

TL;DR: Overall

I design design teams, their culture, and the processes that unlock their creative potential by which they contribute to business outcomes.

Over **15 years delivering** digital experiences in consumer products, marketing agencies, consulting, and enterprise (B2B).

Largest team: 13 direct reports (incl. UX architect & manager levels).

Business Impact

Led UX team at VMware, driving the UX for its transition to multi-cloud and hybrid infrastructure, boosting subscription revenue by 34% to \$1.3B YoY. As voice of the customer, championed research for ongoing learning, sharing strategic insights with cross-functional teams and executives, fostering increased user empathy and awareness.

Organizational Impact

Drove impact across the organization through **coaching**, **mentoring**, **and process scaling** tools. Prioritized inclusivity in **recruitment and development of a global design team**. Led initiatives in DEI, UX evangelism, and conference content.

Product Team Impact

Identified and addressed duplicative efforts, fostering collaboration and merging of plans towards strategic vision. Streamlined collaboration processes, established asynchronous workflows for global team, prioritized KPIs, accessibility, and utilization of design patterns and guidelines.

Individual Impact

Prioritized unblocking talented teams while creating avenues for personal and professional growth within the organization. Regularly monitored team health and project progress with direct reports. Empowered individuals and supported opportunities for expanding scope, interests, and talents aligned with business outcomes.

TL;DR: VMware

2021

3 work streams7 reports

2022

4 works streams10 reports

2023

6 work streams 13 reports

- Led UX team that supported the transformation of VMware into a multi-cloud and hybrid infrastructure solution resulting in a 34% increase YoY of subscription revenue to \$1.3B.
- Drove UX efforts that support
 VMware's strategic priority to unify its
 suite of enterprise infrastructure
 products (7+ core services) into a
 single solution resulting in improved
 usability and accessibility.
- Built a fully-remote and highperforming, outcome-driven team.

TL;DR: USDA

2018

1 agency3 work streams6 reports

2020

2 agencies4 works streams9 reports

- Streamlined customer service for faster processing of permits
- Reduced effort to help customers determine their regulatory needs
- \$15.5 billion in funding distributed
- 6.5 million customer page views
- 4.6 million customer interactions

TL;DR: Modernize

2016

19 tests/yr No conversion rate baseline

2017

96 tests/yr 10% monthly conversion rate increase

- Defined appropriate KPIs for the experimentation program
- Established KPI baselines through a full audit of testing practices
- Co-created a new prioritization framework through workshops with stakeholders
- Increased testing velocity by 405%:
 from 19 tests/year to 96 tests/year
- Achieved an overall 10% quarterly increase in conversions



WHAT DOES VMW DO?

USDA



7.9

VMware provides software that allows enterprises to create and manage the infrastructure that supports their businesses.

CHALLENGE

VMware ships its organizations and it's hindering customers' and users' workflows as they have to navigate extremely fragmented experiences day-to-day.

VISION

Build the enterprise private cloud for any workload anywhere with unified management and operations.

MY SCOPE







Composable Infrastructure **Desired State** Configuration

Infrastructure Management

Size, Plan, Bringup

laaS Platform

Fleet Management

Infrastructure Creation



5 work streams

Security

MYROLE

- Team whisperer: Built a fully-remote and high-performing, highly-collaborative, outcome-driven, empathetic team.
- Connecting dots, pulling threads, aligning cross-functional teams: Took over a broader portfolio of strategic areas of the private multi-cloud infrastructure platform that impact the time to value and productivity of users.
- **Team efficiency**: Structured a framework for the team to connect and collaborate asynchronously across multiple time zones to reduce meeting time and fatigue.
- **Design advocacy**: Increase crossfunctional awareness about Design by planning and running creative design and user-focus events at VMware internal and customer conferences/events.

- Voice of the customer: Championed tactical and strategic research for continuous learning. Facilitated strategic insights share-outs across cross-functional teams and executive leadership leading to exponential awareness that resulted in increased E2E user empathy.
- Strategic Execution: Partnered with UX leadership to restructure team for new strategic execution. Instrumental in creating, improving, and establishing critical processes and rituals as we shifted to this new structure to ensure designers were focused on the outcomes and crossfunctional alignment.









Product Design Senior Manager

- Drove UX efforts that support VMware's strategic priority to unify its suite of enterprise infrastructure products (7+ core services) into a single solution resulting in improved usability and accessibility.
- Led vision alignment across a highly matrixed organization, connecting the dots across complex products giving way to integrated MVP experiences and further integration roadmaps throughout the business.
- Fostered design advocacy at all leadership levels which allowed all UX designers to be invited to help work streams define solutions from problem definition onward.
- Enabled a culture of collaboration, inclusivity, and high performance within the team creating higher-impact designs.

Product Design Manager

- Led UX for the transformation of VMware into a multicloud and hybrid infrastructure solution resulting in a 34% increase YoY of subscription revenue to \$1.3B.
- Prioritized the recruitment, development, and motivation of a globally distributed design team, emphasizing inclusivity and accessibility in both our team dynamics and product design.

"I deeply appreciate Karen's insights on our team. She is fearless about speaking up about gaps balanced with a deft, non-confrontational delivery that aligns people toward problem solving whether it's

with her direct reports, her cross-

functional partners or peers. [...]"

<u>Janet Amaro</u>, <u>Product Design Director</u>







MANAGEMENT TOOLS







Product

- KPI dashboard
- System patterns: user messaging
- Overlapping efforts

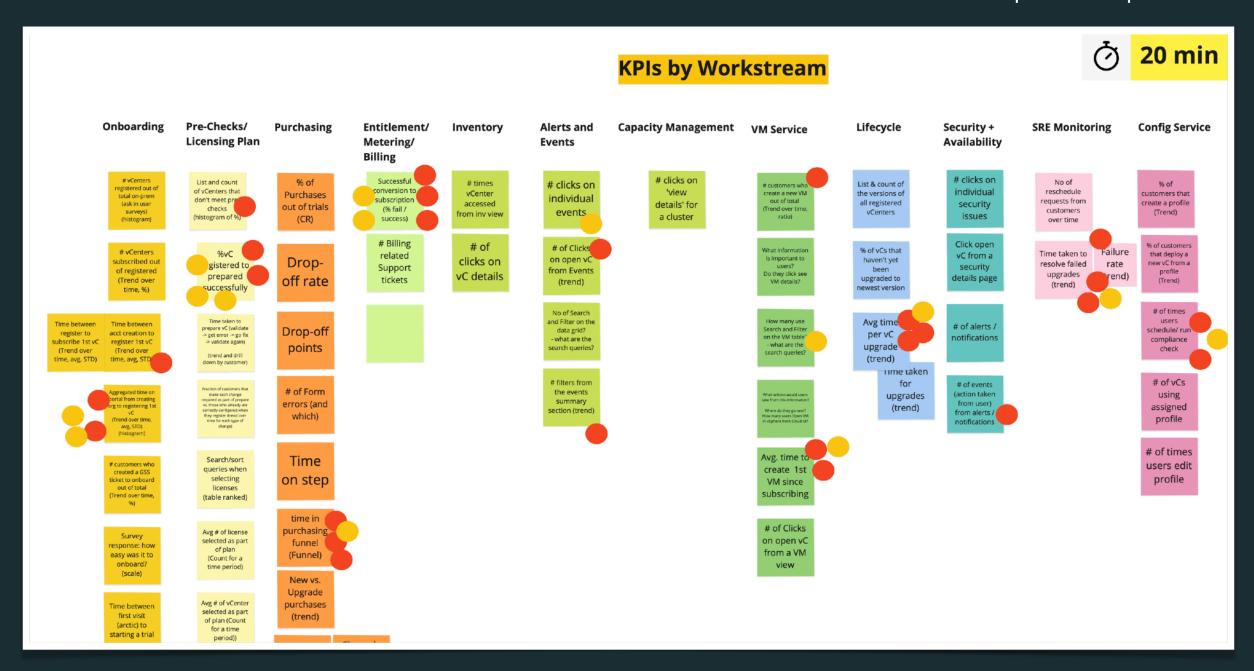
People

- Team placemats
- Career path template
- Self-assessment template
- 360 feedback form template
- Recruiting videos

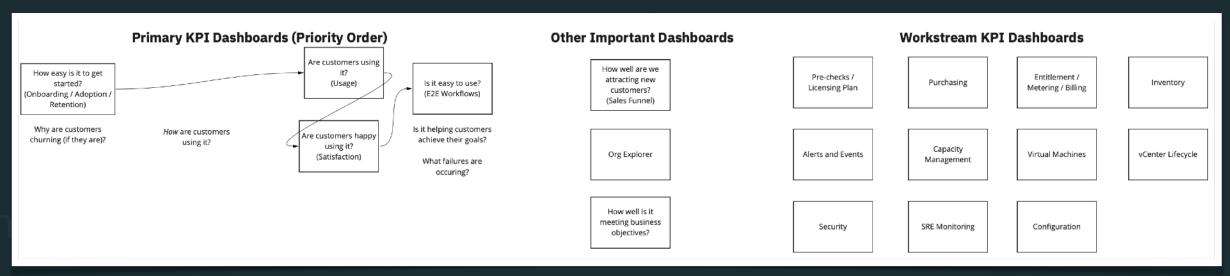
Process

- Journey UX index/master
- Process journey
- Guidelines definition
- a11y advocacy and process improven

UX-led KPI definition workshop for new platform.



UX-led dashboard mapping workshop.



MANAGEMENTTOOLS

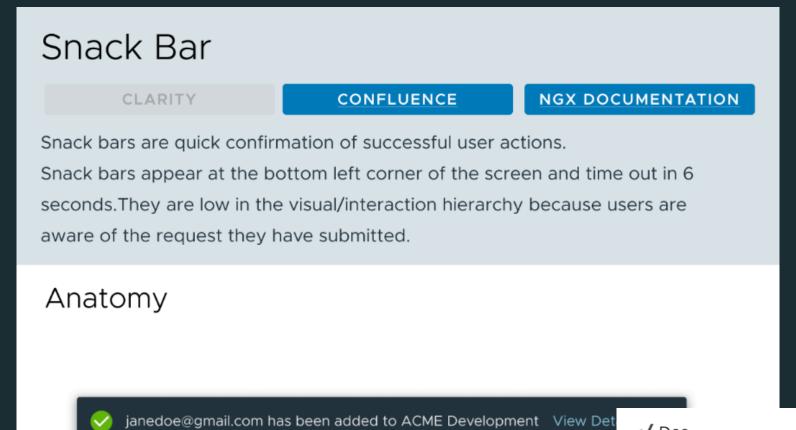






Product

- System patterns: user messaging



√ Dos

- Time-out in 6 seconds
- Provide a link to the created/modified/updated object when possible

Worked across teams

component library

guide template for

designers to populate

as they came across

working on projects.

the need while

with design style

to supplement existing

- · Remove snack bar if user navigates away from the current view
- Use "View Details" as the link title in most cases

Guidelines

When to use:

- Information triggered by users' action
- Success message for form submission/object edit/object deleti-

Description

✗ Don'ts

- Do not batch notification. Maximum 1 snack bar at a time.
- If multiple messages are needed, communicate the number of affected records in the message (eg. "Johndoe, annedoe, and 5 other users added successfully")

Special Scenario

-- No Special Scenario documented.

Placement on the Page





Snackbar messages will always appear on the bottom left corner of the screen.

MANAGEMENT TOOLS

Confluence

deployments as well

P&P tool produces a JSON config file to deploy

· Deploy Mgmt domain, additional WLDs, and clusters with JSON file and installer appliance Use appliance to produce config files for Day-N







Product

- Overlapping efforts

siloed efforts that we had been calling out with no response. Created one for each of my work streams to help leadership have the conversation.

Workstreams Overlaps - Deployments

UI Merge (VCF Ops)

Unified Installer Brownfield

Service Enablement

Confluence

Worked with my leads to create an artifact to clearly surface overlapping

- Capacity Expansion (vCenter & WLD deployment)
- Deploy with multiple clusters
- Config Management / Desired State Config

5.2.1 9.0 5.2

- Impact on Capacity Expansion flexibility (both WLDs and clusters)
- Deploying new SDDC-M instance via import
- · Perform import via SDDC-M UI and/or VCF Ops UI
- · Q: How are we "upselling" VCF to brownfield customers?

Confluence

 Capacity Expansion workflows to support service enablement (supervisor clusters)

UI Merge (vSphere)

Confluence

Capacity Expansion (create clusters)

MANAGEMENT TOOLS







Product

- KPI dashboard
- System patterns: user mes
- Overlapping efforts

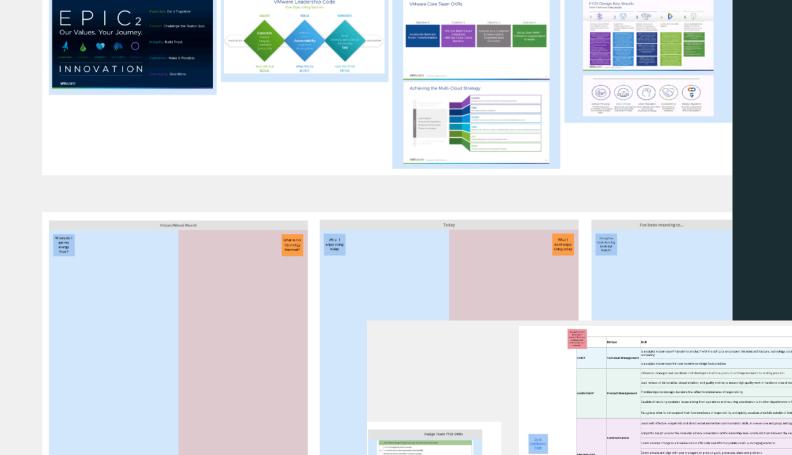
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- Recruiting videos

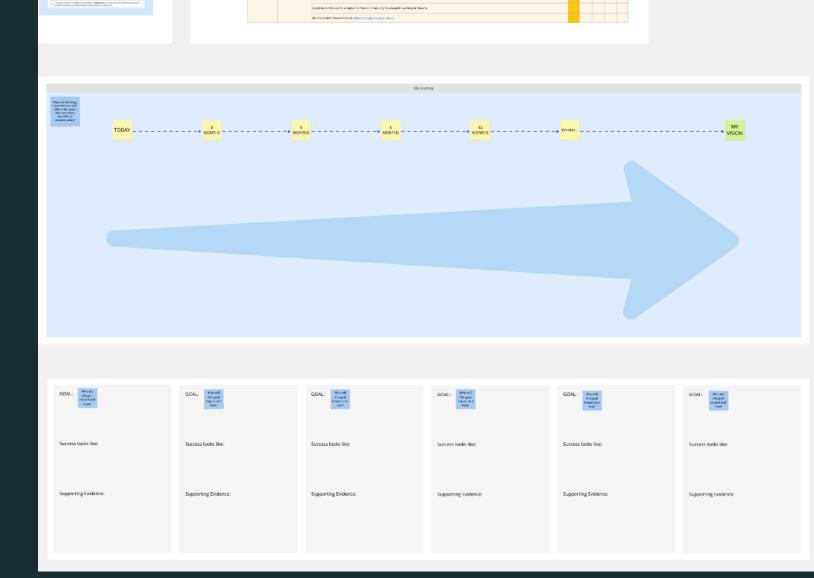
Process

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- Process journey
- Guidelines definition
- a11y advocacy and process improvements

Let's Design Your Career Journey Together



Created a phased template for those in my team who wanted to cocreate their career path with me through a progressive framework.



MANAGEMENTIOOLS







Product

- KPI dashboard
- System patterns: user messaging
- Overlapping efforts

People

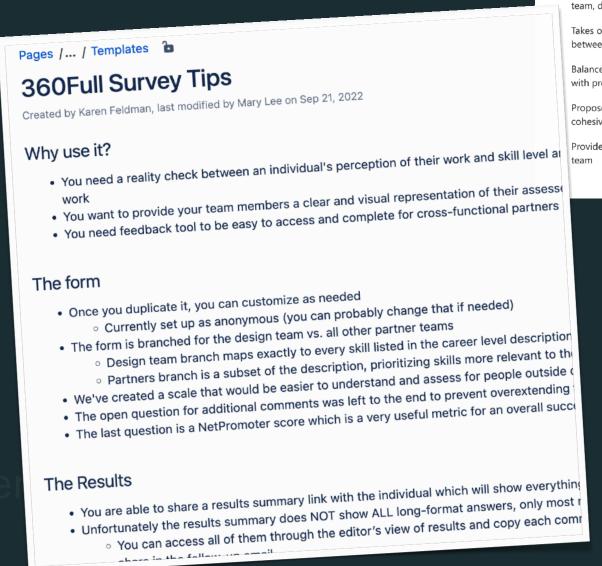
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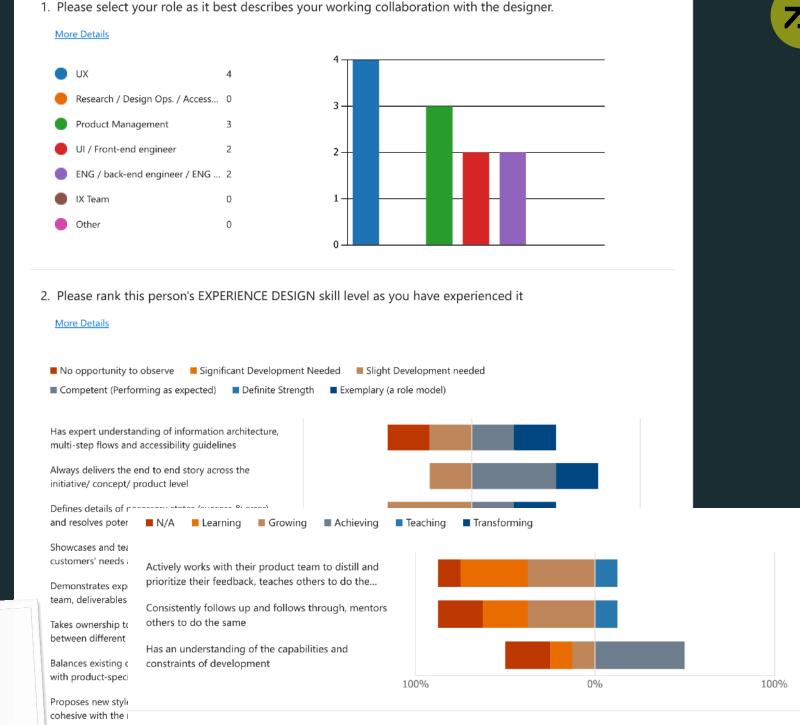
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Created 360 Feedback surveys that mapped 1-to-1 to our career ladder descriptions, for every level in UX and launched a process for managers to conduct those yearly.

The same templates were duplicated and customized for the research and technical teams.

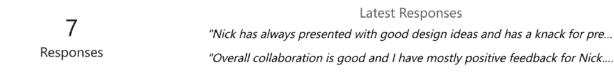




Provides strong de 16. Please outline opportunity areas, with examples of times where those presented themselves and, what your expectations were in that situation vs. how this person performed.

Hint: You can focus on any items where you marked this person's skill level at 'Learning' or 'Growing'





17. How likely are you to recommend working with this person to a colleague?



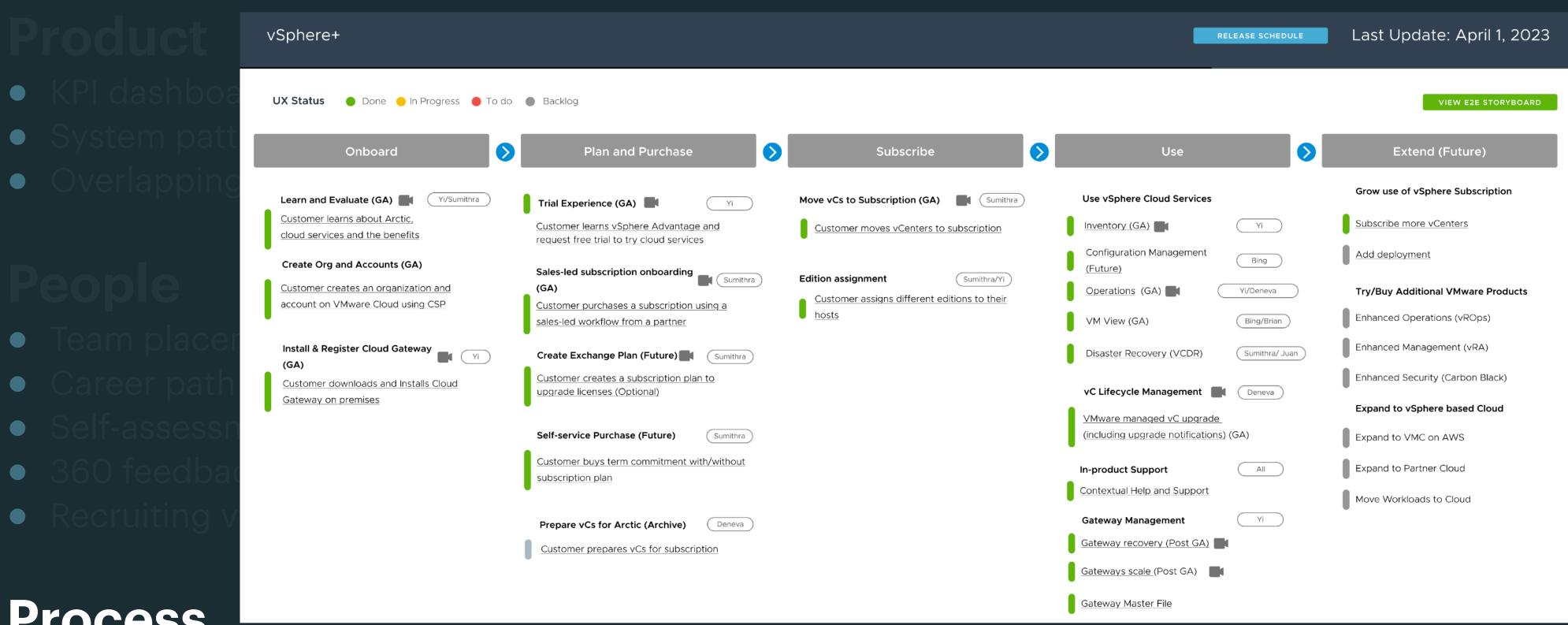


MANAGEMENTTOOLS









Process

- Journey UX index

Created a centralized index for stakeholders to easily find UX prototypes any time. Each item listed displayed owner, status, link to prototype and short demo vide updated weekly. This artifact also gave visibility of work happening across teams along the entire user journey.

MANAGEMENTIOOLS



7.9

Process

- Guidelines definition

Documenting a UX project

This is a list of desired information to include in our UX pro documentation. How you structure and present it is up to y

Quad and stakeholders tagged

Resource links / Useful link

UX Jira story/epic (should be linked to PM initiative) Epic

Story for each workflow or section

Tasks under each story: 1) workflow design, 2) Accessibi reviews, 4) UX metrics proposal, 5) User validation, 6) sha PM initiative

Index Figma linking to all different parts of an experience This could be in the form of use cases aligned to a journ

Miro working boards / workshop boards

Dovetail Project

PM related documentation

Use cases (if PM has not done this we need to)

Timeline + Status

Project overview

Problem origin

Customer feedback

Business strategy

Problem definition

Research

High-level findings and insights

Nice to have:

user quotes

Telemetry data relevant to the problem

Record any conversation, whether it's internal to UX or cross-functional

Topic (this functions also as agenda shared ahead of time)

Recordings

Notes

Participants (good to send required participants ahead of meeting)

Decisions made

Solutions/Outcomes

Design Review & Updates Process

Overall Guidance

- Jira will be the main source of truth for tracking progress, decisions and updates. If there is a change, then we will file tickets on the respective teams requesting/executing the update
- UX will close the loop once update/enhancement is agreed upon by sharing list of new Jira stories
- UX stories live on the UX board and are assigned to the lead designer for that effort.
- Implementation stories live on the ENG/UI boards.
- All child stories (UX or otherwise) should be children of original Epics.
- If the changes are considered "bugs" like wrong implementation of the design these will have higher priority than change requests, implementing new design.
 - Bugs/Defects will be reported in Bugzilla

Design stage

a. Pre user validation

- i. Designers will present work during their established quad meetings and take in
- ii. Designers will send summary of discussion, including outstanding questions, design feedback and action items for the quad
- iii. Designers will address feedback and present updated design in next quad meeting b. Post user validation
 - i. Designers will present summary of insights from usability study with possible design update considerations to the quad and take in any concerns or feedback
 - ii. Designers will send summary of discussion, including outstanding questions, design iii. Designers will address feedback and present updated design in next quad meeting

Review Methods

- File a Jira ticket for UI to pick up any bugs or inconsistent

· Srikanth ca Asynchronous critiques

once implemented. Let's start leveraging asynchronous critiques. My suggestion is for this to • UX also needs to se replace having to sign up for arctic-reviews and share-out reviews and try to overall design flow v fully accomplish offline.

* Record a walkthrough, with context (same as you would present live) - embed into slack message

- * write up context and topic in recording for the slack message
- * include specific questions you need help with or say you're looking for general feedback
- * include figma link or miro link (whatever applies) for in-file comments

We should do this at every stage of our process:

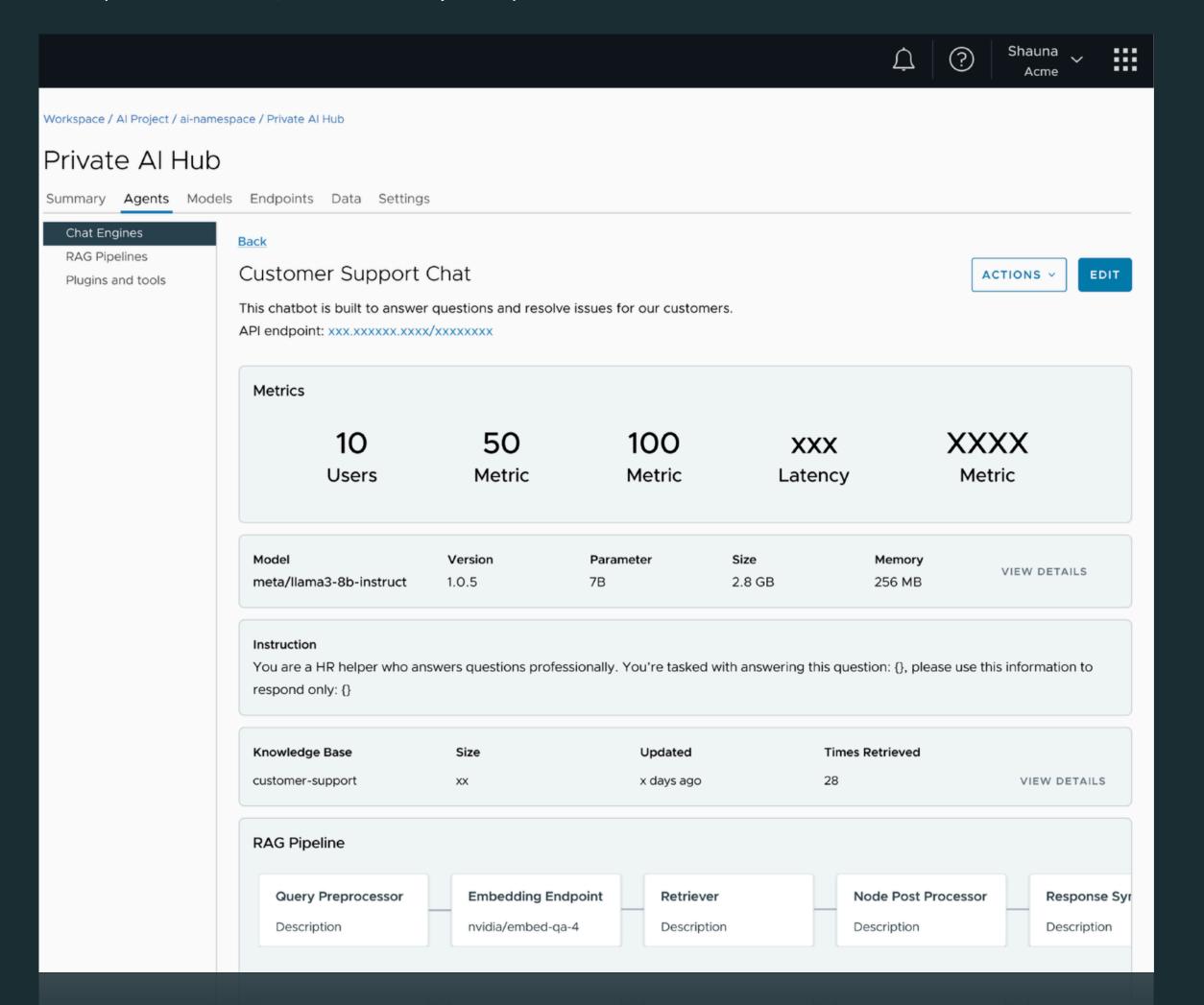
- * Desk research: opportunity to get more use cases from others, or ideas on other products to look at
- * user flows: get others to give feedback on whether flows make sense or are missing steps/paths
- early ideation: concept validation/questions
- * user research: share findings and get questions
- * high-fidelity: pattern consistency



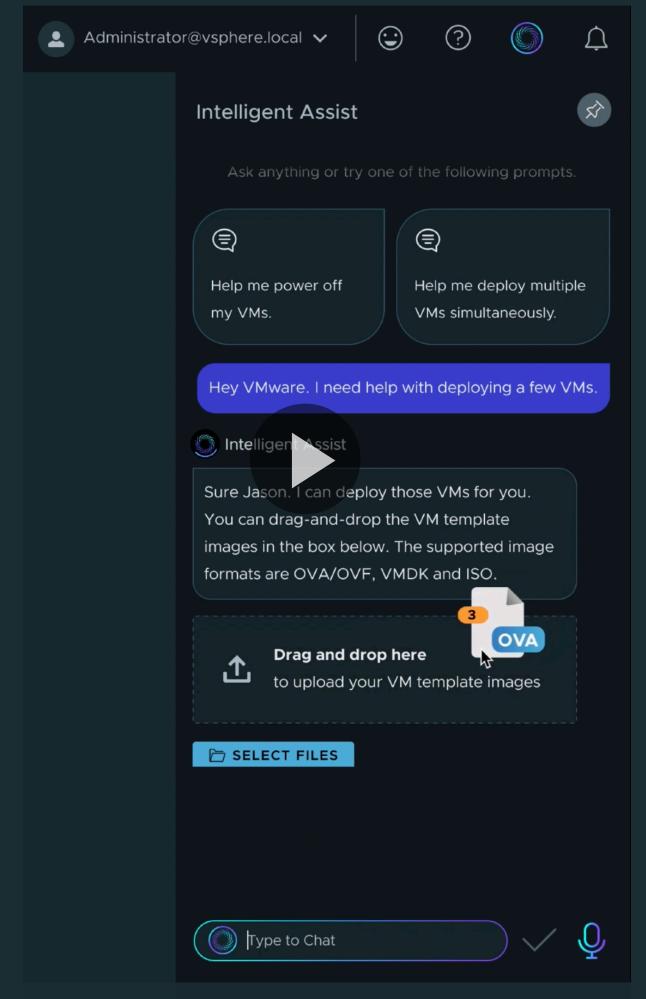


7.9

Concept for platform experience to initiate enterprises in their AI/ML workloads journey.



Gen AI concept demonstrating how we could assist user workflows to deploy VMs.



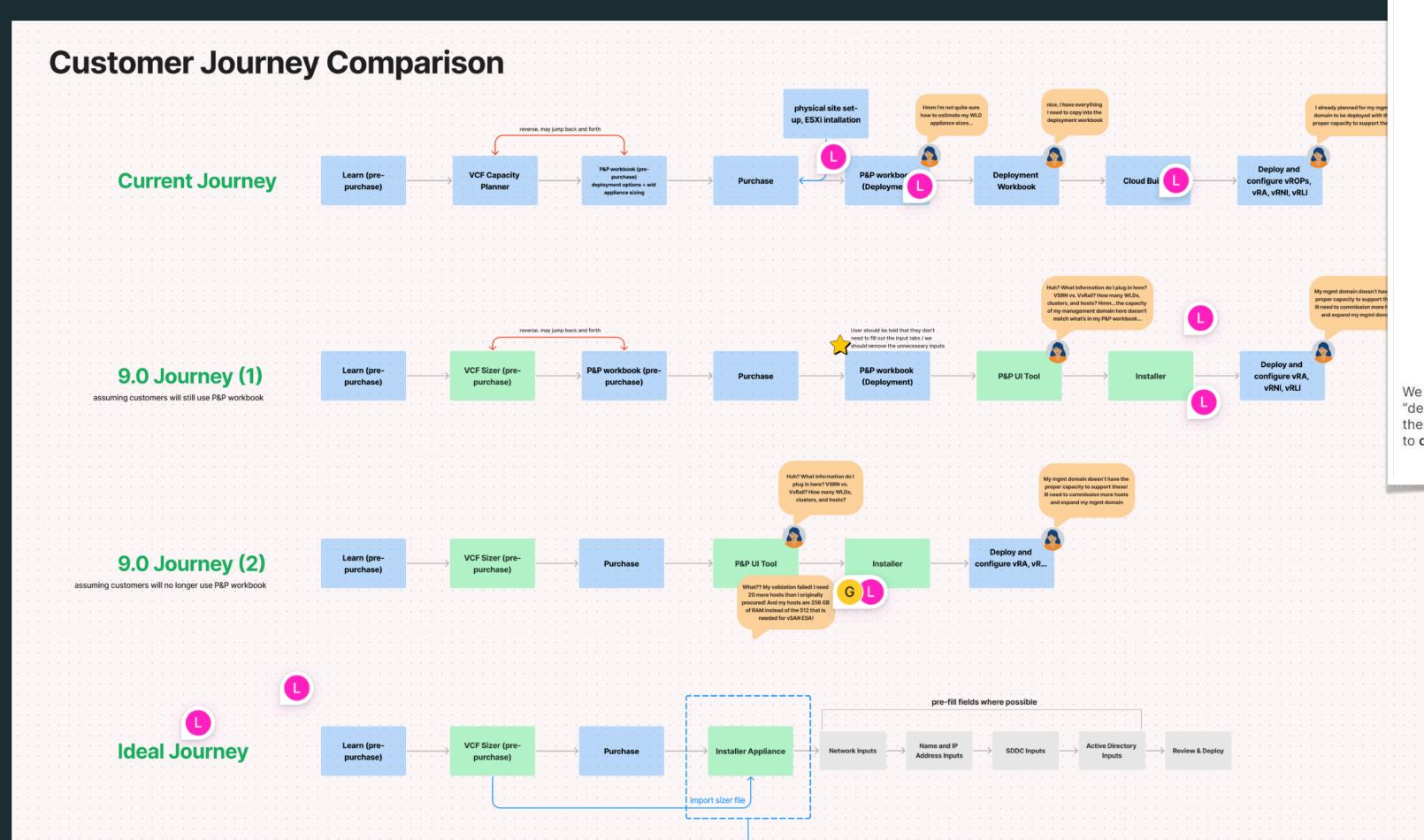
Size, Plan, Bringup

USDA

7.9

Visualization of execution plan vs. existing & ideal journeys to align stakeholders.

Strategic research insight redefining how we understand the customer journey.



The current e2e process is **complex**, **disjointed**, **and error- prone**. We have always discussed the current customer
journey in a linear fashion. The reality is, we need to design
for these phases to **exist and work together** in unison



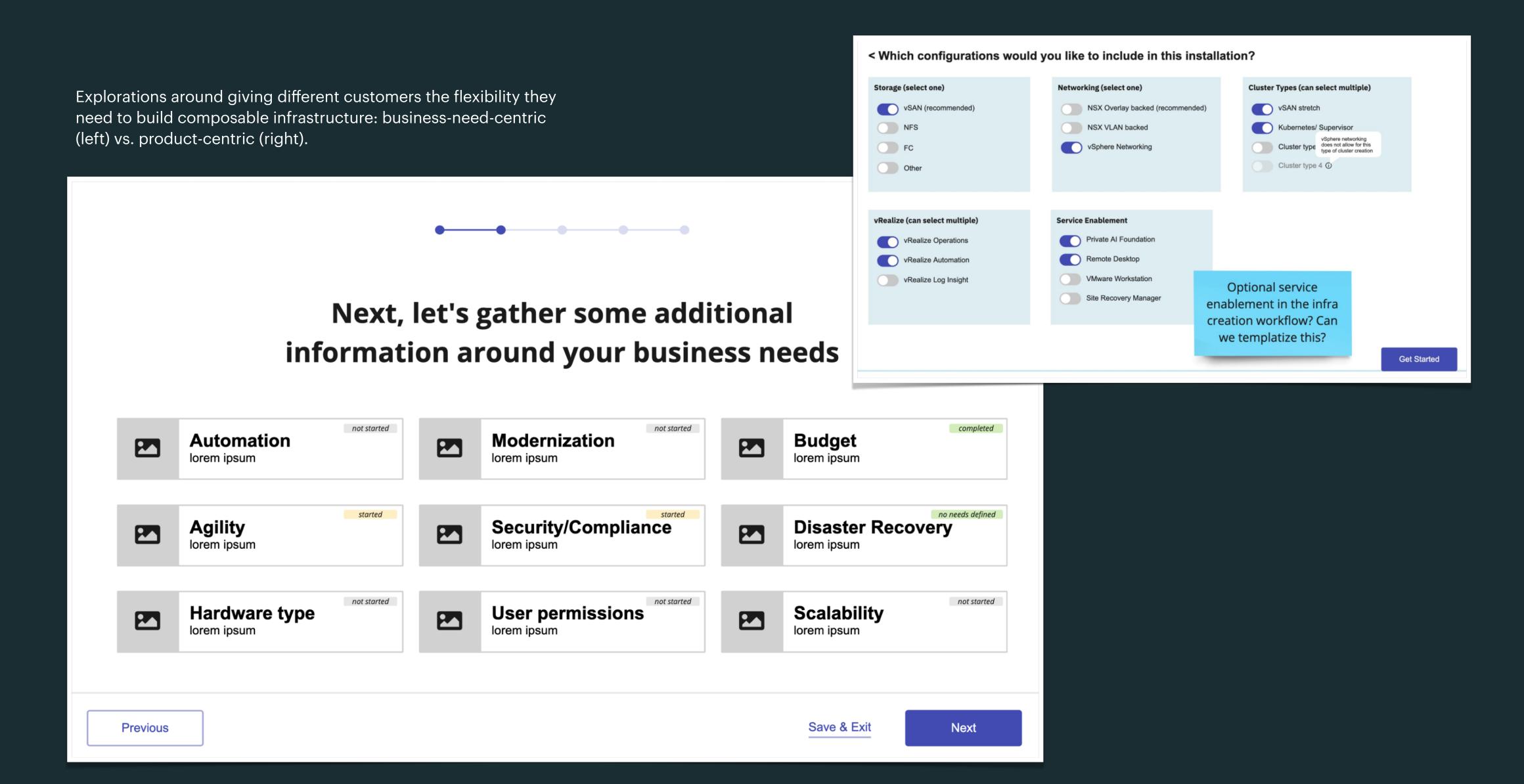
We need to re-define the term "deployment" to encapsulate all of these components. Customers want to deploy solutions, not just products

Composable Infrastructure







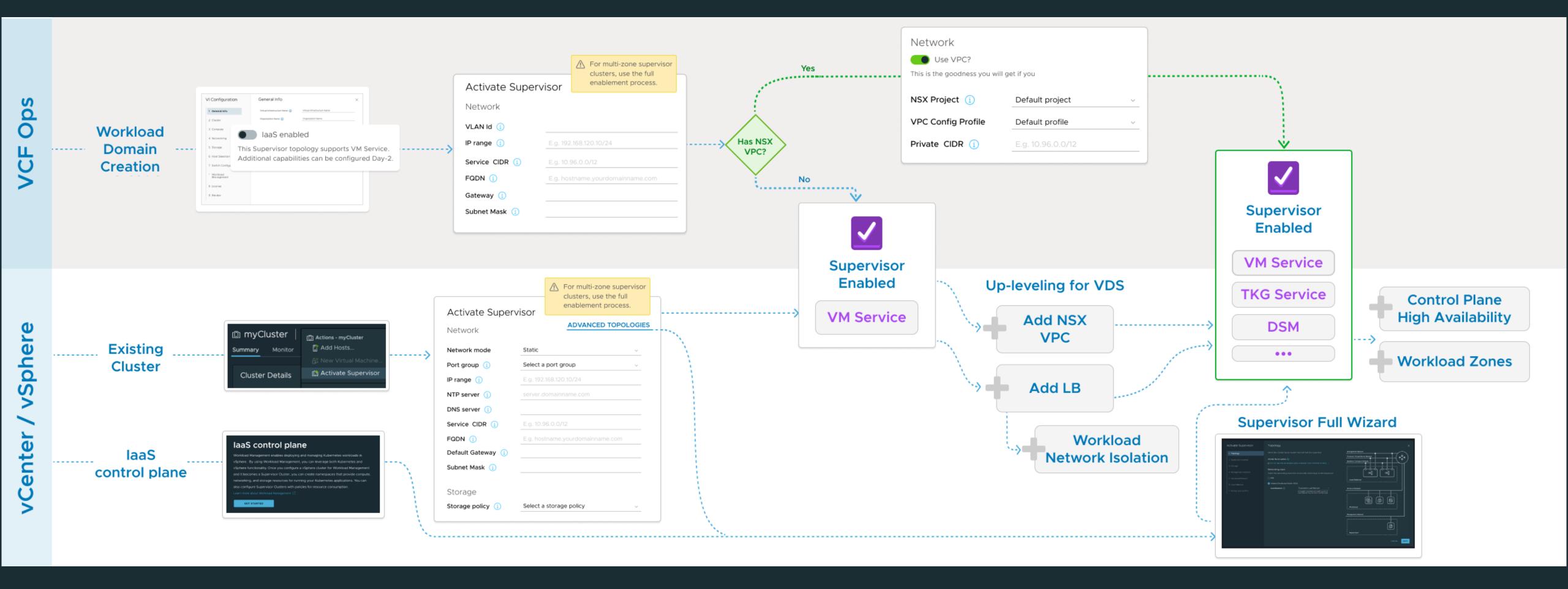








Facilitating cross-functional north star discussions with a visualization of the end-to-end user workflow.

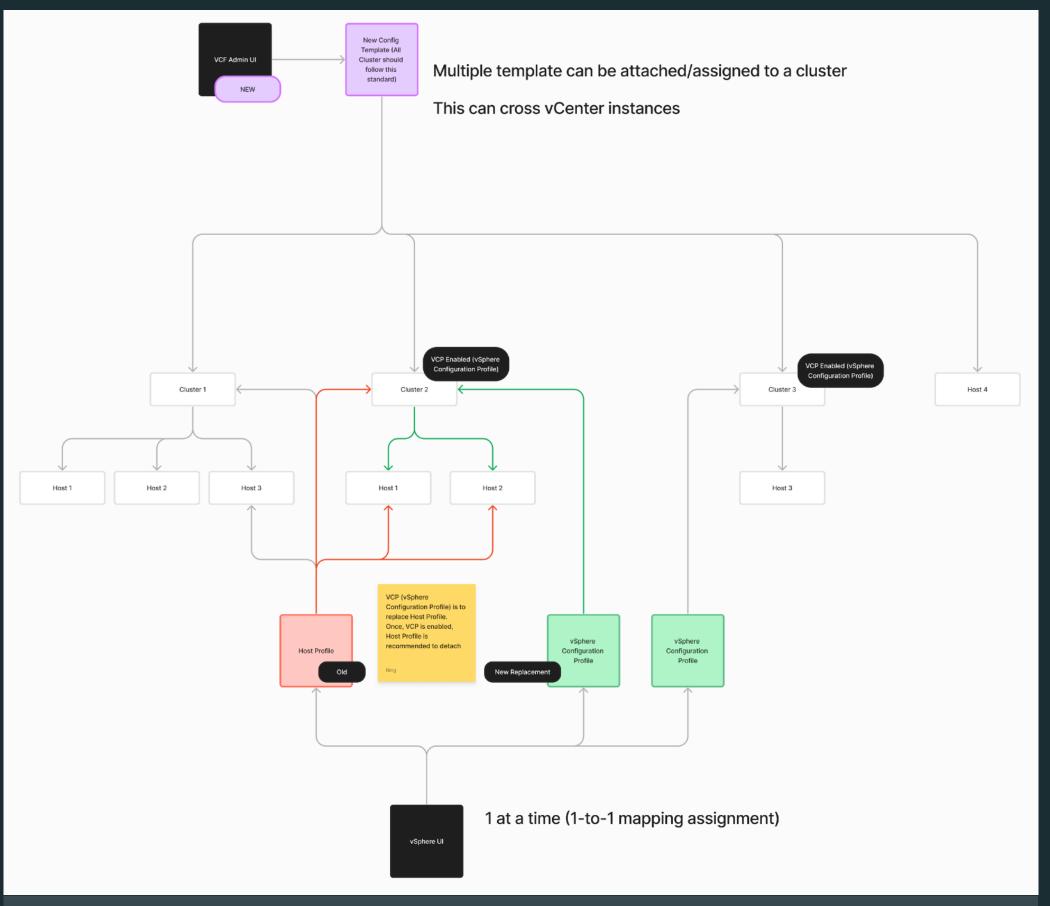


OUTPUT BIRDS-EYEVIEW Desired State Configuration

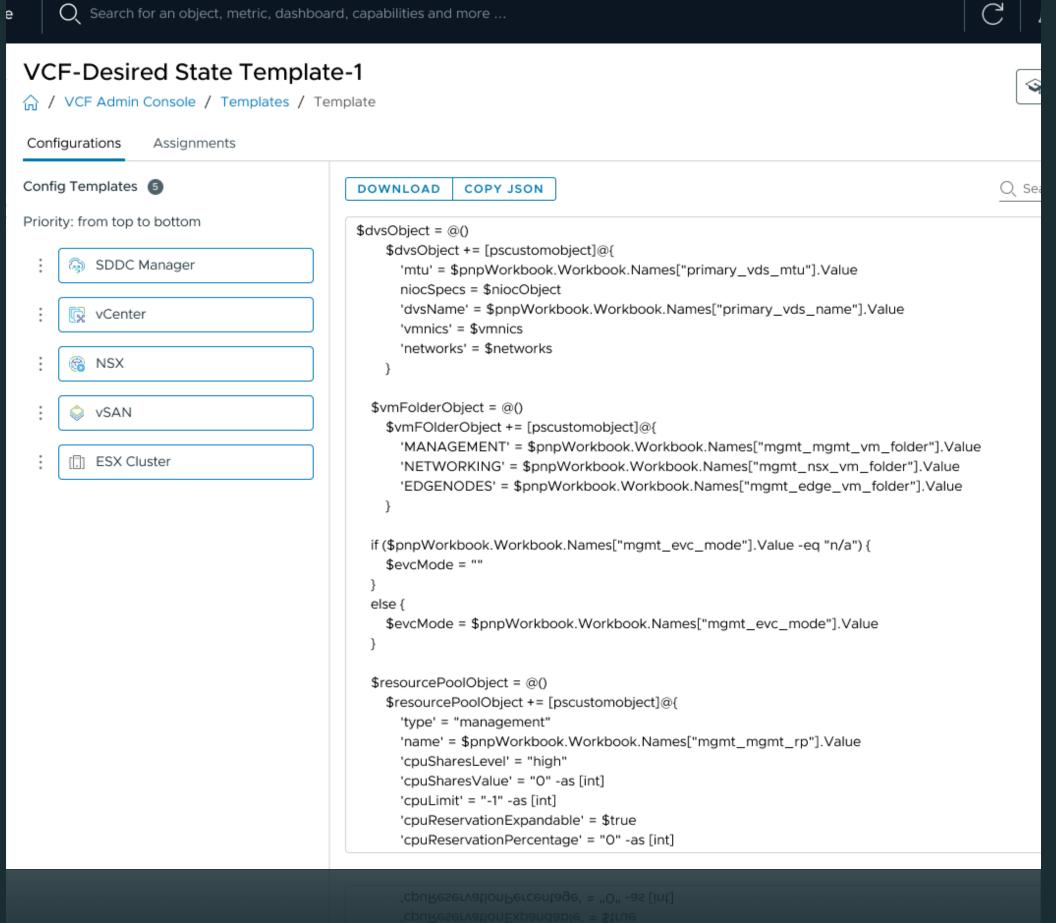




Desired State Configuration template/profile management architecture map to align with development team.



Concept for composite template building and management with cascading hierarchy capability.



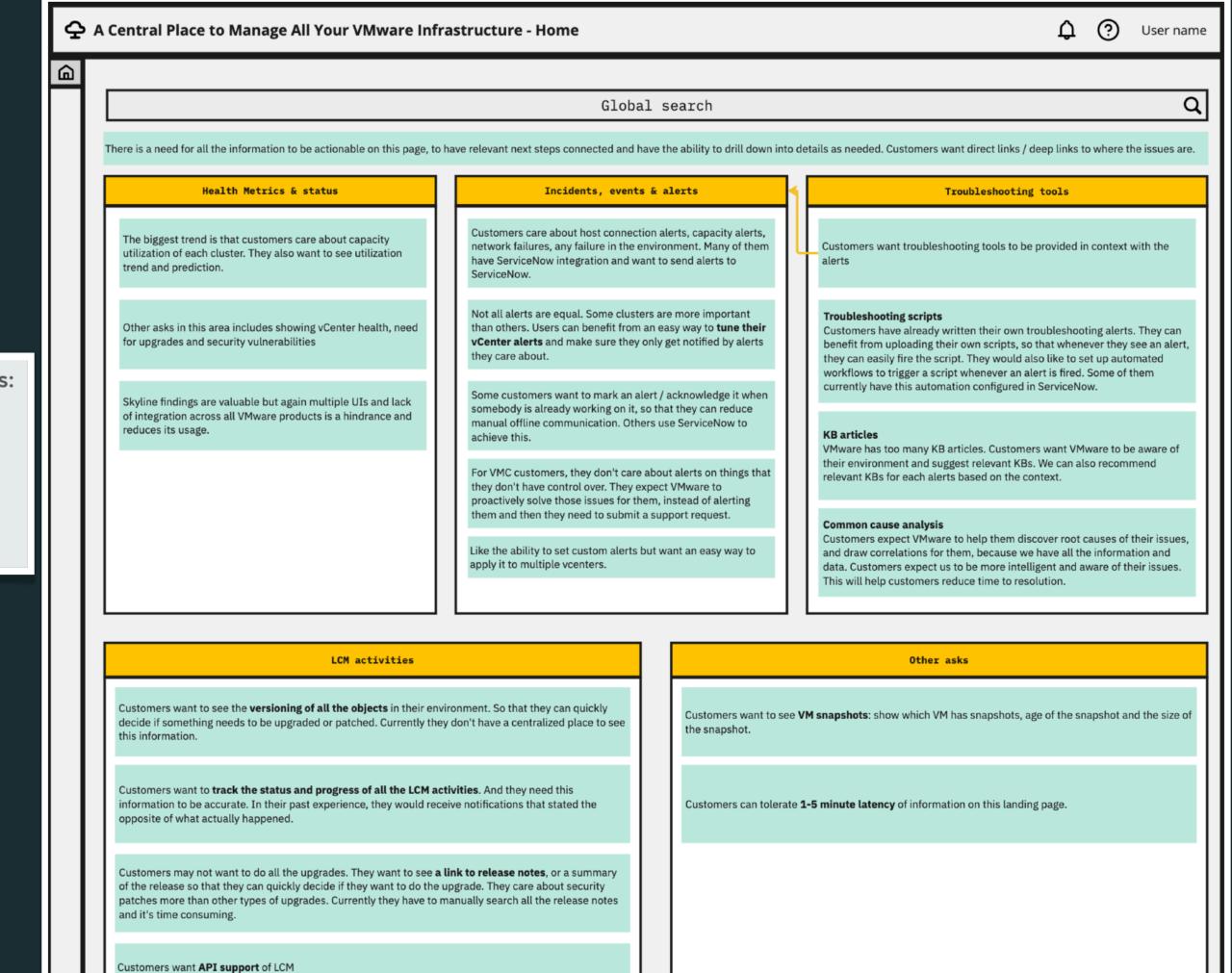
Fleet Management





7.9

Presenting insights visually matching the potential layout where those insights would come to life as data on a dashboard.



Strategic insights from user research workshops.

Top information users want to see if there is a single pane of glass:

- Alerts, incidents across all the deployments
- Capacity utilization of vCenters, clusters and hosts
- A list of all the infrastructure objects
- Upgrade & LCM info

SCALING CULTURE

Bringing practices from my teams to the broader design organization:

- Monthly All-staff
- Monthly Social hour
- SHAPE Design Conference Content
- Mentorship
- Design Hackathon Advisor
- Explore Research Advisor and Recruitment
- Design Zone cross-functional design thinking activities











Talk state of affairs, get to know each other and get inspired, so we can be better together.



WHAT DOES USDA DO?

Provides public policy leadership in agriculture, food and nutrition, natural resource protection and management, rural development, and related issues.

VISION

One-stop shop for farmers, ranchers, and land owners to conduct business with USDA.

CHALLENGE

USDA employees focus too much of their time helping customers with administrative tasks because they do not understand how to self-serve.





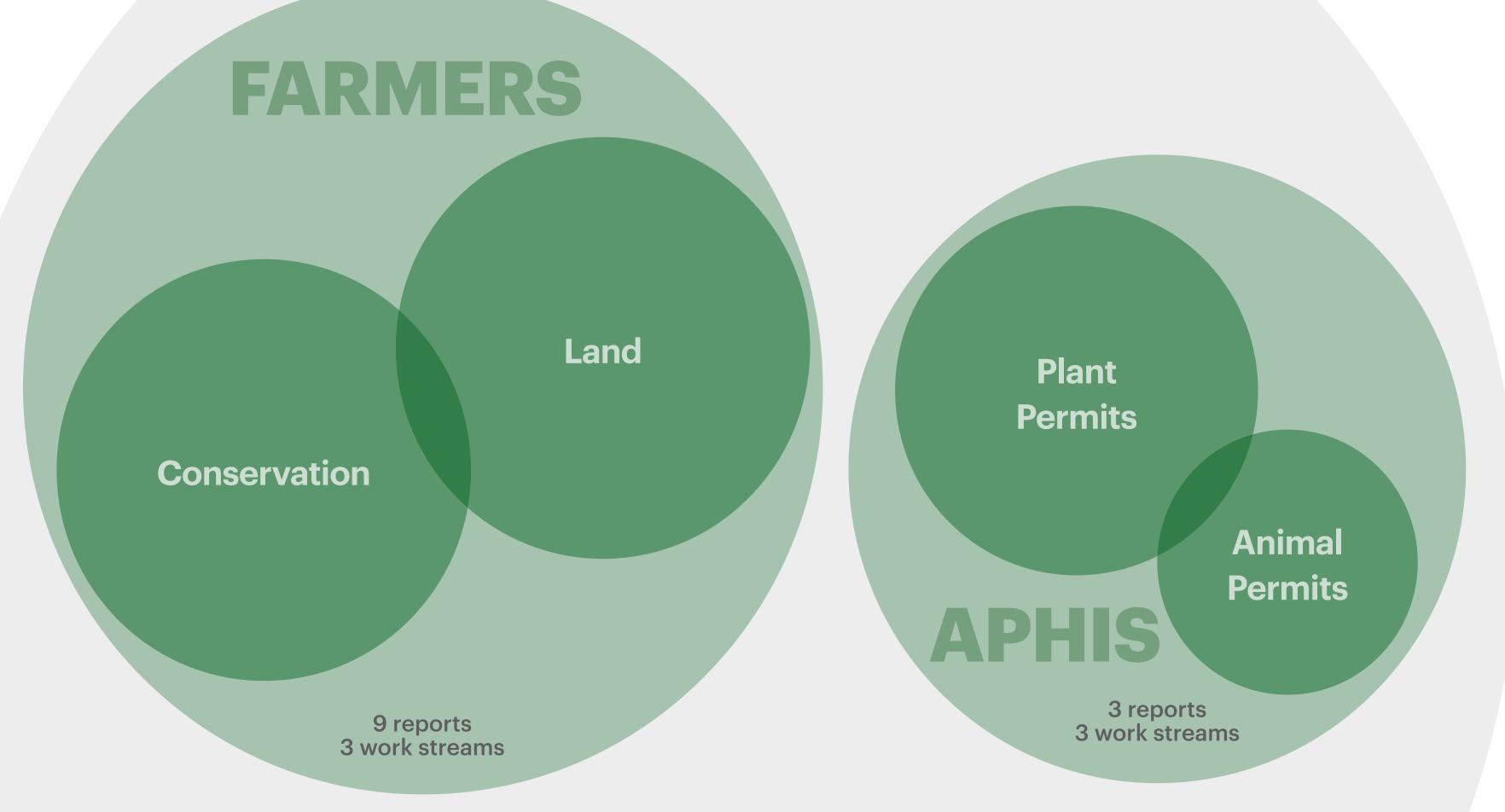


MYSCOPE









MYROLE

Problem & Service Definition

- Led requirement gathering from client
- Partnered with PM to outline the roadmap

Program operationalizing

- Helped organize team by mission area/product
- Collaborated with project management to establish ways of working, and cross-functional collaboration processes (tech and design feasibility recurring syncs, shared notes documentation, HCD education)
- Team onboarding documentation process
- Facilitated sprint retros with action items
- Utilized Jira tracking workflow as KPIs

Management

- Stakeholder alignment (workshops, 1:1s)
- Worked closely with teams on personal and career goals (weekly 1:1s)
- Defined HCD standards, processes, and tools
- Individual and group coaching of junior members around HCD strategies, professional growth, and stakeholder management.









FARMERS.GOV

vm

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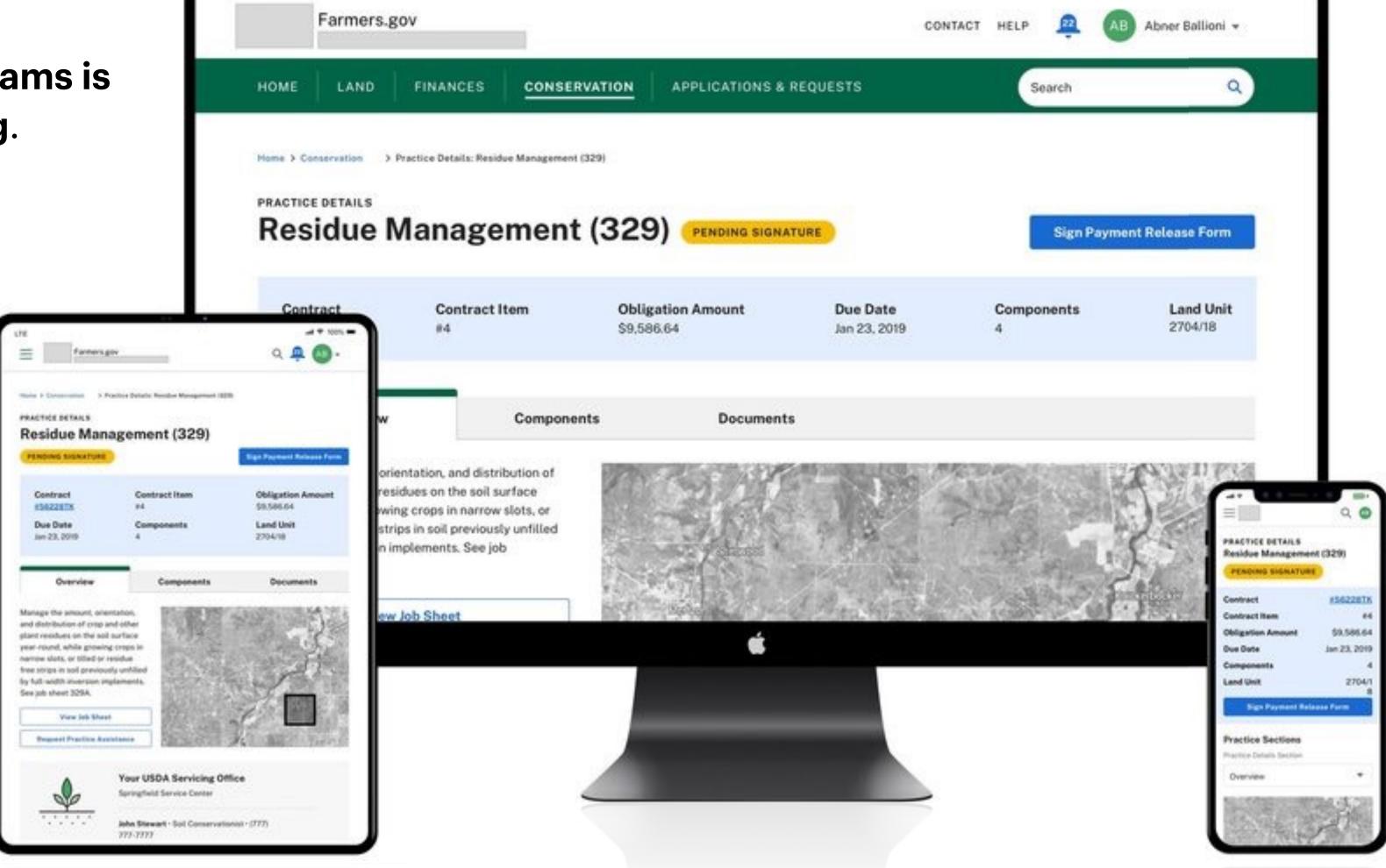
Over 2 million American farmers, ranchers, and dairy producers rely on available federal programs to support their operations and overcome

natural disasters and economic factors.

Access to these programs is extremely challenging.

Farmers.gov centralizes access for

customers so that they can self-serve, relieving some of the administrative burden employees currently carry.



IMPACT

The solution brought widespread use by delivering quality products and services in line with customer needs, client goals, and government mandates.

- \$15.5 billion in funding distributed
- 6.5 million customer page views
- 4.6 million customer interactions
- Conducted 170+ stakeholder interviews with producers and employees
- Developed 2 Customer Journeys and 15+
 User Personas
- Designed 65+ Screens
- Designed 20+ User Flows
- Developed 200+ key features for producers and employees enabling them to complete Conservation Requests, View Farm Loans, and eligibility forms
- 80+ Usability tests of key features

"Your findings are bringing to light that the customer experience opportunities go beyond the farmers.gov portal and they are motivating leadership to act upon them."

<u>Pierce Kateeb</u>, Design Director

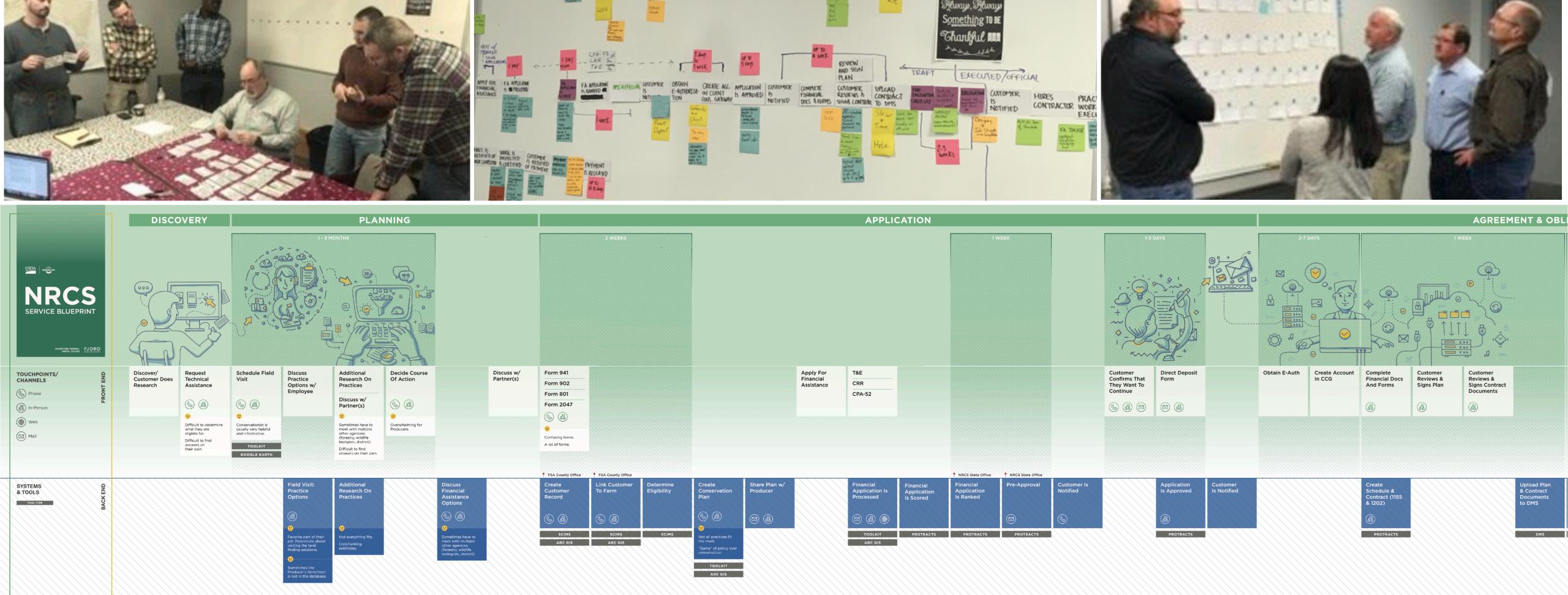
DIVINGIN

KF

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Understanding the existing employee and customer journeys with supporting systems and pain points.



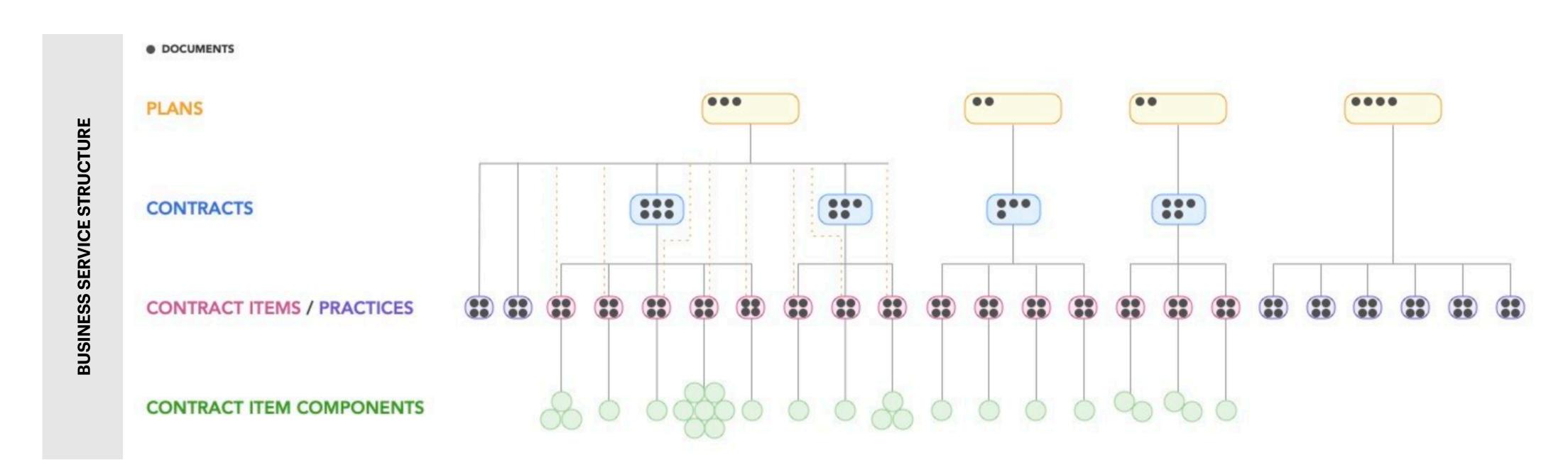
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Y.

Sharing strategic insights with stakeholders



REAL CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

"I don't know what the difference between a plan or a contract"

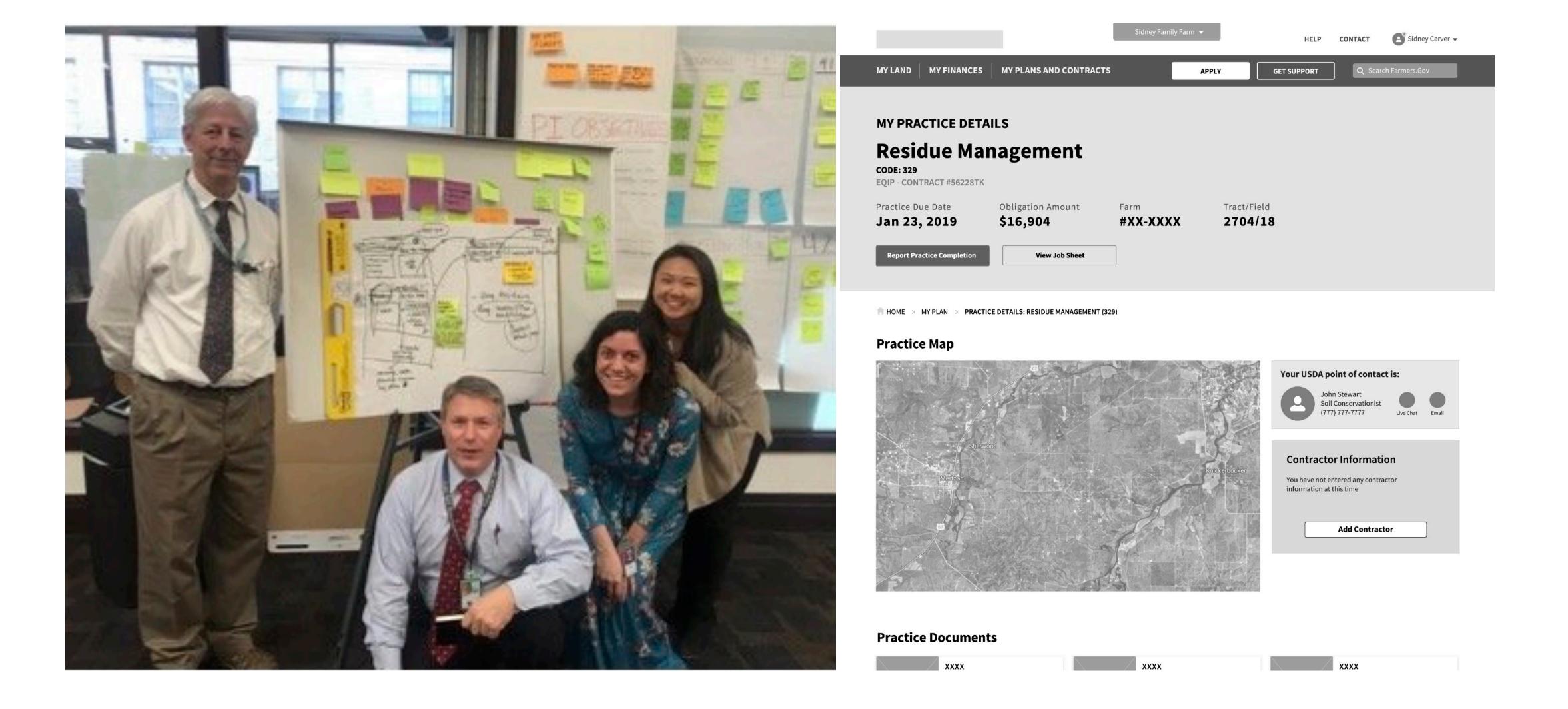
"I don't know what a contract item is"

"I just ask my conservationist what I need to do"

"I spend too much time organizing documents in the DMS"

DRIVING FOR CHANGE

Facilitating co-creation based on insights.









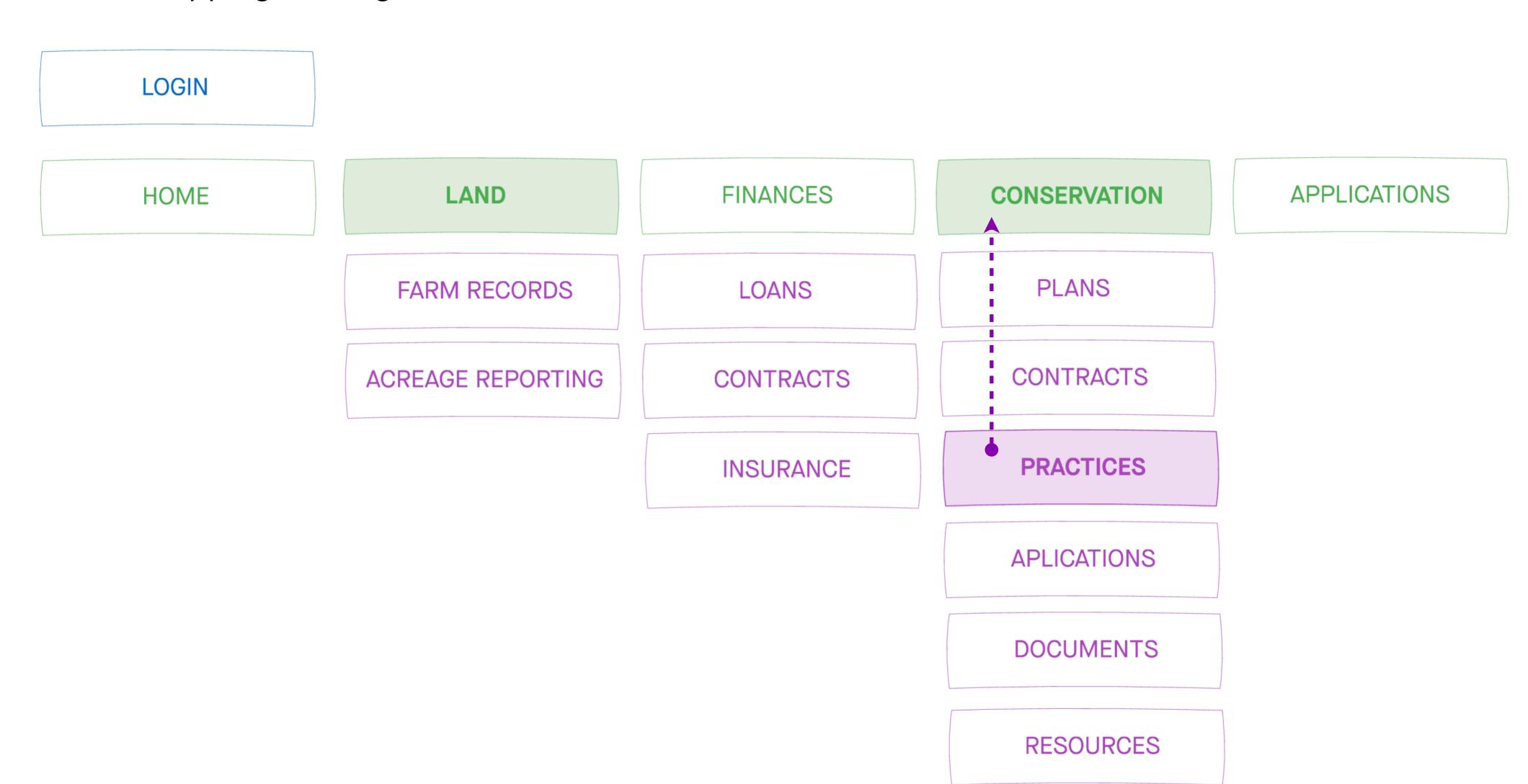
DRIVING FOR CHANGE

vm

KF

Flipping existing IA on its head.

25



DRIVING FOR CHANGE

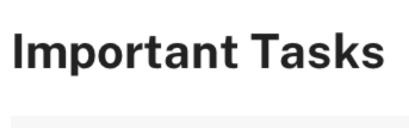
Conservation

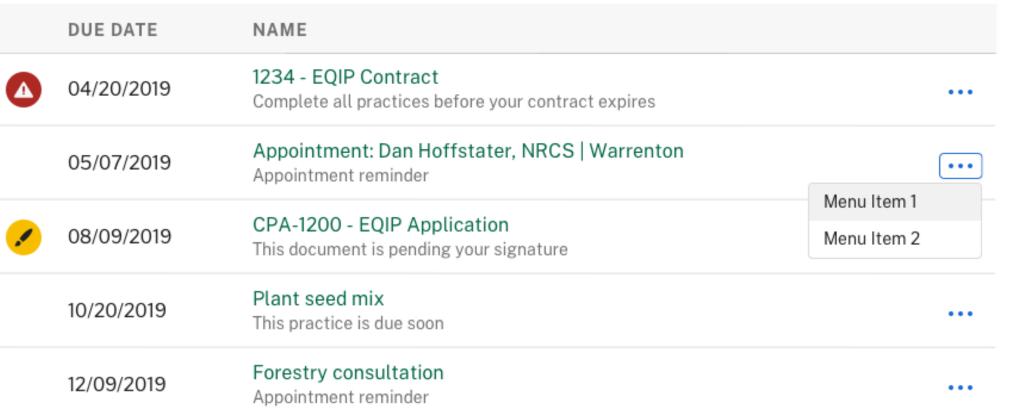
Surfacing top action items for users.

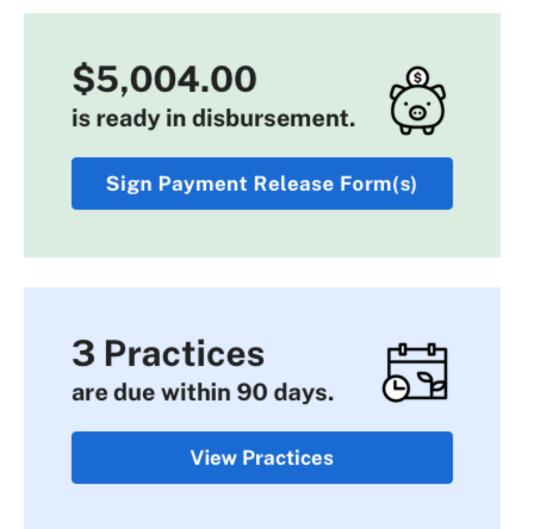






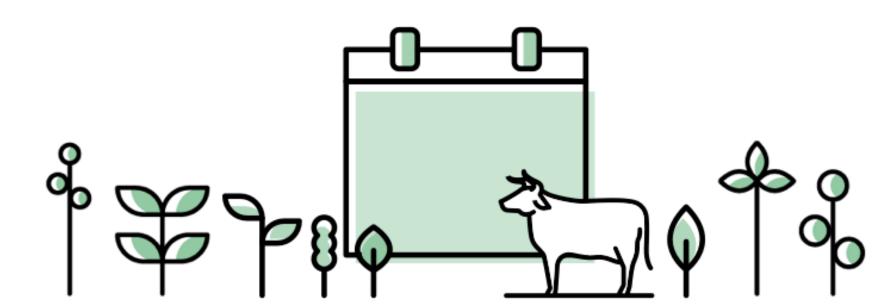






Need a hand? Submit a conservation request today!

- · Get help with a natural resource concern
- Request a new conservation plan
- Apply for conservation financial assistance



SCALING CULTURE

7.5

Bringing practices from my teams to the broader design organization:

Created and facilitated a weekly group coaching sessions where designers would

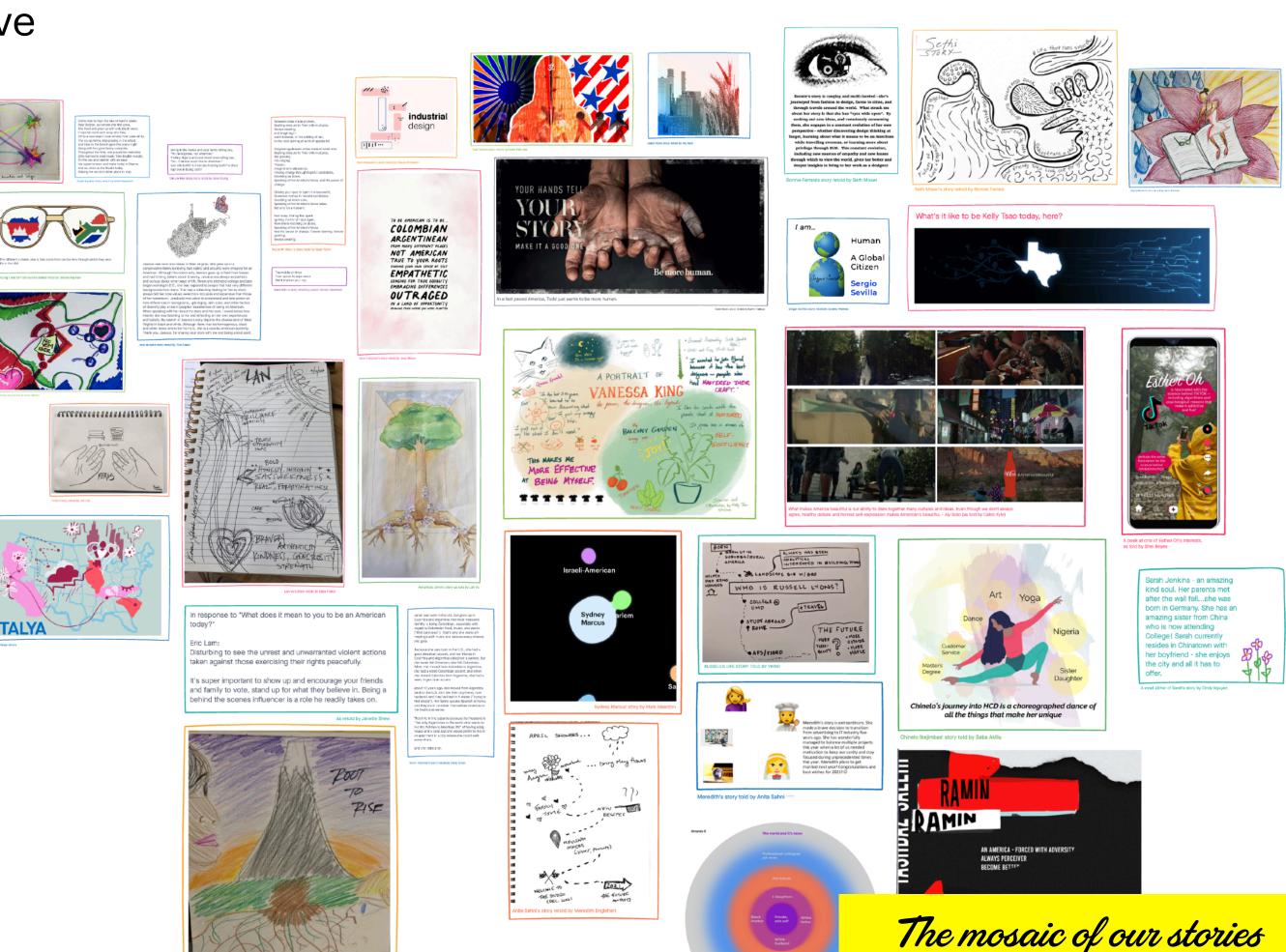
mentor each other through interactive

activities like roleplaying.

Launched and facilitated a monthly book club

Led DEI team where I established a new program to encourage personal connections during the pandemic as well as increase empathy between coworkers of diverse backgrounds

Led pro-bono service design engagement with DCKitchen to help them build a DEI program.



MOD

PROGRAM OWNER & UX LEAD

2016-2017



Your project, done efficiently.

Don't waste time and energy calling around. Let us connect you to the right peop

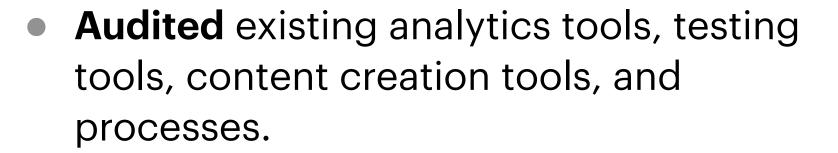
CHALLENGE

Lead-generation organization with no formal program, no historical data, or rigorous processes for optimization.

VISION

Establish processes that empower all teams to conduct successful optimization campaigns and leverage testing insights for product development.

MY ROLE



- Requirement gathering: Met with teams and stakeholders to get their input on needs, obstacles, and goals.
- Wrote reports on audit findings that included recommendations for PPC campaigns, new program KPIs, and impact projections.
- Co-created a custom prioritization
 framework for experiments in collaboration
 with C-suite and program managers
- Created reporting tools (bi-weekly sprint, real-time peek, monthly birds-eye view) for the entire company
- Created idea backlog for the entire company to contribute
- Created program workflow in Jira to allow all channels to participate







IMPACT

- 1
- vm
- USDA

- Increased testing velocity by 405%: from 19 tests/year to 96 tests/year
- Achieved an overall 10% quarterly increase in conversions
- Fully scalable experimentation program with training, program management, and reporting tools.
- Provided insights from tests to product team for new product design



KF

DRIVING FOR CHANGE



USDA

Providing visibility to leadership and stakeholders.

Pages / Modernize @

Conversion Optimization Overview

Created by Karen Feldman, last modified on Jan 31, 2017

In this page you will find an overview of our live tests, access to test plans and sprint reports.

Live LP tests							
Test	Туре	Start Date	More Info				
PPC - Mod.com/windows-2 geolocation on headline	AB	01/24/17	VWO »				
AN - MOD Solar-5 - Form and Button colors	MVT	01/11/17	VWO »				

Live MOD Website tests							
Test	Туре	Start Date	More Info				
MW - Home Page Hero CTA (@100%)	A/B	01/01/16	VWO »				
MW - Solar Masthead CTA - "See my savings"	A/B	10/20/16	VWO »				
MW- modWindows - CTA Orange + Text (@100%)	A/B	10/13/16	VWO »				

		otal Traffic	Total Conversions From VWO									
			**********************************	Control	Variation		Control					
		3,133	0.1.1			CR Lift	Desktop					
		4,659	241	8.57%	5.55%		Conversions	Visitors	CR	Mobile		
		25,610	767	18.59%	14.26%	-35.24%	69			Conversions	Visitors	01
sprint reports.		6,930	3,487	13.20%	14.03%	-23.29%	162	83	8.24%	99		0,
opinit roporto.		2,342	967	12.74%		0.29%	523	814	13.90%	212		,103
		2,886	321	14.52%	15.19%	19.23%	133	5,008	10.44%	925		228
Conversion Optimization Jiras »			263	9.33%	12.90%	-11.16%	47	1,001	13.29%	260		042
		993	128	13.95%	8.96%	-3.97%	31	301	15.61%			045
Tickets in development		3,045	281	10.06%	12.02%	-13.84%		463	6.70%	110	7	7 <mark>59</mark>
		2,159	115	6.59%	8.40%	-16.50%	23	207	11.11%	86	87	71
		986	70	9.20%	4.16%	-36.87%	29	432	6.71%	42	22	26 1
Name	0	6,833	1,195	18.49%	5.21%	-43.37%	24	423	5.67%	107	93	31 1
		7,066	931		16.65%	-9.95%	19	147	12.93%	42	53	9
LOGO on mod.com/quotes/windows links to mod.com	(1,258	143	13.98%	12.34%	-11.73%	147	919	16.00%	23	292	2
		1,158	204	6.91%	8.04%	16.35%			10.00%	423	2,060	
AFF - Iteration of WindowsRC - Step 2 radio buttons		9,479	744	16.93%	18.52%		13	188	6.0404	611	4,406	20
		1,813	147	8.11%	7.47%	9.39%	15	93	6.91%		1,100	13
PPC - Typo on Windows-189			147	8.64%	7.71%	-7.89%			16.13%	82	459	
AFE 14.13 3 43 110D (8,897	1 100			-10.76%			#DIV/0!		409	
AFF - Mobile iteration on HSR (remove spinner)			1,123	12.23%	13.00%	#DIV/0!			#DIV/0!			#0
DDC Societ to you in MMO for leavened incoming	2	,692			10.0078	6.30%			#DIV/0!			#0
PPC - Script to use in VWO for keyword insertion		,539	225	14.55%	2.40%				#DIV/0!			#0
AFF - Window Price Compare		,009	871	4.46%		-83.51%	130	00.5	#DIV/0!			#0
			16	0.22%	4.03%	-9.64%	164	889	14.62%	60		#0
AN- widget		075	18	0.39%	0.28%	27.27%	104	3,254	5.04%	262	410	14
		500	173	9.49%	0.56%	43.59%	0		#DIV/0!	202	6,381	4
PEBC window-price.com profile form step	1,0	033	301	7.0404	12.62%	32.98%	3	914	0.33%			#C
					30.51%	9.71%	52	596	8.72%	4	883	0
PEBC version of FHE/hvac-1	PEBC	FM-	-1303			.,,0	88	315 2	27.94%	13	101	12
	, 250	1 141	.500						.0470	49	189	25
Make side bar module dynamic in Advertorials	AdNetwor	ks MM	/-1577									20

Archive								
Test Name	Description	Start Date	End Date	Report	Innovations	vwo		
AFF - Display - Windows RC - newwindows vs. 3-step	Split	01/11/17	01/30/17	Control Won		VWO »		
MW - HVAC - iFrame: red button + "right here" text + no image	A/B	01/18/17	01/26/17	Control Won		<u>VWO »</u>		
ALL - HSR - Smart Labels Form Style	Split	01/11/17	01/25/17	Variation Won	View here »	VWO »		
AFF - Email - Windows RC - newwindows vs. 3-step	Split	01/11/17	01/26/17	Control Won	View here »	VWO »		
AN - HSR - New Press Logo Bar	Swapped logos for real press logos from Modernize PR	12/16/16	12/30/16	Variation Won	View here »	VWO »		

I love, love, love the clarity you have about the work that needs to be done. You have a knack for going deep enough to clearly assess what is the work involved. I can 1000% confidently say - you have the BEST clarity on the work across the managers on the team. And the clarity is very outcome-focused, very clear on what the team needs to execute and where it falls within the crowd of asks and granularity eng. is thinking at.

Also, let me admire how on top of your team you are. You're like the lifeline between the whole team, constantly keeping tabs, checking in, making corrections. I feel so connected to and real with the team because of you. I am always getting feedback, I can course correct, fix my messaging, help out. I feel a hundred times more productive because of the connect you make and the cover you provide."

NEEHARIKA GUPTA, VCF UX ARCHITECT, DISTINGUISHED ENGINEER (AND HUMAN)

About me



blue skies.







KF









EMAIL KAREN >