



KubeCon



CloudNativeCon

Europe 2026

SIG Contributor Experience: Guiding Contributors Through the Project

Arpit Agrawal, SIG ContribEx

Mario Fahlandt, Kubermatic

Nabarun Pal, Broadcom

Priyanka Saggu, SUSE



Code of Conduct

Remember the Golden Rule!

Treat others as you would want to be treated - with kindness and respect.

Scan this QR code to access and review the CNCF Code of Conduct.



Also available in multiple languages - <https://github.com/cncf/foundation/tree/main/code-of-conduct-languages>

Meet our community!



CNCF Maintainer Summit, 2026- <https://contribute.cncf.io/events/maintainer-summit/>

Community Statistics

98.7K

Contributors

4.59M

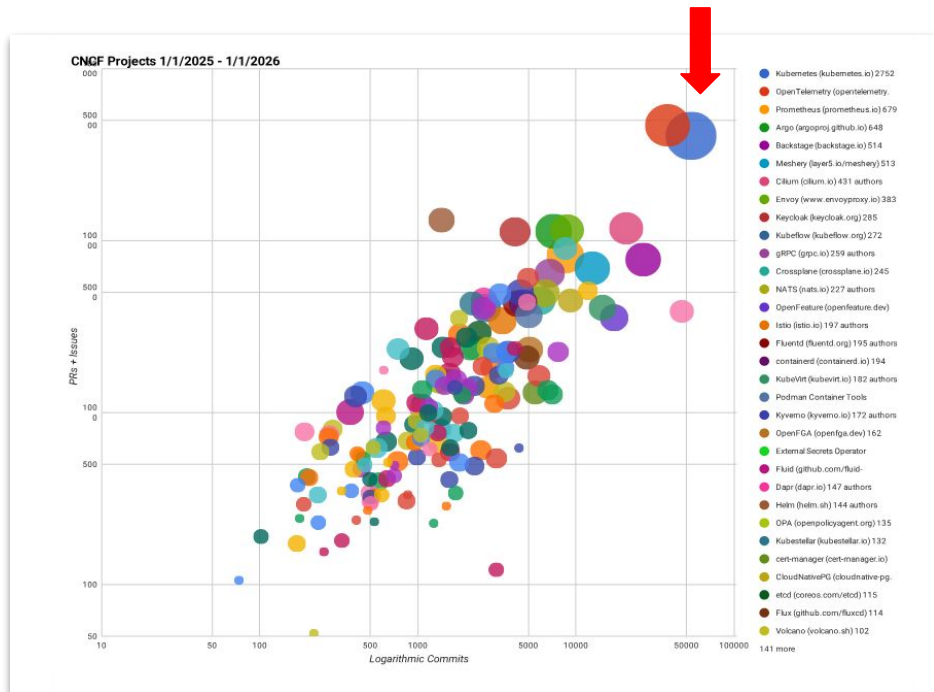
Contributions

8.9K

Reviewers

Stats from [Kubernetes Devstats](#), March 2026

CNCF Project Velocity (Kubernetes)



Here's what stands out in the 2025 data:

"Kubernetes continues to lead the ecosystem with the largest contributor base. That sustained velocity reinforces its role as the foundation of modern infrastructure across the enterprise. Kubernetes continues to build upon its success as it evolves to be a critical operating system behind AI."

What does ContribEx do?

Developing and sustaining a healthy community of contributors is critical to **scaling the project** and **growing the ecosystem**. We need to ensure our contributors are happy and productive, and that there are not bottlenecks hindering the project [...]

How does ContribEx ... ContribEx?

Subprojects!

How does ContribEx ... ContribEx?

- **Community** - Owns and manages overall community repo, including community group documentation and operations.
- **Community Management** - Manages operations and policy for upstream community group communication platforms.
- **Contributor Comms** - Amplifying the success of and distributing information to Kubernetes contributors.
- **Contributor Documentation** - Writes and maintains documentation around contributing to Kubernetes, including the Contributor's Guide, Developer's Guide, and contributor website.
- **Devstats** - Maintains and updates <https://k8s.devstats.cncf.io>, including taking requests for new charts.
- **Elections** - Oversees running elections in the community. Maintains documentation and software for elections.

How does ContribEx ... ContribEx?

- **Events** - Helps contributor-focused events, such as the Maintainer Summit. Event Teams are part of this subproject.
- **GitHub Management** - Manages and controls Github permissions, repos, and groups, including Org Membership.
- **Mentoring** - Oversees and develops programs for helping contributors ascend the contributor ladder, including our group mentoring cohorts.
- **Slack Infra** - Creates and maintains tools and automation for Kubernetes Slack.

HELP
HERE!

Contributor Comms



Contributor Comms

linkedin.com/company/kubernetes

Performance



Followers
23,483 ↗ 141%

New Followers
13,638 ↗ 92%

Posts
235 ↗ 84%

Impressions
744,385 ↗ 306%

Clicks
24,143 ↗ 298%

Engagement Rate
3.52% ↗ 20%

x.com/kubernetesio

Performance



Tweets
225 ↗ 200%

Retweets
1,439 ↗ 144%

Impressions
1.81m ↗ 63%

Engagements
53,098 ↗ 283%

Replies
155 ↗ 94%

Clicks
40,885 ↗ 504%

Likes
7,750 ↗ 115%

New Followers
9,331 ↗ 54%

x.com/K8sContributors

Performance



Tweets
267 ↗ 45%

Retweets
413 ↘ 44%

Impressions
227,357 ↘ 33%

Engagements
8,166 ↘ 12%

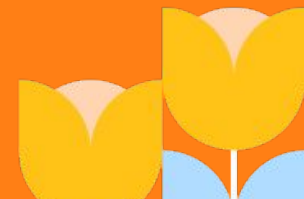
Replies
30 ↘ 30%

Clicks
5,557 ↗ 9%

Likes
1,671 ↘ 29%

New Followers
1,983 ↘ 6%

LWKD



- Kubernetes has become so big that it is difficult to keep up with everything
- Newsletter designed to keep you up-to-date on Kubernetes development in 15 minutes a week
- Started in January of 2018 by Josh Berkus – an issue every week since 2018

- LWKD...
 - Is primarily aimed at contributors
 - Summarises everything going on in the Kubernetes community on a weekly basis
 - Includes
 - News about the community and upcoming contributor events,
 - Information about the current release cycle and its deadlines,
 - Featured pull requests and Kubernetes Enhancements Proposals (KEPs)
 - Shoutouts to contributors

- Maintained by the Comms subproject of SIG Contributor Experience
- Available in the following platforms:
 - Website: lwkd.info
 - Email Newsletter: <https://buttondown.com/LastWeekInKubernetes>
 - BlueSky: <https://bsky.app/profile/lwkd.info>
 - Mastodon: <https://m6n.io/@lwkd>

LWKD

Different Sections



LWKD Different Sections



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development in 15 minutes a week.

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[kubernetes-sigs](#)

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LWKD is a weekly newsletter summarizing code activity in the Kubernetes project: merges, PRs, deprecations, version updates, release schedules, and community meetings. It does not cover events or news in the Kubernetes ecosystem, as our sister publication [KubeWeekly](#) does a great job of handling those.

LWKD is the product of [contributors from the Kubernetes Project's SIG-Contributor Experience](#). If you're interested in helping with LWKD, see our [README](#). You can also contact us at lwkd@kubernetes.io.

[Subscribe](#) to receive LWKD by email, or [follow us on Twitter](#) or on our [RSS feed](#)

Weekly Updates for 2026

[Week Ending March 8, 2026](#)

[Week Ending March 1, 2026](#)

[Week Ending February 22, 2026](#)

[Week Ending February 15, 2026](#)

[Week Ending February 8, 2026](#)

[Week Ending February 1, 2026](#)

[Week Ending January 25, 2026](#)

[Week Ending January 18, 2026](#)

[Week Ending January 11, 2026](#)

LWKD Different Sections

- **Dev News:** News for developers from the Kubernetes and the wider CNCF community. Includes things like CFP notifications, new working groups and similar announcements.



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Week Ending January 25, 2026

Developer News

SIG-Instrumentation plans to remove the `apiserver_envelope_encryption_key_id_hash_total` metric in Kubernetes v1.36 because it no longer worked as intended and caused [API server performance issues](#). The information provided by this metric can be obtained by other means. The metric had earlier required API server restarts to stay accurate, which was deemed unreasonable, and SIG-Auth discussions indicated no active users relying on it.

The Kubernetes Steering Committee opened the annual SIG reporting cycle, asking SIGs to submit their annual [reports](#) by February 28.

The Kubecon EU [Maintainer Summit Schedule](#) is live! Don't forget to [register](#).

Release Schedule

Next Deadline: PRR Freeze, February 4

Welcome to the 1.36 Release Cycle with Release Lead Ryota and [the whole release team](#) ! We have begun work on it, which starts with the call for [Enhancements](#). We now have a [full release calendar](#):

- PRR Freeze: Feb. 4
- Enhancements Freeze: Feb. 11
- Code Freeze: March 18
- Docs Freeze: April 8
- Release: April 22

LWKD Different Sections

- **Release Schedule:** News about the current release cycle including upcoming deadlines and information about patch releases etc.



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January patch releases are [still delayed](#), now due to some golang security updates. They should be out soon.

Featured PRs

- [136450: DRA: support non-pod references in ReservedFor](#)

This PR improves the robustness of the Dynamic Resource Allocation (DRA) controller by allowing it to gracefully handle non-pod references in `ResourceClaim.status.reservedFor`. Instead of failing and halting cleanup when encountering unknown references, the controller now skips them while continuing to clean up stale pod references. This prevents unnecessary controller failures and ensures more reliable resource lifecycle management.

LWKD Different Sections

- **KEP of the Week:** Feature on a Kubernetes Enhancement Proposal tracked in the current release



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- [136389: Promote KEP-5311 \(Relaxed validation for Services names\) to Beta](#)

This PR promotes the `RelaxedServiceNameValidation` feature to Beta and enables it by default. Service names are now validated using `NameIsDNSLabel()`, relaxing the previous stricter rules. This makes Service naming more flexible while maintaining DNS compatibility, improving usability without compromising correctness.

KEP of the Week

[KEP-127: Support User Namespaces](#)

This KEP introduces support for Linux user namespaces in Kubernetes to improve container security. It allows processes to run as root inside pods while mapping to unprivileged users on the host, reducing the impact of container escapes. This isolation mitigates multiple high-severity vulnerabilities, including CVE-2019-5736 (runc overwrite) and other critical container escape and privilege escalation issues. Overall, user namespaces

LWKD Different Sections

Featured PRs: Impactful PRs merged in the last week with a detailed description of the change



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This KEP graduated to beta in v1.35.

Promotions

- [RelaxedServiceNameValidation](#) to Beta

Version Updates

- [cri-tools](#) to v1.35.0
- [agnhost](#) to v2.61 and [etcd](#) to v3.6.7-0 in test manifests

Subprojects and Dependency Updates

- [kubebuilder](#) v4.11.1 improves scaffold upgrade workflows, delivers multiple CLI, Helm, and API fixes, and bumps controller-runtime, Helm, and Go dependencies.
- [cloud-provider-openstack](#) v1.35.0 adds CSI and OCCM enhancements, improves security contexts, updates Helm charts and dependencies,



LWKD Different Sections

- **General Merges:** List of all PRs merged into k/k over the last week including promotions, version updates and deprecations



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components enable secure and automated certificate distribution to pods with minimal burden on developers and administrators. The mechanism is designed for both built-in Kubernetes signers and third-party systems issuing X.509 certificates to cluster workloads.

This KEP graduated to beta in v1.35.

Other Merges

- [DaemonSet controller defers sync](#) on stale cache to prevent duplicate pod creation; adds `daemonset_controller_stale_sync_skips_total` metric (override via `StaleControllerConsistencyDaemonSet=false`).
- [Return PreBind-preempted Pods to the backoff queue](#) instead of deleting them from the apiserver.
- Networkpolicy: migrate [ipBlock.cidr validation to DV](#)
- [Fix kubectrl plugin list](#) to detect overshadowed plugins correctly on Windows.
- [Add PodGroup scheduling cycle](#) so kube-scheduler can place an entire PodGroup in a single cycle.
- [Fix kubectrl logs -f](#) to wait for containers to start instead of failing during `ContainerCreating`/`PodInitializing`.
- [Updated feature gate](#) `MutablePodResourcesForSuspendedJobs` and `MutableSchedulingDirectivesForSuspendedJobs` to be enabled by default.
- [Extended PostFilterResult](#) with a list of Pods that the PostFilter plugin preempted.
- [Fix incorrect APIVersion in PodCertificateRequest OwnerReference](#)
- [Add kubectrl diff --show-secret](#) to explicitly allow displaying Secret values during diffs.
- [Add an alpha informer_processing_latency_seconds histogram metric](#) to measure event handler execution time in `RealFIFO`.
- [Drop ProtoMessage\(\) markers](#) from `k8s.io/api` REST types; use `apimachinery.protobuf` serializer instead (KEP-5589).
- [apiserver_rerouted_request_total metric](#) will expose labels for group, version and resource.



LWKD Different Sections

- Promotions & Version Updates



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- [openstack-manila-csi](#) 2.35.0, [openstack-cloud-controller-manager](#) 2.35.0, and [openstack-cinder-csi](#) 2.35.0 release updated Helm charts for their respective OpenStack components.
- [ingress-nginx](#) helm charts 4.14.2 and 4.13.6 update the controller to v1.14.2 and v1.13.6, respectively.
- [ingress-nginx](#) controller v1.14.2 and v1.13.6 focus on image rebuilds, dependency bumps, CI updates, and documentation changes as the project moves toward retirement.
- [prometheus](#) 3.5.1 (LTS) updates docker library bumped to 28.5.2 and built with Go 1.24.11.



LWKD Different Sections

- **Subproject and Dependency Updates:** Updates to sister projects in the Kubernetes ecosystem



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Shoutouts

- jberkus : Kudos to @Swathi Rao for doing a great job organizing comms to publicize the NCO.

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LWKD Different Sections

- **Shoutouts:** Shoutouts for community members taken from #shoutouts in the Kubernetes Slack



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You may contribute to LWKD by submitting pull requests or issues on the [LWKD github repo](#).

GitHub Management



GitHub Management



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 [kubernetes / org](#) Public

 Notifications

 Fork 820

 Star 287

[Code](#) [Issues 24](#) [Pull requests 6](#) [Actions](#) [Security](#) [Insights](#)

 [README](#)

 [Code of conduct](#)

 [Contributing](#)

 [Apache-2.0 license](#)

 [Security](#)



Kubernetes GitHub Organization

This repository contains the metadata [configuration](#) for the Kubernetes GitHub Organizations. The data here is consumed by the [peribolos](#) tool to organization and team membership, as well as team creation and deletion.

Membership in the Kubernetes project is governed by our [community guidelines](#).

The application for membership in the Kubernetes organization can be made by opening an [issue](#). However, if you are already part of the Kubernetes organization, you do not need to do this and can add yourself directly to the appropriate files. For example, to also add yourself to the kubernetes-sigs organization, you can navigate to `/config/kubernetes-sigs/org.yaml` and add your GitHub username to the list of members (in alphabetical order); this works the same way for other organizations.

100+

Members Added

8

**Repo Creation,
Migration, Archival**

What are we upto next?

- Policies on AI extensions or apps
- Using GitHub Actions
- Yearly cleaning up of the org

Elections



Elections



KubeCon



CloudNativeCon

Europe 2026

The subproject helps run directly and indirectly some important elections for the Kubernetes community.

- Kubernetes Steering Committee Elections (handles all logistics)
- Kubernetes Code of Conduct Committee Elections (indirectly through Elekto)
- CNCF GB Kubernetes Seat Elections (indirectly through Elekto)

Elections



KubeCon



CloudNativeCon

Europe 2026

The subproject helps run directly and indirectly some important elections for the Kubernetes community.

... **and**, maintain the software used to run the Elections.



Elections, SIG ContribEx subproject - git.k8s.io/community/sig-contributor-experience#elections

The Elekto maintainers hosted a working session yesterday to discuss, and work on, some of the longstanding feature requests in the project, as well as future roadmap.

Elekto Working Session

📅 Monday March 23, 2026 13:00 - 15:00 CET

📍 Elicium Building | D501

Elekto is GitOps-powered project election software used by multiple CNCF projects, and is a CNCF infrastructure project. The current Elekto maintainers will host a working session in which we will discuss, and work on, some of the longstanding feature requests, as well as discuss roadmap with some of the projects that already use Elekto -- and other projects that want to adopt it.

Scan the QR code for session details.

<https://sched.co/2IOTQ>



If you missed the session, catch the maintainers at the Kubernetes Meet and Greet on
Wednesday March 25 12:00 - 15:00 CET at Europe Foyer

Kubernetes Meet + Greet

📅 Wednesday March 25, 2026 12:00 - 15:00 CET

📍 Europe Foyer

PLEASE GRAB YOUR LUNCH FIRST, THEN EXIT THE SHOWCASE TOWARDS ENTRANCE K TO THE EUROPE FOYER.

The Kubernetes Meet & Greet is your chance to connect directly with the teams that build and run Kubernetes.

Representatives from Kubernetes SIGs and Working Groups will be available to share what they work on, the challenges they're tackling, and how you can get involved, whether that's through code, documentation, testing, events, or community support.

This is an informal, drop-in session designed for both new and existing contributors. If you're curious about contributing to Kubernetes, looking for a SIG that matches your interests, or hoping to expand your involvement in the community, this is the perfect place to start conversations and make connections.

Kubernetes Meet + Greet - <https://sched.co/2H66n>

***Scan the QR code
for session details.***



Elekto is proposed to be moved under Kubernetes org as a SIG Contributor Experience subproject.

Move Elekto project under Kubernetes SIG-ContribEx-Elections #8850

New issue

Open

jberkus opened last month · edited by jberkusEdits Contributor

Describe the issue

The [Elekto project](#) was originally set up as an independent project under the CNCF. However, this location does not offer clear governance or CNCF contributor status for the project, so CNCF staff have requested that we move the project under Kubernetes. Having discussed this with Elekto users and contributors, there are no objections to doing this.

In the new configuration, Elekto would belong to the SIG-ContribEx-Elections subproject, and would not be its own subproject. There is heavy overlap in membership as it is.

This move was already discussed by SIG-ContribEx leads, so the main purpose of this issue is to have a checklist of the other steps required to "move" the project.

- ☒ Documented +1s on this issue by Contribex leads
- ☐ GHadmins to decide if Kubernetes will retain the elekto-dev GH org, or move the repos under kubernetes-sigs
- ☐ Setting up Elekto repos to be managed by peribolos, with all contributors in /org repo
- ☐ Adding notes and breadcrumbs to all Elekto resources to make the new organizational status clear
- ☐ Adding Kubernetes paragraphs and links to Elekto contributing docs

/sig contributor-experience
/area elections
tag: [@kaslin](#) [@palnabarun](#) [@Priyankasaggu11929](#) [@mfahlandt](#) [@Madhavjivrajani](#) [@reylejano](#) [@caniszczyk](#)

3

Assignees

No one assigned

Labels

[area/elections](#) [sig/contributor-experience](#)

Type

No type

Projects

No projects

Milestone

No milestone

Relationships

None yet

Development

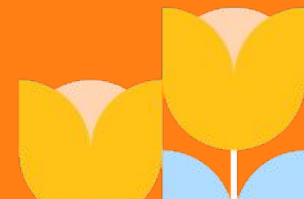
Code with agent mode

No branches or pull requests

Participants

Tracking issue - <https://github.com/kubernetes/community/issues/8850>

Events



Events



The events subproject has had traditionally organized the **Kubernetes Contributor Summit** which has now **graduated** into the CNCF Maintainer Summit.

The team still keeps on organizing the Kubernetes Meet and Greet sessions to bridge a conversation between the KubeCon audience and Kubernetes maintainers and contributors.

Kubernetes Meet + Greet



KubeCon



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The ***Kubernetes Meet & Greet*** is an informal, drop-in session designed for both new and existing contributors.

Representatives from Kubernetes Special Interest Groups (SIG) and Working Groups (WG) will be available to share:

- what they work on,
- the challenges they're tackling,
- **and how *YOU* can get involved**

through code, documentation, testing, events, or community support.

Thanks to the community team behind!



Josh Berkus



Natalie Fisher



Rey Lejano

Kubernetes Meet + Greet



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Europe 2026

A map and helpful information can be found here: <https://www.kubernetes.dev/events/2026/kcseu/meet-and-greet/>

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***Scan the QR code
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Events, SIG ContribEx subproject - git.k8s.io/community/sig-contributor-experience#events

Contributor Site (kubernetes.dev)



Contributor Site (kubernetes.dev)

Over the past months, several major improvements have been made to the Kubernetes contributor site (k8s.dev) to make it easier for new contributors to find resources, get started, and engage with the community.

Many thanks to the community members who contributed to these improvements.



Christopher Tineo



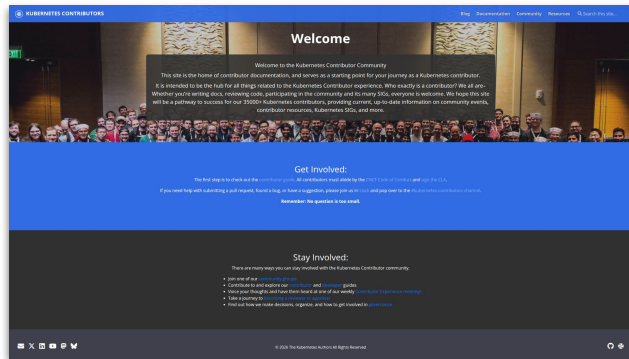
Prajyot Parab

Contributor-site (Kubernetes.dev)

A few highlights:

- Simplified [new contributor onboarding](#) by moving welcome content to the homepage of the contributor-site.
- Improved the [Kubernetes Community Calendar](#) to make community events easier to discover.
- Expanded **community visibility** with active social media links, event pages, and recognition content.
- Modernized the platform with **multi-architecture preview builds** and **migration to Hugo Modules**.

...with many more improvements underway.



Mentoring



Mentoring

We offer several avenues for mentoring

1. New contributors
2. Growing new contributors to maintainers

Mentoring

We offer several avenues for mentoring

1. New contributors
 2. Growing new contributors to maintainers
- New Contributor Orientation
 - Google Summer of Code
 - LFX Mentorship
 - Outreachy
 - Group Mentoring Cohorts

New Contributor Orientation (NCO)



New Contributor Orientation (NCO)

The ***Kubernetes New Contributor Orientation (NCO)*** meetings are an initiative owned by the mentoring subproject of SIG-ContribEx. Started in September of 2024, the purpose of these meetings is to orient prospective new contributors to the community by providing an overview of what Kubernetes does as a technology, how the community is structured and how it functions, and how they might fit into the community as "contributors."

Thanks to the tremendous efforts of the community members behind it, we have many great success stories to share! 🎉



Avni Mahajan



Swathi Rao



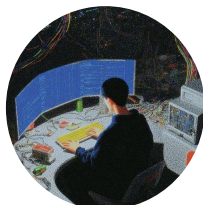
Kaslin Fields



Arpit Agrawal



Chris Short



Darshan Murthy



Mario Fahlandt



Matthias Bertschy

New Contributor Orientation (NCO)

Success Stories



New Contributor Orientation (NCO)

"I attended the first-ever NCO at a time when I wanted to get into the community and didn't know where to start. The session was incredibly helpful as I got a complete understanding of how the community is set up and how it works. Moreover, the section at the end, which highlighted a few places where the community was looking for new folks, led me to be part of the sig-docs and sig-contribex communities today."

— **Sayak Mukhopadhyay**

"Llevo más de dos años formando parte de la comunidad, pero al principio sentía que la barrera de entrada era alta. Me sentía abrumado por la documentación y atrapado en el 'good-first-issue loop', así que me limitaba a participar solo en los community groups. Todo cambió después de KubeCon Atlanta. Pude conectar con varios maintainers que me dieron una nueva perspectiva sobre cómo empezar. ***Luego del NCO en noviembre, decidí unirme al SIG ContribEx y hasta ahora me ha encantado la experiencia. Los proyectos necesitan bastante ayuda y constantemente tienen iniciativas buscando contribuidores activos.*** Espero que mi experiencia sirva para que más personas de Latinoamérica y de habla hispana se animen a unirse como maintainers."

— **Christopher Tineo**

New Contributor Orientation (NCO)

“I was pleasantly surprised to see that the NCO session was incredibly welcoming and full of actionable tips on how to set yourself up for long-time success while contributing. Common pitfalls and methods to avoid them were also explained in detail. ***I left the session feeling supported and excited for what's to come!*** Fast forward to today and I've been regularly contributing to SIG Contribex, I'm also on the Comms team for the v1.35 release. ***I have the NCO to thank for giving me clarity and direction on how to contribute.*** :)”

— Swathi Rao

“The New Contributor Orientation was insightful, helping me make sense of the Kubernetes project, adjacent CNCF projects and how contribution to these projects would work. ***It made me realise that these projects are very welcoming of new contributors and that partaking in open source via CNCF has many gradations of commitment.*** The Kubernetes project is very complex, but it turned out there was a Flask project (Elekto) that was in need of contributors. That project – both in terms of tech and size – was perfect for me. ***It was the final push for me to get started with open source.***”

— Ludo van Orden

New Contributor Orientation (NCO)

“I joined the new contributor meeting for the very first time on 9th Nov'25 and it turned out to be a genuinely lovely experience. @matthyx walked us through how the whole ecosystem works, and he did it in such a simple, friendly way that it really helped things click for me.

The Contributor Ladder slide especially pulled me in as ***I've always been curious about how people actually move from being a non-member to becoming a more active part of the project.*** I asked Mathias about it, and he shared a detailed document that broke everything down clearly, which I really appreciated.

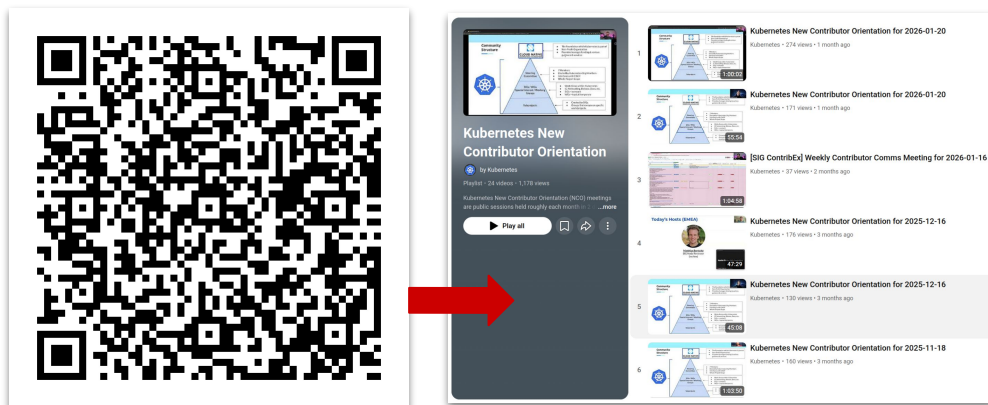
Then I started joining SIG-ContribEx meetings (the friday meetings are so fun!), and I was welcomed so warmly by Priyanka and the team that it immediately felt like a safe space to ask questions and learn.

NCO really helped me navigate through this "how do i start contributing?" maze!"

— Arnab Nandi

New Contributor Orientation (NCO)

*Scan the QR code to access the previous recordings
on the Kubernetes NCO youtube playlist.*



Or join the upcoming NCO session(s)
on **April 21, 2026.**

*(Note - please login into google account first
and then scan for the below calendar invite)*



APAC / EMEA



AMER

Or Join us TODAY LIVE for Kubernetes 1 on 1 (NCO LIVE)

Tuesday March 24, 2026 14:00 - 15:30 CET
G104 - 105 | Community Hub



Wrapping up ...



Where to find us?



KubeCon



CloudNativeCon

Europe 2026

- Home Page - git.k8s.io/community/sig-contributor-experience
- Slack channel(s): [#sig-contribex](#), [#sig-contribex-comms](#), [#sig-contribex-elections](#)
(at Kubernetes slack workspace - slack.k8s.io)
- Join the mailing list to stay updated: groups.google.com/g/kubernetes-sig-contribex
- New Contributor Orientation (NCO): www.kubernetes.dev/docs/orientation/
- We meet every week -

ContribEx Americas, Bi-weekly on Wednesdays@ 5:00 PM UTC ([convert to your timezone](#))

ContribEx APAC, Bi-weekly on Wednesdays@ 8:30 AM UTC ([convert to your timezone](#))

(please join the mailing list for meeting invites)



KubeCon



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Thank You!





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Q & A

Please scan the QR code below to provide your valuable feedback.

