A REPORT ON THE STATE OF MOBILE TECHNOLOGIES WITHIN ORGANIZATIONS

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ABSTRACT

This paper reports on the state of mobile technologies within organizations. A survey consisting of six parts were administered to 181 subjects from various organizations in the USA, India, China, UK, Mexico, and the Netherlands. The survey was conducted between September 2014 and December 2015. In addition to demographics questions, the survey included 21 questions about various aspects of mobile technologies. Collected data were analyzed via frequency distribution. Results are presented in tables and responses are arranged from high to low. Perhaps, the most interesting results are the dominance of Apple iPhones and Samsung Galaxy smart phones and tablets used by employees to support business activities within the organizations. LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Google+ respectively were the most popular types of social media platforms used within organizations. Conclusions and recommendations are made based on the results.

Keywords: Mobile Technologies, Mobile Devices, Mobile Apps, Mobile Computing

INTRODUCTION

Mobile technologies offer connectivity, flexibility, interactivity, and location awareness. It helps organizations' efficiency and the success of business processes (Barnes, 2003). There are many definitions of mobile technologies. Mobile devices, mobile computing, mobile apps, etc. are often used interchangeably to define mobile technologies. For the purpose of this paper, we define mobile technologies as portable technologies that use wireless networks to perform various tasks via mobile devices such as laptops, tablets, netbooks, smart phones, and global positioning systems (GPS). The transmission media used in mobile technologies for transferring data in various forms may include radio wave, microwave, Bluetooth, infrared, or GPS. Mobile devices use various operating systems. An operating system is a component of the system software for managing hardware and software. Mobile apps, a component of mobile technologies, are software applications that are designed specifically for smartphones and tablets.

In recent years, researchers have focused on the adoption, implementation, and use of mobile technologies in organizations (Kim & Han, 2009; Baran 2014; Karanasios & Allen, 2014). Mobile devices allow users access to wireless services and applications. The use of mobile devices has become exceptionally popular among people because of their affordability (Newhouse, Williams, & Pearson, 2006), their ease of transportability, and their availability, always being carried by users (Mattila, 2003). Mobile devices have enabled the increased engagement of workers within organizations. They have signaled new and innovative ways of doing business (Tsang et al., 2004; Liang, et al., 2007; Ko, Jeng 2015).

The rapid development and use of mobile technologies have shown great potential for enhanced communication within organizations (Ko & Jeng 2015). Examples of mobile devices include laptops, tablets, netbooks, smart phones, and global positioning system (GPS) devices. These devices enable people to use a variety of communication technologies, including Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, 3G, 4G, GSM, GPRS. Mobile devices facilitate communication, Internet access, and data exchange. In business settings, they improve real-time communication. They enhance efficiency and provide new opportunities for organizational activities through collaboration (Shankar & O'Driscoll, 2002; Rangone & Renga, 2006).

Mobile applications, also known as apps, are application software programs that are written to run on mobile devices. According to Nah, et al., (2005) there are three advantages of using mobile applications. They provide

mobility (allowing users to conduct business matters anytime, anywhere), flexibility (allowing users to capture data at the source, or point of origin), and dissemination (allowing users to share real-time information with a larger user population). Ideal mobile applications must embrace functionality, effective user interface, and adaptability. They should be designed to satisfy users (Tarasewich, 2003, Lee & Benbasat 2004, Lee & Shim 2006).

The user interface characteristics of mobile devices and / or mobile apps such as portability, performance / operation, usability, and network connectivity have been documented in the literature. (Gebauer et al., 2008; Gebauer & Ginsburg, 2009). Portability refers to the ability of an app, for example, to run on various mobile devices. Performance / operation refers to speed, battery life, and compatibility of a mobile device. Usability of a mobile device or mobile app refers to the ease of use and comfort. Network connectivity is the strength of the Internet access.

Mobile technologies are often a part of the information systems infrastructure within organizations. They allow users to share information, communicate, and use various business applications anytime, anywhere. Mobile technologies result in efficiency and productivity as users can make better use of their time (Sarker and Wells, 2003; Jarvenpaa et al., 2003).

Quite often mobile devices are used by people to look for common information that might make everyday life easier (Oulasvirta et al., 2012; Ghose et al., 2013). Mobile technologies have been shown to support flexibility of employees (Middleton & Cukier, 2006). They allow employees to form and participate in various communities of practice (Kietzmann et al., 2013). Mobile technologies enable access to social media platforms, which consists of Internet-based applications allowing the creation and exchange of user-generated content such as videos, music, text, and photos. The most popular social media sites according to a global ranking "The top 500 sites on the web" (Alexa, 2015) are Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, Instagram, Pinterest, Blogger, Twitter, and Wikipedia. Social media enables people to be part of a community that shares ideas and information. These platforms are easy to use and enable real-time updates, rapid distribution, and instant feedback. Organizations use them to inform customers about their products and services, campaigns and promotions.

There are, however, drawbacks that face the use of mobile technologies and apps within organizations. Some disadvantages are related to the cost of setting up the equipment and training required to make use of mobile devices. Furthermore, mobile technologies can expose valuable data to unauthorized people, when they are not secured. Loss and theft are perhaps the highest risks with mobile devices because they may contain sensitive and confidential information (Friedman & Hoffman 2008). Other threats to mobile devices are viruses, worms, trojan horse, and spyware (Madan, Muppidi, Patel, Buecker 2013).

The primary purpose of this paper is to report on the state of mobile technologies within organizations. We collected data from subjects within various organizations in the USA and several other countries. Specifically, the report includes the analysis of collected data regarding the percentage of time employees spend in a day using mobile technologies to conduct business, the ownership of the mobile devices, and the percentage of the use of mobile devices to establish remote connections to back-office systems. Furthermore, we report on the type of mobile devices used within organizations, various mobile apps used to support business within organizations, social media platforms used through mobile devices to support business, and the security of mobile technologies. Finally, we report on the positive and negative experiences attributed to using mobile technologies for business support.

METHOD

The Survey

A survey consisting of a number of questions was sent electronically to 181 subjects requesting information about the state of mobile technologies within organizations. The survey consisted of six parts. Part 1 gathered information about 1) the percentage of time, on average, employees spend in a day using mobile technologies to conduct business, 2) the ownership of the mobile devices (individual, company, or both) used to conduct business, and 3) the percentage of the use of mobile devices to establish remote connections to back-office systems. Part 2

gathered information about the types of mobile devices used within organizations. Part 3 collected information about various mobile apps used to support business within organizations. Part 4 collected information about social media platforms used through mobile devices to support business. Part 5 gathered information about the security measures that organizations provide to secure mobile devices. Part 6 collected information about positive and negative experiences attributed to using mobile technologies for business support.

Subjects & Procedure

A majority of the subjects (69%) were from organizations in various parts of the USA (Northeast: 9% Midwest: 49%, South: 6%, and West: 5%). The rest of the subjects (31%) were from organizations in India, China, UK, Mexico, and the Netherlands. The subjects' organizations include sole proprietorship: 12%, partnership: 8%, corporation: 54%, non-profit: 7%, and franchise, cooperative, & government: 18%. The number of employees in these organizations were 0-250: 34%, 251-500: 8%, 501-750: 2%, 751-1000: 6%, greater than 1000: 39%, and not specified: 10%. The organizations' activities included health, manufacturing, retail, service, marketing, sales, energy, & technology. The data were collected between September 2014 and December 2015.

Analysis

Collected data were analyzed through frequency distribution. Frequency distribution groups the data into classes. Data are then organized to illustrate how many data points fall into each class. Finally, the numbers are converted to percentages to provide a more informative description of the data.

RESULTS

Part 1: Time spent using mobile technologies, mobile devices ownership, & establishing remote connections

- 1) The percentage of time, on average, employees spend in a day using mobile technologies to conduct business. Only 12% indicated a great deal of time is spent using mobile technologies to conduct business, followed by 19%: often, 28%: occasionally, and 40%: seldom. (See Table 1)
- 2) The ownership of the mobile devices whose mobile devices employees use to conduct business. Of the total responses, 45% indicated that they use both company owned mobile devices and personal mobile devices to conduct business; 29% indicated that they use their own mobile devices for company business because mobile devices are not provided by the company; and 25% indicated that they use the mobile devices provided by the company to conduct business because they are not allowed to use personal devices for business. (See Table 2)
- 3) Using mobile devices to establish remote connections to back-office systems. Of the total responses to this question, 38% indicated that they use mobile devices to establish remote connections to back-office systems and 36% indicated that they did not use mobile devices to establish remote connections to back-office systems. (See Table 3)

Table 1: Time spend using MT			Table 2: Providing mo	Table 3: Remote connections				
	f	%		f	%		f	%
Seldom	73	40%	Both	82	45%	Yes	69	38%
Occasionally	51	28%	Employees use own	53	29%	No	65	36%
Often	35	19%	Company provides	46	25%		134	100%
A great deal	22	12%		181	100%	134/181 respond	'ed	
	181	100%	181/181 responded			_		
181/181 respon	ıded							

Part 2: Type of mobile devices used within organizations

The second part of the survey requested information about the type of mobile devices (smart phones, tablets, notebooks, & laptops) employees use to support business within the organization.

Smart phones: Apple iPhones were the most used smart phones by employees to support business activities within the organizations (40%), followed by Samsung Galaxy (18%). Other types of smart phones were used anywhere from 9% to 4%. (See Table 4)

Tablets: Apple iPad Air and Apple iPad mini were the leading tablets used by employees to support business activities within the organizations (65% combined), followed by Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1" (14%). The use of other types of tablets was from 7% to 2%. (See Table 5)

Netbook: Over 60% indicated that they do not use Netbooks to support business activities within the organizations. Only 16% used Lenovo ThinkPad X120e. The use of other types of Netbooks was from 6% to 4%. (See Table 6)

Laptops: Dell laptops were among the highest used by employees to support business activities within the organizations (39%), followed by Apple (24%), HP and Lenova (16% each), Toshiba (4%), and Acer (1%). (See Table 7)

Table 4: Smart Phone		
	f	%
Apple iPhone	118	40%
Samsung Galaxy	53	18%
Google Nexus	26	9%
Samsung Galaxy Note 3	25	9%
HTC	17	6%
Blackberry	17	6%
Sony	13	4%
Nokia	13	4%
LG	11	4%
	293	100%
145/181 responded		

Table 5: Tablet		
	f	%
Apple iPad Air	116	48%
Apple iPad mini	42	17%
Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1"	35	14%
Google Nexus	17	7%
Dell Venue 11 Pro	11	5%
Amazon Kindle Fire HDX 8.9"	9	4%
Asus Transformer Book T100TA	9	4%
Asus VivoTab Note 8	5	2%
	244	100%
151/181 responded		

Table	6.	Netbook
1 able	o:	Netbook

	f	%
Do not use Netbook	91	62%
Lenovo ThinkPad X120e	24	16%
HP Pavilion dm1z	9	6%
Sony VAIO VPC-YB15KX/S	7	5%
Samsung NF310-A01	5	3%
Acer Aspire One D260-1270	5	3%
Asus Eee PC 1215B	3	2%
HP Mini 210-2070nr	3	2%
	147	100%
147/181 responded		

Table 7: Laptop

	f	%
Dell	97	39%
Apple	59	24%
HP	40	16%
Lenovo	40	16%
Toshiba	10	4%
Acer	3	1%
	249	100%
161/181 responde	d	

Part 3: Various mobile apps used to support business within organizations

The third part of the survey requested information about the various mobile apps organizations use to support business within the organization. Specifically, the following information requested:

Business productivity apps to work faster, better, smarter: The most used business productivity app was Audio monos (44%), followed by CloudOn (18%), Dropbox for Teams (17%), and Evernote (13%). (See Table 8)

Business social networking apps to stay connected to co-workers and customers: LinkedIn (38%) was the most used business social networking app, followed by Bizzabo (22%), Hootsuite (17%), and Tappesty (13%). (See Table 9)

Business travel/entertainment apps for business trips and meetings: The most used business travel/entertainment apps were AwardWallet (28%), Uber (23%), Car Locator (17%), FlightTrack (13%). (See Table 10)

Table 8: Business productivity apps			Table 9: Business social networking apps			Table 10: Business travel/entertainment apps		
	f	%		f	%		f	%
Audio memos	169	44%	LinkedIn	91	38%	AwardWallet	54	28%
CloudOn	70	18%	Bizzabo	52	22%	Uber	45	23%
Dropbox for Teams	63	17%	Hootsuite	40	17%	Car Locator	33	17%
Evernote	51	13%	Tappesty	31	13%	FlightTrack	24	13%
LectureNotes	9	2%	Campfire	10	4%	OpenTable	12	6%
Workshare	9	2%	Yammer	9	4%	StubHub	9	5%
Meeting Mapper	5	1%	Addappt	2	1%	Mileage Track	7	4%
Roambi Analytics	3	1%	CardMunch	2	1%	TripIt	7	4%
EchoSign	2	1%		237	100%	HopStop	1	1%
	381	100%	140/181 responded			192	100%	
142/181 responded						102/181 responde	ed	

Calendar/To Do apps to keep track of meetings and projects organized: Outlook (78%), Google Now (18%) were the most used calendar/to do app. (See Table 11)

Recruiting apps to find employees: For this question, 72% collectively used the following apps for recruiting: LinkedIn, Beta Alpha Psi, careerbuilder, monster, dice, Naukari.com, Monster.com, Hirevue_Career builder, Recsolu, & Success Factors. The next most used app was Indeed (24%). (See Table 12)

Finance/Expenses apps to bill customers and track expenses: For this question, 55% collectively used the following apps for finance/expenses apps: Concur, iExpense, In house developed invoice system, Onesite, Oracle, OUR 12, Peachtree, Quickbooks Pro, Salesforce ONE, Spectrum, & Time Ledger. Other most used apps for apps for finance/expenses were Square (18%), Expensify (14%), and Time Recording (13%). (See Table 13)

Communication apps to talk, text, meet, and connect: Blue Jeans Network (36%) was the most used app for communication. Skype (20%) was the second most used app for communication, followed by WebEx (14%). (See Table 14)

Scanning/Printing apps to help with paperwork: The two most scanning/printing apps used within organizations were CamScanner (49%) and ePrint (30%). (See Table 15)

Security apps to secure information and keep it in the right hands: In this category, 44% collectively used the following security apps: iPrism, McAfee, Mobile Iren, netExtender VPN, Norton, Symmatic, Palo Alto Firewalls, Password Keeper, Cisco ASA's at remote sites, Panorama, Bit9, Splunk, and Snort. Box (15%), Call Blocker (15%), and My Secret Folder (13%) were among the other security apps commonly used by organizations. (See Table 16)

Table 11: Calendar/To Do apps			Table 12: Recruiting apps			Table 13: Finance/Expenses apps			
	f	%		f	%	_		f	%
Outlook	113	78%	Other	70	72%		Other	42	55%
Google Now	26	18%	Indeed	23	24%		Square	14	18%
Asana	2	1%	TheLadders	4	4%		Expensify	11	14%
Checkmark	2	1%		97	100%		Time Recording	10	13%
Clear	1	1%	88/181 respon	ded				77	100%
	144	100%					71/181 responded		
132/181 respon	ded								

Other - Recruiting apps: LinkedIn, Beta Alpha Psi, careerbuilder, monster,dice, Naukari.com, Monster.com, Hirevue_Career builder, Recsolu, & Success Factors. Other - Finance/Expenses apps: Concur, iExpense, In house developed invoice system, Onesite, Oracle, OUR 12, Peachtree, Quickbooks Pro, Salesforce ONE, Spectrum, & Time Ledger

Table 14: Communication apps			Table 15: Scanning/Printing			Table 16: Security apps		
			apps					
	f	%		f	%		f	%
Blue Jeans Network	142	36%	CamScanner	45	49%	Other	30	44%
Skype	77	20%	ePrint	27	30%	Box	10	15%
WebEx	55	14%	Unsure	19	21%	Call Blocker	10	15%
Google Hangouts	36	9%		91	100%	My Secret Folder	9	13%
FoxFi	33	8%	84/181 respond	led		Hotspot Shield	4	6%
Rabblebrowser	32	8%				LastPass	4	6%
LogMeIn	12	3%				TigerText	1	1%
Wi-Fi Finder	4	1%					68	100%
	391	100%				58/181 responded		
170/181 responded								

Other - Security apps: iPrism, McAfee, Mobile Iren, netExtender VPN, Nortem, Symmatic, Palo Alto Firewalls, Password Keeper, Cisco ASA's at remote sites, Panorama, Bit9, Splunk, and Snort.

Part 4: Social media platforms used through mobile devices to support business

The fourth part of the survey requested information about the types of social media platforms employees use through mobile devices to support business. The types of social media platforms employees use through mobile devices to support business were LinkedIn (24%), Facebook (22%), Twitter (17%), YouTube (12%), and Google+ (11%). A number of employees (14%) indicated that their organization does not allow access to any types of social media platforms used through mobile devices to support business. (See Table 17)

Fable 17: SM accessed via MT							
	f	%					
LinkedIn	95	24%					
facebook	86	22%					
Twitter	66	17%					
No SM Access allowed	53	14%					
YouTube	48	12%					
Google+	44	11%					
	392	100%					
176/181 responded							

Part 5: Security measures provided for mobile devices

The fifth part of the survey requested information about mobile device security. Specifically, the deployment of Mobile Device Management (MDM) software that secures, monitors, manages and supports mobile devices within the organization and the security measures that are enforced on mobile devices.

As shown in Table 18, 40% of respondents indicated their organizations do not deploy mobile device management to secure, monitor, manage and support mobile devices. For this question, 24% collectively deploy the following MDM software: 2x MDM, Absolute Software, ActiveClient/ECHELON/DISA, ADP Software security, AirWatch, Citrix, Microsoft Intunel, Sophas, Spiceworks, VPN, and Watchpoint. McAfee - Trust Digital (24%) and mobile Iron (11%) were among other MDM software used by organizations. (See Table 18)

Regarding security measures that are enforced on mobile devices by organizations are PIN code lock (34%), acceptable use policies (23%), policies - what data is stored (17%), ability to remotely delete data (14%), policies - how much data is stored (7%), and biometrics (5%). (See Table 19)

Table 18 : Mobile Device Management		Table 19: Security measures MT			
	f	%		f	%
My company does not deploy MDM	57	40%	PIN code lock	138	34%
Other	34	24%	Acceptable use policies	95	23%
McAfee (Trust Digital)	17	12%	Policies - what data stored	70	17%
Mobile Iron	15	11%	Ability to remotely delete data	58	14%
RIM	6	4%	Policies - how much data stored	30	7%
SAP/Sybase (Afaria)	6	4%	Biometrics	19	5%
Good Technologies	5	4%		410	100%
BoxTone	1	1%	176/181 responded		
	141	100%	•		
151/181 responded					

Other - MDS: 2x MDM, Absolute Software, ActiveClient/ECHELON/DISA, ADP Software security, AirWatch, Citrix, Microsoft Intunel, Sophas, Spiceworks, VPN, and Watchpoint

Part 6: Positive and negative experiences attributed to using mobile technologies for business support

The sixth part of the survey requested information about the positive and negative experiences attributed to using mobile technologies for business support. The positive attributes were increased productivity (21%), better customer support (19%), improved access to business information (18%), more timely results (18%), happier employees (15%), and increased levels of revenue/profit (10%). (See Table 20)

The negative attributes were unauthorized access (29%), loss of governance/control (27%), less control over employees (26%), higher levels of loss/theft (15%), and decline in revenues/profits (3%). (See Table 21)

Table 20: Positive attributes			Table 21: Negative attributes		
	f	%	_	f	%
Increased productivity	131	21%	Unauthorized access	38	29%
Better customer support	118	19%	Loss of governance/control	35	27%
Improved access to business information	112	18%	Less control over employees	33	26%
More timely results	111	18%	Higher levels of loss/theft	19	15%
Happier employees	95	15%	Decline in revenues and profits	4	3%
Increased levels of revenue and profit	60	10%		129	100%
	627	100%	129/181 responded		
178/181 responded					

CONCLUSIONS

This paper reported on a six-part survey on the state of mobile technologies conducted between September 2014 and December 2015 in various organizations in the USA, India, China, UK, Mexico, and the Netherlands. The survey results are depicted in tables with responses presented from high to low. Several interesting and important highlights of the report are as follows:

- Only 12% of respondents indicated "a great deal" of time spent using mobile technologies to conduct business, followed by 19% of the respondents indicating "often" using mobile technologies to conduct business. The majority (68%) either use mobile technologies "occasionally" or "seldom". Although the use of mobile technologies continues to grow, these results clearly indicate that the use of mobile technologies to conduct business activities is still not in full swing within organizations.
- Though 25% of companies provide mobile devices to employees to conduct business activities, 29% of employees use their own mobile devices to conduct business activities. A large percentage of employees use a combination of personal and company owned mobile technologies to conduct business activities (45%).
- Apple iPhones were the most used smart phones by employees to support business activities within the organizations (40%) followed by Samsung Galaxy smart phones (18%).
- The tablets used by organizations to conduct business activities is dominated by Apple iPad Air and Apple iPad mini (65% combined), followed by Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1" (14%).
- Various Apps are being used with mobile devices to conduct business activities.
- LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Google+ respectively were the most popular types of social media platforms employees use through mobile devices to support business.
- As for mobile technologies security, 40% of the respondents indicated that their organizations do not deploy mobile device management to secure, monitor, manage and support mobile devices. This is alarming as the security of mobile technologies should be considered of utmost importance to the existence of an organization.
- The positive attributes of mobile technologies used in organizations to conduct business activities were increased productivity, better customer support, improved access to business information, more timely results, happier employees, and increased levels of revenue/profit respectively.
- The negative attributes of mobile technologies used in organizations to conduct business activities were unauthorized access, loss of governance/control, less control over employees, higher levels of loss/theft, and decline in revenues/profits respectively.

Though apps are widely used with mobile devices to conduct business activities, a report by Morgan Stanley (2015) showed that mobile browser viewers are twice as large as app viewers, and they tend to grow more rapidly. If this trend is advancing at a rapid pace, then mobile browsers should be designed with sound usability and user interfaces to make it easier to conduct business activities.

Mobile technologies are rapidly taking over the traditional way of day-to-day computing, conversing, purchasing, and conducting business. Now, the focus should turn to the future of mobile technologies with attention to enterprise mobile management, wearable mobile devices, 5G networks, and multiplatform mobile development tools.

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