

A system that puts the right information about Bogotá's Council front and center for the Town Hall to keep control on it.

The Problem

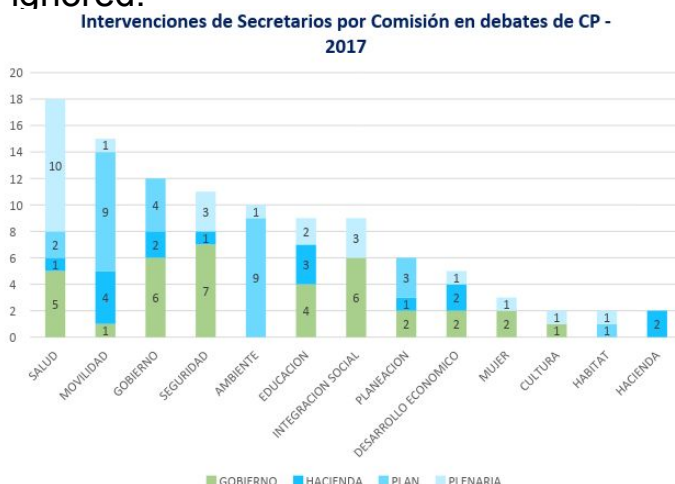
One big problem in the government is huge tension between the two entities in charge of Bogotá, Colombia's capital. Currently, all of the Mayor's Secretaries are vulnerable because of how slowly they find out about the matters that happening the Council.



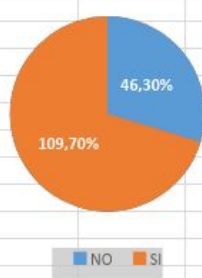
The Town Hall has not yet had the capability of resolving this because of certain business restrictions concerning contracts, laws and definition of responsibilities that restrict how they can behave. For instance, contracts that employees sign when hired are unmodifiable in responsibilities until they end.



There is a big team in charge of reporting to the adequate or liable person about recent events, but the team depends on a single engineer to do all of the data transformation, and uses an Excel™ spreadsheet to handle all of the input. This leads to reports that, due to low quality, get ignored.



Competencia de las citaciones a CP @ SEC Gobierno



Left: An example of a good report, showing Commission vs interventions during the debate for each of the Secretaries. **Right:** An example of a bad report on competency of a Secretary citation, well over 100%; the reason for this is that it had more than a hundred data points and was left as percentage.

Most processes depend on the engineer, and this becomes a bottleneck. Also, the engineer has a huge amount of power, and is not willing to let that go easily, so it is suspected that some patterns are kept in favour of bureaucracy.

When executing the consultancy, the team noticed apprehension towards change, and making information public, even if it made their job easier.

The Process

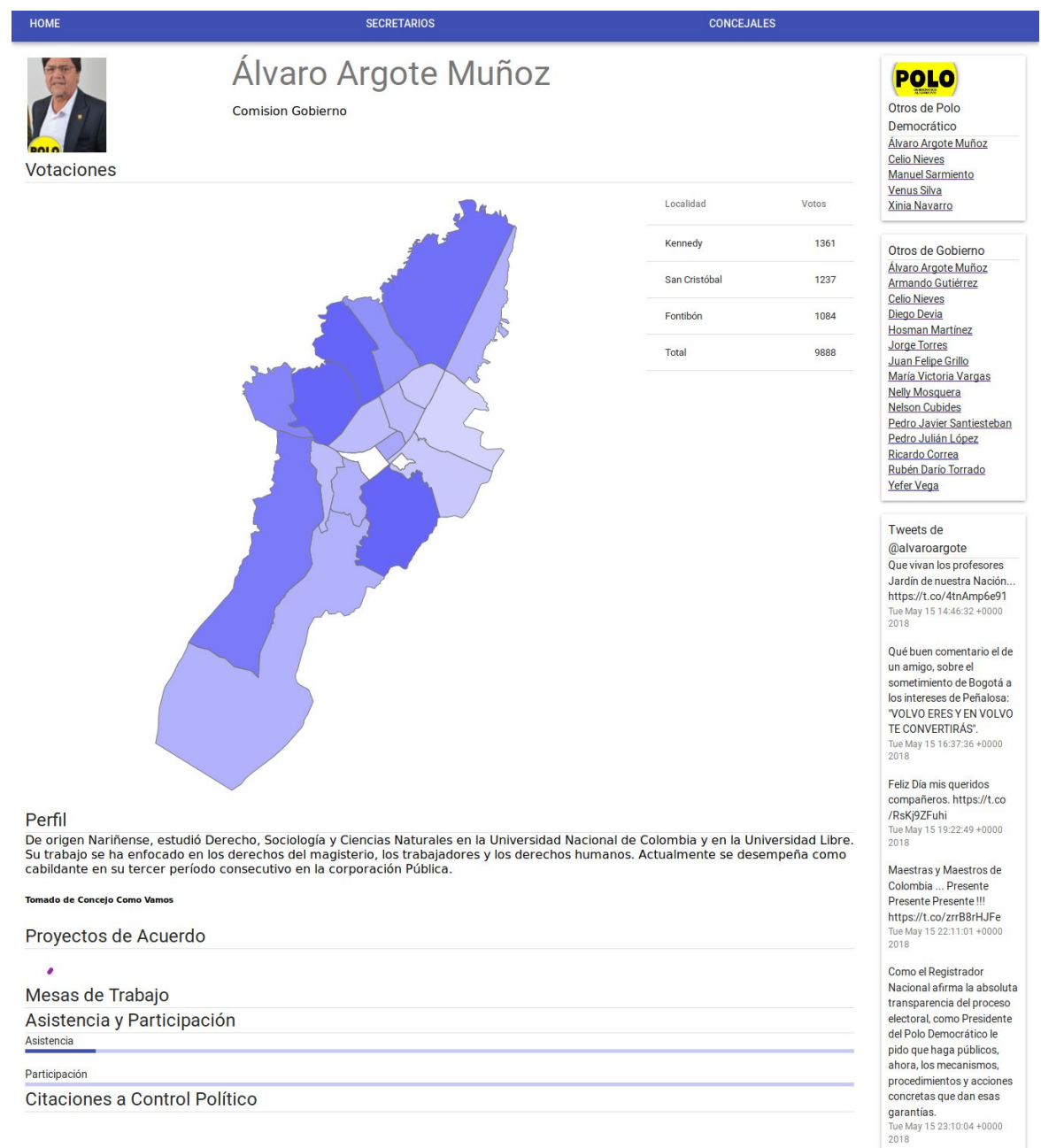
A group of researchers, led by the Dean of Political Science, Government and International Relationships at Universidad del Rosario was hired for a consulting by the Town Hall and was allowed full access to part of the data, all employees and processes that concerned the Council. After a lot of interviews and sitting down to see all the products and processes a solution was designed.



The Solution

Concejo Abierto aims to help the everyone at Town Hall recognize:

- How a Councillor looks
- Their full name
- Biggest voting counties
- Their profile prior to this term
- Recent political moves
- Other Councillors in the same party
- Other Councillors in the same Commission
- Their latests Tweets



The biggest use case is a Secretary using their mobile phone on route to the Council, clearing up doubts on who and why they were summoned. Concejo Abierto also has an open API to query all the available data for researchers requiring it.

The Architecture

The system uses the latest web technologies to assure reactivity and ease to use. For the backend, Firebase was used to allow quick deployments and stability, and Node for fast reactivity. In the frontend, React was used as the framework, with React Router for routing and Material Design for the aesthetics. All the code was freely hosted on GitHub and is completely open source. All tests, before release, were done on a Digital Ocean server.

