

INTERACTIVE CONTENT ACROSS THE FUNDEL



It's Time to Give Up Control ... but Still Get What You Want

Making sure you have a "customer-centric" approach is sage and popular advice, and now it's truer than ever. As B2B marketers, our job used to mean artfully steering every potential buyer toward a sale. Now it means creating a seamless customer-centric experience and handing them the wheel. Today's customers are researching their options, searching for answers and evaluating solutions online. Alone. All the time. They want to be in control, and they're not necessarily open to much involvement from Sales until they are ready.

So how do we put customers in the driver's seat, engage with them on their journey, and help guide them to their destination?

With interactive content.





We all know it and we might feel sad about it, but it's true. Our attention spans have drastically decreased. Some research says they're as low as eight seconds. That's about the same as a goldfish.

But whether it's eight or twenty-eight seconds, to truly connect on an intellectual and emotional level with potential customers, you need to provide engaging content experiences. That's the job interactive content was created to do and the reason successful B2B marketers are adopting and embracing customer-centric, interactive content more and more each day.

It beats short attention spans and thoroughly engages your audience while educating, persuading and empowering customers at every stage of their journey. Plus, it does these things without introducing them to Sales before they're ready.

Why You'll Love Interactive Content

- Increases conversions
- Builds credibility by answering customer questions
- Generates a high volume of specific customer data
- Engages customers across the funnel

Interactive content generates

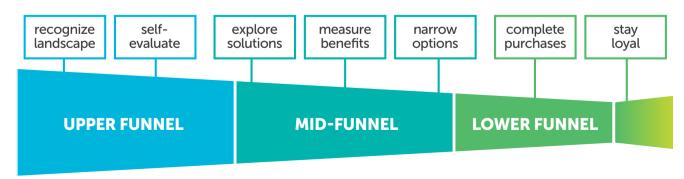
more conversions than static content

Source: Demand Metric

Benefits Across All Stages

Interactive content can engage prospective and current customers and overcome objections at every stage of the funnel. And at every stage, different types or combinations of interactive content can serve different purposes.

Interactive content helps customers...





Why Customers Love Interactive Content

- Lets them self-direct the purchase journey
- Reveals ways to improve their business
- Helps them explore product functionality
- Shows which products meet their needs
- Gives them the confidence to buy

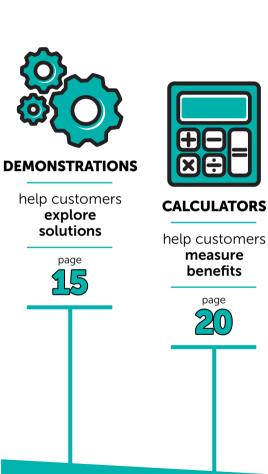


DATA VISUALIZERS

help customers recognize landscapes









Types of Interactive Content

and Their Place in the Customer Journey



UPPER FUNNEL

MID-FUNNEL



Data Visualizers

Show them what the numbers add up to

Early in the funnel, before convincing potential customers you have a solution, you may have to convince them they have a problem. Data visualizers are a great tool for this job. They display relevant data from all kinds of sources in ways that show meaning. Charts, graphs and maps can be filtered and searched in unique and relevant ways. When buyers can see problems or opportunities, they're more likely to ask, "Do I have them too?"

Consider a data visualizer if you ...

- Generate a large volume of customerrelevant data
- Have a data-centric service offering
- Want to raise awareness about an industry issue

Data Visualizers

WHY CUSTOMERS LOVE THEM

They learn about issues and opportunities while staying anonymous.

- No need to self-identify
- Little investment of time or energy
- See a big-picture view of common problems

WHY YOU'LL LOVE THEM

Your customers will embrace, rather than resist, change.

- Soften resistance to change with hard data
- Users identify problems on their own
- Highlight industry problems to attract high-funnel prospects

Case Study: PBM Interactive Analytics Experience

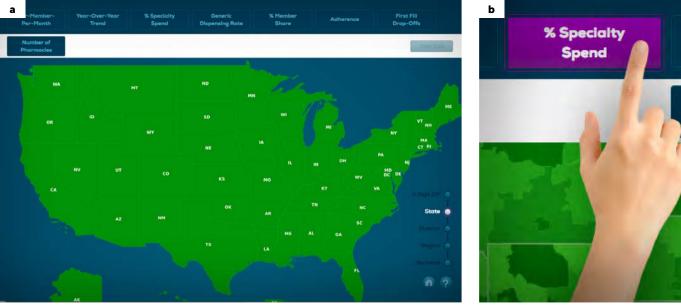
CHALLENGE

Pharmacy benefit management (PBM) companies use data in every decision. They make predictions that help insurance providers promote patient health and decrease costs. But despite the central importance of data to their services, that data is usually too dry or granular to interest prospects without context.

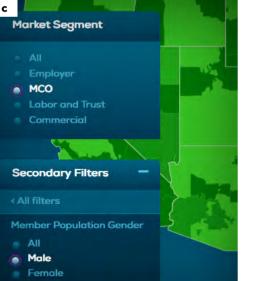
SOLUTION

One PBM provider created an interactive analytics experience that lets prospects explore its data in ways that matter to them. Users filter and search through metrics from the provider's existing clients to estimate their own potential cost savings. Many prospects spend over 45 minutes diving into the data — without needing help from a salesperson.









Number of Pharmacies			Compare Data Select up to three areas to compare and select "View	View Da	
	Illinois	Oklahoma	Company	8	
% Specialty Spend	##%	##%	##%		
Per-Member-Per-Month	\$##	\$##	S##		
Year-Over-Year Trend	##%	##%	##%		
Generic Dispensing Rate	##%	##%	##%		
% Member Share	##%	##%	##%		
Adherence	##%	##%	##%		
First Fill Drop-Offs	##%	##%	##%		
High School Graduation Rate	##%	##%	##%		
Average Household Income	\$##	S##	\$##		

(a) The PBM provider flowed key metrics from its client base into an interactive, touch-screen map. (b) To use the map, users apply a variety of filters to select the most relevant data segments for their business. (c) They can search by geography, market segment, medication type, patient demographics and more. (d) Each search reveals the potential cost savings the provider could deliver.



Assessments

Ask questions that help clarify their challenges

Even when customers know there's a problem in their industry, they might not think it's a problem for them. Assessments can help them understand the true impact. Interactive assessments ask customers questions to evaluate their performance and identify their challenges. But that's not all. They can also send users customized reports based on their answers. They can recommend next steps to improve their scores. Or they can invite users to review their results with your sales team — so you can solve their newfound challenges together.



Consider an assessment if you ...

- Want customers to make a transformative change
- Target multiple personas with different pain points
- Rely on sales conversations to determine fit



WHY CUSTOMERS LOVE THEM

They get a clear action plan to address specific challenges.

- Quickly identify major business challenges
- Instantly receive actionable next steps
- Increase alignment among key decision-makers

WHY YOU'LL LOVE THEM

Your customers get a sense of urgency to make a change, and soon.

- Highlight pain points your company can solve
- Make your product appear highly relevant
- Gather insight to accelerate the sales discovery process

Case Study: Modern Marketing Assessment

CHALLENGE

B2B marketing is evolving fast. The purchase journey is going digital. Buyers' expectations for relevant content are increasing. And most B2B marketers are feeling the pressure to modernize. But it can be tough for marketers to know what needs improvement — let alone what to do about it.

SOLUTION

The Mx Group built a modern marketing assessment to help B2B companies create a plan to evolve their marketing. It highlights key areas of strength and weakness. It offers real-time peer benchmarking. And it gives users concrete recommendations to improve their performance.



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Strategy

1. What's your marketing team's ultimate responsibility?

- Generating initial prospect engagement.
- Generating marketing-qualified leads (MQLs).
- Contributing to revenue.

2. How often do your sales and marketing teams collaborate and coordinate strategies?

Rarely.

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Occasionally. Frequently.



WEAKNESS

Your Modern Marketing Score Is: Weak



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How You Compare 36 out of 100

IN WEAVALES Your overall score is a weighted average across the seven categories detailed below.



Benchmark: The combined and current average score of other marketers like you who have taken The Mx Group's Modern Marketing Assessment.

What Your Score Means

Your score was calculated using your responses to this assessment, which is based or SiriusDecisions' approach to modern marketing. This leading B2B research and advisory firm provides insights on what modernized marketing functions should look like across different monarationisi scene



SiriusDecisions has found that approximately 64% of B2B marketers can be considered of "average" modern marketing maturity, 22% as "weak" and 14% as "best in class." The specific benchmarks in this report provide a real-time comparison of how you stack up against other marketers who have taken this assessment.

We've provided high-level recommendations for your organization across each category. If you'd like to discuss your results in greater detail, please contact us.





2. Technology and Infrastructure ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT



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(a) The assessment asks users questions about their marketing in seven categories. (b) Then, users automatically receive their overall score. (c) An instantly emailed report contains category-specific breakdowns and actionable recommendations.

(d) The report includes real-time peer benchmarking, so users can compare themselves to their fellow marketers. (e) Users also receive a PowerPoint of their report to share with internal stakeholders.



Demonstrations

Let them see your value for themselves

You could tell potential customers why your product is the best fit. But it's more powerful and credible to show them with an interactive demonstration — while letting them keep investigating on their own. For simpler products, a video demo might be all you need. But more complex products often benefit from simulations. Customers can use these interactive demonstrations to control digitized versions of your product, manipulating variables like time or human action to match the scenario to their circumstances. They'll see exactly what your product can do for them.

Consider a demonstration if you ...

- Sell a complex product or set of products
- Want to highlight unique differentiators
- Get more demo requests than your sales team can handle

Demonstrations

WHY CUSTOMERS LOVE THEM

They see exactly how their problem can be solved.

- Try out the product with no risk or pressure
- Easily evaluate core benefits and determine fit
- Understand more sophisticated functionality

WHY YOU'LL LOVE THEM

You can highlight your benefits in an engaging, credible way.

- Prove the benefits you're selling are real
- Increase customer desire for the value you offer
- Advance prospects through the funnel faster

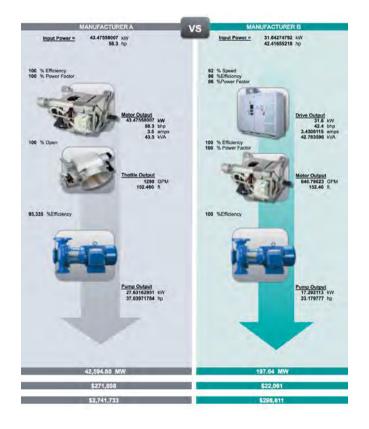
Case Study: Energy Simulation

CHALLENGE

A major industrial manufacturer takes an innovative approach to voltage and frequency control. That new approach has many benefits, but it presents a big change for buyers. The manufacturer's challenge was to show how the rewards of change would outweigh the risk compared to competing solutions.

SOLUTION

The manufacturer built a simulation to demonstrate how its products beat the competition over time. Users enter specific application data to see how much time and energy the alternative approach could save them. This helps move more receptive users through the sales funnel faster. The energy simulation is now a key part of the manufacturer's sales process.



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7	8	9	-
4	5	6	+
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Calculators for energy consumers Compressor Fan Pump Calculators for energy producers Compressor Fan Pump

Enter Information about the Pump

Use the sliders to select the correct pump flow and efficiency, choose the type of fluid, and then enter the inputs for the pump curve equation.

Flow	Ihr	1290	GPM
Efficiency	5	85	%
Fluid	Sea Water	1	kg/m^3
(if not listed :	select none and input den	sity next to	drop dov

Pump Curve Equation Head= -0 (Flow)^2 + 0.0166 (Flow) + 197.61 *Needed for Economic Analysis of pump



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1. Pump Power Comparison

Below is a chart showing the amount of energy used at 10% increments leading up to MCR (Maximum Continuous Rating). These numbers are driven by the input power calculated in the Industry Standards tab. The graph below the chart shows the energy savings at each capacity over 1 year's time.

	Pump Power Comparison				
Max Continuous Rating	Control Method (Energy Used inMW)				
	MANUFACTURER A	MANUFACTURER B			
MCR	48	44			
90%	63	43			
80%	63	40			
70%	67	37			
60%	63	33			
50%	772	28			
40%	465	23			
30%	17,401	18			
20%	27,880	12			
10%	14,585	6			
ne-Year Power Used	61,406	284.93			
Total Energy Saved		61121.08			

2. Power Cost Comparison

The data below and the chart to the right both illustrate the cost savings at each at these capacities on the Calculator tab. This is calculated using the percentage of time at capacity, the cost per killowat hour and input power.

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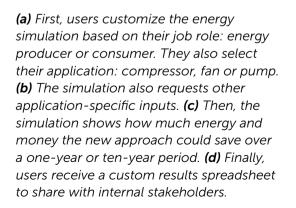
2. Power Cost Comparison

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3. Total Cost of Dwnership (10-Year-Life Cycle Cost)

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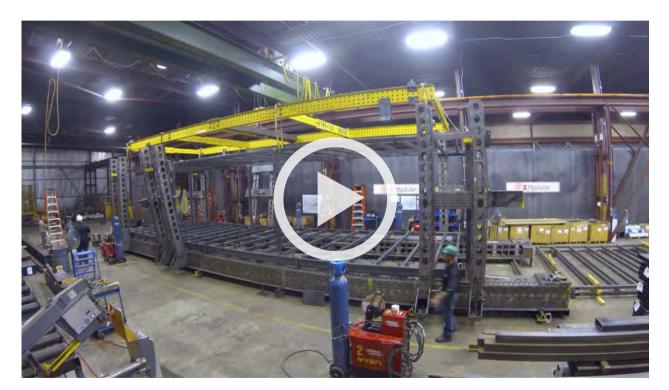
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Bonus Case Study: Z Modular

Demonstrations can have differing levels of interactivity. For Zekelman Industries, immersive video was a powerful way to showcase the benefits of its modular construction products. It uses 3D modeling to show how easy it is to use Z Modular products, and the wide variety of structures they can create.



Calculators

Prove the payoff

Later in the customer's journey, financials play a pivotal role. When a potential customer knows investing in your product will pay off, they'll be more likely to purchase. And calculators can put your financial benefits front and center. Prospects can enter their business data into a calculator's interactive interface. Then, calculators leverage an algorithm based on your extensive industry experience to show your product's economic benefits. Calculators help prospects easily figure out useful values like ROI, cost savings or waste reduction. With the numbers right in front of them, customers can be sure your product's benefits are worth investing in.

Consider a calculator if you ...

- Sell a product with a high purchase price
- Use productivity or cost savings as primary proof points
- Work with buyers who have ready access to data inputs



WHY CUSTOMERS LOVE THEM

They have the data to prove a product will be worth the purchase price.

- Transform abstract benefits into concrete numbers
- Take business-specific proof points to management
- Predict the product's business impact

WHY YOU'LL LOVE THEM

You'll overcome one of the biggest objections: cost.

- Prove your brand and products' business value
- Enable more productive sales conversations with prospects
- Potentially convert more potential customers faster

Case Study: vAuto Inventory Turn Calculator

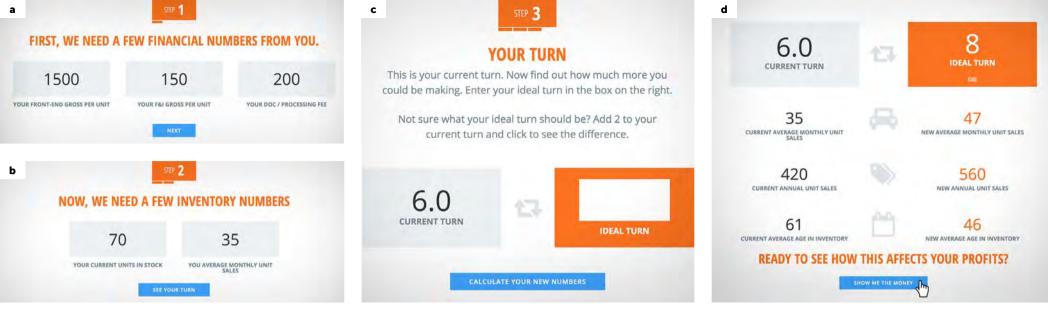
CHALLENGE

vAuto, an automotive software provider, knows dealers can increase profit by selling cars faster, even if individual margins are smaller. However, this goes against decades of conventional wisdom in automotive. vAuto's challenge was to convince buyers that using its software to speed inventory turn can drive profit.

SOLUTION

vAuto built an inventory turn calculator to show dealers the benefits of faster turn. Users enter key business metrics to calculate their turn rate, and how much more they can earn by selling faster. This helps buyers see the benefit of vAuto's inventory management approach, and guides them toward productive sales conversations.







MORE IN ANNUAL BACK-END GROSS

MORE PER MONTH IN DOC / PROCESSING FEES

140INCREASE IN ANNUAL UNIT SALES

MORE UNITS SOLD PER MONTH

TURN YOUR NEW NUMBERS INTO A REALITY

The vAuto Velocity Method of Management is based on turning your inventory faster to earn a higher profit — and our tools use live-market data to help you do just that.



DISCUSS YOUR RESULTS

(a) To use the inventory turn calculator, users first enter their dealership's financial details. (b) Next, they input inventory information. (c) Then, the calculator shows users their current inventory turn rate. It calculates how two additional turns could improve (d) their inventory and (e) their profits. (f) When they're finished, users can choose to discuss their results with a vAuto expert.

Product Selectors / Configurators Dial in on the details

For many complex applications, potential customers want to be sure your product can meet their detailed requirements. They want confidence that you provide exactly what they need. And product configurators can give them that. Product configurators let customers easily evaluate options, determine relevance and create a specific configuration of your solution. Some interactive configurators even provide cost estimates for custom products. Plus, if a prospective customer is satisfied with what they've built, they can take it right to your sales team.

Consider a product configurator if you...

- Offer complex or customizable products
- Provide multiple offerings for different applications and environments
- Sell to customers with specific or highly regulated use cases



WHY CUSTOMERS LOVE THEM

Their B2B purchase process becomes clearer and simpler.

- Remove ambiguity from the purchase
- Increase efficiency by minimizing need to shop around
- Support multi-stakeholder purchase decisions

WHY YOU'LL LOVE THEM

You'll keep customers away from your competition.

- Reduce possibility that they keep looking for other solutions
- Prepare prospective customers for efficient Sales interactions
- Simplify and automate product quote and proposal creation

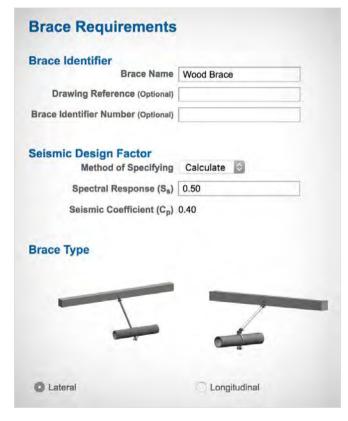
Case Study: Anvil® Seismic Calculator

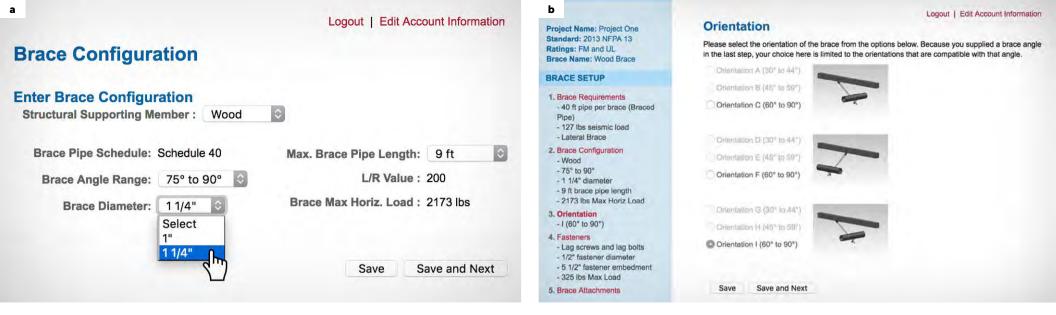
CHALLENGE

Anvil International is a leading provider of piping products and services. Many of its buyers are responsible for installing fire sprinklers that comply 100% with seismic regulatory codes. Anvil wanted to prove its products would help buyers meet building requirements, as well as all relevant codes and standards.

SOLUTION

Anvil developed a seismic calculator to help architects and engineers design code-compliant sprinkler systems. Users enter their project data into the tool, which generates a list of Anvil products to keep them in line with their codes. The seismic calculator has made Anvil a one-stop shop to design safe, compliant fire sprinkler systems.





Seismic Project Setup

Standards Selection

Select the standards for your project. The Seismic Load calculations for each brace will use the selected standard, and the brace attachments you choose will be checked against the appropriate UL or FM max loads.

2013 NFPA 13 单

Product Agency Listings

FM Approved UL Listed Save

Project Braces

New Bran

Create braces for your project below. Once you have completed braces successfully, you will be able to return to this page and produce a seismic submittal as a PDF that you can save, print, or email.

To generate a report, select the type of report you would like, which project braces to include in the report, and then click the "Create Report" button

Brace Name	Total Seismic Load	Brace Description	Fastener	Attachments
Wood Brace	127 lbs	Wood, Lateral 75° - 90°(I), 1 1/4" diameter 9 ft iong 2173 lbs max load	Lag screws and lag bolts	771 Sway Brace Swivel Attachment 770 Q Brace Clamp

Papart w/ Case Chaste D. Create Depart

Main

Branch

250

1.in.

Flow

Sch 40

40 ft

10 ft

Brace Information Seismic Brace Attachments d Structure attachment fittine: 9.0 Length of brace: Make: Anne Model: 771 Sway Black livered Attachment Diameter of brace: 1.25 in Load rating FM: 3.400 lbs UL: Not required Schedule of brace: Schedule 40 Transition attachment fitting (where applicable): Angle of brace: 75" - 90" Makes Model: Least radius of gyration: 0.540 Load rating EM-Sway brace (pipe attachment) fitting I/r value: 200 Maker Arrest Model 770 O Brace Cause Maximum horizontal load: 2,173 lbs Load rating FM: 500 lbs UL: Not required Fastener Information Seismic Bracing Assembly Detail Orientation of connecting surface: -in Main Line Unced 601-90 Student Fastener: Supporting Member Wood Type: Lag screws and lag bolts By Others) Diameter: 1/2 in. Festerer Length (in wood): 5 1/2 in. Schedule 40 Anvi Fig 771 Brace Pipe Sway Brace Swivel Maximum load: Latera Anvi Fig.770 325 lbs Attachment Q Brate Clamp Brace identification no. (to be used on plans) ✓ Lateral brace Longitudinal brace 4-way brace Sprinkler System Load Calculation (Fpw = Cp Wp) Cp = 0.4 Schedule Line Diameter Length (ft) Total (ft) Weight per ft Weight

40 ft

19 #

5.90

2.05

Ib/ft

Ib/ft

Subtotal weight

236.00 Ib

38.95

274.95

lb

lb

(a) The seismic calculator asks users a variety of questions about their projects.
(b) It gathers details about users' applications and requirements. (c) Then, it provides a list of Anvil products that meet those requirements and comply with relevant codes and standards. (d) Users also receive a printout of their results, which they can bring right to an Anvil salesperson.

e-Commerce

Program the purchase

e-Commerce isn't new, but it's becoming more pervasive, even for complex products. As long as every part of a purchase can be programmed, your product can likely be bought online. True, first-time purchasers may need Sales to contact them before they think they're ready. But for expert prospective customers, repeat customers, or those purchasing a straightforward product, e-commerce can remove that final speed bump and improve conversion.

Consider e-commerce if you ...

- Have a structured purchase process
- Work with knowledgeable or repeat customers
- Believe your qualified lead conversion rate should be higher

e-Commerce

WHY CUSTOMERS LOVE IT

They can skip unnecessary Sales contact and purchase on their own.

- Make purchases anytime and anywhere
- Purchase process becomes faster and more efficient
- Obtain business value more quickly

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

You'll simply get more sales if the sales process is simple.

- Increase pipeline revenue without growing sales force
- Increased efficiency can improve margin on the sale
- Easier to continuously improve the purchase process

Case Study: Wonscore[™] from Wonderlic

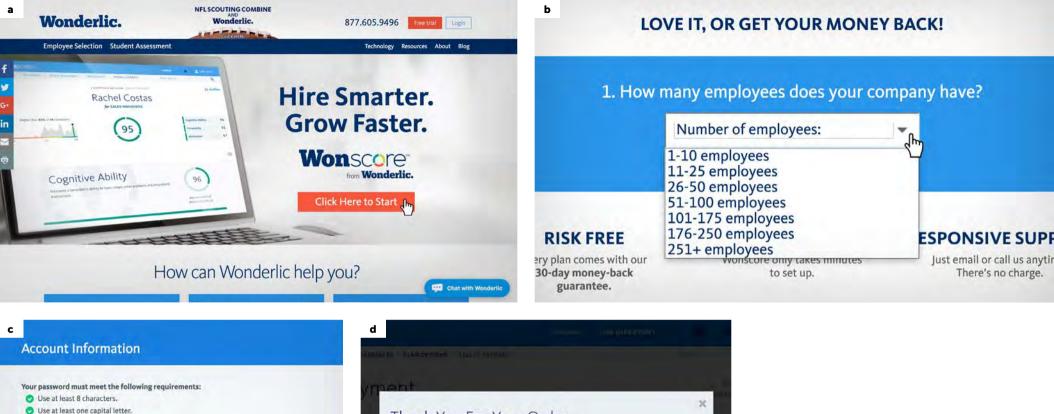
CHALLENGE

Wonderlic provides subscription-based testing services that help organizations evaluate candidates during the hiring process. It wanted to increase its market share among small and medium-sized businesses. Specifically, it wanted to smooth the path to purchase for its Wonscore testing service.

SOLUTION

Wonderlic developed an e-commerce platform to let buyers purchase Wonscore without help. Buyers can visit Wonderlic's website, pick the right subscription plan and start using the service immediately. In the 14 months after launch, the new platform has been a hit, with Wonderlic's monthly recurring revenue growing by an average of 10%.





Use at least one number.

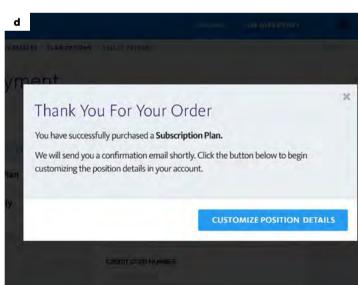
CREATE PASSWORD

.....

CONFIRM PASSWORD

.....

CREATE MY ACCOUNT 🔶



(a) Users can visit Wonderlic's website to learn more about Wonscore. (b) When they're ready to buy, they specify their organization size to find the right subscription plan. (c) In-system verification double-checks all provided information.
(d) After buyers enter billing information, they receive a confirmation that their order has been processed and can start using Wonscore right away.



Gamification

Play your way to brand loyalty

Your job doesn't stop after the sale! Nurturing lasting relationships with current customers can keep you top-of-mind and increase retention. And gamification can help you do it. Gamified platforms give users psychological rewards for taking specific actions. Interactive communities, competitive rankings, rewards programs, repurchase incentives ... They all use positive reinforcement to keep customers coming back, letting you proactively manage brand loyalty.

Consider gamification if you ...

- Sell your products in a competitive industry
- Offer a product that can be bought more than once
- Have a subscriptionbased business that depends on renewals

Gamification

WHY CUSTOMERS LOVE IT

They feel part of a rewarding community.

- Get rewards and earn status
- Connect with like-minded peers
- Engage with a brand without feeling "sold to"

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

You'll stay top-of-mind and increase long-term engagement.

- Embed your brand into customers' daily lives
- Increase brand differentiation and "stickiness"
- Drive customer referrals, retention and repurchase

Gamification

Case Study: NGC® Registry

CHALLENGE

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation (NGC), a leading provider of collectible coin grading, wanted to increase demand for its services. It wanted existing customers in particular to come back to NGC for future coin grading.

SOLUTION

The NGC Registry is a gamified solution that lets users compete to build the best sets of graded coins — and improve their scores by grading more coins with NGC. It currently has over 12,500 registered members, each with one or more graded sets. The NGC Registry builds demand for NGC grading services and helps increase the value of NGC coins.





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Best in Category

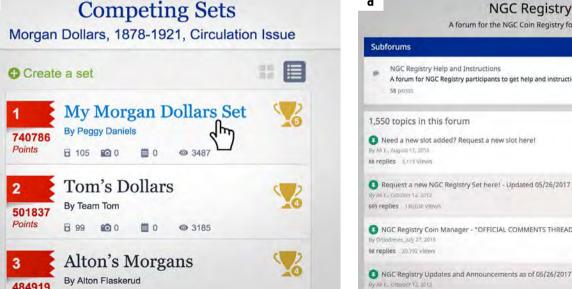
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NGC MS 67

7502 Points





(a) NGC Registry users build sets of graded coins based on criteria like coin type or year. (b) Sets are scored by completeness and grade, and users get an overall score across all their sets. Users can also access other gamified features, including (c) leaderboards to compete for top sets, and (d) message boards to connect with peers and share a love for the hobby.

With Interactive Content, Everyone Wins

As we've seen, interactive content reaches customers how they want to be reached, at every stage of the purchase journey. Whether they're identifying needs, comparing options or making a purchase, interactive content lets them do it on their terms. Not yours.

That's good news for you, too. Because most of the time, empowered prospects are more engaged and more likely to convert. As a marketer, that's music to your ears — and your pipeline.

Want a piece of that success? Think about your best salesperson. What do they do to engage and excite potential customers across the funnel? And how can you package that into interactive content that gives them the control they crave?

Go customer-centric to engage and convert!



The Mx Group is a digital and demand generation agency that empowers companies with the competitive edge of modern B2B marketing. To do this, we integrate a broad set of services: Strategy. Design and content. Web and app development. Demand gen and lead management. And we make it all work together so that companies attract, convert and retain more customers.

For more information, contact The Mx Group at 800-827-0170 or start@themxgroup.com

Want more B2B marketing inspiration? Click below.







explore our RESOURCES

take our modern marketing **ASSESSMENT**

follow our **BLOG**



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