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# Contributing to Vespa

Contributions to [Vespa](http://github.com/vespa-engine/vespa),

[Vespa system tests](http://github.com/vespa-engine/system-test),

[Vespa samples](https://github.com/vespa-engine/sample-apps)

and the [Vespa documentation](http://github.com/vespa-engine/documentation) are welcome.

This documents tells you what you need to know to contribute.

## Open development

All work on Vespa happens directly on Github,

using the [Github flow model](https://guides.github.com/introduction/flow/).

We release the master branch a few times a week and you should expect it to almost always work.

In addition to the [public Travis build](https://travis-ci.org/vespa-engine/vespa)

we have a large acceptance and performance test suite which

is also run continuously. We plan to add this to the open source code base later.

All pull requests are reviewed by a member of the Vespa Committers team.

You can find a suitable reviewer in the OWNERS file upward in the source tree from

where you are making the change (the OWNERS have a special responsibility for

ensuring the long-term integrity of a portion of the code).

If you want to become a committer/OWNER making some quality contributions is the way to start.

## Versioning

Vespa uses semantic versioning - see

[vespa versions](http://docs.vespa.ai/documentation/vespa-versions.html).

Notice in particular that any Java API in a package having a @PublicAPI

annotation in the package-info file cannot be changed in an incompatible way

between major versions: Existing types and method signatures must be preserved

(but can be marked deprecated).

## Issues

We track issues in [GitHub issues](https://github.com/vespa-engine/vespa/issues).

It is fine to submit issues also for feature requests and ideas, whether or not you intend to work on them.

There is also a [ToDo list](TODO.md) for larger things which nobody are working on yet.

## Community

If you have questions, want to share your experience or help others, please join our community on [Stack Overflow](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/vespa).

### Getting started

See [README](README.md) for how to build and test Vespa.

For an overview of the modules, see [Code-map.md](Code-map.md).

More details are in the READMEs of each module.

## License and copyright

If you add new files you are welcome to use your own copyright.

In any case the code (or documentation) you submit will be licensed

under the Apache 2.0 license.