The Delphi method was originally developed at the RAND Corporation in the late 1950’s and 60’s as an effective means for collecting and synthesizing expert judgments. The technique requires sequential questionnaires, with information feedback from round to round. Although it has been very widely used since its introduction in 1964, it has become a principal method of futures research and has found application in planning, decision making, and policy research.

In 2004, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) provided a grant to Articulate Software, Inc. to develop a Delphi-based method for improving the speed and efficiency of making tactical decisions under conditions of high uncertainty, using expert judgments in a Delphi like process. The first Real Time Delphi design (developed by T Gordon and A Pease) came out of this work. The new process is “roundless” and can be accomplished in a much shorter time than the earlier forms of Delphi. Since it is on line communication times are short and participation can be asynchronous.

**Features**

- Generally used with experts as respondents
- Feedback of group answers may be presented to participants, if desired
- As many as three questions can be asked about 40 items
- Respondents can submit all at once or answer by answer
Typical Applications

- Foresight: estimation of time of occurrence of future developments
- Generation and assessment of policies
- Collecting expert opinion on factors important to other models (e.g. State of the Future Index. input/output, econometrics, etc.)