Government Information For Your Mobile Phone

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Government Information For Your Mobile Phone

METRO
Government Documents and Smart Phones & Mobile Computing
Special Interest Group Joint Session

Oct. 3, 2012
Today’s Speakers

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Why Smartphones or Mobile Devices?

• Used to read books
• Access the web
• Retrieve articles and databases
• Also used for apps
How many people have smart phones/mobile devices?

• 45% of all Americans have smartphones
• 66% of ages 18-29 have smartphones
• 17% of cell phone owners do most of their online browsing on their phone
• Yet 54% avoid certain apps due to privacy concerns
Why Government Apps?

• Citizen Engagement
• Agencies and Innovative Technologies
• Open Data
  – (GIS Data files-NYCDHMH, Census Tiger/Line
• Collaboration Across Governments
• Learn more: Webinar: GovLoop-Government Innovator’s Online Summit, 9/13/12
  – State of Government Social Media
  – Mobile Government: Today, Tomorrow and Beyond
Main Website for Government Apps (Federal and NYC)

  - Can filter by platform (Apple, Android, Blackberry or mobile website)
  - Search or browse by categories
  - Approx. 260 apps (as of Aug. 2012)
How to select?

• Content:
  – What content does app provide?
  – Is it useful for your audience?

• Both Apps and Mobile website:
  – Designed for ease of content access
  – Quick sources of specific information

• Apps
  – More limited in terms of content, but easier to interface with
  – Require frequent version updates
  – Not platform neutral

• Mobile website
  – Require going to Browser but links to more content
America’s Economy

- Agency: Census bureau
- Platform: Android
- 16 economic indicators including the ability to track monthly and quarterly trends in industries, such as employment, housing construction, international trade, personal income, retail sales and manufacturing
- Website: http://www.census.gov/mobile/
The Congressional Record

- Agency: Created by Library of Congress
- Platform: Apple
- Includes: CR from 1995 (104th Cong.)
- Keyword search within documents
- Share documents via e-mail
- Save documents
- Latest bills, resolutions, treaties in House and Senate
- Website: http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/the-congressional-record/id492077075?mt=8
Beyond Our Borders: World Bank

- The World Bank
- Platform: Apple
- Includes: 
ABC EATs NYC Health App

- NYC Dept Restaurant Inspection Grades
- Detailed inspection reports for each of the City's 24,000 restaurants
- Platform: Apple
NYC 311

- Dept of Information Technology and Telecommunications
- NYC non-emergency information and services
- Report potholes, street light, damaged tree, homeless person, taxi lost property
- Platform: Apple
EyeNote

• Bureau of Engraving and Printing
• Assists blind and visually impaired denominate US currency
• Platform: Apple
• Uses image recognition technology, requires 51% scanned note
• Website: www.moneyfactory.gov
PTSD Coach

- Dept of Veterans Affairs
- Designed for Veterans and military service members
- Learn about PTSD, Self-Assessment, manage symptoms, find support
- Platform: Apple, Android
- Website: http://apps.usa.gov/ptsd-coach.shtml
Sesame Street App for Military Families

- Non-governmental
- Helps children deal with family transitions
- Adjust to their parents deployments
- Platform: Apple, Android, Kindle Fire
- Available in English and Spanish
Student Aid

- Agency: Dept. of Ed
- Platform: Mobile website
- Includes: 2013 budget plans
- Intended for students and parents
- Available in English & Spanish
- Contains infographics & video
Health Information: Cancer

- Agency: National Cancer Institute
- English & Spanish
- Includes:
  - Cancer diagnosis and treatment
  - Dealing with side effects
  - Question to ask your doctor
  - Dictionary of cancer terms
- Platform: Mobile website
- Website: http://apps.usa.gov/m-cancer-gov.shtml
Science.gov

• Dept of Energy (DOE)
• Science information from 12 U.S. agencies
• Get answers from 5o scientific databases
• Platform: Android
• Website: http://apps.usa.gov/science-gov-mobile.shtml
FBI Child ID

- Agency: FBI
- Includes: The app lets parents carry pictures and vital information such as weight and height about their children in case of emergency. It provides tips on how to keep children safe and what to do if they go missing, with fast access to law enforcement authorities via email and phone.
- Platform: Android & Apple
- Website: [http://apps.usa.gov/fbi-child-id.shtml](http://apps.usa.gov/fbi-child-id.shtml)
U.S. Gov FY13 Budget app

- Agency: Created by Government Printing Office
- Platform: Mobile website
- Includes: 2013 budget plans
- Arranged by agency
- Includes executive summary, more detailed description and PDF of budget.
- No search option, browse only, but links to budget of Fdsys for full search capabilities
- http://www.gpo.gov/mobile/
Member Guide to the 112\textsuperscript{th} Cong.

- Agency: GPO
- Includes:
  - Official biographical information for House Members and Senators
  - Contact information for House Members and Senators' offices in Washington, D.C. and home districts
  - Counties and zip codes that each House Member represents
  - Links to House Members and Senators'
  - Web sitesWebsite: http://www.gpo.gov/mobile/
Consumer Information: Airport Wait Times

- Agency: U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- Includes: flight processing times for arriving flights at 23 of the busiest international airports.
- Website: http://apps.cbp.gov/awt/
Non-Governmental: The Red Cross

- First Aid by the American Red Cross
- Includes:
  - step-by-step instructions guide you through everyday first aid scenarios
  - integrated with 9-1-1 so you can call EMS from the app at any time
  - Videos and animations make learning first aid fun and easy
- Platform: Android & Apple
- Website: http://www.redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps
Non-Governmental: The New York Times

- Election 2012, from the NY Times
- Platform: Android & Apple
- Includes: News, opinion, polls and live election night results.
- Website: http://elections.nytimes.com/2012/mobile/app?hp&hp
NYC City Hall

- Dept of Info Tech and Telecommunications
- Get latest news, press releases, photos, videos from the mayor and City Hall
- Platform: Apple
Health Hotlines

• Natl Library of Medicine
• Toll-free numbers of health-related organizations
• Information on services
• Platform: Apple
• Website: http://healthhotlines.nlm.nih.gov
Background readings: The Dialogue


• Mobile Apps vs Mobile Websites  
  http://www.howto.gov/training/classes/mobile-apps-vs-mobile-web
Additional sources for understanding the app/mobile landscape in government:

National Dialogue

The National Dialogue on Improving Federal Websites
- Was a two-week online conversation with citizens, policymakers, and web experts to generate ideas for re-inventing how government delivers content and services online. (Crowd Sourcing) http://web-reform-dialogue.ideascale.com/

Howto.gov - A website to help government workers and agencies deliver a better customer experience to citizens.

GovLoop - Social network for government, www.govloop.com