

Contributing to Open Source Projects



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Contributing Agenda

- Learning about a Project
- Using a Project
- Joining Project's Community
- Becoming Contributor
- Q/A

Learning about a Project

- WebSite
 - > <http://www.netbeans.org/community>
- Getting the sources
 - > `cvs co nbbuild; ant -f nbbuild/build.xml checkout`
- Reading documentation
 - > <http://platform.netbeans.org>
- Playing with the project
 - > download NetBeans IDE

Using a Project

- Build sources
 - > `ant -f nbbuild/build.xml build`
- Running
 - > `ant -f nbbuild/build.xml tryme`
- Patching
 - > enough to build the affected module
 - > `cd core/windows; ant clean netbeans`
- Use support from some IDE

Joining Project's Community

- Subscribe to mailing lists
 - > <http://www.netbeans.org/community>
 - > answer questions
- Report bugs and patches
 - > find issue tracking systems
 - > learn about release cycles
 - > insist on bugs being fixed
- Become known in the community
 - > asking questions & showing progress

Becoming Contributor

- Writing Tutorials
- Fixing on enhancing wiki
 - > <http://wiki.netbeans.org>
- Answering on mailing list
- Spreading the Word
 - > blogging
- Engineers Contribute Code

Engineers Contribute Code

- Building Applications
 - > converting apps to NetBeans
 - > building on top of Platform or IDE
 - > no quality criteria
 - > no release cycles
 - > sandbox at <http://contrib.netbeans.org>
- Publishing via Autoupdate
 - > Plugin Portal: <http://plugins.netbeans.org>
 - > publish from contrib

Engineers Contribute Code II

- Fixing Bugs
 - > there is always enough bugs
 - > fastest way to learn about a project
 - > fixing the right module
 - > quality criteria
 - > review in issuezilla
 - > hunting module owner to apply the fix
 - > not too many release cycle issues
 - > continuous builds
 - > <http://deadlock.netbeans.org>

DEMO

- Sample bug fix

Engineers Contribute Code III

- Architecture Changes
 - > open API Review process
 - > <http://openide.netbeans.org/tutorial/reviews/>
 - > fast vs. standard review
 - > need for a test case
 - > proper documentation
 - > <http://openide.netbeans.org/tutorial/api.html>
 - > updating module versions
 - > heavily influenced by schedule

What is an API?

- Public vs. implementation packages
- Extension points
 - > lookup registrations and discovery
 - > Layer registrations and reading
- Properties and Env variables
- Localization messages
- Files being read
- Open sockets

DEMO

- Suggesting an API change

Conclusion

- Know your project
- Engineers write code
 - > on top
 - > patches
 - > architecture changes
- Deal with the community
- Select your Exam Project