

SCTO Validation Platform

Reviewing tests

Release date: 2025-01-01

This document is an integral component of the SCTO Validation Platform

Document development, review and version history

Development and Review

Authored/revised by:

Name	Date
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Version History

Version	Date	Author(s)	Summary of Changes
1.0	2025-01-01	Alan Haynes,	Initial version

Once someone has prepared one or more tests for functions in a package and submitted them to be incorporated into the platform via a pull request. They should then be reviewed by another member of the platform, ideally from another unit, to check that the tests are programmed and documented appropriately.

1 Who reviews?

All pull requests are by default automatically assigned to one individual per unit. These individuals should agree among themselves who can perform the review, potentially nominating someone else from their unit. Those that will not be performing the review can be removed from the list of assignees.

Note

If you need a review urgently, reach out to someone by other means (e.g. email) and arrange that they perform the review for you.

2 Performing the review

The review is performed within the pull request on GitHub. There are four main tabs the pull request screen on GitHub:



- The conversation tab is for discussions of general points about the pull request.
- The commits tab lists the individual commits that make up the pull request. For our purposes, this is rarely of use.
- The checks tab shows the results of automated checks that are run on the pull request. As we have no automated checks running for this repository, this tab is also not useful.
- The files changed tab shows the changes that have been made in the pull request. This is where the review is performed.

The files changes lists all changes in all files modified during the pull request. The reviewer should look at each file in turn, checking that the changes are appropriate and that the code is well written and documented. The reviewer should also check that the tests are appropriate and that they test the correct things. Also, ensure that the details of the test in `info.txt` match the tests that were actually performed.

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Where there are general points to be made, these should be made in the conversation tab. For specific points, the reviewer can comment on the specific line of code in the files tab.

1. hover over the line to be commented on
2. click on the + that appears
3. type the comment in the box that appears



The screenshot shows a code editor interface. At the top, a green bar contains the text "3 + library(testthat)". A blue plus sign is visible next to the number 3. Below this, a comment box is open. The box has a "Write" tab selected, and a "Preview" tab is also visible. The "Write" tab contains a rich text editor with various formatting options (bold, italic, link, etc.) and a large text area for writing the comment. The text area contains the placeholder text "Leave a comment". Below the text area, there are two buttons: "Markdown is supported" and "Paste, drop, or click to add files". At the bottom of the comment box, there are three buttons: "Cancel", "Add single comment", and "Start a review".

4. click on Start a review to submit the comment

To indicate that you have checked a particular file and that it is suitable, you can click on the Viewed box on the top right of each file.

The very top of the page has a box for finalising the review.

0 / 3 files viewed
Review in codespace
Review changes

Finish your review

Write
Preview
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Leave a comment

Markdown is supported
Paste, drop, or click to add files

☒ **Comment**
Submit general feedback without explicit approval.

☐ **Approve**
Submit feedback and approve merging these changes.

☐ **Request changes**
Submit feedback that must be addressed before merging.

Submit review

If there are no issues, the review can be marked with approve. If you have suggestions or require modifications, you can mark it as request changes. If you have questions, you can mark it as comment or request changes, whichever is most appropriate, and enter your questions in the box.

3 Incorporating the tests in the repository

Once the tests have been reviewed and found to be suitable and appropriately documented, the pull request needs to be merged into the repository. Each CTU has at least one nominated individual that can perform a merge (typically the same individuals distributing reviews). This individual should check that the review has been approved and then merge the pull request using the green button at the bottom of the conversation tab, followed by the “confirm merge” button that appears afterwards.