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An Introduction

SwiftRiver is a free and open source platform that helps people make sense of a lot of information in a short amount of time. The SwiftRiver platform was born out of the need to understand and act upon a wave of massive amounts of crisis data that tends to overwhelm in the first 24 hours of a disaster

Our Platform's Goals

The goal of SwiftRiver is to offer an easy to use, free, open-source alternative to expensive proprietary MIS systems. The Swift platform empowers non-profits, NGOs, governments, who wish to speed up the processing of data during emergency events. However, it has many other potential applications within News media organizations,

political analysis companies and enterprises.

In practice, SwiftRiver enables the filtering and verification of real-time data from channels like Twitter, SMS, Email and RSS feeds. The SwiftRiver platform offers organizations an easy way to apply semantic analysis and verification algorithms to different sources of information. Swift's user-friendly dashboard means that users need not be experts in intelligence platforms, so they can focus on research and response.

SwiftRiver offers an open source, affordable, data intelligence platform for news organizations, non-profits, small governments, and NGOs.

Our ultimate goal is to democratize the tools for understanding information.

From journalists to natural language specialists, we need your help!

Programmers

We've got a host of world-class challenges to overcome in order to make SwiftRiver work all over the globe. Speed, stability and simplicity are always key components, but there are some areas that take even more work to do right. Where we need help:

- Speed of data processing
- Data visualizations
- Localization
- Security/Encryption
- Theming and design
- Natural language processing

Non-tech Volunteers

Besides the technology, there is an increasing need for people who understand how to use technology to share information with the public.

- Reporting and editorial
- Crisis responders
- Governments
- Public relations
- Crowdsourced answers

Ushahidi

Our parent organization, Ushahidi, offers many tools for visualizing geospatial data.

Whether it's reports of violence in Kenya, reports of theft from your neighborhood watch, or notifications from your business' servers around the globe, Ushahidi makes a robust platform for mapping anything.

You can find out more about this award winning, easy-to-deploy technology on our website.

ushahidi.com

Need	Features	Functionality
A system that can be deployed in the field with a minimum of fuss	Open standards and open source based system	The platform can be set up within a couple minutes.
Robust and flexible database	Swift is designed to work with both SQL and non-relational databases.	Database abstraction layer allows organizations to work with any database, to help your company scale for demand.
Applications optimized for different work flows.	Choose the appropriate SwiftApp (News, Crisis Response, Brand Monitoring etc.) from a wide selection.	These apps are optimized for the workflow of the industry you're in. Select apps pre-configured to solve specific problems.
Information verification / qualification for better analysis and decision support	Let context drive organizational decisions. Sort content by accuracy, keywords, location or indicators unique to your organization	Verified and unverified information can be weighted.
Collect real-time data, offline	SMS (text messages) as an information source	Users without internet access can still perform semantic analysis and advanced data-mining technology
Monitor E-mail, SMS, Twitter and the Web itself for trends	Monitor real-time data for nascent relationships	Curate and mine content for relationships in real-time (rather than in retrospect)
Reporting and analytics	Export of information in the system is simple for offline storage	Archive your data locally or remotely.
Crowdsource content in 50+ languages	Over fifty languages supported.	Run campaigns in multiple countries using social media.
Save incredible amounts of time vetting sources	Crowdsource news while crowdsourcing (or intrasourcing) verification	Collective trusted sources rise to the top, while untrusted data is archived and suppressed

The Ushahidi/SwiftRiver platform is available to any organization that wants more control over their data. Mine it, curate it, and verify it in ways that are incredibly easy to use and understand.

swiftly.org | info@swiftly.org

Ushahidi/SwiftRiver is supported by a global community of volunteers. In addition to these generous people, Ushahidi is also proud to be supported by the following organizations:

