

CONCEPT F - The (Nearly) “Nothing” Approach

F. OVERVIEW

In this lightest-possible option, control of the ODK Project would simply pass to the current GitHub ODK Project owners. There would be no formal nonprofit organization or company, and no pre-defined rules or structure. It would simply be an open source project under the control of those GitHub owners, and it would be up to them to decide how to structure rules around governance, decision making, etc.

F.1. STRUCTURE

Full responsibility and control over the ODK Project would be passed to the GitHub ODK Project owners (currently 6 people as of this writing). They would be responsible for all decisions related to the project. Absolutely minimal funding would be required. It would be up to the project owners and greater community to ensure continued maintenance, bug fixes, and feature development on ODK.

F.2. GOVERNANCE

Governance would be determined by owners of the ODK GitHub Project. These owners could (hopefully) come to a consensus on a specific governance structure for making decisions. For example, they could decide to follow the [OSS Meritocratic template](#) (this is the current ODK governance model; see Note A.2) and rely on majority vote by the project owners. As another option, they could choose a single leader with ultimate decision making authority, aka the “[Benevolent Dictator For Life](#)” (BDFL) model (this is similar to how ODK was originally run from its inception, with Gaetano Borriello being decision maker). Still another would be structuring it as a democratically controlled multi-stakeholder cooperative, where the users and technical staff would be voting members (with different levels of decision making authority). The main point is that governance would not be determined by the current PMC or as a requirement for the transition, and it would be up to the project owners to determine amongst themselves. Additionally any subsequently chosen governance/organizational decisions could also be later subject to change.

Note that GitHub’s organizational account ownership [permissions](#) give each and every owner full control over the repository, memberships, etc., including the ability to remove *other owners* and delete the organizational account and all repositories.

It is also possible that the project ownership membership might change before the transition, as a result of input from current ODK leadership, the community, and the convening.

F.3. TECHNICAL ROADMAP

All decisions on the technical roadmap would be made by the GitHub project owners, or by whatever subset/leadership they set up. As with other concept note’s models they would of course be wise to seek the input of community if they want the project to succeed, but it will be up to the project owners to decide how they want to solicit and incorporate feedback.

F.4. FUNDING

Funding needs are absolutely minimal, to cover small items such as opendatakit.org domain registration

and potentially online services such as web hosting, community and software management tools, although free options for these services are possible. Therefore funding would be sought by direct donations, either of cash or services (e.g. hosting).

F.5. COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

As with the roadmap, it would be completely up to the GitHub project owners (or whatever governance structure they set up) to seek out and incorporate feedback from the community (feature requests, bug reports, etc.). Being responsive is important for ODK to thrive as an unfunded open source project, and as such, they should be strongly incentivized to seek and balance input both for continued project success and to avoid forks from unheard community members. But as with all aspects of this note, all decision on how and to what extent to involve the community would be up to the project owners.