# Contributing to Eclipse Theia

Theia is a young open-source project with a modular architecture. One of the

goals is to make sure that we can customize and enhance any Theia application

through extensions. So while the main Theia repository contains some common

functionality for IDE-like applications, like a file system or a navigator

view, most functionality doesn't necessarily need to be put into the core

repository but can be developed separately.

## How Can I Contribute?

In the following some of the typical ways of contribution are described.

### Asking Questions

It's totally fine to ask questions by opening an issue in the Theia GitHub

repository. We will close it once it's answered and tag it with the 'question'

label. Please check if the question has been asked before there or on [Stack

Overflow](https://stackoverflow.com).

### Reporting Bugs

If you have found a bug, you should first check if it has already been filed

and maybe even fixed. If you find an existing unresolved issue, please add your

case. If you could not find an existing bug report, please file a new one. In

any case, please add all information you can share and that will help to

reproduce and solve the problem.

### Reporting Feature Requests

You may want to see a feature or have an idea. You can file a request and we

can discuss it. If such a feature request already exists, please add a comment

or some other form of feedback to indicate you are interested too. Also in this

case any concrete use case scenario is appreciated to understand the motivation

behind it.

### Pull Requests

Before you get started investing significant time in something you want to get

merged and maintained as part of Theia, you should talk with the team through

an issue. Simply choose the issue you would want to work on, and tell everyone

that you are willing to do so and how you would approach it. The team will be

happy to guide you and give feedback.

We follow the contributing and reviewing pull request guidelines described

[here](https://github.com/eclipse-theia/theia/blob/master/doc/pull-requests.md).

## Coding Guidelines

We follow the coding guidelines described

[here](https://github.com/eclipse-theia/theia/wiki/Coding-Guidelines).

## Eclipse Contributor Agreement

Before your contribution can be accepted by the project team contributors must

electronically sign the Eclipse Contributor Agreement (ECA).

\* https://www.eclipse.org/legal/ECA.php

Commits that are provided by non-committers must have a Signed-off-by field in

the footer indicating that the author is aware of the terms by which the

contribution has been provided to the project. The non-committer must

additionally have an Eclipse Foundation account and must have a signed Eclipse

Contributor Agreement (ECA) on file.

For more information, please see the Eclipse Committer Handbook:

https://www.eclipse.org/projects/handbook/#resources-commit

## Sign your work

The sign-off is a simple line at the end of the explanation for the patch. Your

signature certifies that you wrote the patch or otherwise have the right to

pass it on as an open-source patch. The rules are pretty simple: if you can

certify the below (from

[developercertificate.org](https://developercertificate.org/)):

```

Developer Certificate of Origin

Version 1.1

Copyright (C) 2004, 2006 The Linux Foundation and its contributors.

1 Letterman Drive

Suite D4700

San Francisco, CA, 94129

Everyone is permitted to copy and distribute verbatim copies of this

license document, but changing it is not allowed.

Developer's Certificate of Origin 1.1

By making a contribution to this project, I certify that:

(a) The contribution was created in whole or in part by me and I

have the right to submit it under the open source license

indicated in the file; or

(b) The contribution is based upon previous work that, to the best

of my knowledge, is covered under an appropriate open source

license and I have the right under that license to submit that

work with modifications, whether created in whole or in part

by me, under the same open source license (unless I am

permitted to submit under a different license), as indicated

in the file; or

(c) The contribution was provided directly to me by some other

person who certified (a), (b) or (c) and I have not modified

it.

(d) I understand and agree that this project and the contribution

are public and that a record of the contribution (including all

personal information I submit with it, including my sign-off) is

maintained indefinitely and may be redistributed consistent with

this project or the open source license(s) involved.

```

Then you just add a line to every git commit message:

Signed-off-by: Joe Smith <joe.smith@email.com>

Use your real name (sorry, no pseudonyms or anonymous contributions.)

If you set your `user.name` and `user.email` git configs, you can sign your

commit automatically with `git commit -s`.