

Welcome to ODK's Docs!

ODK is a suite of open source tools that help organizations collect and manage data.

For a quick start, read [Getting Started With ODK](#). In most cases, users of ODK:

- Create survey forms using the [XLSForm](#) standard in Excel or [Google Sheets](#).
- [Upload forms](#) to an [ODK Central server](#).
- [Download forms](#) into [ODK Collect](#) on an Android device.
- [Use Collect to fill out forms](#) with [participants](#).
- [Upload survey data](#) from Collect to Central.
- [Analyze or export data from Central](#).

This requires:

- [Installing Collect on an Android device](#)
- [Installing Central on a server](#)

While this is the recommended workflow, it is not the only way to do things. ODK is a very flexible set of tools, and organizations will find their own best practices for adopting it.

Additional ODK tools are:

- [ODK Build](#), a drag-and-drop form designer. We generally recommend XLSForm for its flexibility but users only building very simple forms may prefer Build.

The specifications and libraries that power the tools are:

- [OpenRosa](#), APIs for how ODK clients communicate with ODK servers.
- [ODK XForms spec](#), a subset of the W3C XForms specification, for use in the ODK ecosystem.
- [ODK JavaRosa](#), a Java library that renders forms complying with ODK XForms.
- [XLSForm spec](#), a high-level Excel-based form specification.
- [pyxform](#), a Python library that converts XLSForms into ODK XForms.

For a complete list of our tools, check out [ODK on GitHub](#).