

Apollo Product Implementation Guide

1. Description/Overview of tool

Apollo is a tool for collecting and storing large quantities of structured data. Users can use SMS or a mobile app to submit data to Apollo which then organizes and analyzes the data.

2. What need does it fill (What types of projects it is useful for/what it's best used for versus similar tools)

Apollo is designed for collecting structured data from questionnaires. It has specialized features tailored to election observation, but can be used for any type of data collection. Compared to other similar tools, in addition to its specialized features it also has more robust data cleaning and validation capabilities.

3. Language for proposals/General pitch of the tool

Apollo provides a cheap open-source tool to allow teams to collect data at scale. Unlike traditional surveying operations where survey data is tabulated through a long process after the surveying occurs, users send in data to Apollo and have it tabulated immediately, allowing project leads to immediately preview results and determine if there are any issues with the quality or speed of collection of the data.

4. Use Case/Case study

Apollo has been used in election observations for over 10 years in close to 100 elections in dozens of countries spanning most regions of the world. The application has greatly increased the speed and efficiency of election observer groups in collecting data, and allows them to immediately see analysis of data and release timely statements, whereas it would ordinarily take days or weeks to tabulate and analyze data if the software was not used.

5. Budget for implementing

An Apollo instance costs roughly \$30 per month to host in AWS.

6. Technical capacity required

In order to host an Apollo instance, a group must either be using it as part of an NDI project in which case NDI can host it, contract the creator TimbaObjects to host it, or have the technical capacity to be able to launch and host a website on a server themselves.

7. Level of effort to implement

Apollo requires a fair deal of training and practice to use effectively. It is recommended that any group using it for the first time should plan to seek out assistance from someone at NDI or elsewhere who has experience with the tool to at least provide training and troubleshooting, or ideally to have that person in the field assisting if Apollo is being used for a high profile event.

8. Contextual Considerations

a. Cybersecurity

Apollo was built to safely store data privately and securely. Permissions limit which users can see which data. However it is not an enterprise product built by a large software company, and while secure was not built with the intention of withstanding sophisticated attacks from malign actors.

b. Languages

Arabic, English, French, Georgian, Russia, Serbian, Sinhalese, Spanish, and Tamil

c. Availability of Support/Sustainability

Apollo does not have an open-source community, but NDI has a relationship with the developers at TimbaObjects to provide a support contract.

d. Other limiting factors (not designed for closed societies, etc)

While Apollo does not have any explicit limitations in where it's deployed, it was built with a context in mind where a group was openly observing elections as opposed

9. Any additional information/materials (links to user guides/technical guides, demo, etc)

There is an Apollo demo site that can be viewed [here](#), and an Apollo User Guide that can be found [here](#).