## The Payoff of Intentional Delight to Enhance Loyalty, Word of Mouth and Revenue

## The Quirks Event

John Goodman, Vice Chairman, Customer Care Measurement \& Consulting
March 28, 2023

## Agenda

1. Evolution of Satisfaction Measurement \& Study Methodology
2. Key Findings

- Market Response to Delight Mirrors that of Points of Pain
- Delight actions can be inexpensive, actually reducing problems
- Delight can be easily delivered digitally as well as by phone
- Delight fosters twice the WOM impact of complete satisfaction
- Delight appears to work well for both B2B and B2C
- Granular delight and POP allow linkage of NPS to revenue payoff

3. Implications for Market Research and CX

## BUSINESS NEWS

## rops

## Customer Problems Hit a Record

More people are seeking 'revenge' over issues, which have surged since the ' 70 s

## By Katie Deighton

Americans are encountering more problems with companies' products and services than ever before, and a higher proportion of them are actively seeking "revenge" for their troubles, a new study has found.

Some $74 \%$ of the 1,000 consumers surveyed said they had experienced a product or service problem in the past year. That is up from $66 \%$ in 2020 , when the study last was conducted, and $56 \%$ in 2017. Only $32 \%$ told researchers they had experienced a problem in 1976, when a similar version of the study was first conducted. The nercentage of consum-


## Evolution of Satisfaction Measurement

- Satisfaction
- Recommend - Word of Mouth (Word of Mouse)
- Problem occurrence (points of pain) \& Rage
- Net Promoter Score - can't connect to revenue
- Detractors, Passive, Promoters
- Blunt instrument - ignores passives
- $70 \%$ pro $-20 \%$ detractors $=50 \ldots . .10 \%$ passive
- $55 \%$ pro $-5 \%$ detractors $=50 \ldots . .40 \%$ passive
- Customer Effort
- NPS 3.0
- Delight


## Study Methodology

1. April 2021 administration of the CCMC Delight In Affluent Consumer Groups Study
2. Web-based, panel survey of 2,519 individuals with annual household incomes above \$100,000
3. Roughly a 50/50 split of male and female respondents
4. Sixty-six percent of the 2,519 respondents reported being delighted with a customer service experience in the past 12 months
5. Survey content

- Respondents with delightful experience in past 12 months asked product/service, type of 'delighter' experienced, primary method of communication, impact of delightful experience and
 willingness to pay more for product in the future
- Respondents with no delightful experience asked to recall their most positive customer experience in the past 12 months and associated repurchase intention and willingness to pay more
- All respondents asked gender, age, household income


## Study Findings - Overview

1. People (genuinely engaged in servicing customers) are the strongest source of delight - stronger than money -- cheap delighters are as effective as costly ones
2. Honesty and transparency are powerful delighters even when conveying bad news
3. Cross-selling more products to high-end customers often creates delight (as well as more revenue)
4. Affluent customers will pay hundreds of dollars more for the same product to companies that delight
5. Digital delight is as prevalent as telephone or in person
6. Live video chat is emerging strongly

Honesty and transparency are powerful delighters even when conveying bad news

## Survey Questions:

Which of the items listed below caused you to be DELIGHTED with this [MOST DELIGHTFUL] CUSTOMER SERVICE EXPERIENCE? (Click on all that apply.) The company...

Which ONE item listed below contributed MOST to your DELIGHT with this [MOST DELIGHTFULJ CUSTOMER SERVICE EXPERIENCE? The company... (Click on only one item.)

| Type of Delighter | \% Mentioned As Delighter | \% Top Delighter |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Was honest - e.g., 'I'm so sorry our warehouse is understaffed and we are behind on shipments due to COVID-19' | 35\% | 10\% |
| Gave me good price/ Offered good value for money | 34\% | 12\% |
| Was enthusiastic - e.g., 'Let's get this done right now!' | 33\% | 10\% |
| Was transparent with explanations - e.g., 'Here are three things you need to know to avoid problems with this product/service' | 29\% | 8\% |
| Showed interest/concern - | 27\% | 6\% |
| Created a fun or entertaining interaction | 27\% | 9\% |
| Was empathetic | 25\% | 6\% |
| Provided unique knowledge - e.g., providing golden nuggets of information you can use | 25\% | 7\% |
| Connected with you in a personal way - e.g., 'I've travelled with my 85-year-old father and I know how stressful it is' | 21\% | 6\% |
| Provided extra value - e.g., dog treats at Starbucks | 20\% | 7\% |
| Utilized surprise - e.g., 'Thanks for waiting two minutes - your order is now free | 19\% | 6\% |
| Gave you compliments - e.g., 'I love your voice, love your necktie/shawl' | 17\% | 3\% |
| Sold other products or services that were useful/tailored to me | 16\% | 4\% |
| Acted humorously - e.g., saying on an airplane 'If you're seated next to a child or an adult acting like a child...' | 15\% | 2\% |
| Exercised heroics - e.g., 'I'll bring this to your house myself this evening' | 13\% | 4\% |

## Simple Inexpensive Delighters Were As Effective As Costly Ones

Survey Questions:

Which ONE item listed below contributed MOST to your DELIGHT with this [MOST DELIGHTFUL] CUSTOMER SERVICE EXPERIENCE? (Click on all that apply.) The company...

In the future, would you be willing to pay any more for this product or service? How much more?

Humor, heroics, surprise, empathy, honesty, cross-selling all top for increased spend


## Digital and Video Chat Are Effective

- $48 \%$ of all delight experiences were digital email, social media or chat
- The most prevalent single channel which consistently created high levels of delight was video chat, averaging $35 \%$ of all transactions produced delight. Intuit - 30\% trust from eye contact.

Focus On Word of Mouth Impact in E-Commerce

pg 9: 2021 CCMC Delight In Affluent Consumer Groups Study

Delight Opportunities In Beauty And Fragrance


## Results of Beautycounter.com Experiment

- Trained eight reps on one team holding another team as control group
- Each team handled about 2500 contacts in two weeks
- Surveyed every contact using five point scale
- Received 447 surveys for experimental and 340 surveys for control group
- Percent top box, $84 \%$ control and 88 for experimental, $4 \%$ difference is significant with $90 \%$ confidence
- Conclusion: Two hour training investment in delight produced 4 point lift in top box rating as well as significant sales and staff satisfaction impacts
- Next To-Do: Create measurement scale to differentiate between sat and delight

Delight Also Applies to B2B - Major SaaS Vendor Executive Respondents


## Implications for Market Research

- Sales and Marketing must be part of CX
- Customer education and onboarding is key

- Measurement and Insights must include Delight on Scales
- Business case must include revenue and word of mouth - It's 10-20 X more profitable to deliver a great experience than a good one


## 1. Marketing \& Sales Transparency

- Objection: Marketing says transparency is counterproductive, stifles creativity
- Transparency and honestly create trust and WOM referrals
- Here is the fine print/we know you don't like surprises
- Customers obtained via WOM are less price sensitive and worth $25 \%$ more than average new customer
- Sales rep time spent on problems and fire drills reduced usually $10-20 \%$ - more time to sell


## 2. Onboarding

1. Flag Customers, ideally with personas
2. Motivate to get educated - scare, bribe, challenge
3. Provide basic education via multiple channels
4. Guide to self-service
5. Provide advanced education on features
6. Evaluation of which education worked and its impact

No one is accountable in most companies
Six steps for customer onboarding best practices - https://bit.ly/3pBlumQ

## Payoff of Effective Onboarding - 40\% Increase Satisfaction With CX at ISP



Successful Education Reduced Problems and Question by 40\%

## 3. Measure Internal Service Impact on CX

- Issue - unresponsive internal service, no or wrong information on production/logistics; surprises
- Opportunity
- Half of employee frustrations overlap customer frustration
- Actions to improve
- Internal processes SLAs for information update and response
- Metrics - employee frustrations with internal support that impact customers (See CCMC Employee Frustration Surveys)


## 4. Enhance Response

- Weave in low-cost Delight
- Enhance self-service and digital ease
- Proactively /Just In Time response
- Empower front line with flexibility and to say no


## 5. Measurement \& VOC to Include Delight \& RevenueBased Business Case

- Change the Scale to include delight
- Net Promoter Score and NPS 3.0 are blunt instruments*
- Improvement comes only from fixing granular problems
- Measure problem occurrence and resulting loyalty, revenue and WOM
- Position bad news = more revenue and profit
* See Linkedln Post - Bridging NPS to Granular Revenue Impact


## Business Case Starts With The Status Quo

- 20,000 complaints and questions
- Multiplier of 10 - for each complaint there are 10 other customers with same issue but did not complain
- 200,000 customers with problems
- Conservative customer value = \$150 per year for 2 years =\$300
- Cost to handle complaint $\$ 15$ plus $\$ 10$ remedy $=\$ 25$


## Quantify Payoff of Status Quo Service



At $\$ 300$ per customer, $\$ 2,280,000$ revenue recovered or $\$ 648,00030 \%$ gross margin
Cost of handling 20,000 contacts @ \$25/contact = \$500,000
ROI $=648,000 / 500,000=37 \%$

## Three Strategies for CA to Show Impact

1. Satisfy and delight more consumers that contact with issues - improve your recovery tools to include delight
2. Get more customers with problems \& questions to contact
3. Enhance product and marketing to increase value, share, margin and word of mouth acquisition

## Quantify Payoff of Higher Resolution Rate



Cost of handling 20,000 contacts $@ \$ 28 /$ contact $=\$ 560,000, \mathrm{ROI}=900,000 / 560,000=61 \%$ ROI
BUT! - still leaving 144,000 X $\$ 300=\$ 43$ million on the table

## Quantify Payoff of Delighting 20\%



BUT! - still leaving $144,000 \times \$ 300=\$ 43$ million on the table

## Payoff of Preventing 25\% of Problems



At $\$ 300$ per customer, $\$ 1,710,000$ recovered or $\$ 513,00030 \%$ gross margin
Cost of handling 15,000 contacts @ \$25/contact = \$375,000
ROI $=513,000 / 375,000=37 \%$
BUT! - by spending $\$ 200,000$ on education, reduce silent lost customers from 128,000 to 108,000 or save $20,000 \times \$ 300=\$ 6 \mathrm{MM}$ in revenue or $\$ 1.8 \mathrm{MM}$ gross margin for ROI of $800 \%$

- Delight is a cheap sales, customer service and digital opportunity
- Look at the revenue, margin and WOM implications of transparency, education and delight
- Insights must measure at the granular level


## Questions and Complaints??

Jgoodman@customercaremc.com Customercaremc.com - website for articles and studies https://www.linkedin.com/in/johngoodman3/


