# Contribution guidelines

Thanks for taking the time to contribute to the [collectd

project](https://collectd.org/)! This document tries to give some guidance to

make the process of contributing to \*collectd\* as pleasant as possible.

## Bug reports

Please report bugs as [GitHub

Issues](https://github.com/collectd/collectd/issues). Try to answer the

following questions:

\* Which version of \*collectd\* are you using?

\* Which operating system (distribution) are you using at which version?

\* What is the expected behavior / output?

\* What is the actual (observed) behavior / output?

\* How can we reproduce the problem you're having?

\* If \*collectd\* crashes, try to get a

[stack trace](https://collectd.org/wiki/index.php/Core\_file).

Please monitor your issue for a couple of days and reply to questions. To keep

the project manageable, we have to do some housekeeping; meaning we will close

issues that have become stale.

## Code contributions

Please open a [GitHub Pull Request](https://github.com/collectd/collectd/pulls)

(PR) to contribute bug fixes, features, cleanups, new plugins, … Patches sent to

the mailing list have a tendency to fall through the cracks.

\* \*Focus:\* Fix \*one thing\* in your PR. The smaller your change, the faster it

will be reviewed and merged.

\* \*Coding style:\* Please run `clang-format -style=file -i $FILE` after editing

`.c`, `.h` and `.proto` files. If you don't want to install \*clang-format\*

locally or your version produces a different result than the formatting

check on Github, use `contrib/format.sh` to format files using the same web

service used by our check.

\* \*Documentation:\* New config options need to be documented in two places: the

manpage (`src/collectd.conf.pod`) and the example config

(`src/collectd.conf.in`). New plugins need to be added to the `README` file.

\* \*Continuous integration:\* Once your PR is created, our continuous

integration environment will try to build it on a number of platforms. If

this reports a failure, please investigate and fix the problem. We will at

best do a very casual review for failing PRs.

\* \*Don't rebase:\* Rebasing your branch destroys the review history. If a

review takes a long time, we may ask you to rebase on a more recent

\*master\*, but please don't do that without being asked.

\* \*types.db:\* One of the most common mistakes made by new contributors is the

addition of (many) new \*types\* in the file `src/types.db`. The majority of

usecases can be met with one of the existing entries. If you plan to add new

entries to `src/types.db`, you should talk to us early in the design

process.

### ChangeLog

PRs need to have a one-line summary in the \*PR description\*. This information

is used to automatically generate release notes. If you got here after creating

the PR, you need to go to the \*PR description\* (shown as the first "comment" on

the PR, made by yourself) and \*edit\* that description. Editing a PR will

trigger the "ChangeLog" status to be updated.

For the summary itself, follow this style:

```

ChangeLog: Foo plugin: A specific issue people had has been fixed.

```

The summary must be on a line of its own, with a "ChangeLog:" prefix at the

beginning of the line. The text should start with "Foo plugin" to give the

reader context for the information. Other common contexts are "collectd" for

the core daemon, "Build system", and "Documentation". Use past tense and

passive voice the for remainder, e.g. "a bug has been fixed", "a feature has

been added".

Some PRs should be excluded from the release notes, e.g. changes to project

internal documentation (such as this file). Those changes are not interesting

for external users of the project and would reduce the value of the release

notes. Maintainers may use the `Unlisted Change` label to mark those PRs.

## Other resources

\* [Mailing list](http://mailman.verplant.org/listinfo/collectd)

\* [#collectd IRC channel](https://webchat.freenode.net/?channels=#collectd)

on \*freenode\*.

\* [Old patch submission guideline](https://collectd.org/wiki/index.php/Submitting\_patches)