

# Reasons and Drawbacks of using Trivial npm Packages: The Developers' Perspective

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1 The use of trivial packages is popular within JavaScript developers. This work aims to understand **why do developers resort to using a package for trivial tasks, such as checking if a variable is an array?**


Package isArray

```
1 var toString = {}.toString;
2 module.exports = Array.isArray || function (arr) {
3   return toString.call(arr) == '[object Array]';
4 };
```


6,990,705 downloads in one week

2

## Datasets



38,807 JS Projects



252,996 Packages

38,845 trivial packages  
4256 projects using trivial packages

3

## What is a trivial package?

Survey based study of 12 developers

Trivial Package = Package < 35 Javascript LOC  
& Package < 10 Cyclomatic Complexity

