



THE LINUX FOUNDATION



Beyond the First PR:

Why Contributors Stay in Open Source Communities

#OSSummit



A brief about me

- A final-year student at National Institute of Technology Hamirpur
- Community Manager, GSoC'26 Mentor for Circuitverse and GSoC'25 contributor at CircuitVerse
- Co-founder of EmissionZero



What we will talk about

1. My Open Source Journey
2. The First PR Journey
3. Why Contributors Leave
4. Why Contributors Stay
5. Building Better Communities
6. Final Thoughts & Q&A



It started with FOMO

Friends







Open Source

Me


 **Anupam Mittal**  **Author** 1d ...
Founder & CEO @ People Group | Tech & D2C Builder & Investor ...

Yashvant Singh very interesting. Email me or **Aaroah Mittal**

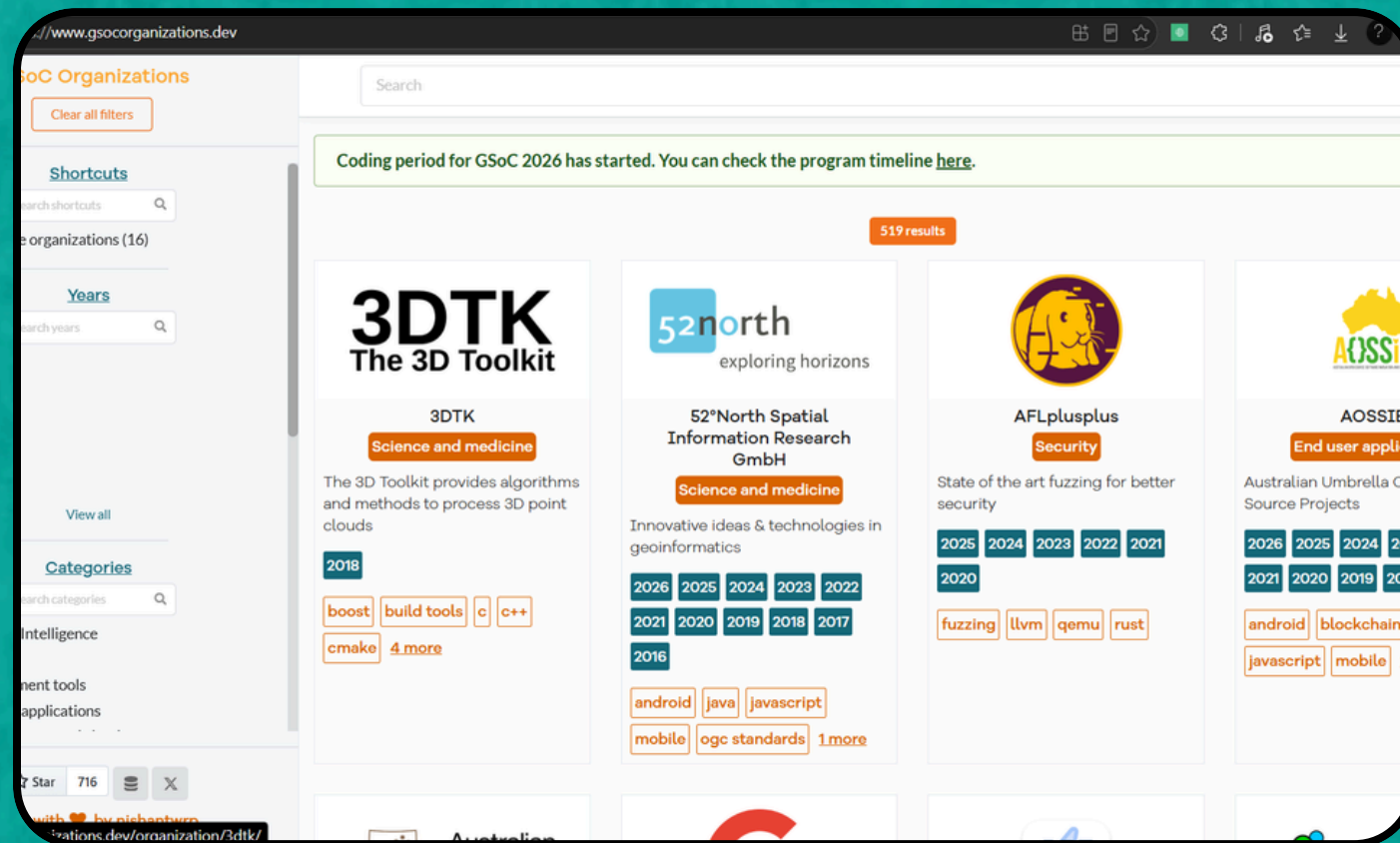
Love ·   5 | Reply

 **Yashvant Singh**  · You 1d ...
Building @EmissionZero | GSoC'25 @CircuitVerse | NITH | Entrepreneur

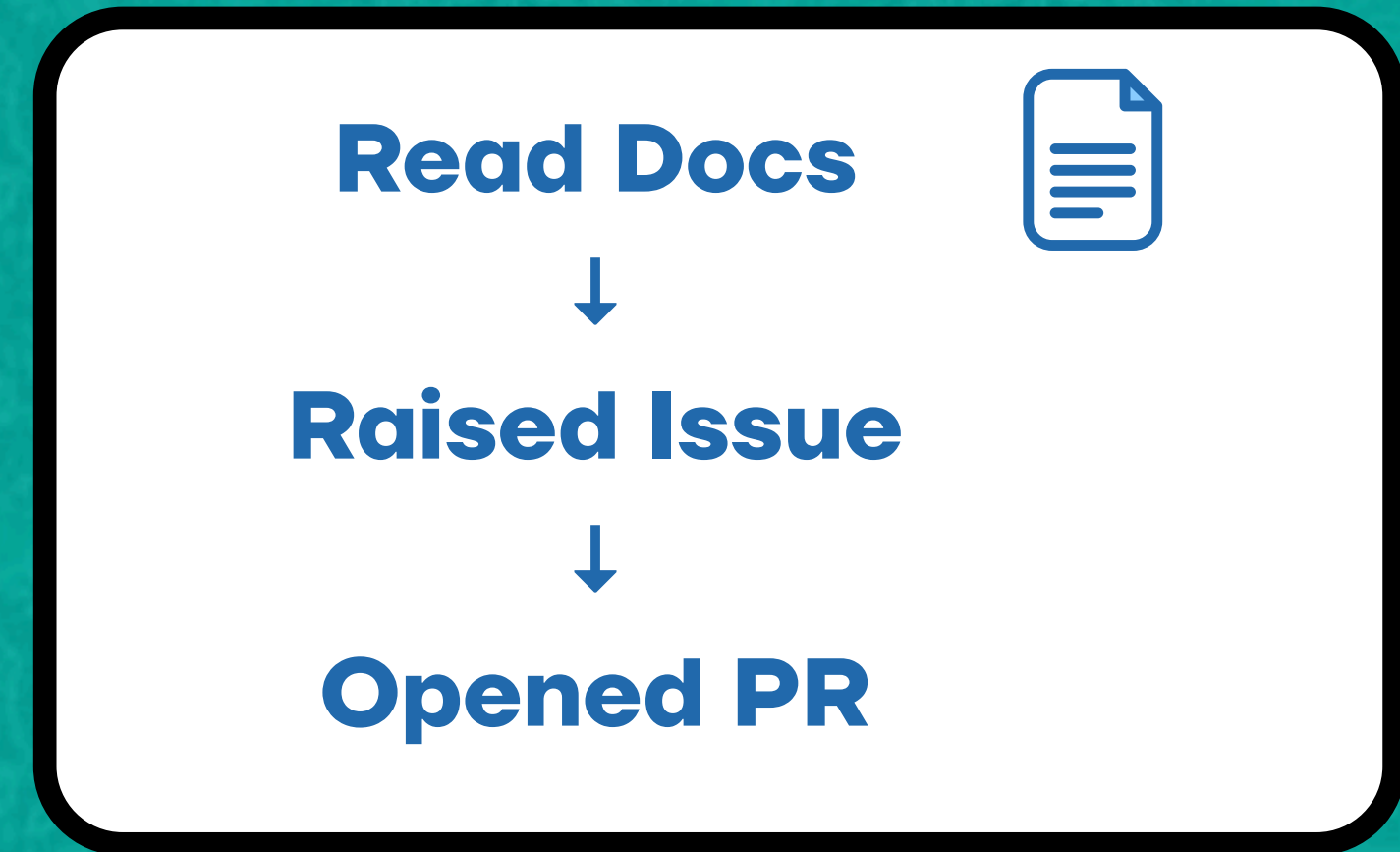
Thank you, **Anupam Mittal**. I'll take it forward.

Like ·  1 | Reply | 2,488 impressions

My First Experience of Open Source



Found Project



And then ???

Waited !!

Why I Left???

Almost 75% of contributors had a median review wait time of under a week, but a significant proportion still wait a long time or never get a response.

Under 1 day (50%) 1 day to 1 week (22%) 1 week to 1 month (10%) 1 month+ (6%) No response (9%)



- ✗ Nobody responded
- ✗ Nobody guided
- ✗ Nobody acknowledged

"I felt invisible."

Nearly 1 in 10 contributors in a study of open-source projects received no response on any of their PRs

Giving Open Source Another Chance



Hardik Sachdeva ✓ • 1st
Analyst- AI Engineering @Accenture 🚀 | GSoC Mentor @CircuitVers...
1yr • 🌱

Hey Everyone,
I am excited to announce that I'll be mentoring for CircuitVerse in Google Summer of Code (GSoC) 2025! 🌟

CircuitVerse is an open-source platform that makes learning digital circuits interactive and accessible. This year, we're upgrading the CircuitVerse mobile app to the latest Flutter version, improving performance, and adding circuit embedding for a smoother mobile experience along with a lot of features.

If you're passionate about Flutter, open source, GSoC and impactful projects, this is a great opportunity to contribute. Join the discussions, explore the codebase, and let's build something amazing together!

Organization's GSoC 2025 Page: <https://lnkd.in/gJwKsfzA> ✓

[#GSoC](#) [#OpenSource](#) [#Flutter](#) [#CircuitVerse](#)

April 1, 2025

- Created 3 commits in 1 repository
[CircuitVerse/mobile-app](#) 3 commits
- Created 1 repository
[JatsuAkaYashvant/mobile-app](#) Dart Apr 1
- Created a pull request in [CircuitVerse/mobile-app](#) that received 4 comments Apr 1
 - I have made the mail us at feature functional**
Fixes # Describe the changes you have made in this PR - Solved this issue : #259 To fix the mailto: URL launching issue in the app, I have added th...
+41 -8 lines changed • 4 comments
- Opened 1 other pull request in 1 repository
CircuitVerse/mobile-app 1 merged Apr 1
 - I have resolved the issue of overflow in notification screen and added "No notifications found" message ... Apr 1

What was Different ?

Community A	CircuitVerse
Docs	Docs
Issues/PRs	Issues/PRs
✗ Silence	✓ Community

Contributors Stay When They Feel Seen



Recognition



Feedback



Inclusion



Guidance

Why Mentorship Matters?



Question



Guidance



Confidence



Contribution

Lessons From Being a Community Manager

Why New Contributors Struggle

- **Fear of asking questions**
- **Slow responses**
- **Not knowing where to start**
- **Feeling disconnected**

What I Observed

Contributors rarely leave because coding is hard.

They leave because they stop feeling connected.

The Contributors Who Stayed

- **Not Core Contributors**
- **Struggling to code**
- **Still Helped Others**
- **Still Stayed Connected**
- **Attended every meet**

Why?

**They stayed for
the *people*.**

What Communities Can Do & Why Retention Matters?



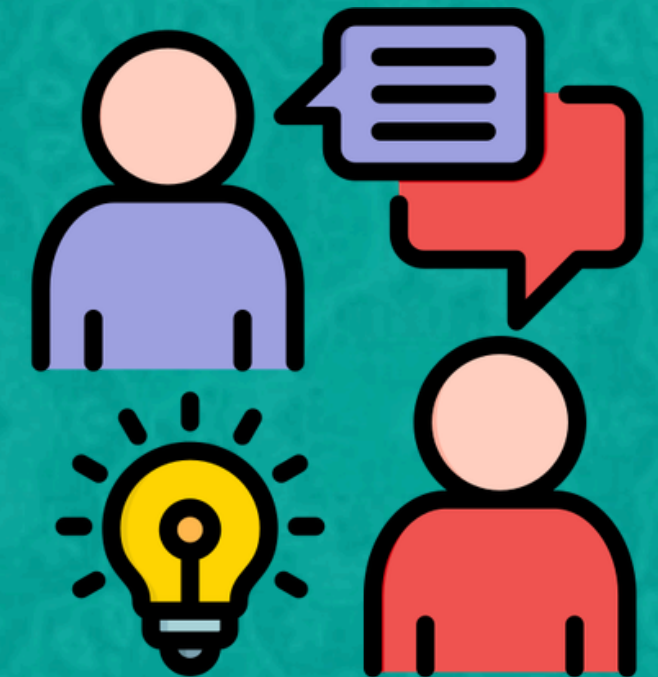
Respond



Recognize



Ownership



Mentor

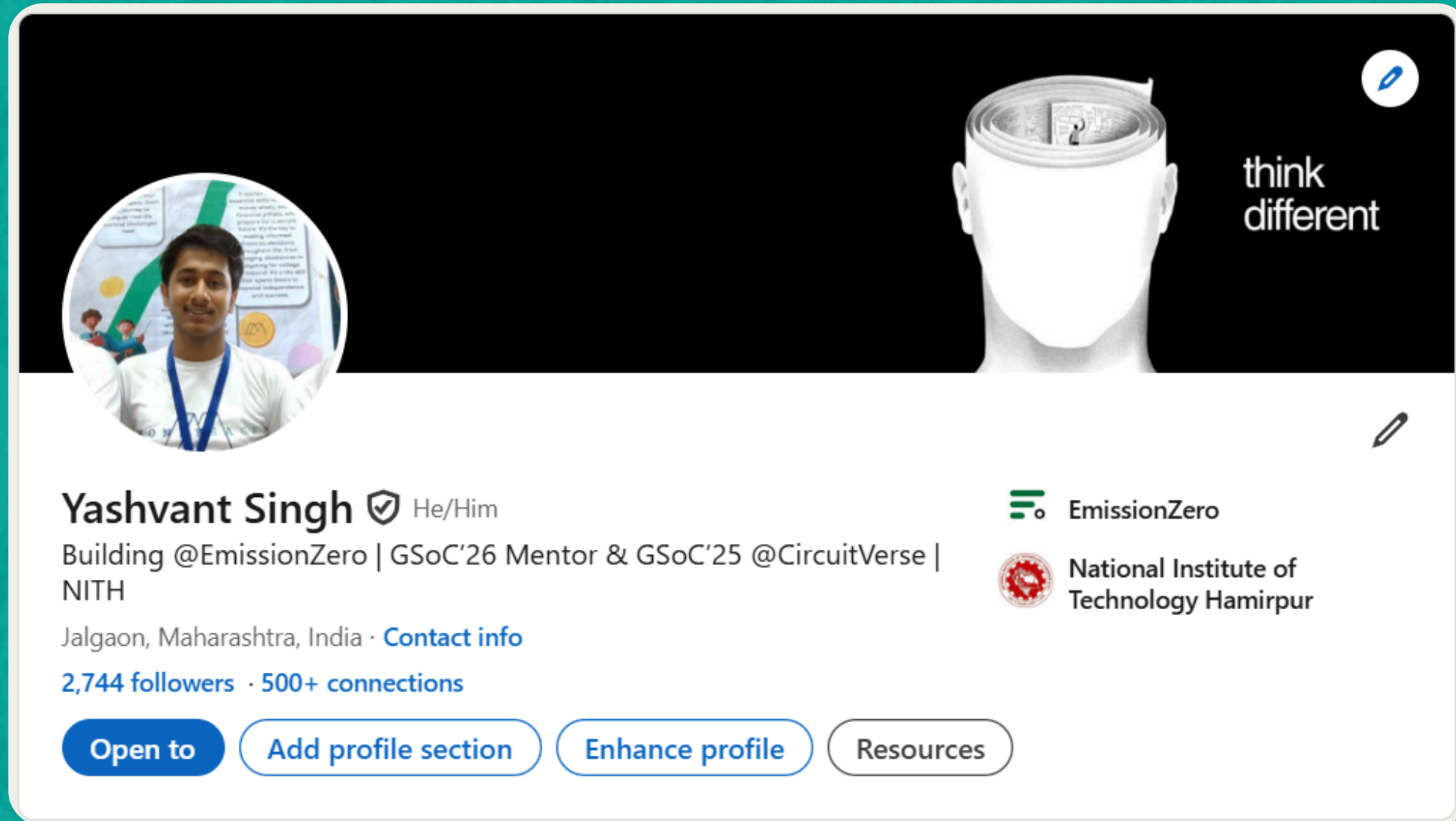
Community Is More Than Code


Code gets people in.

Community makes
them stay.





Thank You



Yashvant Singh  He/Him
Building @EmissionZero | GSoC'26 Mentor & GSoC'25 @CircuitVerse | NITH
Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India · [Contact info](#)
2,744 followers · 500+ connections

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 EmissionZero
 National Institute of Technology Hamirpur

think different

