

Individual Contributor Guide

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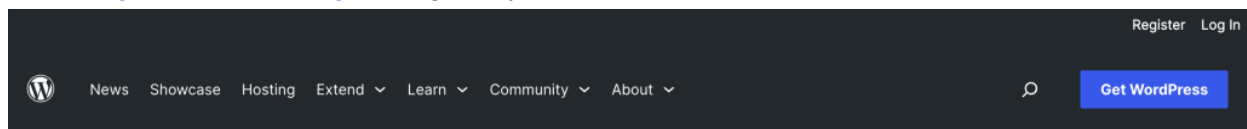
Optional:

- Finding sponsorship for your contributions
- Become a full-time contributor?

How to pledge

1. Log in to WordPress.org

Click the “Log in” link in the top right corner of the WordPress.org header, or visit <https://login.wordpress.org/>, to log into your user account.

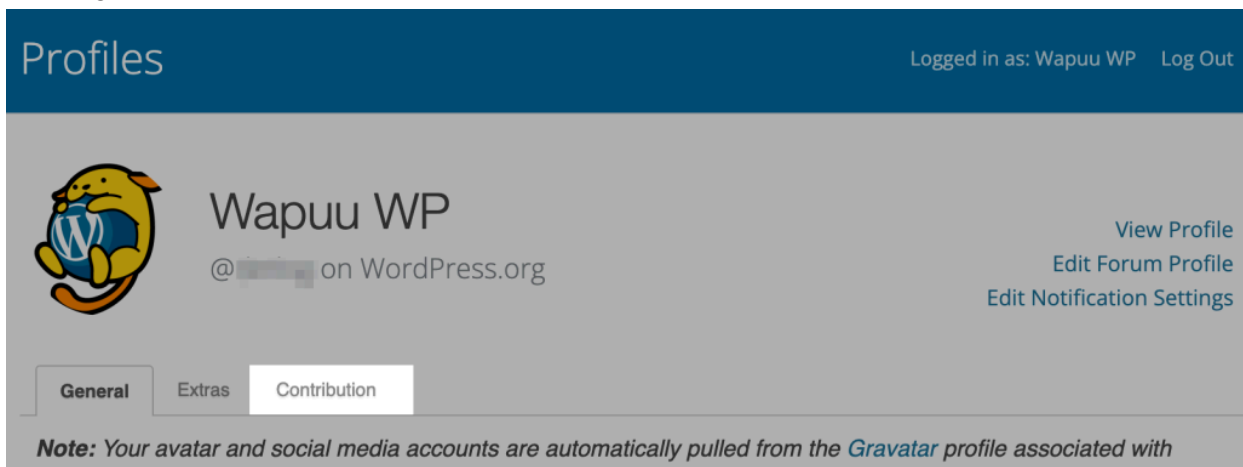


2. Access your profile

Hover the header icon to find the “Edit Profile” link. Alternatively, visit <https://profiles.wordpress.org/me> and find the edit link.



3. Navigate to the "Contribution" tab



4. Fill out your contribution details, then save your changes

5. Visit your public profile to verify the information

That's it! If you know how to contribute to WordPress, keep up the good work!

If you're new to WordPress and need help getting started, use our [interactive questionnaire](#) to figure out where to get started!

First Steps for Contributing

1. Register and Set Up Your WordPress.org Profile

Have your team [create accounts at WordPress.org](#) and complete their profile, including their bio and interests.

2. Join the WordPress Slack Channel

Then, they can connect with the community by [joining the WordPress Slack workspace](#) to stay updated on discussions and opportunities.

3. Pick a Contribution Area

Work with them to [choose an area](#) of interest, such as development, design, documentation, translation, or community support, and learn how they can start contributing to it.

4. Complete a New Contributor Orientation

Take advantage of [contributor team orientation resources or training session videos](#) to understand how to contribute effectively. There are

5. Pick a Small Task

Begin with a small, manageable project to get familiar with the contribution process and make your initial mark. Some teams provide a list of tasks for new contributors in their contributor handbook. Don't hesitate to ask around in Slack!

Benefits of consistent contributions

Contributors have the opportunity to work and learn alongside passionate innovators who are more than happy to share their skills. Participating individuals are able to integrate more deeply into the WordPress ecosystem, while gaining a voice in the ongoing development of the platform.

Participating individuals can see a number of professional and personal benefits from consistent contributions, such as:

- Working alongside and connecting with talented professionals from all over the world.
- Staying up-to-date about the direction of the WordPress platform.
- Connecting with future employers, collaborators, and clients.
- Hands-on projects with immediate impact for scaling up soft, technical, and managerial skills.
- Mentorship from a diverse range of professionals with varying backgrounds and skill sets.
- Opportunities to represent their needs in discussions about the future of WordPress.
- Contributing to the future and resilience of the Open Web.

TESTIMONIALS MAYBE?

How to start contributing consistently

If you are not familiar with the WordPress ecosystem yet, start exploring the list of contribution teams and their projects on the [Make WordPress website](#), where you'll find a wide range of teams focusing on areas like core development, documentation, accessibility, design, and more. Choose a team and project that align with your interests and expertise.

You can also use this [interactive questionnaire](#) to find out what types of contributions and contributing teams fit interests and skills.

Once you identify a team, or teams, with projects that resonate to you, join their Slack channel and introduce yourself! The team reps and other team members will be happy to walk you through the first step to join their activities and meetings. Every team has dedicated documentation and processes, and experienced team members who can guide you through them.

Additionally, keep an eye out for the next mentorship cohort, as mentorship can provide valuable guidance and support as you embark on your contribution journey.

Some projects have a limited duration, while others are long-term ongoing ones. Your contributions become impactful, for yourself and for the whole ecosystem, when they are consistent. It does matter if you allocate 2 or 40 hours per week to contributing, what matters is that every week you come back.

Sustainable contributions

To ensure sustainable contributions, maintain a balance between work, contributions, and personal time. It is fundamental to avoid over-committing and prioritize tasks effectively to prevent burnout. Many contributors prepare a contribution plan (monthly or quarterly) to help them set realistic goals, allocate dedicated time for contributions, and regularly assess their workload to avoid overwhelming themselves.

Remember that sustainable contributions require consistency over time, so pace yourself and prioritize self-care to maintain long-term engagement without sacrificing personal well-being, and don't forget to have fun along the way!

Growing as a contributor

As a contributor, continuous growth is key to expanding your impact within the community. Embrace contribution ladders, which outline clear pathways for advancing your involvement vertically within specific teams or projects. Seek out opportunities to deepen your expertise and take on increased responsibilities, such as becoming a mentor or leading initiatives.

You can also explore horizontal growth by diversifying your contributions across different teams or projects. This not only broadens your skill set but also opens up new avenues for collaboration and networking.

Keep an eye out for future opportunities to elevate your role within the community, whether through leadership positions, specialized working groups, or involvement in strategic planning. By embracing growth both vertically and horizontally, you can maximize your impact as a contributor while continuously evolving your skills and influence within the WordPress ecosystem.

EXAMPLES FROM LONG-TIME CONTRIBUTORS?

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How can I participate as an individual?
 - You can participate by pledging to contribute 5% of your time to WordPress Make/Teams and actively engaging in their activities.
2. Do I have to contribute exactly 5% of my time?
 - No, 5% is an aspirational goal. Any amount of time you can dedicate to contributing is valuable.
3. What kind of contributions are needed?
 - Contributions that support Make WordPress teams, including code, design, documentation, translations, community support, and more.
4. How do I start contributing?
 - Start by joining team meetings, following discussions, and beginning with small, manageable tasks that match your skills.
5. Can I contribute in areas outside my expertise?
 - Yes, you can learn new skills and contribute in various areas. The WordPress community is supportive and offers many resources to help you.
6. How do I track my contributions?
 - Keep a personal log of your contributions and hours spent, and share your progress with the relevant Make/Teams.

7. What if I can't contribute regularly?
 - Any contribution, no matter how irregular, is valuable. Contribute when you can and communicate your availability to the Make/Teams.
8. How can I find projects that interest me?
 - Explore the Make WordPress teams and their projects, and choose ones that align with your interests and skills.
9. How do I stay motivated to contribute?
 - Set personal goals, connect with the community, participate in contributor days and sprints, and celebrate your contributions and milestones.
10. Where can I get help if I need it?
 - The WordPress community is always ready to help. You can reach out in team meetings, forums, Slack channels, or attend training sessions to get support and guidance.