

Making your third contribution to an open source project

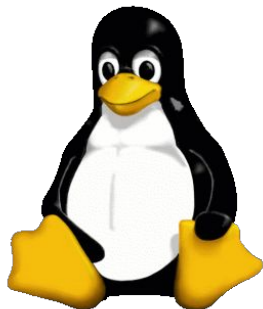
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Heyo!



- Final-year student at Brown University
- Obsessed about systems — distributed systems, database systems, operating systems

The mentorship program



Linux Kernel

- The operating system kernel we all know and love :-)



Linux Kernel Bug Fixing

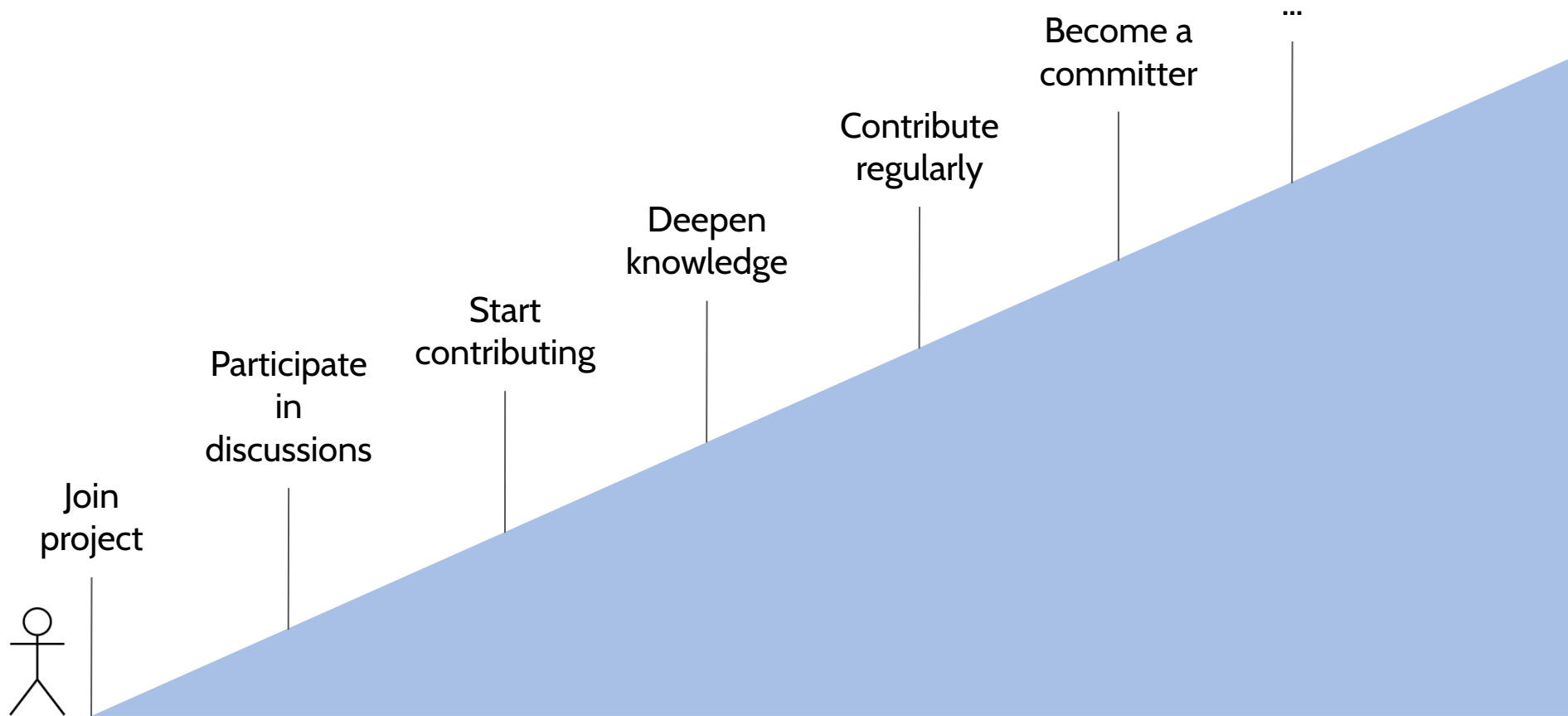
- Many bugs found by automated tools
- Gain a deeper understanding of the kernel
- Hopefully, fix many bugs

**Making your third contribution
to an open source project?**

The open source journey*

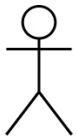
*From Desmond's point of view

A (very simplified) view of the open source journey



A (very simplified) view of the open source journey

Join
project



Contribute

A (very simplified, **but realistic**) view of the open source journey

Join
project



Contribute

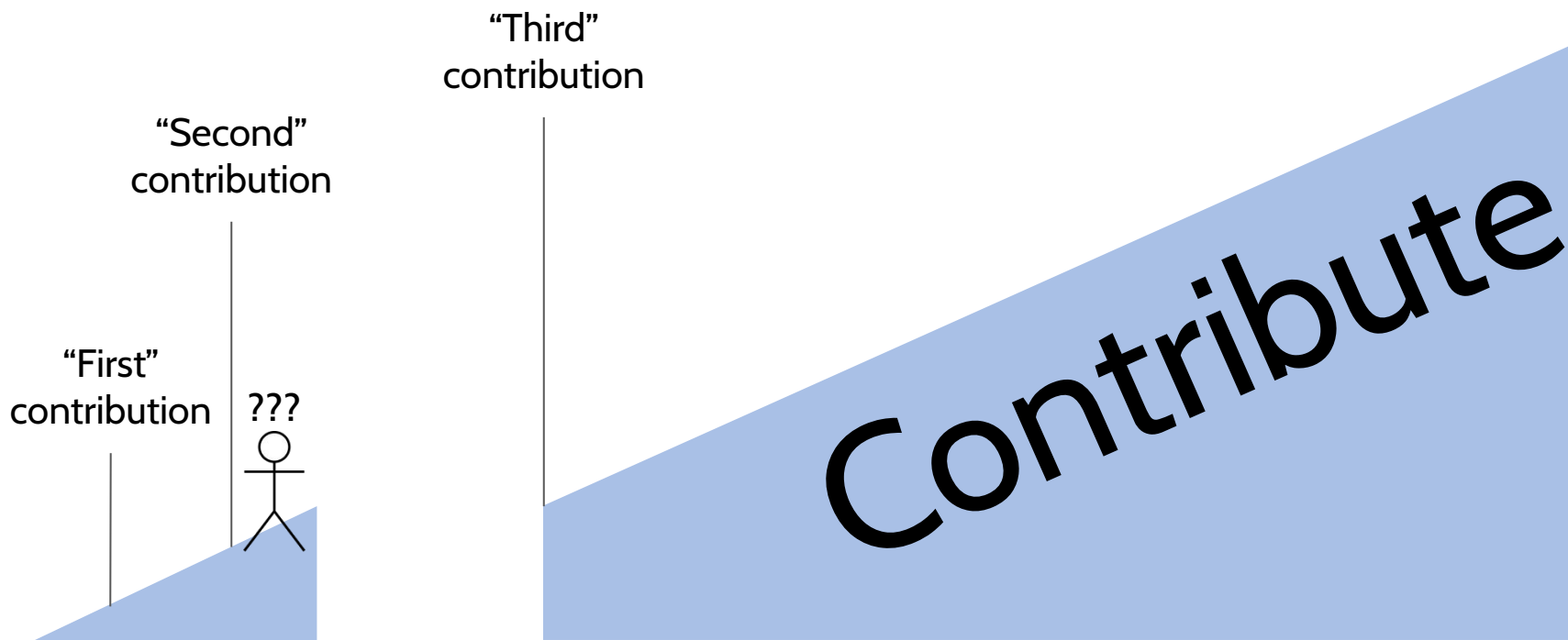
A (very simplified, **but realistic**) view of the open source journey

Many great
resources for this

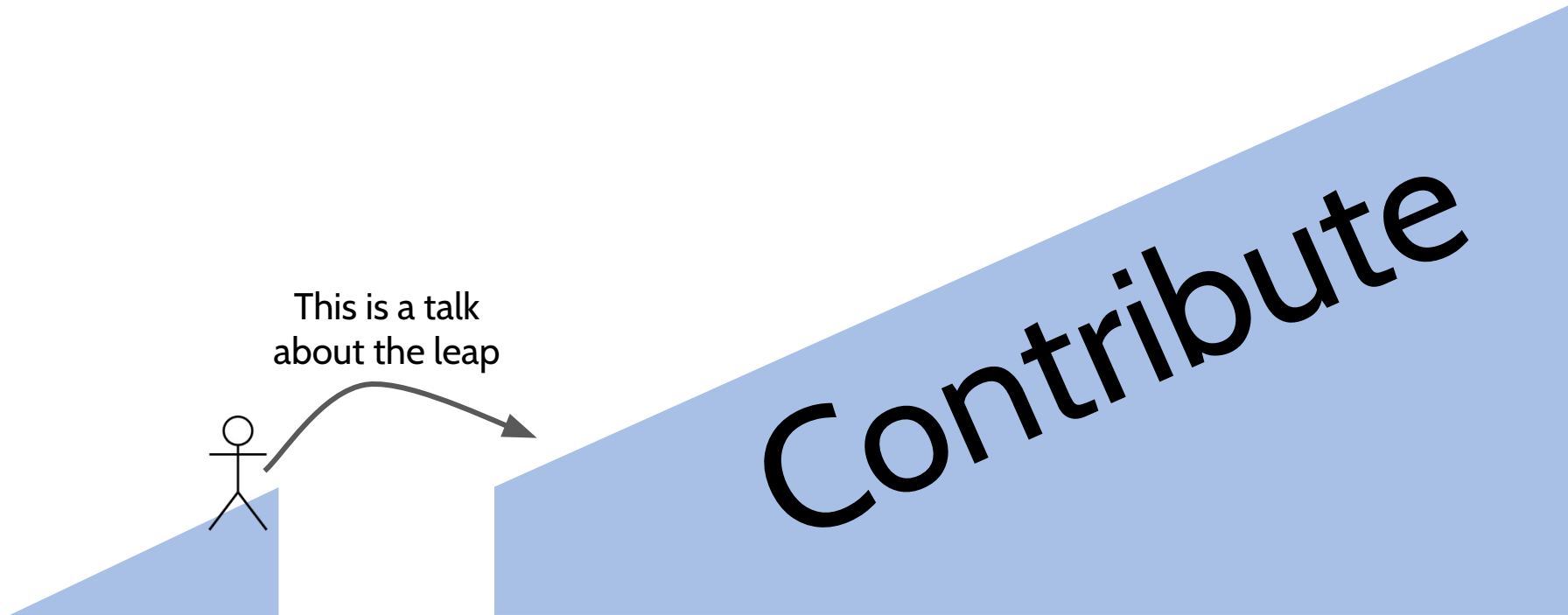


Contribute

A (very simplified, **but realistic**) view of the open source journey



A (very simplified, **but realistic**) view of the open source journey



**Making a “third” contribution to
the Linux Kernel**

A journey that's possible thanks to my mentors (both formal and informal)



Shuah Khan



Greg Kroah-Hartman



Daniel Vetter

How my mentors taught me

Learning resources

Feedback

Encouragement

Career advice

How my mentors taught me

Learning resources

Feedback

Technical

Encouragement

Emotional

Career advice

**Making a “third” contribution
outside a mentorship program**

A guide for making your third contribution

1. Get interested
2. Follow the conversation
3. Do something! Anything!
4. Find mentors (formal and informal)
5. Stay in the game (go to step 1)

A guide for making your third contribution (in open source, or in life, the universe, and everything)

1. Get interested
2. Follow the conversation
3. Do something! Anything!
4. Find mentors (formal and informal)
5. Stay in the game (go to step 1)

Where am I now?

- ~40 upstream commits
- Contributions to subsystems including the Direct Rendering Manager, Bluetooth, Btrfs...
- Involved in ~700 Linux Kernel Mailing List emails



Goals for the future

- Stay in the game, make open source a bigger part of my life
- Deepen my knowledge of the Linux Kernel
- Help people along their journeys
- Make more friends in the community (hi to everyone watching this!)



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Thank you!