

CommCare for Frontline Research

What is CommCare? CommCare is a flexible software platform designed for users to quickly design, build, deploy and manage their own fully-customized mobile apps. CommCare excels at offline, last-mile data collection and service delivery. It is the most widely-adopted and evidence-based mobile platform for low-resource settings, currently with 600,000 active mobile users and over 260 million form submissions every month. Our evidence base includes more than [75 independent reviews](#) across multiple studies and projects ranging from pilots through to large-scale programs.

Why do research teams value CommCare? Because we take data as seriously as you do. Read below for specific reasons why CommCare is the tool of choice for researchers at more than 120+ universities and research institutes including Johns Hopkins University, Boston University, Harvard, KEMRI, London School of Tropical Medicine, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and University of Melbourne.



Simple, Powerful, Flexible Technology

We know that not every research team can afford to spend valuable time or money buying, building or managing their digital tools — that's why [CommCare requires no former programming experience](#). With CommCare's sophisticated yet intuitive platform, teams can quickly and independently design, build, deploy, manage and monitor their own fully customized mobile apps. This also means you have the flexibility and know-how to make rapid changes or updates as needed, based on lessons learned or unforeseen events in the field.

Quality Data

Without high-quality trustable data, timelines, budgets, and even entire studies can be compromised. That's why, CommCare excels at quality data-collection, security, analysis, monitoring, reporting and sharing.

We believe in [preventing data-entry errors before they happen](#). CommCare does this by enabling you to enforce your data-collection protocols with features like powerful form logic, including skip logic and validation conditions. Meanwhile, it equips you to collect robust, diverse data thanks to a range of question formats (barcodes, audio capture, GPS...), embedded media and case-based data collection for longitudinal studies. And of course, [CommCare was designed to work offline](#), so all of the powerful functionality built-in to your apps will work in any setting.



Powerful Data

Once you've collected data, understanding it and learning from it should not be costly or cumbersome. To streamline your data analysis process, CommCare has [built-in dashboards](#), [data cleaning](#), [data analysis and reporting tools](#). Since CommCare enables data inspection in real-time, you can quickly edit erroneous submissions should they occur. CommCare also integrates with popular third-party tools including DHIS2, Power BI, Tableau, Salesforce and SQL databases. [Our rich API stack](#), and capabilities like Data Forwarding and Data Export Tool, allow you to build powerful integrations with your preferred data management and reporting systems.



Secure Data

Security is of the highest priority for both our team and our partners, including US and international governments. We know that security is important for you, and your stakeholders — including grantors, beneficiaries, data managers, IT teams, IRBs — and we are committed to protecting the confidentiality, integrity, availability, and privacy of your data. We protect data along every step of its journey with best-practice security measures, including: password protected mobile devices on which data is encrypted-at-rest (symmetric AES256), encrypted HTTPS channels for transmitting data, and our HIPAA-compliant cloud at an enterprise-grade ISO 27001-compliant data center (AWS). Additional measures include regular offsite backups, intrusion monitoring, biometric physical access security, amongst others. Dimagi and all our products are SOC2, GDPR and HIPAA compliant.



Offline Case Management

As you may know, CommCare's case management capabilities are in a league of its own. Thanks to our case management capabilities, users can both [easily collect and get valuable insights from longitudinal data over time](#), as you can register subjects and follow-up with them efficiently and systematically. The potential for errors and redundancies is greatly diminished with case management, as enumerators do not have to recapture personal information every time they interact with a beneficiary, and smart forms ensure they only collect the right data, from the right place at the right time. Case management also allows research teams to create subcases and referrals, while skipping the complex and time consuming aggregation of individual surveys before generating useful insights and reports.

Scalability & Sustainability

If your project is designed to last for years or into perpetuity, scalability or cost challenges should not prevent that. CommCare provides unlimited form submissions and data storage with no hidden surprises. [Predictable pricing](#) enables you to plan and budget, no matter the duration or scale of your project. Furthermore, CommCare requires no engineering resources to use or maintain, which translates to a [lower total cost of ownership](#).

If you'd like to learn more about CommCare or our work with researchers, please contact us at saas@dimagi.com.