



# From OSS Contributions to Employment

# Overview

- Background (who I am)
- How/Why I got started with OSS
  - lints/docs PRs
  - Feature PRs (merged and unmerged)
  - My most “loved” PRs
- How to become a maintainer
- The long tail - “Unexpected returns”
- Some of my favorite PRs and reviews
- These slides at [github.com/simlay/presentations](https://github.com/simlay/presentations) in a subdirectory

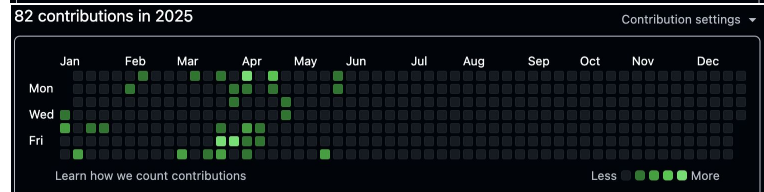
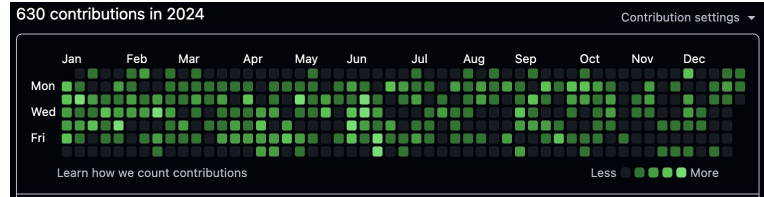
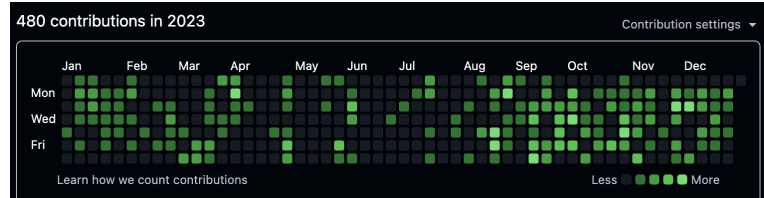
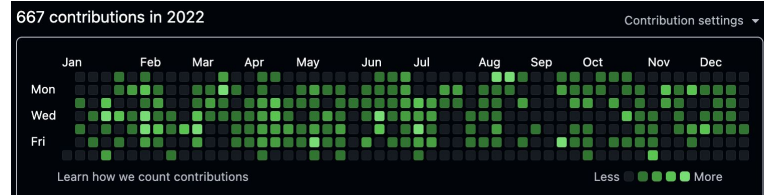
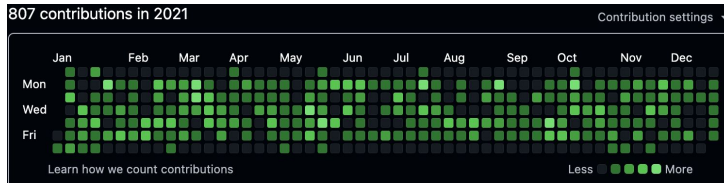
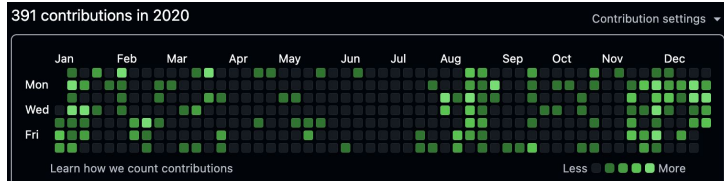
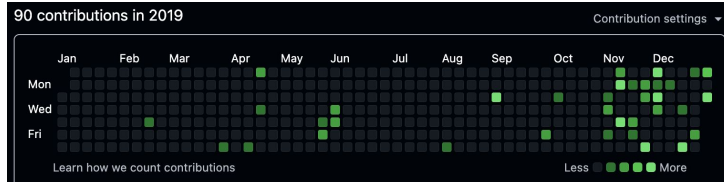
# About me

- [github.com/simlay](https://github.com/simlay), [hachyderm.io/@simlay](https://hachyderm.io/@simlay)
- Maintainership
  - [coreaudio-rs](#) (3.7m downloads)
  - [coreaudio-sys](#) (4.2m downloads)
  - [hap-rs](#) - (30k downloads) - [Due to a review on this PR](#).
- “Co-ownership” - Increasing bus factor
  - [objc2 rust crate](#) - bindings and framework for working with objective-c - [~12m downloads](#)
- OSS Contributions
  - Authored 621+ PRs, 297+ issues on 150+ repos
  - Big repos - rust-lang/rust, rust-bindgen, tokio, bevy, etc.

# Why - ambitions bigger than an employer

- Rust
  - iOS and rust
  - A dislike of xcode/android studio
  - Write once, compile/run for/on many targets ([more on this later](#))
- Altruism?
  - It is free work, do it because it's fun
- Longer lived work
  - [These changes from 2019 finally need fixing](#) - ([fixed by someone else](#))
- A bigger toolbox

# Literally how



# Getting my feet wet - “Write some docs”

- [rls \(an early rust language-server\)](#)
- [Adding documentation to arewewebyet.org](#)
- [My first “confrontation”](#)
- [A Lint PR](#)
- [An ignored PR](#) - no blame to the maintainer
  - [Years later I authored 5 PRs to a different project of theirs.](#)
- [Another lint PR](#)
- [A simple fix to the Rust Lang tooling](#)


# Making waves

- [“Touch support” to the iced GUI library - twitter link](#)
- [Bevy \(a game library\) iOS support and CI](#)
- [Authoring a PR that will never merge](#) (iced)
- [google/shaderc-rs](#) contributions

# Path to Maintainership

- Coreaudio - “[simlay is very active in the rust iOS community](#)”
- hap-rs - “[Thanks for the review](#)”
- objc2:


**madsmtm**

 **simlay**: Would you like to become co-owner of my `objc2` crates on [crates.io](#)? I'd like to reduce the bus-factor for these, and you've been involved in the Objective-C + Rust community far longer than I have.

**simlay**



**madsmtm**

 **simlay**: Would you like to become co-owner of my `objc2` crates on [crates.io](#)? I'd like to reduce the bus-factor for these, and you've been involved in the Objective-C + Rust community far longer than I have.

Sure! I'm game to help reduce bus factor. Looking at the contributors list, I'm not sure how I'm not in them (<https://github.com/madsmtm/objc2/graphs/contributors>). I've done a bunch of other objective-c rust stuff. I feel like "co-owner" is earned with time if you want to add as a collaborator, I'll help out.



# Return on investment

- Got a job (I applied to) at an open source startup (Oct 2020)
- Got a job offer (I did not apply to) working on Tauri (Dec 2021)
  - They found my uikit-sys rust bindings for iOS
- Accepted a job (that I did not apply to) doing open source rust (Sep 2023)
  - Due to adding initial support of tvOS to the rust compiler.
  - [Build for all the apple targets](#)
- Accepted a job (that I did not apply to) at fortune 500 (oct 2024)
  - Uses Rust in UI
  - Uses webassembly on TVs

# Additional Benefits

- Define your niche - mine is clearly Mobile/UI Rust
- The jobs come to you
- Github CI is free on public repos!
  - [CI for simlay.net](#)
  - [CI for my Resume](#) (written in LaTeX)

# Favorite PRs

- [Java FFI for vibrating devices](#)
- [The giant iced PR that I knew would never be merged](#)
- [One liner to rust-lang - PR #11650](#)
- [The slow PR to a big project \(rust-lang\)](#)