



Customer Engagement: Taking it to a New Level

### Agenda



- Stages of Customer Engagement
- Customer Engagement Priorities
- Challenges of Customer Engagement
- Capitalizing on Customer Engagement Trends

## Stages of Customer Engagement



### **Single Channel Retailers**



### 10 years ago most retailers either sold online or in a store



### **Multi-Channel Retailers**



### 5 years ago, retailers started moving to multiple channels – but they were frequently not integrated



### **Omnichannel Retailing**



### 3 years ago, the term "Omnichannel ' was coined to describe retailers capturing customers starting in one channel and transacting in another





### Today's consumers have the power and capability to shop when, how and where they want, and move seamlessly across all channels.



### **Unified Commerce Platform**



### Retailers are building out unified commerce platforms to leverage the multiple touch points of today's "connected" consumers



### **Unified Commerce Platform in Action**





Gearch entire store here Q UNIT PRICE QTY SUBTOTAL 0 1 \$198.00
0 <u>1</u> \$198.00 💼
0 <u>1</u> \$198.00 💼
0 <u>1</u> \$198.00 💼
\$69.00 1 \$69.00 💼
HOPPING UPDATE SHOPPING CART
INCE* ZIP*



**RETAIL IT** 



**RETAIL IT** 

Powered By Business Solutions



**RETAIL IT** 

Powered By Business Solutions

### What Retailers are Saying (cont'd)



"I think all of these words will disappear and we will return to 'retailing' once we have total integration."

Ecommerce site director



## Customer Engagement Priorities



### **Top IT Priorities of 2015**



# 4 of 5 top IT priorities of 2015 are related to improving customer engagement (security is being driven by EMV)

#### **Top IT Priorities**



### **Real-Time Retail**



- Real-time retail is the foundation for a seamless experience for consumers across different buying methods/channels
- Allows retailers to gather, analyze and deliver customers, product, pricing and inventory data across all channels – instantly.
- Real-time data is minimum requirement to enable other customer engagement features
- Key IT requirement is centralization of data by consolidating servers, operating systems and communications at a central data center or in the cloud
  - Cost savings through fewer devices and licenses
  - Allows any service provided to consume real-time data

### **Real-Time View of Inventory**



- Having a real-time view of inventory has emerged as a key competitive advantage
  - Employees can instantly check to see if an item is in stock at another location
  - Customers can make purchases confident that the product bought online is actually in stock.
  - Stock levels can be optimized across all stores/warehouses.
- Most mobile-based sales and service applications also consume real-time inventory data

### **Real-Time View of the Customer**



- Retailers need the ability to mine data and deliver meaningful insights on customer behavior
- Data records must contain information on all customer activity from all touch points
- Loyalty cards remain a valuable method to capture data in bricks and mortar stores – but is frequently not integrated with other channels
  - Loyalty customers more likely to 'opt-in' to other services, such as geo-locational offerings
  - The key is to link loyalty schemes with transaction data collected across the various channels into real-time actionable views of consumer behavior

### **Real-Time POS Features**



# Less than 50% of mid to large-size retailers have access to real-time inventory and customer purchase history



Real time POS features

Source: BRP 2015 POS/ Customer Engagement Survey

### **Unified Commerce Services**



- A higher level of channel integration is required to meet the needs of today's 'always connected' consumer
- Retailers must transform their organization to align business processes and technology with consumers
  - Buy anywhere, ship anywhere
  - Single order management platform
  - Mobile shopping/research platform for employees
- The unified system must empower employees to offer a higher level of customer support

### **Unified Commerce Services**



# Very few retailers have been able to achieve a unified service platform as integrating services is challenging

#### **Unified Commerce Services**

Buy in-store, ship from DC, other store, or vendor 23% 30% 30% Returns accepted across channels 37% 29% 25% Buy online, pick up in-store 17% 24% 37% Buy online, ship from store 24% 12% 47% 18% Special order from any channels 23% 28% Inventory visibility across channels 22% 27% 41% Order visibility across channels 17% 20% 52% Implemented and working Buy anywhere, ship anywhere 15% 17% 47% well 12% 15% Reserve online, pick up in store 46% Implemented but needs improvement Reserve inventory in another store 12% 15% 44% Implement within 3 years 0%

## Customer Engagement Challenges



### **Customer Engagement Challenges**





## **72%** Plan to implement this ability in next 5 years

### **Customer Engagement Challenges (cont'd)**



# Improving customer service in a 'connected' world is the biggest challenge facing retailers

Top Challenges of Customer Engagement



### **Example of Unified Platform: Nike Store**



### **Empowering Better Customer Service**



- Arming associates with at least the same information and technology as customers
- Providing associates customer data before checkout can lead to a more personalized experience
  - Ask for customer contact info before checkout
  - Access to real-time information based on identity
  - Tools to take action on data (e.g. recommendation engines)
- Vast majority of retailers use conventional methods to ID customers (phone or loyalty #, email, name/address) with very few retailers relying on NFC/beacon methods

### **Mobile Services Empower Employees**

Use of mobile devices are empowering associates to provide better customer support prior to sales transaction

#### Mobile POS

- Extends check out process to point purchase decision is made
- Associates can locate non-stocked items and provide product info

#### Customer Facing Mobile Services

- Personalized recommendations based on profile and location
- Mobile coupons, specials and promotions

#### **Mobile Payment**

- Customer convenience
- Auto loyalty member identification



### **Personalizing the Customer Experience**



- Personalized rewards based on customer loyalty
- Personalized promotions
- Suggested selling based on prior purchases/closet
- Suggested selling based on browser history/social posts



Provide tools to free up employees from cash wrap stations to interact with the customer

### **Customer Facing Mobile Services**



# Successful retailers are accessing and leveraging multiple customer facing mobile channels

#### Customer facing mobile services

Digital catalog	26%	32%	18%	
Mobile coupons, specials, promotions	24%	29%	37%	
Product information (price, location, availability)	19%	38%	32%	
Shopping list/ wish list	19%	22%	41%	
Prior purchase visibility	16%	30%	46%	
Smartphone app	16%	22%	46%	
Mobile loyalty identification	<mark>8%</mark> 13%	47%		
Personalized recommendations	<mark>5%</mark> 24%	4	8%	Implemented and working well
Geolocating	3 <mark>%</mark> 14%	38%		Implemented but needs improvement
Mobile Wallet	3%	54%		Implement within 3 years
0	%			

Source: BRP 2015 POS/ Customer Engagement Survey

## Capitalizing on Customer Engagement Trends



### **Retailers Aggressively Upgrading IT Systems**



- To date, most retailers have stuck with traditional POS hardware and basic POS, adding mobile options and tablets to improve customer engagement
  - Siloed information
  - Slow transaction speed
  - Fixed POS hardware stations
- Going forward, retailers will accelerate move to mobile devices
- Anticipated useful life of retail systems is decreasing as systems need to be replaced/updated regularly
  - **Previously:** 10-12 year replacement cycle
  - Today: 5-8 year replacement cycle

### **POS Hardware Plans by 2016**



# Use of mobile devices will increase tremendeously while traditional POS terminals continue to lose market share

**POS Hardware Plans** 



### **Future Opportunities**



- Delivering personalized offerings before, during and after the transactions
- High store overhead costs will provide incentives to sell merchandise not held in stock
  - Mobile-empowered associated
  - Digital 'endless aisle' kiosks
  - Ship from warehouse
- Store of the future will look different, as it will act as a compliment to online commerce instead of being competitive with online commerce.
  - Pick-up and returns
  - 'Virtual' changing rooms to 'try on' clothes

### **Future Opportunities (cont'd)**



# Retailers are investing in technologies to personalize service and provide access to virtual inventories



**Future Opportunities** 

Source: BRP 2015 POS/ Customer Engagement Survey



Have further questions or want a copy of the slides? Please contact me at:

> Kevin Kogler President (650) 830-5123 kevin.kogler@microbiz.com www.microbiz.com



"Cloud POS software for multi-store, multi-channel retailers"