**Public Interest Infrastructure Assessment Framework**

**Overview**This framework empowers community media organizations to evaluate whether their technology choices align with public interest values, drawing from successful models like JamiiAfrica's privacy-first forums and CGNet Swara's offline-capable voice platform.

**Context Mapping (Week 1)**Carry out qualitative and quantitative interviews with 5-10 diverse partners spanning different operational contexts, ranging from urban digital newsrooms to rural audio platforms. Document their current tool ecosystems, pain points in technology decisions, and gaps between stated values and actual practice.

**Framework Architecture (Weeks 2-3)**Design a triple category assessment matrix evaluating:

* Privacy & Security: Measuring surveillance resistance, data control and anonymity capabilities.
* Community Ownership: Assessing local language support, governance participation and content control.
* Sustainability: Evaluating vendor independence, cost structures, resilience to deplatforming.

Each category maps to specific tool needs with weighted scoring based on organizational priorities. So for example, JamiiAfrica would weight privacy highest given their whistleblower focus, while CGNet prioritizes community ownership for tribal language preservation.

**Trade-off Modelling (Week 3)**Develop scenario modelling (using my data science skills) that visualizes the inherent tensions between reach and privacy, as well as efficiency and control. The goal here is that the framework has to help IMS partners understand that WhatsApp's 90% reach comes with 15% public interest alignment (for example). We want to make explicit the hidden costs of "free" platforms through data extraction and surveillance capitalism.

This data science approach positions IMS as an innovator. Rather than suggesting single-tool solutions, this framework guides organizations toward strategic tool combinations, For example, using Signal for sensitive sources, forums for community building and broadcast channels for public content.

**Interactive Prototype (Weeks 4-5)**Build a Streamlit-based app allowing organizations to (and support them in the process):

* Input their operational context (connectivity, literacy, regulatory pressure)
* Adjust value weights based on mission priorities
* Receive scored recommendations with implementation roadmaps
* Export assessment reports for donor communication

This easy-to-use app would show real-time visualizations of current versus target states, gap analyses with priority rankings, and case study examples from successful implementations.

**Validation Testing (Week 6)**Deploy with three pilot partners representing different contexts:

* High-regulation environment (like JamiiAfrica in Tanzania)
* Low-connectivity setting (like CGNet in Indian forests)
* Hybrid urban-rural operation

Success metrics would be something like up to 80% of partners find recommendations actionable, with 50% making concrete tool changes and assessment time for partners reduced from days or even weeks to hours**.**

**Key Challenges & Mitigation**Context diversity: Pre-configured regional profiles with customization options

Evolving tools: Assess tool categories rather than specific products

Technical capacity: Design for non-technical users with clear explanations

**IMS Requirements**

* 80-120 hours staff time across six weeks.
* Access to partner organizations for testing.
* Regional context briefs and regulatory summaries.
* Existing tool evaluation documentation.

**Deliverables**App assessment tool with algorithmic scoring, implementation guide with localized examples, donor communication templates demonstrating value alignment, and recommendations for framework expansion.

This prototype transforms abstract public interest principles into concrete technology decisions, helping community media navigate the complex trade-offs between reaching audiences and protecting communities, between efficiency and values, between convenience and control.