OpenOakland
Community Powered Innovation

GETTING CONNECTED

In order to get the most out of civic hacking with us, you will need the following online tools. They're all free, so sign up and follow the instructions to connect to our channels.

File Sharing

GitHub
GitHub is a hosting service we use for version control during software development. New to Git? No worries. Start by pointing your web browser to try.github.io/levels/1/challenges/1. If you're already comfortable using GitHub, connect to our repository at github.com/openoakland and fork away.

Google Drive
Almost all our documents are stored on Google Drive (drive.google.com), so why not give it a try? Create an account; it takes, literally, two minutes.

Communication

Slack
We use Slack for everything, so rather than continuing to read about what Slack is, just point your browser to slack.openoakland.org and request an invite.

Project Management

Trello
We try to manage all our projects on Trello (trello.com), which comprises boards, lists, and cards, complete with deadline and assignees, in order to ensure no balls are dropped. Or so we hope. You will need to be invited to join an existing OpenOakland board. Please email ronald@openoakland.org for details or send us a tweet @openoakland.

Data Sources

The City of Oakland has three open data portals for public use. The following lists the each resource and the types of information you will likely find there.

RecordTrac
Created by Code for America fellows, RecordTrac (records.oaklandnet.com) is a quick, simple way for individuals to submit public record requests to a governmental agency. It also allows government employees to manage, respond to, and fulfill incoming requests. By displaying all records requests and responsive documents, members of the public may find what they need without having to create a new public record request.

City of Oakland Open Data Portal
The Open Data Portal (data.oaklandnet.com) is hosted by Socrata, a company that provides cloud-based data visualization and analysis tools for opening government data. The site includes raw data, as well as tools to get started and to develop.

City of Oakland
The City of Oakland website (www2.oaklandnet.com) contains a lot of information, and finding useful data can be challenging. The best option to locate data is through search queries, which often point to RecordTrac and the City of Oakland Open Data Portal, mentioned previously.