Examining relationships in a technology dependent workforce

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Introduction

The contributions and limitations technology imposes in the workforce is a fascinating topic. Conducting research on undergraduate business students, a focus group with five students was conducted. The results of the focus group were used to create a ten question survey, which was pre-tested, and then distributed electronically from 24 Oct to 12 Nov 2017. The response rate was 76% (38 of 50 sent out).

Methods / Steps

Step:1 finalize topic

Step 2: conduct focus group

Step 3: create 10 question survey

Step 4: pre-test survey

Step 5: distribute survey

Step 6: analyze results


Focus group pre-testing survey

Results:
(Likert scale, combining strongly and somewhat agree)

Question 1: Employees act responsibly when using technology in the workforce **47.4%**

Question 2: Technology is normally used effectively to support an organization's mission **81.6%**

Question 3: Today's expectation for instant communication is assisted through technology, which allows companies to have virtual meetings and communicate on an international scale **92.1%**

Question 4: Mobile applications and social media act as time thieves, and do not promote productivity in a work environment **55.3%**

Question 5: Customers and clients benefit from online forums, webpages, and other applications, which save time, effort, and energy **79%**

Question 6: Technology in the workforce will continue to advance, thus improving productivity **88.9%**

Question 7: Virtual connections help form a bond between "at home" customers and "in office" employees **67.5%**

Question 8: Cyber related fraud, such as hacking, discourages people from giving personal information on the internet and causes a lack of trust **75.6%**

Question 9: Young employees use devices at inappropriate times at meetings in a way that might be considered and disrespectful **81%**

Question 10: **Demographics:** Gender: male: 21 female: 16 Concentration: accounting / economics / finance / ISCS / management / marketing

Likert Scale
5 - Strongly Agree
4 - Somewhat Agree
3 - Neutral
2 - Somewhat Disagree
1 - Strongly Disagree

Response	Count	Percent
Accounting	7	19.4%
Economics	1	2.8%
Finance	5	13.9%
ISCS	4	11.1%
Management	13	36.1%
Marketing	6	16.7%
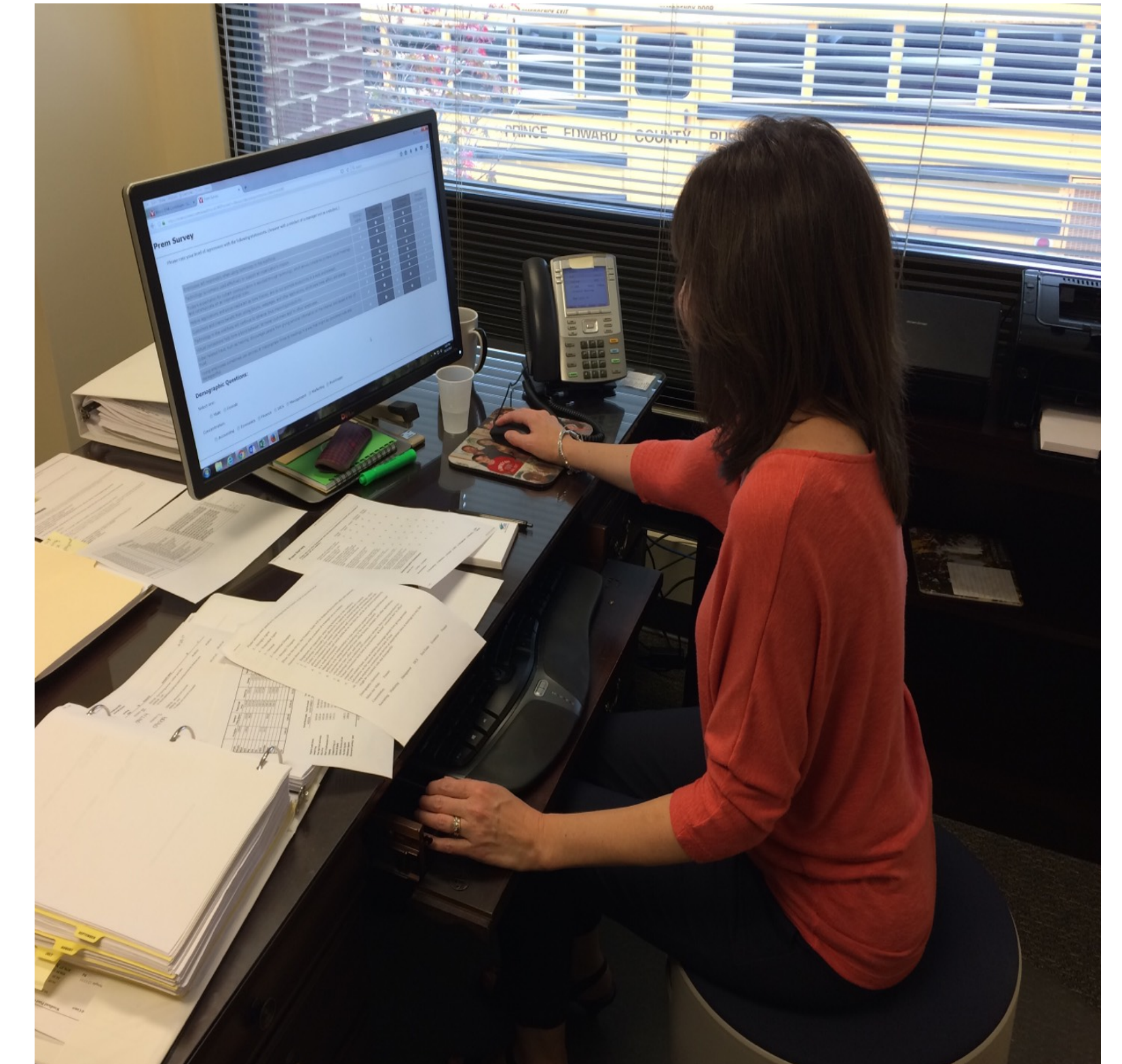
Conclusions

- The sample group that was surveyed is receptive to changes with technology in the workforce
- Overall, there is a positive outlook on the use of technology from the group surveyed
- The survey participants were very homogeneous; about a third of the students are in the management concertation
- Undergraduate students lack extensive work experience to make fully educated conclusions
- The response rate of 76% was relatively high, given the survey was conducted electronically