

Department of City Development
City Plan Commission
Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee
Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation

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### Memorandum

To: Ald. Terry Witkowski, Commissioner Art Dahlberg, Co-Chair's Local Business Action Team

From: Kenneth Gales, DCD

Date: April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Re: Development of an online survey tool

Committee members requested a recommendation on the design of a survey tool which would effectively measure city services and their respective effectiveness across all city departments. In addition, any survey tool employed must be bi-lingual.

Therefore, DCD submits the following recommendation for review. For the reasons outlined below; it is recommended that one survey tool be created and utilized by the City of Milwaukee.

First, because each department has a unique set of customer needs; defining the "customer" can be a challenge. As a result a workgroup consisting of representatives from all affected departments should be formed to identify an agreed upon definition of all stakeholders. Below are sample terms and definition for identification purposes.

Clients-those individuals or entities who fund the service or program

Compliers-those individuals or entities on the receiving end of enforcement activities

Consumers-the end users of an agency's programs, services, or information

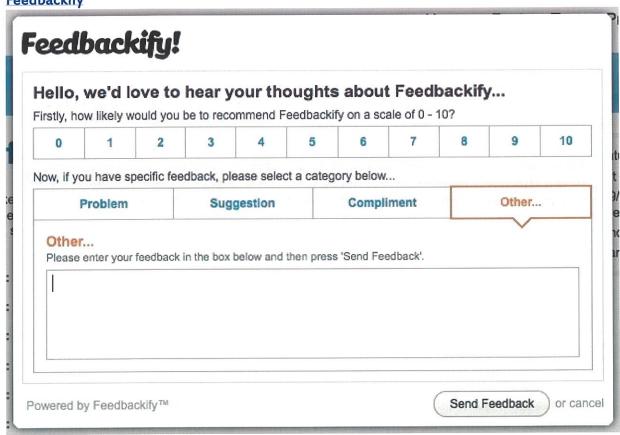
Constituents-the individuals and groups who have some vested interest in the department's work

Second, once the customer has been defined a single set of questions to assess program effectiveness should be used. Customer satisfaction depends on the features of the service offered and the quality of the service interaction. Service-quality literature identifies ten determinants that drive customer satisfaction. These determinants have been mapped to five broad dimensions:



Serving well- Reliability, timeliness, accuracy
Conveying courtesy and respect- Responsiveness, courtesy, communication
Earning trust- Competence, credibility, understanding the customer, security
Inviting in- Access, tangibles
Program effectiveness- Determinates vary by program

# Gathering Customer Feedback Feedbackify

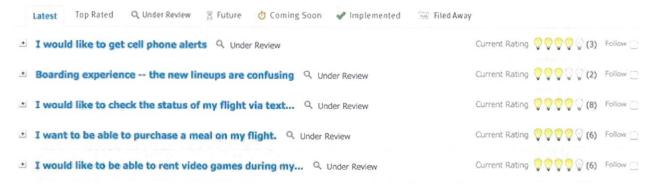


Feedbackify is a website widget that lets business owners ask specific questions of visitors (such as, "Rate our new design on a scale of 1 to 10"), and solicit feedback in customizable categories (such as, ideas, bug reports or general comments). The app is **focused strictly on** *gathering* **feedback**. However, it provides plenty of information about the submitter, allowing for a reply to any feedback.

Cost: The site has just one plan for \$19/month.

## **SuggestionBox**

## Highlights from inside Southwest's SuggestionBox



Focused on soliciting ideas and suggestions from your customers. The app is fairly straightforward: users submit ideas, other users can vote them up. Once a business has claimed its SuggestionBox, business owners can respond to suggestions or mark them as "Coming Soon" or "Implemented."

**Cost**: SuggestionBox pricing starts at \$49.50/month.

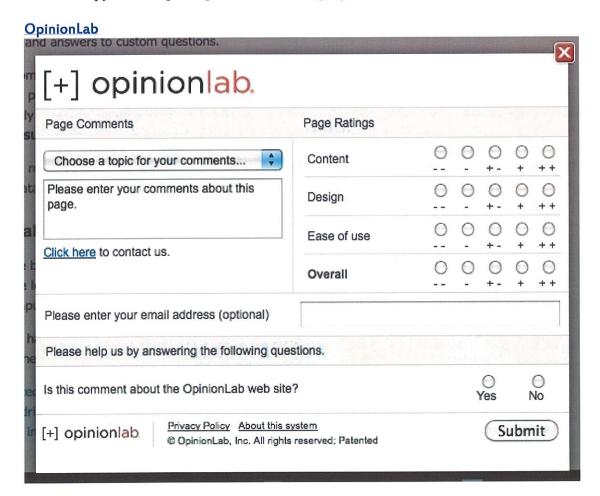


Kampyle is a feedback widget that, like Feedbackify, allows business owners to ask pointed questions.

Kampyle offers utilities to converse with customers from within the app via a built-in response system, as well as an automatic system that sends customers relevant responses based on the type of feedback they leave.

One of Kampyle's strongest points is its analytics tools. The app integrates with Google Analytics, Omniture and Nedstate, which offers business owners better insight into how customers are interacting with a website.

Cost: Kampyle offers pricing for websites ranging from free to \$499/month.



OpinionLab offers a suite of tools for gathering customer feedback from websites, mobile, social media, e-mail, and even in brick-and-mortar stores. The app offers a widget that can gather comprehensive feedback — from multiple choice questions to open response areas. Information is also gathered about the customers that are leaving feedback (such as their browser, operating system, time on site, referring page, etc.) and once feedback is collected it is algorithmically analyzed and sorted.

OpinionLab also offers solutions for monitoring social media for feedback your customers are leaving via other channels.

Cost: Pricing varies.

### **UserEcho**



UserEcho is another straightforward feedback widget option. The app creates business communities — accessible via an embeddable widget — where customers can leave feedback and comment or vote on ideas or issues. Business owners can categorize feedback by tag, respond to it, or broadcast the status of a suggestion. UserEcho allows multiple staff members to respond to feedback and allows users to log in via accounts they already have, such as Facebook or Twitter.

Cost: UserEcho has plans available running from free to \$59/month

Next, the true power of any survey results lies in the trends that develop over time or in the comparisons that can be made among similar organizations. Because comparisons will be made, it is important to consider this during the survey design process so the data requirements are designed into the research instrument.

Furthermore, it is important to carefully consider how any changes to the survey may affect time-series data. A limited number of new questions can be rotated in on a particular survey, but if a department wants to evaluate a new program or is considering launching an alternative method of delivery a service, it is best to conduct a separate research effort to gather this information.

Finally, a comprehensive approach to improving customer satisfaction would also take into account employee satisfaction and systematically address customer complaints. Front-line employees should be given the authority and resources to resolve most issues without having to consult management. Leading organizations recognize that customers typically direct their complaints to front-line employees, and they want their issues resolved at the first point of contact. Customer research shows dissatisfaction grows as the time and number of people involved increases.

C: Members of the Local Business Action Team