

Ubuntu Code of Conduct

Ubuntu is an African concept of 'humanity towards others'. It is the 'belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity'. The same ideas are central to the way the Ubuntu community collaborates. Members of the Ubuntu community need to work together effectively, and this code of conduct lays down the ground rules for our cooperation. We chose the name Ubuntu for our operating system because we think it captures perfectly the spirit of the sharing and cooperation that is at the heart of the open-source movement. In the free software world, we collaborate freely on a volunteer basis to build software for everyone's benefit. We improve on the work of others, which we have been given freely, and then share our improvements on the same basis. That collaboration depends on good relationships between developers. To this end, we've agreed on the following code of conduct to help define the ways that we think collaboration and cooperation should work. If you wish to sign the code of conduct, you can [sign the canonical copy online](#). This code of conduct covers our behaviour as members of the Ubuntu Community, in any forum, mailing list, wiki, website, Internet relay chat (IRC) channel, install-fest, public meeting or private correspondence. Ubuntu governance bodies are ultimately accountable to the Ubuntu Community Council and will arbitrate in any dispute over the conduct of a member of the community.

- **Be considerate.** Our work will be used by other people, and we in turn will depend on the work of others. Any decision we take will affect users and colleagues, and we should take those consequences into account when making decisions. Ubuntu has millions of users and thousands of contributors. Even if it's not obvious at the time, our contributions to Ubuntu will impact the work of others. For example, changes to code, infrastructure, policy, documentation and translations during a release may negatively impact others' work.
- **Be respectful.** The Ubuntu community and its members treat one another with respect. Everyone can make a valuable contribution to Ubuntu. We may not always agree, but disagreement is no excuse for poor behaviour and poor manners. We might all experience some frustration now and then, but we cannot allow that frustration to turn into a personal attack. It's important to remember that a community where people feel uncomfortable or threatened is not a productive one. We expect members of the Ubuntu community to be respectful when dealing with other contributors as well as with people outside the Ubuntu project and with users of Ubuntu.
- **Be collaborative.** Collaboration is central to Ubuntu and to the larger free software community. We encourage individuals and teams to work together whether inside or outside the Ubuntu Project. This collaboration reduces redundancy, and improves the quality of our work. Internally and externally, we should always be open to collaboration. Wherever possible, we should work closely with upstream projects and others in the free software community to

Comment [MN1]: Ubuntu is a computer operating system available on-line for free. It was designed by a loosely affiliated group of developers. Consequently, this code of conduct has itself been developed over a period of time by the participants as various problems and conflicts cropped up and needed to be resolved.

Comment [MN2]: This code of conduct opens with an explanation of the philosophy of collaboration

Comment [MN3]: The philosophical vision is followed by a more specific identification of the community, the open-source movement.

Comment [MN4]: Commitment in this code of conduct is voluntary. Would the members of the Ubuntu community still expect members who chose not to sign the code to operate by that code?

Comment [MN5]: This statement clearly lays out the criteria for settling disputes.

Comment [MN6]: The code itself appears overly generalized, until you realize that this code has been developed for and by volunteers, and covers specific problems and disputes that a volunteer workforce might face.

Comment [M7]: How might this or any one of the bullet items be rewritten for a company with employees rather than volunteers?

Comment [MN8]: Collaboration is highlighted throughout this document. How might the Ubuntu community's emphasis on collaboration affect the other obligations listed in your textbook?

coordinate our efforts in all areas whether they be technical, advocacy or documentation. Our work should be done transparently and we should involve as many interested parties as early as possible. If we decide to take a different approach than others, we will let them know early, document our work and inform others regularly of our progress.

- **When we disagree, we consult others.** Disagreements, both social and technical, happen all the time and the Ubuntu community is no exception. It is important that we resolve disagreements and differing views constructively and with the help of the community and community processes. We have the Technical Board, the Community Council, and a series of other governance bodies which help to decide the right course for Ubuntu. There are also several project teams and team leaders, who may be able to help us figure out the best direction for Ubuntu. When our goals differ dramatically, we encourage the creation of alternative sets of packages, or derivative distributions, using the Ubuntu Package Management framework, so that the community can test new ideas and contribute to the discussion.
- **When we are unsure, we ask for help.** Nobody knows everything, and nobody is expected to be perfect in the Ubuntu community. Asking questions avoids many problems down the road, and so questions are encouraged. Those who are asked questions should be responsive and helpful. However, when asking a question, care must be taken to do so in an appropriate forum.
- **Step down considerably.** Members of every project come and go and Ubuntu is no different. When somebody leaves or disengages from the project, in whole or in part, we ask that they do so in a way that minimises disruption to the project. This means they should tell people they are leaving and take the proper steps to ensure that others can pick up where they left off.

Comment [MN9]: The criteria for solving disagreements is different from one that might be in place in a commercial firm or corporation with clear power difference between employees.

The Ubuntu code of conduct is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0](#) licence. You may re-use it for your own project, and modify it as you wish, just please allow others to use your modifications and give credit to the Ubuntu Project! Mailing lists and web forums are an important part of the Ubuntu community platform. This code of conduct applies to your behaviour in those forums too. Please follow these guidelines in addition to the general code of conduct:

1. Please use a valid email address to which direct responses can be made.
2. Please avoid flamewars, trolling, personal attacks, and repetitive arguments. On technical matters, the Technical Review Board can make a final decision. On matters of community governance, the Community Council can make a final decision.

Comment [MN10]: Often, specific items in a code of conduct come about because of an organization's history, and previous problems and disputes. Review the six bulleted items. What problems or dispute do you think these items were designed to solve?

Comment [M11]: Without a valid address comments might be made anonymously. How might that cause a problem in the **Ubuntu** community?

Comment [MN12]: Stylistically, the bulleted items are all positive statements designed to instill the best behavior. This last item **cantinas** a list of "thou shalt nots." Even here the list is preceded with "Please avoid," rather than a firm restriction. How difficult do you think it might be to enforce this code?