

Delphi Freeware Improved

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We have just completed an update of the Delphi freeware to enhance its flexibility and ease of use.

Delphi incorporates procedures to overcome groupthink. It helps to gain the benefits of people without the detrimental aspects created by face-to-face meetings (as described in Surowiecki's recent book, *The Wisdom of Crowds*). In addition, Delphi saves time. It can be used whenever groups face important decisions that involve choosing among alternative actions, such as hiring new employees. It can also be used when experts have information relevant to forecasting, such as for new products.

The program, which

- instructs people how to apply Delphi,
- provides links to key papers,
- distributes surveys and reminders, and
- summarizes results

can be found under "software" at <http://forecastingprinciples.com>

Here are some of the improvements:

With the new version, administrators can now:

1. ask open-ended questions.
2. ask questions without also requiring confidence intervals.
3. see anonymous results when a round is complete.
4. view current anonymous results along with comments as the round is in process.
5. identify which experts have responded so that reminders will not be sent to them.
6. retrieve latest version as automatic back-up is provided.

The new version is also kinder to the expert panel. Experts can:

1. receive invitation e-mail without logon. Just use the link.
2. find a lost invitation "Experts: Lost invitation e-mail? Click here to have it resent!"

Apparently the program is working well because the site gets a lot of traffic.