Getting Rhiza Insight on the iPad

Geographic data analysis on the go!

http://www.rhizalabs.com/

Real-time heckling
@rhizamike
Who is the iPad right for?

Business intelligence, conservation planning, landscape architecture, urban planning...

For data analysis on the go, the iPad is perfect!

Need photo of happy users collaborating around an iPad map
But the iPad isn’t for mobile data collection

Environmental scientists, firefighters, Surui tribespeople.

These users need something rugged and a portable with a camera.
Two Strategies

Optimize our existing web application for mobile data analysts. iPad is a really nice platform for this; much better than a mobile phone. We get a jump on the competition because our app is all Javascript and HTML --- no Flash.

For mobile data producers who need to be able to collect data while disconnected from a network, and get access to the phone’s camera, we are contributing to the open source ODK project which runs on Android devices.
We made click targets bigger for our fat fingers.

We added nice big panning buttons on the maps.

We added pagination buttons for embedded scrolling regions.

We’re also moving to Google Maps V3 for improved performance.
Mobile: Open Data Kit

- code.google.com/p/opendatakit/
- Open source; runs on Android
- Integrated with our Insight app
- Stores forms and data locally if you need to leave the network
- Android runs on rugged devices!

You don’t want to take your iPad into the jungle, or drop it in the Amazon. Plus, web applications can’t get at a camera, which is a big issue. Also, web applications don’t work well when they can’t get to the network.

ODK addresses all these issues for mobile data collection.
Remaining issues

- Performance can still be improved
- Google Earth tour creation and download don’t work
- iPad and iPhone are very different from a UI perspective
Be Pragmatic!

Different users need different tools! Don’t take an iPad into the jungle, but if your operating environment is a coffee shop or an office, knock yourself out!