In 2003 two aid workers teamed up with two technical friends. Driven by a belief in using communication and technology to help alleviate poverty they began to empowering people with information.

Today we are experts in providing low bandwidth, open source technology for the international development sector.
Our services

We like to work in an iterative way always learning, changing, building and evaluating.

- **Management information systems**: We can help you design a process for data collection, information management and reporting.
- **Infrastructure management**: We use open source software, commodity hardware, scripting and automated testing to build efficient, reliable IT systems.
- **Monitoring & evaluation**: Web-based tools for planning, monitoring and reporting using logframes.
- **Cross platform design**: We are experienced in creating responsive websites that work on different screen sizes.
- **Websites and mobile apps**: Elegant solutions to share, publish and collect information on the web.
- **Design & branding**: Website design, online documents, printed materials and branding.
- **Research & analysis**: Working with organisations to determine how technology can help them.
- **Discovery workshops**: Participatory workshops shape the beginning of most of our projects, using tools to work directly with end users discover their needs.
- **User experience**: Making sure your users can easily use the technology solutions you provide for them.
- **Training & facilitation**: We love sharing our skills and learning new ones! We facilitate workshops on technology and participation.
- **Participation & consensus**: We can help you adopt a process for participatory agile software development or a consensus decision making.

- **Build**: We are experienced in creating responsive websites that work on different screen sizes.
- **Evaluate**: Web-based tools for planning, monitoring and reporting using logframes.
- **Learn**: Participatory workshops shape the beginning of most of our projects, using tools to work directly with end users discover their needs.
- **Change**: Making sure your users can easily use the technology solutions you provide for them.
**How we work**

**Participation**

Involving users in defining your project goals

Aptivate’s core belief is that people should have a right to participate in decisions that affect their lives. Therefore we seek to enable and facilitate participation as fully and as early as is realistic in our projects.

In order to build a deeper understanding of the requirements we recommend involving real end-users at every stage of the process. This ensures the end product provides a real solution to their needs.

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**Low bandwidth**

Ensuring people can actually use your product

Users in developing countries often have low bandwidth and intermittent internet connections, as well as older technology.

Everything we build is created with this in mind so that people can use the site or service with different screen sizes. The page file size needs to be kept as low as possible so that it loads in a reasonable time.

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**Open source**

Allowing our work to have even more impact

Creating open source code means that the work we do can benefit others. There is a huge open source community and often we are able to use the code other people have created and adapt it.

The code for many of our projects is available to download, use and adapt for free on GitHub at: https://github.com/aptivate

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**Agile**

Making the most of your budget

The advantages of flexible and iterative “agile” approaches to developing software are becoming widely recognised. This is where planning and delivery is in short cycles of one or two weeks, rather than all the design work being done up-front before the development starts “waterfall”.

During a project, things change, the ability to adapt is vital to success. In our Agile software development process you are part of the project team and in control of what features are prioritised and what is built next. You work closely with the team to design each feature providing feedback and testing with users as we go.
BEAM Exchange

[www.beamexchange.org](http://www.beamexchange.org)

BEAM aims to bring together a globally engaged group of professionals, incentivised to share their knowledge and learning. It provides guidance, tools and resources to help markets change the way that they work, so that poor people are included in the benefits of growth and economic development. The website needed to display a large amount of information in an easily navigable way as well as being low bandwidth and accessible to all.

- Low bandwidth design
- Information architecture design

6 Iterations

Reach: International
A responsive, interactive map for international water charity

WaterAid
washwatch.org/en/about-wash/map/

This map was published to coincide with Africa water week at the end of May 2014. The purpose was to make water and sanitation data more accessible, by the use of highly visual animated graphical devices such as timelines and dynamic charts. Developed in a single iteration the process worked very smoothly due to constant communication between decision makers and developers.

- Participatory workshop
- Research & analysis project
- Project field evaluations

2 Iterations

Reach: Africa
It is not easy to find out whether governments are meeting their policy commitments on water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). WASHwatch.org aims to help address this with an online platform for monitoring government commitments and financing.

On the site you can compare country scores for the commitments they have made and find out whether they are meeting them or not.

- Multi-lingual site
- User tested information architecture
- Low-bandwidth responsive design

9 Iterations

Reach: International
Evaluating digital engagement in participatory budgeting

World Bank

In the past four years, a growing number of World Bank operations have started to test the use of ICT-supported citizen participation mechanisms (such as e-participation). They needed a comprehensive Evaluation Framework that could help inform World Bank activities in the field of ICT-enabled participation. The overall objective was to address a major gap in this field with more robust and systematic evaluations to capture lessons better, reduce redundancies across projects and improve effectiveness.

- Participatory workshop
- Research & analysis project
- Project field evaluations

Reach: International
Stock control, accounting and reporting

World Food Programme

RITA is a tracking system for non-food items for use by WFP Logistics including stock control and accounting, reporting, and two-way offline synchronisation.

- Data visualisation
- Designed to be used from the field in crisis situations
- Designed to work over low-bandwidth connections and off-line
- Maintains database integrity when synchronising offline copies

Number of iterations: 20

Reach: International
CBM & Mobility India

CBM UK and Mobility India work internationally with disabled and vulnerable children, adults and families. Aptivate developed a information management solution which allows visually impaired field workers using mobile phones to monitor activities in a real time cost and time efficient way. A web-based reporting engine allows local and overseas program managers to better serve the needs of community and empower community members in the process.

- User Experience
- Desktop and mobile app development
- In - country training and facilitation

Number of iterations: 15

Reach: India
Health service score cards for developing countries

Reaction! UK

IHP+ Results is a web-based system for the automated generation of scorecards based on M&E data, scoring the performance of national health services in developing countries.

- Multilingual site
- Data visualization
- Highly graphic yet low-bandwidth design
- Automated graphics generation from database
- Social media integration

Number of iterations: 3

Reach: International
Voices for Change (V4C)

V4C is a programme that will help adolescent girls and women get improved access to health, education, economic, political opportunity and justice. As a DFID-funded programme, V4C uses a log frame to design, manage and report on its interventions. Aptivate built a web-based management information system using the organising principle of the log frame. It provides a dashboard view for managers and activity monitoring.

- Discovery workshop
- Low-bandwidth friendly
- Django & JavaScript build

Number of iterations: 5

Reach: Nigeria
M&E and knowledge management system

SPARC Nigeria (developed with Itad)

A Knowledge Management platform with an integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Management Information System (M&E MIS) for the SPARC (State Partnership for Accountability, Responsiveness and Capability) programme. This was a secure, internal tool that supported a team distributed across a number of states in Nigeria as well as international consultants.

- Supports matrix management
- Document management with full text search
- Operates in low-bandwidth

Number of iterations: 16

Reach: Nigeria
Branding & user-friendly website re-design

INASP

www.inasp.info

A re-brand and site redesign for INASP. The old INASP website was full of excellent resources, including many publications and training course outlines, but they were often difficult to find. The project made resources more easily accessible, and supported academic institutions to access journals.

- Organisation Re-brand
- UX and site redesign
- Responsive design & Django build

Number of iterations: 6

Reach: International
Helping NGOs find monitoring and evaluation tools

Bond Impact Builder

my.bond.org.uk/impact-builder

This application provides a simple pathway for NGOs who aren’t monitoring and evaluation experts to decide which indicators and data collection tools are appropriate for their sector and approach. Bond use Drupal for all their web infrastructure and the Improve It Framework application is built to fit in with that.

- Low-bandwidth design
- User-friendly interface
- A multi-step questionnaire to establish M&E needs
- Save and email M&E tools

Number of iterations: 3

Reach: UK
Budgeting and accounting system

Open Society Foundation

A budgeting and accounting system to assist an international funding body to plan at various levels from budget line-items on specific projects to organisation-wide strategic objectives. The system also assists the funder in the monitoring and evaluation of the projects they fund.

- Data intensive application
- Low-bandwidth design
- Budget approval workflow
- Email integration

Number of iterations: 23

Reach: UK, Hungary
The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) required a management information system to store information on the people they work with and the grants they administer. The system that Aptivate built allows grant recipients to complete their reports online and for RUFORUM give feedback and to send automated reminders when reports are due.

- Discovery workshop
- Complex multi-stakeholder workflow
- Django build

Number of iterations: 16

Reach: Uganda
The improved Information Architecture and visual design of the new Wordpress CMS draws users to key content. Publish What You Fund aimed to attract user towards their International aid transparency index, which was previously lost deep inside the site architecture. Aptivate undertook a review of the site and designed a new user-centered site structure and undertook a visual website refresh.

- UX review of Wordpress website
- Information Architecture and visual design
- Wordpress theme

Number of iterations: 1

Reach: International
User experience review & responsive design

Knowledge Point

www.knowledgepoint.org

Knowledge Point aims to connect engineers and humanitarian workers with questions to experts in their field, building a public knowledge base online. Aptivate undertook a use experience review and implemented a new site designs based on the findings.

- UX review of site
- Information Architecture and visual design
- Responsive design and HTML prototypes

Reach: International
CMS driven website re-design
3ie
www.3ieimpact.org

User centered website re-design and django-cms content management system for Impact Evaluation organisation 3ie.

Their goal was to reach policy makers. Their existing website had grown quickly and information was getting lost among the labyrinth-like architecture and key messages to policy makers and researchers were getting lost.

- UX review and new Information architecture
- Visual site refresh with liquid layout
- Django build with database consolidation

Number of iterations: 6

Reach: India
Discovery workshops

WaterAid

We held a series of discovery workshops with WaterAid staff from the UK, Africa, Asia, the Pacific region and Central America to uncover the users' stories for the organisation’s planned Global Planning Management Information System.

The participants made personas to represent the different users of the system and what they would need to achieve with the system. We also did an analysis of the organisation's existing planning and IT systems.

- User personas
- Discovery workshop facilitation
- Implementation recommendations

Number of iterations: 1

Reach: International
User Experience review of programme

Authoraid

www.authoraid.info

Authoraid aims to help researchers in the south to publish more often to journals. The existing mentoring programme was not engaging users as it had hoped and they asked us to review it and make improvements. Our user experience insights led us to a new user engagement model towards quick, easy collaboration and messaging.

- UX & feature redevelopment
- Responsive design
- Rebuild of site from Plone to Django

Number of iterations: 10.5

Reach: International
Participatory decision making

Econsensus

An asynchronous consensus decision making tool for groups to keep track of decisions that affect everybody.

Aptivate used to keep track of decisions in the form of policies in various shared repositories and wikis. It wasn’t easy to keep track of the discussions and concerns people had when arriving at those decisions outside of management meeting. Econsensus was created to fill a need for keeping everyone in the loop and not just in email threads that could easily be lost. Built in Django, Econsensus is an online open source project

- UX and visual design
- Responsive application development in Django
- Online hosted service

Reach: International

Learn Change Build Evaluate