Zope Foundation Policy for Contributor Agreements and Patches

Short version: patch submitters must sign the Zope Contributor Agreement before their patches can be merged.

Zope's core codebase is owned by the Zope Foundation, and all of our core contributors sign the Zope Contributor Agreement to assign one-half copyright in their contributions to the Zope Foundation. This assignment establishes a clean legal trail for the Zope codebase, which is important for many customers, and allows the Zope Foundation to effectively protect the integrity of Zope's intellectual property assets.

We welcome patch submissions through our issue tracker or through "pull requests", but in order to ensure that copyright on submitted code is legally transferred to the Zope Foundation, all contributors to the core Zope codebase must sign a Contributor Agreement before their contributions can be merged into a Foundation-owned repository.

Zope contributors **must not** simply check in patches written by persons who have not signed the Contributor Agreement. Instead, submitted patches should be considered as detailed bug reports. As with any bug report, changes proposed in the report are to be subjected to the analysis and judgment of the person responding to the report, and any code merged into the Zope codebase is expected to be the work and responsibility of the person applying the change.

A committer may choose not to require a Contributor Agreement for patches which are so minor that they do not constitute a copyrightable "creative work." Typically, this will only apply to minor fixes such as:

- Correcting typographic errors such as incorrect identifiers, operators, punctuation or white space;
- "Janitorial" cleanups, e.g. for conformance to PEP 8 / Zope coding standards, removal of obsolete code, etc.
- Missing or updated "import" statements;
- Renaming existing routines;
- Changes required by changes in other modules that introduce no new logic.

If you have questions about the applicability of this policy to your particular circumstances, please contact the Zope Foundation board of directors at foundation-info@zope.org.