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Why Contributing to Zephyr makes sense for IoT development teams

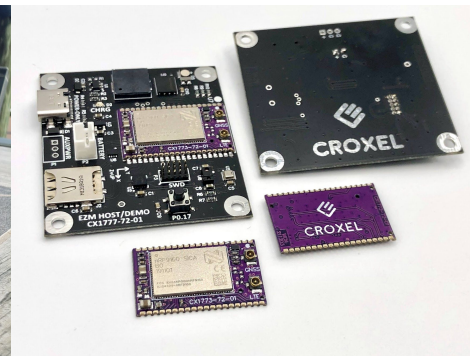
Zephyr Meetup - Anaheim, CA
Nov 5th, 2025



Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Timeline: our involvement with Zephyr
3. Misconceptions that discourage contributions
4. Clarifying the misconceptions
5. Why it is worth our while
6. Want to get started?
7. Q&A

Introduction



Timeline: Our involvement with Zephyr

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- 2019**
 - Starting to use Zephyr for projects
 - Sporadic contributions
 - 2024**
 - Starting to become regular contributors
 - Participation in Working Groups (Bluetooth and Sensors)
 - Participation in a Tech-Talk
 - Attending Zephyr conferences, meetups, networking with zephyr folks
 - Become TSC Community Representative
 - 2025**
 - Reach +100 contributions

Misconceptions discouraging Contributors

Contributing is “giving away” my code

Contributions are rarely ever accepted

Contributions take several months to get merged

Being a regular contributor is “a full-time job”

It's difficult to know where to start



Changes requested

1 review requesting changes



1 change requested



Merging is blocked

Merging can be performed

Clarifying the misconceptions

Contributing is “giving away” my code	- Open-sourcing code means having more people helping test it, fix it, maintain it. - Your sensor driver is not your secret sauce!
Contributions are rarely ever accepted	- It is in the best interest of the project to encourage and help contributors succeed. - Reviewers are guides, not gatekeepers.
Contributions take several months to get merged	- Small contributions go in faster than big changes. - Larger contributions depend on iteration cycles.
Being a regular contributor is “a full-time job”	Contributing whenever there’s extra bandwidth is OK Not only writing code: testing, reviewing, filing bugs.
It’s difficult to know where to start	- There’s plenty open issues to pick from. - Maintainers are reachable in Discord.

Why is it worth our while

1. We depend on **Zephyr** for several projects
2. We believe **Zephyr** is “**the way moving forward**” to build most Embedded IoT apps
3. We thought we had something to **give back** to the community
4. We believe staying in the loop of new features is a **competitive advantage**
5. We want to **help shape the future** of Zephyr
6. We'd rather **make upstream “better”** than rolling our own solution (multiple times)
7. Stay in the loop of upcoming **regulations and security standards**

Want to Start Contributing?

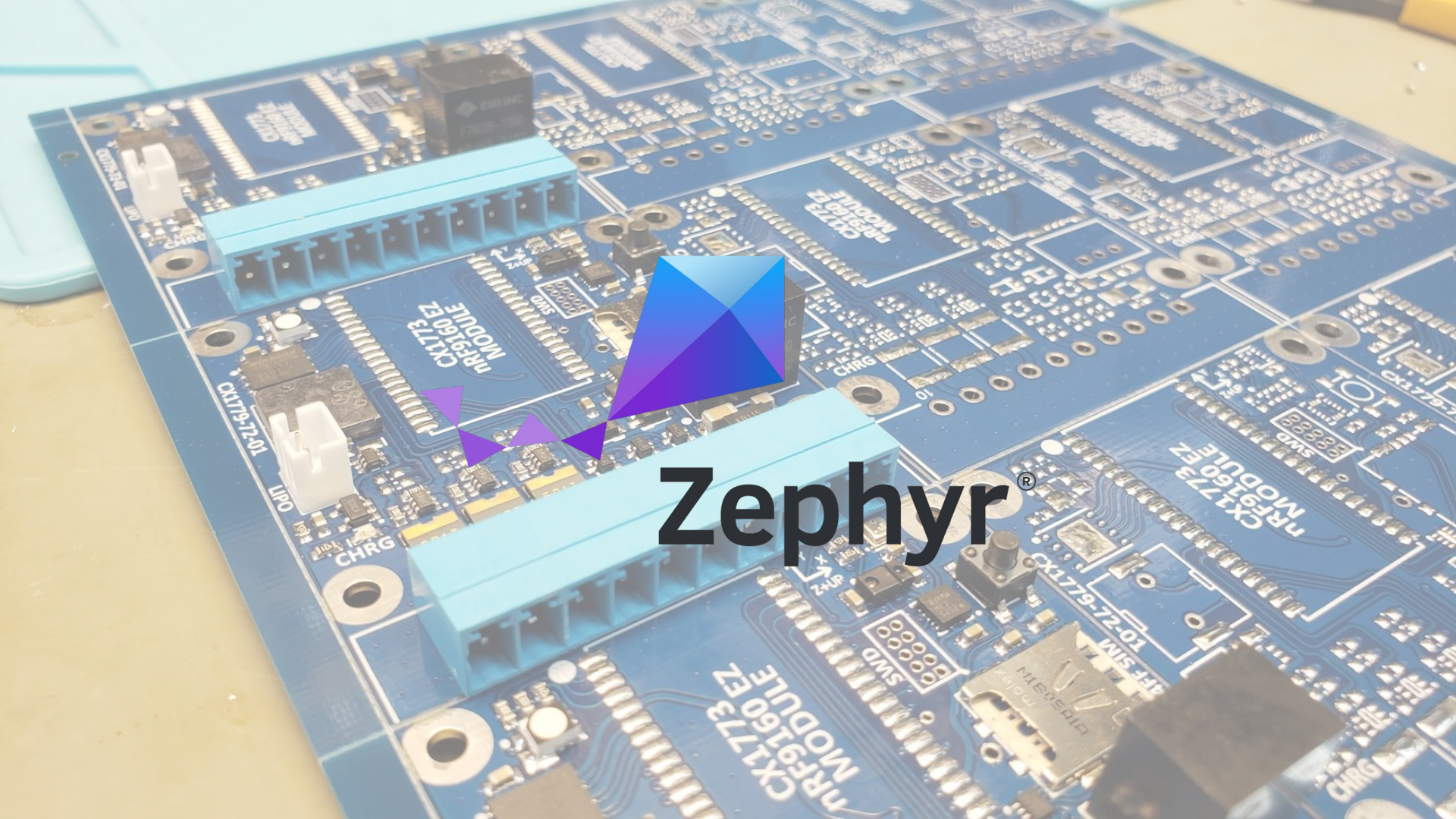
1. Read the [Contribution guidelines](#) documentation
2. Start small, look for open issues
3. Contribute in areas you're familiar with
4. Ask "How can I help contributing in X area" ([Discord](#))
5. Look for activity in relevant Working Groups
6. Look for past similar contributions in the same area
7. Ask for feedback in major contributions: *Be willing to pivot*



Zephyr® Project

Let's talk about Zephyr!





Zephyr[®]