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Getting started – Open sourcing ABAP code

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ABAP Development

abapgit | Open Source

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At the recent #SAPTechEd I had a few questions about how to get started open sourcing ABAP code, I've collected some of the questions and answers in this blog.

Why

If you have some cool ABAP code laying around, consider open sourcing it, it does not have to work, it does not have to be pretty. There might be someone in the community which is working on something similar, or need similar functionality, together we can build amazing software :o) It might even help attracting new talent to your company.

Where

I recommend putting the code on github.com, it is free for public projects, and encourages collaboration. Many big software companies use GitHub to share their open source. There are also alternatives like bitbucket and gitlab.

GitHub also have some great guides on how to get started.

How

Use abapGit to extract the ABAP code to files. The documentation explains how it works, in case of any questions feel free to open an issue.

Legal

Make sure you have the rights for the software, and check with your manager and/or legal department if relevant. Choose a License can help deciding which license to use, and the license can easily be added on GitHub.

Promoting your project

Make sure to write a blog post about your project, but do note that the ABAP open source community is not very big(yet) so things do not move very fast.

Uwe Fetzer maintains a list of projects, he might help adding your project to the list.

Recently, I have also created [dotabap.org](#), which hopefully will help making it easier to find ABAP open source projects. You can add your project to [the list](#) via a pull request.

Steve Ballmer Developers

Alert Moderator

1 Comment

[Rainer Winkler](#)

November 19, 2017 at 2:39 pm

Hi Lars,

thanks for posting! I agree with you, making code we want to share, available as open source project is a good idea. There are many features on a platform like Github, for instance issue lists, that make maintaining much easier. I even create repositories before I start to code. Just because it is so convenient and easy to maintain and share information on these platforms.

By the way, to learn more about open Source projects I follow Nadia Eghbal on twitter. She posts on many topics that are especially of relevance for maintainers of bigger projects (Like funding).

Cheers

Rainer

PS: I think, the best way to start contributing is with the documentation of a project. Or by proposing a simple cleanup to the coding. Such pull requests are easy to accept for me. And I am always happy when i see that someone opened an issue or made a pull requests to one of my repositories 🙂

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