# Contributing Guidelines

This document explains how to contribute to this project in many aspects. Please make sure to read the relating sections thoroughly before making any contributions.

## Reporting Issues

The so-called "issue" includes but is not limited to software bugs and suggestions

### Always Search for Duplicates Before Filing a New Issue

There is a possibility that your issue has already been filed, so please search the issue tracker before filing a new one

When searching, use keywords instead of full sentences. For example, search "crash unbounded variable" instead of "The program crashes with 'unbounded variable' message printed on screen".

### Report Software Bugs Effectively

How you report software bugs greatly affects how fast it can be processed and fixed, refer to [How to Report Bugs Effectively](http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/bugs.html) for more information

## Localize (Translate) the Software

If you are fluent in a language other than English, you may help this project by translating it to your language. This is called localization or L10N for short. This software has already been internationalized so that it is capable of displaying different languages.

Also, please consider translating our documentation to the language that you are fluent in.

## Improving Documentation

The documentation of this project may be outdated through time, and needs help to keep it up to date.

### Manual Pages (manpages)

Refer to the following articles for reference on writing manpages:

\* [Linux Man Page Howto](http://www.schweikhardt.net/man\_page\_howto.html)

\* [The GNU Troff Manual](https://www.gnu.org/software/groff/manual)

- [The GNU Troff Manual: Macro Packages » man » Usage](https://www.gnu.org/software/groff/manual/html\_node/Man-usage.html#Man-usage)

- [The GNU Troff Manual: Escapes](https://www.gnu.org/software/groff/manual/html\_node/Escapes.html#Escapes)

- [The GNU Troff Manual: Fonts and Symbols](https://www.gnu.org/software/groff/manual/html\_node/Fonts-and-Symbols.html#Fonts-and-Symbols)

## Improving Code

There are so many aspects of the code that can be improved, however, please consider the following topics while doing so.

### Coding Style

While we don't really have a strictly unifeid style throughout the codebsae, it is required to \*mimic the coding style of the code in context\*.

#### Indentation

This project uses tab characters for indentation as it's width can be flexibly configured in many text editors

#### Padding Spaces

\* Padding is required for operators

\* Padding is avoided for the outer curly braces

#### Word Separating Method

NOTE: This currently only applies to the GNU Bash shell scripts.

\* Underscore for variable names

\* Underscore for function names

### Defensive Bash Programming

\* All parameters that are assigned a value should be declared as read-only parameter to remain unchanged throughout the code

\* All non-readonly parameters should be UNSET right after they are not used.

\* Function parameters should be caught by `local` parameters instead of directly referenced using positional parameter syntax

\* To increase code reusability, avoid referencing global variables from a function, alway pass it by function arguments

### Character Encoding of Plaintext Files

[UTF-8 everywhere!](https://utf8everywhere.org) (Unless otherwise mandated by its specification)

## Promote This Project to Others

It is appreciated if you share this project with others. Also, if you write an article about this project, plese [share it with us](https://github.com/slacka/WoeUSB/wiki/Public-Reactions), we'd love to hear about it!

## Design Artwork/Logos for This Software

All current artwork is stored under src/data. \*\*Please only use materials that are under a free license.\*\*

## Guidelines in Using Git SCM

### Create Commits Based on Minimal Independent Changes

Avoid creating commits that do multiple things at once as this will help other developers understand the change history.

### Write Comprehensible Commit Messages

While we currently don't have a strict commit message style, we do have established some requirements:

\* Every contribution must conform to the [Developer Certificate of Origin](https://elinux.org/Developer\_Certificate\_Of\_Origin), version 1.1 or more recent version, and is signed off using the `Signed-off-by: ` tag

\* Use English for commit messages

For summary line format, [refer and mimic the commit log](https://github.com/slacka/WoeUSB/commits/master). Also check out the [How to Write a Git Commit Message](https://chris.beams.io/posts/git-commit/) article for additional info on writing commit messages.