

How to start contributing and still have fun

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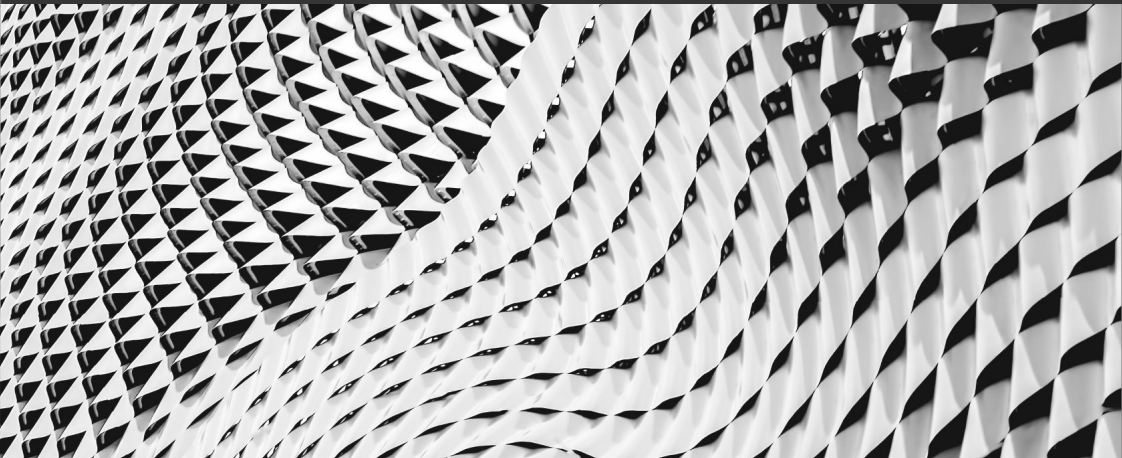
- ▶ Software Quality Engineer
- ▶ 6+ years at Red Hat in Brno, Czech Republic
- ▶ Involved in integration middleware projects:
 - Hawtio, Camel Spring Boot, Camel Quarkus, Camel-K
- ▶ Side projects:
 - Red Hat Summer Camp Brno - an IT camp for high-school students
 - Leading a seminar on Tests in practice at Masaryk University in Brno



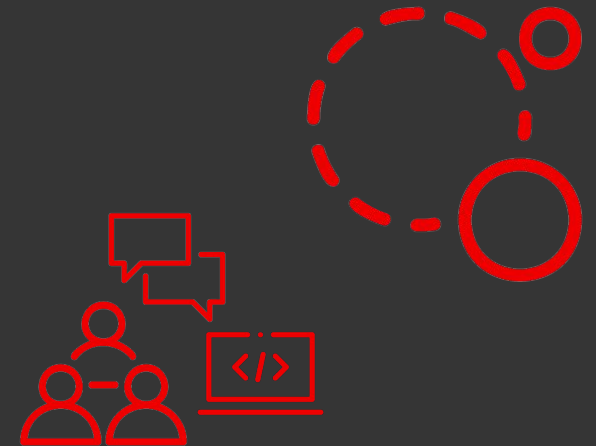
What we'll discuss today

- ▶ What we know about Open Source
- ▶ Best Practices for New Contributors
- ▶ Common Mistakes to Avoid as New Contributors
- ▶ Positive Actions for Community Leaders
- ▶ Essential Tips
- ▶ Q&A

What we know about Open Source



freedom to run, copy, distribute,
study, change and improve the
software



Open Source

Yes

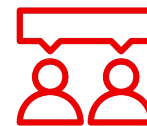
- ▶ What do we mean by Open Source?
- ▶ What first comes to your mind?
- ▶ Is everything so bright and shiny?



Transparency



Community



Collaboration

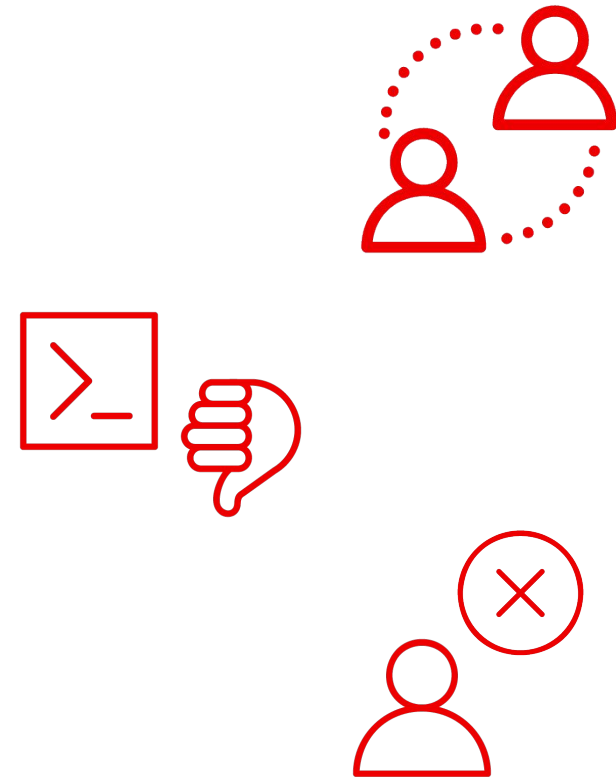


Agility

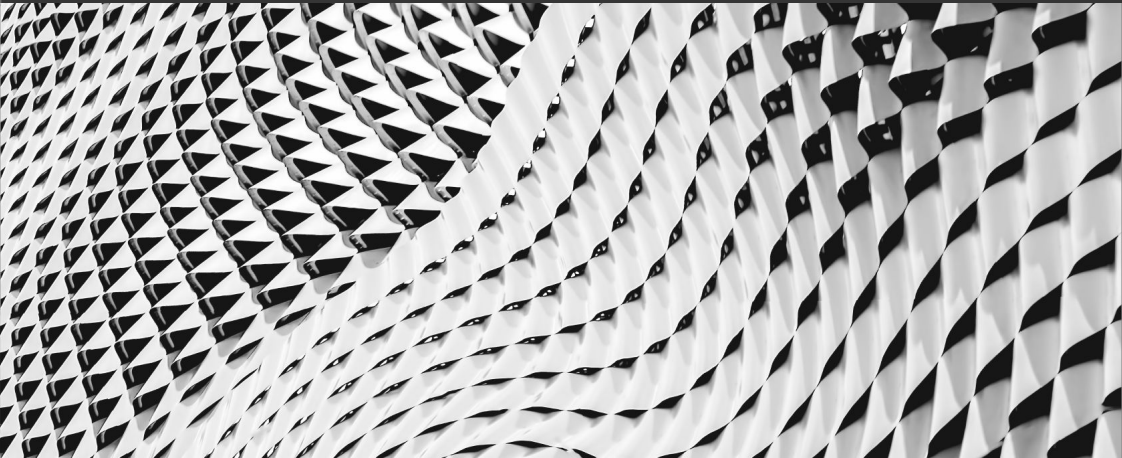
Open Source

but

- ▶ Distance
- ▶ Disruptions
- ▶ Toxicity



Best Practices for New Contributors



If not sure where to start

you can

▶ Pursue your passions

- Look for projects related to tools and topics you actively use and enjoy



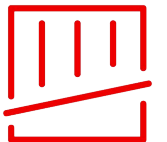
▶ Tackle meaningful challenges

- Focus on solving issues that resonate with you



▶ Aim for growth and pride

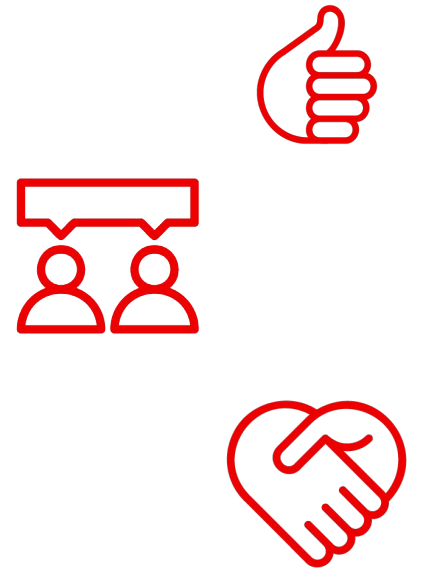
- Choose projects that make you proud of even a small step taken by you regardless of the complexity and size of the project



Before joining a project and community

it's better to

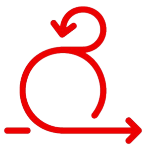
- ▶ Assess the community's behavior and culture
- ▶ Look for signs of a healthy and supportive environment
- ▶ Don't fight but avoid projects with negativity or hostility



Found a great project

but the community is passive and inactive

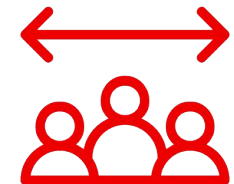
- ▶ Take initiative
 - Start motivating and promoting engagement within the community
- ▶ Contribute actively
 - Lead by example and encourage others to participate
- ▶ Identify motivations
 - Understand that inactivity may stem from a lack of reasons to contribute
- ▶ Consider a fresh start if efforts don't yield results



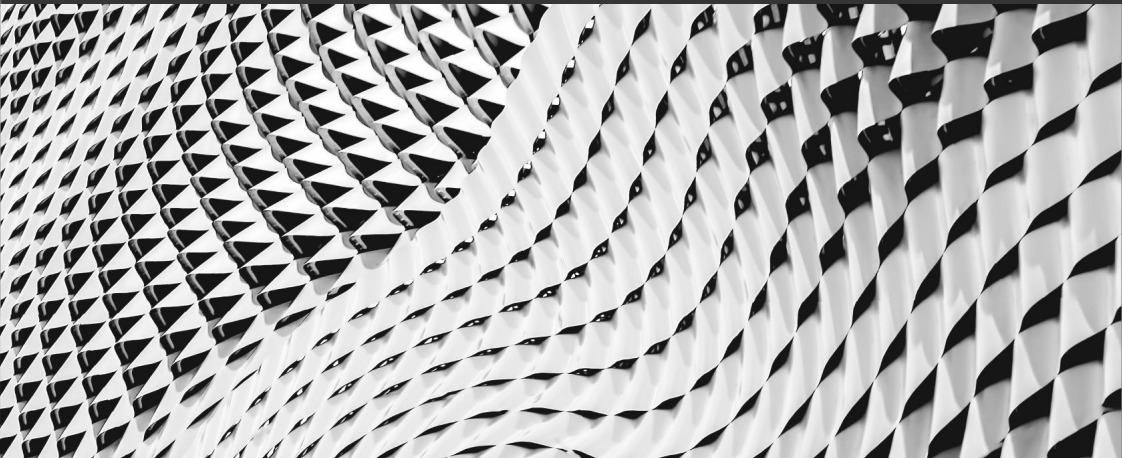
Start a new project

so make it open from the beginning

- ▶ **Fosters collaboration**
 - Encourages contributions from a diverse range of individuals from the start
- ▶ **Enhances innovation**
 - Leads to fresh ideas and innovative solutions
- ▶ **Builds a supportive community**
 - Leads to faster progress and problem solving
- ▶ **Improves project quality**
 - Early feedback and diverse perspectives



Common Mistakes to Avoid as New Contributors



There can be various rules set by communities

and common mistakes of new contributors can be related to

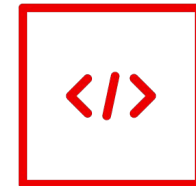
▶ Documentation

- Not following a contribution guidelines
- Not checking FAQs



▶ Issues and Pull Requests

- Messing up several things in one
- Not checking if it already exists/resolved/closed/rejected
- Ignoring templates

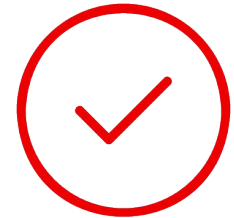


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▶ Tests

- Not writing tests
- Ignoring test results

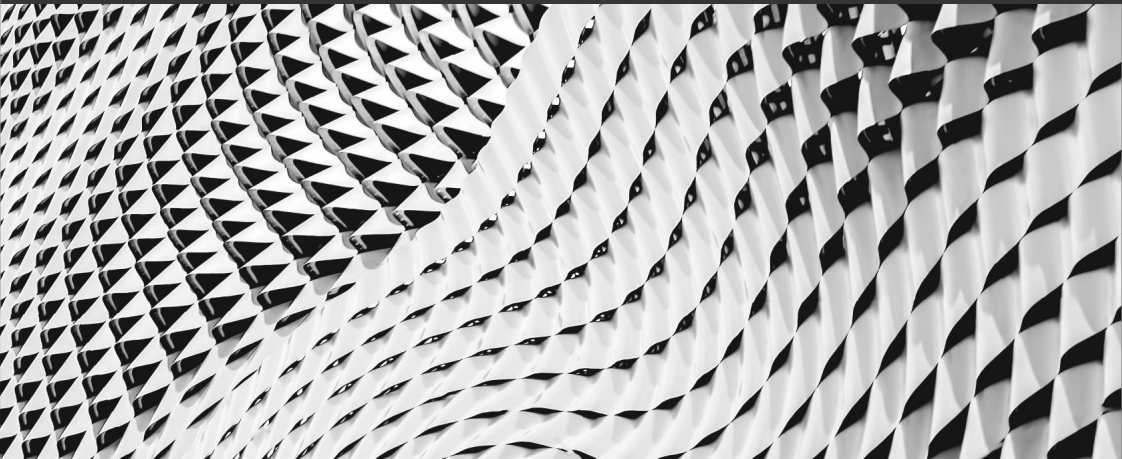


▶ Communication

- Ignoring feedback
- Work without approval
- Not making friends



Positive Actions for Community Leaders



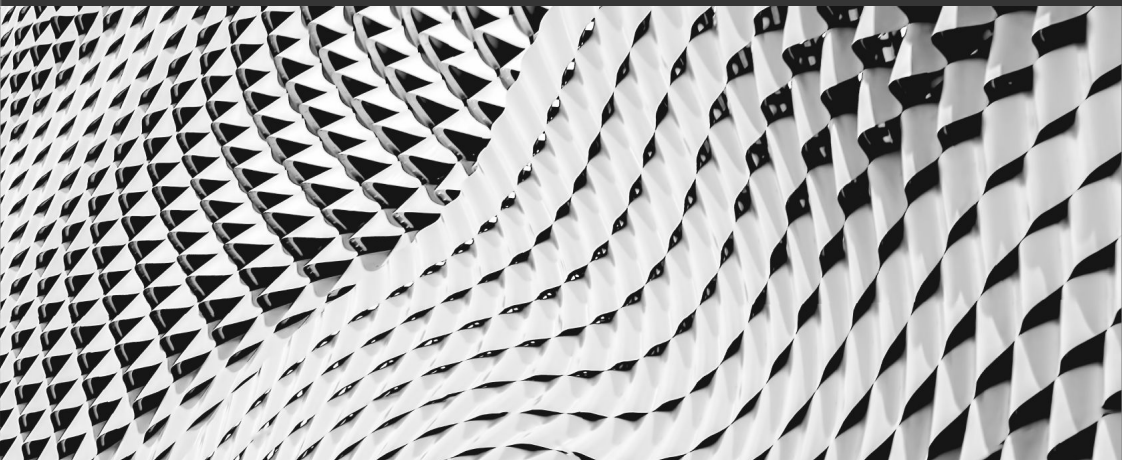
As community leaders

what you can do for new contributors

- ▶ Mark issues with labels (e.g. beginner, easy, good-for-beginners, good-first-issue, etc.)
- ▶ Make sure contribution guidelines and FAQs are clear and up to date
- ▶ Offer assistance (e.g. peers for newcomers)
- ▶ Provide feedback that will motivate a person to grow and not leave the project
- ▶ Be patient, everyone makes mistakes and learns



Essential Tips



Remember to

- ▶ **Embrace continuous improvement**
 - Seek opportunities to enhance code, projects, the community, and yourself
- ▶ **Balance humility and confidence**
 - Be assertive in sharing ideas
 - but remain open to feedback and possibility of being wrong
- ▶ **Prioritize your well-being**
 - Take care of your personal life and health



*“Don't be afraid to contribute, to suggest ideas and to make mistakes. **We all have been there.**”*

- my friend, colleague and excellent engineer Otavio Piske

Q&A

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