

## Reviewer Report

**Title: Hot-starting software containers for STAR aligner**

**Version: Original Submission**    **Date:** 1/15/2018

**Reviewer name: Mark Fernandes**

### Reviewer Comments to Author:

This paper introduces the concept that Cloud computing and Containers offer new routes to pipeline optimisation. I like the use of multiple Cloud providers which highlights issues with optimisation for different network filesystems. It would have been interesting to have a comparison with a typical HPC approach e.g. saving the pre-computed indices to a parallel filesystem such as Lustre to highlight the optimisation wrt retaining indices in memory. With respect to HPC CRIU may also have some utility there e.g. with Singularity containers which are often accepted by Cluster admins compared to Docker. I visited the web resources for the software and found them fairly comprehensive and active.

### Level of Interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript: An article of importance in its field

### Quality of Written English

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript: Acceptable

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