

# Attacking Return-toSender Mail from All Directions

# Agenda

- Return Mail defined
- Industry Statistics
- Causes of Return Mail
- Processes
- Resolving the Issues
- Market Discovery
- Technology

# **Return Mail**

### **Market Problem**

- Undeliverable As Addressed (UAA) and Return Mail (return to sender) leads to wasted costs
- Increases cost of:
  - Postage
  - Print
  - Manual processes (sorting and distribution)
  - Tools to correct bad addresses
  - Lost communication

### **Pervasive**

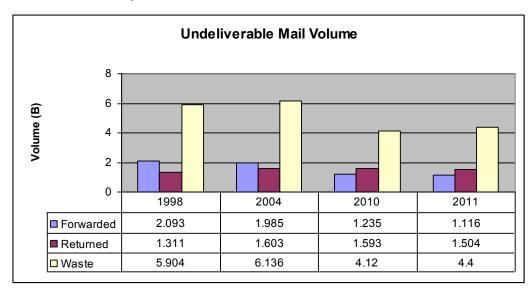
- Industry wide issue
- Concentrated amongst high volume mailers often regulated to produce mail
- USPS® Carrier's retiring loss of postal carrier knowledge

### **Urgent**

- USPS Compliance Revenue protection (discounts, fines, and penalties)
- Economy Companies looking to reduce costs & increase customer satisfaction
- Resources free up resources to allow for use on other corporate (growth) projects
- Insurance & Financial no measurement or tracking of account follow-up by Sales reps

# **Industry Problem**

- Return mail volume is not decreasing, even though mail volume is decreasing
  - 2004 1.6% of FCM returned
  - 2011 2.0% of FCM returned
- UAA costs the USPS \$1.36B annual
  - \$777.6 M Return to Sender
  - \$271.8 M Forwarded
  - \$266.4 M Waste



Return Mail is a \$20 Billion Industry Problem

# Return Mail – Root Causes

### **Initial Occurrence:**

- Invalid Input
  - Error (Typo)
  - Missing information
  - Non-USPS information
- Address Changed
  - Renamed / Renumbered
  - Re-construction
  - Disasters
- Person Moved
- Processing Errors:
  - Machine
  - Human
- Did not use / follow-up on data (warnings) from available tools

40%

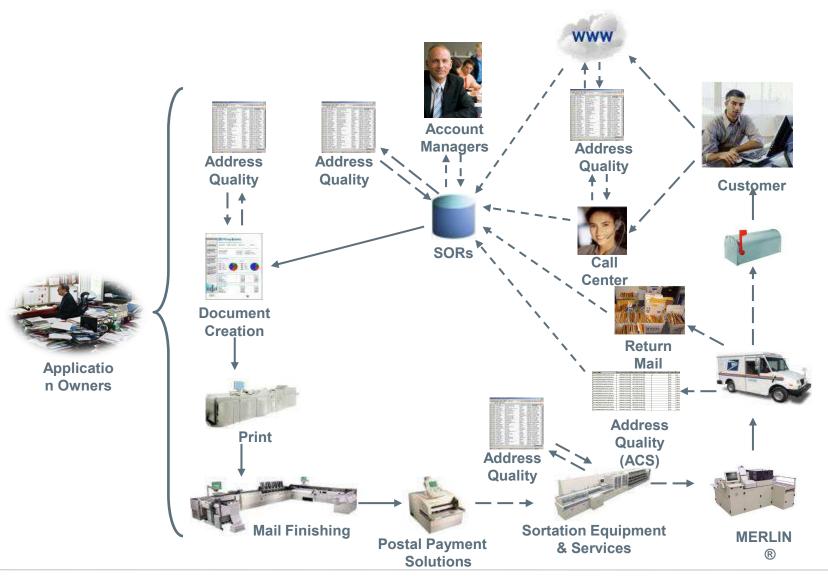
of bad addresses are data entry related - Gartner research

# Return Mail - Root Causes Cont'd

### **Recurring Occurrences:**

- Failure to
  - Detect
  - Apply updates
  - Apply data to future mailings
  - Investigate / follow-up
- Error in applying updates
- Delays in getting and applying updates
- Confidence
- Required

# **Common Processes**



# Resolving UAA

### **Address Quality Tools Available Today:**

- CASS, DPV, LACS<sup>Link</sup>, Suite<sup>Link</sup>
- NCOALink
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Data Tools
- Workflow Management Tools



### **Build A Logical Workflow:**

 Address Quality can be implemented at multiple points in your mailing process

Database Management

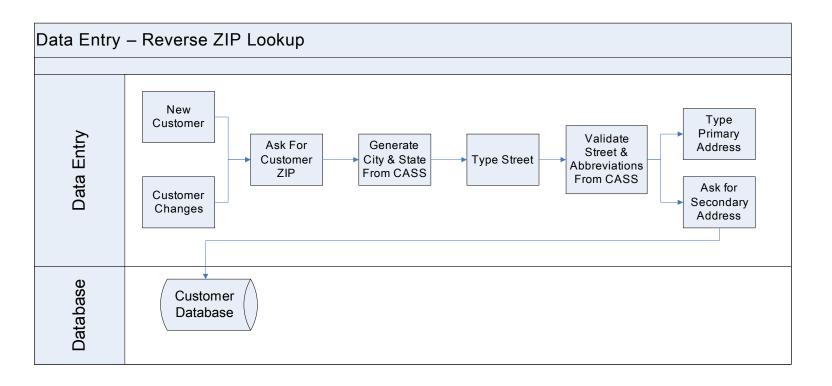
**Document Creation** 

Mail Production

Return Mail Management

# **Data Entry**

- Data Entry accounts for 20-40% of data quality problems
- Need to cover <u>ALL</u> sources of data entry and updates



# **Customer Maintenance**

### Level 1:

■ USPS based tools used to qualify for postage discounts: CASS<sup>TM</sup>, DPV®, LACS<sup>Link®</sup>, Suite<sup>Link®</sup>, NCOA<sup>Link®</sup>

### Level 2:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> party data sources and tools:
  - Data beyond the timeframe of the USPS® database tools
  - Data not reported / available to the USPS
- Use to augment Level 1 data
- Use when results in a positive ROI

Use to initiate and track additional activities to confirm or correct information

# **Production**

### Data:

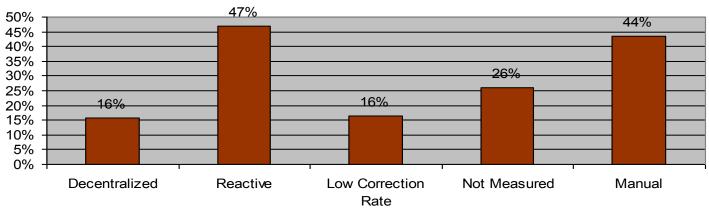
- USPS based tools used to qualify for postage discounts: CASS<sup>TM</sup> DPV<sup>®</sup>, LACS<sup>Link®</sup>, Suite<sup>Link®</sup>, NCOA<sup>Link®</sup>
- Real time 3<sup>rd</sup> party data sources and tools

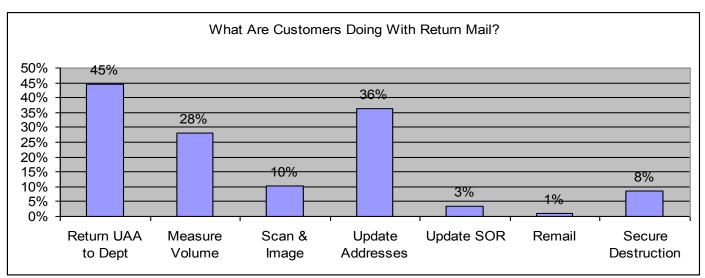
### **Mail Piece Design and Production:**

- Facilitate USPS® processing
  - Letters vs. Flats
- Facilitate communication of delivery information
  - Use of Address Change Service
  - Use of IMb Tracing<sup>TM</sup>
- Facilitate return mail processing
  - Unique piece identification (owner, value, contents)
    - IMb<sup>TM</sup>
    - Additional barcodes

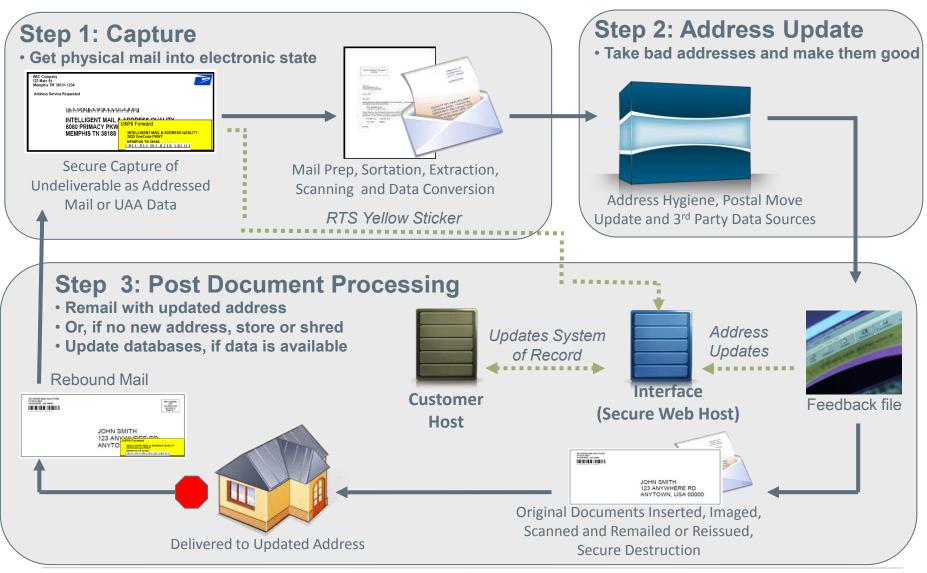
# Return Mail – PB Market Discovery

### Issues With Current Processes





# Return Mail – Integrated Technology



# **Utilize Digital Connections**



# **Document Value Drives Decisions**

Document Type	Value of the Document	Step 1 (Capture)	Step 2 (Address Update)	Step 3 (Document Management)	Return on Investment
Invoice	\$0.40 cost \$100 (balance)	Image & create data file \$0.20	Postal, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party, Phone \$1	Update Database Reprint / Mail \$0.40	\$98.80 per piece
Marketing	\$0.70 cost \$50 per response	Image & create data file \$0.20	Postal & e- mail \$0.01	E-mail PDF \$0.01	\$50.48 per piece
Compliance Correspondence	\$0.50 cost Legal Risk	Image & create data file \$0.20	Postal \$0.007	Update Database \$0.00	\$0.29 per piece
Monthly Statement	\$0.40 cost	ACS \$0.00	Postal \$0.007	Update Database \$0.00	\$0.39 per piece

# In Summary:

If you mail, you have mail that is not deliverable as addressed and may result in return mail.

### **Major Impacts:**

- Delayed and failed communications
- Wasted production costs
- Additional processing / handling costs
- Delayed payments
- Lost Opportunities
- Lost Customer Connection

# **Questions and Answers**

### For more information:

Website: <u>www.pb.com/mailservices</u>

Email: <u>mailservices@pb.com</u>

# THANK YOU.



Every connection is a new opportunity  $^{\scriptscriptstyle{\text{TM}}}$