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**DESCRIPTION**

*SoftwareX* aims to acknowledge the impact of software on today’s research practice, and on new scientific discoveries in almost all research domains. *SoftwareX* also aims to stress the importance of the software developers who are, in part, responsible for this impact.

To this end, *SoftwareX* aims to support publication of research software in such a way that: The software is given a stamp of scientific relevance, and provided with a peer-reviewed recognition of scientific impact; The software developers are given the credits they deserve; The software is citable, allowing traditional metrics of scientific excellence to apply; The academic career paths of software developers are supported rather than hindered; The software is publicly available for inspection, validation, and re-use.

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