STATE OF TELECOMMUNICATION & ICT DEVELOPMENT IN SAMOA

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OUTLINE

- Brief background of Samoa
- Overview of Telecommunication and IT Development
- Latest ICT statistics
- Data Collection and Dissemination Practices
- Methods of Data Collection
- Challenges/Solutions
- Stats users

Background of Samoa

- Samoa lies between 13 & 15 degrees south & 171 and 173 degrees west

- Located half way between Hawaii & NZ

- Land area- 2841 sq.km

- Population – 180,000 est.

OVERVIEW OF TELECOM AND IT

- Growth is increasing
- New Corporation - setup in late 1990s
- National ICT Strategic Plan 2004-2009
  - launched August 2004
  - School net program setup
  - Computer Training programs for grass-root level
- Two mobile services launched:
  - late 2006 and early 2007
  - 40% increase from 2001
- Land line – 21% increase from 2001
- IT user is accelerating

LATEST STATISTICS

Operators	2007
Fixed line/Postal Servicecs	1
Mobile	2
ISP	4
Radio Dealers	3
Users	
Fixed line	21,500
Mobile	85,000

LATEST STATISTICS

Household items	2001	%	2006	%
Fixed line	5,180	22	10,177	43
Mobile	1,946	8	11,372	48
Internet Line	693	3	1,091	5
Radio	20,414	88	21,167	89
Computer	1,214	5	2,299	9
TV	14,430	63	14,702	62
Total Households	23,079		23,759	

DATA COLLECTION & PRACTICES

- Each business organisation is collecting its own data for its own use

- Statistics Department collects only the following items from its Population Census: TV, internet line, computer, radio, mobile phones, TV (ownership)

Methods of Data collection

- Surveys

- Online questionnaire

- Arranged visits

- Population Census
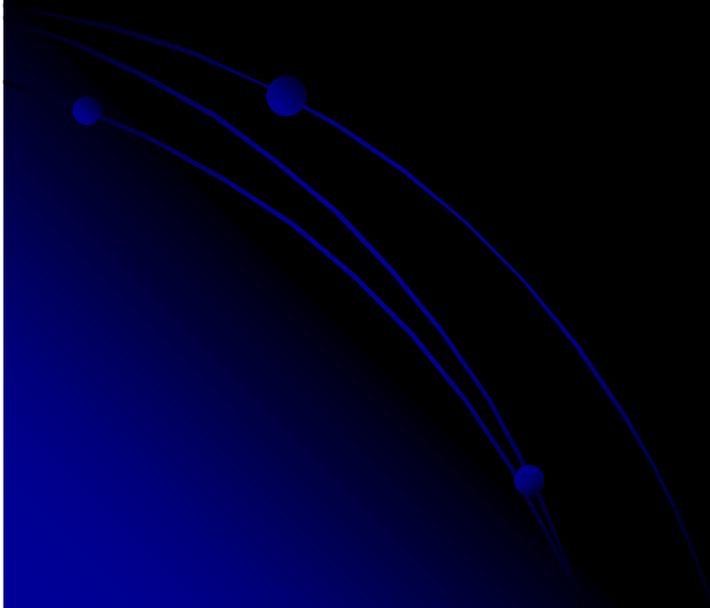
CHALLENGES

- Response rate is poor esp.questionnaires sent to Businesses

- Several follow up is needed

- Confidentially of business data

- Statistical Act never enforced when collected data during surveys and census.

- People are willing to partake when there is something in return expected.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- A well trained and experienced staff/surveyor will be able to deal with these issues

- Statistical Act to review and enforce

- Conduct Public awareness programs

- Collaboration with other organisations is required to encourage and improve

- Statistics Department to include ICT data in its scope of statistics to compile

USERS OF STATISTICS

- Ministry of Communication Information & Technology (MCIT)
- Consultants/Researchers
- Students
- International Organisations