Fact-checking guide

A method for fact-checking any story, script or post about Exponential - mark every claim, classify it, find its primary source, check it at the source, record the date, and decide what to do with what cannot be...

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This page is for fact-checkers, editors, reporters and creators. Exponential is easier to check than most software because almost everything is public in its Git repository. This guide gives you a method that works for a news story, a video script or a social post.

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The method in six steps

1. **Mark every claim.** Names, numbers, dates, versions, "first", "only", "faster", "free", quotes.
2. **Classify each one**: fact, self-description, opinion or quote (Attributing statements).
3. **Find the primary source** with Where the facts live, for the press.
4. **Check it at the source**, not in a summary: open the file, the tag or the page.
5. **Record the source and the date** you checked it.
6. **Decide**: keep, correct, attribute, or cut. A claim without a source is cut or reported as unverified.

Kinds of claims and where to check them

Claim	Check at	Page
A version or release date	The Git tags	Verifying dates, Verifying a release yourself
A count	The method given with it, or recount	Verifying numbers
A quote	The original text or your recording	Verifying quotes
A product name	The naming rules	Naming quick reference for news editors
What a feature does	Its feature page in `doc/eng-us/features/6.0/` and the changelog	Feature stories: index
A history fact	The history pages and the timelines	Timeline for reporters

Claim	Check at	Page
An organization fact	The organization's own website and the two profile pages	7x for reporters, The Exponential Foundation for reporters
A license	LICENSE, COPYRIGHT.md, the package's composer.json	Licenses explained for reporters
A comparison	Both products' own documentation, same criteria	Comparisons done fairly

A worked example

Draft sentence:

```
"Released last month, eZ Publish 6.0.15 brings an AI that writes and publishes articles and makes
 sites
ten times faster, says 7x, which has maintained the CMS since 1998."
```

Claim	Check	Result
"Released last month"	`git tag -l 'v6.0.*' --sort=version:refname`	Released only if the tag exists, on the tag's date
"eZ Publish 6.0.15"	Naming rules	The product is Exponential
"an AI that writes and publishes"	expai feature page	Writes drafts only, never publishes
"ten times faster"	README, Velocity section	No comparison published; only the documented figures with their conditions
"says 7x"	Is there a statement?	No; the facts come from the documentation
"maintained since 1998"	7x in three stages	Founded 2001 as Brookins Consulting; took over the code base in 2023

Corrected sentence:

```
"Exponential 6.0.15, the current release line, adds Exponential Intelligence, a writing assistant
 that
writes drafts but never publishes them, and Velocity, a web server written in PHP, according to t
he
project's changelog. 7x has led the project since 2023."
```

What cannot be verified

Some questions have no public answer: usage numbers, customers, budgets, governance details, future dates (What the sources do not say). Ask the organization, attribute the answer, and if there is none, say that the information is not published. Never fill the gap with an estimate.

Keeping a record

Keep a simple log per story; it makes corrections easy (Corrections and updates):

```
CLAIM                                SOURCE                                        CHECKED      RESULT
6.0.14 released 7 June 2026          git tag v6.0.14                               2026-10-18   ok
Foundation founded 19 March 2026     foundation.exponential.earth                  2026-10-18   ok
"writes drafts only"                 doc/eng-us/features/6.0/extensions/expai.md     2026-10-18
 ok, attributed
```

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