Customer relationship management with big data enabled in banking sector
Muhammad Anshari & Syamimi Ariff Lim

E-Government Innovation Centre, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei

Abstract: Customer Relationship Management is undergoing a paradigm shift from a single channel relationship (organization-to-customer relationship) to multi channels of relationships (customer-organization-organization-customer-machines) with the emphasis on integration and collaboration. The relatively recent developments of Information and Communication Technology, especially smart mobile devices and big data application have become the main drivers of this paradigm shift. Big data optimizes capabilities process, high growth, and diversified data that create value for any organizations including in banking sectors. The growth in big data is not only because a growing number of smart mobile devices, but also trigger by pervasive computing abilities that is multiplying quickly; Customer behavior in using smart mobile device and Internet activities impact to banking sectors. We will use the CRM with big data enabled to motivate us in developing a model to address a direction of CRM strategies with big data enabled in mobile sector.

Key words: Customer relationship management (CRM); Big data; Smart mobile devices; Mobile banking

1. Introduction

There is obvious problem when sales and marketing teams spend much their time searching relevant information but data is insufficient, and oppositely sometime they miss the opportunities because of information overloaded. In the data-driven economy, data has become a critical asset for the development in banking sectors, similar to the natural resources and human capital. In fact, banking and finance industries have long relied on data accuracy and reliability, whether it is census data, transaction data, research data, logistic data, public consumption data, and any data relates to economic transactions that can stimulate innovation on new business opportunities, accelerate business transactions, and produce knowledge sharing. Data generated from the multitude sources have become a source of growth, with the potential to boost the whole financial activities to foster innovation, competitiveness and customer participation, and to contribute effectively to the prosperity of society as a whole (Ritter, 2015).

We are now in the ‘Big Data era’ as a new fuel of an important asset. Big data implies a vast amount of any data type with a high-speed data processing in which organizations derive value from it especially to make decision-making (Anshari et al., 2015). Then, how customer relationship management (CRM) with big data approach can transform data into actionable insight especially mobile banking’s customers. Big data will make a big transformation in managing customers better, and it will affect long-term bank-customer relationship. This study seeks to provide a better understanding of banking system in considering CRM with big data enabled, and then explores the value of big data. Finally describes the main challenges of its deployment.

2. Literature review

Big data is defined as an extremely large volume of data that are analyzed with technology to show the patterns of human development or anything related to the society since big data leads to more precise analysis thus helps to bring more accurate decision making and more efficient work. The massive of data is growing quickly, it is expected that by 2020 there will be more than 16 zettabytes of useful data (16 Trillion GB), which implies growth of 236% per year from 2013 to 2020 (Turner et al., 2014). Big data is a new generation of managing strategies, technologies and architectures, designed to economically extract value from very large volumes of a wide variety of data by enabling high-velocity capture, discovery, and/or analysis (Anshari and Alas, 2015).

Whenever banks offer any new product or service, its success depends upon the customer satisfaction level towards that product or service. In the high intense competition, bank must consider its primary customers. They have to produce such level of services and products to its customers that they could attract them and can satisfy them (Khattak, 2010). Customer satisfaction is defined as a customers’ feeling of pleasure or disappointment resulting from comparing a product is perceived performance or outcome in relation to their

*Corresponding Author.
expectations (Kotler, 2000). For banking organizations, successful customer relationships influence the creation of brand equity, trust, customer satisfaction, relationship commitment, brand loyalty and brand awareness (Kim, 2008). Customers' satisfaction can be considered as an integrated response to the evaluation of service or product delivery (Low, 2013). In other words, customers' fulfilment is central to business strategy (Czepiel, 1974). Customer service must be viewed as an essential need for providing high quality banking and financial services, and for staying in the highly competitive business (Stanton, 2009). Furthermore, Entel et al. recommends that organizations should become "empathy engines," that is transforming their organizations to low frontline employees to focus on customer problems and to innovate (Entel, 2008).

2.1. Customer relationship management

Customer Relationship Management (CRM) is a strategy by utilizing ICT in attracting potential customers, retaining existing customers and extending new services to loyal customers (Anshari, 2009). The main objective of businesses including in banking sector is to earn profits by providing products and services, developing competitive advantages, and satisfying customers and stakeholders through value (Almunawar and Anshari, 2006). The strategies should be laid down in such a way that they provide benefits to the organization as well as customers; shorter cycle times, greater customer involvement in service development and reduction in operation costs by redesigning business processes that eliminates work that does not add value to customers (Chen et al., 2012). Therefore, CRM is critical components in managing long-term customer relationship.

CRM with Web 2.0 (Social CRM) features can be used to empower customers, allowing them to access their financial activities-related information, interact with customer services professionals, or even interact with other customers. This will open the opportunity to improve banking services to customers and at the same time help improving their knowledge on financial literacy through efficient online services, consultations, and knowledge sharing (Almunawar and Anshari, 2006). Social CRM can be used by banking as a tool and strategy in meeting their customers' expectations. As such, Social CRM must be aligned with the organization's mission and objectives in order to bring about a sustained performance of business objectives and effective customer relationship. Customers can own the data on the Web 2.0 site and exercise control over that data (Anshari and Alas, 2015). For instance, when a bank acquires a new customer through marketing orientation, the customer will determine the value of each activity received from the organization. When the customer perceives the value is positive he/she will be happy and satisfied. Otherwise, he/she may consider finding another banking organization for better value, which will give him/her satisfaction.

2.2. Big data

Big data is at an early stage, as most related technology and analytics applications were first introduced only around 2010 (Gantz and Reinsel, 2012). Big data is a new generation of managing strategies, technologies and architectures, designed to economically extract value from very large volumes of a wide variety of data by enabling high-velocity capture, discovery, and/or analysis (Laney, 2015). There are three main characteristics of big data: the data itself, the analytics of the data, and the presentation of the results of the analytics (Anshari et al., 2015). Big data is defined as an extremely large volume of data that are analyzed with technology to show the patterns of human development or anything related to the society since big data leads to more precise analysis thus helps to bring more accurate decision making and more efficient work. Big data is high volume, velocity and variety information assets that demand cost-effective, innovative forms of information processing for enhanced insight and decision-making (MGI: McKinsey Global Institute, 2015). Big data sources can be created by people or generated by machines like sensors gathering climate information, satellite images, GPS signals, digital pictures and videos, and transaction records.

The growth in big data is not only because a growing number of smartphone users, but also trigger by other smart mobile devices or pervasive computing abilities that is multiplying quickly (Anshari et al., 2015). For instance, marketing officer in a remote area can collect and transmit real-time data on every transaction made. Many of these smart mobile devices are able to interact with their users over mobile networks namely pervasive computing. Pervasive computing exchanges data and interact with people or computers and other smart devices. More than 30 million interconnected pervasive computing are now deployed worldwide, in areas such as security, health care, the environment, transport systems or energy control systems, and their numbers are growing by around 30% a year (Gafni and Geri, 2013).

One of the most important sources of big data is the Open Government Data (OGD). There is a growing trend in OGD initiative in many countries. When the society becomes relying on internet, social networks, and mobile technology, then OGD will accelerate the impact of big data for economic growth in the region. OGD proactively publishes real time data to be used by the public for tasking, triggering new ideas of business initiative, and improve decision making for corporations and SMEs. There is an ongoing paradigm shift on the issue of government data from the perspective of data as being (secret) assets or proprietary of the government to the paradigm that the government’s data as public goods that will provide more benefits

2
when they are shared to the public in real time so that people gains value from the extracted data (Mutchler et al., 2011). After the financial crisis in 2008, OGD was considered a way to create value from data which can be freely used, reused and distributed by anyone where it gives more value, influence, and more impact when it is shared with the public to the more open environment (Ritter, 2015). The value of OGD as part of the big data source will definitely play an important role in driving the success of banking sectors.

2.3. Smart mobile devices

Smartphones are becoming ubiquitous and are owned by youngsters and oldsters alike (Statista, 2015). It is widely used throughout Asia, North and South America, Europe, and varies in use in other region (Park and Chen, 2007). It is expected that there will be a rise to a digit of 2.1 billion of the total number of smartphone users in the year 2016 (Perlow, 2012). This increase shows that people are now partial to smartphone and ought to own at least one.

The behavioral intention to use was largely influenced by perceived usefulness and attitude toward using smartphone (Oulasvirta et al., 2012). Using one of the survey conducted of sixteen hundred managers and professionals of the consulting staff in America as an epitome, 70% admitted of checking their smartphone each day within an hour after getting up, and 56% did so within an hour before going to bed and 26% confessed to sleeping with their smartphones (IDC, 2015). Smartphone’s ability to a quick access of social networks and communication encourage users to check their phone repeatedly. Repetitive checking of smartphone is considered a compulsive behavior (Masters and Menn, 2015). Hence, this research is going to emphasize on the impact in utilization of mobile banking.

3. Method

This study builds on recent reviews of CRM and big data application in business environment. We employed thematic literature analysis of discussions that most importantly linked papers and articles. We chose only English-language articles, published in peer-reviewed journals. After removing duplicates and articles beyond the scope of this study, we reviewed and extracted each keyword, then applied them in identifying component of CRM with big data enabled and identifying the challenges. We developed the analysis in the proposed model based on the findings.

4. Results and discussion

In a highly competitive environment, bank’s awareness towards big data is still needed much attention to cope with growing data requirements simply because big data will grow to eight zettabytes by 2015 (Almunawar and Anshari, 2014). Big data comes from multi channels data exchange of individual, community, business, and government. Customers that are voluntarily contributing a huge amount of digital footprints will generate a massive value in delivering banking services. CRM with big data enabled is important because banking sector is challenged not only to retain existing customers but also to acquire potential customers for the services, retaining them to use the services, and extending various services in the era of big data whereas big data transforms big value for organization as well as customers (Fig. 1).
engine, he will see a short advert of car that may closely fit with his interest and budget. Customers are in queue for ATM will receive pop up message in their smartphone containing bank’s promotion product that may interest them. CRM team can design tailoring pop up message for customers in in queue by combining data from CCTV, face recognition machine, and e-commerce record of respective customer.

From those multitude data sources, big data analytic works to form patterns, trends, habit, and behavior of customers. CRM team design strategies for marketing, sales and customer services based on those personal habit and behavior of customer. While customer will receive push message, alert, notification or suggestion based on their pattern. For banking organization, CRM with big data enabled can be designed in many layers from the lowest level of social media monitoring to the level where banking generates forecasting data, customers’ trends, decision making, and personalize service based on customers’ interest. Big data analytic will gather any personalize information that draws interest of each customer.

4.1. Customization and personalization

In the competitive commercial market, poor service and distrust in service lead customers to switch from a service provider to another, because poor service indicates inefficiency, higher cost, and lower quality of care. Nowadays, customers have more choices in where they seek financial and banking service and how they interact with their service providers. A great customer service can lead to major improvements in the banking system, and personalization of services can become value added in providing services. Therefore, CRM with big data offers superb customizable and personalization of banking services. Customizable banking service adjusts the banking services that fit for each customer in either mobile banking or internet banking. Meaning each customer will be having different set of interfaces especially in the CRM domain (marketing, sale, and customer service) program.

Customizable services empower customers banking to be in control what he wants to have in their e-services and what he does not want in it. For instance, mobile banking customers can enable and disable some services in their mobile bank application. For instance, based on customer’s web internet habit, some customers have interest to read e-news through his smartphone. In this regards, mobile banking can offer him extra service free e-news in their mobile banking extras. In the long term, bank can expect customer’s dependency and loyalty towards mobile banking services. Similarly, some customers may interest in weather forecasting so that mobile banking extras can provide regular alert for weather update.

4.2. Mobile banking and big data

The explosion of big data emerges from variety of data sources including from excessive using of smart mobile devices can extend the functionalities of smartphone to become ‘smarter mobile banking’. CRM with big data enabled may offer an extra service as a value added for customers. For instance, customers are offered big data in transport that can alert customers with smartphone to find the best route in reaching the nearest bank or intended destination without being trap in jam due to accident. Since big data is able to compile, integrate, and analyse and broadcast to the users who retrieve those information. If there is an accident in specific location, then source of data that accident has happened can be generated from various means either structured data or unstructured data. The data of accident is recorded by nearest CCTV with the details location then it is sent to the traffic controller system. Police who investigating also makes update about the event from his mobile device to the central traffic controller system. People who pass by the location also broadcast the event by updating status in social media (Facebook, Instagram, Tweete, etc) and IM (WhatsApp, Line, etc). Then, big data analytic tool gathers all the data from those sources (CCTV, police report, social media, IM, etc), then alert massage will be pushed to each customers’ smartphone who going to pass the congested place. The ‘smart message’ can only send to smartphone’s owner based on the vehicles registration number that are captured and they are going to the direction where the accident happen. Therefore, big data offers a better service that intelligently advises the best value, velocity, volume and variety for users in users’ smartphone.

4.3. Forecasting and decision making

Big data analyses multiple data to recognize any patterns or trends, especially to user’s behaviors and habit, which is generated from their online activities. Big data can be used to detect future problems such as business trends, product preference, and best route for travelers. This is due to its capabilities to gather data at a massive speed and able to distinguish the value of the data. For instance, with the aid of data generated from multiple sources like social networks or IM, banking organizations have more control and understanding of their ‘loyal customers’ behavior based on their clicks, comments, sharing contents, purchase, budget, etc. Understanding customers’ behavior and pattern are possible since customers are voluntarily detailing their thought, opinions, interest, preferences, and they are voluntarily promoting best products and services to their circles. With the ability that they possess, CRM with big data is able to know what their customer’s taste and personality is, and can predict what their next purchase might be they can consider this and advertise or offer discounts of products that would fulfil the customer’s desire. In return, their business would expand by attracting
more customers from reading the positive reviews by those loyal customers.

4.4. Push marketing strategy

CRM with big data enabled should able to manage conversations in any alert from multiple data sources for problem prevention because reacting to problems after they happen is usually more expensive than addressing them proactively. Proactive strategies will improve customer services. For instance, we give a simple scenario-identifying battlefield to win new customers or keep existing ones. Before customers engage in any service or product, customers spend a lot of time researching on their own, and gathering information takes place even before engaging with a marketing staffs or sales representative. It becomes the job of the marketing staffs to accurately predict what product or service will best fits, attract, and engage customers. Marketing staffs get connected with the potential customers in their social networks and trying to understand the views or type of person interest. Then, marketing teams design the most promising leads and develop highly targeted messages and campaigns through notification, push message, or alerts responding to the needs of potential customers with personalized content that influences engagement decisions. A great customer support will increase loyalty, revenue, brand recognition, and business opportunity.

4.5. Value creation

Organization should acknowledge the potential and promise of big data, the value and impact in realizing big data. For instance, customers are producing a massive of data every day. However, customers are very hard to realize the value of their own data produced voluntarily to the public. However, when organization has abilities, tools, and mechanism to store, retrieve, explore, and visualize the data then they could see value. Organization can comprehend of the value of data for better decisions such as understanding their customers’ habits, forecasting marketing trends, managing their services effectively. Similarly, it is applied in the context of banking sector that is a vast quantity of data produced can be managed, retrieved, analyzed to solve common problems in a banking like consumer distrust, inferior products or services, financial disaster prevention and response, regional business trends and forecasting, consumers’ demand and supply. Banking is challenged to come up with the initiative to provide Enterprise Resources (ER) solutions focusing on CRM with the capability of ‘Big Data Enabled’. For instance, a new generation of CRM will be empowered with mining a real time all of customer data, the interactions of the sales force with them, and combines the results with external datasets on industry and news, social networks of the customers, geographic and demographic patterns, to determine which forecasts are the most likely to make a transaction in the near future [32]. We also will witness more Web technology adopts big data enabled that can detect patterns of users based on their clicks, visiting a web page, and even social media conversation.

6. Conclusion

With the growing competition among banking service provider, managing the customer relationship and providing better services through big data CRM is a strategy that needs to be carefully planned. Big data in CRM could come from various sources like public, government, and business. People generate data from online conversations among people (SNS), interactions between people and systems and sensor-enabled machinery. The fast growing mobile and wearable technology fuels big data, which is commercially available data that users may will to share. Big data analytic shapes the pattern and behavior of targeting markets and potential audiences since user-generated data are stored accessed and analyzed. CRM with big data is standing at a new business reality: those communities that can take advantage of big data as the valuable new resource it is will be in the best position to become players in high intense global market competition. Big data become valuable asset for any organization because it helps them understand the things their customer behavior and demands.

Acknowledgment

This research paper is made possible through the funding from University Brunei Darussalam.

References


Oulasvirta, A., Rattenbury, T., Ma, L., and Raita, E. “Habits make smartphone use more pervasive”. Personal and Ubiquitous Computing, 16(1), 2012, 105-114.


