Article
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Running reviews on Open Exchange

For several weeks I'm creating reviews on OEX.
So I'd like to explain to you the criteria that I apply to find **my** ratings.
Of course, each reviewer is an independent person and has his own criteria and his own opinion.
And that's good and important! As [Winston Churchill](#) once said:

"If 2 people always have the same opinion, then 1 of them is superfluous"

1. There are packages that I skip and don't review

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- Pure product announcements
- Packages where requirements exceed my resources and capacities
 (e.g. external SMS service, distributed HW, cloud-based installations, .. )
- Packages on private repositories that can't be downloaded.
- Packages where I just don't understand what the subject to achieve is
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2. I check Description in OEX and/or README.md on GitHub

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- Is there an explanation of the goal that I understand
- Is there a description of how to install the package
- Is there a description of how to test/verify the package
All these points can be covered explicitly or by a link to
an article in Developer Community. Only Empty is not accepted.
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3. Is a Docker container prepared?

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For a single class the cleanup after testing might be easy and acceptable
But if a more complex setup is required (e.g. Interoperability, Node.js, ....)
only a container multiple containers can guaranty to deinstall
all components and keep your testing environment clean
- "docker-
compose build"  is the first check and often the first disappointment
- "docker-compose up -d"  is the next test
- "docker-compose logs" often detects startup issues.
If I can identify the problem and find an acceptable workaround
I will fork the repo, fix it and place a PullRequest.
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4. If there is no Dockerfile nor docker-compose visible

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I use an appropriate template, install and start it.
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Then I try importing the package
This often works also for packages that are not explicitly dedicated to IRIS.
As mentioned earlier, clean-up is simple:
Remove docker image, remove cloned repo. BINGO!
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5. Now I try to exercise the examples or demos

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Existence of a UnitTest clearly raises the rating
- are demo/test data sets available and a guide on how to make use of it
- is there eventually also a video that shows the expected behavior
A hint for videos:
Please speak slowly and simple and as precise as possible and make clear breaks
Most consumers are non-native speakers and may struggle with complicated
lingual constructs. The focus is on technology not on language excellence.
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6. Take the packages from ISC Training as examples of professional setup

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I tried also packages for the Health* products, even as speaking "medical"
is not so much my world. But I was surprised to learn and refresh a lot of feat
ures
around the base technology:
Interoperability and its operation and management and troubleshooting.
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#Open Exchange