Why People Don’t Contribute To Your Open Source Project

@MikeMcQuaid
Mike McQuaid
Lead Maintainer (2009-18)
twitter.com/MikeMcQuaid
Mike McQuaid
Senior Engineer (2013-18)
github.com/MikeMcQuaid
open-sourced
has users
🚫 has contributors
🚫 has maintainers
why does no-one contribute to my project?

😭

@MikeMcQuaid
why does no-one buy my product?

😭

@MikeMcQuaid
(maybe it’s bad)
✅ product created
✅ product used
🚫 sales call made
🚫 product bought
group
funnel
upsell
retain

@MikeMcQuaid
group

@MikeMcQuaid
why are they interacting with your project?

@MikeMcQuaid
users

@MikeMcQuaid
contributors
maintainers
funnel

@MikeMcQuaid
no-one ever became a contributor without being a user first
no-one ever became a maintainer without being a user

@MikeMcQuaid
no-one excels as a maintainer without remaining a user

@MikeMcQuaid
leads
prospects
sales

@MikeMcQuaid
users

contributors

maintainers

@MikeMcQuaid
upsell
most maintainers were talked into it
@HFuessler Brew update fails with permission denied (publickey). Could this be related to 10.11.4? Please advise on where to get help.

@HFuessler Please open an issue at github.com/Homebrew/brew/… and we’ll try to get you back up and running. ^t

7:51 PM - 5 Apr 2016
To help us debug this issue can you explain:

- What you were trying to do (and why)
- What happened
- What you expected to happen
- Step-by-step reproduction instructions (with as minimal input data as possible)
@MikeMcQuaid commented just now

Could you try and open a pull request? **This document** should help and I'm happy to walk you through anything else.

Thanks!

@MikeMcQuaid
How To Open a Homebrew Pull Request (and get it merged)

The following commands are used by Homebrew contributors to set up a fork of Homebrew's Git repository on GitHub, create a new branch and create a GitHub pull request ("PR") of the changes in that branch.

Depending on the change you want to make, you need to send the pull request to the appropriate one of Homebrew's main repositories. If you want to submit a change to Homebrew core code (the `brew` implementation), you should open the pull request on Homebrew/brew. If you want to submit a change for a formula, you should open the pull request on the `homebrew/core` tap or another official tap, based on the formula type.

Set up your own fork of the Homebrew repository

Core `brew` code related pull request

1. Fork the Homebrew/brew repository on GitHub.
   - This creates a personal remote repository that you can push to. This is needed because only Homebrew maintainers have push access to the main repositories.
New Maintainer Checklist

This is a guide used by existing maintainers to invite new maintainers. You might find it interesting but there's nothing here users should have to know.

So, there's someone who has been making consistently high-quality contributions to Homebrew for a long time and shown themselves able to make slightly more advanced contributions than just e.g. formula updates? Let's invite them to be a maintainer!

First, send them the invitation email:

The Homebrew team and I really appreciate your help on issues, pull requests and your contributions around $THEIR_CONTRIBUTIONS.

We would like to invite you to have commit access. There are no obligations, but we'd appreciate your continuing help in keeping on top of contributions.

A few requests:
retain 🙋
do you have a (very) leaky funnel?
users

💰 high quality
😢 no guilt merges
🏗 no v2.0
contributors

- 🚳 no bike shedding
- ☎ open discussions
- 🗝️ no feature issues

@MikeMcQuaid
maintainers

💖 code of conduct

🔒 private chat

🌳 always growing

@MikeMcQuaid
group
funnel
upsell
retain

@MikeMcQuaid
why does everyone contribute to my project?

@MikeMcQuaid
questions?

@MikeMcQuaid