

DevRelConf London 2019

<https://london-2019.devrel.net/>

Your talk's title *

How do you inspire and empower users and techies to become great writers?

Describe your talk *

This is your talk abstract. Tell us as much as possible about what your talk will cover. Ideally, we want to see an outline of the key points of your talk, with the takeaways you'll give to the audience.

Abstract:

While the Open Source story usually focuses on software developers, equally important are communicators and community builders. Maintaining quality documentation is often cited as one of the weakest links in successful open source projects. As a project matures, community success factors move. To attract new contributors, projects should lower barriers to entry, and good documentation is key. Ironically, the documenters who are most qualified to help may be the least technical, and face the greatest ramp-up time.

In this presentation, we will draw upon a decade of attracting hundreds of documentation contributors to our OSGeoLive project and others, and how we have extended these lessons into a Google Season of Docs project, and are now building documentation templates for open source with TheGoodDocsProject.

We'll talk about how the language used, and the methodology for contributing, are key in attracting new contributors and give examples of both cases. We'll talk about how best to attract episodic volunteers, and how to convert them into long-term contributors with some real-life use-cases. We'll also discuss our long-term (evolving) plans for TheGoodDocsProject.

Source Material to draw upon:

* Inspiring techies to become great writers:

<http://cameronshorter.blogspot.com/2019/02/inspiring-techies-to-become-great.html>

This links out to further open source and incidental research

* The OSGeoLive template story in more depth (to provide the practical credibility):

<http://cameronshorter.blogspot.com/2011/06/memoirs-of-cat-herder-coordinating.html>

* The business case for Open:

<http://cameronshorter.blogspot.com/2018/10/the-open-business-business-case.html>

This provides references to human motivation, and business drivers.

* TheGoodDocsProject - some extra stuff still to add into what we plan to do.

