



Ruth Cheesley

Learning through doing

Finding your way to contributing in open source projects

 @RCheesley



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for slides, recordings, links and resources



What do we mean by open source?

Share your thoughts in the chat...

“

The term open source refers to something people can modify and share because its design is publicly accessible.

Open source projects, products, or initiatives embrace and celebrate principles of open exchange, collaborative participation, rapid prototyping, transparency, meritocracy, and community-oriented development.

- opensource.com



Why contribute to open source?

What's your reason?



There are many reasons!

- 1.** Give back to improve the tools that you rely on
- 2.** Improve your own skills
- 3.** Develop your reputation and career





Some interesting projects

Open source is not only about coding!



Wikihouse.cc. An open source architecture project that is created by a global community of architects, designers, engineers, scientists, organisers and entrepreneurs.

Aims to put the knowledge and tools to build beautiful, zero-carbon buildings into the hands of every citizen, community and business.



arduino.cc. An open source electronics platform based on easy-to-use hardware and software, intended for anyone creating interactive electronics-based projects.

Arduino's mission is to enable anyone to enhance their lives through accessible electronics and digital technologies. There was once a barrier between the electronics, design, and programming world and the rest of the world. Arduino has broken down that barrier.



Joomla.org. An open source Content Management System (CMS) which allows you to build powerful, dynamic websites and applications primarily for publishing web content.



Aims to be the most flexible, extendable platform which enables web creators to build powerful websites and applications with a free and open source community-powered platform.



mautic.org. An open source Marketing Automation tool which empowers marketers to learn about their customers and personalise their communications across multiple different channels to develop a trusted relationship with the individual.

Aims to enable marketers to free their marketing through fully open source, customisable marketing automation tool which delights both the user and the customer alike.



My journey to contributing in open source

From user to complainer to contributor!

HOW I GOT TO HERE

NOT THE TRADITIONAL ROUTE!



PHYSIOTHERAPY

Started out doing Sport Science then Physiotherapy at Uni - tech was never a career suggested despite being geeky!

Photo by Toa Heftiba on Unsplash



IT / WEB DEV

Worked part time jobs at uni on a computer helpdesk, got a job as an IT Technician and then health data analyst, then created a digital agency doing web design

Photo by Taylor Vick on Unsplash



COMMUNITY

Volunteered in Open Source communities (documentation, user groups, writing content) resulting in leadership roles in several communities

Photo by Elke Guembel



Ways you could contribute

The sky is the limit!

“

“Ask not what your ~~country~~ open source project can do for you - ask what you can do for your ~~countrymen~~ open source project.”



Editorial review of pending blog post
Lead a meetup group
Write for the next newsletter
Speak at a conference
Create designs for social media
Create a drip campaign for new Mautic users
Write a Knowledgebase article
Do an SEO audit for *.mautic.org
Update a page on the website
Triage new issues and PRs
Test a bug fix
Review a PR
Create content for pages comparing Mautic to competitors
Write a blog article
Update a page on the docs
Create a design for mautic.org
Create a Google Ads campaign
Create a wireframe for a new feature
Create a download explaining Mautic's features
Project manage a new feature or initiative
Update software on our servers
Help with MautiCon events
Create an outreach campaign
Help someone on the forums

Fix a bug





Finding a project

Deciding where you want to contribute



Three things I look for in a project

1. Cool (to you!)

2. Culture and Community

3. Contribution guide



A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small, round, silver-colored compass. The hand is wearing a brown long-sleeved shirt and several colorful braided bracelets. The background is a blurred green landscape, possibly a forest or a hillside. The image is partially obscured by a white circular shape on the right side of the slide.

Deciding where to contribute.

- What projects are you already using, want to use, or are familiar with/attracted to?
- If you ever see something that could be improved in any open source project, improve it! Spotted a typo or a broken link? Fix it!
- What skills do you have that you would like to use? Make a list of the things that you enjoy doing, and remember, it does not need to be code!





Top tips

- 1.** Ask for help early (but do your research first!)
- 2.** Be clear with your descriptions of what you have done, and how people should review or check your work
- 3.** Consider also helping with reviewing the work of others





Let's get started!

Live contribution time!

Homework!

- 1.** Make a list of the skills that you want to offer to open source communities
- 2.** Find a community that appeals to you, and join the community chat
- 3.** Make your first contribution to open source - and be sure to share it with us on Slack!





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What questions can I answer?

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