XLSForm

Tips, tricks, gotchas, and workarounds

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23 February 2021

Outline

- Background on XLSForm

- Guiding principle in form authoring

- XLSForm topics

    - Style recommendations

    - Optimising GPS in forms

    - Getting to know `select_multiple`

Background

- form standard used to author Open Data Kit (ODK) forms

- uses a spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel, Google Sheets, or OpenDocument)

- simple to get started; sophisticated enough to allow complex authoring of forms

Guiding principle

Author forms with data analysis in mind

XLSForm topics

Link to XLSForm for this talk

Style recommendations

- Creating blank base form templates - see this

- A fixed-width font is an ideal font to use - e.g., Courier, Menlo, Monaco, Roboto Mono

- Adding colour theme can be helpful to delineate sections of your form - helpful when visualising your form structure and relationthips of the different sections

Optimising GPS in forms

- Early days of ODK, GPS capabilities were not as good

- Better now from ODK capture perspective but still mainly dependent on the GPS capability of the mobile device

- If collecting GPS, prime your device and prime ODK

- If accuracy is critical, set GPS with accuracy threshold

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Getting to know `select_multiple`

- Data structure associated with `select_multiple`

- *When to* and *when not to* use `select_multiple` - some recommendations

- Other interesting usage of `select_multiple`

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Questions?

Thank you!

Slides can be viewed at https://ecohealthalliance.github.io/xlsform/tips-tricks-session1.html or PDF version downloaded at https://ecohealthalliance.github.io/xlsform/xlsform_tips_tricks_sesion1.pdf

R scripts for slides available at https://github.com/ecohealthalliance/xlsform

XLSForm used for this talk is here

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