



Open Life Science

READMEs for Open Projects

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What we'll do

- Learn how to use a README to communicate your project effectively
- Learn how to write clear description of the project
- Where to find examples
- (assignment) Create or revise your README

	Understanding	Sharing	Participation & Inclusion
Design for...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Content focus ● Community interactions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Learning through use ● Storytelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Information-sharing focus ● Community interactions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gifting ○ Enhancing value exchange ○ Networking common interests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Governance focus ● Community interactions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creating together ○ Soliciting ideas ● Project identity
Build for...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communication ● Design ● Facilitation ● Maintenance ● Project management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Commons-based production ● Data stewardship ● Documentation ● Licensing ● Networking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decision-making ● Delegation ● Event planning ● Community Management ● Mentoring
Empower for...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintains clarity of vision & purpose ● Maintain authenticity & integrity ● Stays curious 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Makes connections ● Resilience ● Self-care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Embraces failure ● Ensures safety ● Inspires contribution

[Open Leadership Framework](#)

Open Leaders design and **build** projects that **empower others** to collaborate within inclusive communities.

[Open Leadership Framework](#)

Why do READMEs matter?

A decorative floor mat with a black and white geometric pattern. The pattern consists of repeating diamond shapes, each filled with a smaller checkerboard pattern. In the center of the mat, the word "WELCOME" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The mat is placed on a light-colored tiled floor. At the top of the image, there is a dark blue banner with the text "Why do READMEs matter?".

WELCOME

What is a README?

- Found in the root directory of your repository
- In ALL CAPS, a request for all to “read me!”
- First stop for visitors

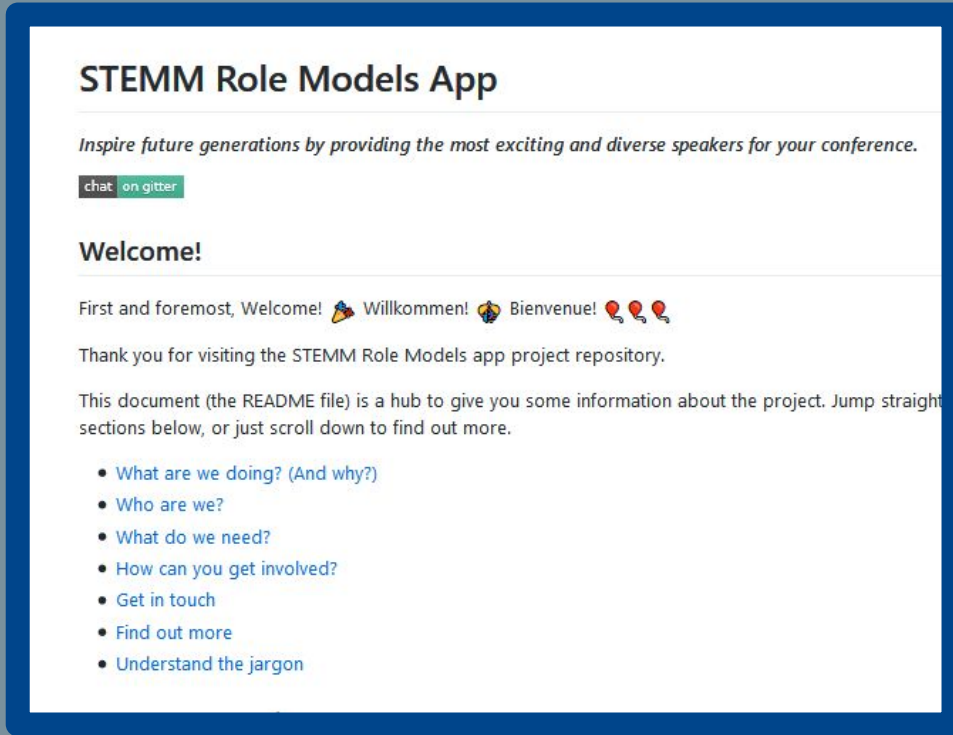
Could also be: website landing page, session description

In your README, show:

- what you're doing, for who, and why
- what makes your project special and exciting
- how to get started
- where to find key resources

You can use your Open Canvas to start your README

A closer look at a README:



- Welcome message!
- Project description & vision
- Links to:
 - How to contribute & get involved
 - License
 - Code of Conduct, reporting info

README example: [STEMM Role Models App](#)

What else?

- communicate expectations around the readiness
- communicate expectations for and manage contributions to your project
- describe communication channels

Badges.

README.md

Xenon



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What problem does Xenon solve?

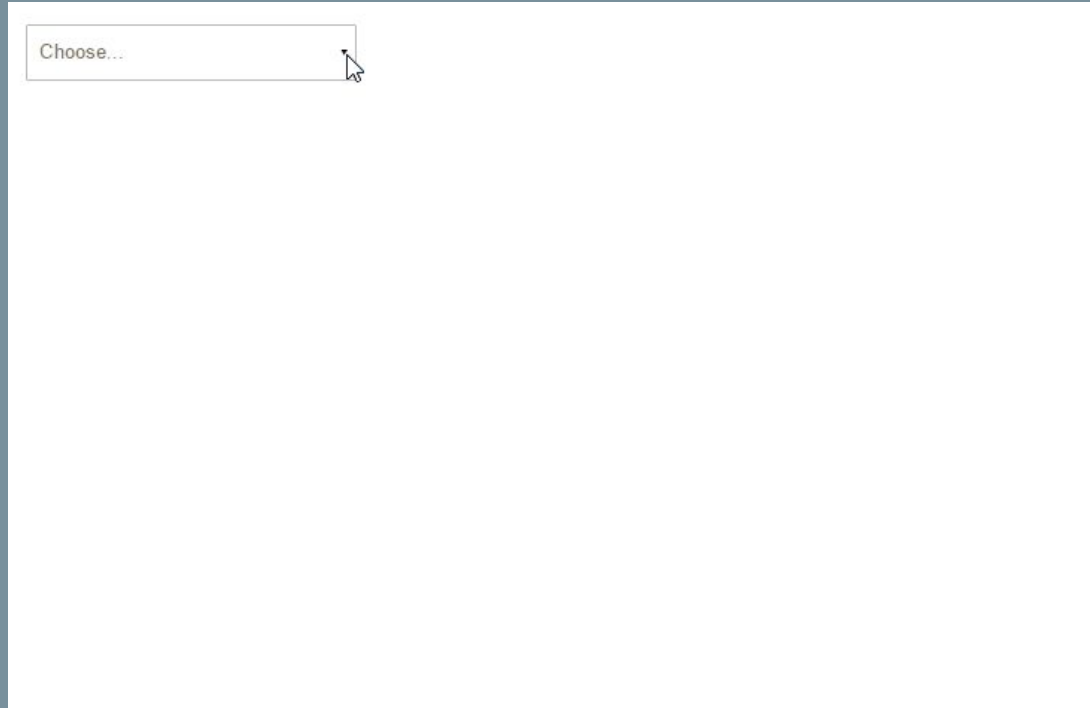
Emojis.

📖 README.md

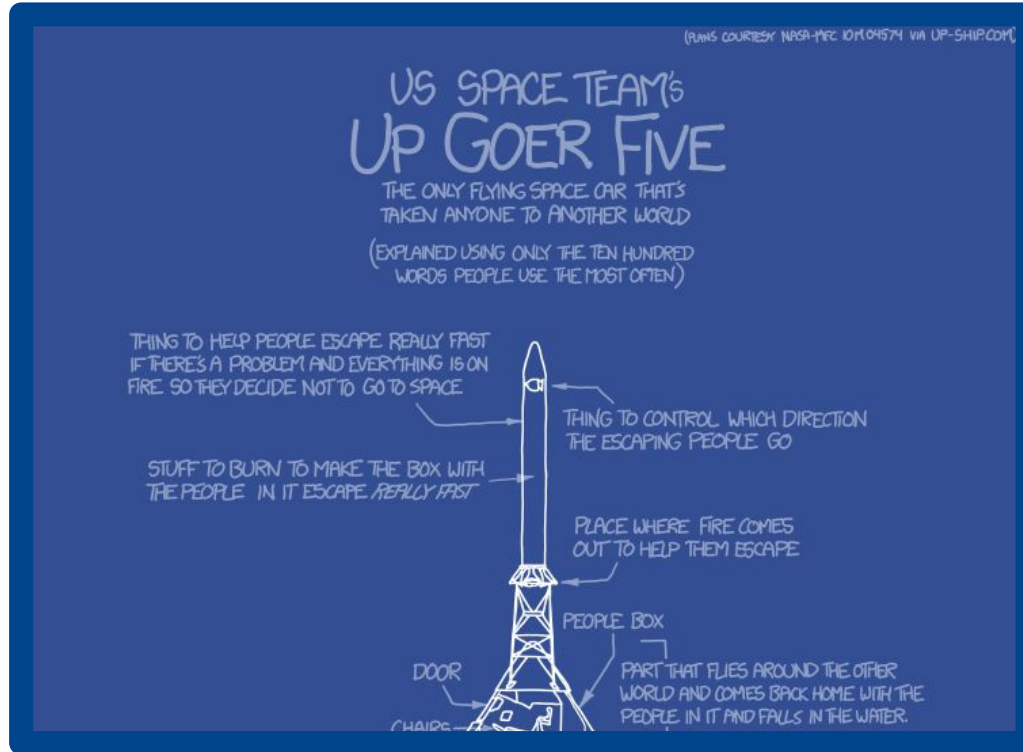
Release It! 🚀

🚀 Generic CLI tool to automate versioning and package publishing related tasks:

Animated gifs.



HOW can we communicate better?



XKCD explained a complicated subject using only the ten hundred words people use the most often

Jargon are terms with a specific meaning in a given field, obscure for people outside that field. It can exclude potential contributors.

Image from xkcd, editor at <http://splasho.com/upgoer5/>
& the Hemingway editor <http://www.hemingwayapp.com/>

Let's try this together.

<http://splasho.com/upgoer5/>

Try to explain your project using only the
ten hundred most used words

Breakout Rooms of 3-4, 10min

Good README examples

- Purple Booth's [README Template](#)
- [Standard README](#) - style specification
- PaperBadger - project [README](#)
- Thoughtbot's Blog on [How to Write a Good README](#)
- Matias Singer's curated [List of Awesome READMEs](#)

What are your README tips?

Thank you!

The Open Life Science program helps **early stage researchers and potential academic leaders** in becoming **Open Science ambassadors**.

What Open Science dreams will **you** achieve?