Old Tricks are the Best Tricks
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Groundbreaking Results
In the SmartCurrents trial (DTE Energy, 2014), Ringorang recorded an average of nine minutes per month of interaction between customers and the energy provider’s information when delivered through Ringorang. This level of engagement was mirrored by that of the Nevada Dynamic Pricing Trial (NV Energy, 2015) which ran an identical cadence of content delivery to that of the DTE Energy (2014) trial. Compared to the data from the Accenture (2013) report, this represents a 1,200% increase in engagement over the norm. The UT Austin study (Beck et al., 2016) showed users engaging for 18 minutes over two weeks of Ringorang engagement, an even deeper commitment of consumer attention than shown by the NVE and DTE studies, with the following exception. During the most of them I was doing wrong and I think we should continue with the game or we'll get lax and go back to our bad behavior.” Proving that the appeal to seniors was not isolated by the NVE study, Ringorang has been used repeatedly by the largest association for seniors in the United States—AARP—to engage their members with important tips about family caregiving and job seeking (see Figure 6).

Both the NV Energy (2015) and the DTE Energy (2014) studies showed users achieving over 90% competency across 13 topics related to saving energy, engaging with an average of 11 different educational pieces per month. In the studies, which lasted six months and eight months, respectively, results showed that treatment groups which were provided Ringorang education and no other home-control or monitoring technologies (such as programmable thermostats or in-home display units)
DTE's Smartcurrents Dynamic Pricing Trial
U.S. Department of Energy

90% recall

Participants typically reached 90% accuracy or above on each of 13 subjects after repeat deliveries of the curriculum.

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The program was delivered in two cycles. Cycle 1 launched in early April and ran 17 weeks, wrapping up in August 2013. Cycle 2 ran between September and December 2013. The Cycle 2 games condensed the curriculum from Cycle 1, eliminated some subjects that scored especially high, and included some minor adjustments to questions based on the results of Cycle 1. A majority of the Cycle 1 participants returned to repeat the curriculum in Cycle 2.

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In the South, there were 880 participants who were engaged with the education treatment compared to 578 participants who were not. We find that there were statistically significant differences in PEAK usage between participants in the South who were and were not engaged with the education treatment. The engaged participants in the South used 8% less PEAK electricity than non-engaged participants in the South in both years.

Although the PLW game was only active for the first six months of Program Year 1, we find that the decreases in PEAK usage for those who engaged with the treatment persisted for both years of the NDPT.
DTE’s Smartcurrents Dynamic Pricing Trial
Georgetown Utilities Report delivered to DTE Energy on US Dept of Energy Trial

6 – 10 times the engagement

17 Keep in mind also, that “Open Rate" tracks only customers who viewed the email with its images. And a more likely open rate is 1 – 5% higher to account for recipients who viewed text only or used the preview pane. Stats provided here are the recorded opens, and do not reflect the more likely 1-5% higher rate.

18 Further contrast: 18 newsletters were delivered over 18 months, whereas 189 Ringorang® questions were delivered over four months.

19 In order to establish context, “Open Rate” when comparing email engagement with Ringorang® engagement, it is important to note that Open Rate suggests a certain level of attention has been paid to the email in the user’s inbox; however there is no certainty that the content has been read, unless the user has clicked through an embedded link in the email. The average click through rate on the CBS eNewsletter during Cycle 1 was 9% and total click through rate since inception was 12%.
DTE’s Smartcurrents Dynamic Pricing Trial
Georgetown Utilities Report delivered to DTE Energy on US Dept of Energy Trial
6 – 10 times the engagement

The average participant game time was between 5 - 7 minutes per game. Typically each game lasted one week (29 of 30 were one week; one of 30 was 2 weeks) delivering an average of 11 questions per game. The average participant game time records how much time in the aggregate a participant spends on the curriculum. This measurement indicates that most participants invested, on average, five interactive minutes or more per month, making 11 or more energy-related decisions every month by reviewing clues, answering questions and learning from insights, one at a time. A commonly accepted average in the energy industry is that utility customers in the U.S. spend approximately nine minutes per year engaging with their utility, typically at bill time. By that measurement, a majority of PLW participants were spending considerably more time – in fact a minimum of 600% as much time – engaging with energy related information in the PLW program over the course of four months in comparison with that accepted industry average of nine minutes per year.

It is clear that the Ringorang® format provides unique metrics for engagement and learning. Although the comparisons with traditional digital media metrics (such as website page views and email open rates) are not one-to-one, it is evident that Ringorang® provides a degree of measurable interactivity that is substantially higher in volume and frequency than these other digital modalities by comparison.

5 Actionable Insights for the New Energy Consumer – Accenture end-consumer observatory 2012