E-Government

Focus Group and Telephone Survey Research

PREPARED FOR
State Of Oregon
Department of Administrative Services

November, 2011

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Objective

To assess the public’s use of and attitudes toward the online delivery of government services to assist with planning and communications

Serve as a baseline for monitoring changes in public attitudes and behavior over time to assist with program evaluation
Focus Group Methodology

- May 31 - June 4, 2011
- Three focus groups
  - N=27 (8-10 per group)
  - Portland (May 31)
  - Medford (June 2)
  - Bend (June 4)

- Quotas set by gender and age. Because DAS is engaged in long-term planning for the delivery of government services, and younger people are more likely to use the Internet, the focus groups recruited relatively more young people and limited participation to those less than 55 years old.

- Results also informed the development of the telephone survey
Telephone Survey Methodology

- **June 20 - 24, 2011**
- **Telephone survey of Oregon residents**
  - N=1,200 (Stratified; N=400 per region)
  - Regions: Tri-County area, Willamette Valley, and Rest of State
- **Random Digit Dialing (RDD) and wireless (cell phone)**
- **Quotas set by county, gender, and age**
- **Quality control measures, including callbacks and validations**
- **Margin of error +/- 1.7% (N=400; +/- 2.9%)**
- **Averaged 15 minutes in length**
A high percentage of respondents reported having home access to the Internet.

Internet Access at Home

- Total: 87%
- Tri County: 89%
- Willamette Valley: 88%
- Rest of State: 83%
- 2009 Census Data: 74%
Desktop computers were the most common devices used by residents to access the Internet.

![Bar chart showing devices used to connect to the Internet: Desktop 74%, Laptop 64%, Smart phone 45%]
Seven in 10 had visited a State of Oregon government agency website and were looking for information or data; 4:10 to complete a transaction.

### Reasons For Visiting A State Of Oregon Government Website

- Look for information or data: 69% Yes, 30% No/no access/no device, 0% Don’t know
- Complete any transaction online such as reserving a campsite, or buying a hunting or fishing license: 40% Yes, 59% No/no access/no device, 0% Don’t know
- Participate in an online public meeting or town hall: 5% Yes, 95% No/no access/no device, 0% Don’t know
- Provide feedback about the content or layout of the website: 25% Yes, 74% No/no access/no device, 0% Don’t know
- Provide feedback about a state government service: 19% Yes, 81% No/no access/no device, 0% Don’t know
- Provide feedback to the government agency about a public policy or planning issue: 17% Yes, 82% No/no access/no device, 0% Don’t know
- Interact with someone in the government: 69% Yes, 30% No/no access/no device, 0% Don’t know
- Complete any transaction online such as reserving a campsite, or buying a hunting or fishing license: 40% Yes, 59% No/no access/no device, 0% Don’t know
85% regard the online availability of public information, data, and services as important/very important.

Importance Of Online Availability Of Public Information And Data

- Very important: 46%
- Important: 39%
- Unimportant: 8%
- Very unimportant: 4%
- Don’t know: 3%
One in 10 have used smart phones to access Oregon government agency websites and 29% would access them more if the sites were smart phone friendly.

Smart Phones Usage To Access Oregon Government Services

- Total: 9% used smart phone, 29% would access more
- Tri County: 11% used smart phone, 32% would access more
- Willamette Valley: 9% used smart phone, 28% would access more
- Rest of State: 8% used smart phone, 25% would access more
14% of respondents had searched online for a particular State of Oregon government service but could not find it.

Could Not Find What They Were Looking For (By Area Of State)

- Total: 14%
- Tri County: 18%
- Willamette Valley: 12%
- Rest of State: 12%
Most who had received Oregon government online services agreed they were faster and more convenient, and many thought they were less costly.

### Online State Services Compared To Mail, Face-To-Face, Telephone

#### Speed
- Slower: 6%
- Faster: 58%
- About the same: 27%
- Don’t know: 9%

#### Convenience
- Less convenient: 3%
- More convenient: 75%
- About the same: 18%
- Don’t know: 3%

#### Cost
- Less costly: 43%
- More costly: 5%
- About the same: 48%
- Don’t know: 4%
About half (51%) of those who recalled their last visit to a State of Oregon government agency website found it by using a search engine.
85% of Oregonians had heard of oregon.gov, and 55% have visited it.
78% of those who said they had visited oregon.gov had done so more than a year ago and again within the last year. Of these, 39% thought oregon.gov had become more useful.
Respondents said they would like State of Oregon government agency websites to look similar and have the same features; at least a plurality in all regions wanted local and regional government websites to be similar too.

Prefer Sites To Be Similar
(By Area Of State)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Local &amp; Regional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri County</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willamette Valley</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of State</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reaching out through online meetings and discussion forums is important to residents.

### Means Of Reaching Out To The Public

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Means Of Reaching Out</th>
<th>Very important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Unimportant</th>
<th>Very unimportant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Meetings</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Discussion Forums</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You-Tube</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
70% felt it was important/very important to enable the public to interact at public meetings over the Internet.

Importance Of Internet Option To Attend Public Meetings

- Important: 46%
- Very important: 24%
- Unimportant: 18%
- Very unimportant: 7%
- Don’t know: 5%
But half did not know how well the State has been doing at providing Internet access to public meetings.

States Performance At Providing Access To Public Meetings On The Internet

- Not well: 13%
- Somewhat well: 29%
- Very well: 8%
- Don’t know: 50%
About half of respondents said the State of Oregon has done a good/very good job communicating with Oregonians about online services.
Only a quarter of respondents had seen advertising or promotion relating to State of Oregon online services.

### Have Seen Advertising About State Of Oregon Online Services (By Area Of State)

- **Total**: 25%
- **Tri County**: 22%
- **Willamette Valley**: 26%
- **Rest of State**: 28%
To reduce Oregon’s budget deficit, cutting back office days and replacing face-to-face services with online services were more popular than increasing taxes.

Options For Reducing Oregon’s Budget Deficit

- Reduce the number of days state government offices are open and provide less expensive online services every day
  - Strongly support: 11%
  - Support: 45%
  - Oppose: 26%
  - Strongly oppose: 8%
  - Don’t know: 10%

- Replace face-to-face services with online services which are less expensive
  - Strongly support: 11%
  - Support: 41%
  - Oppose: 28%
  - Strongly oppose: 13%
  - Don’t know: 8%

- Replace face-to-face services with less expensive online services for everyone except those who do not have access to the Internet
  - Strongly support: 12%
  - Support: 39%
  - Oppose: 30%
  - Strongly oppose: 10%
  - Don’t know: 9%

- Increase taxes to fund services at the current level
  - Strongly support: 6%
  - Support: 25%
  - Oppose: 35%
  - Strongly oppose: 27%
  - Don’t know: 7%
Concerns about e-government included security, impersonal, equity of access, and possible loss of jobs.

“My only concern is for the people who don’t have or can’t afford internet access to get the information they need in order to qualify for government assisted programs.” – Portland

“Make them user-friendly.” – Portland

“It’s easier to steal information. I prefer to deal with people face-to-face.” – Medford

“Security. There are always brilliant minds out there that can ‘break’ into any system.” – Medford

“I believe the government could lose touch with its people, when they’re put in place to serve.” – Bend

“It’s taking jobs from people.” – Bend
Adam Davis
John Horvick

adavis@dhmresearch.com
jhorvick@dhmresearch.com

(503) 220-0575

www.dhmresearch.com