Contributing code as a community member

The workflow for a code contribution to the Exponential kernel from a community member's point of view - fork, branch, coding standards and naming prefixes, prefixed commit messages, the file manifest, tests, the CLA...

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Code contributions go to the kernel repository se7enxweb/exponential as GitHub pull requests. The binding rules are in `CONTRIBUTING.md`; this page puts them in the order you meet them.

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Before you write code

1. **Check for an issue.** Search the tracker; if your change fixes a known issue, mention it. For a larger feature, open an issue first and describe the idea, so you do not build something that cannot be merged. Do the same when the behavior you want to change may be deliberate or open to interpretation: such a negative feature is something other sites rely on, so the change needs a clear justification, works best as an option rather than a new default, and may take several rounds of review before it is accepted.
2. **Fork and clone**: `git clone https://github.com/your-username/exponential.git`, then `composer install` (`CONTRIBUTING.md`, "Getting Started").
3. **Install the hooks** with `make hooks`: the pre-commit hook checks the manifest, the PHP syntax and the code style; the commit-msg hook checks the message.
4. **Branch**: `git checkout -b feature/your-feature`.

While you write code

Rule	Source
Follow the PSR standards and the project's coding standards	`CONTRIBUTING.md`, "Making Changes"
Name new code by the prefix rule: new kernel code uses exp; existing identifiers such as `eZContentObject` or `eZINI` are never renamed	same

Rule	Source
Templates and stylesheets of the administration designs follow Styling the administration: no `<style>` block or `style=""` attribute, shared components and tokens	same
Add tests that fail without your change and pass with it	`CONTRIBUTING.md`, "Code Reviews"
One change per pull request: "A fix and a refactoring are two pull requests"	same

Before you open the pull request

- **Commit messages** start with `Added:` , `Updated:` , `Fixed:` , `Removed:` or `Renamed:` , for example `Fixed: The redirect keeps the query string on the own host` (`CONTRIBUTING.md`).
- **The manifest**: "every commit that adds, changes or removes a file updates its line in `share/filelist.md5` (`make manifest-fix`)".
- **Tests pass**, and the documentation is updated if behavior changed.
- **Your CLA is on file** with 7x (The CLA explained).

The checks that CI runs are described in Quality checks.

The pull request

1. Push your branch to your fork and open a pull request against `main`.
2. Fill in the template and tick the CLA checkbox.
3. Expect review rounds: "7x does a much larger than usual number of review rounds before it accepts a commit or pull request, sometimes hundreds of revisions" (`CONTRIBUTING.md`, "Code Reviews").
4. **Squash and rebase** your pull request onto `main` while it is open; force-push only to your own branch.
5. Once merged, `main`'s history is never rewritten; a later fix is a new pull request.

Reviewing and being reviewed has advice for the review rounds.

Code that is not kernel code

Your code	Where it goes	CLA?
A fix to an extension that has its own repository	That repository's pull requests	Ask its maintainer; the CLA covers code "you want 7x to include" in the project
A fix to one of the kernel's libraries (`ezc*` classes)	The fork's repository, `se7enxweb/expcomponents-<name>`	Apache 2.0 code; see Contributing to expcomponents
Your own extension, theme or site package	Your own repository, Projects, Packagist	No (Sharing extensions and themes)
A fix to a library Exponential depends on	The library's own project	Its rules

Related pages

- Contributing as a community member
- Contributing code (supporters)
- Develop with Git
- Contributing back with pull requests
- Pull request etiquette
- Free documentation: this page is free to copy, translate and improve under the GNU FDL 1.3.

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