

Contributing to open source: Taking your first (empathetic) step

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Contact info

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Hello!

I'm Matt.

I have several open source projects with millions of downloads.

But more importantly...

I'm proud of my open-source projects and the people they've helped.

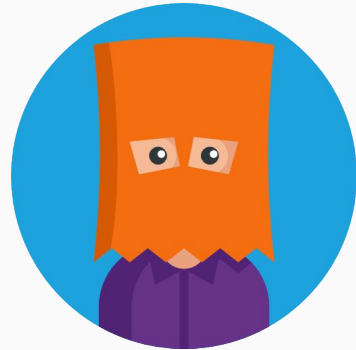


Today's theme

Open-source software can be daunting.

Software developer + performing in front of people?!

Why? Where do you even start?



Starting with why

Old but relevant: *How great leaders inspire action [TED]*
(link: <https://go.mattj.io/TED-why>)

Let's ignore the “open-source” part for a moment.

Why would I make ~~open-source~~ software?




Background on me

Three open-source milestones:

- My first open-source project
- My first impactful open-source project
- My first company open-source project



My first open-source project

 **devadvantage** Update README.md with correct domain 8aa13df on Sep 19, 2020 36 commits

CS1501	Copyright by name	11 years ago
CS1550	Updated with CS1555, CS1652 projects	9 years ago
CS1555	Updated with CS1555, CS1652 projects	9 years ago
CS1635	Fixed Assignment4	9 years ago
CS1652	Updated with CS1555, CS1652 projects	9 years ago
CS1653/Homework1-Spring2013	Added CS1655 and CS1653.	9 years ago
CS1655/project1-Spring2013_movie...	Added CS1655 and CS1653.	9 years ago
CS401	Copyright by name	11 years ago
CS445	CS447 and CS445	10 years ago
CS447	CS7 and CS445	10 years ago
CS449	mj7_3 explanation	10 years ago
CS7	CS447 and CS445	10 years ago
LICENSE	Added README.md and LICENSE	7 years ago
README.md	Update README.md with correct domain	2 years ago

☰ README.md

Basic Computer Science Coding

Repo of the projects I did as a Computer Science student at the University of Pittsburgh.


Description

This is a repo containing nearly all of the projects I did as a Computer Science student at the University of Pittsburgh. Many of these projects covered fundamental topics that are critical for any coder, so I wanted to provide them as examples and possible starting points for any project.

They are (generally) written in Java or C, and may be complete programs, or merely code snippets.

Note: I have moved this repo from Google Code on 2015-09-03, as Google Code shut down. This repo was originally hosted [here](#).

My first impactful open-source project

 devadvantage Updated the README 525e1a5 on Nov 19, 2016 7 commits

src/com/devadvantage/smsbackupread...	Recoded using Eclipse. Properly separates UI and functionality. Match...	7 years ago
.gitignore	Recoded using Eclipse. Properly separates UI and functionality. Match...	7 years ago
LICENSE	Recoded using Eclipse. Properly separates UI and functionality. Match...	7 years ago
README.md	Updated the README	5 years ago

☰ README.md

SMS Backup Reader

What is this

SMS Backup Reader is a simple PC/Mac/*nix program designed to read the XML backup files produced by the Android app [SMS Backup & Restore](#) from [Ritesh](#).

SMS Backup Reader is a Java-based program, which means it can work anywhere that Java SE is supported.

Check <http://mattj.io/sms-backup-reader/> for the latest high-level updates.

How to download

You can download the latest release here: [Latest release](#)

How to use SMS Backup Reader


You can check the GitHub wiki page for [How to use SMS Backup Reader](#)

This Java program is designed to read the XML backup files produced by the Android app SMS Backup & Restore by Ritesh. Works on any Java-supported platform (Windows, OS X, Linux, etc.).

Copyright 2013-2016+ Matt Joseph (devadvantage) Licensed as GPLv3. See LICENSE for more information.

GitHub: <https://go.mattj.io/smsbackupreader>

My first company open-source project


 BNYMellon / CodeKatas




[↔ Code](#) [🔗 Pull requests 0](#) [📊 Insights](#)

BNY Mellon Code Katas

[🕒 1 commit](#) [🌿 1 branch](#) [🏷️ 0 rele](#)

Branch: **master** ▾ [New pull request](#)

 **donraab** First open source commit for BNY Mellon Code Katas

-  [CalendarKata](#) First open source commit for BNY Mellon
-  [CodePointKata](#) First open source commit for BNY Mellon
-  [DeckOfCardsKata](#) First open source commit for BNY Mellon

In essence: many reasons to write software!

- Make an existing problem easier to solve
- Help solve a new problem
- Learn something
- See if it's possible to make something (my favorite reason!)
- And so many other reasons!




Okay, but why add that “open-source” part?





My favorite:

It creates the space for others to use or improve upon your work in ways you **may not have imagined.**



Back to this project

 devadvnce Updated the README 525e1a5 on Nov 19, 2016 7 commits

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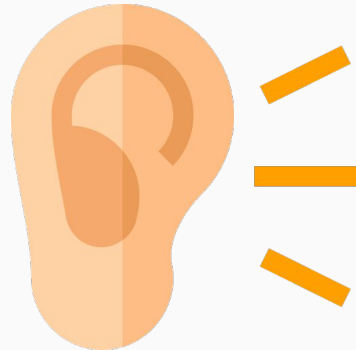
Copyright 2013-2016+ Matt Joseph (devadvnce) Licensed as GPLv3. See LICENSE for more information.

The (unexpected) empathy of open source

Matt: I just wanted to tell you that thanks to your SMS Backup Reader I was finally able - after hours of trying - to open and archive a download of my final text conversations with my brother who died last October. Was so frustrated until I found your site. So, THANK YOU.

Most importantly...

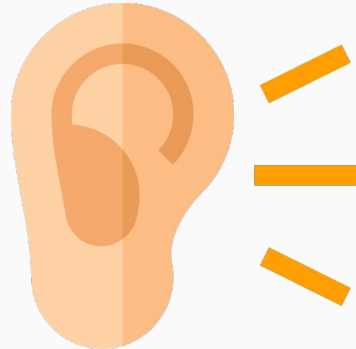
Open source is not just shouting into the void.



Most importantly...

Open source is not just shouting into the void.

You can make a difference.



Now, where to begin?

Anywhere! (didn't you see my CS homework on that other slide?!)

Two categories of open-source work:

- Contributing to an existing open-source project
- Creating a new open-source project

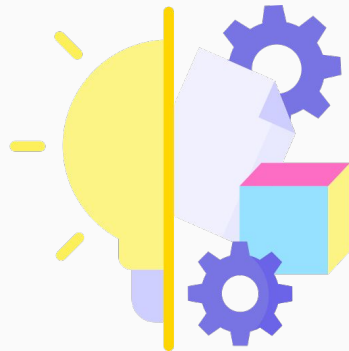


Contributing to an existing project

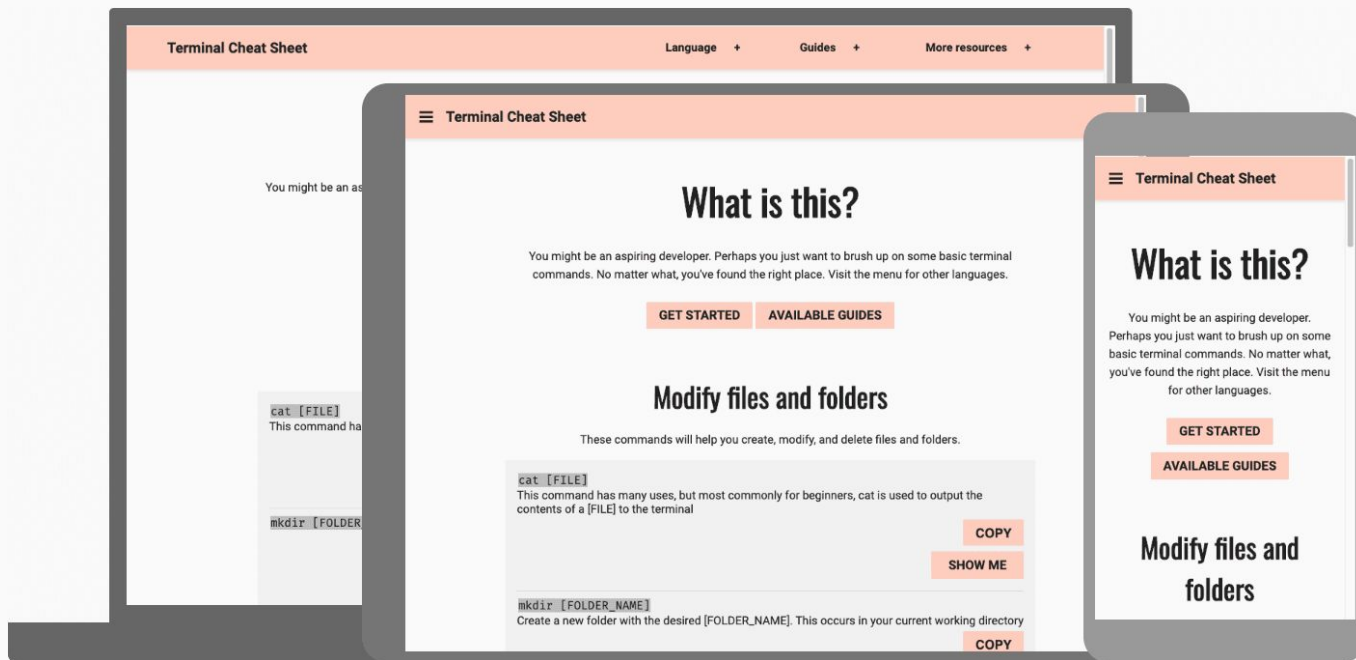
Contributing can take many forms, including:

- Adding translations/localizations
- Fixing minor issues
- Creating documentation and assets
- Checking new releases
- Testing on new devices/configurations/etc.
- Taking on new features (e.g., tagged with `help wanted`)

Contributing != writing new code, unless you want it to.



Personal example: translation contributions



Personal example: translation contributions

Eight languages supported. Without the community, it would only have **three**.



Community translations via DigitalOcean Hacktoberfest

Fix navigation guide ✓ hacktoberfest-accepted		1
#145 by animaro was merged on Oct 6, 2020 • Approved ↗ 2 of 6 tasks		
Create a Portuguese translation of the navigate terminal guide (#106) ✓ hacktoberfest-accepted	1	1
#144 by animaro was merged on Oct 6, 2020 • Approved ↗ 3 of 6 tasks		
Adds portuguese translation of the web server guide ✓ hacktoberfest-accepted	1	1
#142 by mihmilcio was merged on Oct 6, 2020 • Approved ↗ 3 of 6 tasks		
English to telgu/manishkrjha ✓ hacktoberfest-accepted		2
#141 by manishkrjha was merged on Oct 6, 2020 • Approved ↗ 2 of 6 tasks		
Clean up the YAML files and standardize a bit ✓		
#140 by devadvance was merged on Oct 5, 2020 • Review required ↗ 3 of 6 tasks		
Added Indonesia translation for the curl rest API guide ✓ hacktoberfest-accepted	1	1
#139 by Aldhanea was merged on Oct 5, 2020 • Approved ↗ 1 of 6 tasks		
Added hindi translation for the curl API rest guide ✓ hacktoberfest-accepted	1	6
#138 by IMPrimpri was merged on Oct 5, 2020 • Approved ↗ 6 tasks		
Add Indonesian translation of the open terminal guide ✓ hacktoberfest-accepted	1	1
#137 by ilesmana was merged on Oct 4, 2020 • Approved ↗ 2 of 6 tasks		
Reconcile two pt translations ✓		
#136 by devadvance was merged on Oct 4, 2020 • Review required		
Adds Telugu translations for commands in basic.yml and files.yml, and for guide navigate-terminal.md ✓ hacktoberfest-accepted	2	3
#135 by shanmukhialasamuudram was merged on Oct 5, 2020 • Approved ↗ 6 tasks		
Removed items that fail AMP validation ✗		
#134 by devadvance was merged on Oct 4, 2020 • Review required		
translation of added portuguese files (files.yml and guide-index.yml) ✗ hacktoberfest-accepted		1
#133 by RafaelLopes was merged on Oct 4, 2020 • Approved ↗ 2 of 6 tasks		
add Portuguese translations for files.yml ✓ hacktoberfest-accepted	1	1
#132 by rihison was merged on Oct 4, 2020 • Approved ↗ 3 of 6 tasks		
Adds french translation for curl rest api guide ✓ hacktoberfest-accepted	1	2
#131 by ArnolFokam was merged on Oct 4, 2020 • Approved ↗ 3 of 6 tasks		
Add French translation for navigate-terminal.md ✓ hacktoberfest-accepted	1	5
#130 by iamlordutkarsh was merged on Oct 4, 2020 • Approved ↗ 2 of 6 tasks		
Add Hindi translation for basic-web-server-macos-linux.md ✓ hacktoberfest-accepted	1	1
#129 by Nishith22004 was merged on Oct 4, 2020 • Approved ↗ 3 of 6 tasks		
Add Indonesian translation of the basic web server guide ✓ hacktoberfest-accepted	1	1
#128 by AjArya was merged on Oct 4, 2020 • Approved ↗ 1 of 6 tasks		

Project info: <https://github.com/devadvance/terminalcheatsheet/pulls>

More projects to translate

Many other projects need translations.

https://translatewiki.net/wiki/Category:Supported_projects

<https://translationproject.org/domain/index.html>

And many more!



Personal example: contributing assets

Additional macro images and image paths #2

Merged doodboard merged 3 commits into doodboard:main from devadvantage:main on Dec 19, 2020

Conversation 1 Commits 3 Checks 0 Files changed 4



devadvantage commented on Dec 19, 2020

Contributor ...

Thanks for putting this guide together! I found your guidance on Discord extremely helpful, so I'm interested in contributing.

This PR:

- Adds macro images to (hopefully) provide an even clearer view of what the solder joints look like for some components. These seem like reasonably good examples of joints, but a second opinion would be helpful.
- Changes the image paths to be relative so that the README uses the images from the current branch/fork, rather than always referring to the published guide.

devadvantage added 3 commits 16 months ago

- Change the image URLs to be relative. 687e8c6
- Add macro images of parts of the soldering process. 54b9389
- Merge remote-tracking branch 'upstream/main' into main 47fd1aa

doodboard merged commit f36834e into doodboard:main on Dec 19, 2020



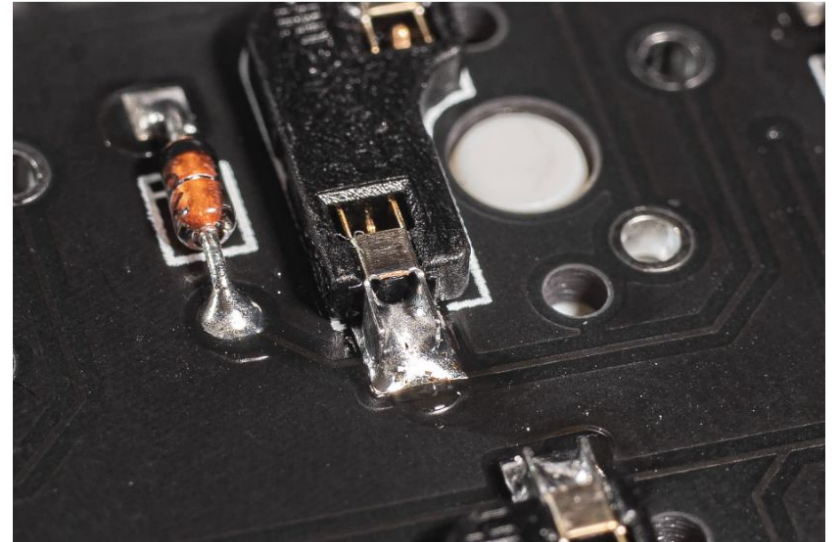
doodboard commented on Dec 19, 2020

Owner ...

Awesome! As you probably realised, I'm not really good with github beyond the very basic functionality. Thank you so much for the help!

Depending on if you would like to use duckboard as **full tu macropad**, or as **standard numpad**, you should solder your hotswap sockets **accordingly**.

Here is an up-close image of what a soldered hotswap socket looks like:



Personal example: quick UI improvement

Show which tile is currently selected #5

Merged victorqribeiro merged 1 commit into victorqribeiro:master from devadvnce:active-tile on Dec 31, 2019

Conversation 2 Commits 1 Checks 0 Files changed 2

devadvnce commented on Dec 31, 2019 Contributor ...
This is a small bit of (rough) code that shows a dashed border around the currently active tool.

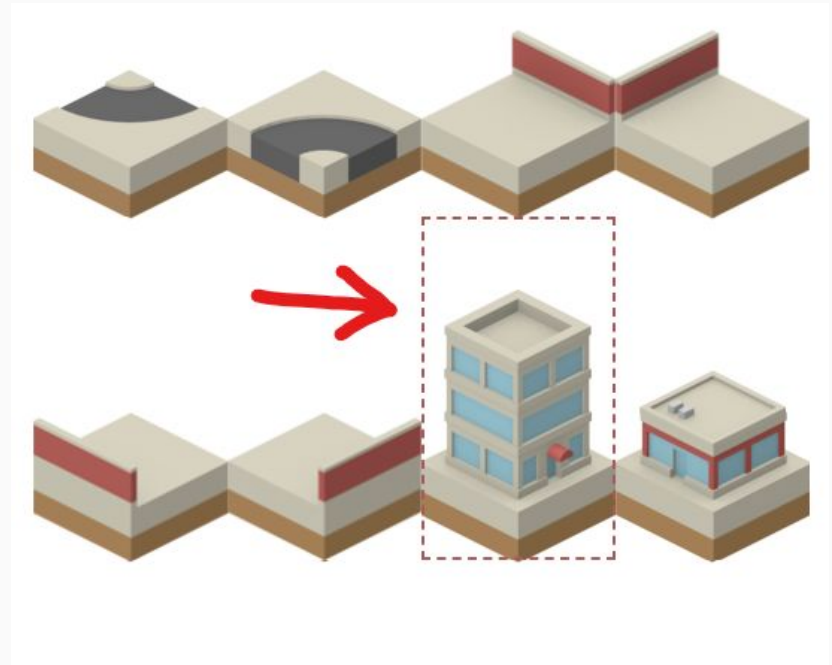
Show which tile is currently selected d33d6f9

victorqribeiro merged commit 1c209e8 into victorqribeiro:master on Dec 31, 2019

victorqribeiro commented on Jan 2, 2020 Owner ...
@all-contributors please add @devadvnce for Design

allcontributors (bot) mentioned this pull request on Jan 2, 2020
docs: add devadvnce as a contributor #18 Closed

allcontributors (bot) commented on Jan 2, 2020 Contributor ...
@victorqribeiro
I've put up a pull request to add @devadvnce! 🐛



Another place to start: good-first-issue

<https://github.com/topics/good-first-issue>

good-first-issue

Here are 533 public repositories matching this topic...

Language: All ▼

Sort: Best match ▼

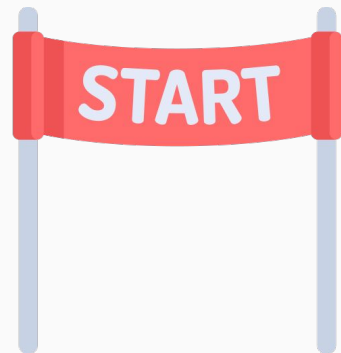
Creating a new project

This one is a bit more challenging, but places like GitHub make it easy.

Two great places to start:

- Solve a problem that you have
- Use it as a creative outlet

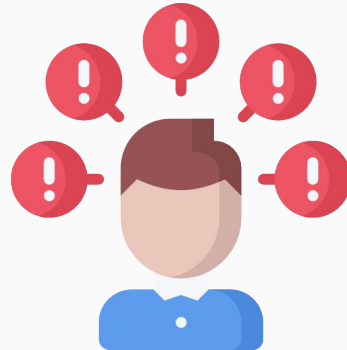
(yes, technically the second one solves a problem: branding)



Solve a problem that you have

What do you need to do, for which there isn't a great piece of software?

In my case, it was reading text message backups on a computer.

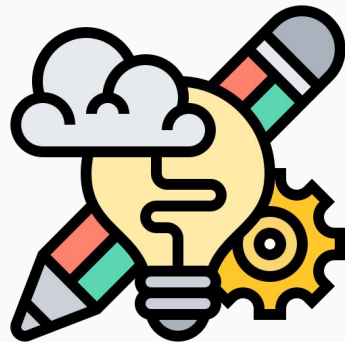


Use it as a creative outlet

Software is a form of creativity. It's art!

A great place to start in open source is your digital sketchpad. Examples:

- A new SVG/CSS loading animation
- A script that does a cool video transform using FFmpeg
- Share your terminal personalization (anyone use zsh here?)



Steps from here

- Create your GitHub account
- Think about contributing versus creating
- Don't think too much
- And just try something



Unexpected benefits

So this might not be enough to convince you. But wait! Remember this:

It creates the space for others to use or improve upon your work in ways you may not have imagined.



Questions?



Related posts and references

The unexpected empathy of open source

Open source software as a public good

Icons used on these slides under the Premium Flaticon License.

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