



**Foundation for Public Code**

# Common collaboration conundrums

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# Caveats and disclaimers

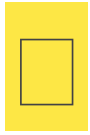
no names

not from the codebases we work with

# Format



Why do people do this



Why is it harmful



How to repair



How to avoid in the first place

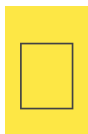
# Oddball

not publishing the code at all

# Not saying that you want people to collaborate with you



Often not intentional



People may be confused



Be explicit

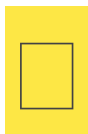


Be explicit

# Not saying what kind of contributions that you like



Everybody already knows



Newcomers have no idea



Figure out what you want/need

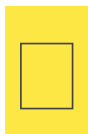


Create a CONTRIBUTING file

# Use multiple issue trackers, and not all of them are public



Enables privacy



Development is opaque



Move to public spaces

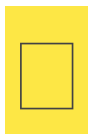


Don't use private issue trackers

# Don't write detailed documentation



Those who need to know, know



Self-fulfilling prophecy



Add documentation



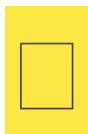
Add documentation



# Use jargon and abbreviations



If you don't know, it's not for you



Miss newcomers and non-code



Expand and simplify

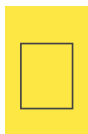


Use plain language and links

# Unclear licensing



Postpone the decision



Deterrent and unclarity



Select license ASAP

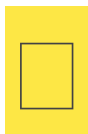


First thing done in a repository

# Unclear governance



Boring, let's work instead



Organizations care



Describe reality

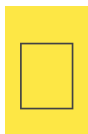


Think through, state ambition

# No code of conduct



We are small, who cares?



Not welcoming to all



Add one, see templates

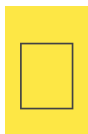


Add one, see templates

# Requiring access to proprietary software to run it



May require a lot of work



Hinders contributions and reuse



Look for alternatives

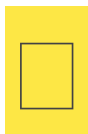


Use FOSS all the way

# Letting contributions go unacknowledged for a long time



You are busy, really busy



Demotivating



Say when you will follow up



Manage expectations early



<https://standard.publiccode.net>

# Foundation for Public Code

provides **tools and processes**  
bringing **humans** in **institutions** together  
to **collaboratively** build and maintain  
**software as public infrastructure.**





# Thanks! 🙏

Companion notes can be found on:

<https://blog.publiccode.net/news/2023/04/24/common-collaboration-conundrums.html>

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