

YOUR CONVENIENT DASHBOARD CREATION CHECKLIST



(This article originally appeared in [The Measurement Advisor](#) newsletter.)

Getting ready to design a communications dashboard? Get your ducks in a row. Here is a checklist of things you need to know before you can start designing your perfect dashboard. (To print out this handy checklist for easier use, download this .pdf file.)

Define your universe:

- ___ Who is your target audience?
- ___ Where do they get their information? (Think beyond your traditional “top tier” media list.)
- ___ What influences your key stakeholders?
- ___ What outreach are you creating to reach them?
- ___ What social media platforms are your key stakeholders using?
- ___ What internal social networks are in place?

Check all the activities that you want to measure on your dashboard:

- ___ Traditional media outreach
- ___ Public Affairs (non-media outreach)
- ___ Owned social media
- ___ Earned social media

- Paid social media
- Email marketing
- Digital advertising
- Blogging and other content placement
- Live events/conferences
- On-line conferences, webinars, etc.
- Podcasts
- Video
- Web marketing
- Lobbying
- Internal engagement efforts

What data source(s) do you need to populate your dashboard? (check all that apply):

• For traditional earned media:

- Online news media monitoring
- Print news media monitoring
- Video news media monitoring
- Sentiment analysis
- Message analysis
- Spokesperson tracking
- Competitive data
- Trust and/or relationship data
- Custom quality index

• For Public Affairs

- Legislative progress data
- Influencer relationship data

Thought leadership opinion

Network analysis

Message/issue tracking

For earned social media tracking:

Twitter Analytics

Facebook Insights

LinkedIn data

Pinterest

Instagram

SnapChat

YouTube

Blogs

Forums

Trust and/or relationship data

Custom quality score

• For owned digital or social media tracking:

Google Analytics, Omniture, or other web analytics tool

Twitter Analytics

Facebook Insights

LinkedIn data

CRM or system to track customer actions, leads, etc.

Net Promoter Score (NPS)

• For internal communications:

Likelihood to refer or recommend

Turnover rate

- Engagement rate in discretionary activities
- Perceived engagement rate from employee pulse surveys
- Tone of comments on social platforms
- Trust and/or relationship data

What will you benchmark against? (check all that apply):

- Peers
- Competitors
- Lines of business
- Other marketing activities
- Last period to this period

What are your measures of success? (check all that apply):

- Percentage reach of key messages
- Conversions
- Leads
- Issues discussed
- Tonality of conversations
- Increase in the marketable universe
- Increase network reach
- Visibility of key initiatives or campaigns
- Attendance at events
- Engagement with content
- Engagement at events
- Increase trust
- Increase awareness
- Increase consideration

Increase preference

What correlations or connections are you trying to prove? (check all that apply):

Impact of earned media on conversions

Impact of social media on conversions

Impact of events on conversions or lead generation

Relative impact of email, social, and earned media on conversions

Impact of external media on internal engagement

Relative impact of earned media on the marketing mix

How often do you want updated data?

Real Time Daily Weekly Monthly Quarterly Bi-annually Annually

What formats might you need to present results?

PDF file PowerPoint Excel HTML

Finally, make sure you have consensus on your answers:

All finished? Congrats! Now you can take this list to your internal IT, Tableau, or dashboard development team and they will set you on your path to an accountable and informed future. And if you don't have the internal resources to develop your dashboard, feel free to call Paine Publishing. Katie Paine will be happy to help you design and/or implement it. She's available most anytime by phone (603-682-0735) or [email](#).

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