My Journey to Committer Status
What I learned and How it Can Help You

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Who am I

- Apache Airflow committer
  - 2.5 years in the community
- Sr. software engineer at Amazon
  - Amazon Managed Workflows for Apache Airflow (MWAA)
  - Founding member of the Amazon Apache Airflow Open Source Team
My Journey: Plug into the Community

- I navigated myself to OSS work, now what?
- Get connected with the Community!
  - Join the Airflow Slack: One of the best ways to get close to users and observe how they use Airflow and the issues they have.
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  - Github Issues/Discussions: In depth/threaded conversations about ideas or issues
My Journey: Explore the code

- Start looking into the code, some good places to start:

  - Writing/fixing Operators, Hooks and other end user code
  - Provider packages are generally a good entry point
  - Writing/fixing development tooling, Breeze is a great place to start
  - If you see something, fix it!
My Journey: Review Code

- Be sure to review code not just write it
- This is a great way to give you a broad exposure across the code base
- It is also an integral piece of a healthy community
- Approve Pull Requests even though your approval isn’t binding
My Journey: Review Code Tips

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  - Make your code as easy to review as possible
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  - Rebase often and tests should be passing
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● Be empathetic in your feedback, communicate clearly and stay positive
  ○ Communication online is difficult; tone of voice, body language, etc are not available
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- It’s easy to point out an issue, but better to also provide a solution
My Journey: Find or Start an Initiative

- There are usually many small initiatives ongoing that you can take part in
  - Often of the recipe: do some thing `foo` to all code `bar`
  - E.g.: Update `start_date` and `catchup` for all Google Provider example DAGs
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- Start your own initiative
  - E.g.: Ensure there is an example DAG, doc file for all AWS operators
  - Be sure to publicize your initiative to get the community involved
My Journey: AIP - Airflow Improvement Proposal

- Proposing and leading a large initiative is a great step towards committer status
- Learning the AIP process: write, review, discuss, iterate, vote
- AIP-51: Executor Decoupling
- Build a project board out of your AIP tasks and let the community join the effort
My Journey: Get a Mentor

- A mentor is a fantastic resource
- Someone who is already a committer/PMC member is a good option
- A mentor can ensure you stay on the right track and give you their best estimate of your progress towards committer status
- Elad was an invaluable resource for me!
- Feel free to reach out if anyone is interested and in need of a mentor
My Journey: Join Groups and Teams

- In our community we have a few dedicated groups folks can join
- This will give you extra experience and visibility across the community
  - Triage Team: This team gets more access to modify Github Issues to aid in the process of triage
  - Security Team: This team gets more exposure to the security issues Airflow receives
- I joined the Triage team before becoming a committer and joined the security team afterwards
- Helps to show that you can perform the role before receiving the invitation
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- Community over Code
Questions?

github.com/o-nikolas

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Do We Need More Commiters?

- Airflow is very popular and sees an incredible amount of contribution traffic:
  - 2597 total contributors
  - 4k+ opened PRs over the last year
  - 200+ active contributors per month
  - 100+ First time contributors per month (cumulative of code, reviews, issues, etc)

- Part of a healthy community is a reasonable ratio of folks producing code to folks who are capable to thoroughly review and merge code