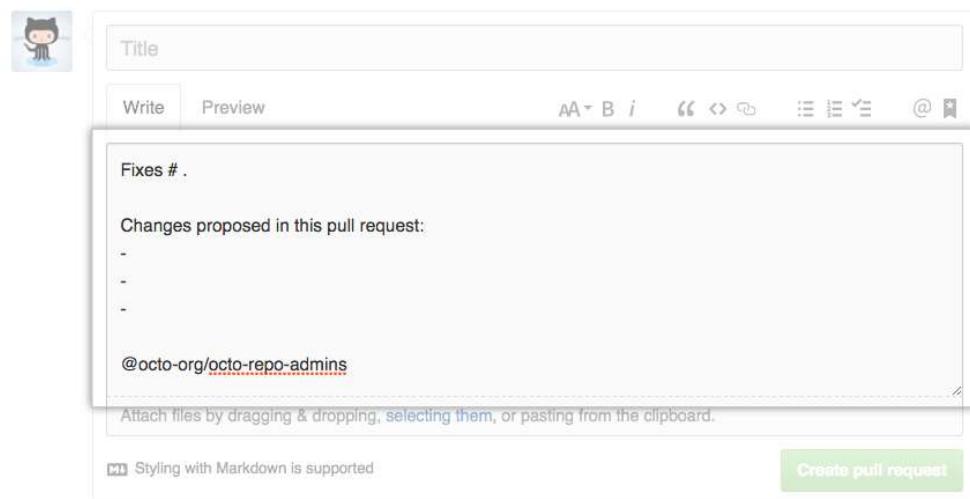


## GitHub Issue/Pull-request Templates

Dear Sir/Madam:

This survey is being conducted by [Zhixing Li](#) and [Yue Yu](#). We are researchers from National University of Defense Technology studying the collaboration within Open Source Software (OSS) projects.

We conduct this survey to better understand OSS **maintainers'** perceptions about GitHub [issue/pull-request\(PR\) templates](#) (below is an example PR template), particularly in terms of the *usefulness*, *challenges*, and *improvements*. We are grateful for your feedback according to your experience in OSS communities.



The screenshot shows a GitHub pull request template interface. At the top left is the GitHub logo. Below it is a 'Title' input field. To the right of the title field are tabs for 'Write' and 'Preview', and a rich text editor toolbar with icons for bold, italic, link, and other formatting options. The main content area contains a template for a pull request. It starts with 'Fixes # .' followed by a section titled 'Changes proposed in this pull request:' with three bullet points. Below this is a line for the pull request body, containing the text '@octo-org/octo-repo-admins'. At the bottom of the template area, there is a note 'Attach files by dragging & dropping, selecting them, or pasting from the clipboard.' and a small icon indicating 'Styling with Markdown is supported'. A green button labeled 'Create pull request' is located at the bottom right of the template area.

1. How many years of experience do you have in OSS projects?

- ☐ < 1 year
- ☐ 1-3 years
- ☐ 3-5 years
- ☒ 5-10 years
- ☐ >10 years

2. On average, how many new issues/PRs does the project you mainly maintain receive each month?

- ☐ < 50

- ☐ 50~100
- ☐ 100~200
- ☐ 200~300
- ☐ >300

3. How many of the issues/PRs submitted to the project you mainly maintain followed the template?

- ☐ None
- ☐ Few
- ☐ Moderate
- ☐ Many
- ☐ All

4. Based on your experience, how much do you agree with the following statements about the usefulness of issue/PR templates?

|   | Very disagree         | Disagree              | Neither agree or disagree | Agree                 | Very agree            |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| collect more relevant information ( <i>e.g.</i> , software version and stack trace) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| standardize issue/PR description  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| explain project guidelines ( <i>e.g.</i> , adding tests)                            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| guide contributors to more easily submit issues/PRs                                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| lead contributors to submit high-quality issues/PRs                                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| warn about common problems ( <i>e.g.</i> , submitting duplicates)                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Very  
disagree

Disagree

Neither  
agree or  
disagree

Agree

Very agree

discourage undesired  
submissions (*e.g.*,  
opening an issue to  
ask questions)

☐☐☐☐☐

If any, please describe other benefits that issue/PR templates can bring:

5. From the maintainers perspective, what are the challenges of using the issue/PR template feature on GitHub?

6. To better support your tasks as an OSS maintainer, what improvements would you like to see for the issue/PR template feature on GitHub?

7. Do you have anything else to tell us about issue/PR templates on GitHub?

Done