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Measuring Factors That Influence the Success of E-government Initiatives

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Measuring Factors That Influence the Success of E-government Initiatives

by

Ronnie Park

A dissertation report submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy
in
Information Systems

Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences
Nova Southeastern University

2007

Approval/Signature

We hereby certify that this dissertation, submitted by Ronnie Y. Park, conforms to acceptable standards and is fully adequate in scope and quality to fulfill the dissertation requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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Ronnie Park

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The success of e-government initiatives is contingent upon its citizens' willingness to use the services. Citizens are more likely to use e-government services if they believe that they get better value than from the conventional government services. Understanding how citizens value e-government services is critical to the success of these initiatives. This study utilizes two concepts from the field of decision analysis. These are mean-ends chains and value-focused thinking. The research that follows describes the development of a model to identify factors that influence value judgments of citizens.

Based on the data of 210 responses from e-government service users, two instruments were developed to measure perceived e-government value. They were means objectives and fundamental objectives. What is important to e-government users are the fundamental objectives. Means objectives help to achieve the fundamental objectives. The study results suggested a 4-factor 20-item instrument that measures means objectives in terms of public trust, information access, public accessibility, and quality of services. The results also suggested a 4-factor 18-item instrument that measures fundamental objectives in terms of time savings, efficiency of service, service to citizen, and social awareness. The study also showed evidence of content validity, construct validity, and reliability.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Background

As Information Systems (IS) evolve, government agencies search for better ways to operate and provide improved services to the public through its use (West, 2004). IS is being applied vigorously by government units at national, regional, and local levels around the world (Marchionini, Samet, & Brandt, 2003). In the 1990s, the advent of network-based IS, represented a turning point in the strategic direction for government agencies, which now had the opportunity to utilize e-commerce to achieve their objectives (Kalakota & Whinston, 1997) through e-government.

E-government is narrowly defined as “the delivery of government information and services online through the Internet or other digital means” (West, 2004, p. 2). The principles of e-government embrace building services around citizens’ choices, improving accessibility to government and its services, facilitating social inclusion, presenting information responsibly, and using government resources effectively and efficiently (Office of the e-Envoy, 2000). E-government can be viewed as (a) transformation of the business of governance, i.e. improving service, and renewing administrative processes, and (b) transformation of governance itself, i.e. re-examining the functioning of democratic practices and processes (Aichholzer & Schmitzer, 2000). E-government can be thought of as a conceptual lens through which the changing role and shape of the public sector in the 21st century can be examined. It is expected to be

more digital, knowledge-intensive, driven by innovation, and interdependent than any previous time (Roy, 2003).

Problem Statement and Goal

Governments are employing network-based IS in the expectation that it will be cheaper, faster, and more convenient than traditional means of delivering products and services (McNeal, Tolbert, Mossberger, & Dotterweich, 2003). Having invested an enormous amount of resources in e-government (Peters, Jansen, & Engers, 2004), governments strive to succeed in this endeavor. To achieve the success of e-government, it is critical to understand and influence citizens' acceptance of e-government services (Fu, Farn, & Chao, 2006) because the success of e-government initiatives is contingent upon citizens' willingness to use these services (Carter & Belanger, 2005; Devadoss, Pan, & Huang, 2002). The addressable problem of this dissertation study is that it is not clear whether citizens will embrace the use of such services (Carter & Belanger, 2004). As values are the basic principles that guide actions and preferences (Keeney, 1992), citizens are likely to use such services if they feel that they get better value than from the conventional government services. Thus, e-government *value* to citizens is an important factor for the success of e-government. The broad goal of this research was to explore e-government values from citizens' perspectives. From the broad goal, the two main goals of this research were:

1. Conceptualize the *value* of e-government.
2. Develop two instruments to measure factors that influence the success of e-government initiatives – ends objectives and means objectives.

The specific research question being addressed in this study was “What do citizens value most in e-government services?” The research question was measured by a case study that collected e-government values from citizens via online Web surveys. The collected data reflected what citizens value most when they engage with e-government service.

To address the goals of this research, the combined research methodology of literature research and a case study were chosen. Literature research was used to explore e-government values from the leading refereed literature covering the 6-year period from 2000 to 2005. A case study methodology was used to collect perceived e-government values from e-government users based on the approach by Keeney (1999), and Torkzadeh and Dhillon (2002).

Numerous studies have analyzed success factors of e-commerce. Yet to date, no study has identified the success factors of e-government (Carter & Belanger, 2004) that focuses on value specially. In this research, a model of factors that influence the success of e-government initiatives was developed based on the “Value-focused” thinking approach by Keeney (1999), as well as exploratory studies on the value of Internet commerce to the customer by Torkzadeh and Dhillon (2002). This research used the means-ends analysis and Keeney’s “Value-focused” thinking to study the perception of value from the point of view of e-government users. Survey data were used to develop two instruments: one for understanding means (means objectives); and a second for understanding ends (fundamental objectives). The value includes benefits and prices of the services, benefits and costs of ordering and receiving services (e.g., reduced effort), and possible benefits and costs to the world (e.g., environmental impacts).

Keeney (1992) suggested that the value-focused thinking approach be used to design Web-based businesses for business-to-consumer commerce. In his preliminary study, he identified 91 objectives for Internet commerce, grouped into 25 categories, 16 of which are classified as means objectives, and the rest are fundamental objectives. Torkzadeh and Dhillon (2002) followed up on Keeney's work with a more comprehensive data collection effort and derived a more complete set of means and ends objectives in a business to consumer ecommerce context. They generated 125 objectives (value items) that influence Internet commerce success. A similar effort to derive objectives in an e-government context is lacking. This dissertation applied the approach developed by Keeney and used later by Torkzadeh and Dhillon in a business-to-consumer (B2C) context to a government-to-citizen (G2C) context. Several new objectives appropriate for an e-government context were generated, based on existing research on e-government. Most of the existing e-government studies are not empirical but rhetoric in nature (Norris & Moon, 2005; Devadoss et al., 2002). This research conducted an empirical study.

Relevance and Significance

Given that more government entities invest heavily in e-government, e-government has become an evolving and important research area in the IS field (Chen, Chen, Huang, & Ching, 2006). One of the e-government areas worthy of research is to clarify how the success of e-government can be measured (Peters et al., 2004). This research develops instruments to measure the factors that influence the success of e-government initiatives based on e-government *value*.

The theoretical foundation for this research comes from two concepts, which are well known in Decision Analysis. Decision Analysis (Winterfeldt & Edwards, 1986) is a field in business which seeks to improve human decision making by developing new concepts, theories, and tools. One of the concepts of Decision Analysis is means-ends analysis. Means-ends analysis is a problem solving strategy that attempts to search and apply an action (means) to achieve a goal (ends). First, it compares the current state and the goal state to identify the differences between them. Then, it applies the appropriate action to reduce the differences. The means is the activity to achieve the ends. A second concept from Decision Analysis is the notion of value, as discussed by Keeney in value-focused thinking. The value-focused approach stresses that values are fundamentally important in any decision situation, while alternatives are relevant only because they are a means to achieve the desired values. Thus, the thinking should focus first on values and later on alternatives that might achieve them. Value-focused thinking, therefore, asks the most important question: what do people really value in a given situation? (Keeney, 1992). The two concepts of means-ends chain and value-focused thinking are closely related. This study proposed a framework for the notion of e-government value using these two concepts, which can be illustrated using a simple example. Suppose a decision-maker, such as an e-government consumer, is faced with a choice between two alternatives, each of the alternatives is characterized by several attributes. One is tempted to ask the question: which alternative is better? However, if one is using a means-ends chain, one must ask two questions. What do I want? (ends). And how do I get what I want? (means). Keeney calls ends “Fundamental Objectives”, and means “Means Objectives”. In the context of an e-commerce purchase, online security gives the

customer the confidence to make use of the innate convenience of e-commerce.

Convenience is an ends objective. Online security and confidence are means objectives.

Ends (end objectives) follow means (means objectives). A second aspect of Keeney's value-focused thinking approach is that, instead of focusing on alternatives, it focuses on attributes of the alternatives. Some attributes characterize the means dimension and therefore, are called means objectives; others characterize the ends and are called fundamental objectives. That is, objectives are expressed as a suitably weighted combination of attributes of alternatives. Therefore, to understand which alternative is better, a decision maker considers the attributes, and weights their importance.

The following example is used to explain decision analysis approach and the definition of several terms that will be used throughout the dissertation. Assume that, in the previous example, an e-government user has identified the attributes of the alternatives. The user's model for judging the value of an alternative may be written down as:

Overall *value* of alternative = $f(\text{Attributes of the e-government service})$

Under further assumptions, the following multi-attribute model can be used to evaluate the user's judgments:

Overall *value* = $\sum (w_i * x_i)$, where

w_i = weight/ importance of the attribute

x_i = level of the attribute

In this dissertation, the word *value* (in italics) refers to overall value of the alternative, and value of attribute i to refer to the $w_i * x_i$. Attributes can be broken down further (e.g., x_i can be composed of several sub-attributes such as x_{i1} , x_{i2} etc.) and these

are referred to as value items. Table 1 summarizes the terminology. The above multi-attribute model can be presented with the e-government example as:

Overall e-government *value* = $\sum (w_i * x_i)$, where

i = attribute (e.g., online convenience)

w_i = the weight attached to an attribute (e.g., a subject weights online convenience as 0.4, and, say, ease of use as 0.7.)

x_i = the score of an attribute (e.g., a subject scores attributes as 4 on online convenience from an e-government service on a Likert scale of 1 to 5.)

$value(i)$ = value of an attribute = $w_i * x_i$ (e.g., value of online convenience to citizen is $0.4 * 4 = 1.6$ units)

Value = Sum of individual values = $\sum (w_i * x_i)$ (e.g., a subject uses 0.4 and 0.6 as weights for online convenience and ease of use, and scores alternatives as 4 on online convenience and 5 on ease of use. Then the *value* = $0.4 * 4 + 0.6 * 5 = 4.6$ units).

Using these concepts, one can provide systematic advice in terms of what a person wants (fundamental objectives or values) and how one achieves value (means objectives or values). Two instruments were developed, one measures means objectives and the other measures ends objectives.

These instruments can help an e-government researcher specify and test specific theories of e-government *value*. More importantly, they can assist practitioners in assessing whether their current e-government projects are providing value to users. The instruments can also be used to proactively assess whether a prototype e-government project can be a success. The approach used in this dissertation is general, and new

instruments may be designed for different contexts or domains, using the same methodology adopted in this dissertation.

The first stage in instrument development involved generating a list of items that reflect e-government *value* to citizens and conducting a survey to collect data that reflect what citizens value. Activities in this stage included extracting e-government values from literature review and grouping them into the means and ends types based on the means-ends analysis used by Keeney (1999). A survey questionnaire was developed for each item using a 5-point Likert scale to indicate the level of significance. Then a survey was conducted to gather data for each type.

The second stage was to conduct independent analysis for each type of item for item purification and to generate means objectives and end objectives. Activities included eliminating items, using the corrected item-total correlation and Cronbach's α and further purifying items in order to produce two simple factor models, one for each type of objectives, using an exploratory factor analysis.

Table 1

Definition of Terms

Term	Definition
Alternatives	The means to achieve the goal. The attributes of the alternatives relevant to the choice lead to decision.
Attributes/Characteristics	Measure of effectiveness, measure of performance, and criterion. Used to measure the degree to which an objective is achieved (Keeney & Raiffa, 1993).

Table 1 (continued)

Term	Definition
Ends objectives	The goal state achieved by the means objectives in the means-ends relationship. Regarded as fundamental objectives in the value-focused thinking approach.
Fundamental objectives	The ends objectives achieved by the means objectives. Characterized as an essential reason for interest in the decision context, which defines the consequences of concern (Keeney, 1992).
Means objectives	The ways to achieve the ends (fundamental) objectives. Help to achieve one or more of the other objectives.
Means-ends analysis	Problem-solving strategy that attempts to apply an action (means) to achieve a goal (ends). First, it compares the current state and the goal state to identify the differences between them. Then, it applies the appropriate action to reduce the differences.
Objective	A statement of something that one desires to achieve (Keeney, 1992). Expressed as a suitably weighted combination of attributes of alternatives.
Value	Weighted average of values. The basic principle that guides actions and preferences (Keeney, 1992).

Table 1 (continued)

Term	Definition
Values	Weight placed on attributes. “Values are abstractions that help organize and guide preferences... expressed as statement of desired states, positive intentions, or preferred directions” (Winterfeldt & Edwards, 1986, p. 38).
Value-focused thinking	A decision analysis method that emphasizes values that are fundamentally important in any decision situation. It holds that alternatives are relevant only because they are a means to achieve the values (Keeney, 1999).
Value items	The specific items used in operational instruments for measuring values.
Weights	Factors assigned to an alternative that reflects its importance (Keeney, 1992). Assigned to a number in a computation, as in determining an average, to make the number's effect on the computation reflect its importance.

Summary

In this chapter, the background information about e-government, problem statement and goal, and relevance and significance of this study was addressed.

E-government initiatives are in place or underway in most countries to provide better government services. Measuring the success of such efforts requires an instrument that can capture the perceived *value* that citizens expect from e-government.

The focus of this research was to demonstrate procedures for developing such an instrument. The theoretical foundation was grounded on two concepts; the means-ends analysis, and value-focused thinking approach developed by Keeney (1992) in the decision analysis field. The goal of this study was to conceptualize the *value* of e-government, and to develop two instruments to measure factors that influence the success of e-government initiatives – ends objectives and means objectives.

The development of the instrument began with generating a list of items that reflect e-government *value* to citizens for literature review and grouping them into the means and ends types. Then a survey was conducted to collect data for each type.

Independent analysis was conducted on these items for item purification using factor analysis and generated two models of factors: one for means objectives, and the other for end objectives.

Chapter 2

Review of Literature

This section starts with a discussion of the value theory in the field of decision analysis and explores its implications for decision-making as the theoretical foundation of this study. Next, e-government strategies, stages of e-government transformation, and the differences and similarities between e-government and e-commerce are discussed to clarify the concept and progress of e-government initiatives. Then, the e-government measurement criteria with the implied success factors and values developed in prior e-government research are addressed, as they provide the foundation for guiding this study. At the end, this study discusses the value-focused thinking theory (Keeney, 1999) along with its implications for the fields of e-commerce and e-government.

Decision Analysis

Choosing a course of action in a world of uncertainty is a chore that all people must perform. Most of these choices are made without careful analysis but there are those situations where a more systematic way to arrive at a decision would be preferred (Raiffa, 1968). Today's decision makers are faced with problems characterized by increasing demands upon a limited resource base; increasing complexity resulting from the interacting of biophysical, socio-economic, and institutional systems; and increasing awareness of the uncertainty that pervades the understanding of these systems. The decision-making context is further complicated by the now commonplace necessity to

involve multiple stakeholders and their multiple objectives in the decision-making process. Under these complex and dynamic circumstances, a structured approach to decision making supported by appropriate analytical tools is imperative if good decisions are to be made (Ohison, 1999).

Winterfeldt and Edwards (1986) posited that many different models used in helping people make decisions can be distinguished by their topics and by whether they are descriptive or normative. The topics include modeling people's behavior, modeling the environments in which people act, and modeling the tasks people face in these environments. Descriptive models describe people, environments, or tasks; normative models prescribe actions for people (or machines) in tasks and specify conditions that environments should attain.

A descriptive model attempts to predict what people do do; a descriptive model of decision-making predicts which decision one in fact will make. Almost all of the familiar psychological models or theories are descriptive. The set of descriptive decision-theoretic models is called *behavioral decision theory* (BDT) (Winterfeldt & Edwards, 1986). The original contributions to BDT were simply empirical anomalies, showing where the expected utility theory made predictions about behavior that were systematically wrong (Thaler, 1986). Kahneman and Tversky (1979), and Einhorn and Hogarth (1981) had taken these anomalies and developed descriptive theories that account for the observed behavior. These explicitly descriptive theories can not be derived from normative axioms (Thaler, 1986). Behavioral decision research is concerned with how people make judgments and choices, and with how the processes of decision might be improved (Einhorn & Hogarth, 1981). The field of behavioral decision

research is intensely interdisciplinary, applying concepts and methodologies from psychology, economics, statistics, and other disciplines, that has had an impact on various areas, such as economics (Robin, 1998, Kahneman & Tversky, 1979), finance (Thaler, 1987), and game theory (Camerer, 1997).

At present, *behavioral economics* is one of the most active fields in economics, building a bridge between research in economics and psychology around experimental methods and theoretical modeling (Vetenskapsakademien, 2002). Psychology systematically explores human judgment, behavior, and well-being that can teach us important facts about how humans differ from the way they are traditionally described by economists (Robin, 1998). Economics has conventionally assumed that each individual has stable and coherent preferences, and that she rationally maximizes those preferences. Given a set of options and probabilistic core beliefs, a person is assumed to maximize the expected value of a utility function (Robin, 1998). Psychological research suggests various modifications to this conception of human choice (Robin, 1998). In psychology, especially cognitive psychology, a human being is commonly regarded as a system, which does and interprets available information in a conscious and rational way. But other, less conscious, factors are also assumed to govern human behavior in a systematic way. This more complex view - where intrinsic incentives help shape human behavior - has come to penetrate recent developments in economic theory (Vetenskapsakademien, 2002). Kahneman and Tversky (1979) have used insights from cognitive psychology regarding the mental processes for forming judgements and choices to understand how people make economic decisions. *Behavioral finance* also derived from the psychological study of human decision making, in contrary to the standard assumptions

underlying investment forecasting and portfolio management, takes into account the emotional and psychological biases of the investment decisions – anomalies. For example, Thaler (1987) presented the anomalies from the seasonal movements in security prices in January, reflecting that the standard economic paradigm – rational agents in an efficient market – does not adequately describe behavior in financial market. He posited that the January effect based on the argument that the prices of firms which have previously declined in price will decline further in the latter months of the year as owners sell off the shares to realize capital losses is not derived from rational behavior by all market participants. *Behavioral game theory* uses psychological principles and experiments to describe and help predict strategic behavior that takes the experimental science of behavioral economics a major step forward. Behavioral game theory aims to replace descriptively inaccurate modeling principles with more psychologically reasonable ones, expressed as parsimoniously and formally as possible. The desire to improve descriptive accuracy that guides behavioral game theory does not mean game theory is always wrong (Camerer, 1997). Standard equilibrium analyses assume all players: 1) form beliefs based on analysis of what others might do (strategic thinking); 2) choose a best response given those beliefs (optimization); 3) adjust best responses and beliefs until they are mutually consistent (equilibrium) (Camerer, Ho, & Chong, 2001). It is widely accepted that not every player behaves rationally in complex situations as player's fates are intertwined, so assumptions (1) and (2) are sometimes violated. It is also unlikely that equilibrium (3) is reached instantaneously in one-shot games (Camerer et al, 2001).

A normative model or theory is a set of rules specifying what individuals or groups should do. A normative model for decision making, then, specifies what decisions one should make. The set of normative decision-theoretic models together with the techniques for applying them are usually called *decision analysis* (DA) (Winterfeldt & Edwards, 1986). The research carried out in DA has generated a considerable amount of literature on understanding and improving decision making of individuals, groups, and organizations. It is generally considered a branch of the engineering discipline of operations research but also has links to economics, mathematics, psychology (Bichler, 2000), and business and management. Furthermore, among other disciplines, DA contributed to IS research.

Central to normative theories are the concepts of rationality and optimality (Einhorn & Hogarth, 1981) that presents cleaner results. This study is based on DA rather than BDT. DA looks at the paradigm in which an individual decision maker (or decision unit) contemplates a choice of action in an uncertain environment. The approach employs systematic analysis, with some number pushing, which helps the decision maker clarify in his own mind which course of action he should choose (Keeney & Raiffa, 1993). Howard (1988) stated that the discipline of DA represents a systematic procedure for transforming opaque decision problems into transparent decision problems by a sequence of transparent steps. “Opaque means ‘hard to understand, solve, or explain; not simple, clear, or lucid’ and transparent means ‘readily understood, clear, obvious’ ”(Howard, 1988, p. 680). In other words, DA offers the decision-maker the possibility of replacing confusion with clear insight for a desired course of action (Howard, 1988).

Values pervaded in the field of operation research are expressed as objectives, goals, criteria, performance measures, weights, preferences, and/or objective functions; they are necessary in theoretical operations-research models and in applications (Keeney, 1992). The focus of the study was on values expressed as objectives. Though values are clarified with an explicit statement of specific objectives, identifying and structuring objectives is a difficult task: ends are often confused with means, and objectives with targets or constraints or even alternatives; the relationships among objectives are unclear; and the concept of priorities within objectives is easily misconstrued (Keeney, 1992). Keeney claimed that the process of developing clear objectives requires greater depth, clear structure, and a sound conceptual base.

Though DA is often boiled down to a set of quantitative techniques for analyzing alternatives associated with complex decision problems, the qualitative aspects of the DA approach may also have significant relevance. For the qualitative approach, Keeney (1992, 1999) emphasizes the importance of concentrating on decision makers' values. Values are the basic principles that guide actions and preferences (Keeney, 1992). Developing a clear understanding of values is essential for properly defining decision situations, articulating objectives, and creating and evaluating alternatives. Values are what drive decision makers' preferences for different outcomes. Only after the front-end analysis is complete will the quantitative tools and techniques of more traditional DA be useful in supporting the analysis and selection of appropriate alternatives.

E-government Strategy

As e-government initiatives are pervasive at all levels of governments around the world, strategic agendas vary because each vision is driven by its own unique set of social, political, and economic factors and requirements. A key factor driving the achievement of any e-government program is the vision of e-government, articulated and adopted by a government administration (Grant & Chau, 2005). The mission and objectives that emanate from these e-government visions variously manifest strong focus on one or two elements. For example, the United States has placed a major focus on service delivery and on increasing cross-functional efficiencies (U.S. Office of Management and Budget, 2002) whereas the Malaysian government concentrates on the exposure and outreach area (Grant & Chau, 2005). The South African government's e-government program is heavily weighted towards service delivery, while e-government efforts in the United Kingdom have tended to balance several strategic objectives. E-government in China attempts to bring economic development through administrative reform (Ma, Chung, & Thorson, 2005) while e-government in Korea is to enhance the national competitiveness by increasing productivity and transparency (National Computerization Agency, 2002). This section primarily focuses on e-government service as that is the purpose of this study.

E-government services can be largely viewed as providing access to information, transaction services, and citizen participation. Traditional modes of accessing information are much like viewing highway billboards; that is, static mechanisms to display information, such as reports and publications. There is little opportunity for the public to interact with government. Transaction services allow the public to order and

execute services online, which offers considerable convenience. These types of services require emphases on the public's privacy and security concerns, such as posting privacy policies online, and implementing security features for preventing unauthorized access and protecting property. The citizen participation feature enables government Web sites to move beyond a service-delivery model to system-wide political transformation, such as providing e-forums. The Public Electronic Network (PEN) in the City of Santa Monica is one of the most innovative attempts to provide e-forums. It helps citizens to take advantage of the interactive strengths of the Internet through which democratic responsiveness and leadership accountability can be boosted (West, 2004). Different types of applications will, over time, surely alter the way that citizens interact with governments and will change the work that government agencies do. It has been recognized that the transformation from traditional government to electronic government is one of the most important public policy issues (National Academy of Sciences, 2002).

Analogous to what the private market has seen in the new economy with the diffusion of e-business in almost all forms (e-commerce, online trading, e-banking, e-insurance, e-finance, e-payment, e-brokerage, e-procurement), e-government has been conceived as a tool to define and manage the relationships between citizens and the government and among governments through detailed and capillary services, such as digital signatures and e-procurement document management (Fugini & Mezzazanica, 2004)

The e-government strategy of the U.S. Federal government (1999) promotes access to government information organized not by agency, but by the type of service or information people may be seeking. The data should be identified and organized in a

way that makes it easier for the public to find the information it seeks, and make a broad range of benefits and services available through private and secure use of the Internet.

The strategy focuses on achieving customer satisfaction.

E-government provides many opportunities to improve the quality of service to the citizen-centered groups by transforming delivery of services. The focuses are (U.S. Office of Management and Budget, 2002):

1. Individuals/Citizens: Government-to-Citizens (G2C). Build easy-to-find, easy-to-use, one-stop points-of-service that make it easy for citizens to access high-quality government services.
2. Business: Government-to-Business (G2B). Reduce government's burden on business by eliminating the redundant collection of data and better leverage e-business technologies for communication.
3. Intergovernmental: Government-to-Government (G2G). Make it easier for states and localities to meet reporting requirements and participate as full partners with the federal government in citizen services, while enabling better performance measurement, especially for grants. Other levels of government will see significant administrative savings and will be able to improve program delivery because more accurate data is available in a timely fashion.
4. Intra-governmental: Internal Efficiency and Effectiveness (IEE). Make better use of modern technology to reduce costs and improve the quality of government agency administration by using industry best practices in areas such as supply-chain management, financial management, and knowledge management.

E-government initiatives must overcome numerous barriers before they can bear fruit. Kappelman, Koh, Prybutok, and Sanchez (2003) posit that these barriers might be technical, organizational, social, cultural, and psychological in nature. Effective communication among all stakeholders is essential for a successful e-government initiative to overcome these barriers. Successful e-government requires establishing proper communication channels to share and collaborate the vision, values, and expectations of the community among all stakeholders (Kappelman et al, 2003).

The task force of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (2002) identified key barriers that may prevent the successful implementation of e-government initiatives. Recurring barriers include agency culture, lack of architecture, trust, and resources, and stakeholder resistance. The following table lists these barriers and actions for overcoming them. As the actions (mitigation) are solutions to the problems (barriers), implementing the solutions would contribute to the success of e-government initiatives. Thus, they serve the focus of this study.

Table 2

Barriers to the Success of E-government Initiatives, and Actions for Overcoming Them

Barrier	Mitigation
Agency Culture	<p>Sustain high level of leadership and commitment.</p> <p>Establish interagency governance structure.</p> <p>Give priority to cross-agency work.</p> <p>Engage interagency user/stakeholder groups, including communities of practice.</p>
Lack of Architecture	<p>Lead government-side business and data-architecture rationalization.</p> <p>Sponsor architecture development for cross-agency projects.</p> <p>The home page will be the primary online delivery portal for G2C and G2B interactions.</p>
Trust	<p>Through e-authentication e-government initiatives, establish secure transactions and identify authentications that will be used by all e-government initiatives.</p>

Table 2 (continued)

Barrier	Mitigation
	Incorporate security and privacy protections into each business plan.
	Provide public training and promotion.
Mitigation Resources	Move resources to programs with the greatest return and citizen impact.
	Set measures up front and monitor implementation.
	Provide online training to create new expertise among employees and contractors.
Stakeholders Resistance	Create comprehensive strategy for engaging authorities.
	Have multiple agency members argue collectively for initiatives.
	Tie performance evaluations to cross-agency success.
	Communicate strategy to stakeholders.

Stages of E-government Transformation

As researching the progress of e-government initiatives in order to understand the e-government phenomena is a major objective of this study, two examples are presented: the stage and dimension approaches. Since the mid-1900s governments around the world have been executing major initiatives in order to tap the vast potential of the Internet for improving and perfecting the governing process. In an effort to gain an appreciation of the global e-government landscape in 2001, the American Society for Public

Administration (ASPA) and the United Nations Division for Public Economics and Public Administration (UNDPEPA) undertook a research study analyzing the progress on the part of the 190 UN member states. National government Web sites were analyzed for the content and services available that the average citizen would most likely use. The presence or absence of specific features contributed to determining a country's level of progress. Table 3 lists the progressive stages that present a benchmark which assesses a country's online sophistication, reflecting e-government transformation by the UN (2002): emerging, enhanced, interactive, transactional, and seamless. This effort concluded that national e-government program development remains overwhelmingly at the information provision stages. In 2001, of the 190 UN member states, 169 (88.9%) of their national governments used the Internet in some capacity to deliver information and services. The highest number (34.2%) among the member states were in the enhanced stage and the lowest number (9%) were in the transactional stage.

Table 3

The Stages of E-government Transformation (United Nation, 2002)

Stages	Description
Emerging	An official government online presence is established.
Enhanced	Government sites increase; information becomes more dynamic.
Interactive	Users can download forms and interact through the Web.
Transactional	Users can actually pay for services and other transactions online.
Seamless	Full integration of e-services across administrative boundaries.

The United Nations report (2002) concluded that a country's social, political, and economic composition correlates closely with its e-government program development. However, there were exceptions, as evidenced by several developing and transitioning economies. Key factors such as the state of a country's telecommunications infrastructure, the strength of its human capital, the political will and commitment of the national leadership, and shifting policy and administrative priorities play important roles. Each of these factors influences how decision makers, policy planners, and public-sector managers elect to approach, develop, and implement e-government programs.

E-government transforms the business of governance, such as improving service and governance itself, and re-examining the functions of democratic practices. Navarra & Cornford (2003) identify four dimensions of this e-government transformation in Table 4 (Navarra & Cornford, 2003):

Table 4

The Dimensions of E-government Transformation (Navarra & Cornford, 2003)

Dimension	Description
Private sector	To reduce costs by improving the functioning of market mechanisms so as to increase transparency in contractual relationships, and to transform government agencies into self-governing organizations with more freedom of decision making and responsibility over the allocation of resources.
Civil society	To create an efficient information and communication technology infrastructure that facilitates the networking of the region so that institutions of civil society and other non-government organizations can be trusted to provide some government services

Table 4 (continued)

Dimension	Description
	without problems of incompatibility. These organizations are based on their potential for responsive service delivery.
Interactive	The potential for inter-government communication in the future will be enhanced. For instance, intelligence could be more easily shared between governments to fight crime, as well as to support services such as health care for an increasingly mobile population.
Role of government	E-government potentially can re-shape the business of governance by moving forward a pluralistic government model which is able to steer all members of society by effective regulation. The promise of more direct participation in policy-making as a way to create more effective democratic processes is at the core of many government efforts.

Similarities Between E-government and E-commerce

E-government is one of most interesting concepts introduced in the field of public administration in the late 1990s. Like many managerial concepts and practices in public administration (TQM, strategic management, participative management, etc.), the idea of e-government followed private sector adoption of e-commerce (Moon, 2002).

E-government and e-commerce (also called Internet commerce in this paper) are similar in nature in that e-commerce models can be used to study electronic services in the public sector (Carter & Belandger, 2004). Both e-government and e-commerce are based on Internet technology designed to facilitate the exchange of goods, services, and information between two or more parties (Carter & Belanger, 2004) by sharing the same characteristics: paperless, timeless, and borderless (Schubert & Hausler, 2001).

Governments provide goods and services to citizens the same way e-commerce provides those things for them as consumers; thus, e-commerce may provide a useful role model for e-government (Stahl, 2002). In general, there are two major types of e-commerce: business-to-consumer (B2C) and business-to-business (B2B). In B2C transactions, online transactions are made between businesses and individual consumers, such as when airlines sell tickets to travelers; whereas in B2B transactions, businesses make online transactions with other businesses, such as when businesses purchase parts, fuel, or services online (King, Lee, Warkentin, & Chung, 2002). Comparable categories for e-government services are government-to-citizen (G2C), government-to-business (G2B), and government-to-government (G2G). G2C and G2B are similar to B2C because citizens and businesses are the public consumers of the e-government services and G2G is similar to B2B because the interaction between government and government operates much like the interaction between business and business.

The e-commerce success frameworks developed by Keeney (1999) and Torkzadeh and Dhillon (2002) provide a foundation for this study of how to build an e-government success framework. The following examples illustrate the similarities between e-commerce and e-government. In successful e-commerce transactions, customers must feel that they get better value with Internet shopping than with conventional shopping, whereas to achieve successful e-government, citizens must feel that they get better value with online government service than with conventional government service. E-commerce and e-government offer the public the same values, such as reduced cost, reduced time of transaction, increased convenience, and minimized environmental impact. In his study of e-commerce, Keeney (1999) interviewed over one

hundred individuals regarding the pros and cons of using e-commerce that they experienced or envisioned. These collected values were organized into twenty-five categories of objectives that were influenced by Internet purchases. These categories were separated into sets of variables: means objectives and fundamental objectives used to describe the bottom-line consequences of concern to customers. Based on Keeney's work, Torkzadeh and Dhillon (2002) further explored the e-commerce values, resulting in two instruments that together measure that influence e-commerce success. One instrument assesses the means objectives that measure the factors that influence online purchases, including online payment, Internet product choice, vendor trust, and shopping travel. For e-government, the Internet product and vendor are to be viewed as e-government services and government, respectively. Thus, the factors such as online payment, vendor trust, and shopping travel are applicable to both e-commerce and e-government. The other instrument assesses the fundamental objectives that measure the factors that customers perceive to be important for Internet commerce, encompassing Internet shopping convenience, ecology, customer relations, and product value. For e-government, Internet shopping and products can be viewed as e-government transaction and services. Thus, the factors such as Internet shopping convenience, ecology, and customer relations are applicable to both e-commerce and e-government.

Bringing the best practice from Internet commerce to e-government commerce leads to its success. Schubert and Hausler (2001) viewed e-government as the governmental counterpart to e-business – the use of information technology (IT) infrastructure for procurement, distribution of services, and internal organization. Thus, researching the e-commerce model is imperative when studying electronic services in the

public sector. Two e-commerce research studies by Keeney (1999), and Torkzadeh and Dhillon (2002) provide a useful list and a meaningful building block for constructs that can be referenced in this study.

Differences Between E-government and E-commerce

While the similarities between e-government and e-commerce are largely in the technical and functional arena, the differences are mainly in the inherited nature of public administration and governance. E-government links people not just to each other and the e-commerce marketplace, but also to the public marketplace of ideas, debate, priorities, initiatives, innovation, services, transactions, and results (Council for Excellence in Government, 2001).

The case study by Jorgen and Cable (2002) reflected that there are three salient distinctions between e-government and e-commerce: access, structure, and accountability. To provide access, business has the luxury of domain – choice flexibility, meaning the ability to choose its customers—whereas government cannot because digital government services must, in most societies, be made accessible to all (Elmagarmid & McIver, 2001). A lack of access to e-government technology can further economic inequities and limit choices and opportunities for the poor, the elderly, and historically underrepresented groups, creating a “digital divide” in the public sector (Jorgen & Cable, 2002). Another significant access issue relates to persons with disabilities where American Disability Act (ADA) accessibility has been a priority for e-government. The structure of government creates a number of concerns not relevant to the business sector. Decision-making authority is much more dispersed in the public sector than the private and the lines of

authority are often not as direct. Dispersed authority could become a challenge for the implementation of e-government, since each authority has independent capacity to set priorities and formulate budgets. In addition, concerns arise in relation to standardizing format and procedures, encouraging innovation, and managing processes and progress (Jorgen & Cable, 2002). The difference between e-commerce and e-government in accountability can be traced back to the nature of democratic government addressed in fiscal performance and political responsiveness. The case study by Jorgen and Cable (2002) in Corpus Christi found that, compared to e-business, e-government usually takes longer to implement, costs more, and delivers less. This less efficient fiscal performance results from two factors: citizen's expectations that the latest technology will be made available for public services, which can conflict with the government's continued attempt to develop new applications, such as e-government, which require significant commitments of both time and money and is often a trial-and-error process. Political responsiveness under the watchful eye of political bodies could result in micro-management in order to assure accountability. Thus, there is the likelihood that the timely implementation of emerging technology can prove challenging and the e-government performance can be compromised.

Another significant difference between e-government and e-commerce is the aspect of user participation via interactive dialogs. Though e-commerce users interact with vendors and other pertinent parties, the magnitude of citizen participation in e-government is much greater in scale in the context of promoting e-democracy. As e-government must rest on and support democratic principles (Gronlund, 2003), e-democracy aims at active participation and influence in democratic processes via the

Internet, such as e-town halls and e-forums, through which citizens, political organizations, and lawmakers interact with each other.

Despite similar reliance on Internet technologies and a shared need to progress along the information-communication-transaction-transformation continuum, e-government faces some issues and challenges uniquely different from those of e-commerce (Chen, 2002). To some, e-government might seem to be little more than an effort to expand the market of e-commerce from business to government. Surely there is some truth in this. E-commerce is marketing and sales via the Internet. Since governmental institutions take part in marketing and sales activities, both as buyers and sellers, it is not inconsistent to speak of e-government applications of e-commerce. Governments do after all conduct business. But e-commerce is not at the heart of e-government. The core task of government is governance, the job of regulating society, not marketing and sales. In modern democracies, responsibility and power for regulation is divided up and shared among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. E-government is about moving the work of all of these branches, not just public administration in the narrow sense (Gorden, 2002).

E-government Measurement Criteria

The importance of measuring the performance of e-government cannot be overemphasized (Gupta & Jana, 2003). A great number of e-government measurement criteria have been introduced; while some methods are similar in nature, only the distinct and significant methods are illustrated here. Identifying the existing e-government measurement criteria clarifies the current state knowledge and provides research

opportunities for further development of the field; it is also a major objective of this study. Up to the present, no e-government measurement criteria grounded in the DA value theory as approached by this study was found. Thus, this study advances knowledge and contributes to understanding the e-government phenomena that are an integral part of modern IS research.

Research into determining public expectations from e-government and into determining whether current or proposed e-government systems deliver according to public expectations may borrow from and progress along the lines of the SERVQUAL model used in the marketing discipline, which is a good predictor of overall service quality (Fisk, Brown, & Bitner, 1993). This model uses gap analysis to identify and measure five different types of gaps that may exist between customers' expectations and perceptions of service. The five gaps are (1) the service gap between public expectations from the e-government services and the perception of service delivered, (2) the understanding gap between public expectations and management perceptions of what these public expectations are, (3) the design gap between management's understanding of public expectations and the design and specification of service quality, (4) the delivery gap between the specification of service quality and the actual quality of the service delivered, and (5) the communication gap between what is actually delivered and what is promised (Jain & Patnayakuni, 2003).

To assess the breadth and width of the implementation of e-government initiatives, progress will be measured using a four-stage format (Layne & Lee, 2001) that reflects the growth model of e-government:

Stage 1, Cataloging (online presence, catalogue presentation, downloadable forms):

In this stage, basic and non-transactional information are provided through a one-

way interface. Usually, at first, the index site is organized on the basis of functions or departments as opposed to service access points.

Stage 2, Transaction (services and forms are online, working databases support online transactions): This stage empowers citizens to deal with their governments online anytime to save hours of paperwork, the inconvenience of traveling to a government office, and time spent waiting in line. Filing taxes and registering businesses online are only the beginning of such transaction-based services.

Stage 3, Vertical Integration (local systems are linked to higher level systems within similar functionality): Citizens are able to access the service at the higher level of governments (State and Federal) from the same entry as the municipal portal because the local systems are connected to upper level systems directly or indirectly.

Stage 4, Horizontal Integration (systems are integrated across different functions, real one-stop shopping for citizens): The horizontal integration of government services across different functions of government will be driven by visions of efficiency and effectiveness in using IT, but will be pulled by citizens' demands for an "inside-out" transformation of government functions toward more service-oriented ones. Such integration will facilitate "one-stop shopping" for the citizen. Each organization may have to give up some power to move to this stage.

Steyaert (2004) proposed a marketing model to be used to improve the content and value of e-government services. Five marketing indicators were used – consumer awareness, popularity, contact efficiency, conversion, and retention. Awareness deals with the number of visitors to a site. Popularity refers to the ranking of the site. Contact efficiency indicates site usability and content. Conversion refers to customer satisfaction, transaction, and time spent on the site. Retention deals with customer loyalty. Web traffic reports and customer surveys were used as proxies to analyze and compare a sample of e-service agencies.

Gupta and Jana (2003) suggested a flexible framework from which to choose an appropriate strategy to measure the tangible and intangible benefits of e-government. The broad categorization includes hard measures (cost-benefit analysis and benchmarks in e-government), soft measures (scoring method, stages of e-government and social

angle), and hierarchy of measures (means to measure the variables, such as return on investment, for which criteria are established).

Doctor and Ankem (1996) identified two dimensions of the taxonomy for categorizing community information systems. One dimension consists of 14 types of services: commerce, consumer affairs, education and schooling, employment, financial matters, governmental processes with politics and policy, health and medical, home and family, housing, legal matters, nature and environment, recreation and culture, social services, and transportation. The other dimension consists of five categories of services: advocacy, counseling, and factual, directional, and interactive communication.

Stowers (2002) examined 148 federal government Web sites based on online services, user help features, navigation features, and information architecture. The reviewers used four indices of these categories plus a scale of accessibility to yield the total excellence score.

The United Nations (2002) conducted a study to assess the progress of e-government transformation and quality of the e-government Web sites at the global level by benchmarking various countries. The variables used in this study were based on the following questions:

1. Does the site link to any other sites, such as different levels of government, and public and private organizations?
2. Is there a city e-government strategic plan online?
3. How is the site's content organized?
4. Is the site multi-lingual?
5. Does the site offer a search feature that is easy to use and accurate?
6. Is there a site security feature?
7. What form or method of online payment (for any transaction) is used?
8. Is there a direct link to specific individual services or all available online forms?
9. Can the documents be saved or downloaded?
10. What kind of special features, such as accepting digital signatures and offering

- streaming media (like live video or audio of events) are available?
11. Does the site offer push technology?
 12. How current is the content?

Gartner's framework (2002) is based on the three e-government strategies: service levels to constituents (for example: Is the service what they need? Are they using it? Does it provide greater value at a lower cost than the offline service?), operational efficiency (for example: Are online transactions reducing government costs?), and political return (for example: Is the e-government initiative increasing consensus? Are there any positive effects on the economy and the society at large?). Although this framework is not designed to rank initiatives from the most to the least valuable, it will enable governments to reprioritize established initiatives and identify new initiatives that are required.

Jorgensen and Cable (2002) conducted a case study based on control and coordination among city departments, service levels, fiscal and political support, and appropriate and efficient technology. Due to the lack of previous research in the area, the case study approach allowed the development of an in-depth empirical inquiry of the subject in a quasi-experimental design.

The 2000 e-government survey conducted by the International City/County Management Association and Public Technology Inc. reflected that e-government includes four major internal and external aspects: (1) the establishment of a secure government Internet and central database for more efficient and cooperative interaction among governmental agencies, (2) Web-based service delivery, (3) the application of e-commerce for more efficient government transaction activities, such as procurement and contract, and (4) digital democracy for more transparent government accountability and

increased citizen participation in rule making, where regulations that affect all aspects of life from food to transportation and the environment are open to comment and debate.

The lifeblood of government is information, and the digital revolution has allowed government organizations to more effectively and efficiently store, analyze, and retrieve information (Bretschneider, 2003). At present, access to information is one of the most popular features of e-government services; thus, increasingly, governments are creating a presence on the Internet through the use of a Web page or site where a variety of information is offered to the public. While searches may retrieve a great number of items, the best-matched items from the search query are placed at the top of the result list. Result ranking in information retrieval has a major impact on users' satisfaction with Web search engines and their success in retrieving relevant documents. Result ranking is judged by three criteria (Courtois & Berry, 1999):

1. All terms: Does the document contain at least one occurrence of all search terms?
2. Proximity: Is there at least one occurrence of all search terms appearing as a contiguous phrase?
3. Location: Is there at least one occurrence of all search terms appearing within the title, headers, or metatags?

Value Theory (Value-Focused Thinking Approach)

Values in the discipline of operation research are expressed as objectives, goals, criteria, performance measures, weights, preferences, and/or objective functions (Keeney, 1992). The proposed study will focus on values expressed as objectives in the field of DA. In the DA theory, the decision maker is to make decisions consistent with a certain set of

values (Spradlin, 20005). Values might be economic, personal, social, or others. A common value is economic, from which the decision maker will attempt to increase wealth. Personal value could be convenience or security while social value could mean protection of environment. This research focuses on the values that lead citizens (the decision maker) to use e-government services instead of conventional government services (the decision context). Values should remain relatively stable unless they are related to the emergence or alleviation of major issues (Rokeach, 1974).

In recent years, one of the most interesting areas of research has been the measurement of value systems (Kamakura & Mazzon, 1991). The framework of the value system for this study is based on the Value-thinking approach by Keeney (1992) in the field of DA. Keeney (1992) proposed the concept of a value proposition: value-focused thinking that provides a framework for defining value to the customers. He posited that many books written about decision-making address how to solve decision problems by evaluating alternatives given some quantitative objective function, yet do not discuss how to articulate the qualitative objectives on which any appraisal of alternatives must rest. Values are fundamentally important in any decision situation. Alternatives are relevant only because they are a means to achieve the desired values. Thus, the thinking should focus first on values and later on alternatives that might achieve them. This value-focused thinking can significantly improve decision-making because the values guide not only the creation of better alternatives, but also the identification of better decision situations (Keeney, 1992).

To understand value-focused thinking, three classes of definitions need to be considered. These are the decision context, values, and fundamental objectives. The

decision context presents alternatives appropriate for a given decision situation and is specified by the range of activities being contemplated (Torkzadeh & Dhillion, 2002). For example, the decision context is whether or not to make purchases over the Internet (Keeney, 1999). Values are principles used for evaluating the desirability of possible alternatives in a specific decision situation (Keeney, 1992). Values come into play prior to a given decision problem. If the question of whether to purchase on the Internet or through conventional shopping is to be construed as a decision problem, then values afforded by the customer will form the basis for evaluating the alternatives (Torkzadeh & Dhillion, 2002). Fundamental objectives make explicit the values that one cares about and define the consequences of concern (Keeney, 1992). This study is based on the value-thinking approach that extracts the e-government values from surveys of citizens who have experience in using e-government services.

Means Objectives and Fundamental Objectives

Using the value-focused approach, Keeney (1999) conducted an empirical study to explore the value of Internet commerce and proposed two sets of variables: means objectives, and fundamental objectives for Internet shopping. He posited that means objectives are those that help businesses achieve what is important to their customers – fundamental objectives. Fundamental objectives make explicit the values and define the consequences of concern (Keeney, 1992). This impacts the ends that a decision maker may value in a decision context. Therefore, fundamental objectives are the end objectives, as opposed to the means objectives. Means objectives are the ways to achieve the ends. Keeney uses the “Why is that important?” test to classify the means and

fundamental objectives where there are two possible types of answers. One type of answers reflects the given objective that is one of the essential reasons for interest in a situation, whereas the other type reflects the given objective that is important because of its implication for another objective. Objectives with the former response are fundamental objectives; and those with the latter are means objectives. For example, means objectives such as minimizing misuse of credit card or minimizing misuse of personal information are important because they influence fundamental objectives such as minimizing personal hassle and minimizing cost (Keeney, 1999). If the answer reflects different decision contexts, it constitutes a fundamental objective. For example, saving time is important because saved time can be used for other interests. Other interests reflect different decision contexts. Therefore, in the context of using e-government services, saving time (the “minimizing time spent” objective) constitutes a fundamental objective.

The following examples further describe these two variables applied in different fields expressed in similar terms. Nah, Siau, and Sheng (2005) in their value research of mobile applications stated that fundamental objectives, as the name implies, underlie the essential reasons for the given situation, whereas means objectives are those whose attainment will help achieve fundamental objectives. For example, the “minimize errors and mistakes” objective helps achieve the “maximize effectiveness” objective. Thus the first objective is a means objective, and the other is a fundamental objective. Dhillon and Lee (2000) in their IS value assessment study categorized the two variables by determining if an objective is an intermediate one (being a means objective) or a final one (being a fundamental objective). For example, the “increase system consistency”

objective (the intermediate) affects the “increase ease of use” objective (the final). Therefore, the former is a means objective, and the latter is a fundamental objective. These two interrelated categories of objectives are components of the same overall construct, measuring factors that influence the success of e-government initiatives.

Derivation of E-government Value From Technology

One of the most recent significant innovations in IS has been the creation and ongoing development of the Internet. The Internet increases communication flexibility while reducing communication cost, by permitting the instantaneous exchange of large amounts of information regardless of geographic distance and time. It is profoundly changing the way the society communicates, works, and learns (Council for Excellence in Government, 2001). Similar to the dramatic changes in e-commerce, the e-government revolution offers the potential to reshape the public sector and remake the relationship between citizen and government (West, 2000).

In the context of e-government products and services for citizens, values are largely derived from enhanced information dissemination, increased transactions online, and accelerated use of emerging technology. Balutis (2001B) illustrates these values with examples. Information dissemination can be enhanced by expanding the amount of information accessible on searchable databases drawing from an enormous amount of information available to the government. In addition, the information can be provided “by request.” For example, companies should be able to answer a questionnaire and automatically receive e-mail informing them of each government procurement solicitation that matches criteria they entered. Moreover, an “expert system” could be

used to provide expert advice to the businesses. For example, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has developed a series of online expert “adviser” systems to help business people identify safety problems in the workplace, from mercury to asbestos, and determine an appropriate course of action. Online transactions can be increased in the area of monetary transfer, benefits, and purchasing and services (e.g., paying taxes and applying for permits). Transferring funds online would not only save government and businesses both time and money when performing transactions, but also help both parties reduce record-keeping efforts because it automatically creates an accurate record of transactions. Automatic allocation of benefits, such as using electronic benefits transfer, would reduce paperwork and costs. To the extent that governments sell items, businesses should be able to purchase them online. In addition, the government could utilize an online auction for disposing of surpluses of government property (Balutis, 2001B). Expanded access to government portals via various emerging technologies would provide a great value to customers when they interface with government sites, such as using cell phones and palm computers. Experience in Europe and Asia suggests that “access anywhere” is increasingly important for citizens, businesses, and employees (Balutis, 2001B).

E-government *value* could be derived from the inherent nature of Internet technology, which facilitates access by reaching far beyond the traditional constraints of region and time. Thus, a U.S. taxpayer living in Africa could file a federal income tax return online with the Internal Revenue Service, a tour company in Asia could access up-to-date sightseeing information in Los Angeles via the Los Angeles city Web site, and an exporting company in Europe could inquire about marketing opportunities for its

products using the New York State Web sites. And reaching beyond traditional business hours frees citizens to seek information at their own convenience 24 hours a day, seven days a week, not just when a government office is open (West, 2004).

To achieve success with e-government initiatives, e-government services need to provide values to their users. E-government and e-commerce are similar in that they are based on Internet technology designed to facilitate the exchange of goods, services, and information between two or more parties (Carter & Belanger, 2004). Hence, the following questions that Keeney (1999) stated based on the values of individual e-commerce customers are relevant to e-government as well: What does the service offer the customer? How can it offer more to the customer than is currently available through conventional means? Keeney said that since Internet commerce is not a product, but a means to purchase products, there is no value proposition of Internet commerce. Hence, the value proposition applicable to Internet commerce is a net value of the benefits and costs of both a product and the processes of finding, ordering, and receiving that product. E-government products and services offered through Internet have great potential to provide value to users. E-government *value* is an important construct for academics and professionals studying e-government, since it helps to develop success measures (Chang, Torkzadeh, & Dhillon, 2004).

Chapter 3

Methodology

Introduction

Most research on the use of the Internet tends to be conceptual rather than empirical in nature (Teo & Pian, 2004). This research proposed an empirical study, focusing on collecting the values citizens assign to e-government services. This study first generated a list of e-government objectives from the exploratory study of Internet commerce by Torkzadeh and Dhillon (2002) and the published research pool. Then the list was grouped into two types: means objectives, and ends objectives. Using this model, a survey with a total of 76 questions (48 questions for the means and 28 questions for the fundamental objective types) was conducted focusing on these two different types of objectives.

Upon collection of the data, data reduction and analysis were performed using factor analysis on each type of items separately. In addition, this study related the means and ends factors by examining the cross-correlations among factors. The outcome of this study was two instruments that together measure the factors that influence the success of e-government initiatives. One instrument measures the means objectives that influence using e-government services, and the other measures the fundamental objectives that are essential reasons for using e-government services. The instrument development process is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Steps for instrument development.

Scope Definition

The initial task in identifying the instrument was to define the scope of the research by answering the seven questions in table 5, which are adapted from the seven questions to ask when measuring organizational performance (Cameron & Whetten, 1983).

Table 5

Measuring Organizational Performance

Question	Answer
From whose perspective is effectiveness being judged?	Users of e-government
What is the domain of activity?	E-government services
What is the level of analysis?	User
What is the purpose of evaluation?	Developing factors that influence success of e-government initiatives
What is the time frame employed?	Snapshot
What types of data are to be used?	Survey data from e-gov users

Table 5 (Continued)

Question	Answer
Against which referent is effectiveness to be judged?	In-line vs. online

Procedures

Generating a List of E-government Objectives and Classifying Them as Means and Ends Types

In order to provide the basis for formulating a model of e-government *value*, this study identified e-government objectives. These objectives then were classified into two types: means and ends objectives. E-government values reflected the benefits and costs of what the network-based IS, such as the Internet, offers to citizens in terms of information, products, and services, and how these offerings (the alternatives) can be better than what is currently offered through conventional means. The first list of e-government objectives was extracted from the 125 items in Appendix A developed from the exploratory study of Internet commerce by Torkzadeh and Dhillon (2002). The second list was extracted from the research pool mostly published in the leading refereed publications during the 6-year period from 2000 to 2005 (see Appendix E). The two lists of objectives were combined and classified into means and ends types depending on the characteristics of attributes. Later in the study, data analysis was conducted against these two types independently. The process to extract and classify e-government objectives is illustrated in the next two sections (depicted in Figure 2).

Generating and classifying the e-government values into means and ends objectives.

<u>Means Objectives:</u> Helping to achieve one or more of the other objectives (listed in Table 6)		<u>Ends Objectives:</u> Fundamental reasons for using e-government (listed in Table 7)
Maximize Interactivity	→	Maximize citizen satisfaction
Maximize Access to E-government	→	Maximize Convenience
Promote E-democracy	→	Minimize Cost
Maximize Access to Information and Service	→	Minimize Time Spent
Maximize Information Availability	→	Minimize Time to Receive Information and Service
Maximize Service Information	→	Maximize Enjoyment
Maximize Presentation	→	Maximize Safety
Assure Security	→	Minimize Environment Impact
Minimize Misuse of Personal Information	→	
Assure Reliable Delivery	→	
Maximize Service Quality	→	
Maximize Use of Emerging Technology	→	
Maximize Ease of Use	→	

Figure 2. E-government value extracting process.

Extracting E-government Objectives From the Internet Commerce Study

A study by Torkzadeh and Dhillon (2002) conducted a survey of working college students with experience in shopping on the Internet. The study was based on Keeney's 1999 proposed framework that identified 91 objectives that might influence a consumer to purchase online. Torkzadeh and Dhillon's empirical study (2002) generated 125 items that measure the factors that influence Internet commerce success. Their study resulted in suggesting a 5-factor, 21-item instrument for measuring means objectives that influence Internet purchasing (e.g., online security) and a 4-factor, 16-item instrument for measuring fundamental objectives that are important for Internet purchasing (e.g., online convenience). Though the 125 items, including 72 means and 53 fundamental objectives, developed by Torkzadeh and Dhillon (2002), are based on e-commerce research, the majority reflects common factors in e-government. For this study, items not applied to e-government services were eliminated from the list in Appendix A. For example, while "minimizing pollution" is a common factor, "choice of products" is not, because choices are seldom an option in e-government services. Hence, it was removed. As the items developed by the Torkzadeh and Dhillon study were already classified as means and fundamental objectives, the classification of the selected items remained the same.

Extracting E-government Objectives From the E-government Research Pool

An instrument valid in content is one that has drawn representative questions from a universal pool (Straub, 1989). Additional e-government objectives were extracted from the broad research pool published mostly in the leading refereed literatures. The list of

publications found Appendix E covers the 6-year period from 2000 to 2005. The extracting process involved:

1. Extracting e-government objectives (values) from the literatures
2. Converting and grouping them into general objectives
3. Classifying the general objectives to means objectives and ends objectives (fundamental objectives).

Extracting e-government values required exploring the publications listed in Appendix B and identifying the e-government objective items from them. For example, the first publication on the list, Government Information Quarterly, was concerned about two e-government objective items: the digital divide and usefulness of information. Digital divide refers to concerns about inequities between citizens who do not have access the Internet, and those who do. Usefulness of information concerns validity, accuracy, clarity, frequency, sufficiency, timeliness, reliability, relevancy, message content, and cost. The likelihood of owning a PC with Internet access to embrace electronic services varies significantly by household income, education level, age, and region. A thoughtful response by governments to shrink these disparities to promote an information-rich society will be a major factor in the success of e-government initiatives in the coming years.

Converting and grouping the e-government objective items into general objectives required a structured process. As the e-government objective items from the research pool came in various forms, to develop some consistency in these expressions, each item was converted into a corresponding objective. To convert, the items were expressed in the three objective features: decision context, object, and direction of preference (Keeney,

1999). The decision context was whether to use e-government services. The object was a noun and the direction of preference is a verb. Thus, for example, “participatory government” became “participate in decision-making” and “privacy problem” became “assure privacy”. Once the items were converted, similar objectives were grouped into categories. For example, objectives such as “participate in decision-making”, “promote e-voting”, and “minimize digital divide” were categorized as a part of a general objective of “promote e-democracy”.

Classifying the general objectives to means objectives and fundamental objectives required relating categories by means-ends relationships. For each general objective, the importance of the decision context was grouped into two categories: one helps to achieve one or more of the other objectives; the other is one of the fundamental reasons for using e-government services. Objectives in the first category were referred to as means objectives, and those in the second were referred to as fundamental objectives (Keeney, 1999). Keeney used the “Why is that important?” test to classify the means and fundamental objectives where there were two possible types of answers. One type of answer was that the given general objective was the essential reason for using e-government services, whereas the other type was that the given general objective was important because of its implication for another objective. Objectives with the former response are fundamental objectives, and those with the latter are means objectives. Means objectives help to achieve the ends that are fundamental objectives. For example, e-voting (the means) helps achieve time flexibility (the ends) as voting can be done in a wide range of time because the voter needs not to physically appear at the voting booth, providing convenience (the fundamental objective). For another example, minimizing

digital divide (the means) not only provides the convenience (the fundamental objective) of using online e-government services for those who otherwise would not have access to Internet, but also increases the usefulness of information (the fundamental objective) because more people can view and, thus, make use of the information. Additional examples of these two objectives are illustrated in the Means Objectives and Fundamental Objectives section in page 39. The compiled e-government objective items with the associated classified objectives from the research pool are listed in Table 6. While the common objectives between e-government and e-commerce are largely in the technical and functional arena from transformation of the business of governance, i.e. improving service quality delivery, and reducing costs, the e-government specific objectives are mainly derived from transformation of governance, i.e. re-examining the functioning of democratic practices and processes (Aichholzer & Schmitzer, 2000) that link people to the public place of ideas, debate, priorities, initiatives, innovation, services, transactions, and results (Council for Excellence in Government, 2001).

Table 6

E-government Objective Items From the Research Pool With the Categorized E-government General Objectives: Means Objectives (MO) and Ends Objectives (EO)

Objective Items	General Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about inequities among citizens (Gupta & Jana, 2003) 	Maximize access to e-government (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usefulness of information (Gupta & Jana, 2003) 	Maximize convenience (EO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in decision making (Elmagarmid & McIver, 2001) 	Promote e-democracy (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-filing of petitions 	Maximize access to information

Table 6 (continued)

Factors	General Objectives
(Elmagarmid & McIver, 2001)	and services (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability access (Elmagarmid & McIver, 2001) 	Maximize access to e-government (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign language (Elmagarmid & McIver, 2001) 	Maximize presentation (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplify data access (Elmagarmid & McIver, 2001) 	Maximize ease of use (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring citizens closer to their governments (Pons, 2004) 	Promote e-democracy (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information security and privacy (Pons, 2004) 	Assure security (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linking supply chain (Scherlis & Eisenberg, 2003) 	Maximize convenience (EO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using emerging technology (Scherlis & Eisenberg, 2003) 	Maximize use of emerging technology (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge sharing (Wagner, 2003) 	Promote e-democracy (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information exchange (Wagner, 2003) 	Promote e-democracy (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater government accountability (Jain & Patnayakuni, 2003) 	Promote e-democracy (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration between federal, state, and local governments (Pandy, 2002) 	Maximize access to information and services (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased geospatial information (Pandy, 2002) 	Promote e-democracy (MO)

Table 6 (continued)

Factors	General Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting public participation in policy-making process (Moon, 2002) 	Promote e-democracy (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved communication (Moon & Welch, 2004) 	Maximize interactivity (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information retrieval (Jorgensen & Cable, 2002) 	Maximize convenience (EO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective communication with citizens (Jorgensen & Cable, 2002) 	Promote e-democracy (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timeliness of response (Jorgensen & Cable, 2002) 	Minimize time spent (EO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two way interaction (Muir & Oppenheim, 2002) 	Maximize interactivity (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Billboard features (West, 2004) 	Maximize access to information and services (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved service delivery (West, 2004) 	Maximize service quality (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public outreach and democracy enhancement (West, 2004) 	Promote e-democracy (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated access to public information and services (Strejcek & Theil, 2002) 	Maximize access to information and services (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased transaction function (Aichholzer & Sperlich, 2001) 	Maximize convenience (EO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ease of interaction (Anttiroiko, 2004) 	Maximize convenience (EO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient supply of information and services (Dearstyne, 2001) 	Maximize access to information and services (MO)

Table 6 (continued)

Factors	General Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ease of contact (Thomas & Streib, 2003) • Availability of forms (Balutis, 2001A) • Providing seamless service (balutis, 2001A) • Ease of interaction (Swartz, 2004) • Ease of use for information and services (Wert, 2002) • Horizontal and vertical integration of governments (Wert, 2002) • Electronic governance (Roy, 2003) • Electronic service delivery (Roy, 2003) • Services provided by function as opposed to by department (Clark, 2003) • One-stop portal (McGinnis, 2003) • Citizen-centered facility (McGinnis, 2003) • Useful service (Carter & Belanger, 2004) • Compatibility of life style (Carter & Belanger, 2004) • Democratic responsiveness (West, 2004) • Public outreach (west, 2004) • Information format desired by users (Dawes, Pardo, & Cresswell, 2003) • Convenient and costless e-government services (Steyaert, 2004) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximize convenience (EO) Maximize convenience (EO) Maximize convenience (EO) Maximize convenience (EO) Maximize convenience (EO) Maximize access to information and services (MO) Promote e-democracy (MO) Maximize convenience (EO) Maximize ease of use (MO) Maximize convenience(MO) Maximize citizen satisfaction (EO) Maximize convenience (EO) Maximum use of emerging technology (MO) Promote e-democracy (MO) Promote e-democracy (MO) Maximize presentation (MO) Maximize convenience (MO)

Table 6 (continued)

Factors	General Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated access structure (Lenk & Traunmuller, 2000) 	Maximize access to information and services (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seamless government (Lenk & Traunmuller, 2000) 	Maximize access to information and services (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Internet access to e-government (Prattipati, 2003) 	Maximize access to e-government (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced information dissemination (Balutis, 2001B) 	Maximize access to information and services (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security and privacy (Mittal, Kumar, Mohania, Nair, Batra, Rey, Saronwala, & Yagnik, 2004) 	Assure security (MO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-stop service (Lenk, 2002) 	Maximize convenience (EO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convenient and inexpensive services (Council for Excellence in Government, 2001) 	Maximize convenience (EO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24x7 availability of services (Vriens & Achterbergh, 2004) 	Maximize convenience (EO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast service (MedJahed, Rezgui, Bouguettaya, & Ouzzani, Jan./Feb., 2003) 	Minimize time spent (EO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast delivery of information (Fugini & Mezzanica, 2004) 	Minimize time to receive information and service (EO)

Combining E-government Objectives From the Internet Commerce Study and the E-government Research Pool

To generate an overall list of e-government objectives used for this study, the objectives from the e-government research pool were integrated with those from the Internet commerce study by Torkzadeh and Dhillon (2002). As the objectives had been classified into two types during the extracting process, the list consisted of two different types accordingly: means objectives and ends (fundamental) objectives. They are listed in Table 7 and Table 8 respectively. These two types of objectives became the basis for developing two instruments that, taken together, measure the factors that influence the success of e-government initiatives, which was the goal of this study.

Table 7

Means Objectives for E-government Services

Maximize Interactivity

- Maximize two-way interaction
- Provide opportunity for personal interaction
- Improve communication

Maximize Access to E-government

- Maximize universal access
- Maximize accessibility by individuals with disabilities

Promote E-democracy

- Maximize participation in decision making
- Maximize knowledge sharing
- Promote e-services (i.e., e-vote, e-forum, etc.)
- Maximize transparency
- Promote public outreach

Maximize Access to Information and Services

- Maximize horizontal and vertical integration of governments
- Facilitate information dissemination
- Maximize “information on request”

Table 7 (continued)

Maximize search criteria
Maximize Information Availability
Maximize amount of information
Maximize up-to-date information
Facilitate adding new information
Maximize choice of information
Minimize missing information
Maximize Service Information
Maximize information about service
Maximize available service information
Maximize Presentation
Maximize use of style and format
Maximize appealing
Maximize ease of viewing
Maximize use of foreign languages
Assure Security
Discourage unauthorized access
Discourage hacking
Maximize transaction security
Minimize misuse of credit card
Minimize misuse of personal information
Minimize Misuse of Personal Information
Maximize safeguard of personal information
Minimize sharing of personal information
Minimize receipt of unsolicited material
Assure Reliable Delivery
Provide reliable delivery
Assure arrival of requested information and service
Maximize Service Quality
Ensure quality of service
Maximize transaction accuracy
Minimize charging errors
Maximize Use of Emerging Technology
Promote new type of services

Table 7 (continued)

Promote compatibility of life style
Maximize Ease of Use
Maximize ease of access
Maximize search process easy
Maximize ease of use for information and service
Simplify finding desired information and services

Table 8

Fundamental Objectives for E-government Services

Overall Objectives

 Maximize citizen satisfaction

Maximize Convenience

 Maximize time flexibility in using service

 Minimize personal contact

 Minimize effort of receiving service

 Minimize personal hassle

 Maximize ease of finding information and service

 Maximize usefulness of information and service

Minimize Cost

 Minimize service cost

 Minimize travel cost

 Minimize communication cost

Minimize Time Spent

 Minimize time to find information and service

 Minimize processing time

 Minimize search time

 Minimize payment time

 Minimize communication time

 Minimize time to select information and service

 Minimize time to request information and service

Minimize Time to Receive Information and Service

 Minimize delivery time

 Minimize shipping time

Table 8 (continued)

Minimize dispatch time
Maximize Enjoyment
Make visiting e-government a social event
Inspire citizens
Minimize regret
Maximize Safety
Prevent public hazard
Maximize driving safety
Minimize Environment Impact
Minimize environmental damages
Minimize pollution

Conducting Survey and Data Analysis

Design of Case Study

The next step was to perform a quantitative empirical study to explore the list of e-government objectives as success factors by conducting a survey and developing instruments that measures factors that influence the success of e-government initiatives. The instruments will be tested for validity and reliability. The case study was conducted with the following framework:

1. Type of investigation - Correlational
2. Extent of researcher interference - Minimal
3. Measurement - Scaling
4. Instrument validation – Validity and reliability
5. Data-collection – Probability sampling and Web survey

6. Time horizon - One-shot (cross sectional)
7. Unit of analysis – Individual

Type of Investigation

Since the objective of this study was to identify the factors associated with the problem rather than to establish a definitive cause and effect relationship, a correlational study was called for. The researcher delineated the success factors that were associated with the e-government initiatives.

Extent of Researcher Interference

A correlational study was conducted in the noncontrived setting where the relevant data were collected and analyzed to present the findings with minimum interference (Sekaran, 2000). The Web survey for this study allowed the respondents to provide answers in a natural environment.

Measurement

From two main categories of attitudinal scales, rating scale and ranking scale, the rating scale was appropriate for this study because this interval is more powerful than the nominal and ordinal scales in performing the arithmetical operations on the data collected from the respondents. Its measures of dispersion are the range, the standard deviation, and the variance (Sekaran, 2000). Among various rating scales, the Likert-type scale is designed to examine how strongly subjects agree or disagree with brief statements (instead of long questions) on a 5-level scale that is in line with this study method. Hence,

the instrument used a Likert-type scale with a range from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree”, using words in the scale instead of numeric value (e.g. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5). Once the selections were made by the respondents, they were assigned corresponding numeric score, 1 for “strongly disagree” to 5 for “strongly agree”. The responses over a range of each statement were then summated for every respondent. As the interval scale was used, the differences in the responses between any two ranges on the scale remained the same.

Though Likert scaling is a commonly used instrument for measuring beliefs (DeVellis, 2003), it is subject to a response set that reflects the tendency of a respondent to reply to questions in a certain way independently of the content of the questions. This tendency is derived from the nature of the Likert-type instrument, in which the question is presented as a declarative sentence, followed by response options that exhibit varying degrees of agreement with the statement (DeVellis, 2003). One such response bias is the tendency to agree rather than disagree, or the tendency to make extreme responses (Rennie, 1982). Another is the tendency to not focus much attention on subtleties of language by merely regarding any reasonable response option in the center of the range as midpoint, regardless of the precise wording (DeVellis, 2003). For example, very mild statements may cause the tendency for too much agreement because they represent the absence of belief, while extreme statements may cause extreme views. The latter may be less of a problem because this study is interested in the presence of some belief, rather than in its absence. To reduce the response bias, the instruments attempted to state the beliefs in clear terms. Since the purpose of using Likert scale is not to span the range of weak to strong assertions of the construct (DeVellis, 2003), the questionnaires were designed to provide respondents the opportunity for gradations.

Instrument Validation

To enhance the quality of the research, the “goodness” of the measures developed were assessed by conducting reliability and validity tests to be reasonably sure that the instruments used in this research measured the variables they are supposed to, and that they measured them accurately (Sekaran, 2000). The instrument validation was set forth according to the kinds of questions answered (Straub, 1989) and the types of references addressed in Figure 3.

Instrument Validation	
Content Validity	Are instrument measures drawn from all possible measures of the properties under investigation?
Construct Validity	Do measures show stability across methodologies? That is are the data a reflection of true scores or artifacts of the kind of instrument chosen?
Reliability	Do measures show stability across the units of observation? That is, could measurement error be so high as to discredit the findings?

Figure 3. Questions and references for the validities.

Content Validity

Content validity concerns item sampling adequacy-that is, the extent to which a specific set of items reflects a content domain (DeVellis, 2003). Content validity is a function of how well the dimensions and elements of a concept have been delineated (Sekaran, 2000). Content-valid instrument is difficult to create and perhaps even more difficult to verify because the universe of possible content is virtually infinite (Straub, 1989). An instrument valid in content is one that includes an adequate and representative set of items that tap the concept. The more the scale items represent the domain or universe of the concept being measured, the greater the content validity. The instrument proposed in this study was derived from the wide research pool in the leading publications that reflect the view of experts in the field familiar with the content universe. To compile comprehensive e-government *value*, this research was not only based on a total of 125 items developed by the major Internet commerce study by Torkzadeh and Dhillon (2002) but also explored the e-government research that had been done during the 6-year period from 2000 to 2005 in the literatures from IS and reference discipline. Drawn together, and assigned as the basis for formulating a comprehensive model of e-government *value*, these contents should have brought the level of content validity to an acceptable level for the study.

Construct Validity

Construct validity is directly concerned with the theoretical relationship of a variable (e.g., a score on same scale) to other variables (DeVellis, 2003). It is in essence an operational issue (Straub, 1989) in that it testifies to how well the results obtained

from the use of the measure fit the theories around which the test is designed (Sekaran, 2000).

Constructs are considered valid when high correlation occurs between measures of the same construct and low correlation occurs between measures of different constructs (Straub, 1989). This study established construct validity through (1) correlational analysis to purify the items and (2) factor analysis to confirm the dimensions of the concept that had been operationally defined, as well as indicated which of the items were most appropriate for each dimension (Sekaran, 2000). To purify the items, the corrected item-total correlation technique was used. If all items in a measure are drawn from the domain of a single construct, responses to those items should be highly intercorrelated (Torkzadeh & Dhillon, 2002). The correlation of each item with the sum of the other items in its category was evaluated.

Reliability

Whereas validity concerns whether the variable is the underlying cause of item covariation, reliability concerns how much a variable influences a set of items. Reliability is the proportion of variance attributable to the true score of the latent variable (DeVellis, 2003), reflecting the stability across the units of observation (Straub, 1989). The reliability of a measure indicates the extent to which the measure is without bias (error free) and hence offers consistent measurement across time and across the various items in the instrument (Sekaran, 2000). Internal consistency reliabilities are typically equated with Cronbach's coefficient alpha. Thus, the reliability of items comprising each dimension were examined using Cronbach's α to see if additional items could be

eliminated without substantially lowering reliability. High correlation between alternative measures or large Cronbach's α is usually signs that the measures are reliable (Straub, 1989).

Use of Factor Analysis

The focus of science is theory. Data are meaningless in themselves until they are linked through propositions that confer meaning (Rummel, 1970). A scientific theory consists of analytic and empirical components. The analytic component reflects the linkage of reasoning that follows logical rules without empirical content, whereas the empirical component reflects the linking of empirical data for a theory to apply to reality (Rummel, 1970). The empirical component connects the analytic component to the facts. Factor analysis combines analytic and empirical components in order to connect theory to social phenomena (Rummel, 1970). For this study, factor analysis helped connect the value theory to e-government phenomena.

The multivariate statistical technique of factor analysis has found increased use (Hair, Anderson, Tatham, & Black, 1998) for the purpose of interdependency and pattern delineation, data reduction, discovery of the basic structure, classification or description of variables, scaling, hypothesis testing, data transformation, exploration of the complex interrelations of phenomena, mapping of the social terrain, and theory building (Rummel, 1970). The common objective of factor analysis is to represent a set of variables in terms of a smaller number of hypothetical variables using various statistical methods (Kim & Mueller, 1978). The primary functions of factor analysis for this study were to validate

data and help determine empirically how many factors underlie a set of items (Devellis, 2003).

There are two types of factor analysis methods: exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis. The former was used because the purpose of this study was to discover the factor structure of a measure, and examine its internal reliability as opposed to confirming a particular pattern of relationships by a hypothesized factor structure (Devellis, 2003). The analysis examined the interrelationships among variables (e-government objectives) using correlation coefficients as a measure of association. The correlation matrix was expected to reveal the structure of relationships among variables. Principal component analysis (PCA) was used for outlier detection. Outliers could cause data inconsistency that reflects a sample that behaves quite differently when comparing to other samples of the same group, and that could disqualify data analysis (Straub, 1989). PCA also was used to decide the number of factors. This study used PCA because the objective was to summarize most of the original variance in a minimum number of factors, as opposed to using common factor analysis (CFA) to identify underlying factors that reflect what the variables share in common (Hair et al., 1998). The basic assumption for this study was that the underlying structure of two variables, the means, and the fundamental objectives, were conceptually valid and appropriate. The outcome of factor analysis was two models of factor structures: one reflects means objectives, and the other reflects fundamental objectives.

Data Collection

The population was all e-government service users. The sample for this study included working professionals from metropolitan areas in the United States who had experience in using e-government services. The target respondents were recruited from various professional sources, such as university alumni, bankers, lawyers, travel agents, accountants, IS engineers, and architects who expressed positive support for the study.

Response rate was a major issue in successful survey research. To increase response rate of its target population, this study attempted to minimize the respondents' effort in responding to the survey, and to maximize support from the population. To minimize the respondents' effort, the survey questions were made clear, concise, unambiguous, and consistent, and the responses can be made fast, less costly, and more convenient via Web survey. A major advantage of using Web survey for this study was to maximize convenience for the respondents because the target population (e-government online users) was Web users who were equipped with the tools and knowledge of Web use. To maximize support from the population, the cooperation rate and the contact rate was considered (Langer, 2003). To increase the cooperation rate, participation of the survey was encouraged by stressing the participants' contribution to society in developing citizen centered e-government services and fostering e-democracy. To increase the contact rate, the target respondents were recruited from various professional sources who expressed positive support for the study. The expectation of the response rate was high, thus, the problem of nonresponse and its effects on this study was low. Though the expected responses were about 300, 210 responses were obtained.

From two major types of sampling designs, probability and nonprobability sampling, this study used the probability sampling design because the representativeness of the sample was important in the interests of wider generalizability (Sekaran, 2000). The nonprobability sampling can be used when time or other factors rather than generalizability become critical (Sekaran, 2000). The sample for this study was working professionals from metropolitan areas in the United States who had experience in using e-government services, reflecting the knowledge of computer use and access to Internet service. For a quantitative research such as the proposed, too small a sample size would not land the meaningful result whereas too large a sample size could reflect weak relationships in variables. As the sample sizes larger than 30 and less than 500 are appropriate for most research (Sekaran, 2000), the sample size for this study was 210.

Data collection methods are an integral part of research design each of which has its own advantages and disadvantages. Data can be collected from interviews by face-to-face, telephone, and computer-mediated, questionnaires administered in person, mail, and electronic means, and observations with videotaping and audio recording. This study conducted on-line questionnaire surveys via the Web site by taking advantages of the electronic means: ease of administration, ease of reaching distanced respondents, inexpensive, fast, and flexible time for response. The disadvantages, such as requiring computer literacy and access to the facility, was overcome by selecting the samples who were capable in computer response and had access to Internet service.

The survey Web page presented users with radio buttons because the choices were mutually exclusive, which restricted them to selecting exactly one option for improved reliability. The respondents were asked to respond based on the best-described belief

when they engage with e-government service. Further, when giving instructions to respondents, it was indicated that one's response should be relevant to the present experience and not reflect past experiences. Once the responses were entered via the survey Web page provided by SurveyMonkey.com, data were gathered electronically into the server for statistical analysis and validation using the SPSS software. A proper instruction that clearly identifies the research and presents the purpose of the survey was essential to facilitate the data collection. The instruction ended on a courteous note thanking the respondent for taking time to participate to the survey. Questionnaires were developed to avoid ambiguous, leading, loaded, and socially undesirable questions. In addition, simple, short questions were preferable to long ones, hence following a rule of thumb, the questionnaires (in a form of statement) were not exceeding 20 words (Sekaran, 2000). Questions were neatly and conveniently organized so that the respondent can conduct the survey with a minimum amount of time and effort. The following sample survey layout (see Figure 4) incorporates the points:

E-government Experience Survey

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I am concerned about unauthorized access to my personal information.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am concerned about hackers.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am concerned about fraud when I want to purchase a product or service from e-government sites.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like greater accessibility to information.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel there is sufficient transaction protection for e-government commerce.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel that e-government online transactions are speedy.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

I feel there is sufficient security built into the Internet.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am satisfied with the transaction speed.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Figure 4. Sample survey layout.

Prior to conducting the survey, a preliminary test for the survey procedure was conducted to confirm that the requirements were satisfied and the quality assurance of the survey function and resulting data were met. A test case was a specific scenario of the steps that respondents would normally take to respond the survey, from signing on to the survey Web site, browsing through the screens, entering the response, and leaving the Web site. In this process, the network and system response time was kept minimal to maintain the respondent's motivation. In addition, the background functions, such as capturing and storing data to the server, worked properly.

Data preparation was an important step for data analysis---a step that has a major impact on the success of an empirical study (Yu, Wang, & Lai, 2006). Once data were collected from different samples, they were checked for inconsistencies and normalized to the format that could be used by the SPSS software for statistical analysis.

Ethics in Data Collection

The electronic survey was administered to working professionals (human subject) from metropolitan areas in the United States who had experience in using e-government services. Since this study involved human subjects, the design and conduct of research followed the guidelines to ensure their protection provided by the National Research Act

Public Law 99-158, the Health Research Extension Act of 1985, and the National commission for the Protection of Human Subject of Biomedical and Behavioral Research (Nova Southeastern University, 2005). In general, it is considered unethical when the practices cause pressuring individuals to participate through coercion or applying social pressure, diminishing self-respect, deceiving subjects by deliberately misleading them, exposing participants to physical or mental stress, exposing respondents to hazardous environment, and not preserving the privacy and confidentiality of the information given by the participants (Sekaran, 2000). To ensure confidentiality, this study neither referred to outsiders nor maintained any form of linkage in order to go back and review the record at a later time. The only linkage information collected was the IP address of each respondent for the purpose of validating the integrity of the data source. As the respondents were somewhat geographically diversified, it was not expected that a great amount of responses derived from a single IP address. The list of IP addresses was permanently removed from the server once the validity test was complete. As it remained unknown who participated in the study, the likelihood of potential risks to the subjects was virtually none. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval letter from Nova Southeastern university for this survey research is attached in Appendix F.

Time Horizon

This study was a one-shot (cross sectional) instead of longitudinal study because data collection at one point in time was sufficient rather than two or more points in time to answer the research question. Data received between August and September in 2006 from the respondents will not be collected again from them for this research.

Unit of Analysis

The unit of analysis refers to the level of aggregation of the data collected (Sekaran, 2000). As this study was interested in finding out the e-government *value* to citizens, the unit of analysis was the individual. Hence, the data collected from each individual was treated as an individual data source.

Relating the Means and Ends Factors by Examining the Cross-correlations

Among Factors

The last step in developing instrument was to analyze the correlation matrix for convergent and discriminant validity. The magnitude of the correlations observed revealed the validity; items in one group were highly correlated with the other items in its group than with any of the items measuring other factors (Torkzadeh & Dhillon, 2002).

Resources

In order to discuss the theoretical antecedents of e-government initiatives, measurement instruments, and framework, an extensive review of the literature from IS and other related journals, proceedings, and books on related topics was conducted. To illustrate the e-government phenomena, information collected by various public and private organizations were referenced. To complete the empirical study, a survey was administered to working professionals in the metropolitan area who have experiences in using the e-government services. Once data were collected, they were analyzed with the statistical software SPSS for validation.

Limitations and Barriers

As new services and features continue to be added to e-government commerce, triggered by emerging technology and the ever-increasing demand for new services, governments continue their e-government march. A one-time study of the e-government phenomena is insufficient. Continued studies are needed to examine the progress and effectiveness of governments in delivering Web-based public services and facilitating citizens' Web-based political participation (Moon, 2002).

Since e-government encompasses various types of services for public users, with different abilities and rights, it faces various issues in providing services. Examples of the issues are accessibility related to digital divide through cost, availability, and sensory impairment and constituencies related to e-democratic diversity through geographical boundaries and voting rights (French, 2003). Values for these types of unique situations are specific and large enough to demand separate research. Though the proposed research addressed the e-government services at some level of specificity, it mainly focused on general issues instead of a variety of service-specific issues.

Several governments lack the fundamental infrastructure, organizational culture, understanding, and resources for a transformation of the magnitude that e-governments require (Devadoss et al., 2002). Therefore, the basis of comparison might be invalid if those comparable systems are achieving less-than-desirable results due to factors unique to their context (Grover, Keong, & Segars, 1996). For example, a local government's IT-centered innovation is influenced by public organizations and the public policy process, such as a higher degree of control by the external environment and administrative authorities (Kim & Bretschneider, 2004). In addition, a study (Holden, Norris, &

Fletcher, 2003) found that that five greatest barriers to the adoption of e-government are lack of technology or Web staff, lack of financial resources, lack of technology or Web expertise, issues regarding security, and the need to upgrade existing information technology.

The instrument development for eliciting responses from subjects for this study reflected one country. With the globalization of e-government implementations, the research effort will need to trace the similarities and differences in the behavioral and attitudinal responses of e-government users at various levels in difference countries. Certain special issues need to be addressed while designing instruments for collecting data by each country or from different counties that include vocabulary equivalence, idiomatic equivalence, conceptual equivalence, and response equivalence (Sekaran, 2000).

Measuring of research constructs is neither simple nor straightforward (Straub, 1989). Due to the inherent nature of conducting user surveys, this study would have a certain amount of bias. The choice of method (as in online versus off-line instruments) and components of the chosen method (as in item selection and item phrasing) could have affected instrumentation. Inaccuracies in measurement could be reflected in the instrument when items were ambiguously phrased, length of the instrument taxed respondents' concentration, or motivation for answering carefully was not induced (Straub, 1989).

Different e-government users might view the value of the same e-government services differently. One may have found it convenient, easy to use, and low-cost, while other experienced the e-government service over the Internet as overly difficult and

impersonal. Thus, the net value including benefits and costs of ordering and receiving the services could significantly differ by individual. In addition, measuring instruments are not static in nature; they evolve through an ever-changing refinement. Hence, the instruments developed in this study will need to be refined in the future as technology and services emerge.

Correlation is a linear measure of association between the variables. The correlation can be observed by assessing the variations in one variable as another variable also varies (Sekaran, 2000). Though the zero correlation coefficient value indicates no strength of the association between two variables (Hair et al., 1998), it does not imply that there is no relationship at all; it only means that there is no linear relationship between them. For example, the correlation between y and x would be zero, even though they are perfectly related: $y = \sin(x)$. Hence, correlation is adequate if the relationship is monotonically increasing or decreasing.

Summary

This chapter delineated the methodology and activities for conducting the study. In order to develop a basis for formulating a model of e-government *value* for empirical study, a list of e-government objectives from the exploratory study by Torkzadeh and Dhillon (2002) and the published research pool during the 6-year period from 2000 to 2005 was generated. The e-government objectives then were grouped into two categories, means and ends (fundamental) objectives. Based on this categorization, two instruments that together measure the factors that influence the success of e-government initiatives was developed. One instrument measures the means objectives that influence using e-

government services, and the other measures the fundamental objectives that are essential reasons for using e-government services. In addition, the instrument development and validation steps were addressed.

The components of empirical research design included type of investigation, extent of interference, measurement type, data-collection method, time horizon, sampling design, and unit of analysis. The instrument validation included content validity, construct validity and reliability. Ethics of data collection concerned the respondent's privacy and security.

There were various limitations and barriers for the research. One-time study of e-government phenomena is insufficient; on-going studies are needed to examine the progress and implications of the e-government evolution. Since e-government encompasses various types of services for public use, each with its own set of issues and complexities, a wide range of research is required. Thus, this research will address the different e-government services at some level of specificity, while also providing an overview of general issues. The instruments developed in this study will need to be refined in the future as new technologies and services emerge.

Chapter 4

Results

Data Analysis for Means Objectives

Descriptive Statistics

The output from the descriptive statistics (Table 9) from the total of 210 survey responses indicated that all 48 items were perceived to be relevant because the mean values for most of the items were either 4 or 5, reflecting the answers of “agree” and “strongly agree.” Though nine items had mean values of less than 4, as the values were close to 4 (3.68 through 3.98), they were not eliminated. The three most important items, with the highest mean of 4.69, were concerns about hacking, identity theft and safeguarding of personal information. The least significant item, with the lowest mean of 3.68, was the variety of foreign language options available to people.

Table 9

Descriptive Statistics for Means Objectives (N=210)

Item	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation
I like the opportunity for two-way interaction.	1	5	4.35	.634
I like the opportunity for personal interaction.	1	5	4.10	.800
I feel it is important to improve communication between the government and its citizens.	1	5	4.52	.635
I like to promote universal access that will allow all citizens to easily and conveniently interact with e-government.	1	5	4.22	.788
I like to minimize the digital divide demarcated by wealth, age, language, culture, geographical location, etc.	1	5	4.14	.869
I feel accessibility for individuals with special needs (e.g., disabilities) should be maximized.	1	5	4.18	.790
I like to participate electronically and directly in decision making.	1	5	(3.92)	.823

Table 9 (continued)

Item	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation
I like to voice my preferences regarding policies.	2	5	(3.94)	.710
I like to promote knowledge sharing between the government and its citizens.	2	5	4.21	.675
I like to promote e-services (e.g., voting online, discussing public issues online, etc.).	1	5	3.93	.894
I am concerned about how much I can trust the government.	1	5	4.05	.882
I like to promote transparency in government.	2	5	4.22	.740
I like to promote fairness, providing non-discriminatory service.	1	5	4.40	.727
I like to promote public outreach.	2	5	4.14	.688
I like to have horizontal integration of government services (linking different functions of government with each other).	1	5	(3.96)	.769
I like to have vertical integration of government services (linking different levels of government, such as local, state, and federal).	1	5	3.90	.869
I like to facilitate information dissemination.	2	5	(3.98)	.754
I like to have information on demand.	1	5	4.32	.663
I like to have search criteria.	1	5	4.20	.699
I like to have a great amount of information.	2	5	4.04	.778
I like to have up-to-date information.	2	5	4.54	.580
I like to have a choice of information.	1	5	4.35	.634
I like to minimize the risk of skipping or missing information.	2	5	4.27	.676
I like to get as much information about services as possible.	2	5	4.20	.737
I like seeing greater use of style and format in Web site design.	1	5	(3.76)	.882
I like to make e-government services more appealing to the average person.	1	5	4.01	.792
I like to promote ease of viewing.	2	5	4.24	.721
I like to have a variety of foreign language options available to people.	1	5	(3.68)	1.075
I like to have e-government systems agreeing and implementing global standards (e.g., e-signature identification).	1	5	(3.90)	.842

Table 9 (continued)

Item	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation
I like to discourage unauthorized access.	1	5	4.55	.678
I like to discourage hacking.	1	5	4.69	.652
I am concerned about transaction security.	1	5	4.62	.690
I am concerned about misuse of my credit card.	1	5	4.68	.704
I am concerned about identity theft.	1	5	4.69	.668
I am concerned about privacy risks.	1	5	4.64	.713
I am concerned about the safeguarding of personal information.	1	5	4.69	.682
I am concerned about sharing of personal information.	1	5	4.59	.767
I am concerned about receiving unsolicited material.	1	5	4.39	.807
I am concerned about reliable delivery of information and services.	1	5	4.34	.703
I am concerned about quality of the information and services delivered.	1	5	4.32	.718
I am concerned about accuracy of transaction.	1	5	4.49	.693
I am concerned about charging errors.	1	5	4.40	.765
I like to have new types of services.	1	5	(3.87)	.817
I feel that new services should be made as convenient as possible utilizing various devices, such as cell phones, PDAs, etc.	1	5	(3.81)	.934
I feel ease of accessing information and services is important.	1	5	4.31	.667
I feel ease of search process is important.	1	5	4.35	.662
I feel ease of use for information and services is important.	1	5	4.33	.636
I like to have compatibility between e-government services and older "legacy" services (e.g., paper based system).	1	5	4.14	.823

Item Purification and Reliability Test

The item purification process resulted in removing nine items. Eight items were removed because the correlation coefficients were below 0.05, reflecting low correlation (see the “Corrected Item-Total Correlation” column in Table 10). Another item was removed because the correlation coefficient was extremely high (greater than 0.90), which could cause a problem because of singularity. The deleted items were related to opportunity for personal interaction, participation in decision making, voicing my preferences regarding policies, promoting e-services, trusting government, vertical integration of government services, offering foreign language services, implementing global standards, and choice of information. The remaining 39 items reflected high correlation between measures of the same construct; thus, constructs were considered valid (Straub, 1989).

Table 10

Item-Total Statistics for Means Objectives

Item	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation
I like the opportunity for two-way interaction.	199.24	413.678	.677
I like the opportunity for personal interaction.	199.49	418.921	(.365)
I feel it is important to improve communication between the government and its citizens.	199.07	416.909	.548
I like to promote universal access that will allow all citizens to easily and conveniently interact with e-government.	199.38	410.791	.629
I like to minimize the digital divide demarcated by wealth, age, language, culture, geographical location, etc.	199.45	411.971	.533

Table 10 (continued)

Item	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation
I feel accessibility for individuals with special needs (e.g., disabilities) should be maximized.	199.42	411.489	.606
I like to participate electronically and directly in decision making.	199.68	418.057	(.380)
I like to voice my preferences regarding policies.	199.65	421.692	(.320)
I like to promote knowledge sharing between the government and its citizens.	199.38	416.687	.522
I like to promote e-services (e.g., voting online, discussing public issues online, etc.)	199.66	414.311	(.451)
I am concerned about how much I can trust the government.	199.54	416.335	(.401)
I like to promote transparency in government.	199.37	415.660	.508
I like to promote fairness, providing non-discriminatory service.	199.20	413.871	.579
I like to promote public outreach.	199.46	414.163	.603
I like to have horizontal integration of government services (linking different functions of government with each other).	199.63	413.133	.569
I like to have vertical integration of government services (linking different levels of government, such as local, state, and federal).	199.70	414.067	(.472)
I like to facilitate information dissemination.	199.62	413.136	.581
I like to have information on demand.	199.27	415.270	.585
I like to have search criteria.	199.39	413.474	.618
I like to have a great amount of information.	199.55	414.153	.529
I like to have up-to-date information.	199.06	415.719	.655
I like to have a choice of information.	199.24	413.678	.677
I like to minimize the risk of skipping or missing information.	199.32	415.196	.576

Table 10 (continued)

Item	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation
I like to get as much information about services as possible.	199.40	412.776	.608
I like seeing greater use of style and format in Web site design.	199.84	412.155	.519
I like to have a variety of foreign language options available to people.	199.91	413.026	(.397)
I like to have e-government systems agreeing and implementing global standards (e.g., e-signature identification).	199.69	414.473	(.477)
I like to discourage unauthorized access.	199.05	416.467	.528
I like to discourage hacking.	198.90	416.804	.537
I am concerned about transaction security.	198.98	413.736	.617
I am concerned about misuse of my credit card.	198.91	416.127	.519
I am concerned about identity theft.	198.91	416.494	.535
I am concerned about privacy risks.	198.95	415.175	.545
I am concerned about the safeguarding of personal information.	198.91	415.815	.548
I am concerned about sharing of personal information.	199.01	414.785	.517
I am concerned about receiving unsolicited material.	199.20	414.049	.513
I am concerned about reliable delivery of information and services.	199.25	412.266	.657
I am concerned about quality of the information and services delivered.	199.28	412.115	.649
I am concerned about accuracy of transaction.	199.11	414.155	.598
I am concerned about charging errors.	199.20	414.993	.512

Table 10 (continued)

Item	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation
I like to have new types of services.	199.72	409.713	.639
I feel that new services should be made as convenient as possible utilizing various devices, such as cell phones, PDAs, etc.	199.79	409.566	.558
I feel ease of accessing information and services is important.	199.29	411.459	.726
I feel ease of search process is important.	199.25	410.847	.754
I feel ease of use for information and services is important.	199.26	412.156	.734
I like to have compatibility between e-government services and older "legacy" services (e.g., paper based system).	199.45	410.880	.598

Dimensionality

To address the dimensionality of the remaining constructs, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure of sampling adequacy was used. The KMO measure of 0.925 (see Figure 5) was large enough to proceed with factor analysis, as the extracted factors would account for a substantial amount of variance. Therefore, the factor solution generated was reliable.

The observed significance level for Bartlett's test of sphericity was 0.000 (see Figure 5), indicating that the relationship among variables was strong. Thus, factor analysis was appropriate.

KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.925
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	6306.091
	df	741
	Sig.	.000

Figure 5. KMO and Bartlett's test for means objectives.**Factor Analysis (Principal Component Analysis)**

The exploratory factor analysis using principal component analysis (PCA) identified outliers and extracted four components (factors) while reducing the number of variables. Before a factor solution was generated, the communality values were evaluated in order to select the items that account for at least half of the variance in the variables by the extracted factors. The first iteration of the PCA computing without specifying the number of factors resulted in removing one item for which the communality value was less than 0.5, reflecting that it accounted for less than 50% of the variance in the variables. The removed item was “I like to have compatibility between e-government services and older ‘legacy’ services (e.g., paper based system).” The second iteration resulted in no further deletion of items. The table of communalities from the second iteration (Table 11) showed the remaining 38 items that were used to examine the pattern of factor loadings. Table 11 indicated that the items with the least (53.6%) and the most (89.8%) accounted for were “I like to promote transparency in government.” and “I am concerned about the safeguarding of personal information,” respectively.

Table 11

Communalities for Means Objectives

Item	Initial	Extraction
I like the opportunity for two-way interaction.	1.000	.597
I feel it is important to improve communication between the government and its citizens.	1.000	.569
I like to promote universal access that will allow all citizens to easily and conveniently interact with e-government.	1.000	.593
I like to minimize the digital divide demarcated by wealth, age, language, culture, geographical location, etc.	1.000	.661
I feel accessibility for individuals with special needs (e.g., disabilities) should be maximized.	1.000	.700
I like to promote knowledge sharing between the government and its citizens.	1.000	.589
I like to promote transparency in government.	1.000	.536
I like to promote fairness, providing non-discriminatory service.	1.000	.701
I like to promote public outreach.	1.000	.698
I like to have horizontal integration of government services (linking different functions of government with each other).	1.000	.546
I like to facilitate information dissemination.	1.000	.646
I like to have information on demand.	1.000	.692
I like to have search criteria.	1.000	.703
I like to have a great amount of information.	1.000	.663
I like to have up-to-date information.	1.000	.597
I like to minimize the risk of skipping or missing information.	1.000	.688
I like to get as much information about services as possible.	1.000	.740
I like seeing greater use of style and format in Web site design.	1.000	.666

Table 11 (continued)

Item	Initial	Extraction
I like to make e-government services more appealing to the average person.	1.000	.682
I like to promote ease of viewing.	1.000	.611
I like to discourage unauthorized access.	1.000	.651
I like to discourage hacking.	1.000	.722
I am concerned about transaction security.	1.000	.840
I am concerned about misuse of my credit card.	1.000	.817
I am concerned about identity theft.	1.000	.885
I am concerned about privacy risks.	1.000	.881
I am concerned about the safeguarding of personal information.	1.000	.898
I am concerned about sharing of personal information.	1.000	.705
I am concerned about receiving unsolicited material.	1.000	.550
I am concerned about reliable delivery of information and services.	1.000	.808
I am concerned about quality of the information and services delivered.	1.000	.807
I am concerned about accuracy of transaction.	1.000	.810
I am concerned about charging errors.	1.000	.598
I like to have new types of services.	1.000	.642
I feel that new services should be made as convenient as possible utilizing various devices, such as cell phones, PDAs, etc.	1.000	.582
I feel ease of accessing information and services is important.	1.000	.717
I feel ease of search process is important.	1.000	.713
I feel ease of use for information and services is important.	1.000	.707

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

To detect outliers, the regression equation was used to calculate the factor scores where cases with the factor scores either greater than 3.0 or smaller than -3.0 were identified. Twelve cases identified as outliers. Excluding these outliers, the remaining 198 cases were used to extract components.

To extract the principal components, the Varimax rotation with Kaiser normalization method was used. The first iteration of rotation without specifying the number of factors resulted in nine components with the eigenvalues greater than one, but this solution did not make sense. The 4-factor solution was chosen because it made the best sense. However, this model presented 11 items for which the communality values were less than 0.5, reflecting that each one accounted for less than 50% of the variance in the variables. Thus, they were removed. The removed items were related to improving communication, knowledge sharing, transparency in government, non-discriminatory service, horizontal integration of government, facilitating information dissemination, use of style and format in Web site design, unauthorized access, discouraging hacking, unsolicited material, and charging errors. The second iteration removed another three items for which the communality values were less than 0.5. The removed items were related to universal access, appealing to the average person, and ease of use. The third iteration removed one item for which the communality value was less than 0.5. The removed item was related to ease of viewing. The fourth iteration represented all 23 items with the communality value greater than 0.5 and presented a 4-component (factor) solution that was not difficult to interpret. These four components explained more than 60% of the cumulative variance (see Figure 6), which was ideal for factor analysis. The four components accounted for 64.738% of the total variances where the first factor

accounts for 37.421%, the second 14.721%, the third 6.809%, and the fourth 5.788%.

The remaining factors were not considered significant. The scree plot (see Figure 7) also supported the 4-factor model in that the curve began to flatten from the 5th component.

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loading		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	8.607	37.421	37.421	8.607	37.421	37.421	4.750	20.650	20.650
2	3.386	14.721	52.142	3.386	14.721	52.142	4.518	19.642	40.293
3	1.566	6.809	58.951	1.566	6.809	58.951	2.920	12.696	52.989
4	1.331	5.788	64.738	1.331	5.788	64.738	2.702	11.750	64.738
5	.923	4.014	68.752						
6	.860	3.739	72.491						
7	.774	3.366	75.857						
8	.673	2.927	78.785						
9	.586	2.550	81.334						
10	.560	2.436	83.771						
11	.459	1.995	85.765						
12	.420	1.828	87.593						
13	.404	1.757	89.350						
14	.384	1.671	91.021						
15	.360	1.567	92.588						
16	.325	1.412	94.000						
17	.279	1.214	95.214						
18	.262	1.141	96.355						
19	.243	1.056	97.411						
20	.200	.871	98.282						
21	.150	.652	98.934						
22	.141	.613	99.547						
23	.104	.453	100.000						

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Figure 6. Total variance explained for means objectives.

Figure 7. Scree plot for means objectives.

To address the unrotated factor solution, the unrotated 4-factor model was inadequate to interpret as it did not provide a meaningful pattern of the variable loadings. The unrotated solution indicated that the first factor was a general factor for which most variables were loaded highly while the subsequent factors were based on the residual amount of variance (Hair et al., 1998) for which the relatively small number of variables were loaded. Factor rotation achieved a more meaningful pattern of the variable loadings by redistributing the variance, which helped in interpreting factors. The component plot in rotated space (see Figure 8) reflected that the relative importance of the factors was equalized and that the factor loadings were plotted in the relatively high end of the axes.

Component Plot in Rotated Space

Figure 8. Component plot in rotated space for means objectives.

The rotated component matrix (see Figure 9) presented the four components with associated variables sorted by size of the factor loadings. The factor loadings of selected items were in parenthesis. The higher the factor loadings, the more it contributed to the variable and the stronger the variable correlated with the factor. Three items were excluded from this solution. Two of the items resulted in low loadings (less than 0.5) and one item resulted in a high loading (greater than 0.5) on multiple factors reflecting that they were not factorially pure. These items were related to ease of search, ease of access information and services, and promoting new type of services. The first group of variables was loaded from 0.687 to 0.890, the second group from 0.638 to 0.764, the third from 0.590 to 0.759, and the fourth from 0.708 to 0.831. The 4-factor model was not

difficult to interpret, corresponding with public trust (six items), information access (seven items), public accessibility (four items), and quality of service (three items).

	Component			
	1	2	3	4
I am concerned about identity theft.	(.897)	.040	.032	.149
I am concerned about the safeguarding of personal information.	(.890)	.137	.065	.108
I am concerned about privacy risks.	(.874)	.086	.131	.114
I am concerned about misuse of my credit card.	(.816)	.084	.088	.124
I am concerned about transaction security.	(.778)	.228	.134	.182
I am concerned about sharing of personal information.	(.687)	.093	.040	.213
I like to get as much information about services as possible.	-.008	(.764)	.157	.229
I like to have information on demand.	.100	(.755)	.145	.017
I like to have a great amount of information.	.049	(.750)	.072	.086
I like to have search criteria.	.230	(.714)	.149	.044
I like the opportunity for two-way interaction.	.088	(.691)	.247	.204
I like to minimize the risk of skipping or missing information.	.031	(.676)	.210	.219
I like to have up-to-date information.	.266	(.638)	.144	.175
I feel ease of search process is important.	.220	.493	.437	.317
I feel ease of accessing information and services is important.	.108	.460	.459	.352
I feel accessibility for individuals with special needs (e.g., disabilities) should be maximized.	.110	.252	(.759)	.028
I like to minimize the digital divide demarcated by wealth, age, language, culture, geographical location, etc.	.126	.057	(.736)	.035
I like to promote public outreach.	.085	.307	(.714)	-.007
I feel that new services should be made as convenient as possible utilizing various devices, such as cell phones, PDAs, etc.	-.047	.174	(.590)	.375
I am concerned about quality of the information and services delivered.	.272	.271	.075	(.831)
I am concerned about reliable delivery of information and services.	.371	.190	.180	(.742)
I am concerned about accuracy of transaction.	.430	.234	.031	(.708)
I like to have new types of services.	.088	.214	.504	.519
Cronbach's Alpha (selected items)	.919	.873	.734	.895

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

a Rotation converged in 6 iterations.

Figure 9. Component loadings for rotation solution for means objectives.

The means objectives scale for the final factor solution included 20 items. The ratio of sample size (198) to number of items (20) was 10:1, which was an acceptable size for factor analysis (Hair et al., 1998).

Findings

Exploratory factor analysis reported a 4-factor 20-item model (see Table 12) for the means objectives scale. Factor one (six items) represented public trust, factor two (seven items) represented information access, factor three (four items) represented public accessibility, and factor four (three items) represented quality of service.

Using this data set, the correlated item-total correlation and Cronbach's α for the same 4-factor model were calculated. The corrected item-total correlation was 0.466 to 0.625 for public trust, 0.503 to 0.606 for information access, 0.590 to 0.759 for public accessibility, and 0.623 to 0.638 for quality of service. Reliability statistics (Cronbach's α) were 0.919, 0.873, 0.734, and 0.895 for public trust, information access, public accessibility, and quality of service, respectively (see Figure 9 at the bottom of each component column). Overall reliability for the entire scales (20 items) was 0.901. The hotelling's T-squared test was significant for all 4 subscales ($p < 0.001$), with F values being 3.599, 17.724, 14.723, and 15.830 for public trust, information access, public accessibility, and quality of services, respectively.

Table 12

Factor Pattern for Measures of Means Objectives

	Factor				Corrected Item-Total Correlation
	1	2	3	4	
Public trust					
I am concerned about identity theft.	.897				.525
I am concerned about the safeguarding of personal information.	.890				.571
I am concerned about privacy risks.	.874				.562
I am concerned about misuse of my credit card.	.816				.514
I am concerned about transaction security.	.778				.625
I am concerned about sharing of personal information.	.687				.466
Information access					
I like to get as much information about services as possible.		.764			.578
I like to have information on demand.		.755			.525
I like to have a great amount of information.		.750			.503
I like to have search criteria.		.714			.592
I like the opportunity for two-way interaction.		.691			.596
I like to minimize the risk of skipping or missing information.		.676			.558
I like to have up-to-date information.		.638			.606
Public accessibility					
I feel accessibility for individuals with special needs (e.g., disabilities) should be maximized.			.759		.499
I like to minimize the digital divide demarcated by wealth, age, language,			.736		.383

culture, geographical location, etc.

Table 12 (continued)

	Factor				Corrected Item-Total Correlation
	1	2	3	4	
I like to promote public outreach.			.714		.479
I feel that new services should be made as convenient as possible utilizing various devices, such as cell phones, PDAs, etc.			.590		.403
Quality of service					
I am concerned about quality of the information and services delivered.				.831	.623
I am concerned about reliable delivery of information and services.				.742	.638
I am concerned about accuracy of transaction.				.708	.623

Data Analysis for Fundamental Objectives

Descriptive Statistics

The output from the descriptive statistics (Table 13) from the total of 210 responses indicated that all 28 items were perceived to be relevant because the mean values for most items were greater than 4, reflecting the survey answers of “agree” and “strongly agree.” Though two items had mean values of less than 4, as the values were close to 4 (3.56 and 3.95), they were not eliminated. The two most important items, with the highest mean of 4.47, were “It is important to find information and services easily” and “It is important that information and services are useful.” The least significant item,

with the lowest mean of 3.56, was “It is important to make using e-government a social event.”

Table 13

Descriptive Statistics for Fundamental Objectives (N=210)

Item	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation
It is important to optimize citizen satisfaction.	1	5	4.24	.706
It is important to always consider overall good of society.	1	5	4.27	.717
It is important to ensure time flexibility in using services.	1	5	4.26	.673
It is important to offer personal interaction.	1	5	4.07	.810
It is important to reduce effort in receiving service.	1	5	4.11	.774
It is important to minimize personal hassle.	1	5	4.35	.663
It is important to find information and services easily.	2	5	4.47	.588
It is important that information and services are useful.	1	5	4.47	.612
It is important to keep down the cost of services.	1	5	4.32	.683
It is important to minimize travel costs.	2	5	4.24	.678
It is important to make communication cost efficient.	2	5	4.31	.630
It is important to minimize the time it takes to find information and service.	2	5	4.41	.659
It is important to minimize processing time.	1	5	4.35	.705
It is important to minimize search time.	1	5	4.38	.690
It is important to minimize payment time.	1	5	4.19	.782
It is important to minimize overall communication time.	1	5	4.26	.745
It is important to minimize the time it takes to find information and services.	1	5	4.23	.724
It is important to respond quickly to requests for information and services.	2	5	4.44	.640

It is important to ensure quick delivery of information and services.	1	5	4.43	.609
It is important to minimize shipping time.	1	5	4.12	.745

Table 13 (continued)

Item	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation
It is important to minimize dispatch time.	1	5	4.14	.715
It is important to make using e-government a social event.	1	5	3.56	.922
It is important to bring government services closer to citizens.	2	5	4.22	.663
It is important to inspire citizens to use e-government online services.	1	5	3.95	.781
It is important to avoid giving citizens cause to regret using e-government online services.	2	5	4.26	.713
It is important to minimize unnecessary driving through the advantages of having services accessible from home (e.g., parking, accident, etc.).	1	5	4.20	.737
It is important to minimize pollution.	1	5	4.43	.697
It is important to minimize environmental impact.	1	5	4.36	.747

Item Purification and Reliability Test

The item purification process resulted in retaining all 28 items for which all the correlation coefficients (see the “Corrected Item-Total Correlation” column in Table 14) were greater than 0.05, considering high correlation. When high correlation occurs between measures of the same construct, constructs are considered valid (Straub, 1989). No items with extremely high correlation coefficients (greater than 0.90) were found because they could cause problems due to singularity.

Table 14

Item-Total Statistics for Fundamental Objectives

Item	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation
It is important to optimize citizen satisfaction.	114.79	183.525	.601
It is important to always consider overall good of society.	114.76	183.879	.572
It is important to ensure time flexibility in using services.	114.77	181.376	.756
It is important to offer personal interaction.	114.96	182.764	.553
It is important to reduce effort in receiving service.	114.91	182.194	.609
It is important to minimize personal hassle.	114.68	182.641	.694
It is important to find information and services easily.	114.56	184.113	.693
It is important that information and services are useful.	114.56	182.783	.747
It is important to keep down the cost of services.	114.71	182.485	.681
It is important to minimize travel costs.	114.79	181.870	.721
It is important to make communication cost efficient.	114.72	183.179	.701
It is important to minimize the time it takes to find information and service.	114.62	181.625	.758
It is important to minimize processing time.	114.68	179.942	.797
It is important to minimize search time.	114.65	180.765	.770
It is important to minimize overall communication time.	114.77	180.570	.719
It is important to minimize the time it takes to find information and services.	114.80	179.781	.784
It is important to respond quickly to requests for information and services.	114.59	183.085	.694

It is important to ensure quick delivery of information and services.	114.60	182.710	.756
It is important to minimize shipping time.	114.91	179.614	.769
It is important to minimize dispatch time.	114.89	180.605	.749

Table 14 (continued)

Item	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item-Total Correlation
It is important to make using e-government a social event.	115.47	180.327	.579
It is important to bring government services closer to citizens.	114.81	183.686	.634
It is important to inspire citizens to use e-government online services.	115.08	181.142	.655
It is important to avoid giving citizens cause to regret using e-government online services.	114.77	182.570	.646
It is important to minimize unnecessary driving through the advantages of having services accessible from home (e.g., parking, accident, etc.).	114.83	182.057	.649
It is important to minimize pollution.	114.60	185.467	.504
It is important to minimize environmental impact.	114.67	184.175	.532

Dimensionality

To address the dimensionality of the remaining constructs, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure of sampling adequacy was used. The KMO measure of 0.929 (see Figure 10) was large enough to proceed with factor analysis. as the extracted factors would account for a substantial amount of variance. Therefore, the factor solution generated was reliable.

The observed significance level for Bartlett's test of sphericity was 0.000 (see Figure 10) indicating that the relationship among variables was strong. Thus, factor analysis was appropriate.

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.929
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	4934.958
	df	378
	Sig.	.000

Figure 10. KMO and Bartlett's test for fundamental objectives.

Factor Analysis (Principal Component Analysis)

The exploratory factor analysis using principal component analysis (PCA) identified outliers and extracted four components (factors) while reducing the number of variables. Initially, the communality values were evaluated in order to select the items that account for at least half of the variance in the variables by the extracted factors. The first iteration of the PCA computing without specifying the number of factors resulted in removing two items for which the communality values were less than 0.5, reflecting that each one accounted for less than 50% of the variance in the variables. The removed items were “It is important to offer personal interaction” and “It is important to reduce effort in receiving services.” The second iteration resulted in no further deletion of items. The table of communalities from the second iteration (Table 15) showed the remaining 26 items that were used to examine the pattern of factor loadings. Table 15 indicated that the items with the least (52.0%) and the most (88.2%) accounted for were “It is important

to minimize unnecessary driving....” and “It is important to minimize environmental impact,” respectively.

Table 15

Communalities for Fundamental Objectives

Item	Initial	Extraction
It is important to optimize citizen satisfaction.	1.000	.527
It is important to always consider overall good of society.	1.000	.606
It is important to ensure time flexibility in using services.	1.000	.601
It is important to minimize personal hassle.	1.000	.558
It is important to find information and services easily.	1.000	.799
It is important that information and services are useful.	1.000	.806
It is important to keep down the cost of services.	1.000	.729
It is important to minimize travel costs.	1.000	.773
It is important to make communication cost efficient.	1.000	.712
It is important to minimize the time it takes to find information and service.	1.000	.750
It is important to minimize processing time.	1.000	.813
It is important to minimize search time.	1.000	.812
It is important to minimize payment time.	1.000	.788
It is important to minimize overall communication time.	1.000	.773
It is important to minimize the time it takes to select information and services.	1.000	.767
It is important to respond quickly to requests for information and services.	1.000	.735
It is important to ensure quick delivery of information and services.	1.000	.758

It is important to minimize shipping time.	1.000	.745
It is important to minimize dispatch time.	1.000	.748
It is important to make using e-government a social event.	1.000	.745

Table 15 (continued)

Item	Initial	Extraction
It is important to bring government services closer to citizens.	1.000	.637
It is important to inspire citizens to use e-government online services.	1.000	.710
It is important to avoid giving citizens cause to regret using e-government online services.	1.000	.576
It is important to minimize unnecessary driving through the advantages of having services accessible from home (e.g., parking, accident, etc.).	1.000	.520
It is important to minimize pollution.	1.000	.875
It is important to minimize environmental impact.	1.000	.882

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

To detect outliers, the regression equation was used to calculate the factor scores where the cases with factor scores either greater than 3.0 or smaller than –3.0 were identified. Excluding eight outliers, the remaining 202 cases were used to extract components.

To extract the principal components, the Varimax rotation with Kaiser normalization method was used. The first iteration without specifying the number of factors detected one item for which the communality was 0.436, representing less than 50% of the variance in the variables; thus, it was removed. The removed item was “It is important to optimize citizen satisfaction.”

The second iteration represented all 25 items with the communality value greater than 0.5 and presented a 4-component (factor) solution (see Figure 11) that was not difficult to interpret. These four components explained more than 60% of the cumulative variance (see Figure 11), which was ideal for factor analysis. The four components accounted for 67.298% of the total variances where the first factor accounted for 50.058%, the second 7.161%, the third 5.686%, and the fourth 4.393%. The remaining factors were not considered significant. The scree plot (see Figure 12) also supported the 4-factor model in that the curve began to flatten after the 4th component.

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loading		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	12.515	50.058	50.058	12.515	50.058	50.058	5.609	22.436	22.436
2	1.790	7.161	57.220	1.790	7.161	57.220	4.570	18.278	40.714
3	1.421	5.686	62.906	1.421	5.686	62.906	3.618	14.473	55.186
4	1.098	4.393	67.298	1.098	4.393	67.298	3.028	12.112	67.298
5	.964	3.855	71.153						
6	.850	3.402	74.555						
7	.642	2.567	77.122						
8	.633	2.532	79.654						
9	.590	2.360	82.014						
10	.542	2.167	84.180						
11	.490	1.961	86.141						
12	.452	1.809	87.950						
13	.420	1.679	89.630						
14	.406	1.625	91.254						
15	.386	1.542	92.796						
16	.325	1.301	94.097						
17	.280	1.120	95.218						
18	.222	.887	96.104						
19	.210	.839	96.944						
20	.176	.705	97.649						
21	.164	.654	98.303						
22	.134	.535	98.839						
23	.115	.461	99.300						
24	.102	.408	99.708						
25	.073	.292	100.000						

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Figure 11. Total variance explained for fundamental objectives.

Figure 12. Scree plot for fundamental objectives.

To discuss the unrotated factor solution, the unrotated 4-factor model was inadequate to interpret, as it did not provide a meaningful pattern of the variable loadings. The unrotated solution indicated that the first factor was a general factor for which most variables were loaded highly while the subsequent factors were based on the residual amount of variance (Hair et al., 1998) for which the relatively small number of variables were loaded. Factor rotation achieved a more meaningful pattern of the variable loadings by redistributing the variance that helped interpreting factors. The component plot in rotated space (see Figure 13) reflected that the relative importance of the factors was equalized and that the factor loadings were plotted in the high end of the axes.

Component Plot in Rotated Space

Figure 13. Component plot in rotated space for fundamental objectives.

The rotated component matrix (see Figure 14) showed the four components with associated variables sorted by size of the factor loadings. The factor loadings of selected items were in parenthesis. The higher the factor loadings, the more it contributed to the variable and the stronger the variable correlated with the factor. Seven items were excluded from the 4-factor solution because three items showed low loadings (less than 0.5) and four items showed high loadings (greater than 0.5) on multiple factors reflecting that they were not factorially pure.

The first group of variables was loaded from 0.630 to 0.756, the second group from 0.585 to 0.804, the third from 0.511 to 0.792, and the fourth from 0.541 to 0.866. The 4-factor model was not difficult to interpret, corresponding with time savings (seven

items), efficiency of service (three items), service to citizen (five items), and social awareness (three items).

	Component			
	1	2	3	4
It is important to minimize payment time.	(.756)	.254	.238	.162
It is important to minimize search time.	(.750)	.414	.126	.194
It is important to minimize overall communication time.	(.745)	.280	.277	.071
It is important to minimize processing time.	(.734)	.422	.106	.229
It is important to minimize the time it takes to select information and services.	(.727)	.306	.272	.148
It is important to minimize dispatch time.	(.677)	.144	.376	.267
It is important to minimize shipping time.	(.630)	.194	.427	.214
It is important to minimize travel costs.	.477	.370	.158	.436
It is important that information and services are useful.	.254	(.804)	.210	.176
It is important to find information and services easily.	.295	(.778)	.268	.115
It is important to minimize the time it takes to find information and service.	.509	.674	.119	.157
It is important to respond quickly to requests for information and services.	.507	.608	.251	-.002
It is important to ensure quick delivery of information and services.	.509	.597	.337	.018
It is important to make communication cost efficient.	.320	(.585)	.146	.433
It is important to keep down the cost of services.	.291	.499	.068	.489
It is important to minimize personal hassle.	.402	.463	.349	.245
It is important to ensure time flexibility in using services.	.316	.415	.400	.292
It is important to make using egovernment a social event.	.267	.026	(.792)	.130
It is important to inspire citizens to use egovernment online services.	.152	.241	(.778)	.117
It is important to bring government services closer to citizens.	.158	.320	(.669)	.175
It is important to avoid giving citizens cause to regret using government online services	.285	.208	(.565)	.349
It is important to minimize unnecessary driving through the advantages of having services accessible from home (e.g., parking, accident, etc.).	.358	.150	(.511)	.200
It is important to minimize pollution.	.150	.098	.180	(.866)
It is important to minimize environmental impact.	.207	.028	.208	(.818)
It is important to always consider overall good of society.	.011	.376	.293	(.541)
Cronbach's Alpha (selected items)	.931	.846	.830	.799

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

a Rotation converged in 7 iterations.

Figure 14. Component loading for rotation solution for fundamental objectives.

The fundamental objectives scale for the final factor solution included 18 items. The ratio of sample size (202) to number of items (18) was 11:1, which was an acceptable size for factor analysis (Hair et al., 1998).

Findings

Exploratory factor analysis reported a 4-factor 18-item model (see Table 16) for the fundamental objectives scale; factor one (seven items) was related to time savings, factor two (three items) was related to efficiency of service, factor three (five items) was related to service to citizen, and factor four (three items) was related to social awareness.

Using this data set, the correlated item-total correlation and Cronbach's α for the same 4-factor model were calculated. The corrected item-total correlation was 0.727 to 0.822 for time savings, 0.616 to 0.765 for efficiency of service, 0.565 to 0.709 for service to citizen, and 0.487 to 0.701 for social awareness. Reliability statistics (Cronbach's α) were 0.931, 0.846, 0.830, and 0.799 for time saving, efficiency of service, service to citizen, and social awareness, respectively (see Figure 14 at the bottom of each component column). Overall reliability for the entire scales (18 items) was 0.936. The hotelling's T-squared test was significant for all 4 subscales ($p < 0.001$), with F values being 7.504, 9.039, 40.842, and 8.460 for time savings, efficiency of service, service to citizen, and social awareness, respectively.

Table 16

Factor Pattern for Measures of Fundamental Objectives

	Factor				Corrected Item-Total Correlation
	1	2	3	4	
Time savings					
It is important to minimize payment time.	.756				.724
It is important to minimize search time.	.750				.752
It is important to minimize overall communication time.	.745				.712
It is important to minimize processing time.	.734				.751
It is important to minimize the time it takes to select information and services.	.727				.752
It is important to minimize dispatch time.	.677				.721
It is important to minimize shipping time.	.630				.724
Efficiency of service					
It is important that information and services are useful.		.789			.661
It is important to find information and services easily.		.745			.679
It is important to make communication cost efficient.		.671			.648
Service to citizen					
It is important to make using e-government a social event.			.792		.588
It is important to inspire citizens to use e-government online services.			.778		.613
It is important to bring government services closer to citizens.			.669		.613
It is important to avoid giving citizens cause to regret using e-government online services.			.565		.659
It is important to minimize unnecessary			.511		.588

driving through the advantages of having services accessible from home (e.g., parking, accident, etc.).

Table 16 (continued)

	Factor				Corrected Item-Total Correlation
	1	2	3	4	
Social awareness					
It is important to minimize pollution.				.866	.539
It is important to minimize environmental impact.				.818	.534
It is important to always consider overall good of society.				.541	.498

Relating the Means and Ends Factors

In the means-ends relationship, as the means is the activity to achieve the ends, the means and ends (fundamental) objectives are related. Thus, the constructs of means and fundamental objectives must be related (Torkzadeh & Dhillon, 2002). To address the relation, the cross-correlations among factors were examined. Table 17 provides the correlations for constructs in each objective and between objectives.

Subscales of means objectives (4 factors including public trust, information access, public accessibility and quality of service) are correlated more closely with the overall 20-item means objectives than with subscales of fundamental objectives, indicated by the ranges of 0.777 to 0.792 for means objectives that are greater than the ranges of 0.551 to 0.652 for fundamental objectives. Likewise, subscales of fundamental objectives (4 factors including time savings, efficiency of service, services to citizen, and

Correlations Among Constructs ($n = 210$)

[illegible]

Table 17 (continued)

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(9) Service to citizen	Correlation	.575	.332	.485	.602	.364	.870	.705	.618		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000		
(10) Social awareness	Correlation	.551	.373	.381	.570	.406	.688	.496	.490	.515	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	

Summary of Results

The use of descriptive statistics analysis revealed the most and least important items that influence citizens to use e-government services. For the means objectives, the most important items were “I like to discourage hacking,” “I am concerned about identity theft,” and “I am concerned about the safeguarding of personal information.” The least important item was “I like to have a variety of foreign language options available to people.” For the fundamental objectives, the most important items were “It is important to find information and services easily” and “It is important that information and services are useful.” The least important item was “It is important to make using e-government a social event.” Overall, respondents felt strongly about protecting online security, saving time, and minimizing environmental impact, while being less concerned about styling and formatting in Web site design, providing foreign languages, and making e-government a social event.

The results provided evidence of construct validity and reliability for the means and fundamental objectives. The construct validity was provided by the item purification process where the correlation coefficients reflected high correlation. The reliability was evidenced by the high Cronbach's Alpha that implied the internal consistency of the scale variables.

Using the PCA procedure, the 46 variables were reduced to 20 and 210 cases were reduced to 198 for the means objectives while the 24 variables were reduced to 18 and 210 cases were reduced to 202 for the fundamental objectives. Then, two factor models were presented for each type of objective variable. Each factor model accounted for 64.738% and 67.298% of covariance among variables for the means and fundamental objectives, respectively. One model measures the means objectives in terms of public trust, information access, public accessibility, and quality of services. The other measures the fundamental objectives in terms of time savings, efficiency of service, service to citizen, and social awareness. The two sets of factor models developed in this paper together measure the factors that influence the success of e-government initiatives.

Chapter 5

Conclusions, Implications, Recommendations, and Summary

Conclusions

The research conceptualized the *value* of e-government and developed instruments to measure factors that influence the success of e-government initiatives. This was an applied research study into ideas suggested by Keeney (1999) that attempted to develop a sample of customer values for a specific category of products where the customer was the citizen (e-government services users) and the category was e-government service. The customer values for e-government services ranged from benefits and costs of services (e.g., reduced effort) to possible benefits and costs to the world (e.g., environmental impact). The citizen's values for e-government services were generated from the 125 items (see Appendix A) developed from the exploratory study of Internet commerce by Torkzadeh and Dhillon (2002) and from the research pool published in the leading refereed publications during the 6-year period from 2000 to 2005 (see Appendix E).

The theoretical foundation for this research came from two concepts in Decision Analysis. One of the concepts is means-ends analysis. Means-ends analysis is a problem-solving strategy that attempts to search for and apply an action (means) to achieve a goal (ends). The means is the activity to achieve the ends. A second concept is the notion of value, as posited by Keeney (1992) in value-focused thinking. The value-focused approach stresses that values are fundamentally important in any decision situation, while alternatives are relevant only because they are a means to achieve the

desired values. Thus, the thinking should focus first on values, and later on alternatives that might achieve them. Value-focused thinking, therefore, asks the most important question: what do people really value in a given situation? (Keeney, 1992). The two concepts of means-ends chain and value-focused thinking are closely related.

For the empirical study, the list of values (objectives) were classified into means and ends types of objectives depending on the characteristics of attributes. The means objectives help to achieve what is important to the e-government users — fundamental objectives. Data collection and analysis were conducted against these two types independently. Using a sample of 210 responses from e-government service users, two sets of instruments were created that measure the factors that influence the success of e-government initiatives. One instrument (4-factor 20-item model) measures the means objectives in terms of public trust, information access, public accessibility, and quality of services. The other instrument (4-factor 18-item model) measures the fundamental objectives in terms of time savings, efficiency of service, service to citizen, and social awareness. Evidence of content validity and construct validity and reliability was presented.

The measuring of research constructs is neither simple nor straightforward (Straub, 1989). Due to the inherent nature of user surveys, any study would have a certain amount of bias. Since e-government encompasses many types of services for users with different abilities, a study of this kind faces various issues in assessing values. One person may have found online e-government services convenient and easy to use, while another may have found them difficult and impersonal. Thus, the net *value* of using the services could differ by individual. Although the research addressed the e-government services at some

level of specificity, it mainly focused on general issues instead of a variety of service-specific issues, in order to minimize any possible bias.

Implications

The success of e-government is contingent upon citizens' willingness to use e-government services (Carter & Belanger, 2005; Devadoss, Pan, & Huang, 2002). As values are the basic principles that guide actions and preferences (Keeney, 1992), citizens are likely to use such services if they feel that they get better value than from conventional government services. As the *value* of Internet commerce to the customer is an important construct for academics and practitioners alike (Torkzadeh & Dhillon, 2002), so is the *value* of e-government services to the citizens. This concept can also be used as a dependent or independent variable with preceding and ensuing constructs for e-government research. The multi-dimensional measures discovered by this study can provide insight for the decision context of whether citizens should use e-government services and can help people understand the phenomena of e-government, the impact of this new technology, and its management.

The literature review undertaken in the course of this research found that most of the existing e-government studies are not empirical but rhetorical in nature (Norris & Moon, 2005; Devadoss et al., 2002). Hence, this empirical research contributes to the body of e-government research in the following ways:

1. The study generated a list of e-government *values* that citizens consider most important when they engage with e-government services.
2. The study developed two instruments that can be used to measure the factors that influence the success of overall e-government initiatives.
3. The study demonstrated an instrument development process with reliability and validity.
4. The study combined analytic and empirical components to connect theory to social phenomena (Rummel, 1970). Factor analysis helped to connect the *value* theory to e-government phenomena.

Recommendations

In the postindustrial setting, scholars contend that the implications for information technology lie in the nature of work, productivity, and economic growth (Torkzadeh & Dhillon, 2002). IS could potentially create new ideas, increase values, and more effectively satisfy customer needs. The instrument developed in this research can be used as a tool to assess this potential. Because increasing *value* to citizens is the key ingredient in the success of e-government, this research provided a useful list of the comprehensive values for developing and improving the e-government initiatives. To apply the results, the objectives identified by the instruments can not only be put to use at a high level, such as developing strategic plans, but also directly be implemented or tailored to the specific services. In addition, the list of e-government values generated in this research can be used as a foundation for developing a quantitative model of e-government *value*.

As new services and features continue to be added to e-government initiatives, triggered by emerging technology and ever-increasing demand, governments continue their e-government march. Continued studies are needed to examine the progress and effectiveness of e-governments in delivering services and facilitating citizens' political participation (Moon, 2002). The scale developed in this study might need to be changed over time. For the means objectives, the public trust factor needs to address new risks arising from the use of emerging technology; the information access factor needs to explore the evolution of information retrieval techniques and requirements; the public accessibility factor needs to consider the impact of using new devices (e.g., wireless); and the quality of service factor should adopt for an increased level of service. For the fundamental objectives, factors such as time savings and social awareness remain relatively the same, as they are less directly affected by the changes than the means objectives. For both objectives, the instruments developed in this study will need to be refined to satisfy future research requirements.

Summary

IS is being applied vigorously by government units at national, regional, and local levels around the world (Marchionini, Samet, & Brandt, 2003). In the 1990s, the advent of network-based IS represented a turning point in the strategic direction for government agencies, which now have the immense opportunity to utilize e-commerce to achieve their objectives (Kalakota & Whinston, 1997) through e-government. E-government is narrowly defined as "the delivery of government information and services online through the Internet or other digital means" (West, 2004, p. 2). E-government can

be viewed as (a) a transformation of the business of governance, i.e. improving service, and renewing administrative processes, and (b) a transformation of governance itself, i.e. re-examining the functioning of democratic practices and processes (Aichholzer & Schmitzer, 2000).

Governments are employing network-based IS in the expectation that it will be cheaper, faster, and more convenient than traditional means of delivering products and services (McNeal, Tolbert, Mossberger, & Dotterweich, 2003). Having invested an enormous amount of resources in e-government (Peters, Jansen, & Engers, 2004), governments strive to succeed in this endeavor. To further the success of e-government, it is critical to understand and influence citizens' acceptance of e-government services (Fu, Farn, & Chao, 2006) because the success of e-government initiatives is contingent upon citizens' willingness to use these services (Carter & Belanger, 2005; Devadoss, Pan, & Huang, 2002). However, it is not clear whether citizens will embrace the use of such services (Carter & Belanger, 2004). As values are the basic principles that guide actions and preferences (Keeney, 1992), citizens are likely to use such services if they feel that they get better value than from conventional government services. Thus, e-government *value* to citizens is an important factor for the success of e-government. The two main goals of this research were:

1. To conceptualize the *value* of e-government.
2. To develop two instruments to measure factors that influence the success of e-government initiatives — ends objectives and means objectives.

The theoretical foundation for this research came from two concepts from Decision Analysis. Decision Analysis (Winterfeldt & Edwards, 1986) is a field in business which seeks to improve human decision making by developing new concepts, theories, and tools. One of the concepts of Decision Analysis is means-ends analysis. Means-ends analysis is a problem solving strategy that attempts to search for and apply an action (means) to achieve a goal (ends). The means is the activity to achieve the ends. Thus, the means and ends objectives are related. A second concept is the notion of value, as discussed by Keeney in value-focused thinking (1992). The value-focused approach stresses that values are fundamentally important in any decision situation, while alternatives are relevant only because they are a means to achieve the desired values. Thus, the thinking should focus first on values and later on alternatives that might achieve them. The two concepts of the means-ends chain and value-focused thinking are closely related.

To develop a basis for formulating a model of e-government *value* for empirical study, a list of e-government objectives from the exploratory study by Torkzadeh and Dhillon (2002) and the published research pool during the 6-year period from 2000 to 2005 was generated. The e-government objectives then were grouped into two categories, means and ends (fundamental) objectives. Data collection and analysis were conducted against these two types independently. Using a sample of 210 responses from e-government service users, two sets of instruments were developed that together measure the factors that influence the success of e-government initiatives. One instrument (4-factor 20-item model) measures the means objectives in terms of public trust, information access, public accessibility, and quality of services (see Table 18). The other instrument

(4-factor 18- item model) measures the fundamental objectives in terms of time savings, efficiency of service, service to citizen, and social awareness (see Table 19). Evidence of content validity and construct validity and reliability was presented.

Table 18

Measures of Means Objectives

Factor	Item
Public trust	I am concerned about identity theft.
	I am concerned about the safeguarding of personal information.
	I am concerned about privacy risks.
	I am concerned about misuse of my credit card.
	I am concerned about transaction security.
	I am concerned about sharing of personal information.
Information access	I like to get as much information about services as possible.
	I like to have information on demand.
	I like to have a great amount of information.
	I like to have search criteria.
	I like the opportunity for two-way interaction.
	I like to minimize the risk of skipping or missing information.
	I like to have up-to-date information.
Public accessibility	I feel accessibility for individuals with special needs (e.g., disabilities) should be maximized.
	I like to minimize the digital divide demarcated by wealth, age, language, culture, geographical location, etc.
	I like to promote public outreach.
	I feel that new services should be made as convenient as

Table 18 (continued)

Factor	Item
	possible utilizing various devices, such as cell phones, PDAs, etc.
Quality of service	I am concerned about quality of the information and services delivered.
	I am concerned about reliable delivery of information and services.
	I am concerned about accuracy of transaction.

Table 19

Measures of Fundamental Objectives

Factor	Item
Time savings	It is important to minimize payment time.
	It is important to minimize search time.
	It is important to minimize overall communication time.
	It is important to minimize processing time.
	It is important to minimize the time it takes to select information and services.
	It is important to minimize dispatch time.
	It is important to minimize shipping time.
Efficiency of service	It is important that information and services are useful.
	It is important to find information and services easily.

Table 19 (continued)

Factor	Item
	It is important to make communication cost efficient.
Service to citizen	<p>It is important to make using e-government a social event.</p> <p>It is important to inspire citizens to use e-government online services.</p> <p>It is important to bring government services closer to citizens.</p> <p>It is important to avoid giving citizens cause to regret using e-government online services.</p> <p>It is important to minimize unnecessary driving through the advantages of having services accessible from home (e.g., parking, accident, etc.).</p>
Social awareness	<p>It is important to minimize pollution.</p> <p>It is important to minimize environmental impact.</p> <p>It is important to always consider overall good of society.</p>

The focus of science is theory. Data are meaningless in themselves until they are linked through propositions that confer meaning (Rummel, 1970). A scientific theory consists of analytic and empirical components. The analytic component reflects the linkage of reasoning that follows logical rules without empirical content, whereas the empirical component reflects the linking of empirical data for a theory to apply to reality (Rummel, 1970). The empirical component connects the analytic component to the facts.

For this research, factor analysis helps to combine the analytic and empirical components in order to connect theory (value theory) to social phenomena (e-government phenomena).

As new services and features continue to be added to e-government initiatives, triggered by emerging technology and ever-increasing demand, governments continue their e-government march. Continued studies are needed to examine the progress and effectiveness of governments in delivering Web-based public services and facilitating citizens' Web-based political participation (Moon, 2002).

In the postindustrial setting, scholars contend that the implications for information technology lie in the nature of work, productivity, and economic growth (Torkzadeh & Dhillon, 2002). IS could potentially create new ideas, increase values, and more effectively satisfy customer needs. The instrument developed in this research can be used as a tool to assess this potential. Because increasing *value* to citizens is the key ingredient in the success of e-government, this research provided a useful list of the comprehensive values for developing and improving the e-government initiatives. To apply the results, the objectives identified by the instruments can not only be put to use at a high level, such as developing strategic plans, but also directly be implemented or tailored to the specific services. In addition, the list of e-government values generated in this research provides a foundation for developing a quantitative model of e-government *value*.

Appendix A

Measures of Factors That Influence Internet Commerce Success (125 items by Torkzadeh & Dhillon, 2002)

Means Objectives

I am concerned about fraud when I want to purchase a product or service over e-government site.
 I am concerned about e-government legitimacy.
 I am concerned about how much I can trust the vendor.
 I am concerned about security for Internet commerce..
 I am concerned about seller legitimacy.
 I am concerned about how much I can trust the vendor.
 I am concerned about unauthorized access to my personal information.
 I am concerned about hackers.
 I like greater accessibility to product and service information.
 I feel there is sufficient transaction protection for Internet commerce.
 I feel that Internet transactions are speedy.
 I feel that there is sufficient security built into the Internet.
 I like more information about promotions.
 I am satisfied with transaction speed.
 I feel that safety of credit card use should be increased.
 I like to able to feel the product.
 I like to able to see the product.
 I like to able to test the product.
 I like to able to try the product.
 I like to able to feel the product.
 I like to get as much information about products as possible.
 I am worried about abuse of personal information.
 I feel Internet commerce transaction is fast.
 I feel the accuracy of product information is important.
 I am concerned when I use my credit card.
 I like assurance of delivery of purchased product.
 I am concerned about misuse of my credit card.
 I am worried about who will have access to my credit card number.
 I like as accurate product information as possible.
 I am concerned about unauthorized use of my credit card.
 I am concerned about unnecessary purchase.
 I am concerned about misuse of personal information.
 I am concerned about receipt of unsolicited material.
 I am concerned about receiving junk mail.
 I am concerned about my personal information being shared.
 I feel that credit card safety should be increased.
 I worry about reliable delivery.
 I am concerned about timely arrival of purchase products.
 I like to enhance comparison shipping.
 I am concerned I might purchase more than I need to.
 I am concerned about impulsive buying.
 I like assurance of arrival of purchase products.
 I am concerned about unreasonable purchases.
 I am concerned about timely delivery of purchased items.
 I am concerned about accuracy of transaction.
 I am concerned about transaction error.

I worry about receiving wrong products.
 I am concerned about shipping errors.
 I am concerned about charging errors.
 I like being able to compare products.
 I worry about being charged inaccurately.
 I like to have greater product choice.
 I feel Internet commerce helps me make better purchase decisions.
 I feel Internet commerce minimizes my disappointment in purchase experience.
 I feel confident in making right purchase choices.
 I like having maximum product variety.
 I like to have the maximum range of quality product options.
 I feel there is sufficient opportunity for comparison shopping.
 I like having greater product selection.
 I like a broad choice of products.
 I like the ease of comparison shopping.
 I like to have maximum product availability.
 I like to travel as little as possible to purchase.
 I like an easy-to-use interface for Internet commerce.
 I like simple systems for product search.
 I feel human customer support is important.
 I feel there should be opportunity for personal interaction.
 I like to be able to talk with a salesperson.
 I feel computer-based customer support is sufficient.
 I like to drive as little as possible to shop.
 I will be satisfied with computer-based customer support alone.

Fundamental Objectives.

It is important to maximize product value.
 It is important to ensure the quality of a product.
 It is important to maximize functionality of a purchased item.
 It is important to minimize dispatch time.
 It is important to minimize product cost.
 It is important to minimize tax cost.
 It is important to maximize purchasing convenience.
 It is important to minimize shipping cost.
 It is important to minimize Internet cost.
 It is important to minimize travel cost.
 It is important to get the best product for the buck.
 It is important to minimize search time.
 It is important to minimize time to receive product.
 It is important to minimize shipping time.
 It is important to maximize convenience.
 It is important to minimize processing time.
 It is important to minimize delivery time.
 It is important to minimize disappointment.
 It is important to minimize waiting time.
 It is important to maximize time flexibility in purchasing.
 It is important to minimize time pressure when shopping.
 It is important to provide quality after-sale service.
 It is important to assure an easy return process.
 It is important to reduce time spent interacting with the vendor.
 It is important to minimize the effort of shopping.
 It is important to make shopping easy.
 It is important to minimize personal hassle.
 It is important to maximize ease of finding a product.
 It is important to minimize purchase time.

It is important to minimize payment time.
It is important to minimize queuing time.
It is important to avoid getting on electronic mailing lists.
It is important to minimize time to find a product.
It is important to minimize time to order a product.
It is important to minimize regret of shopping.
It is important to minimize time to gather information.
It is important to minimize time to select a product.
It is important to provide an easy return process.
It is important to reduce environmental damages.
It is important to maximize privacy.
It is important to make shopping a social event.
It is important to minimize the worry of shopping.
It is important to inspire customers.
It is important to maximize driving safety for shopping.
It is important to enhance customer productivity.
It is important to minimize pollution.
It is important to give customers new ideas.
It is important to minimize regret of online shopping.
It is important to maximize customer confidence.
It is important to minimize shopping effort.
It is important to maximize a safe shopping experience.
It is important to minimize the risk of product use.
It is important to minimize environment impact.

Appendix B

E-government Relevant Factors

Factors	Title of article	Publication	Authors
1. Concerns about inequities among citizens (digital divide) 2. Usefulness of information (validity, accuracy, clarity, frequency, sufficiency, timeliness, reliability, relevancy, message content and cost)	E-government evaluation: A framework and case study	Government Information Quarterly	Gupta & Jana (2003)
1. Participation in decision making (comments online about proposed regulations) 2. E-filing of petitions 3. Disability access 4. Foreign language 5. Simplify data access 6. Security and privacy	The ongoing march toward digital government	Computer (IEEE)	Elmagarmid & McIver (2001)
1. Bring citizens closer to their governments 2. Information security and privacy	E-government for Arab countries	Journal of Global Information Technology Management	Pons (2004)
1. Linking supply chain 2. Using emerging	IS research, innovation, and e-government	Communications of the ACM	Scherlis & Eisenberg (2003)

technology			
1. Knowledge sharing 2. Information exchange	Knowledge management in e-government	Ninth Americans Conference on Information Systems - 2003	Wagner (2003)
1. Greater government accountability	Public expectations and public scrutiny: An agenda for research in the context of e-government	Ninth Americans Conference on Information Systems - 2003	Jain & Patnayakuni (2003)
1. Collaboration between federal, state, and local governments 2. Accountable government 3. Increased geospatial information	Expanding electronic government: The challenges	The Public Manager	Pandy (2002)
1. Communication and public relations tool 2. Promoting public participation in policy-making process	The evolution of e-government among municipalities: Rhetoric or reality?	Public Administration Review	Moon (2002)
1. Security and privacy concern. 2. Improved communication	Same bed, different dreams?: A comparative analysis of citizen and bureaucrat perspectives on e-government	Proceedings of the 37 th Hawaii International conference on Systems Sciences	Moon & Welch (2004)
1. Information retrieval 2. Effective communication with citizens 3. Timeliness of response	Facing the challenges of e-government: A case study of the city of Corpus Christi, Texas	S.A.M. Advanced Management Journal	Jorgensen & Cable (2002)
1. E-democracy	Emerging electronic infrastructures: Exploring democratic	Social Science Computer Review	Gronlund (2003)

	components		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transparent government 2. Two-way interaction 	National information policy developments worldwide: Electronic government	Journal of Information Science	Muir & Oppenheim (2002)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Billboard features, such as contact information, publications, and databases 2. Improved service delivery 3. Public outreach and democracy enhancement 	E-government and the transformation of service delivery and citizen attitudes	Public Administration Review	West (2004)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitated access to public information and services 2. Improved transparency of administration 	Technology push, legislation pull? E-government in the European Union	Decision Support Systems	Strejcek & Theil (2002)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Broad supply of information and communication services 2. Increased transaction function 	Electronic government services for the business sector in Austria	Proceedings of the 12 th International Workshop on Database and Expert Systems Applications	Aichholzer & Sperlich (2001)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased transaction services 2. Participatory government 	Evolution of local government e-services: The applicability of e-business maturity models	Proceedings of the 37 th Hawaii International Conference on Systems Sciences	Shackleton, Fisher, & Dawson (2004)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to information 2. Ease of interaction 3. E-democracy 	Towards citizen-centered local e-government – the case of City of Tampere	University of Tampere, Finland	Anttiroiko (2004)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sufficient supply of 	E-business, e-government &	The Information Management Journal	Dearstyne (2001)

information and services 2. Transparent government	information proficiency		
1. Ease of contact	The new face of government: Citizen-initiated contacts in the era of e-government	Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory	Thomas & Streib (2003)
1. Information dissemination 2. Availability of forms 3. Providing seamless service	E-government 2001: Understanding the challenge and evolving strategies	The Public Manager	Balutis (2001A)
1. Availability of information and service delivery online 2. Ease of interaction	E-government around the world	Information Management Journal	Swartz (2004)
1. Ease of use for information and services 2. Horizontal and vertical integration of governments	E-government and performance: A citizen-centered imperative	The Public Manager	Wert (2002)
1. Electronic governance 2. Electronic service delivery	Introduction: E-government	Social Science Computer Review	Roy (2003)
1. Services provided by function as opposed to by department 2. Democratic participation	Managing the transformation to e-government: An Australian perspective	Thunderbird International Business Review	Clark (2003)
1. One stop portal 2. Citizen-centered facility	Innovation in American e-government: FirstGov.gov	The Public Manager	McGinnis (2003)
1. Useful service 2. Convenience of online service	Citizen adoption of electronic government	Proceedings of the 37 th Hawaii International Conference on Systems	Carter & Belanger (2004)

3. Compatibility of life style	initiatives	Sciences	
1. Improved service delivery 2. Democratic responsiveness 3. Public outreach	E-government and the transformation of service delivery and citizen attitudes	Public Administration Review	West (2004)
1. Broad range of e-government services	Capacity and e-government performance	Public Performance & Management Review	Melitski (2003)
1. Information format desired by users	Designing government information access programs: A holistic approach	Proceedings of the 36 th Hawaii International Conference on Systems Sciences	Dawes, Pardo, & Cresswell (2003)
1. Convenient and costless e-government services	Measuring the performance of electronic government services	Information & Management	Steyaert (2004)
1. Integrated access structure	A framework for electronic government	Proceedings of the 11 th International Workshop on Database and Expert Systems Applications	Lenk & Traunmuller (2000)
1. Seamless government 2. Electronic democracy	Trends in electronic government: Managing distributed knowledge	Proceedings of the 11 th International Workshop on Database and Expert systems Applications	Wimmer & Traunmuller (2000)
1. Free Internet access to e-government	Adoption of e-governance: Difference between countries in the use of online government services	Journal of American Academy of Business	Prattipati (2003)
1. Enhanced information dissemination 2. Increased transaction online	E-government 2001, part II: Evolving strategies for action	The Public Manager	Balutis (2001B)
1. Security 2. Privacy	A framework for e-governance solutions	IBM Journal of Research and Development	Mittal, Kumar, Mohania, Nair, Batra, Roy, Saronwala, & Yagnik (2004)

1. One-stop service 2. Privacy	Electronic service delivery – a driver of public sector modernization.	Information Polity	Lenk (2002).
1. Greater public access to information 2. Convenient government services	E-government: The next American revolution	Council for Excellence in Government	Council for Excellence in Government (2001)
1. 24x7 availability of services	Planning local e-government	Information Systems Management	Vriens & Achterbergh (2004)
1. Fast service	Infrastructure for e-government Web services	IEEE Internet Computing	Medjahed, Rezgui, Bouguettaya, & Ouzzani, Jan/Feb, 2003).
1. Improved service 2. Fast delivery of information	An application within the plan for e-government: the workfare portal	University of Milano	Fugini & Mezzanzanica (2004)

Appendix C

The Functional Performance Dimensions That Reflect the Common Municipality Functions and Services That Can Be Web-enabled (Kaylor et al., 2001).

<u>Payments</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilities • Taxes • Fines • Permits • Registrations 	<u>Images</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS Online • AS-built Images • Plat Maps • Document Management System
<u>Registration</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities • Classes • Voters 	<u>Audio/Video</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streaming Video of City Council Meetings • Live Traffic Cams • Auto-only Broadcast of Council Meetings • Video or Still-image Tour of Town • Video Walk-through Directions to Departments/Facilities
<u>Applications</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job Applications • Bidder Applications • Affirmative Action Forms 	
<u>Permits</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building • Parking • Temporary Use • Right-of-Way • Street Vendor • Sidewalk Dining 	<u>Documents</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of Meetings • City Code • City Charter • Budget Report • Downloadable Forms
<u>Customer Service</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Requests (Complaints) • Code Enforcement • Parking Referee • Payment Histories • Schedules (Hours of Operation) • Utility Start/Stop • Information Requests 	<u>E-Procurement</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bids Online
	<u>Licenses</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike • Dog • Taxi • Business
	<u>Miscellaneous</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Assessment History Lookup • Zoning Lookup • Online Surveys/Polls • Conversation Forums • Scheduled E-meetings
<u>Communication</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidental Closure • Emergency Management • Road Closure/Detour 	

Appendix D

Survey Instrument

E-government Experience Survey (by Ronnie Park)

Thank you for participating in this e-government research survey. Your responses will contribute to research that will be used to provide more efficient and convenient online government services.

Below is a list of 76 statements regarding the use of e-government online services.

Please rate the importance for each item, from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree."

Means Objectives

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I like the opportunity for two-way interaction.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like the opportunity for personal interaction.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to promote universal access that will allow all citizens to easily and conveniently interact with e-government.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to minimize the digital divide demarcated by wealth, age, language, culture, geographical location, etc.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel accessibility for individuals with special needs (e.g., disabilities) should be maximized.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to participate electronically and directly in decision making.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to voice my preferences regarding policies.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to promote knowledge sharing between the government and its citizens.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to promote e-services (e.g., voting online, discussing public issues online, etc.)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

I am concerned about how much I can trust the government.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to promote transparency in government.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to promote fairness, providing non-discriminatory service.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to promote public outreach.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to have horizontal integration of government services (linking different functions of government with each other).	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to have vertical integration of government services (linking different levels of government, such as local, state, and federal).	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to facilitate information dissemination.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to have information on demand.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to have search criteria.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like have a great amount of information.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to have up-to-date information.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to have a choice of information.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to minimize the risk of skipping or missing information.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to get as much information about services as possible.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like seeing greater use of style and format in Web site design.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to make e-government services more appealing to the average person.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to promote ease of viewing.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to have a variety of foreign language options available to people.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

I like to have e-government systems agreeing and implementing global standards (e.g., e-signature identification).	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to discourage unauthorized access.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to discourage hacking.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am concerned about transaction security.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am concerned about misuse of my credit card.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am concerned about identity theft.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am concerned about privacy risks.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am concerned about the safeguarding of personal information.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am concerned about sharing of personal information.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am concerned about receiving unsolicited material.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am concerned about reliable delivery of information and services.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am concerned about quality of the information and services delivered.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am concerned about accuracy of transaction.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I am concerned about charging errors.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to have new types of services.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel that new services should be made as convenient as possible utilizing various devices, such as cell phones, PDAs, etc.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel ease of accessing information and services is important.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel ease of search process is important.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel ease of use for information and services is important.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

I like to have compatibility between e-government services and older "legacy" services (e.g., paper based system).	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
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Fundamental Objectives

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
It is important to optimize citizen satisfaction.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to always consider overall good of society.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to ensure time flexibility in using services.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to offer personal interaction.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to reduce effort in receiving service.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to minimize personal hassle.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to find information and services easily.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important that information and services are useful.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to keep down the cost of services.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to minimize travel costs.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to make communication cost efficient.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to minimize the time it takes to find information and services.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to minimize processing time.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to minimize search time.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to minimize payment time.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to minimize overall communication time.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to minimize the time it takes to select information and services.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to respond quickly to requests for information and services.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

It is important to ensure quick delivery of information and services.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to minimize shipping time.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to minimize dispatch time.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to make using e-government a social event (e.g., e-forum).	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to bring government services closer to citizens.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to inspire citizens to use e-government online services.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to avoid giving citizens cause to regret using e-government online services.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to minimize unnecessary driving through the advantages of having services accessible from home (e.g., parking, accident, etc.).	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to minimize pollution.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
It is important to minimize environmental impact.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Appendix E

Research Pool From Which E-government Values are Drawn (With One Reference Provided)

1. Information & Management (Steyaert, 2004)
2. Information Systems Management (Vriens & Achterbergh, 2004)
3. Communications of the ACM (Scherlis & Eisenberg, 2003)
4. Decision Support Systems (Strejcek & Theil, 2002)
5. Computer (IEEE) (Elmagarmid & McIver, 2001)
6. Journal of Global Information Technology Management (Pons, 2004)
7. Ninth Americans Conference on Information Systems (Wagner, 2003)
8. The Public Manager (Pandy, 2002)
9. Public Administration Review (West, 2004)
10. Proceedings of the 36th Hawaii International conference on Systems Sciences (Dawes, Pardo, & Cresswell, 2003)
11. S.A.M. Advanced Management Journal (Jorgensen & Cable, 2002)
12. Social Science Computer Review (Gronlund, 2003)
13. Journal of Information Science (Muir & Oppenheim, 2002)
14. Public Administration Review (Moon, 2002)
15. Proceedings of the 12th International Workshop on Database and Expert Systems Applications (Aichholzer & Sperlich, 2001)
16. Proceedings of the 37th Hawaii International Conference on Systems Sciences (Moon & Welch, 2004)
17. University of Tampere, Finland (Anttiroiko, 2004)
18. Information Management Journal (Dearstyne, 2001)
19. Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory (Thomas & Streib, 2003)
20. Thunderbird International Business Review (Clark, 2003)
21. Public Performance & Management Review (Melitski, 2003)
22. Proceedings of the 11th International Workshop on Database and Expert Systems Applications (Lenk & Traunmuller, 2000)
23. Government Information Quarterly (Gupta & Jana, 2003)
24. Journal of American Academy of Business (Prattipati, 2003)
25. IBM Journal of Research and Development (Mittal, Kumar, Mohania, Nair, Batra, Roy, Saronwala, & Yagnik, 2004)
26. Information Polity (Lenk, (2002)
27. Council for Excellence in Government (Council for Excellence in Government, 2001)
28. IEEE Internet Computing (Medjahed, Rezgui, Bouguettaya, & Ouzzani, 2003)
29. University of Milano, Italy (Fugini & Mezzanzanica, 2004)

Appendix F

NSU IRB Approval Letter

May 15, 2005

JDC:jdc

MEMORANDUM

From: James Cannady, Ph.D., Associate Professor, GSCIS
To: Ronnie Park

Subject: IRB Approval

After reviewing your IRB Submission Form and Research Protocol I have approved your proposed research ("Measuring Factors that Influence the Success of E-government Initiatives") for IRB purposes (IRB approval number: cannady0515058). Your research has been determined to be exempt from further IRB review based on the following conclusion:

Research using survey procedures or interview procedures where subjects' identities are thoroughly protected and their answers do not subject them to criminal and civil liability.

Please note that while your research has been approved, additional IRB reviews of your research will be required if any of the following circumstances occur:

1. If you, during the course of conducting your research, revise the research protocol (e.g., making changes to the informed consent form, survey instruments used, or number and nature of subjects).
2. If the portion of your research involving human subjects exceeds 12 months in duration.

Please feel free to contact me in the future if you have any questions regarding my evaluation of your research or the IRB process.

Dr. Cannady

Copy:
Dr. Nyshadham
File

Appendix G

Survey Instrument Sample Screen

E-government Experience Survey (by Ronnie Park) - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.surveymonkey.com/Users/21806511/Surveys/904992448071/185CC590-622A-45A7-9FBA-4A7B7955B7E4.asp

E-government Experience Survey (by Ronnie Park)

E-government Experience Survey (by Ronnie Park)

Thank you for participating in this e-government research survey. Your responses will contribute to research that will be used to provide more efficient and convenient online government services.

Below is a list of 76 statements regarding the use of e-government online services. Please rate the importance for each item, from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree."

*** 1. Means Objectives**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I like the opportunity for two-way interaction.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like the opportunity for personal interaction.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel it is important to improve communication between the government and its citizens.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to promote universal access that will allow all citizens to easily and conveniently interact with e-government.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to minimize the digital divide demarcated by wealth, age, language, culture, geographical location, etc.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel accessibility for individuals with special needs (e.g., disabilities) should be maximized.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to participate electronically and directly in decision making.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to voice my preferences regarding policies.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I like to promote knowledge sharing between the government and its citizens.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

E-government Experience Survey (by Ronnie Park) - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.surveymonkey.com/Users/21806511/Surveys/904992448071/ESF701C3-57F3-4C55-811B-CE3B65F8C7

E-government Experience Survey (by Ronnie Park)

E-government Experience Survey (by Ronnie Park)

2. Thanks

Press "Submit>>" below to complete the survey. Thank you for your participation.

Ronnie Park - Doctoral program in Information Systems, Nova Southeastern University

[<< Prev](#) [Submit >>](#)

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