

CONCEPT E – Existing for-Profit Company

E. OVERVIEW

This brief note involves entrusting full control of the ODK IP and management of the code base to a single company name, domain name, etc. This would be an existing company centered around providing services around ODK, and it would still be able to offer such services (e.g. Aggregate hosting services, consultancy, survey design). The PMC, with strong input from the greater ODK community (e.g. convening attendees, existing companies, users, practitioners), would decide which company would take responsibility for ODK.

E.1. STRUCTURE

Control over the ODK IP (name, opendatakit.org domain name, etc.) and project codebase repository (e.g. GitHub ownership) would pass to an existing for-profit ODK services-based company. All decisions on ODK would be left up to the company, such as how to seek and incorporate input, manage the community, incorporate pull requests, etc. There would be no limitations placed on what the company could or could not do with the IP and code (including taking it private, which could lead to forks from the latest revision).

E.2. GOVERNANCE

Organizational control is completely up to the chosen company, including how to seek and incorporate feedback from the community.

E.3. TECHNICAL ROADMAP

As above, the company would set the technical roadmap, and decide all aspects - how regularly it is updated, whether it is publicly shared, and how community input is incorporated. So although they would be wise to seek input from the overall community (end users, fellow ODK verticals, funding agencies), control boils down to that company and its decision-making structure. It is also ultimately up to the company to return its own modifications back to the code base, incorporate other developers' changes, etc. If it refuses to do this, nothing prevents the community (or multiple sub-communities) from forking back to the open state of the source code at the time control was given to the company.

E.4. FUNDING

The company would continue to make money through its existing business model, which presumably includes offering ODK-based services, such as hosted Aggregate instances, consulting with on-the-ground users/implementers, etc. It could also seek contracts with organizations willing to fund ODK feature development.

E.5. COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

The hope is expanded ODK community input, as with other Notes such as A, but decisions on whether and how to seek and incorporate feedback from the entire ODK community would be up to the company. As a for-profit company, the needs of its willing-to-pay users will weigh heavily in determining decisions on ODK (e.g. features). However, the company may be disincentivized from seeking or

weighing as heavily, non-paying ODK users and other-companies-users' input. As above, it would ultimately be up to company to determine how to seek input, manage the community, incorporate pull requests, etc.