CS 360 Open Source Development - How to start as an Open Source Developer

Prepare answers to the following questions for **Monday, Nov 24, 11:45 am!** Write these in a GoogleDoc and share with `will4614@pacificu.edu`

► This is an individual assignment! We will put these together on Monday in class.

Based upon this course and your own experiences:

0. What is the most important piece of advice you can give a newbie Open Source developer?

1. What are the most important **technical** skills necessary to start as an Open Source developer?

2. What are the most important **social/cultural** skills necessary to start as an Open Source developer?

3. What steps would you suggest to a developer who is interested in starting to contribute to an existing open source project?

4. What steps would you suggest to a develop who is interested in starting a new open source project?

5. What are the most difficult tasks in starting to work with open source development?

OVER.....

Answer these questions in the GoogleDoc as well.

Also, read "How To Become A Hacker" by Eric Steven Raymond
http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/hacker-howto.html
(You can skip the FAQ at the end). **This is circa 1996**.

0. The Attitude, Skills, and Culture sections define a number of points that Raymond says defines a "hacker." Which points do you think are most important from each section? How do these points mesh with what you are learning at Pacific? How do these points mesh with your relationship to programming?

1. What do you think about the tone of this article?

2. Do you feel the article draws you in or pushes you away?

3. The Point for Style section deviates from a discussion of technical skills to social skills and desires. Does that section speak to you or push you away? Do you think this section is important to the essay?

4. Read the follow criticism of Raymond. Do you agree or disagree with the criticism? Briefly state how would you edit Hacker-Howto to improve it for 2014.

http://www.idlewords.com/2005/04/dabblers_and_blowhards.htm

Raymond is the original perpetrator of the "what is a hacker?" essay, in which you quickly begin to understand that a hacker is someone who resembles Eric Raymond. ... These essays and this writing style are tempting to people outside the subculture at hand because of their engaging personal tone and idiosyncratic, insider's view. But after a while, you begin to notice that all the essays are an elaborate set of mirrors set up to reflect different facets of the author, in a big distributed act of participatory narcissism.

The whole genre reminds me of the the wooly business books one comes across at airports ("Management secrets of Gengis Khan", the "Lexus and the Olive Tree") that milk a bad analogy for two hundred pages to arrive at the conclusion that people just like the author are pretty great.