

Table of Contents

- Open Source Contribution Guide Template** 3
- Open Source Contribution Guide** 5
 - Table of Contents** 6
 - Getting Started** 6
 - Code of Conduct** 6
 - How to Contribute** 6
 - Reporting Issues 6
 - Submitting Code 6
 - Writing Tests 7
 - Project Structure** 7
 - Style Guide** 7
 - Resources** 7
 - Acknowledgements** 7

Open Source Contribution Guide Template

What is Open Source Contribution Guide Template?

Open Source Contribution Guide Template

A contribution guide template for open-source projects helps new contributors understand how to contribute effectively, reducing barriers and increasing the number of contributions. This template outlines a comprehensive guide on contributing to your project.

Table of Contents

1. [Introduction](#introduction)
2. [Getting Started](#getting-started)
3. [Code Contributions](#code-contributions)
4. [Documentation Contributions](#documentation-contributions)
5. [Reporting Issues](#reporting-issues)
6. [Review Process](#review-process)
7. [Communication Channels](#communication-channels)

Introduction

Welcome to our open-source project! We're excited to have you on board and appreciate your interest in contributing to our community.

Getting Started

Before contributing, please:

- **Familiarize yourself with the project:** Read the documentation, explore the codebase, and understand the project's goals and scope.
- **Set up a development environment:** Install the necessary tools and dependencies to work on the project.
- **Join our community:** Participate in discussions on our communication channels (see below) to get a feel for our community.

Code Contributions

If you're interested in contributing code, please:

1. **Choose an issue or feature:** Select an open issue or propose a new feature to work on.
2. **Create a branch:** Use the ``git checkout -b <branch-name>`` command to create a new branch for your changes.
3. **Make changes:** Implement your changes and test them thoroughly.
4. **Commit changes:** Follow our commit guidelines (see below) when committing your code.
5. **Submit a pull request:** Use the ``git push`` command to push your changes to the remote repository, then submit a pull request.

Commit Guidelines

- **Use a clear and concise commit message:** Describe the changes you made and why.
- **Follow our coding style:** Adhere to our project's coding conventions (e.g., naming conventions, indentation).

Documentation Contributions

If you're interested in contributing documentation, please:

1. **Choose an area of focus:** Select a specific aspect of the project that needs improvement.
2. **Create a branch:** Use the ``git checkout -b <branch-name>`` command to create a new branch for your changes.
3. **Make changes:** Update or add documentation as needed, following our documentation style (see below).
4. **Commit changes:** Follow our commit guidelines when committing your code.
5. **Submit a pull request:** Use the ``git push`` command to push your changes to the remote repository, then submit a pull request.

Reporting Issues

If you encounter any issues while contributing or using our project:

1. **Check existing issues:** Search for similar issues on our issue tracker.
2. **Create a new issue:** If you can't find an existing issue related to your problem, create a new one with as much detail as possible.

Review Process

All code and documentation contributions will undergo a review process before being merged into the main branch:

1. **Code reviews:** Our team members will review your code for quality, adherence to our

coding conventions, and overall impact.

2. **Documentation reviews:** Our documentation maintainers will review your changes to ensure they align with our project's style and accuracy.

Communication Channels

To stay in touch and get help:

- **Mailing list:** Join our mailing list for announcements, discussions, and support questions.
- **Issue tracker:** Report issues, track progress, and engage with other contributors on our issue tracker.
- **Chat room:** Participate in our chat room (e.g., Slack, Discord) for real-time conversations.

By following this guide, you'll be well on your way to becoming an active contributor to our open-source project. We're excited to see what you can bring!

Example Use Case

Suppose a new contributor wants to contribute code to the project's feature branch. They:

1. Choose an issue or feature: Select the "Improve user authentication" issue.
2. Create a branch: Use `git checkout -b improve-authentication``.
3. Make changes: Implement their changes and test them thoroughly.
4. Commit changes: Follow our commit guidelines, with a clear and concise message describing their changes.
5. Submit a pull request: Push their changes to the remote repository and submit a pull request for review.

Commit Guidelines Example

```
```markdown feat: improve user authentication
```

```
- Fixed bug causing incorrect login credentials - Improved error handling for failed logins - Updated documentation with new authentication flow ```
```

This example follows our commit guidelines, providing a clear and concise description of the changes made.

[template](#)

# Open Source Contribution Guide

Welcome to our project! We're excited to have you here. This guide will help you understand how to contribute to our project effectively.

# Table of Contents

- [Getting Started](#)
- [Code of Conduct](#)
- [How to Contribute](#)
  - [Reporting Issues](#)
  - [Submitting Code](#)
  - [Writing Tests](#)
- [Project Structure](#)
- [Style Guide](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Acknowledgements](#)

## Getting Started

1. **Fork the Repository:** Click the fork button at the top right corner of this repository.
2. **Clone your Fork:** Clone your forked repository to your local machine. `bash git clone https://github.com/your-username/project-name.git`
3. **Install Dependencies:** Follow the instructions in the `README.md` to set up the project and install any necessary dependencies.

## Code of Conduct

Please read and follow our [Code of Conduct](#) to ensure a welcoming environment for all contributors.

## How to Contribute

### Reporting Issues

If you find a bug or have a feature request, please open an issue in the [Issues](#) section. When reporting an issue, please provide:

- A clear description of the problem or suggestion.
- Steps to reproduce (if applicable).
- Screenshots (if applicable).

### Submitting Code

1. **Create a New Branch:** Always create a new branch for your changes. `bash git checkout -b your-feature-branch`
2. **Make Your Changes:** Implement your feature or fix a bug.

3. **Commit Your Changes:** Write meaningful commit messages. `bash git commit -m "Add a descriptive commit message"`
4. **Push to Your Fork:** `bash git push origin your-feature-branch`
5. **Open a Pull Request:** Go to the original repository and click on "New Pull Request". Explain your changes and link any relevant issues.

## Writing Tests

We encourage you to write tests for your code. Follow the project's testing conventions and ensure all tests pass.

## Project Structure

Here's a brief overview of the project structure:

```
/ |— src/ # Source code |— tests/ # Test cases |— docs/ # Documentation |— README.md # Project overview and setup guide
```

## Style Guide

Please follow our style guide outlined in `STYLE_GUIDE.md` to ensure consistency throughout the codebase.

## Resources

- [Git Documentation](#)
- [GitHub Documentation](#)
- [Open Source Guides](#)

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all our contributors and everyone who has supported the project. Your help is invaluable to us!

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