

OHMAGE & MOBILITY FAQ

Following are several Frequently Asked Questions about Ohmage and Mobility. Please see ohmage.org and demo.ohmage.org for more information.

- What is Ohmage?

- Ohmage is a data collection application that allows for both the passive and active capture of data via a smart phone's internal sensing mechanisms as well as through a user's participation in various surveys.

It allows users to self-report and log their experience and then cross-examine their subjective responses with objective data automatically collected and processed by the phone. All data is time stamped and certain data (if desired) is tagged with GPS coordinates so that users might also gain insight into circumstances that may have influenced certain survey responses or physical data. With the information that Ohmage provides, users can draw conclusions about their personal behaviors that they can then modify as desired (i.e. users with diabetes can take surveys about eating habits and stress levels and can cross-examine that with their blood glucose readings).

There are myriad practical applications for Ohmage, and users can customize their interactions with it in order to get the best possible experience and results from the program.

- What is Mobility?

- Mobility is a separate application that allows Ohmage to collect a user's physical activity status from the phone throughout the day in order to determine how often the user is still, walking, running, and driving. Mobility determines the activity status using a combination of accelerometer and location data, sensing how the phone itself is moving through space as well as how quickly the phone is changing locations via GPS.

Using the physical activity data that Mobility captures, users can detect patterns in their behavior, which can help to inform and to motivate new behavioral choices and patterns.

Mobility is a passive application, meaning that it runs in the background on the phone, and users will rarely, if ever, need to intervene in its processes. Once it is installed and turned on, it should collect and upload data completely automatically.

A user may, however, visit the Mobility page on his/her phone to view and monitor the captured data or to alter the settings.

***Currently, Mobility is only available for Android phones. For the time being, third party applications like Moves will be used with Ohmage on iOS devices.

- Should I expect to see shortened battery life on my phone if Ohmage and/or Mobility are always running in the background?
 - You will need to charge your phone fully once every 24 hours. Most users are able to run Ohmage and/or Mobility consistently through a full day on a single full charge. However, this is true provided that their devices are models released within the last two years (i.e. Samsung Galaxy S3, S4, Galaxy Nexus, etc.).
- Concerning my phone's data plan, what is the minimum GB per month that I will need to run the applications?
 - You will need less than 200MB of data per month. Though we cannot be certain of the exact amount, it may in fact be less than 100MB per month, since the data transfers are compressed.
- I keep getting notifications on my phone telling me to keep Wifi on. Why is this better than using my regular data connection?
 - Wifi allows the application data to transfer more rapidly and it helps to preserve battery life, since your phone spends less energy searching for and maintaining a data signal. Also, enabling Wifi will help your phone gather your location more easily, thereby putting less pressure on your phone's GPS.
- I have noticed in my Mobility Control tab that Mobility is not recording the correct activity (i.e. it will record Drive when I am actually still, or it will record Still when I was out for a run). Why is Mobility not capturing my data accurately?
 - Unfortunately, some devices do not have very good GPS chips, and they can sometimes get "stuck". Also, Mobility uses a classification algorithm to determine the type of movement or activity that is occurring, and it will unfortunately produce a certain percentage of classifications that are inaccurate.
- My Mobility data doesn't seem to be uploading automatically and/or I keep getting upload errors. What's going on?

- In all likelihood, Mobility is having trouble simply because it can't establish a secure data connection with which to upload. A few things to consider are: 1) Do you have good connectivity or phone service where you are currently? 2) Is Wifi enabled? 3) How many data points are currently pending upload and when was your last successful upload?

If you have poor connectivity or phone service in your current location, try to enable and establish a connection via Wifi. If you are unable to use Wifi, try to upload later, perhaps in a location with better data or Wifi connectivity.

If you have good connectivity or are able to use Wifi, but the Mobility data is still struggling to upload, please check your Mobility Control tab to see how many data points are backlogged in your queue (under To Upload). If there are only a few points (in the tens or hundreds), please be patient as Mobility may resolve the issue on its own. However, if there are thousands of points in the queue and/or your Last Upload was hours or days ago, please let us know as soon as possible.