Responsive Design in the Retirement and Insurance Industries

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Multi-Platform Design Paradigm

Digital channels continue to represent an important approach for firms and financial professionals alike to educate consumers and communicate with clients. Prospects and clients are now, more than ever, actively engaging in online research as well as managing their accounts by methods alternate to the desktop computer. According to a study conducted by <u>Usablenet</u> (PDF) on tablet growth, 66% of tablet users research products before buying online, 31% use the device for purchases (expected to increase to 61% by 2018) and 25% will make mobile payments with their device by 2017.

Financial professionals are also increasing their use of mobile devices and tablets, both to generate sales and to service their clients. The mobility of tablets provides advisors with faster access to web-based information and tools, and with greater accuracy than ever before.

The emergence of versatile and intuitive tablets and mobile phones has sparked a shift in web development the past years, from mobile websites and apps to multi-platform responsive websites. The responsive design shift is a targeted approach for the construction and visual structure of sites. The goal: to provide an optimal user experience – easy reading and navigation with minimal resizing, panning and scrolling – across the three major devices: mobile phones, tablets and desktop computers. According to the <u>PewResearchCenter</u>, in 2014, 58% of American adults owned a smartphone and 42% owned a tablet, with both figures projected to grow.

Financial services firms have responded to growing consumer demand by introducing new and redesigned websites with ever more powerful data offerings and account management capabilities. Recently, these enhancements have seen a boom in the insurance and retirement industry segments. Corporate Insight has reviewed finance activity from its ongoing *Monitor Research Services* coverage for the past 20 years, identifying and reporting on noteworthy developments and trends. As Q1 closes out, we review the last 15 months, and caste predictions for the rest of 2015.



Public Websites

- > Athene
- Allianz Life
- > AXA
- MassMutual
- Nationwide
- New York Life
- Northwestern Mutual
- TIAA-CREF
- > Voya



Athene

Pros

- Site is entirely responsive.
- Three separate site structures for desktop, tablet and mobile use.
- Expandable main navigation menu tabs.
- Expandable search field.

HFNF

ANNU

- Expandable Customer and Agent login.
- Scrolling main navigation menu with desktop and tablet view.

Cons

- Minimal content.
- Very basic page structure.
- Navigation menu occupies a majority of the top of all screens in mobile view.

Noteworthy Facts

In 2013 Athene Holding Ltd. Acquired Aviva USA Corp. After a few months of online stalemate, Athene unveiled a new responsive website in March of 2014.

Athene

Scrolling main navigation menu; remains at the top of the screen in desktop and tablet view.

ANNUITIES CONTACT US

Login - Client Login - Agent Customer Service Careers

HOME

MATHENE Driven to do more.sm

ANNUITIES

Annuities 101

 When you might need it
 About Us

 When you might need it
 Our Companies

 If you're in one or more of these situations, inght be exactly what you need.
 Our Management Te

 News
 News

 You're saving for retirement
 Carcorr

If you're already contributing the maximum IRA or 401(k), a fixed indexed annuity is an attractive retirement planning option that grows tax-deferred.

You won't need the money soon

If you don't anticipate needing the money from a fixed indexed annuity prior to the time you turn 59½, then a fixed indexed annuity may be a good option for you.

You're worried you might outlive your savings

Annuities can provide guaranteed income for the rest of your life, whether you live to be 100 or even 120. It could happen.

You want to leave a legacy

With an Athene annuity, you can provide your loved ones with a death benefit in the event of your death.

Have questions? Ready for more information?

Connect with an agent for expert advice in choosing the product that's right for you.

Contact L FAQs Forms Glossary INFO Agents and Brokers Careers SITE INFO Sitemap Privacy & Security Legal Notices RELATED LIN Agent Website Client Website OUR COMPANIES Athene Holding Athene Holding Athene Annuity Athene Life Re Athene Life Insurance Athene Asset Management f y in №

MATHENE

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LOG IN

We are Athene. And we are relentless when it comes to creating an innovative portfolio of fixed annuities that perform at a higher level. We see every day as a new opportunity to measure ourselves against the best - and then we don't stop until we've set the bar even higher. We're ready to help you achieve more.



ATHENE NEWS S&P affirmed Athene Annuity and Life Company with A- rating

FINANCIAL STRENGTH OF ATHENE Learn more about the financial strength of the Athene Companies.

ANNUITIES 101 Safeguard your savings even in a down market. Find out what an annuity from Athene can do for you.

Public Homepage – Mobile View



Main navigation menu with expandable capabilities.



Navigation Menu – Mobile View

Allianz Life

Pros

- Site is entirely responsive.
- Extensive amount of website content available across all platforms.
- Expandable main menu, sections and sub-section tabs.
- Expandable footer.
- Interactive Social Media page.



Cons

- Navigation menus in desktop and tablet views do not offer expandable/flyout capabilities.
- Non-scrolling main navigation menu.

Noteworthy Facts

The firm made its subtle and quiet responsive website revamp in April 2014.

Allianz Life

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Fixed index annuities			
Variable annuities			Fb
Index variable annuities			Fi
Variable investment options			
Life insurance		+	
Retirement & planning tools		+	
About		+	
Login / Register			
Contact us			
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Expandable and contractible main menu, sections and sub-sections via a mobile menu icon and "+/-" disclosure controls.

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Endurance Plus	
Variable annuities	
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Variable investment options	

Q Login / Register Contact us e.g. Annuities Allianz 🕕 ANNUITIES LIFE INSURANCE RETIREMENT & PLANNING TOOLS ABOUT Expandable client and About advisor login/registration Let's connect fields universally located Why Allianz on the public site. Executives Careers Commercials Join our social community. Social media f У 🛗 in 🕅 Here are five ways you can hear the Community outreach latest news - and let us hear from you, too. News and events Social media presence with most current posts directly on the public website. all f 🎐 👫 🛗 Login / Register -Username #Allianz8[®]rdies \bigcirc Password Remember me It's not too late to join us in the #AllianzBirdies challenge or Allanz ® play the Virtual Allianz Championship... mpions Tour golf In 2013, the Allianz +1s0 0 his day in 1990 0 Championship winner shot a f 🖌 🖇 in > Forgot username? course record of 61. Watch this rdies week to see if that ... f y 8° in S^+ Shared 1 day + 23 hrs ago > Forgot password? f 🖌 🖇 in 22 hrs + 41 mins ago X⁺ Shared 2 days + 21 hrs ago 222

Expanded Annuities Sub-Section Tab – Mobile View

Social Media Page – Tablet View

Expanded Navigation Menu – Mobile View

annuities, combined with the opportunity to earn interest

AXA

Pros

- Extensive amount of website content available across all platforms.
- Expandable main navigation menu and section tabs in mobile and tablet view.
- Flyout main navigation menu in desktop view
- Expandable client and advisor login field.

Cons

- Non-scrolling main navigation menu.
- Footer consolidates links into three sections in mobile view and does not offer expandable capabilities.
- Swiping capabilities are not offered on image/link carousels.
- Not entire site is responsive, some tools and calculators are not optimized.

Noteworthy Facts

In January 2014, the firm announced its rebranding from AXA Equitable to AXA. The following month, AXA unveiled a fully redesigned, revamped public website with responsive capabilities.





MassMutual

Pros

- Entire site is responsive.
- Expandable main navigation menu and section tabs.
- Expandable search field.
- Scrolling main navigation menu remains fixed at the top of all pages.
- Requests users geolocation for the advisor locator tool.

Cons

- Swiping capabilities are not offered on image/link carousels.
- The public site offers subpar life insurance product-specific content.

Noteworthy Facts

MassMutual is one of the most recent developers of responsive design. The firm unveiled its responsive platforms in February 2015. The public site user experience incorporates a unique "goaloriented" approach throughout the site.



MassMutual

Individuals & Families Go to Businesses & Organizations ③	
Log in / Register	~
Goals	/ ~
Products & Solutions	~
About Us	~
Talk to Us	~
Expandable main navigation menu takes up the entire screen when selected (desktop, tablet and mobile views).	



Expanded Main Navigation Menu – Mobile View

Public Homepage – Mobile View

Plan for Retirement Goals Page (Bottom) – Mobile View

Nationwide

Pros

- Four separate site structures:
 - 1. Desktop
 - 2. Tablet Landscape
 - 3. Tablet Portrait
 - 4. Mobile
- Expandable universal footer serves as the main access point/navigation to site content.
- Image/link carousels offer swiping capabilities.

Cons

- No prominent main navigation menu in desktop and landscape tablet views.
- Not entire site is responsive, some tools and calculators are not optimized (life insurance wizard).

Noteworthy Facts

Following a year-long initiative, Nationwide's entire public website went responsive in November 2014. Nationwide also introduced a new version of its logo in September 2014, to align its body of products and services under the sole Nationwide brand.





Expanded Main Navigation Menu – Mobile View

Annuities Overview Page – Expanded Retirement Footer

Life Insurance Overview Page -**Expanded Insurance Footer**

New York Life

Pros

- Expandable sections help organize content and improve navigation.
- Scrolling ribbon stays fixed at the bottom of the screen and offers several functionalities.
- Image/link carousels include swiping capabilities.
- Unique Keep Good Going page showcases the firm's corresponding campaign.

Cons

- Flyout main navigation menus in tablet and mobile views are ineffective.
- Not entire site is responsive, some tools and calculators are not optimized.

Noteworthy Facts

The firm quietly developed a responsive public website in June 2014; no aesthetic changes were made, however.





Homepage (Truncated) and Main Navigation Flyout Menu – Desktop View

Life Instance Overview Page – Mobile View

Keep Good Going Page

Northwestern Mutual

Pros

- Expandable main navigation menu and section tabs in mobile and tablet portrait views.
- Flyout main navigation menu in desktop and tablet landscape views.
- Image/link carousels include swiping capabilities.
- Intra-page tabs (desktop and tablet) and flyout tabs (mobile) offered on product pages help organize content.
- Geolocation for advisor locator tool.



- Not all site content is responsive, most tools and calculators are not optimized.
- Navigation within product sections is not intuitive.

Noteworthy Facts

The firm unveiled its responsive public site at the end of 2014.





TIAA-CREF

Pros

- Expandable main navigation menu, section and sub-section tabs in mobile view.
- Flyout main navigation menu in desktop and tablet views.
- Image/link carousels include swiping capabilities.
- Clients logging in from mobile devices are directed to the private mobile site.

Cons

- Not all site content is responsive and optimized for mobile devices, including:
 - Many tools and calculators
 - Investments performance center
 - TIAA-CREF Communities

Noteworthy Facts

The firm quietly developed a responsive public homepage in October 2014, then introduced responsive design to the rest of the public site in January 2015.





Voya

Pros

- Easily navigable main menu features expandable capabilities.
- Scrolling navigation menu is always accessible at top of all pages.
- Scrolling sidebar menus help navigate through content within pages in desktop view; in mobile and tablet views, the same menus appear as expandable sections.
- All site content is clearly categorized into color-coded topics and thus easily searchable.

Cons

 Clients cannot log in from responsive public site: the Login dropdown menu leads to corresponding private site login pages that do not feature responsive design.

Noteworthy Facts

Voya unveiled the platform in September 2014 in accordance with the firm's rebranding from ING U.S. The site features an innovative save capability, reminiscent of Pinterest, which allows prospects to save educational information, product pages and other tiled content in a searchable Saved Items section.





Expanded Main Menu – Desktop View

My Saved Items Section – Mobile View

Private/Participant Websites

AXA
 Fidelity
 Nationwide
 The Principal (DC Plan Participant)
 T. Rowe Price (DC Plan Participant)
 Vanguard (DC Plan Participant)



AXA

Pros

- Features a responsive page with an aggregate view of all AXA products held by the client.
- Individual account details page is responsive.
- Access to the private site from a responsive public site.

Cons

 Only the My Accounts and Account Details pages offer responsive capabilities.

Noteworthy Facts

The firm enhanced the My Account page with responsive capabilities in September 2014 and then the Account Details page in December 2015.





My Account Page – Mobile View

Fidelity

Pros

- Login screen to private site is responsive.
- Seamless transition from private site content to public site content.
- Expandable main navigation menu and section tabs in mobile view.
- Flyout main navigation menu in desktop and tablet view.

Cons

- Clients log in from a non-responsive public site.
- Not all account information and management pages are responsive.
- Partial private responsive site content and partial public site content.

Noteworthy Facts

The firm introduced a partially revamped private site with responsive capabilities in October 2014. This partial revamp serves as a beta for clients to test out the new design of the site.





Main Navigation Menu – Mobile View

Nationwide

Pros

- Features a responsive page with an aggregate view of all Nationwide products held by the client.
- Access to the private site from a responsive public site.
- Profile Preferences and Contact Us pages are responsive.

Cons

- The mobile main navigation menu only offers two links.
- No individual account details pages are responsive.
- Clients do not have access to responsive account management pages.

Noteworthy Facts

The firm introduced All Accounts, Profile and Contact Us pages with responsive design in December 2014. The firm has yet to extended a multi-platform web functionality to the rest of the private site for Life Insurance and Annuity clients.





The Principal

Pros

- Flyout navigation menu with expandable sections.
- Retirement Wellness Planner tool has full functionality – is completely responsive as well as interactive.
- Expandable account balance chart.
- Help icons on homepage produce responsive balloon tips.

Cons

- Beyond the homepage, only the Rate of Return, Roll Over Funds and Retirement Planner pages are responsive.
- Main menu is only accessible from the top of the screen.

Noteworthy Facts

The Principal revamped the participant site in January 2015, incorporating responsive design elements and the Retirement Wellness Planner at that time.



WE'LL GIVE YOU AN EDGE®



Mobile View

Pre-Tax Contribution Amount 🔞 \$117.69 every two weeks > A positive start! Your saving is off on the right foot. Now aim for 10%! Annual Increase 🕢 To be reported on 01/01/2016 AMOUNT TO INCREASE EACH YEAR UNTIL MY CONTRIBUTION REACHES Manage Other Contributions > Save Changes **Clear Changes** You Need 😡 \$5.245/month in retirement If you spend this much, your savings may run out by age 77. We Estimate You Will Have 🖗 \$3,213/month in retirement You May Be SHORT

arrows.

This calculator is made available as a self help resource for your planning convenience. The results from the calculator are based on your inputs and are not intended to be a financial plan or investment advice from the Principal Financial Group[®]... (show more)

Contributions Section of Homepage – Mobile View

Contribution amount can be changed from the homepage.



Personalized Rate of X Return

Your Personalized Rate of Return is a percentage that represents the performance of this account over a period of time. It's important because it shows the investment performance of the retirement funds the plan holds for your benefit. It's based on your specific account activity, and illustrates the percentage change, minus fees. The Personalized Rate of Return is weighted for activity over the period of the report, and takes into consideration:

- Contributions
- Transfers

 Withdrawals and expenses Changes in value or earnings credited at the time of the calculation

> **Question mark** icons open balloon tips.

T. Rowe Price

Pros

- Every page within the participant site is responsive.
- Participants can easily access account information, transactions, performance data and online tools.
- Offers a variety of mobile transactions including contribution rate changes, asset rebalances, fund exchanges and future investment changes.
- Site effectively uses expandable sections to present a large amount of content on limited real estate.

Cons

- The FuturePath projection tool, which is presented on a separate sitelet but accessible from the participant site, is not responsive.
- Login process is not responsive.

Noteworthy Facts

T. Rowe Price recently overhauled its website in Q1 of 2015 and now offers a fully responsive online experience to DC plan participants.





Retirement Confidence Number Screen -Mobile View

Performance Page – Mobile View

Mobile View

Vanguard

Pros

- Most participant site pages offer responsive design.
- Offers a near-identical experience to mobile app and tablet app users.
- Site effectively uses drop-down and rotating sections to present a large amount of content without overwhelming the participant.
- Large selections of transactions offered to mobile and tablet users.

Cons

- Account login screen is not responsive.
- Investment research content is not responsive.
- Loans and Withdrawal transaction pages are not responsive

Noteworthy Facts

Vanguard was the first *Retirement Plan Monitor* firm to incorporate responsive design into its participant website.





Homepage – Overview Section

Main Navigation Menu

Mobile Transaction Interface – Exchanges

Personal Performance Page – Mobile View

Advisor Websites

Nationwide



Nationwide

Pros

- Access to the advisor site from a responsive public site.
- Expandable mobile navigation menu featured on all platforms.
- Customizable quick link functionality available directly on main menu.
- Entire site is responsive, giving advisors access to the full range of content from every platform.
- Effective use of intra-page tabs, expandable sections and flyouts.
- Carousels offer swiping capabilities.

tionwide®

Cons

- Different sections render distinct main navigation menu links.
- Advisors cannot search for content on the advisor site.

Noteworthy Facts

As one of the first firms to offer a multiplatform website to financial professionals, Nationwide unveiled its responsive design advisor site in May 2014.



Advisor Site Homepage – Desktop and Tablet Landscape View

Main Navigation Menu – Annuities Section

2015 and Beyond

Key Takeaways

corporateight

Key Takeaways

- There are three stages in multi-platform web development. Firms continue to raise the bar when redesigning their websites, to incorporate the most intuitive and streamlined features with responsive design. There is a clear push from firms to first redesign their public sites, followed by private and participant sites, and lastly advisor websites.
- Leading firms continue to improve their account information. While most firms have the basics of account information covered on their responsive sites, innovators continue to improve presentation particularly with data visualizations and accessibility through login features, interactive functionalities and widgets. On the other hand, responsive transactional capabilities still lag in the retirement and insurance spaces, compared to other industries like banking.
- Advisors will continue to push for cross-platform client servicing capabilities. Through the use of tablets and phones, advisors are developing business practices for servicing clients as well as selling and marketing to prospects. Integrating the full range of web capabilities into a cross-platform system will help financial professionals significantly increase efficiencies.
- Developing for a variety of devices remains a challenge. As phones are getting larger and tablets are getting smaller, firms are challenged to design new sites with multiple layouts and enhanced functionalities. The tech-savvy generation has set high expectations and firms are challenged to keep up with technological trends while reducing costs. Responsive web design, however, has gained plenty of momentum, particularly in the retirement and insurance industry segments that have been slow to embrace mobile.



About Us

- > Annuity & Life Insurance Monitors
 - Retirement Plan Monitor
- Corporate Insight
 - About the Author



About Annuity & Life Insurance Monitors

- Annuity Monitor and Life Insurance Monitor are two of Corporate Insight's subscription research services that track and review the online user experience from the perspective of the prospect, client and advisor.
- Annuity Monitor and Life Insurance Monitor subscribers receive:
 - Bi-weekly Updates reporting on public, client and advisor website developments on over 16 industry-leading firms.
 - In-depth monthly *Reports* detailing each *Monitor* firm's offerings alongside key findings and best practice analyses.
 - Monthly research *Report* summary slide decks.
 - Quarterly capabilities matrix and website films.
 - Client and advisor collateral materials.
 - Analyst support.



Annuity & Life Insurance Monitors' Coverage Set

About Retirement Plan Monitor

- Retirement Plan Monitor tracks and analyzes the online user experience of DC plan participants of leading retirement plan providers.
- Retirement Plan Monitor subscribers receive:
 - Monthly Updates reporting on timely, behind-the-login website developments of 18 industry-leading firms.
 - In-depth monthly *Reports* that analyze and grade each coverage firm on a specific website or customer service feature.
 - Monthly research Report summary slide decks.
 - Quarterly capabilities matrix and website films.
 - Analyst support.



Retirement Plan Monitor's Coverage Set



<u>Corporate Insight</u> provides competitive intelligence and user experience research to the nation's leading financial institutions. For 20 years, Corporate Insight has tracked new developments in the financial services industry through our syndicated *Monitor* research and consulting services. We are known for our detailed, objective research and unmatched expertise. There are no assumptions in Corporate Insight's work – we use live accounts with industry leaders to benchmark their effectiveness across all major channels and give our clients unparalleled competitive intelligence.

In addition to insurance and retirement, Corporate Insight is continuously tracking best practices in online banking, investing, mobile finance, active trading, social media and other emerging areas. In the process, we have helped our clients stay current on industry trends and improve their competitive position.

Our intelligence services are utilized by most of the Fortune 500 financial services firms. Our research and analysts are frequently cited in financial media outlets such as the *Wall Street Journal, Barron's, Bloomberg, CNBC, Forbes* and *SmartMoney,* and in news publications including the *Associated Press, New York Times, Newsweek, TIME* and *USA Today*.



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Jose's past related work includes the *Mobile and Tablet Advisor Sales Resources Report, Life Insurance Mobile Sites and Apps: A Focus on Client Capabilities, Tablet Friendly Web Design: Best Practices for Financial Services* and additional reports that offer a comprehensive look at the cross-platform landscape. Jose has also authored and collaborated on a number of thought leadership pieces, projects and studies focusing on responsive web design, iPad apps, mobile transaction capabilities and more.

Jose graduated from James Madison University in 2010 and has been a member of the Corporate Insight team for the last two years. He also leads the *Healthcare Monitor* research services team.

