# **Top Metrics for Top Tasks**

## 2008 Government Web Managers Conference

Nicole Burton Brian Dunbar Tim Evans

Joe Pagano

# **Top Metrics for Top Tasks**

Brief overview of tasks & metrics / Joe Pagano	15 min
"Top Tasks" worksheet / Brian Dunbar	45 min
"Customer Profile" worksheet / Nicole Burton	30 min
BREAK	15 min
"Top Tasks" metrics / Tim Evans	15 min
SMART criteria; Metrics tools / Joe Pagano	20 min
Open panel discussion (All)	30 min

Total time: 2 hours 50 minutes

## task

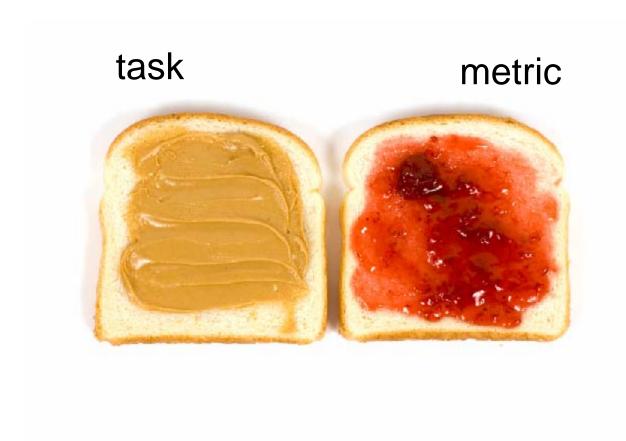
NOUN: 1. A piece of work assigned or done as part of one's duties. 2. A difficult or tedious undertaking. 3. A function to be performed; an objective.

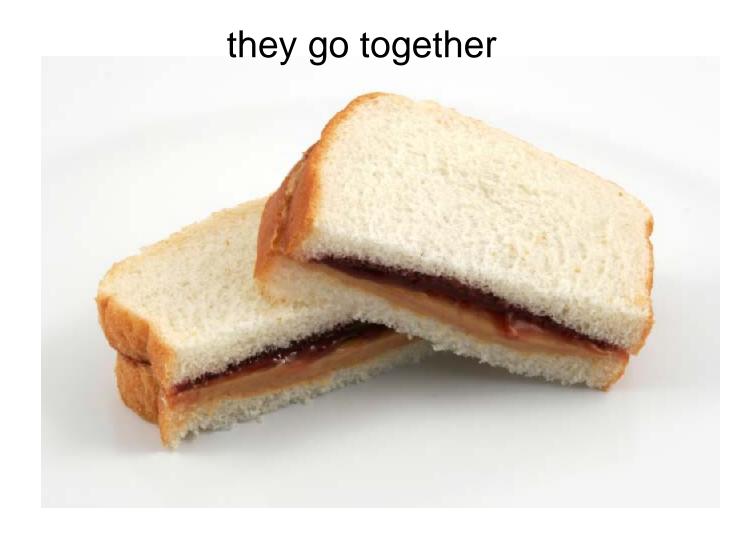
## metric

NOUN: 1. A standard of measurement. 2. Mathematics A geometric function that describes the distances between pairs of points in a space.

#### source

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000.





## Web managers need to:

Identify existing tasks on a site



Sometimes many ...



Sometimes one ...

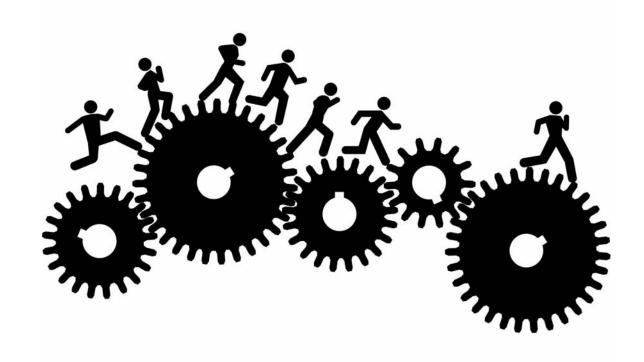
## Web managers need to:

 Identify new tasks to achieve site goals and customer needs



## Web managers need to:

 Determine the relative importance of each task in promoting a successful government – customer relationship





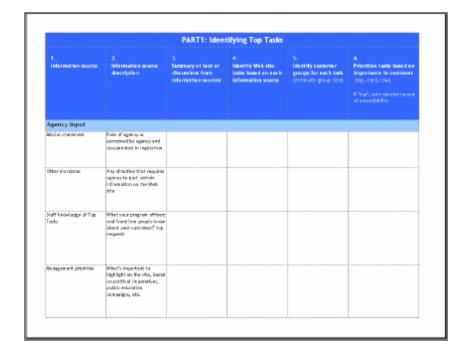


## There's help.

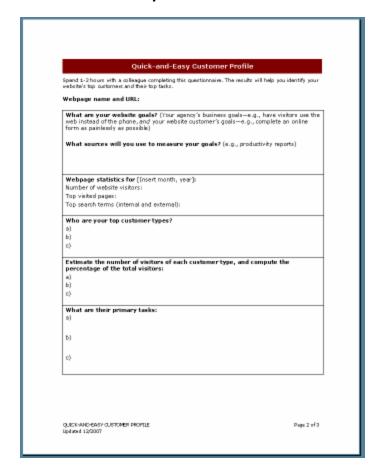


## We're developing tools

### "Top Tasks" worksheet



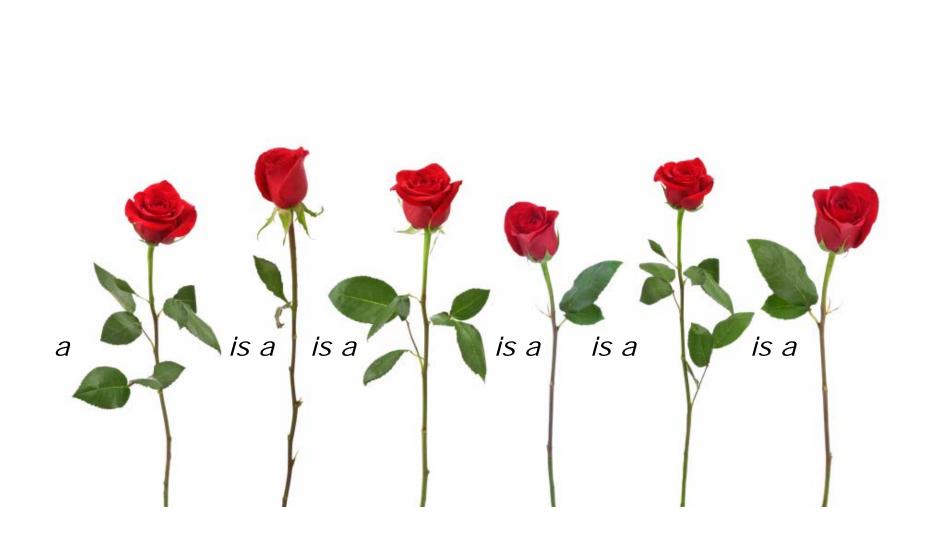
#### "Customer profile" worksheet



## but we need your help to make them better



## Is "tasks" all that there are?

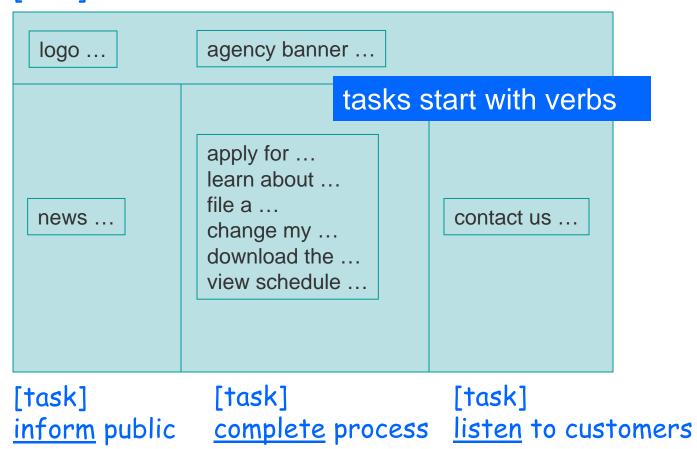


Yes ...

... but, there are many ways to look at tasks

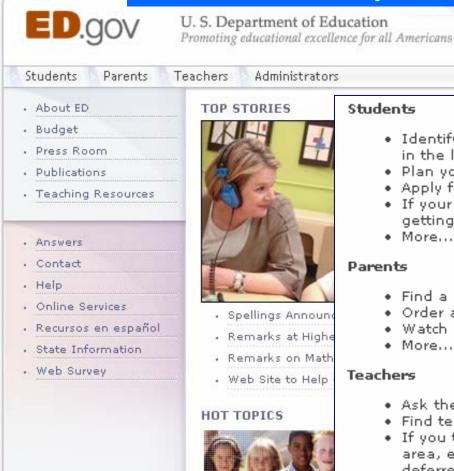
(and many different colors of roses)

# convey government brand and trust [task]



# some examples of tasks on sites ...

## sites with many tasks ....



#### Teachers Administrators

TOP STORIES



- Spellings Announ
- · Remarks at Highe
- · Remarks on Math
- . Web Site to Help

#### HOT TOPICS



#### Students

· Identify colleges offering the program or degree you want, in the location you want, or by other criteria.

Search ED.gov »

GO.

Advanced Search

- Plan your college financial aid packages.
- Apply for financial aid to go to college (FAFSA).
- If your school closed while you were enrolled, find out about getting your student loan debt discharged.
- More...

#### Parents

- Find a school.
- Order a publication.
- Watch our TV show (and webcast).
- More...

#### Teachers

- · Ask the Secretary a question.
- Find teaching opportunities.
- If you teach in a low-income or subject-matter shortage area, explore the possibility of getting your student loans deferred or cancelled.
- · Find lessons and teaching resources.
- More...

#### Administrators

- Apply for a grant.
- Manage your direct loan program.
- Find past and current grants.

## sites with one task ....



FAQ

Sign Up

**Events** 

Media

Partners

About

#### How do I sign up?

To enroll in direct deposit of your Social Security,
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or other federal
benefits, you must have a checking or savings account will
a financial institution.

There are three ways to enroll in direct deposit:

1. ONLINE Sign up via our secure system now



#### 2. BY PHONE

Call the *Go Direct*® helpline - Mon - Fri 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET (excluding federal holidays):

(800) 333-1795 (English) (800) 333-1792 (Spanish)

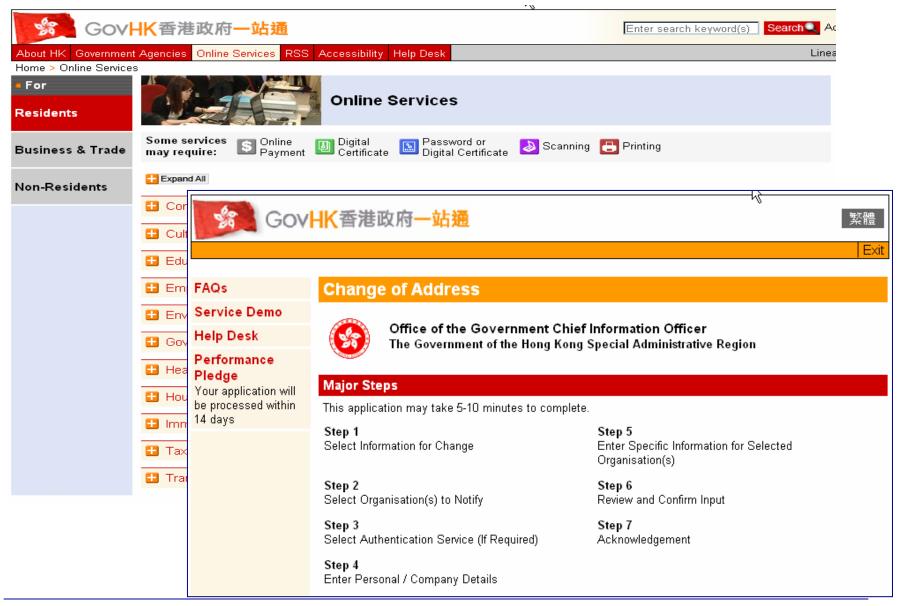
Signing up is easy and only takes a few minutes.

How do I sign up?



How do I change my existing direct deposit?

## foreign governments sites with tasks ....



# city sites with tasks ....

DC GUIDE

RESIDENTS

BUSINESS

VISITORS





Driver's Lic	ense Renewal Information	
Step 1 of 6:	Enter your driver's license information. If you received email confirmation of your driver's license renewal.	a renewal notice, enter the control number. Provide your email address if you'd like ar
	Enter your <b>Driver</b>	's License Number :
	Select	your License Type : Selectione
	Enter the 6-digit Control Number printed on	your renewal notice :
		OR
	If you do <b>not</b> have a control number, please o	enter the following information.
		Last Name :
		First Name :
		Date of Birth: [MM/DD/YYYY]
	Socia	Al Security Number : [No dashes]
	Please enter your email address, if you wish t	to receive a confirmation via email.
		Email Address: [Optional]
		Cancel Continue
	Find business services, applications, and resources.	Popular Online Services Featured Sites  • DMV Renewals, Online Services • Access Information on Government Performance
	Visiting DC Discover things to see and do in our nation's capital.	<ul> <li>◆ Find DC Government Agencies</li> <li>◆ Pay Parking Tickets</li> <li>◆ Apply for a Basic Business License</li> <li>◆ Visit the Taxpayer Service Center</li> <li>◆ Find a DC Government Job</li> <li>◆ Find HIV/AIDS Services</li> </ul>
	CapStat	More Sites and Services

See how the CapStat

What are "top" tasks?

The tasks needed by **your largest** or **most significant** customer groups.

The tasks that have the <u>highest adverse</u> <u>impact</u> if they unavailable.

# Top Task Worksheet

- Attempt to lay out a process to identify and assess top tasks
- Looks at a variety of information sources
- Not perfect, still a work in progress
- Takes into consideration existing tasks and potentially new tasks

## Information Sources

**Agency Input** 

**Direct Customer Feedback** 

Site Analytics

Social Media

Market Research

# Identifying Tasks Worksheet

1. Information source	2. Information source description	3. Summary of text or discussions from information sources
4. Identify Web site tasks based on each information source	5. Identify customer groups for each task (estimate group size)	6. Prioritize tasks based on importance to customer (top, med, low) If a "top" task, note the impact if unavailable.

# Assessing Tasks Worksheet

Goal (how value, or ROI, can be increased)	Metric	Target
Increase use	Number of applications completed	Ten percent increase over last FY

A task can be measured in some way. The simple presentation of information or of a form cannot.

# Defining and Supporting Users' Top Tasks

Brian Dunbar NASA Public Affairs May 6, 2008

# Agency Input

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Agency Mission Statement	NASA's mission is to pioneer the future in space exploration, scientific discovery	N/A	N/A	N/A
National Space Act of 1958	Disseminate information to the widest extent practicable	Put agency news, program and organization info on the site	All	Top – failure to do so leaves a statutory obligation unfilled
Strategic Plan	Outreach to stakeholders is a key management initiative	Include access to information for more specialized audiences	Public officials, other government agencies, academia and research communities	Top – failure to do so will be missed opportunity to connect with these audiences

# Agency Input

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Management Priorities	Communicate with broad audiences about all of NASA's work	Put agency news, program and organization info on the site	Target audiences: public, K-12 teachers, students; news media	Top – failure to do so would not meet management requirements
Staff Knowledge of Customer Tasks	Discussions with editorial staff	Based on direct feedback	All	Med – Staff is looking at direct feedback

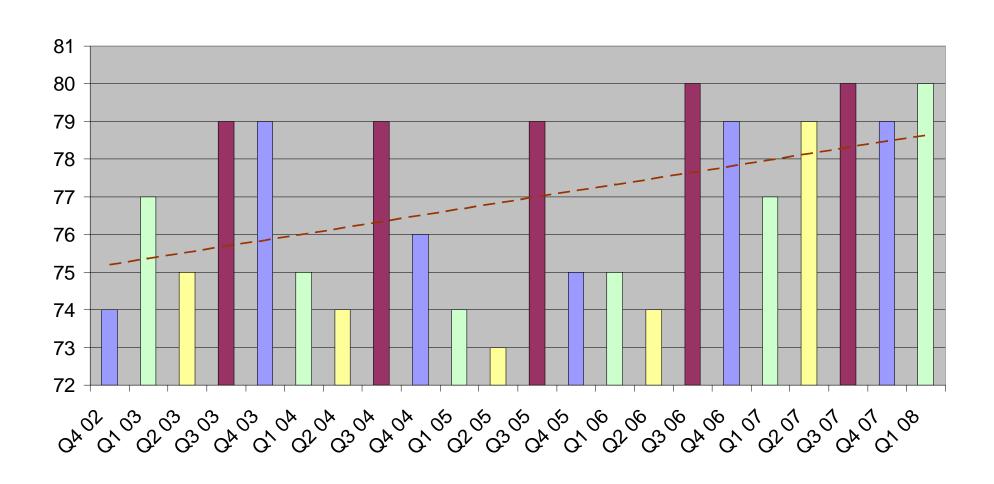
# Direct Customer Feedback

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Foresee Results Survey	Customer Satisfaction data; open-ended responses to survey questions	Mission news, multimedia, educ. rscs., summary & technical info	Target audiences: public, K-12 teachers, students; news media	Top – otherwise target users won't want to visit
Call center	N/A – NASA does not have a call center			
Public e-mail	Most frequent issues: page download times and video formats; no unmet top-tasks discovered so far	N/A		

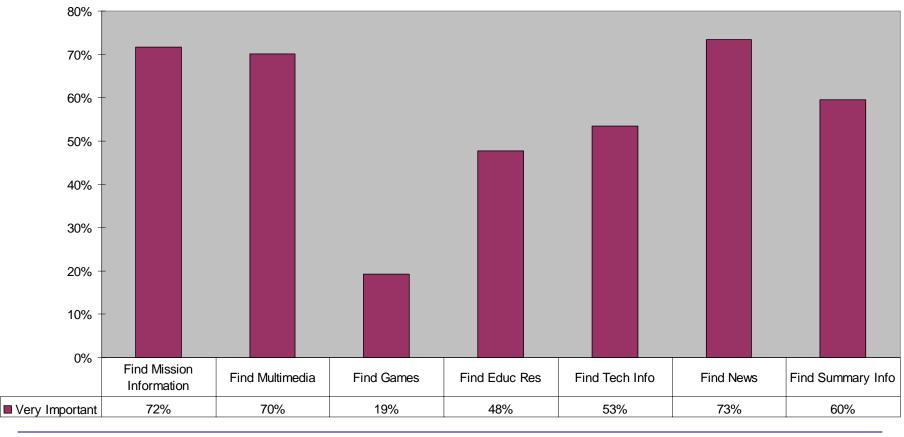
## Direct Customer Feedback

- Data: Foresee Results Online Survey
  - In use since 2002
  - First finding: satisfaction goes up when we're in the news
  - Result: Emphasize news and mission coverage out front
  - Secondary finding: satisfaction rises in summer, when students visit much less
  - Result: Include students in usability testing to assess their desires

## www.nasa.gov Customer Satisfaction Rating



# How Important to You is . . .



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Site Analytics – Most popular links from home page	Mission sections in the news; multimedia; kids	Find news and multimedia	Target audiences	Top – users would not want to return to the site
Site Analytics – most popular pages	Largely the same as above, based on long-term user feedback and redesigns	Same	Target audiences	Top – users would not want to return to the site
Search Data	Mostly general terms relating to science topics (esp. planets) and history; very "long-tail" distr,	Users are trying to find general science and historical info.	Target audiences	Top – users would not want to return to the site

### **Top Pages**

missions multimedia

space shuttle, space station

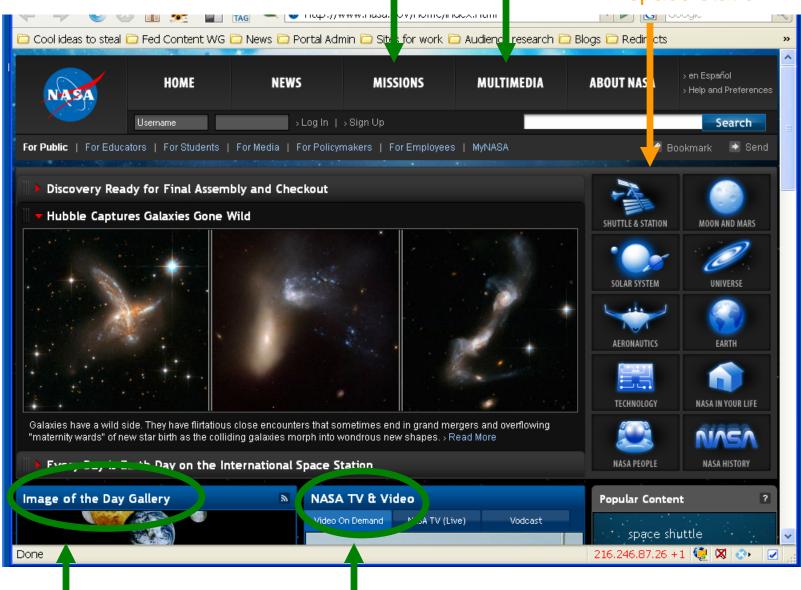


Image Gallery
Image of the Day

nasa tv, video on demand

kids club, Kennedy Space Center

### Direct Customer Feedback

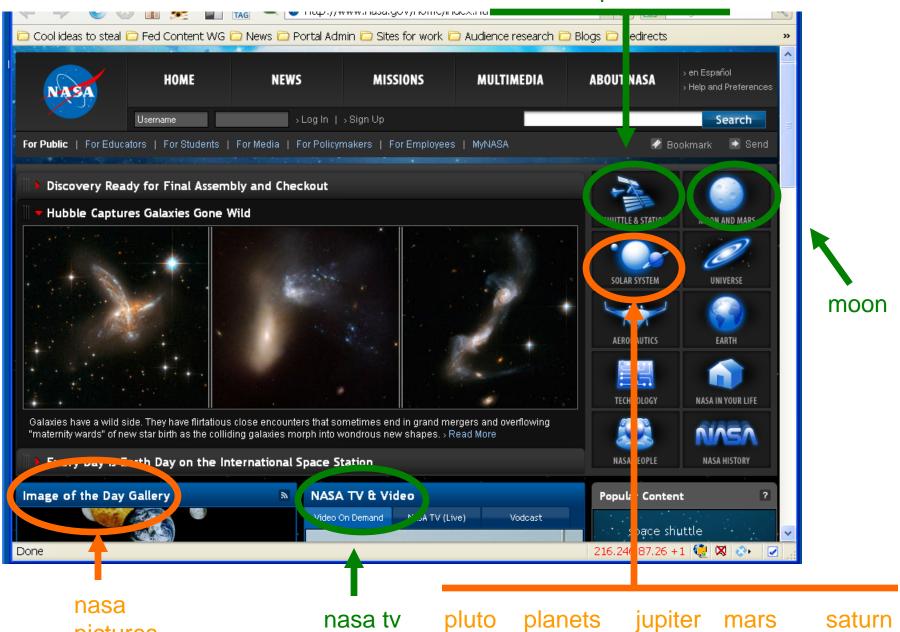
- Kids' Club is a top 10 page, why isn't it above the fold?
  - It's not "very important" to a broad section of the audience (survey data)
  - Visitors are finding it (pageview data)
  - High up in search terms, but results that users get are good (empirical, plus social search data)
- Kennedy Space Center: one of 10 centers; how to balance?
- Moral: Metrics are essential, but you'll still have to make judgment calls

# Direct Customer Feedback

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### Top Search Terms

international space shuttle space station



pictures

# Social Media

1. Information source	3. Summary of text or discussions from information sources	4. Identify Web site tasks based on each information source	5. Identify customer groups for each task (estimate group size)	6. Prioritize tasks based on importance to customer (top, med, low) If a "top" task, note the impact if unavailable.
Blogs and Discussion Forums	Generally follows the news, echoing discussion in old media	Create NASA blogs. Allow users to comment directly on most content	Target audiences	Medium – minimal adverse impact
Video and Image searches	Little data	Allow users to search for mmedia distinct from HTML content; prototype beta 5/08	Target audiences	Medium + users are coming to expect this capability.
General awareness in social networking sites – authority imputed to NASA	Space flight, exploration, satellite observations, climate, astronomy, UFOs	Seeking out news and mission coverage; some more general information	Target audiences	Medium

### **BMWSportTouring**



BMWSportTouring.com Calendar | BMWSportTouring.com T-Shirts Available | Donations

Main Index - Search - Active Topics - New user - Who's Online - FAQ - Calendar

You are not logged in. [Login]

Pages: 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | >> (show a

RELATED >> Riders Discuss Other Topics

◆ Previous ▲ Index ▶ Next 📴 Threaded

#### E30TECH



Posts: 1757 Loc: Flanders, New Jersey

### Space Shuttle Processing: Rarely seen by the general public

#1016238 - Fri Mar 28 2008 09:45 PM

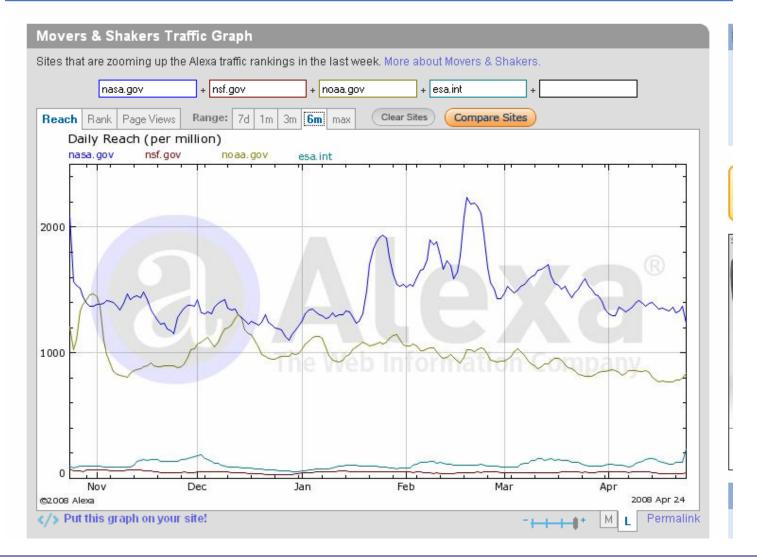
Thought some of you NASA geeks might like to see 🤩

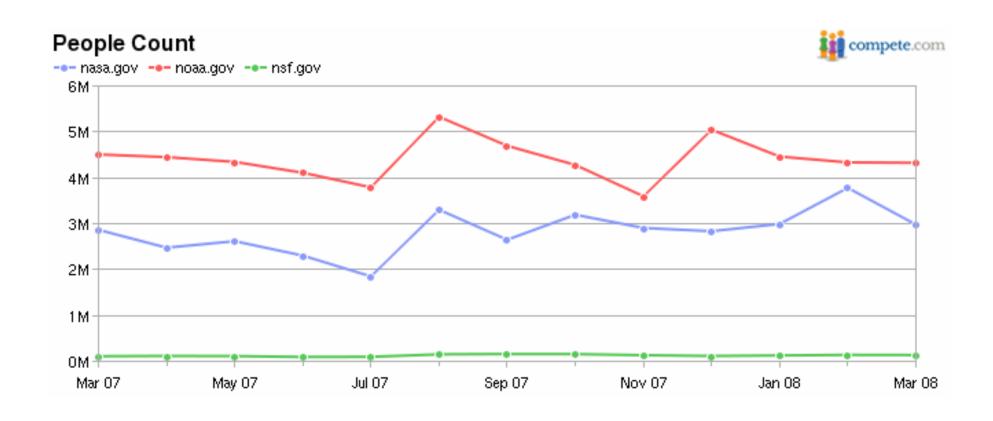


# Market Research

1. Information source	3. Summary of text or discussions from information sources	4. Identify Web site tasks based on each information source	5. Identify customer groups for each task (estimate group size)	6. Prioritize tasks based on importance to customer (top, med, low) If a "top" task, note the impact if unavailable.
Competitive Analysis	NOAA (Weather, climate oceans); NSF (funding); ESA (space exploration, science)	Find climate, oceans information; funding N/A; ESA complementary rather than competitive	Target audiences	Low – already doing or N/A
Popular Trends	Media stories are generally in sync with web page; occasionally require reaction	Users looking for "breaking news", e.g., IG reports	Target audiences	Top – credibility is at stake
Research Studies	Target audience 18-24 looking for social media; more people continue to go online for gov't, science info	Comment on content, polls and quizzes; more sophisticated content req. more resources	Young adults and teens	Medium but growing – this content is needed for nasa.gov to continue to be taken seriously by young audiences





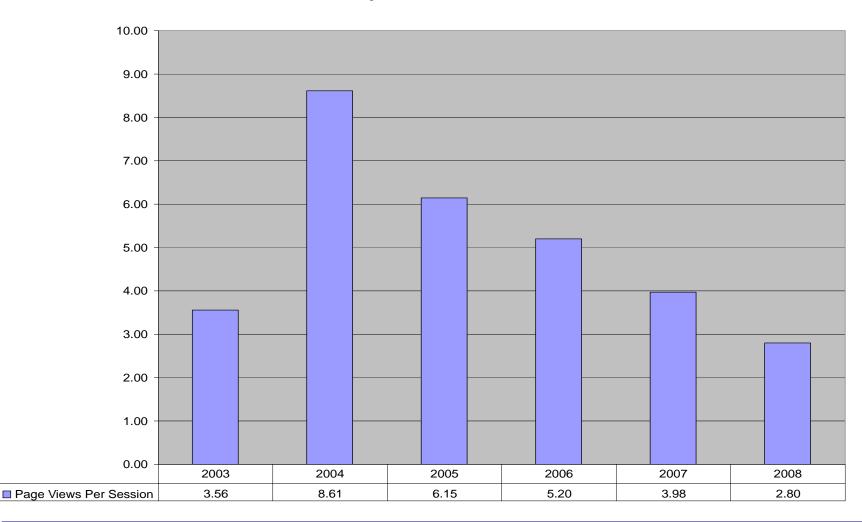


# Putting it All Together

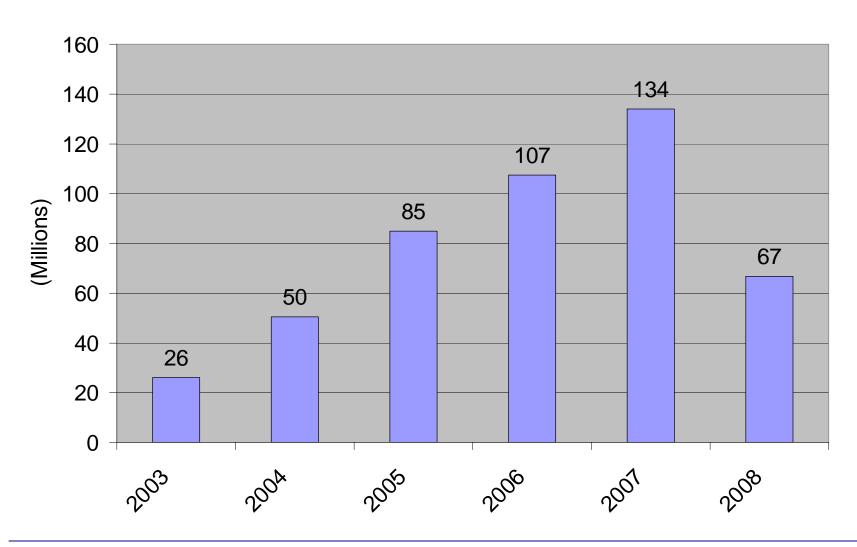
- Focusing on users' top tasks through three redesigns of nasa.gov (1997, 2002-03, 2007) has led to increased traffic and customer satisfaction
- Metrics on top tasks can steer you through HIPPO-infested waters
- Combined with other data, it has also helped us to answer some difficult questions . . .

# Did Our Redesign Work?

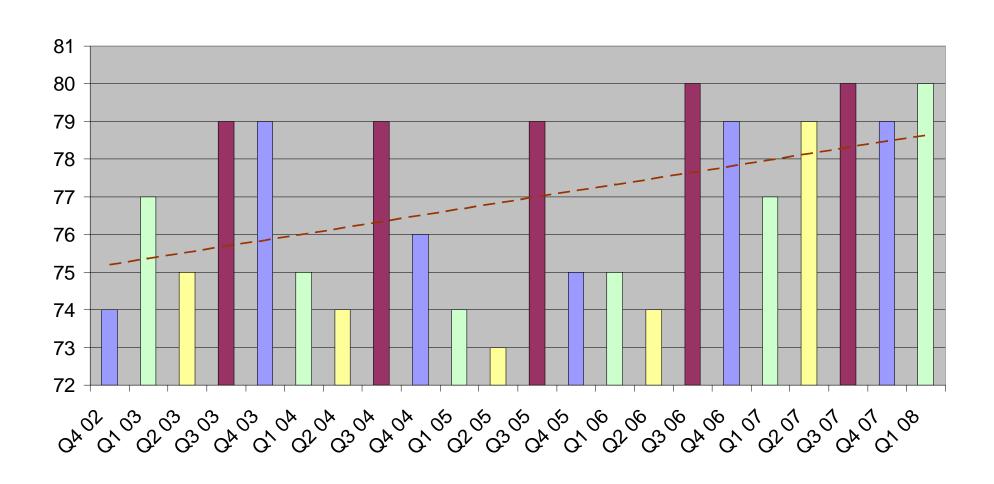
Page Views Per Session



### www.nasa.gov User Sessions



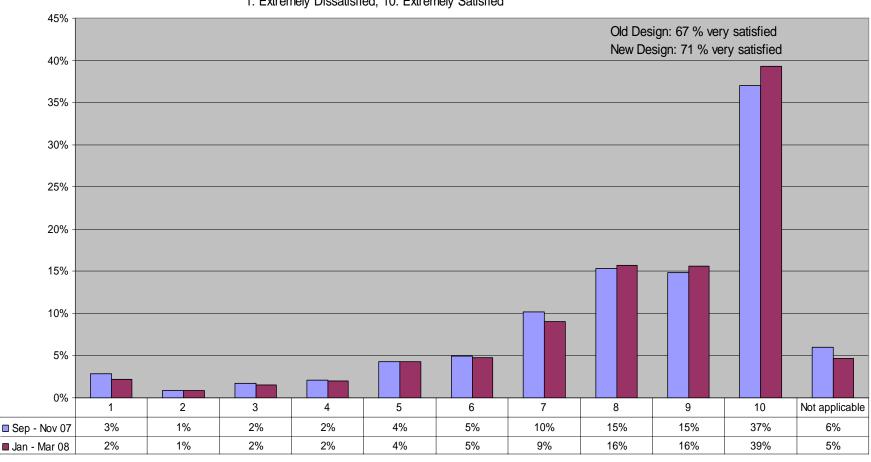
### www.nasa.gov Customer Satisfaction Rating



# Redesign Effect on a Top Task

#### How Satisfied Are You With: Finding Multimedia

1: Extremely Dissatisfied; 10: Extremely Satisfied



## Summary: Effect of the Redesign

Steadily increasing overall customer satisfaction

- x Substantial increase in visits
- Fewer page views per visit
- + Larger portion of visits start on deeper pages
- + Larger portion of visits are direct (e.g., via bookmarks, not search engines)
- Lower ratio of within-site search queries per visitor sessions
- + Increased customer satisfaction for search, nav
- + Top task satisfaction steady or growing
- = Our users are finding what they want more quickly and easily, and getting on with their lives

# Quick and Easy Customer Profile

# Nicole Burton Usability Specialist General Services Administration

May 6, 2008

# Quick and Easy Customer Profile

- Assess customers and tasks quickly
- Handle multiple websites
- Improve communication about top tasks
- Less comprehensive than Metrics Worksheet

# Quick and Easy Customer Profile



www.usa.gov/webcontent/managing\_content/task\_focused\_resources.shtml

## Q&E CP

- Template
- Example: ConsumerAction.gov

# Tips for Preparing Q&E CP

- Use the template
- Follow the instructions
- Refer to your metrics
- Capture observations and ideas
- Share and get feedback
- Set a date for website improvements!

# Comparison Testing

- Also called A/B Testing or Split Testing
- Make incremental design improvements
- CrazyEgg.com (free version)
- Demo Crazy Egg

# USA.gov Gov Agencies Test Results (Baseline & Test 2)





## Comparison Testing Using Crazy Egg

- Identify web pages to test; document goals; change only one element at a time
- 2. Schedule tests to avoid holiday weeks
- 3. Subscribe to software and set up on selected web pages
- 4. Begin test
- 5. Analyze results: Did you meet goals?
- Document results and recommendations; share with web team
- 7. Comparison test next element

# Top Metrics for Top Tasks: Social Security Administration

### **Tim Evans**

Program Analyst, Office of Electronic Services
Social Security Administration

# Top Metrics/Tasks—ssa.gov

- Demographics/Workload Issues Force SSA to Focus on Top Tasks
- What customers tell us about their Top Tasks: Our Metrics
- Resolving Dissonance in Top Task, Multi-Source Metrics

# Social Security's Environment

### Demographics

- 78 million baby boomers (born 1946-1964)
- First Boomer turned 62 1/1/08—applied Oct 15
- Number will peak in 2019 at 3+ million

### Workload/Budget

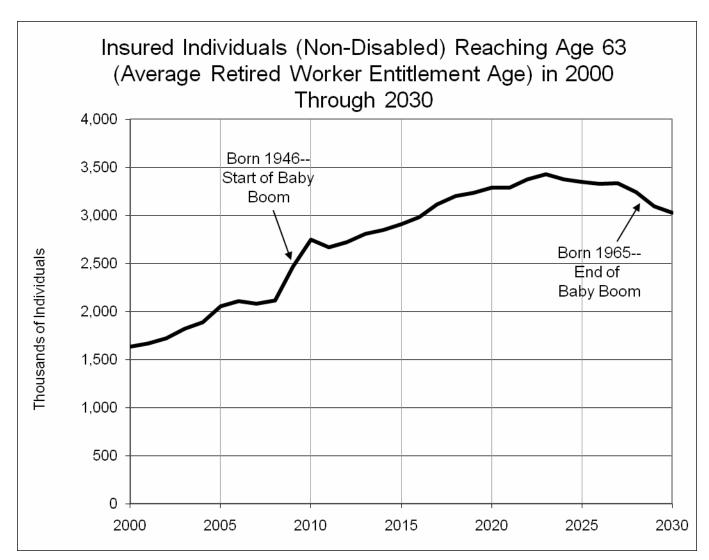
- 40% of SSA employees retirement-eligible by 2010
- Retirement claims will increase by 40%,
   Disability by 10%, in next decade
- Significant unaddressed future workload in current budget environment

# **Environment Forces Top Tasks**

### We don't have an alternative

- Must improve the quality of eServices and expand its role as a service delivery tool, handling a more significant portion of the work in the coming years
- Must make its online services the best they possibly can be
- □ Rapidly rising public expectations
- Analytics central to measuring success and identifying obstacles to it

# SSA Workload Rising Rapidly



# Avinash's Trinity of Metrics Data

- Behavior: What Visitors Do on a Website
- Outcomes: How successful visitors are
- Experience: How happy visitors are

Avinash Kaushik, Web Analytics: An Hour A Day (See http://www.kaushik.net/)

# SSA's Top Tasks by Workload

- Internet Social Security Benefits Application (ISBA)
  - Retirement: 13.6% (183K) of YTD workload, up
     42% over FY07 YTD
  - Disability: 9.3% (110K) of YTD workload, up
     63% over FY07 YTD
- Electronic Wage Reports: 200 Million
- Main Web Site: 31 Million visits
- FAQ's: 13.8 Million
- Post-entitlement services: 1.8 Million

# Visitors' Top Tasks (>=5%)

- Apply for Benefits: 9%
- Get info about Disability Program: 9%
- SSN/Name/Address Change: 9%
- Estimate My Future Benefits: 7%
- See if I Qualify for Benefits: 6%
- Plan Retirement: 5%
- Svcs for Employers, Businesses: 5%

Source: ACSI Main Site survey, 2/4/08-3/16/08

# Top Tasks: Success/Satisfaction

- Apply for Benefits: 56%; 65
- Info about Disability Program: 56%; 78
- SSN/Name/Address Change: 57%; 72
- Estimate My Future Benefits: 75%; 84
- See if I Qualify for Benefits: 48%; 73
- Plan Retirement: 66%; 74
- Services for Employers/Businesses: 62%; 60
- Overall: 53% Successful; Sat: 69

# Behavior: ISBA Start Page

They Did:	February	March	Δ
Viewed	431,447	568,185	31.7%
Entered	342,230	446,605	30.5%
Visited	267,482	324,007	21.1%
Searched	49,628	98,469	98.4%
Spidered (Search engines visited)	302	476	57.6%

# Searches: ISBA Start Page

They Searched at:	February	March	Δ
google	16,200	30,565	88.7%
yahoo	1,740	3,025	73.9%
aol	49	1,698	3365.3%
msn	692	1,345	94.4%
•••			
SSA internal	16	32	100.0%

## Observations—ISBA Metrics

- Customers find their way to the page without much help from SSA (just handful of links sitewide to ISBA start)
  - Home page constitutes only 1/3 of accesses of application start page
  - Internal Search Engine does not help customers find the application
- Instrumenting the application so SSA can readily identify specific problems with it should be a priority.

### Effects of FAQ's on Workload

### If no FAQ's, how contact SSA?

Call 800 Number: 39%

Call Local Office: 20%

Visit Local Office: 10%

Send E-Mail: 16%

- Total High-Cost Contacts: 85%

What do you plan to do next?

Call 800 Number: 13% (-67%)

Call Local Office: 8% (-60%)

Visit Local Office: 21% (+110%)

Send E-Mail: 6% (-62%)

Total High-Cost Contacts: 48% (-44%)

#### Resolving Multi-Source, Dissonant Data

- ACSI Survey on ISBA: Steady at 86-88 for 12 Quarters
- Main Site survey
  - Primary Purpose—Apply for Benefits & Successful;
     Satisfaction at 88
  - Primary Purpose—Apply for Benefits & Not Successful: Satisfaction at <20</li>
  - Need to dig more deeply into this latter group via analysis of Open Ended question about why they failed
- SSA Retirement Planner ACSI survey: around half are interested in filing online, esp. if on-line help available

## SMART Criteria; Metrics Tools

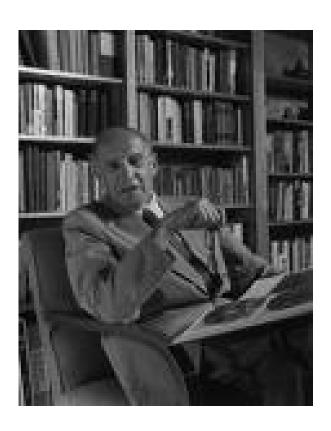
Joe Pagano

Library of Congress

May 6, 2008

## S.M.A.R.T. Criteria

Specific
Measurable
Achievable
Relevant
Time bound



"What gets measured gets done..."

Peter Drucker

SPECIFIC: clear and focused to avoid misinterpretation. Should include measure assumptions and definitions and be easily interpreted. Must avoid ambiguous terms like "outstanding, excellent, world class"



MEASURABLE - can be quantified and compared to other data. Avoid "yes/no" measures except in limited cases, such as start-up or systems-in-place situations.



Is there a reliable and accessible system in place to measure progress towards the achievement of the Annual Strategy?

ACHIEVABLE - attainable, reasonable, and credible under conditions expected. There is a likelihood of success but that does not mean it will be easy or simple.



With a reasonable amount of effort and application can the objective be achieved...resources?

**RELEVANT** - points toward achieving the strategic goal & outcome as well as the annual strategy.

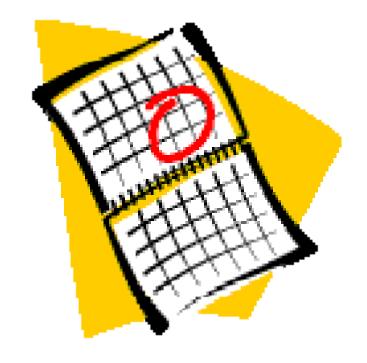
Is the performance target being set:

- (1) something the organization can actually impact or change and
- (2) important to the organization?



Do those responsible for achieving the annual strategy and its performance targets have the necessary knowledge, authority and skill?

**TIME BOUND** – doable within the time frame given.



In other words, it's not simply, "Increase Library holdings by 2 percent;" it's "Increase Library holdings by 2 perceInt within the next 12 months."

#### Example: measure | target | actual



Program Result: Met Expectations

Overall, DC Public Library met expectations in this program.

Measure 1.1: Percent of public, private and charter elementary schools and licensed child care homes that expose children to reading opportunities through visits to and/or from the library

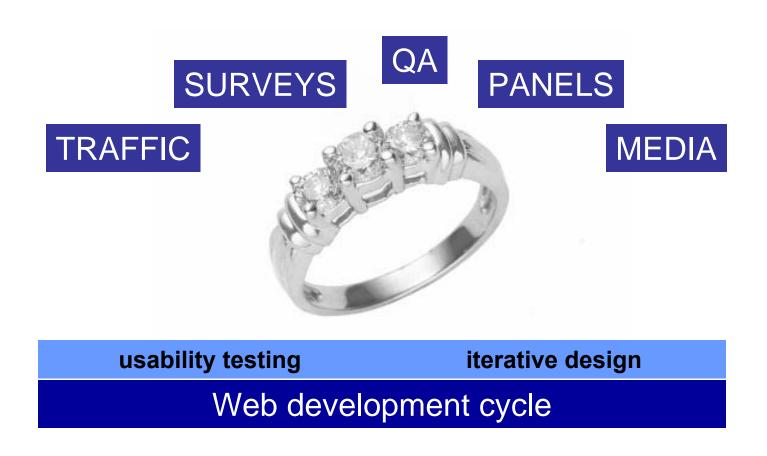
	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Target	N/A	50	50	50	60
Actual	N/A	48.61	60.44	77.58	-

Note: New measure added in FY 2005. FY 2006 and FY 2007 target increased from 4.0 and 4.5, respectively to 50 percent at agency request (2/06).

Measure 1.2: Percent of children in the District between birth and 19 exposed to reading opportunities through enrollment in the Summer Quest reading program

	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Target	N/A	15	15	15	25
Actual	N/A	14.58	44.32	90.08	-

### Five Facets of Web Metrics



### **Metrics Tools**

- Considerations when selecting
  - Technology
  - Support
- Metrics for the enterprise
  - Simple economics
- Those EULA things
  - If you go it alone, beware!

## Metrics and Organizations

Gently paraphrased or quoted from the book, <u>Competing</u> on <u>Analytics: The New Science of Winning</u> by Thomas H. Davenport and Jeanne G. Harris

- Decision making at high levels does not always focus on rigor and dispassionate analysis, but instead on "vision".
- Organizations lack people eager to do good analytic empirical work and analytical work is seen as the last resort by those unfamiliar with "proper methods".
- "People tend to win over ideas rather than the reverse."

# Open Discussion

#### Three Takeaways

- lacktriangle
- lacktriangle

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