

ODK Build

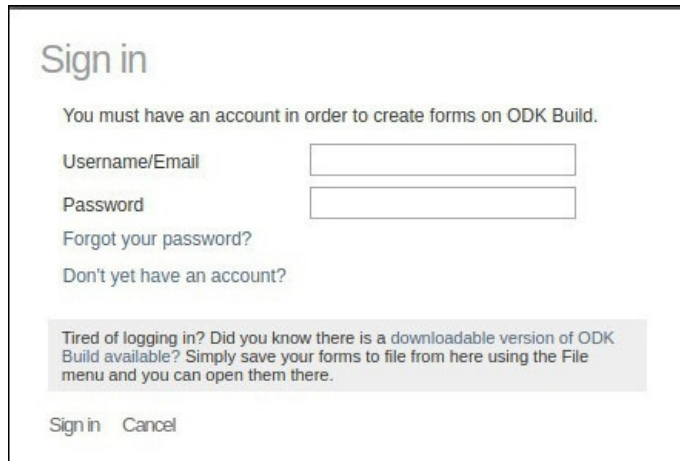
ODK Build is a form designer with a drag-and-drop user interface. Build is an HTML5 web application and works best for designing simple forms.

Tip

For a more powerful form designer from ODK, try [XLSForm](#).

Using ODK Build

Go to <http://build.getodk.org> and sign in.



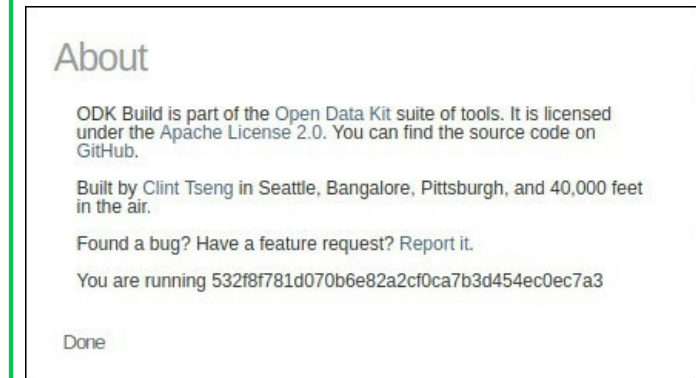
The screenshot shows the 'Sign in' page of ODK Build. It has a title 'Sign in' and a message: 'You must have an account in order to create forms on ODK Build.' Below this are two input fields: 'Username/Email' and 'Password'. There are links for 'Forgot your password?' and 'Don't yet have an account?'. A grey box contains a tip: 'Tired of logging in? Did you know there is a downloadable version of ODK Build available? Simply save your forms to file from here using the File menu and you can open them there.' At the bottom are 'Sign in' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Note

There is a [downloadable version of ODK Build](#) available.

Tip

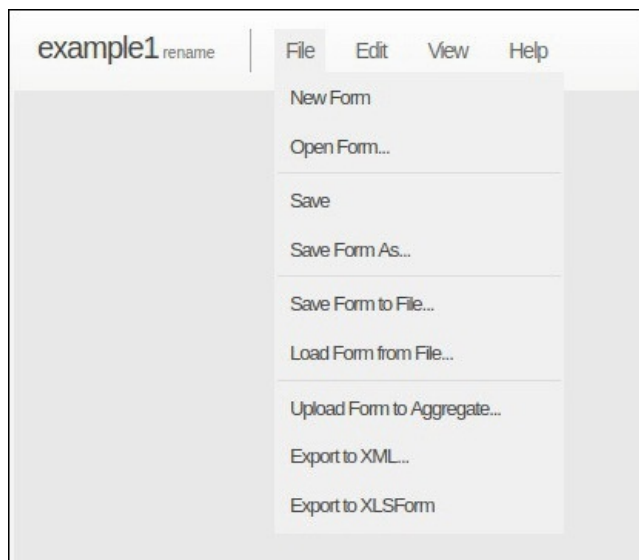
Clicking on About ODK Build... option in the [Help](#) menu provides basic information about ODK Build.



The screenshot shows the 'About' dialog box. It has a title 'About' and the following text: 'ODK Build is part of the Open Data Kit suite of tools. It is licensed under the Apache License 2.0. You can find the source code on GitHub.' Below this is a line: 'Built by Clint Tseng in Seattle, Bangalore, Pittsburgh, and 40,000 feet in the air.' Then: 'Found a bug? Have a feature request? Report it.' Then: 'You are running 532f8f781d070b6e82a2cf0ca7b3d454ec0ec7a3'. At the bottom is a 'Done' button.

Creating and Saving forms

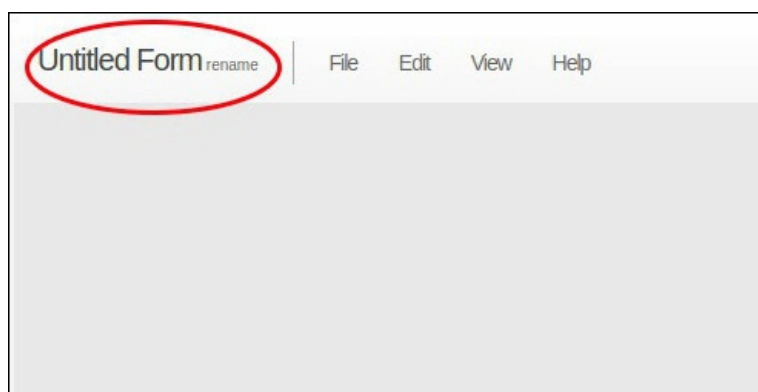
Options to create, open and save forms are available in the [File](#) menu.



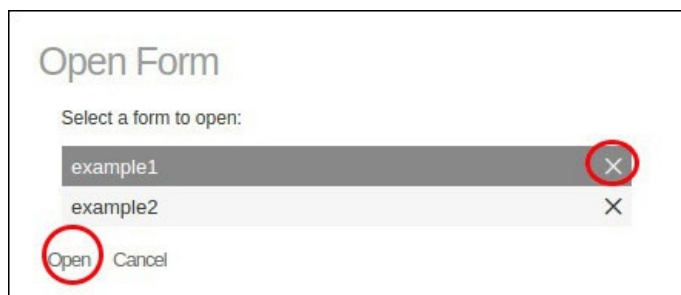
- Click on New Form to start creating a new form.

Tip

When you start building a form on ODK Build, it is named as *Untitled Form*. To rename it click on **rename** next to the form name and give a name to your form.



- Click on Open Form... to open a saved form and edit it. Select the form and click on **Open** option in the open form window. You can also delete a saved form by clicking on **X** beside the form name.



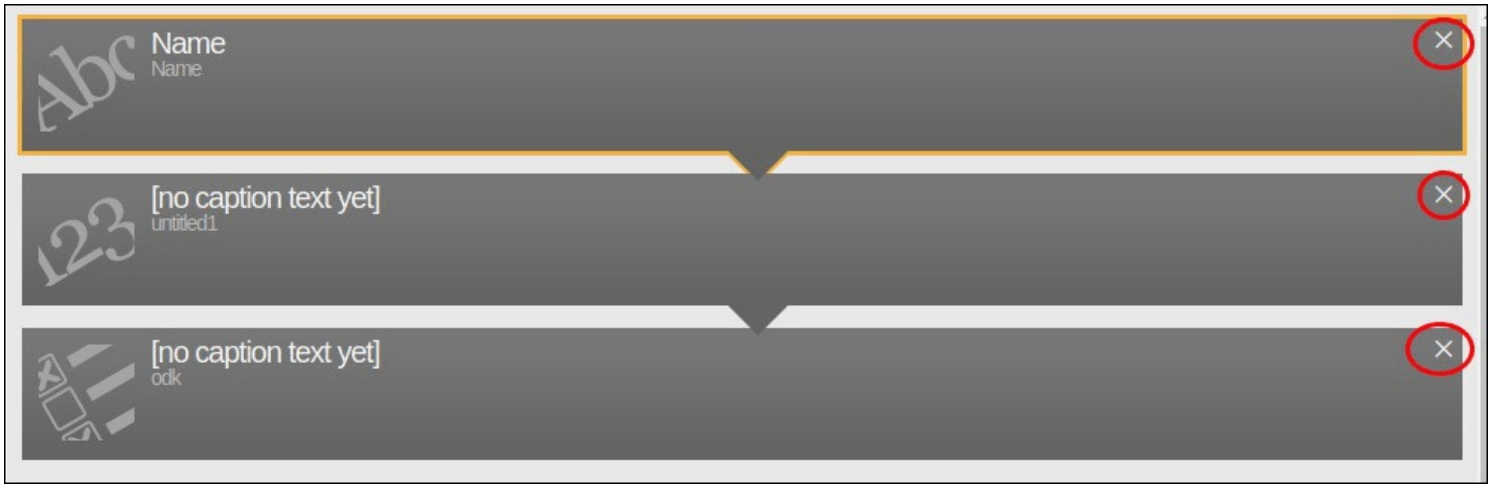
- To save a form click on Save. If you want to save an edited version of a previously saved form as a new form, click on Save Form as... and provide a name to the form.
- To save your form on your local machine, click on Save Form to File.... You can open a form saved into your local machine by clicking on Load Form from File....

Note

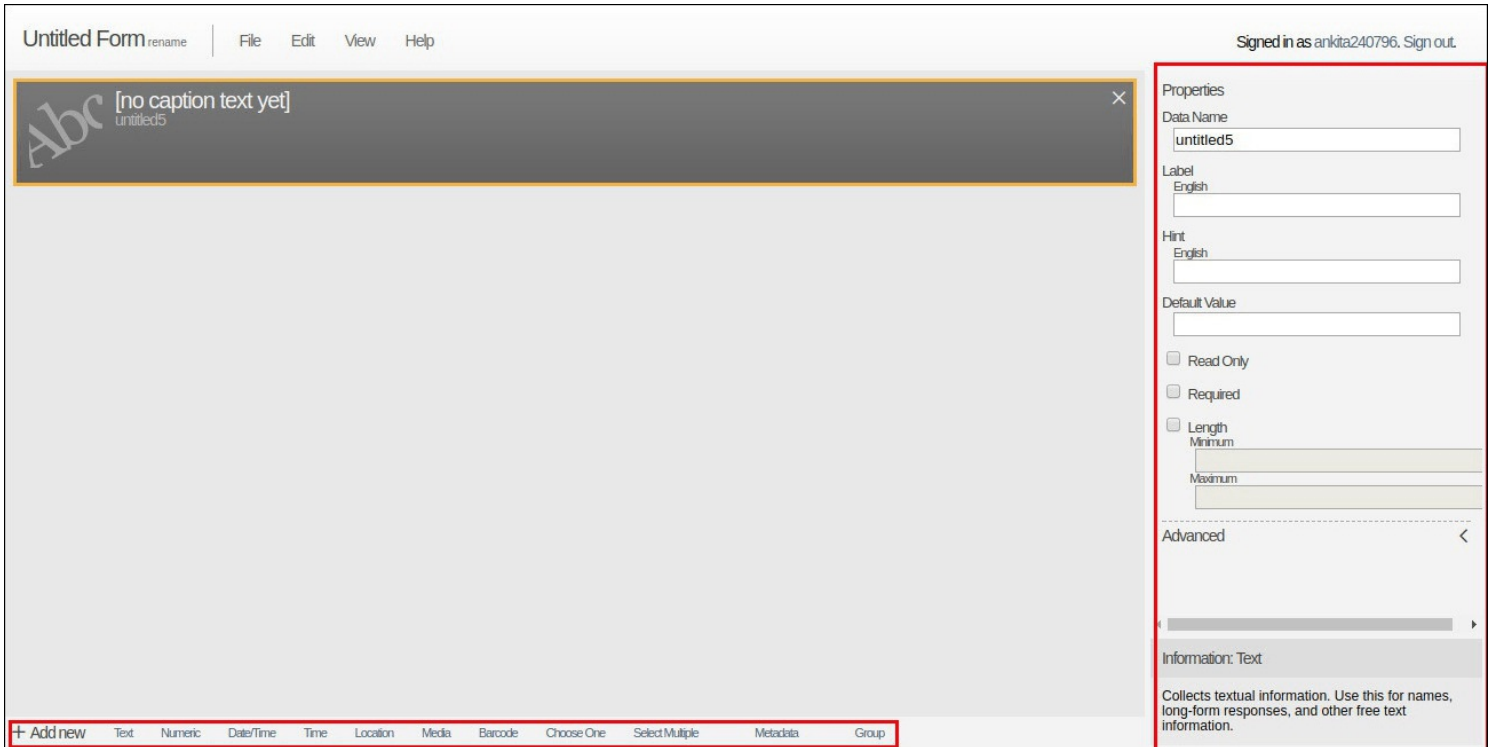
Forms which are saved to your local machine have extension `.odkbuild` and only these forms can be loaded into ODK Build.

Form building

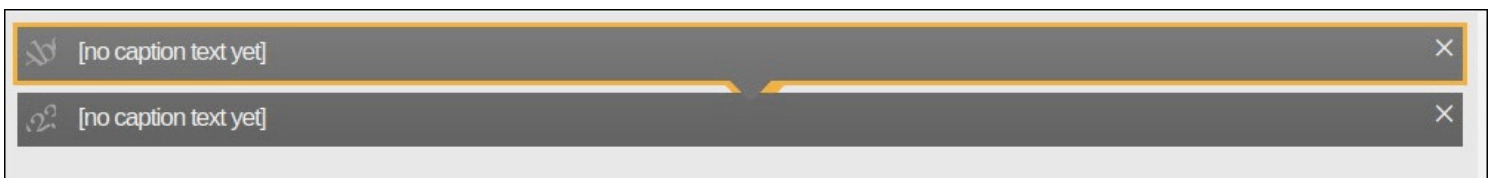
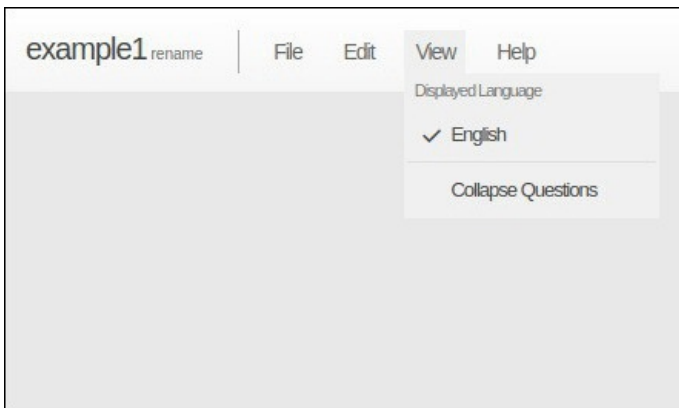
- Add a new prompt, by dragging the elements from the bottom of the screen onto the blank canvas.
- You can remove a prompt by clicking on **X** sign on the prompt.



- For each prompt, modify its properties on the right portion of the screen.



- Prompts can also be rearranged through drag and drop.
- You can collapse the question prompts by checking the Collapse Questions option in the View menu.

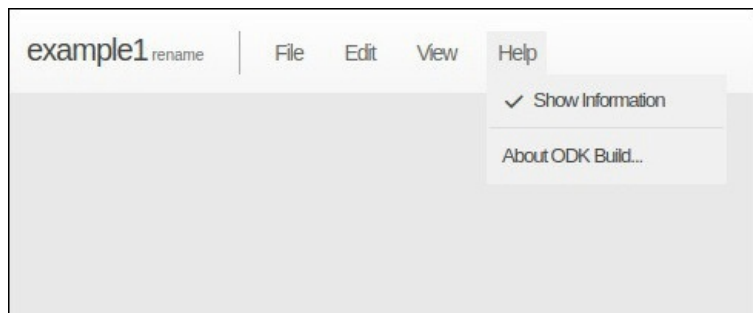


- Information about prompts is displayed in the properties section.

Information: Text

Collects textual information. Use this for names, long-form responses, and other free text information.

- Unchecking the Show Information option in the **Help** menu will hide the information which is displayed in properties section.



Upload forms to Aggregate

You can upload a form to Aggregate server by clicking on Upload Form to Aggregate... in the **File** menu. In the window which opens up, enter the url for your Aggregate server. In the username and password box, you need to enter your Aggregate account credentials with Form Manager or greater capabilities. The account type in Aggregate has to be ODK, not Google. You may leave these blank if your Aggregate instance allows anonymous form uploading.

A screenshot of the 'Upload Form to Aggregate' dialog box. The title is 'Upload Form to Aggregate'. Below the title is a description: 'You can use this tool to upload your form to any Aggregate instance publicly visible on the Internet.' There are two main input sections, each highlighted with a red rectangle. The first section is 'Aggregate Instance URI', which includes a dropdown menu with 'https' and a text input field. Below this, examples are provided: 'Examples include https://my-aggregate.appspot.com if you're on Google App Engine, or http://216.58.193.110:8080/ODKAggregate if you have your own server on the web.' The second section is 'Aggregate Credentials', which includes 'Username' and 'Password' labels with corresponding text input fields. Below these sections is a 'Note' paragraph: 'Note: This is your Aggregate account credentials with Form Manager or greater capabilities. The account type in Aggregate has to be ODK, not Google. You may leave these blank if your Aggregate instance allows anonymous form uploading.' At the bottom left are 'Export' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Export forms

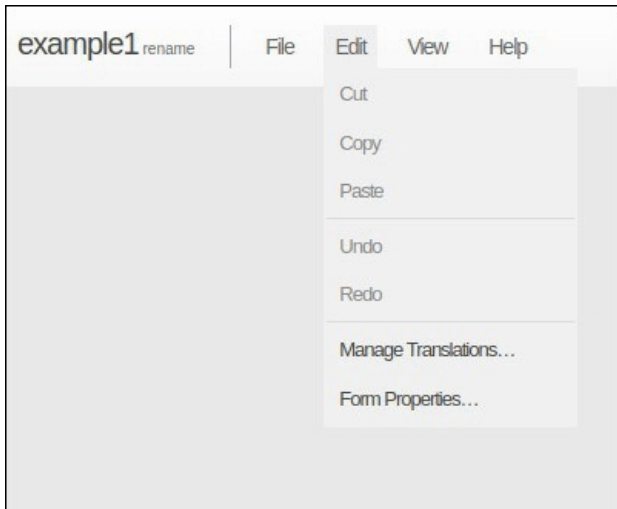
- To view XML for your form, click on Export to XML... in the **File** menu. You can download the **.xml** file for your form by clicking on **Download** option in the output XML window.



- You can download `.xlsx` file for your form by clicking on Export to XLSForm in the `File` menu.

Changing form properties

You can change the form properties by clicking Form Properties... in the `Edit` menu.



A form properties window will appear, where you can enter the instance name, public key and submission url for your form.

A screenshot of a "Form Properties" dialog box. It has a title bar "Form Properties". Inside, there are four input fields with labels: "Title on Device" (containing "example1"), "Instance Name" (empty), "Public Key" (empty), and "Submission URL" (empty). Below each input field is a small text box providing instructions or links. At the bottom left, there is a "Done" button.

Instance name specifies names you want to give to submitted data. You can see more info on public key [here](#). Submission url directs your submissions somewhere other than the Aggregate that supplied the form. This is the ODK Aggregate website url with `Aggregate.html` replaced by submission.

Tip

You can give an instance name which uses calculated expressions to name submissions based on submission data. Note that whatever you put in the instance name box should evaluate to a string.

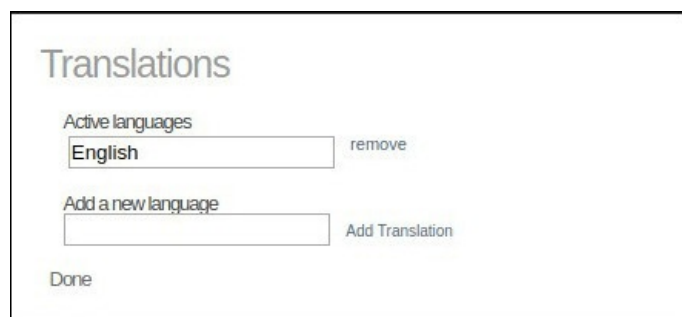
For example, you might use a concatenation of a unique student ID (sid) with the student name (s_name) as the name of the filled-in form. So you can provide an instance name as : **concat(\${sid}, ' - ', \${s_name})**.

This is implemented in XML as an instanceName field within the meta block. If this value is present and not an empty string (""), it will be used as the name of the filled-in form. Otherwise, the current default naming, based upon the date the form was first saved, will be used.

```
<instance>
  <data id="build_example1_1508999324">
    <meta>
      <instanceID/>
      <instanceName/>
    </meta>
    <s_name/>
    <sid/>
  </data>
</instance>
```

Add, remove and display new languages

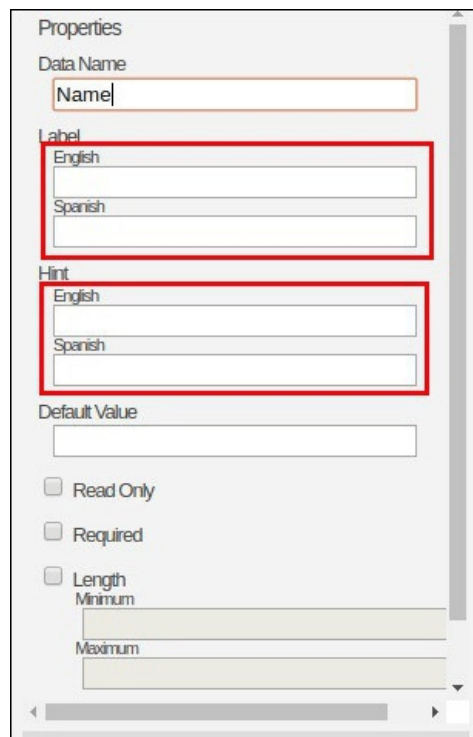
You can add a new language for your form by clicking on Manage Translations... in the [Edit](#) menu.



The screenshot shows a 'Translations' section with the following elements:

- Active languages:** A text box containing 'English' with a 'remove' button to its right.
- Add a new language:** A text box with an 'Add Translation' button to its right.
- Done:** A button at the bottom left.

When you add a new language, the language box will be displayed in the properties section of the form.



The screenshot shows the 'Properties' section of a form with the following fields:

- Data Name:** A text box containing 'Name'.
- Label:** A section containing two text boxes, one with 'English' and one with 'Spanish', both highlighted with a red border.
- Hint:** A section containing two text boxes, one with 'English' and one with 'Spanish', both highlighted with a red border.
- Default Value:** A text box.
- Read Only:** A checkbox.
- Required:** A checkbox.
- Length:** A section containing two text boxes, one for 'Minimum' and one for 'Maximum'.

You can also remove any translation by clicking on [remove](#) option in the Translation box.

Translations

Active languages

English	remove
Spanish	remove

Add a new language

	Add Translation
--	-----------------

Done

You can change the display language for your form by checking the language you want to use as display language in the **View** menu.

The screenshot shows the ODK Form Builder interface. At the top, there's a header bar with 'example1' and a 'rename' link, followed by 'File', 'Edit', 'View', and 'Help' menus. The 'View' menu is open, showing 'Displayed Language' with 'English' and 'Spanish' (selected with a checkmark and circled in red), and 'Collapse Questions'. Below the menu, there are two form elements: a text input with placeholder 's_name' and a text input with placeholder 'sid'. Both have '[no caption text yet]' above them. The interface is in Spanish, as indicated by the 'View' menu selection.