

GUADEC 2026 ·

# Failure as an Entry Point

Contribution in Open Source Communities

Kripa Khanal

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

# Kripa Khanal

Location

Kathmandu, Nepal

Role

Open Source Contributor, STEAM Educator

Focus

Documentation, Community Organizer

Advocacy

Advocating for open source in South Asian tech communities

Journey

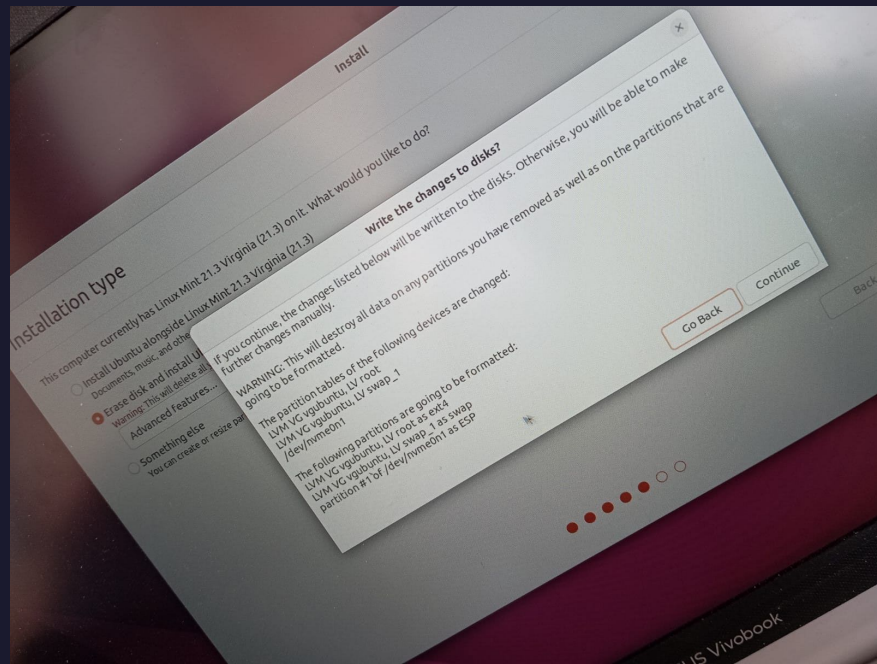
Started with a sticker at NOSK, now speaking at GUADEC





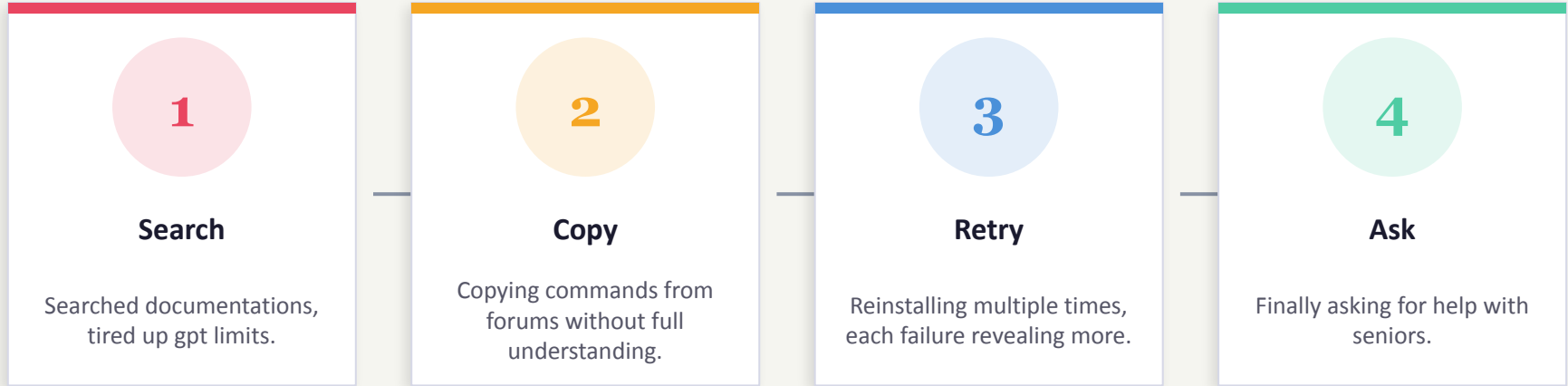
# Using Without Understanding

- Installed Ubuntu for the first time
- Commands felt like incantations
- Every step depended on external guides
- No mental model of the system yet





# Response to Failure



*Without full understanding — and that was okay.*

# Small Progress

## Incremental Understanding

1

### Partial Fix

Some issues resolved; system boots intermittently.

2

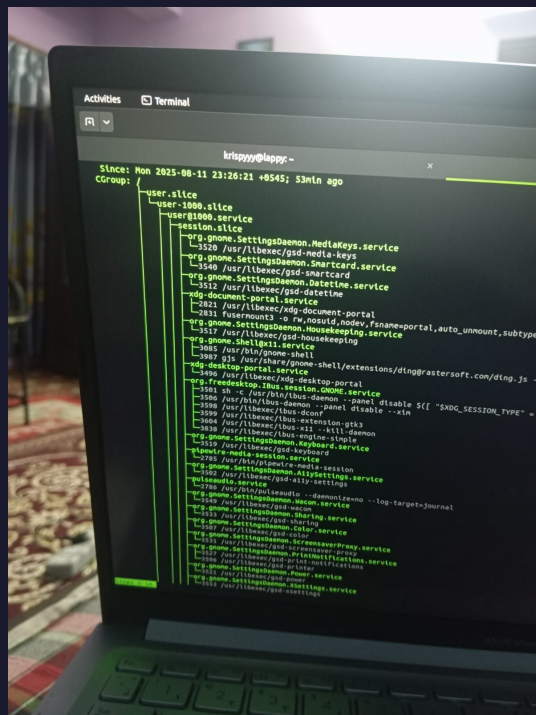
### More Questions

New issues arise — but now the questions feel more specific. Progress.

3

### Deeper Learning

Patterns in errors begin to make sense.



# Externalising Learning

## Through Documentation

Writing blog posts to capture what was learned, not authoritative guides, but honest accounts of the troubleshooting process.

Each post documented the failure, attempted solutions, and eventual resolution.

The act of writing clarified understanding and turned personal struggle into community resource.

## how do I know Initramps only now, or do I?

 Creepahh · 3 min read · Aug 15, 2025

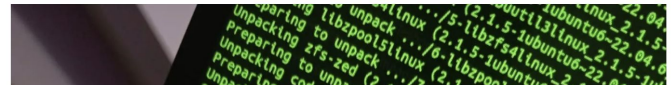
 61     

I'm sick of crashes, seriously.

So, I was trying to install **Redash**, an alternative to Power BI, cuz am a proud (crying loudly-emoji) Ubuntu-user for three years now. Ubuntu 22.04.5 LTS (Jammy) for clarity.

Please excuse my dusty screen, I only clean the package manager cache occasionally.

The scene this week,



# Why Documentation Matters

## 01 Failure

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Reveals gaps in understanding. Forces questions, curiosity, and investigation.

## 02 Partial Understanding

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Investigate, research, and attempt solutions incrementally.

## 03 Documentation

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Write about the experience and learning process honestly.

## 04 Shared Knowledge

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Contribute back to community through writing, (and more) and participation.

# Learning Within Open Source Communities



## GNOME Asia Summit 2023

First major conference exposure



## Software Freedom Day 2024

NOSK, organizer



## UbuCon Asia 2025

Returning as a contributor & organizer



*Communities that welcome learners at all levels of understanding.*

# Advocating for Open Source



## Bridging the Gap

Making open source accessible to communities in South Asia where local language resources and local role models are scarce.



## Speaking Up

Representing contributors from underrepresented regions at global events like GNOME Asia and GUADEC.



## Knowledge as Commons

Every blog post, every talk, every answered question reduces the barrier for the next person who dares to start beyond a VM.



## Community Over Code

Open source is not only about commits, it is about who feels welcome to question how things work and who sees themselves in the community.

**Participation does not  
require complete  
understanding.**

*Start with curiosity. Document the mess. Contribute what you know.*



## Kripa Khanal

Open Source Contributor  
& Community Organizer

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Open Source

Ubuntu Community

# Thank You!

*Let's keep the conversation going.*



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