# Contributing

Haystack is open-source and, as such, grows (or shrinks) & improves in part

due to the community. Below are some guidelines on how to help with the project.

## Philosophy

- Haystack is BSD-licensed. All contributed code must be either

- the original work of the author, contributed under the BSD, or...

- work taken from another project released under a BSD-compatible license.

- GPL'd (or similar) works are not eligible for inclusion.

- Haystack's git master branch should always be stable, production-ready &

passing all tests.

- Major releases (1.x.x) are commitments to backward-compatibility of the public APIs.

Any documented API should ideally not change between major releases.

The exclusion to this rule is in the event of either a security issue

or to accommodate changes in Django itself.

- Minor releases (x.3.x) are for the addition of substantial features or major

bugfixes.

- Patch releases (x.x.4) are for minor features or bugfixes.

## Guidelines For Reporting An Issue/Feature

So you've found a bug or have a great idea for a feature. Here's the steps you

should take to help get it added/fixed in Haystack:

- First, check to see if there's an existing issue/pull request for the

bug/feature. All issues are at https://github.com/toastdriven/django-haystack/issues

and pull reqs are at https://github.com/toastdriven/django-haystack/pulls.

- If there isn't one there, please file an issue. The ideal report includes:

- A description of the problem/suggestion.

- How to recreate the bug.

- If relevant, including the versions of your:

- Python interpreter

- Django

- Haystack

- Search engine used (as well as bindings)

- Optionally of the other dependencies involved

- Ideally, creating a pull request with a (failing) test case demonstrating

what's wrong. This makes it easy for us to reproduce & fix the problem.

Github has a great guide for writing an effective pull request:

https://github.com/blog/1943-how-to-write-the-perfect-pull-request

Instructions for running the tests are at

https://django-haystack.readthedocs.io/en/latest/running\_tests.html

You might also hop into the IRC channel (`#haystack` on `irc.freenode.net`)

& raise your question there, as there may be someone who can help you with a

work-around.

## Guidelines For Contributing Code

If you're ready to take the plunge & contribute back some code/docs, the

process should look like:

- Fork the project on GitHub into your own account.

- Clone your copy of Haystack.

- Make a new branch in git & commit your changes there.

- Push your new branch up to GitHub.

- Again, ensure there isn't already an issue or pull request out there on it.

If there is & you feel you have a better fix, please take note of the issue

number & mention it in your pull request.

- Create a new pull request (based on your branch), including what the

problem/feature is, versions of your software & referencing any related

issues/pull requests.

In order to be merged into Haystack, contributions must have the following:

- A solid patch that:

- is clear.

- works across all supported versions of Python/Django.

- follows the existing style of the code base formatted with

[`isort`](https://pypi.org/project/isort/) and

[`Black`](https://pypi.org/project/black/) using the provided

configuration in the repo

- comments included as needed to explain why the code functions as it does

- A test case that demonstrates the previous flaw that now passes

with the included patch.

- If it adds/changes a public API, it must also include documentation

for those changes.

- Must be appropriately licensed (see [Philosophy](#philosophy)).

- Adds yourself to the AUTHORS file.

If your contribution lacks any of these things, they will have to be added

by a core contributor before being merged into Haystack proper, which may take

substantial time for the all-volunteer team to get to.