Scalable SMS applications
you can build in minutes and change whenever you want

SMS is the workhorse of mobile applications for resource-limited scenarios. mBuilder is a free and open-source tool that you can use to build scalable SMS applications without any programming knowledge. In a matter of minutes, you can design, prototype, test and launch applications that can range from simple keyword/response apps to complex tools such as chat groups or workflows. You can use mBuilder to collect, store and query data, building your own tables. Your existing applications can easily be SMS-powered using mBuilder's API. questions with a phone keypad. Verboice applications can start small and scale up, making it possible to improve lives even in communities previously closed off by literacy and technological barriers.

Get started: Create an account
mbuilder.instedd.org/createAccount

What can I use it for?

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Group Chat

Staying in touch with your team even in remote or disconnected situations is key for successful collaboration. You don't need to adapt to existing chat tools neither build your custom application from scratch. mBuilder will let you define exactly the behaviour you need for your group chat. You can add and change commands as you learn from what works best for your team.

Benefits

Design
your SMS application in minutes without programming

Build
your own tables, with the columns you need for your data

Test
your application as you build it

Schedule
periodic messages to your users

Use
an android phone to run a small scale project

Data Collection

Having timely, reliable, quality data on your programs is the first step to understanding what's going on. With mBuilder you can build a customized data collection application and store each piece of data in tables designed by you. These data can be integrated with other apps or viewed online in real-time. Use your own formats, try different things and even have coexisting different methods tailored to different users.

Social Media over SMS

In many situations, enabling sparse communities to have a digital space where they can share best practices, tips or keep each other updated on what they are doing is all you need for social change. You can build your own Twitter in minutes with mBuilder and have it work in any setting.

Event notifications

Do you want to keep a broad range of people notified about different events? Your users could subscribe by sending an SMS with a few keywords indicating the topics they are interested in. You could push notifications to interested users by simply sending an SMS with those same keywords.
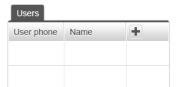
How does it work?

mBuilder works in a very intuitive way. To create an application in mBuilder, you start by writing an example of the message your user would send. You build your tables the same way you would do it in a spreadsheet. You then select portions of the user message and drag them to the column where you want to store them. To use a value from a table in your response you drag the field and drop it inside your reply text.

When a message like this is received:

register john doe|

Users

User phone	+

Users

User phone	Name	+

When a message like this is received:

register john doe

Users

User phone	Name	+
+1 (234) ...	john doe	

Send this message:

Thanks for registering john doe

Connect
popular SMS channels such as Twilio or Clickatell to scale

Change
and improve your application any time you want

React
to complex and flexible messages

Collect
structured data and export it in standard formats

Query
data stored in your tables and respond to user requests

Free
for anyone to use to help increase their social impact

Open Source
code for developers to use to improve its design and functionality

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How Can I Help?

Got suggestions or feature requests?

Join our discussion list
mbuilder.instedd.org/discuss

Got a way with code? Help us develop our tools (and make the world a better place at the same time).

Visit our backlog
mbuilder.instedd.org/backlog