What I learned from 365 days of contributing to Open Source projects

Dieter Adriaenssens

Open Source developer - @dcadriaenssens

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365 day of Open Source

- Github : 365 day commit streak, 2332 commits
- Today : 447 day commit streak (and counting)

How it started

- 14 January 2014 : I returned from an 'unplugged' holiday
- previous 100+ day commit streaks
- see how far I would get

How

- working on my projects : Buildtime Trend, GetBack GPS, phpMyAdmin
- bigger tasks :
  - new features
  - bug fixes
  - refactoring
  - add unit tests
- smaller tasks :
  - fix coding style
  - fix typos
  - translations

=> code quality improves

June 2014 : Getting serious

- Josh (@dzello), Open Sourcerer at Keen.io pledged to do a 365 day commit streak
- I was at 162 days
- I took the challenge to do a 365 day streak

Holiday

- July 2014 : climbing trip
- climbing during the day
- limited time in the evening
- planning to do small commits
- close call on a few days

Difficulties

- Traveling
- Tired after a long day at work
- stuck on a problem

Will I keep my streak going?

Josh's experience

- Josh stopped his 66 day streak going to Burning Man
- other ways of measuring progress

Lessons learned

- set a realistic goal
- choose something that works for you
- minimum 1 commit per day worked for me
- I will keep the streak going as long as I am comfortable with

Lessons learned - continued

- working on the project should be the primary goal
- pledge to commit every day is means to keep you going
- or any sort of metric
- similarities in sports, goals, projects, . . .
- allow to give yourself a break

Break

Acknowledgements

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Questions

Thanks for your attention!
Questions?

Dieter Adriaenssens - @dcadriaenssens

Blogpost : http://ruleant.blogspot.be/2015/01/what-i-learned-from-365-days-of.html