How to Start Your Open Source Contributor Journey

Blockchain is waiting for you!

Tendermint

STARPORT

Ecosystem Development Team

Barrie is the Senior Technical Writer for Tendermint, where she manages technical content to grow the blockchain developer base. Contributor to developer docs and tutorials for Starport and other open source codebases for the Cosmos SDK and maintainer of other developer-focused content that enables users to build their own blockchain apps.

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Open Source sounds great, but…

➜ I am not a good enough programmer to contribute to open source

➜ I don't know the project well enough to contribute

➜ I don't write code, so I have nothing to contribute

➜ Contributing is hard and intimidating

COSMOS

Why are we here? What will we talk about?

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→ Why do so many people around the globe contribute to open source?

→ Why is open source software important to blockchain development?

Just see the LA Blockchain Summit Mission Statement!

→ Mass-adoption of blockchain technologies fosters exposure, education, collaboration, sustainable investing, and development

→ Educational content accessible to everyone for free

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Blockchain technology fulfills its full potential only if it is accessible and available to all.

Reason-1

Improve the software you use and rely on

➔ When you find a bug in an open source software you use
➔ Look at the source to see if you can patch it yourself
➔ Contribute the fix
➔ Enjoy the next version with your fix
➔ Wash, rinse, repeat

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Improve existing skills

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Open source is a safe place to improve and build skills

It's not only about code, it's about helping the community

There is a task for you:

➔ Coding User
➔ interface design
➔ Graphic design
➔ Writing
➔ Even organizing

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Reason-3

Find people who follow your passion

➔ Meet people with similar interests
➔ Open source projects are warm, welcoming communities
➔ We keep coming back for years
➔ Build connections
➔ Make friendships

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Reason-4

Mentor and be mentored

➔ Work with others on a shared project
➔ Explain how you do things
➔ Teaching is the best way to learn something!
➔ Learn how they do things
➔ Ask for help
➔ Learning and teaching are fulfilling activities

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Reason-5

Build your digital footprint

➔ Build public artifacts
➔ Grow a reputation
➔ Enhance your career
➔ Start a career
➔ Change a career
➔ GitHub is a digital resume

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Reason-6

Polish your people skills

Open source is a safe space to use leadership and management skills

➜ Learn to work remotely with cross-culture teams
➜ Resolve conflicts, in codebase and in negotiations
➜ Organize teams of people
➜ Prioritize work
➜ Support and collaborate in PRs and issues

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Empower Yourself

➔ Gratify, empower, affirm, be seen

➔ It's empowering to make changes, even small ones (especially small ones)

➔ When you see a typo on a website or in the docs, go fix it

➔ Change how you see and experience the world

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Open Source Roles

What does everyone do?

There's a place for you!

COSMOS
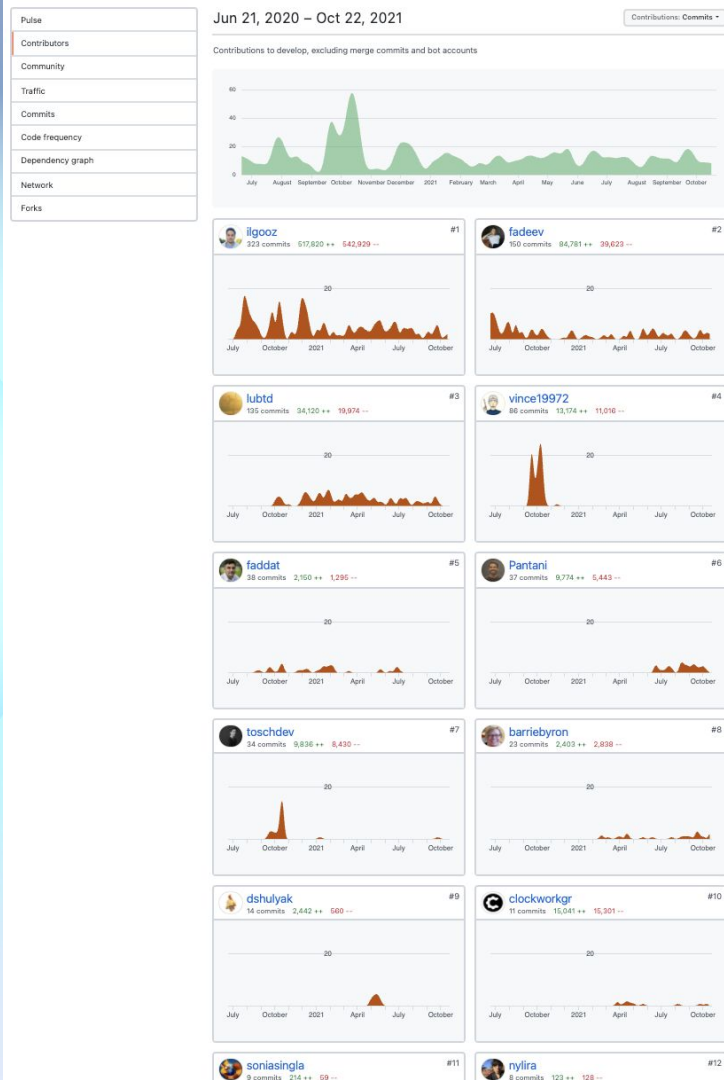
Projects are organized with these people

➔ **Author:** People or entity that created the project
➔ **Owner:** People with administrative ownership
➔ **Maintainers:** Contributors with project responsibility, vision, management; might also be authors or owners
➔ **Contributors:** You! Everyone who contributes to the project
➔ **Community members:** You again! People who use the project

Meet the people behind Starport

➔ Talk about project and contributor.md file and docs/contributing files
➔ Who works on the tutorials?
➔ https://github.com/tendermint/starport/blob/develop/docs/contributing/index.md#who-works-on-the-tutorials
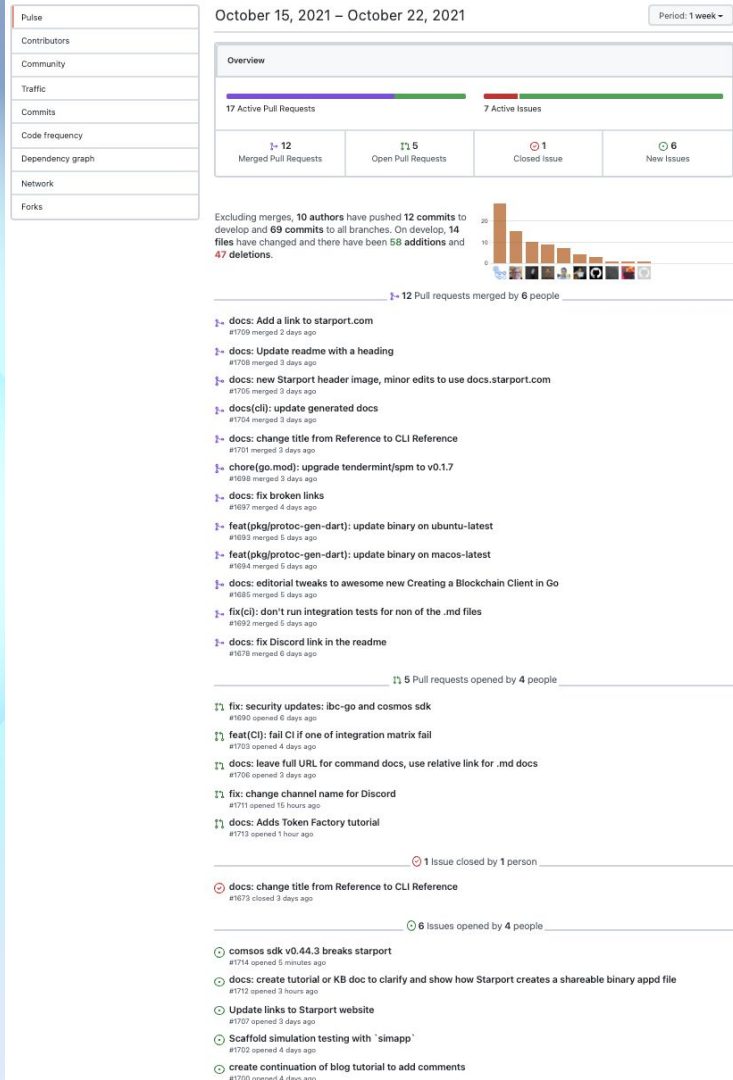➔ Meet the people behind Starport and contributors.

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Check the project pulse

➜ Select a healthy project

➜ https://github.com/tendermint/starport/pulse

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October 15, 2021 – October 22, 2021

Period: 1 week ▾

Pulse
Contributors
Community
Traffic
Commits
Code frequency
Dependency graph
Network
Forks

Overview

17 Active Pull Requests

7 Active Issues

| ⤶ 12 Merged Pull Requests | ⇅ 5 Open Pull Requests | ⊘ 1 Closed Issue | ⊙ 6 New Issues |

Excluding merges, **10 authors** have pushed **12 commits** to develop and **69 commits** to all branches. On develop, **14 files** have changed and there have been **58 additions** and **47 deletions**.

⤶ 12 Pull requests merged by 6 people

docs: Add a link to starport.com
#1709 merged 2 days ago

docs: Update readme with a heading
#1708 merged 3 days ago

docs: new Starport header image, minor edits to use docs.starport.com
#1705 merged 3 days ago

docs(cli): update generated docs
#1704 merged 3 days ago

docs: change title from Reference to CLI Reference
#1701 merged 3 days ago

chore(go.mod): upgrade tendermint/spm to v0.1.7
#1698 merged 3 days ago

docs: fix broken links
#1697 merged 4 days ago

feat(pkg/protoc-gen-dart): update binary on ubuntu-latest
#1693 merged 5 days ago

feat(pkg/protoc-gen-dart): update binary on macos-latest
#1694 merged 5 days ago

docs: editorial tweaks to awesome new Creating a Blockchain Client in Go
#1685 merged 5 days ago

fix(ci): don't run integration tests for non of the .md files
#1692 merged 5 days ago

docs: fix Discord link in the readme
#1678 merged 6 days ago

⇅ 5 Pull requests opened by 4 people

fix: security updates: ibc-go and cosmos sdk
#1690 opened 6 days ago

feat(CI): fail CI if one of integration matrix fail
#1703 opened 4 days ago

docs: leave full URL for command docs, use relative link for .md docs
#1706 opened 3 days ago

fix: change channel name for Discord
#1711 opened 15 hours ago

docs: Adds Token Factory tutorial
#1713 opened 1 hour ago

⊘ 1 Issue closed by 1 person

docs: change title from Reference to CLI Reference
#1673 closed 3 days ago

⊙ 6 Issues opened by 4 people

comsos sdk v0.44.3 breaks starport
#1714 opened 5 minutes ago

docs: create tutorial or KB doc to clarify and show how Starport creates a shareable binary appd file
#1712 opened 3 hours ago

Update links to Starport website
#1707 opened 3 days ago

Scaffold simulation testing with `simapp`
#1702 opened 4 days ago

create continuation of blog tutorial to add comments
#1700 opened 4 days ago

Read before you jump

➔ Practice the 15-minute rule

➔ Check the Discord servers

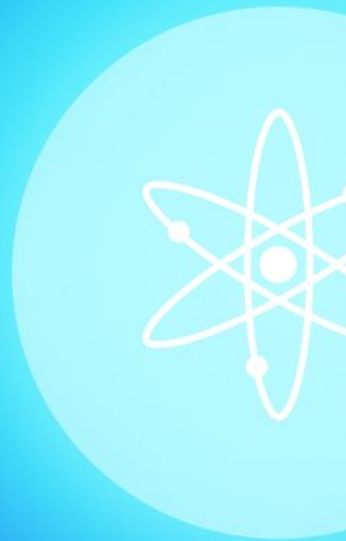➔ Do a web search

➔ Look at repo issues

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Docs: Read, write, fix

➔ GitHub projects
➔ Look for /docs directory
➔ Look for /contributing
➔ Write the Docs global community of people who care about documentation
➔ Cosmos SDK resources cosmos-sdk/DOCS_README.md at master · cosmos/cosmos-sdk
➔ Starport docs resources https://github.com/tendermint/starport/tree/develop/docs/contributing

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Open Source Souvenirs

➜ <u>How can you contribute to the Cosmos Ecosystem?</u>

➜ <u>How to contribute to open-source projects as a non-coder?</u>

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Learning resource souvenirs

➜ Starport Developer Guide with walkthrough tutorials, build a chain in minutes
https://docs.starport.com/

➜ Starport Codebase
https://github.com/tendermint/starport

➜ Starport Youtube
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXMndYLK7OuvjvEISeSWJ1Q/about

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HackAtom VI

➔ Cosmos is the second-largest blockchain ecosystem after Ethereum. Please join in building the decentralized web!

➔ HackAtom VI is the biggest hackathon in Cosmos history with a total prize pool of more than $1,000,000 in ATOM.

➔ November 11 and ends December 8

➔ Come and join us and hack!

➔ www.hackatom.org

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Stay connected

We're on LinkedIn and GitHub!

https://github.com/barriebyron/
https://www.linkedin.com/in/barriebyron/

https://github.com/soniasingla
https://www.linkedin.com/in/soniasinglas/

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Who are we?
One of you!

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Projects that we are working on

- Starport https://github.com/tendermint/starport
- Cosmos SDK https://github.com/cosmos/cosmos-sdk
- Cosmos Community
  - Code
  - Docs
  - Tutorials
  - Blogs
  - Workshop
  - Events

… and more

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Reason #1: Improve the software you use and rely on

Many open source contributors start out with using the software, and then helping to improve it

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Reason #2: Improve existing skills

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Reason #3: Find people who follow your passion

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Reason #4: Mentor and be mentored

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Reason #5: Build your digital footprint

- Build public artifacts
- Grow a reputation
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Reason #6: Polish your people skills

Walk a path that is different from your daily work

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Reason #7: Empower yourself

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