

Measuring What We Spend: Toward a New Consumer Expenditure Survey

The BLS Consumer Expenditure Tablet

Presentation by
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A BLS Tablet is



- An expenditure recorder
- A (self-)interviewer
- A communicator
- A case manager
- Secure
- Under BLS control
- A government device
- Light, fast, & spiffy
- Much bigger than a cell
- The same for all HHs

- Instant-on
- Private to the person
- On demand
- Easily used
- Supportable
- Available in the HH

= A compelling device

The Tablet in the Household (1)



The Tablet in the Household (2 .. n)



The tablet is available to all



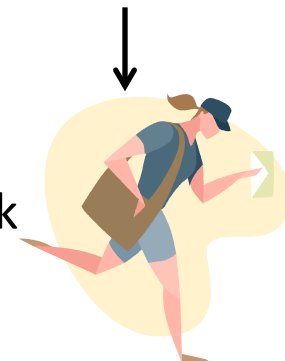
Everyone fills in their part



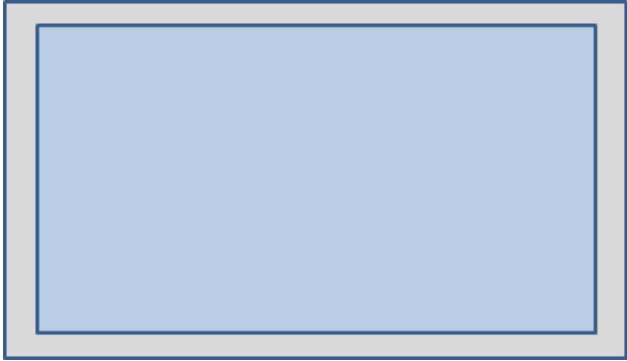
It is mailed to the HH



It is mailed back

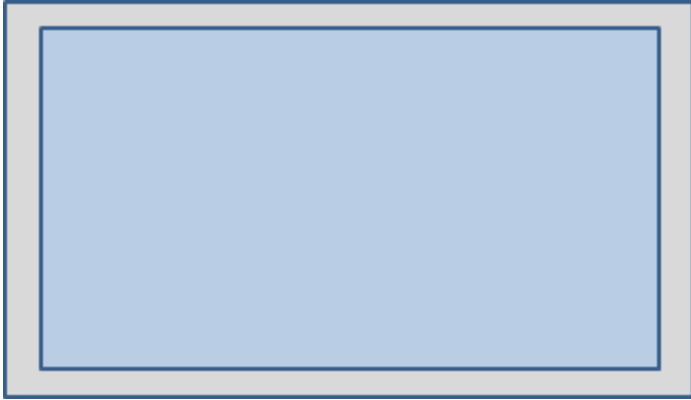


The Tablet as a Surveyor



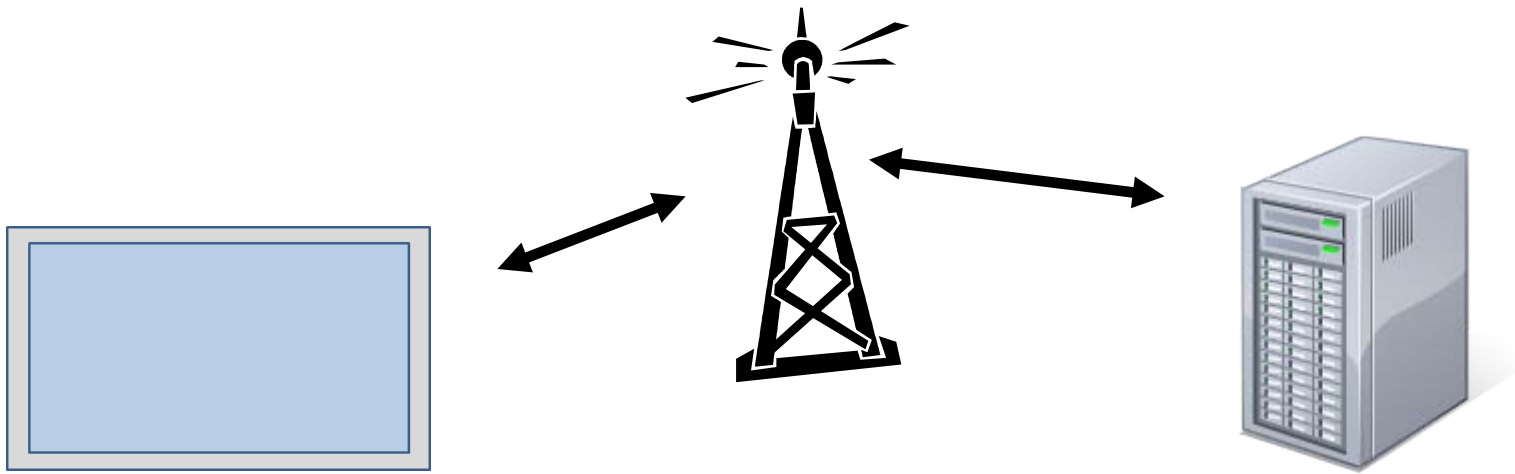
- Sets up the HH
- Combines the diary and the interview (the 'Journal')
 - Records expenditures
 - Collects related data
- Communicates with the home office
- Keeps things straight

The Tablet as a User Device



- Instant-on
 - Fast, fast, fast . . .
 - Easy, easy, easy . . .
 - Self-evident
 - Private individual entries
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- The ‘app’ is pre-loaded
 - The tablet is ‘tied down’
 - Can be used with or without a pen

The Tablet as a Communicator



- As data are entered, they are sent to the home-office server
 - Using phone-system transmission (no Internet access assumed)
 - Only data go back and forth
- No data are persisted on the tablet
 - During a session, data may be held in RAM on the table
- Data are encrypted and compressed
- The server has everything real-time
 - This enables powerful case-management possibilities

Case Management / Support

