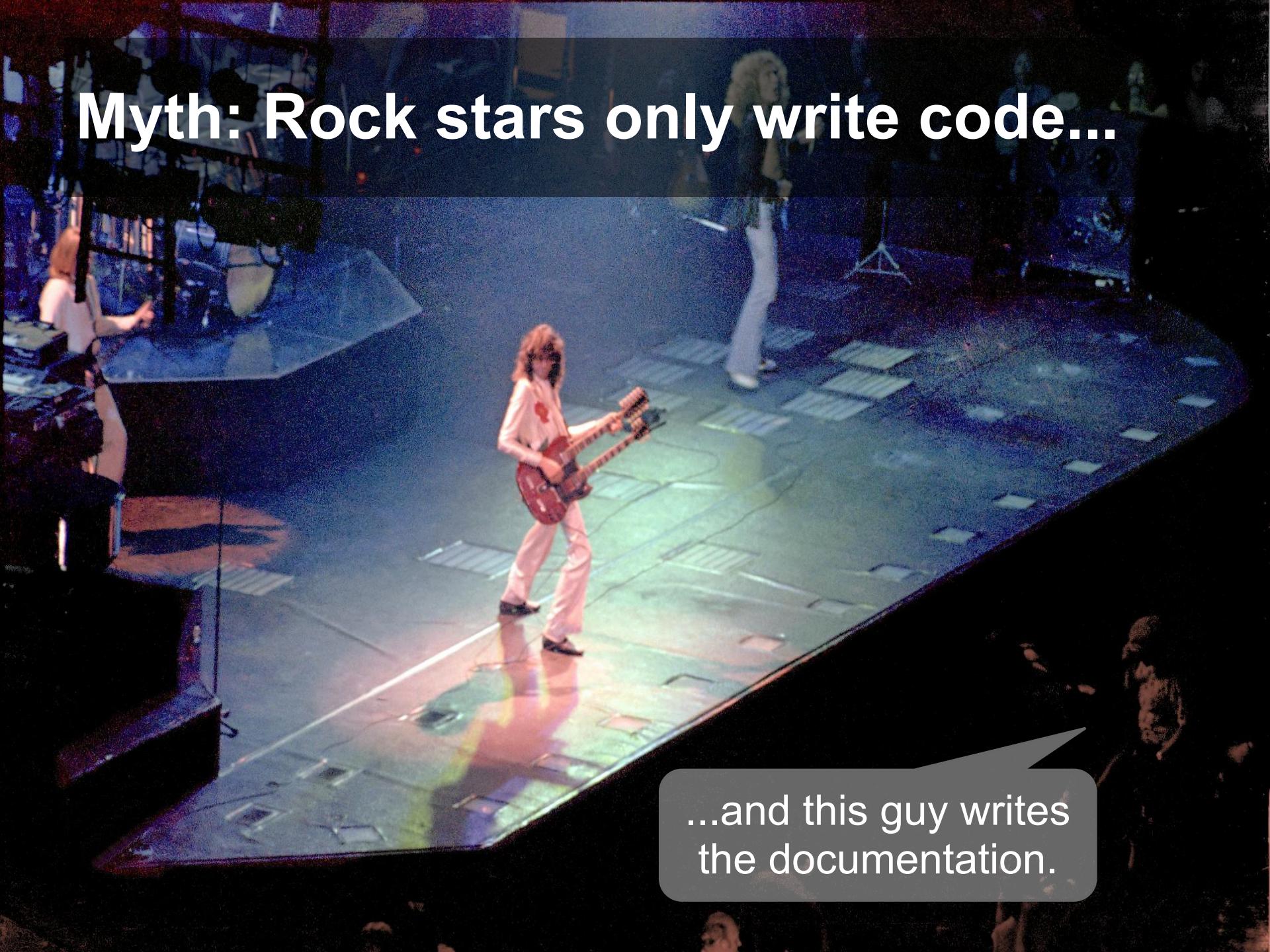
How do we...

Get up and running?

Learn how to use a project?

Get acquainted with a new API?

Myth: Rock stars only write code...

A photograph of a rock concert stage. In the center, a male guitarist with long hair and a beard is playing a red electric guitar. He is wearing a white t-shirt with a red heart logo and light-colored pants. To his left, a female keyboardist with short brown hair is seated at a keyboard. The stage floor has a grid pattern of illuminated squares. The background is dark, with stage lights and equipment visible.

...and this guy writes
the documentation.

Documentation comes in all forms.

- Code
- API docs
- Test cases
- README
- Manual
- Cookbooks and tutorials

But most users need these:

- Code
- API docs
- Test cases
- README
- Manual
- Cookbooks and tutorials

Ingredients for great documentation:

Consistent writing style.

Users make the best authors.

Evolves as the code changes.

Wrong documentation is dangerous.



Writing proficiency is essential.



Espanol

Translation may be important.

Italiano

Deutsch



Before You Commit

- Follow conventions
 - Formatting
 - Structure
 - Writing style
- Test your changes
 - Content: grammar, spelling, links
 - Syntax: reStructuredText, Markdown, HTML
 - Build: Sphinx, Docbook

Support



Users expect things to work.

Some users ask questions.

Good users file bug reports.

Awesome users submit patches.

Support is...

Often a thankless job.

Necessary for growth.

Never finished.

The Relentless Flow of Questions

- Why is the user asking this?
- Refer to existing content if possible
 - Previous discussions
 - Relevant documentation
- Good exchanges deserve visibility

Bug Reports

- Encourage users to report *actual* issues
 - Handle security vulnerabilities responsibly
- Triaging saves time
 - Identify duplicate and invalid reports
 - Cross-reference related or upstream issues
- Fill in the gaps
 - Collect background information
 - Create failing test cases
 - Document workarounds

Code Reviews

- Ensure the test suite passes
 - Is the current test coverage sufficient?
 - Avoid arguments with **travisbot**
- Object calisthenics*
- Coding standards and conventions
 - <https://github.com/klaussilveira/phpcs-psr>
 - <https://github.com/fabpot/PHP-CS-Fixer>

*Helpful principles, but don't go overboard

Teach others to do what you're doing.



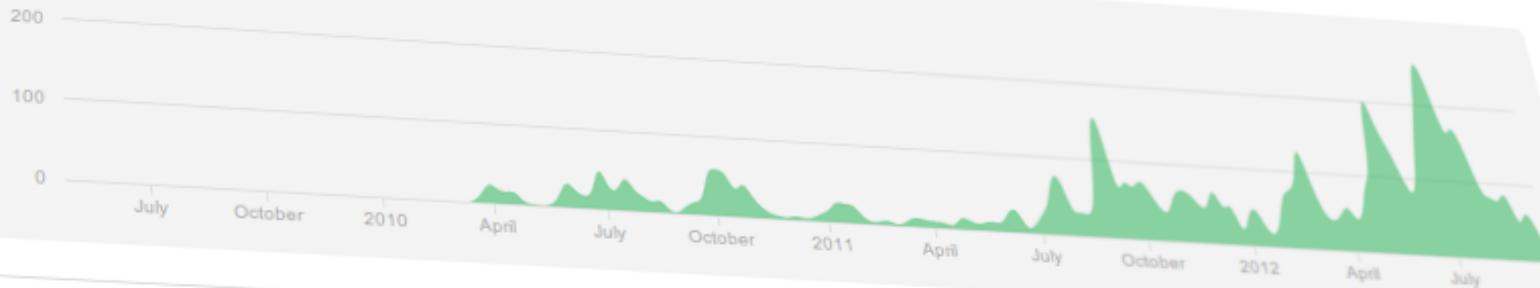
Development



April 26th 2009 - September 23rd 2012

Commits to master, excluding merge commits

Contribution Type: **Commits**



weierophinney

1,903 commits / 1,981,630 ++ / 2,427,742 --

#1



Maks3w

411 commits / 445,875 ++ / 778,526 --

#2



EvanDotPro

410 commits / 17,716 ++ / 16,468 --

#3



ralphschindler

305 commits / 154,957 ++ / 438,534 --

#4



marc-mabe

286 commits / 41,619 ++ / 38,263 --

#5



prolic

269 commits / 32,862 ++ / 30,991 --

#6



b-durand

145 commits / 9,020 ++ / 7,891 --

#7



thomasweidner

134 commits / 401,309 ++ / 283,427 --

#8



DASPRiD

134 commits / 18,815 ++ / 33,461 --

#9



bakura10

123 commits / 9,313 ++ / 3,800 --

#10



sasezaki

116 commits / 4,047 ++ / 4,616 --

#11



ezimuel

116 commits / 56,789 ++ / 625,034 --

#12

Taking the First Step

How many OSS projects started because of a tangible need for some basic functionality?

How many core developers got their start by fixing a small bug?



Reconnaissance

Start with bug fixes or small tasks.

Collect feedback prior to major contributions.

Join developer chats and roadmap discussions.

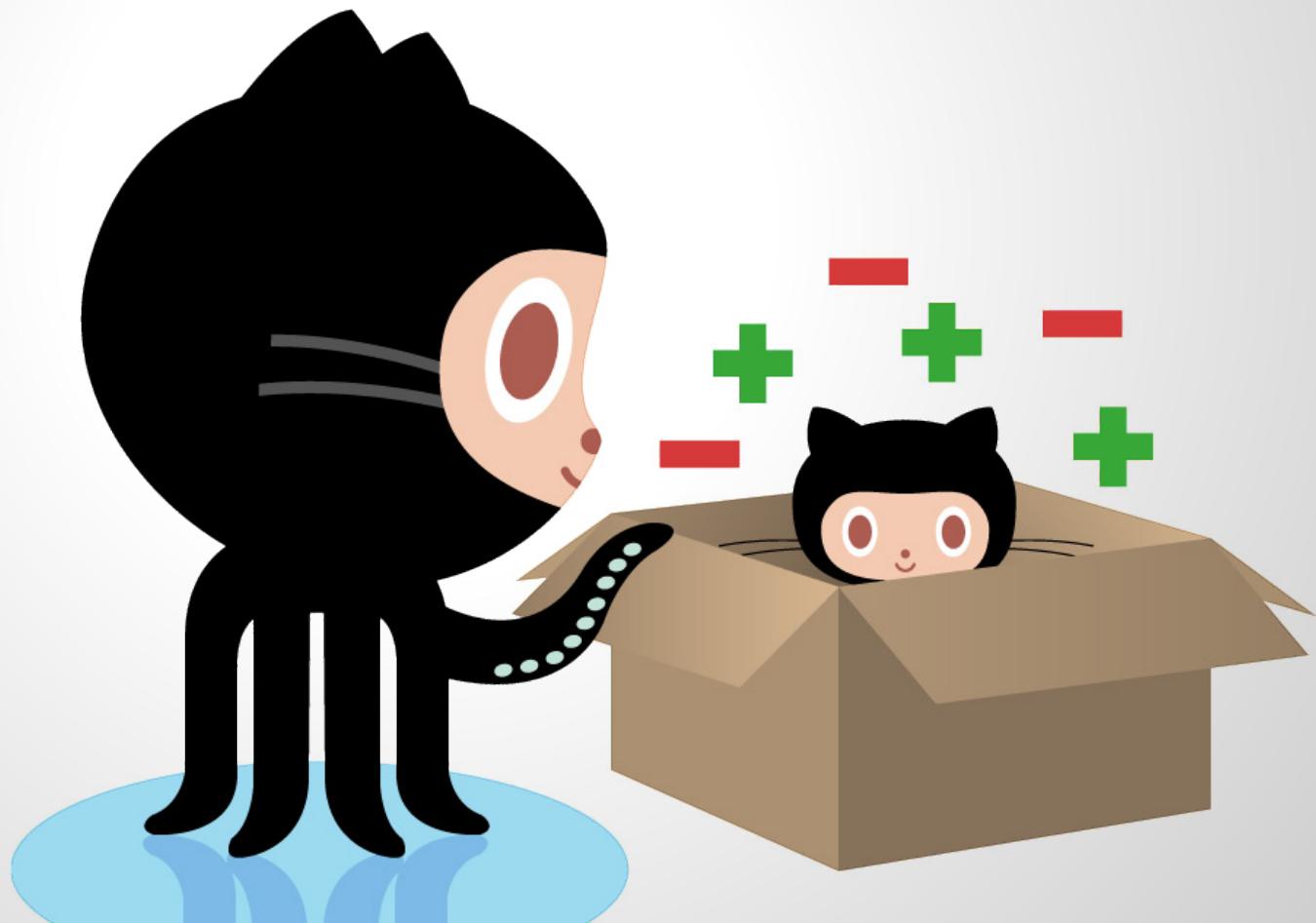
Be a humble contributor.

Who are you implementing this for?

Review your own work before you expect someone else to.

Don't turn code reviews into religious debates.

**There are no small contributors, just
small changesets.**





Pascal Borreli

@pborreli

CEO of my life, CTO of my localhost, co-founder of my son, Symfony evangelist, impulsive typo fixer, web addict but not too much

- <https://github.com/pborreli>



pborrelli added a commit

a year ago



pborrelli [Pdf] Removing unreachable "brake"

1bc3ebf



naholyr started a discussion in the diff a year ago



library/Zend/Pdf/Action/AbstractAction.php

[View full changes](#)

```
... ... @@ -156,79 +156,60 @@ abstract class AbstractAction extends Pdf\InternalStructure\NavigationTarget imp
156 156     switch ($dictionary->S->value) {
157 157         case 'GoTo':
158 158             return new GoToAction($dictionary, $processedActions);
159 -             brake;
```

4



naholyr

a year ago

WTF? "brake"? What's supposed to do? Continue to next step, but slower? x]
Thanks god it was unreachable ^^



n1k0

a year ago

Everything next to word "goto" makes me want to brake anyway.



clemherreman

a year ago

Both awesome and scary, IN THE SAME TIME !



ornicar

a year ago

I hope it's going to be faster now.



kherge

Hooray, somebody is contributing to a few of my projects! Find all sorts of typos, and one embarrassing oversight with an argument not being used in a method.

⌚ 2d



Follow

1 reply 0 reposts 0 stars



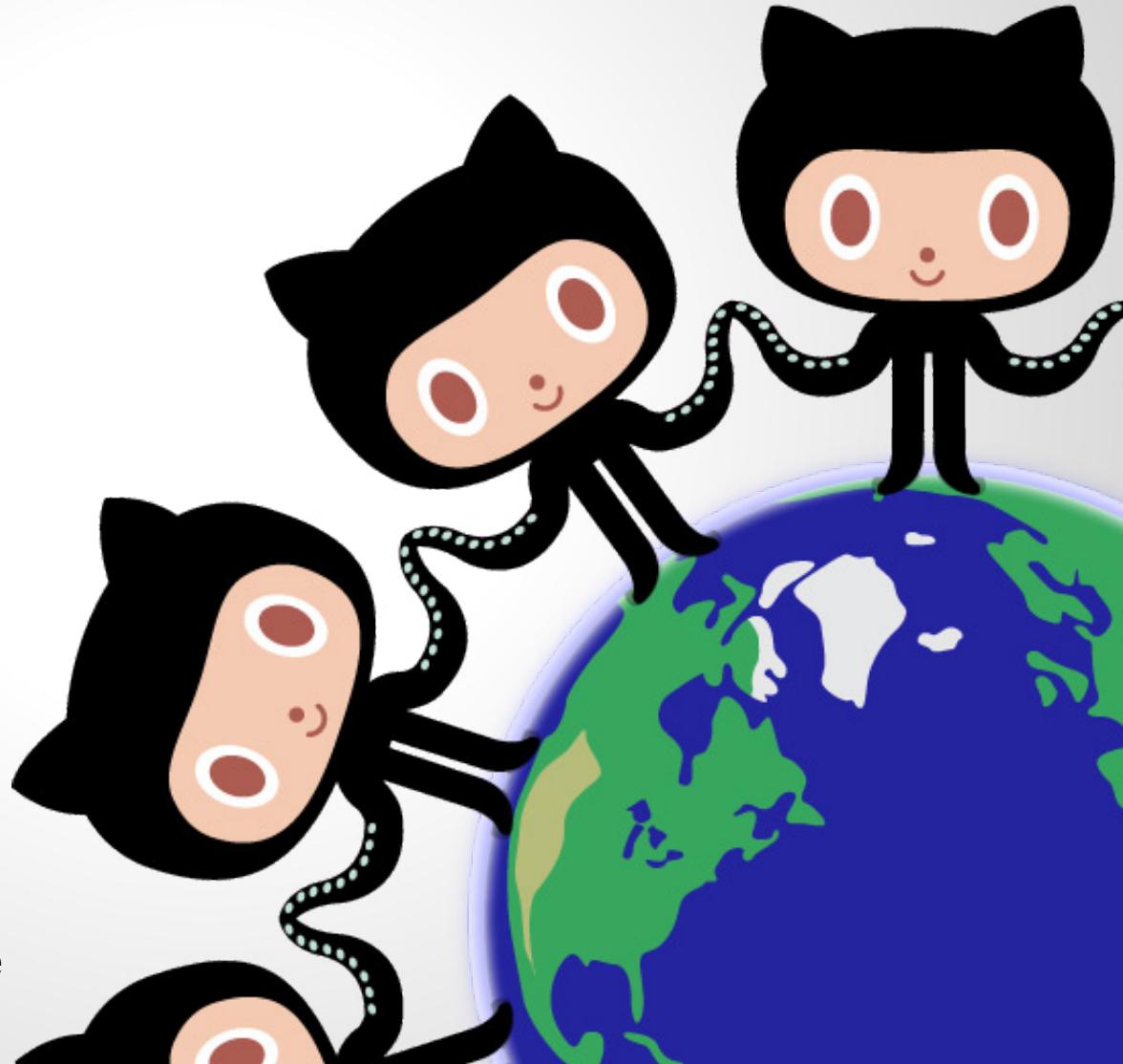
shrop

@kherge nice! that is what it's about.. #opensource

⌚ 2d



Don't create borders where there are none*.



*CLA's may be a valid excuse

[Code](#)[Network](#)[Pull Requests](#)

23

[Wiki](#)[Graphs](#)**Closed**akrabat merged 1 commit into [zendframework:master](#) from [fabpot:fix/escaper](#) 3 months ago

11 #1633

[Discussion](#)[Commits](#) 1[Files Changed](#) 1

fabpot opened this pull request 3 months ago

Closed

Fix exception when iconv or mbstring is not installed (was not reachable before)

+ 6 additions

- 5 deletions

No one is assigned

No milestone

Everything is in the title.

2 participants



fabpot added a commit

3 months ago

fabpot Fix exception when iconv or mbstring is not installed (was not reacha... [...](#) 65c89ff**Merged**akrabat merged commit 65c89ff into [zendframework:master](#) from [fabpot:fix/escaper](#) 3 months ago

akrabat commented

3 months ago

Thanks.

Don't stop building.



Photo Credits

- <http://octodex.github.com/>
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- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/downingstreet/3406910050/>
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