Getting more women into open source

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Open source is awesome

- New solutions and perspectives
- Sharing, collaboration & peer review
- Exponential impact - multiplies knowledge, effort, inspiration, & creativity

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Most open source projects look like this

https://www.flickr.com/photos/collgelibrary/8622645192/
write code speak
Open Source is like being an adult

it’s magical until you realize no one knows what the hell they're doing

- Zach Holman

http://zachholman.com/talk/open-source-misfeasance/
Why are you here today?
Why haven’t you contributed to open source?
Impostor Syndrome

Photo: http://elephantwendigo.deviantart.com/art/Hunted-197538783
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Have you ever thought …

“Oh crap!

Everyone is going to realize I have no idea what I’m doing.”
Do you feel like a fraud because …

- didn’t start coding when you were 12
- don’t work on side projects for “fun”
How many of you …

considered not coming today
because you weren’t sure if you were
good / smart / knowledgable enough?
Impostor Syndrome

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Impostor syndrome “is a psychological phenomenon in which people are unable to internalize their accomplishments. Despite external evidence of their competence, those with the syndrome remain convinced that they are frauds and do not deserve the success they have achieved. Proof of success is dismissed as luck, timing, or as a result of deceiving others into thinking they are more intelligent and competent than they believe themselves to be.”

– Wikipedia
hold yourself back

Isolation
Failure
Stress

Self-fulfilling

work too hard

Burnout!
Tech is communal

Everyone is held back

- Teams, Pairing
- FLOSS
- Stack Overflow
- Conferences
- Books & blogs
Imposter Shimposter
“I’ve realized almost everyone is a fraud so I try not to feel bad about it.”

–Tina Fey
Open Source defeats Impostor Syndrome!

• Share
• Help others
• Look at the data
• If not you, who?
Help others

- Teach things you know
- Ask the first question *so someone else doesn’t have to*
- Connect with others
- Use your values to find focus & purpose
Look at the data

Record

✦ positive feedback
✦ measurable progress
✦ accomplishments

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Make lists!

- What can you teach?
- What do you want to learn?
- What have you accomplished?
- What do you know?
- What have you done?

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What do you know?

List

- Languages (HTML, Java etc)
- Frameworks (Django, Rspec, CakePHP)
- Tools (make, rake, WordPress)
- Documentation, Testing, Team, Project Management
What have you done?

List

- Jobs
- Internships, volunteering, organizations
- Schools
- Projects (work or personal)
General Technologies

Technologies used in project

Project
• Use the tools you have
• Invert the “negatives”
• Give credit to personal experience
Fake it ’til you make it.

Power
Pose
Just do it!

<<write/speak/code>>
Create a project
* chrome extension
* scratch your itch
* teach
* learn
* open data
* productivity tool
Contribute
Where do I look?

- Tools you use!
- github.com/Explore
- CodeMontage
- OpenHatch

- Use your values, knowledge, and experience to choose
What should I look for?

- documentation on contributing, setting up and running
- tests and test coverage
- community — google groups, IRC, forums
- labelled issues
How can I contribute?

- Listen to mailing list & look at issues
- Reach out to maintainer and ask for suggestions
- Install, run, and test and improve documentation as a result
- QA pull requests, on different browsers/OS/devices
Contribute Code

- QA bugs - add bug report to issue or close if fixed
- Test beta versions
- Fix bugs
- Write a test
- Deal with Dependencies - silence warnings, upgrade versions, etc
Contribute Documentation

- Update install, run, test documentation
- Write an example or tutorial for documentation
- Write documentation for areas where it doesn’t exist (hint: check the tests!)
- Make it pretty! Documentation or website (hint: check out Github Pages)
Outside the box contributions

- Marketing - twitter, social media, get people to write blogs
- Design - the website, logo
- Share - answer questions on SO, write a blog post or give a talk on project
* Own your expertise
* Leap with a safety net
* Create your answer
* Fake it til you become it
You can do it!

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