
How to Write an OSEHRA Technical Report

Release 1.10

OSHERA Agent

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Abstract

This paper describes the basic guidelines for preparing technical reports to be contributed to the OSEHRA Technical Journal.

<http://code.osehra.org/journal/>

The purpose of the Technical Journal is to foster innovation in the OSEHRA community and to drive this innovations towards a mature state, at which point it can be incorporated into the Open Source EHR software platform.

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1 Introduction

Technical reports for the OSEHRA Technical Journal are written by software developers and are intended for software developers. As such, they are required to include the source code of any components that is the subject of the report, and to include as well the unit tests and required data and parameters needed to run such tests.

A successful OSEHRA Technical Report should be such that any reader can download the report and its accompanying materials and with minimal effort verify that the software works and produce useful results.

2 Code Walkthrough

In this hypothetical example, we do a walk through the source code of the contribution with the purpose of highlighting some of the key features in this source code piece.

First we say something smart about the first five lines. For example, point out the purpose of the code:

```
1 PROGRAM1 ;LEI/FO-OAK-ROUTINE EXAMPLE TO TECHNICAL JOURNAL ;10/16/11 13:50
2 ;;7.3;TOOLKIT;**to be determined**;
```

This could include the comments explaining what the code does

```
4 ; The code in this routine is intended to illustrate how to prepare a
5 ; contribution to the OSEHRA Technical Journal. It is expected that
6 ; all contributions will include source code, and a collection of unit
7 ; tests that exercise the functionalities of the contributed code.
```

Then you could explain line by line what the program does, or simply focus on some of the remarkable lines of the code.

Here we read a string from the command line:

```
8 READ !,"Enter your name",NAME
```

Then we write that string to the console:

```
9 WRITE !,"Welcome to Open Source",NAME
```

and conclude with a commentary of the last lines where we quit the program

```
10 QUIT
```

This is a “Hello World” type of example. Your code contributions will certainly have a much higher level of complexity, and therefore you should be free to use as much space as you consider necessary to share your insights on the code to your fellow developers. Remember, this is a Technical Report and therefore it is focused on sharing as much technical information as you can with your peers on how to use, and extend the code that you are contributing.

3 How to use the code

In this typical section we explain how a typical OSEHRA developer can take advantage of the contribution described in this technical report. These would normally be instructions on how to run the code.

```
D ^PROGRAM1
```

4 Preparation

A typical contribution to the OSEHRA Technical Journal should include the following elements

- PDF Document with a Technical Report
- PDF Document with the Primary Reviewer Checklist
- Source code of the contribution
- Unite Testing for the contributed source code

During the process of uploading your contribution to the OSEHRA Technical Journal, you will be asked to upload each one of these items.

More detailed instructions are available in the OSEHRA Web site at:

<http://www.osehra.org/document/code-contributions-and-review-procedures>

5 Conclusions

In the final section we discuss potential improvements to the code, and what other uses it could have.