

Beyond the README

**Crafting a better developer experience for open
source projects**

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Open Source Lifecycle

From user to contributor.

From contributor to maintainer.

DevEx for Users

Metadata

☆ Star 911

Project information

Wireshark's official code repository. You can keep the releases coming by donating at <https://wiresharkfoundation.org/donate/>.

wireshark tshark packet capture

+ 1 more

4.3 (development) running

4.2 (stable) passed 4.0 (stable) passed

3.6 (old stable) passed

90,236 Commits

26 Branches

967 Tags

Topic tags help project discovery.

Introduce your project briefly.

Key project measurements.

The art of README

The screenshot shows a GitHub README page for 'The OpenAPI Specification'. At the top, there are links for 'README', 'Code of conduct', and 'Apache-2.0 license'. The main heading is 'The OpenAPI Specification'. Below the heading, there are two status bars: 'validate-markdown passing' and 'code helpers'. A large circular logo with a central black dot and a white line extending to a black dot is positioned below the status bars. A navigation menu is overlaid on the right side of the page, listing: 'The OpenAPI Specification', 'Versions', 'See It in Action', 'Tools and Libraries', 'Participation', and 'Licensing'. On the far right, a 'Languages' section shows a progress bar and the following data:

Language	Percentage
Markdown	95.9%
JavaScript	2.3%
Other	1.8%

The OpenAPI Specification is a community-driven open specification within the [OpenAPI Initiative](#), a Linux Foundation Collaborative Project.

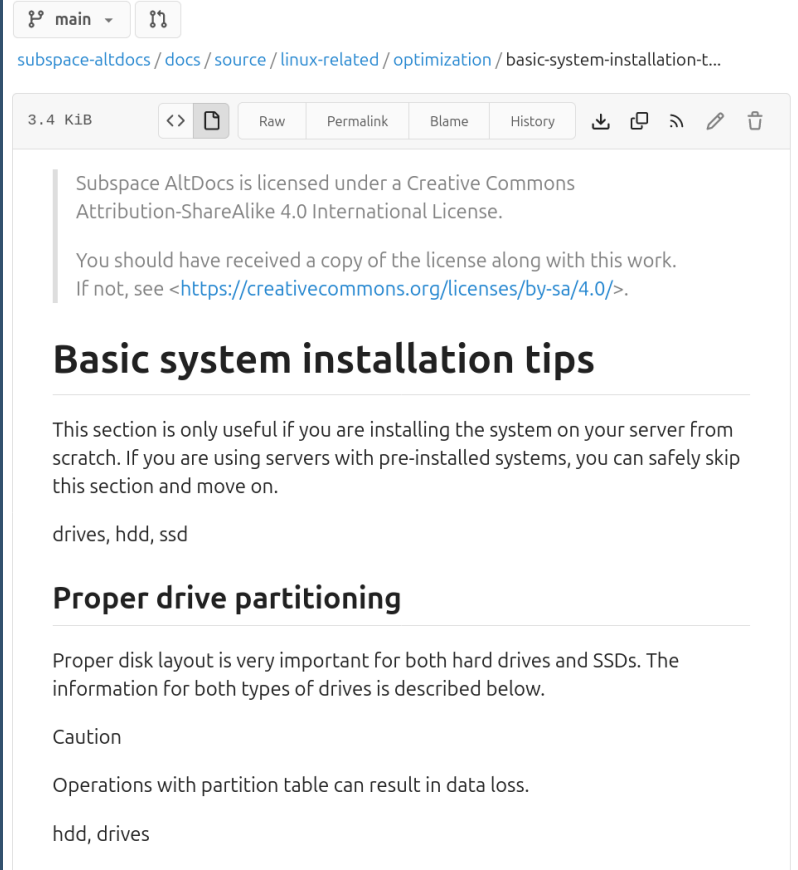
README structure

- 1 . Project purpose
- 2 . Installation
- 3 . Basic usage
- 4 . Further resources

Documentation

Documentation is a multiplier.

- Use Docs-as-Code
- Publishing is optional
 - Getting started
 - Platform-specific info
 - Advanced usage



The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for 'subspace-altdocs'. The breadcrumb trail is 'subspace-altdocs / docs / source / linux-related / optimization / basic-system-installation-t...'. The file size is 3.4 K1B. The interface includes buttons for 'Raw', 'Permalink', 'Blame', and 'History', along with icons for download, copy, share, edit, and delete. The main content area contains a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License notice, a link to the license page, and a section titled 'Basic system installation tips'. The 'Basic system installation tips' section explains that it is only useful for server installations from scratch and lists 'drives, hdd, ssd'. Below this is a section titled 'Proper drive partitioning' which states that proper disk layout is important for both hard drives and SSDs and lists 'hdd, drives'.

The Tools we Build

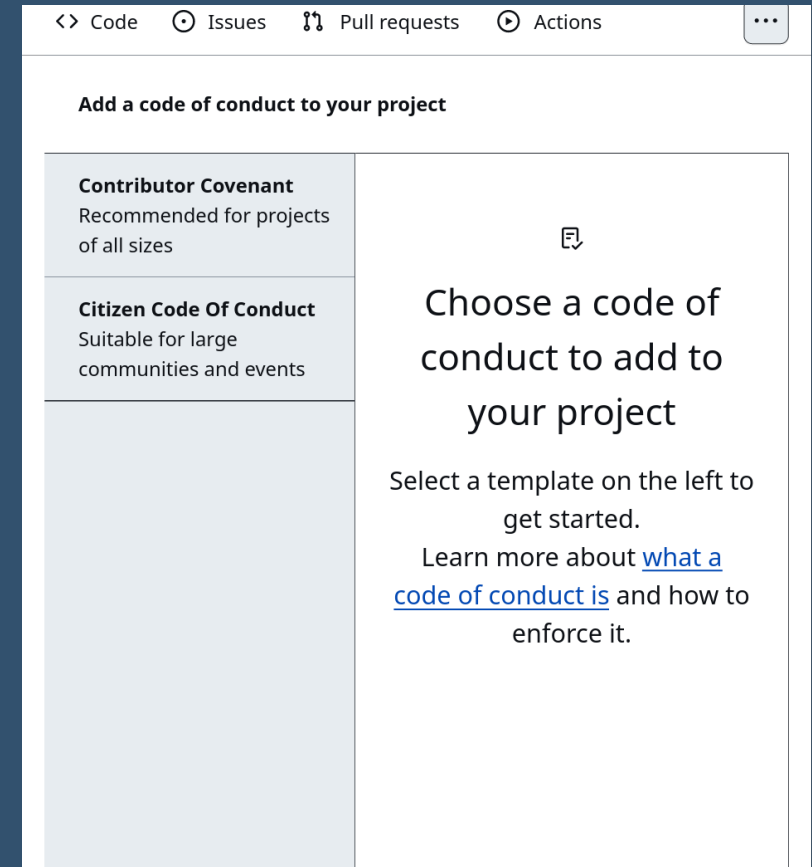
- Follow as many conventions as you can
- Make the right thing the easy thing
- Offer binaries or containerized tools if appropriate
- Publish plugins/examples, or curate space for community work

DevEx for Contributors

Code of Conduct

A code of conduct sets out expectations for all participants.

GitHub prompts with a selection of CoC templates.



Contributing file

The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for the file `CONTRIBUTING.md` in the `OpenAPI-Specification` repository. The page is viewed on the `main` branch. The file statistics show 437 lines (313 loc) and 23.1 KB. The interface includes tabs for `Preview`, `Code`, and `Blame`. The `Preview` tab is active, displaying the content of the file. The `Outline` panel on the right side of the page provides a navigation menu for the document's sections.

Key information

This project is covered by our [Code of Conduct](#). All participants are expected to read and follow this code.

No changes, however trivial, are ever made to the contents of published specifications (the files in the `versions/` folder). Exceptions may be made when links to external URLs have been changed by a 3rd party, in order to keep our documents accurate.

Published versions of the specification are in the `versions/` folder. The under-development versions of the specification are in the file `src/oas.md` on the appropriately-versioned branch. For example, work on the next release for 3.2 is on `v3.2-dev` in the file `src/oas.md`.

The [spec site](#) is the source of truth for the OpenAPI specification as it contains all the citations and author credits (the markdown in this repository was previously the authoritative version until 2024).

The OpenAPI project is almost entirely staffed by volunteers. Please be patient with the

Outline

- Filter headings
- Contribute to the OpenAPI Specification
 - Key information
 - Active branches
 - How to contribute
 - Discussions
 - Discussion management
 - Issues
 - Issue management
 - Labels
 - Milestones
 - Projects
 - Pull requests
 - Use a fork
 - Target the earliest active *-dev

Contributing file

Everything a new user needs to contribute.

- Philosophy
- Mechanics
- Codebase
- Quality
- Finishing

Philosophy

Are patches actually welcome?

- A public resource with a private change process
- A corporate project with a permissive license but no external contributors
- A community-driven project

Mechanics

- branching strategy
- issue creation requirements
- pull request creation requirements
- naming conventions
- quality checks and coding standards

Finishing

What is the "definition of done" in the project?

- docs
- tests
- changelog
- something else...?

Local development

Local tools shorten feedback cycle and improve developer experience.

Pull request reviews

Transferrable skill from other code projects.

- Be clear and constructive
- Be prepared to add one more commit
- Be consistent
- Be responsive

CI really matters

Give instant feedback on the things you care about
(and can automate).

- coding standards
- prose linting
- tests
- changelog

DevEx for Maintainers

Review checklist

Things to check on every pull request, documented.

- helps contributors too
- serves as onboarding for new maintainers
- reduces your cognitive load
- makes more consistent reviews

Maintaining file

- like a contributing file
- but for maintainers
- write down the release process
- the docs publishing process
- anything else that the maintainer does

Automation

Invest time to save time!

Automate tests, syntax checks, build processes.

Also spell checks, coding standards, file naming, pull request requirements.

Notification management

Do you get too many notifications, too few, or the wrong ones?

- route notifications
- adjust watching
- use codeowners
- email rules

Outreach

Your project is more than the code.

Build and enable the ecosystem:

- write about the project
- feature cool projects using your project
- check stackoverflow questions
- speak at a meetup

Developer Experience in Open Source

Get in touch

<https://lornajane.net>

 [@lornajane@indieweb.social](mailto:lornajane@indieweb.social) [@lornajane.net](https://lornajane.net) (bsky)