# Dippin' Dots Research Paper

Dippin' Dots, is the popular cryogenically frozen ice cream brand. Their innovative approach to ice cream has made them a popular choice for dessert lovers of all ages. Dippin' Dots operates through various avenues, including standalone stores, kiosks, and partnerships with amusement parks, shopping malls, and other entertainment venues. The study aims to investigate the company's operations, data management, and customer interactions. Dippin Dots Inc. is an ice cream company that has been in operation since 1988. The main focus of the company is flash-frozen ice cream pellets that are produced and sold at their retail outlets. The company operates in different locations in the United States and has a global presence in several countries. The purpose of this research paper is to investigate the data management practices of Dippin Dots Inc. Specifically, this paper examines the types of data collected from customers, data storage and retrieval, data usage, customer awareness, and perspectives, organizational practices disliked by customers, and customer concerns and expectations.

## Stakeholders of Dippin' Dots Inc:

Dippin Dots Inc. has several stakeholders including customers, employees, suppliers, distributors, investors, franchisees, and regulators. The customers are the most important stakeholders in the company as they are the ones who purchase the products, generate revenue, and provide valuable feedback. As well as being the main contributor to data collection, customers play a pivotal role in shaping the company's market preferences and influencing product development through their valuable feedback. Their purchasing decisions directly impact the revenue and overall success of Dippin' Dots Inc. The employees are also important stakeholders as they are involved in the production, distribution, and management of the products. In addition to conducting interviews with employees and customers, an effort was made to collect quantitative data from both groups. My first Observation was carried out at different Dippin' Dots locations, including the one at La Palmera Mall in Corpus Christi. During this process, two employees at the mall were approached to inquire about how customer data is stored and whether they were aware of any strategies employed by Dippin' Dots to stay competitive in the market and maintain its position as a leading ice cream company. However, the employees indicated that they were not able to disclose specific information regarding Dippin' Dots' operations or data collection methods.

### Data collected from customers and uses of customer data:

Dippin Dots Inc. uses customer data for various purposes such as marketing, email newsletters, loyalty programs, and personalization of offers and promotions. They also use data for order management, inventory management, and customer service. Dippin Dots Inc. collects different types of customer data through several platforms including their website, physical stores, and

mobile application. Dippin' Dots strategically leverages collected information such as names, ages, email addresses, phone numbers, locations, payment details, and purchase history of customers. By collecting this data Dippin' Dots optimizes its marketing approach to precisely target and appeal to the most profitable segments within the market. This tailored strategy not only enhances customer engagement but also contributes to the overall success and profitability of the business. The company ensures that customer data is used ethically and responsibly and is always working to improve customer experience. Dippin' Dots is committed to prioritizing the protection of customer data, evident in its active collection practices. The company explicitly highlights its dedication to safeguarding customer information on its website. With a specific focus on ensuring data privacy, Dippin' Dots has implemented strong security measures to secure sensitive information. This underscores the company's steadfast commitment to maintaining the highest standards of data security and privacy for its customers. On their website, Dippin' Dots assures that customer information is not sold, except for statistical information. The company's website details its approach to "Log Data and Cookies. While personally identifiable information is typically provided to Dippin' Dots voluntarily by customers, the servers may automatically detect non-personal information, such as IP addresses, browser types, operating systems, and page views (Log Data). This statistical information, which generally does not contain personally identifiable details, may be disclosed, sold, or distributed to other parties". However, this information is designed to be devoid of any traceable connection to a specific individual or entity. The use of cookies on the website is also addressed "Cookies are employed to remember certain user actions, but Dippin' Dots asserts that they do not store personal information in their cookies, and these cookies are not linked to any personal information stored in their database". The website assures users if, for any reason, this information becomes linked to an individual in a personally identifiable way, it will be treated as personal information under the company's privacy policy. Also when initially accessing the site users are provided with the option to disable cookies on their computers by adjusting their web browser preferences.

## Customer awareness and perspectives:

To gain insight into customer awareness and perspectives, ten customers were interviewed. During customer interviews, a notable observation emerged as the majority of customers were unaware that Dippin' Dots specifically collected their data. Upon becoming informed, there was a common concern among customers about the safety of their data. In response, I assured them that Dippin' Dots places a strong emphasis on data security, emphasizing that the company does not sell or give away their personal information. Instead, I clarified that Dippin' Dots exclusively focuses on selling, disclosing, and distributing statistical information, with the primary purpose of utilizing this data for research purposes. This approach is aimed at maintaining the anonymity and privacy of individual customer data.

#### Conclusion and recommendations:

In conclusion, Dippin Dots Inc. is committed to protecting customer data and using it ethically and responsibly. To mitigate customer concerns, Dippin Dots Inc. should be more transparent about data usage, and limit the amount of data collected, in order to protect customer data from breaches. Additionally, the company should educate customers about their data management practices and provide options for customers to control their data. Interviews with customers revealed that customers wanted more transparency about data usage and greater control over their data. Customers expressed concern over data breaches and the use of data for targeted marketing. This study will provide valuable insights into Dippin' Dots' data management and customer interactions, contributing to better practices and customer satisfaction.

#### **Reference Page**

Dippin Dots, Privacy Policy | Dippin' Dots (dippindots.com)