PARALLAX Technologies Corporation

Reducing Repeat Calls
A Webinar about First Call Resolution

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A Webinar about First Call Resolution
~Reducing Repeat Calls~

Hosted by:

Kathryn Jackson, Contact Center Performance Forum
(www.contactcenter.ning.com)

With our featured speaker:

Rob McDougall, First Call Resolution Expert and
President, Upstream Works Software

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Agenda

- What is FCR?

- What are the effects of FCR?

- What do repeat calls cost you today?

- Causes of repeat calls

- What can you do?

- First Call Resolution is perhaps the most powerful call center metric. A focus and improvement in FCR brings the best of both worlds- an improvement in both efficiency and effectiveness.

- Customer perception is king in FCR, i.e., the customer's evaluation of an issue or contact resolution is what matters most.

The Ascent Group, 2008 FCR Benchmark Study

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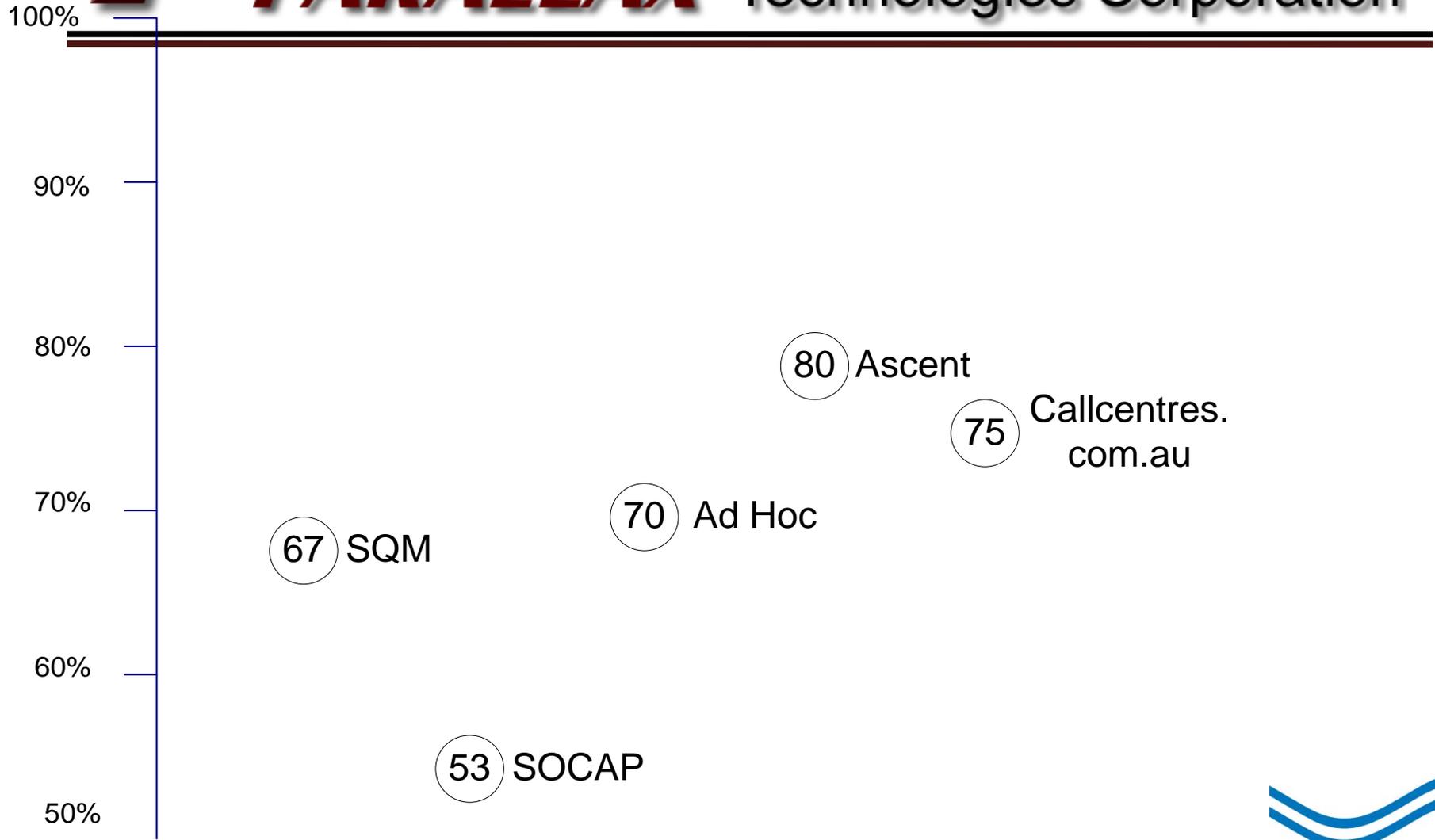
Simple Definition of FCR

First call resolution is properly addressing the customer's need the first time they call, thereby eliminating the need for the customer to follow up with a second call

Properly Defining FCR

- Complex FCR is meeting the expectations and the needs of the customer
  - Complex FCR will be defined internally and be consistent per contact type
- Simple definition covers most situations
- Use this simple definition
  - Walk before you can run
  - Low hanging fruit

Effect of FCR

By improving first call resolution rates, you can:

- Reduce call volumes 10% to 15%

- Increase customer satisfaction 10% to 15%

- Reduce customer churn

  - Increase revenues 5 to10 times *more* than the money you save on call volumes.

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One of our customers found that 15% of their overall call volume came from callers who had to call **4 times or more** to get an issue resolved.

How areYOU doing?

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Why FCR?

The most expensive call is the one where you lose customers!

The cheapest call is the one you don't have to take!

Effect of repeat calls

- What decisions do your callers make based on the information you provide?
  - What is the impact of the information you provide?
  - Service has 5 times the impact on customer satisfaction than product or price[1]

1 – Harvard Business Review Study

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Some More Statistics

- Customer satisfaction drops 15% after the first call

  - sqm

- A 1% increase in FCR will mean 0.6% to 1% increase in customer satisfaction *- Loyalty Effect; sqm*

The Cost of repeat calls

- For an average call center - with 70% FCR
- Increasing FCR to 85% will mean:
  - ~10% increase in productivity
  - ~10 to 15% increase in customer satisfaction rates
  - For call centers with churn:
    - A 1% to 2% increase in **total** company revenues

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5 Ways Repeat Calls Impact Dollars

- They increase your call volumes
- You have to hire more people than you should
- They drive customers away
- Your up sell and cross sell rates are lower
- Other Intangibles

Causes of Repeat Calls

1. Agent $\rightarrow$ Call Center
   - Ability
   - Access to information
   - Authority
2. Business Process
   - Throughout the business
3. Customer

What can you do about it?

- Measure First Call Resolution Rates
  - Live Customer Survey
  - Email Survey
  - Post Call IVR Survey
  - Agent Logging
  - Call Recording
  - CRM Case Management
  - Repeat Call Tracking

FCR Measurement

- An industry benchmark

- An agent evaluation metric

- A quality tool for ongoing improvement

Measure FCR per call reason

- Required to be able to improve based on *facts*

FCR as an Agent KPI

- Eliminate conflicting agent metrics
- Be objective and consistent
  - Develop agent's trust
- Reward on Solve Rate not on FCR Rate

Solve Rate

Not FCR; Not Solved

FCR; Solved

Not FCR; Solved

FCR; Solved

Not FCR; Not Solved

Not FCR; Solved

Not FCR; Not Solved

Fred's Rating:

Total Calls = 7

FCR: 2/7 = 29%

SR: 4/7 = 57%

Steps to improving FCR

- Agent awareness and coaching
- Specific problem determination and resolution
  - One-offs
- Customer satisfaction measurement
  - Ongoing
- End to end detail tracking
  - Technology/ integration
- Quality improvement program
 - Ongoing and cyclic

Some Best Practices

- Agent incentives based on Solve Rates
- Measure
  - FCR per call type
  - Customer satisfaction
  - Use multiple measurement techniques
    - Ensure at least *one* is completely objective
- Report on customer satisfaction
- Detailed interaction information
- Measure to improve

Inhibitors to FCR Improvement

- Lack of consistency and commitment
- Lack of knowledge of 'how to'
- Overcoming existing mindsets
  - Agent and call center management
  - "But that's how we've always done it!"
- Incentives not in line with desired outcome
- Missing or inconsistent data
- Viewing FCR measurement as a goal rather than as management tool

UpStart Experience Suite

Repeat Call Tracking

Detailed Contact Information

Call Recording
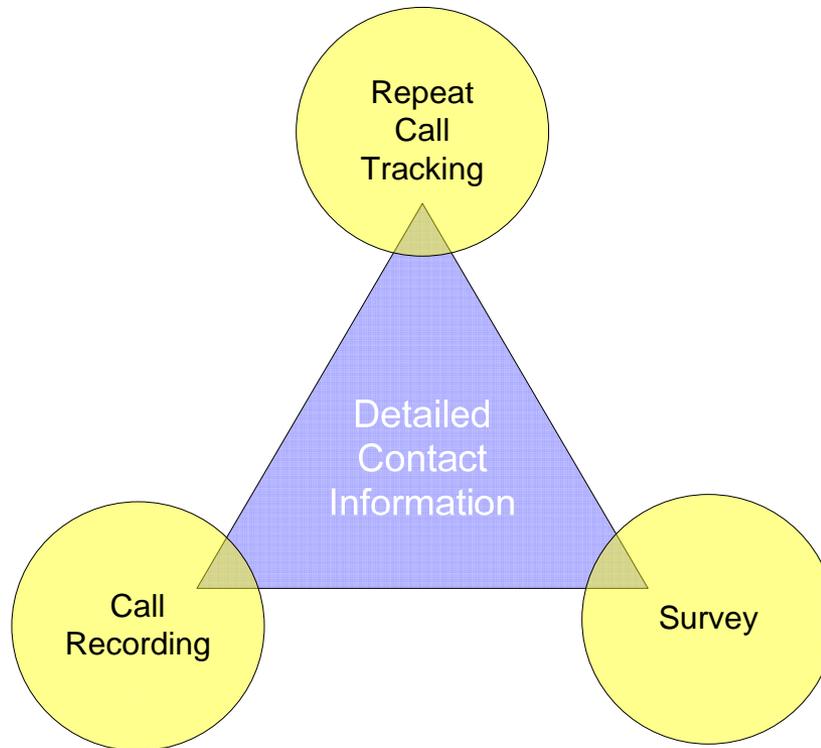
Survey

- Agent Logging
- Customer Surveys
- Repeat Call Tracking
- Quality Monitoring/ Logging
- Total Customer Invested Time

Summary

- FCR impacts both efficiency and effectiveness
- FCR can be complex to define but the simple case will help 80% of the time
  - Measure per call type
- FCR helps agent performance
  - Solve Rate
- Improving FCR is an organizational quality initiative