SHARMAYELVERTON User Experience Design Portfolio 2025





SOME PEOPLE I'VE WORKED WITH















Good in every sense















bitzesty o



fti Fiduciary Trust International















SPRINGER NATURE

Case Study:

Springer Nature Article Processing Platform (Snapp)

THE CLIENT:

Springer Nature is a large publisher of scientific journals. They are currently building their own platform to manage the editorial and peer review process of scientific research, so as to move away from legacy competitor owned systems and take control of their user experience.

THE BRIEF:

Support the design and development of a new article processing system that is fast, simple and convenient to use. This should enable Springer Nature's extensive and diverse portfolio of journals to improve their operational efficiency and provide a positive user experience for customers (the submitting authors).

Aims: Improve customer satisfaction and reduce turnaround time from submission to publication.

About Snapp: https://www.springernature.com/gp/snapp

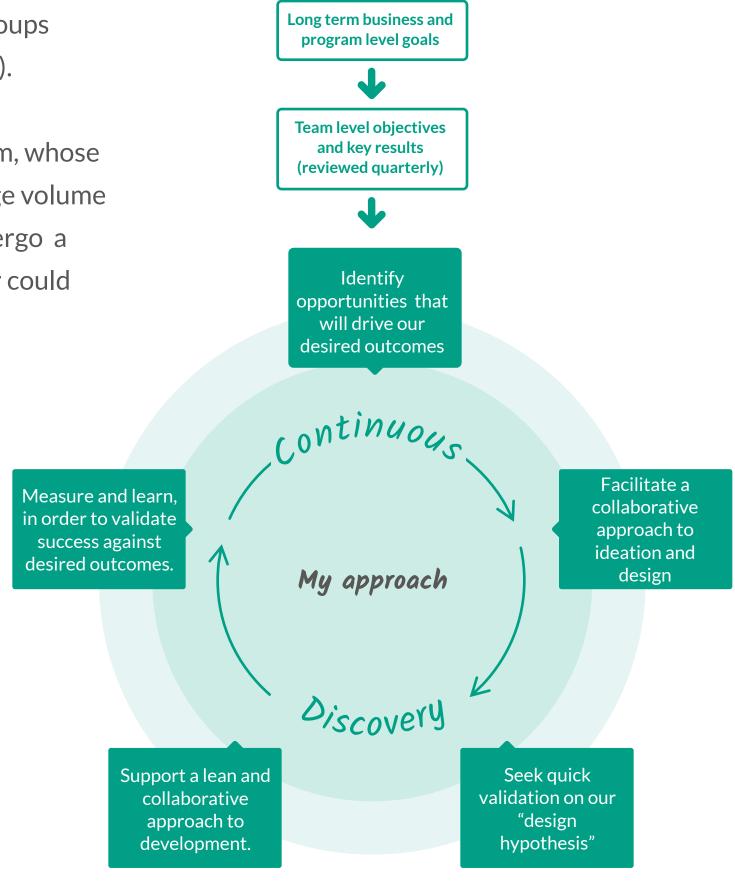


There were several product teams within the Snapp program each focused on supporting the experience for one of the user groups involved in the process (authors, editors, peer reviewers etc).

I worked predominantly with the "Editorial Experience" team, whose aim was to provide a platform for editors to manage the large volume of submissions to their journal. Each submission had to undergo a rigorous editorial and peer review process before the editor could reach a publication decision.

My role in the team

- Supported and informed the product strategy, prioritisation and objective setting.
- Gathered and processed user insight.
- Served as facilitator of the ideation and design process.
- Created refined UI design and functional specifications.
- Advocated for a culture of continuous learning and for the importance of validating success against measurable outcomes.
- Worked closely with developers to enable a lean an iterative approach to design and development.





IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH ANALYSIS OF USER INSIGHT





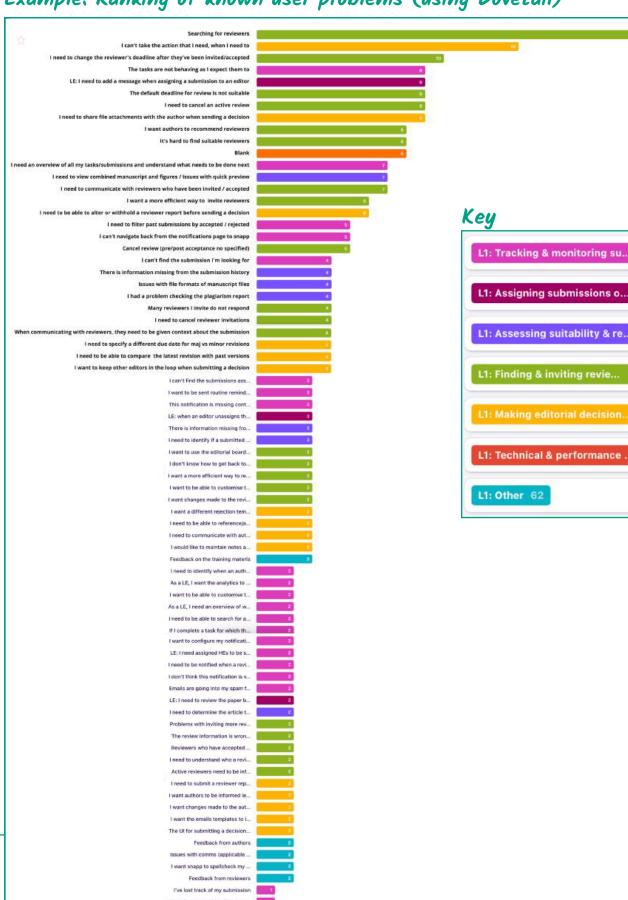
I employed several discovery methods to identify and prioritise user needs or problems that we believed would drive our desired outcomes if addressed.

I draw extensively on ideas from the books 'Continuous Discovery Habits' by Teresa Tores, and 'Lean UX' by Jeff Gothelf & Josh Seiden, which have come to underpin a lot of my thinking in UX.

Discovery practices:

- Collecting and classifying large volumes of user feedback from various sources (online feedback form, customer support requests).
- Speaking regularly with users to understand their needs and their problems.
- Conducting targeted research initiatives (e.g. structured interviews, user testing, unmoderated diary studies)
- Combining user insight with system data, in collaboration with data analysts, to identify and determine measurable outcomes.

Example: Ranking of known user problems (using Dovetail)

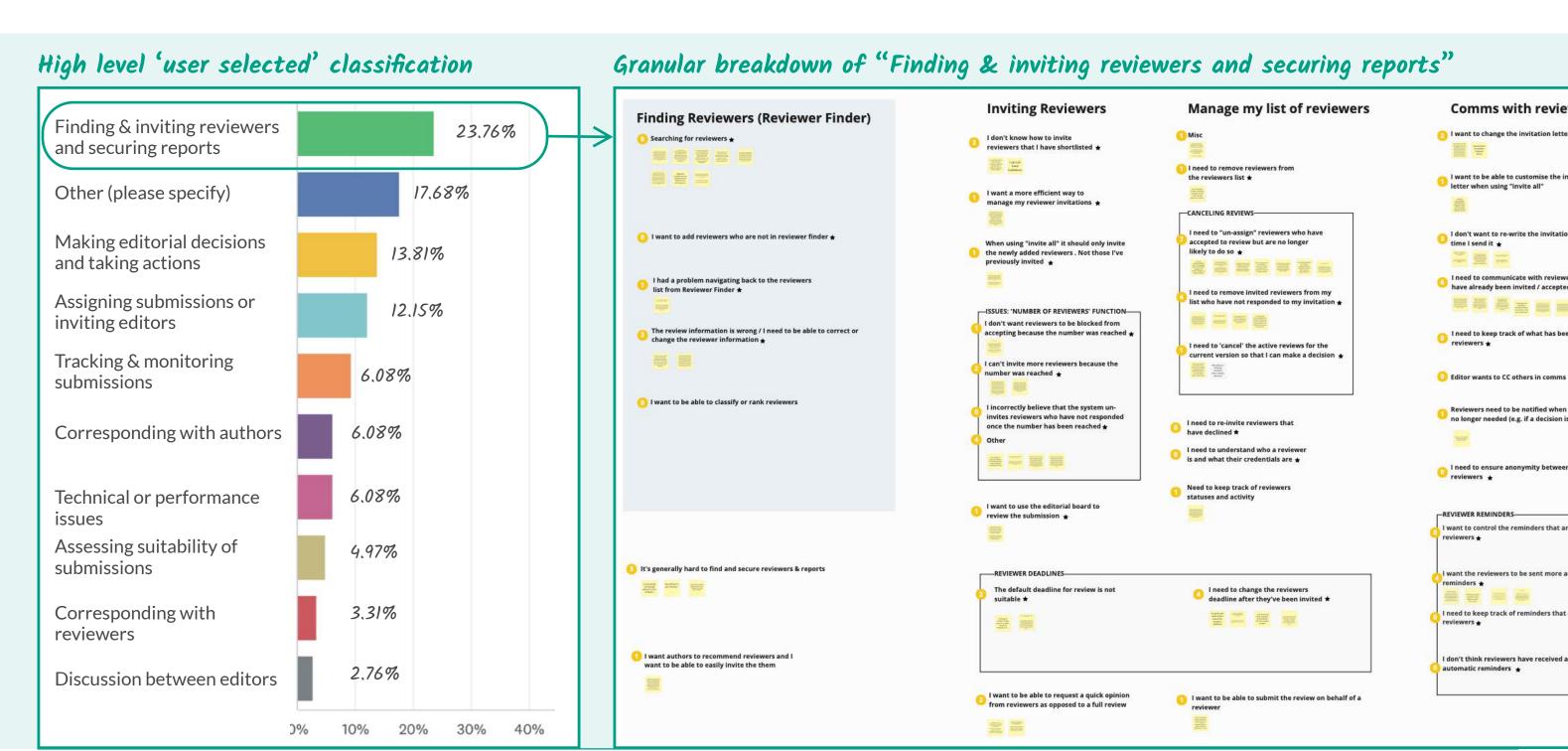




EXAMPLE: Analysis of user feedback

Identify opportunities

A significant portion of our user insight came from online feedback forms, which provided invaluable insight but was challenging to manage at scale. I invested considerable effort in analysing this manually to derive prioritised user needs that informed our product strategy. However, toward the end of my time there, we began exploring how AI could support this process. Since leaving, I have continued to follow the evolving landscape of AI and to explore how these tools can enhance and streamline the research and design process.





FACILITATE A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO IDEATION AND DESIGN

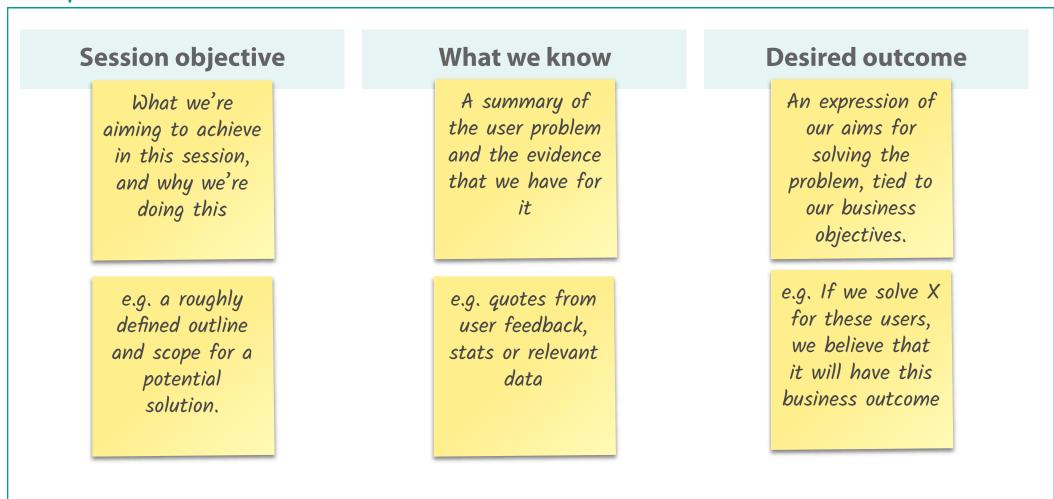


I'm a firm believer that product teams can achieve the best results by taking a cross-functional and collaborative approach to ideation and design. An essential aspect of a UX designer's role should be to facilitate the team through this process. Together we can achieve a design hypothesis that is more robust, that allows us to be more mindful of potential limitations early on, and that reduces the teams dependency on handover documentation between design and development.

How I approach ideation & design with the team

Once we have decided to prioritise a particular problem or opportunity, I typically lead an ideation & design workshop with the team and stakeholders. There are numerous formats these can take depending on the goals, but I aim to provide as much context and insights as possible to guide and support the process.

Example: Format for ideation session introduction



EXAMPLE: Ideation session - Enable Editors to "uninvite" reviewers - Introduction



The following is an example from an ideation session that I ran with the team where we planned to introduce new functionality for editors to be able to "un-invite" (aka cancel) reviewers who had previously accepted to review a submission.

Session Introduction

SESSION OBJECTIVE

To identify and agree a solution of appropriate scope to enable editors to uninvite reviewers.

WHY WE ARE DOING THIS?

We have identified a number of problems relating to managing reviewers. This particular problem has been prioritised as it is one of the most frequently reported and causes a significant issues for users in this situation.

This insight comes from the following sources: CSAT feedback, feedback from onboarding, publishing and customer support teams, and Q3 editor interviews.

USER PROBLEM

Editors have expressed a need to be able to "un- invite reviewers" when a reviewer becomes "unresponsive" or has expressed that they are no longer available to review.

USER STORY

As a handling editor,

I **need** to be able to "un-invite" a reviewer who has accepted to review but is no longer going to complete a review,

So that I can maintain my list of active reviewers and more easily keep track of which reports I am still waiting for.

WHAT WE KNOW

Evidence of the user problem such as quotes from users, number of mentions of problem via customer support or user feedback form, any relevant data.

OUR HYPOTHESIS

We believe that enabling editors to "uninvite" accepted reviewers will lead to them securing sufficient reviewer reports sooner.

This relates directly to our current key results: "reduce turnaround times to secure sufficient reports"

We also believe that enabling editors to "uninvite" accepted reviewers will make the task of managing reviewers and securing reports easier for editors. It will allow them to maintain their list of active reviewers and more easily keep track of them.

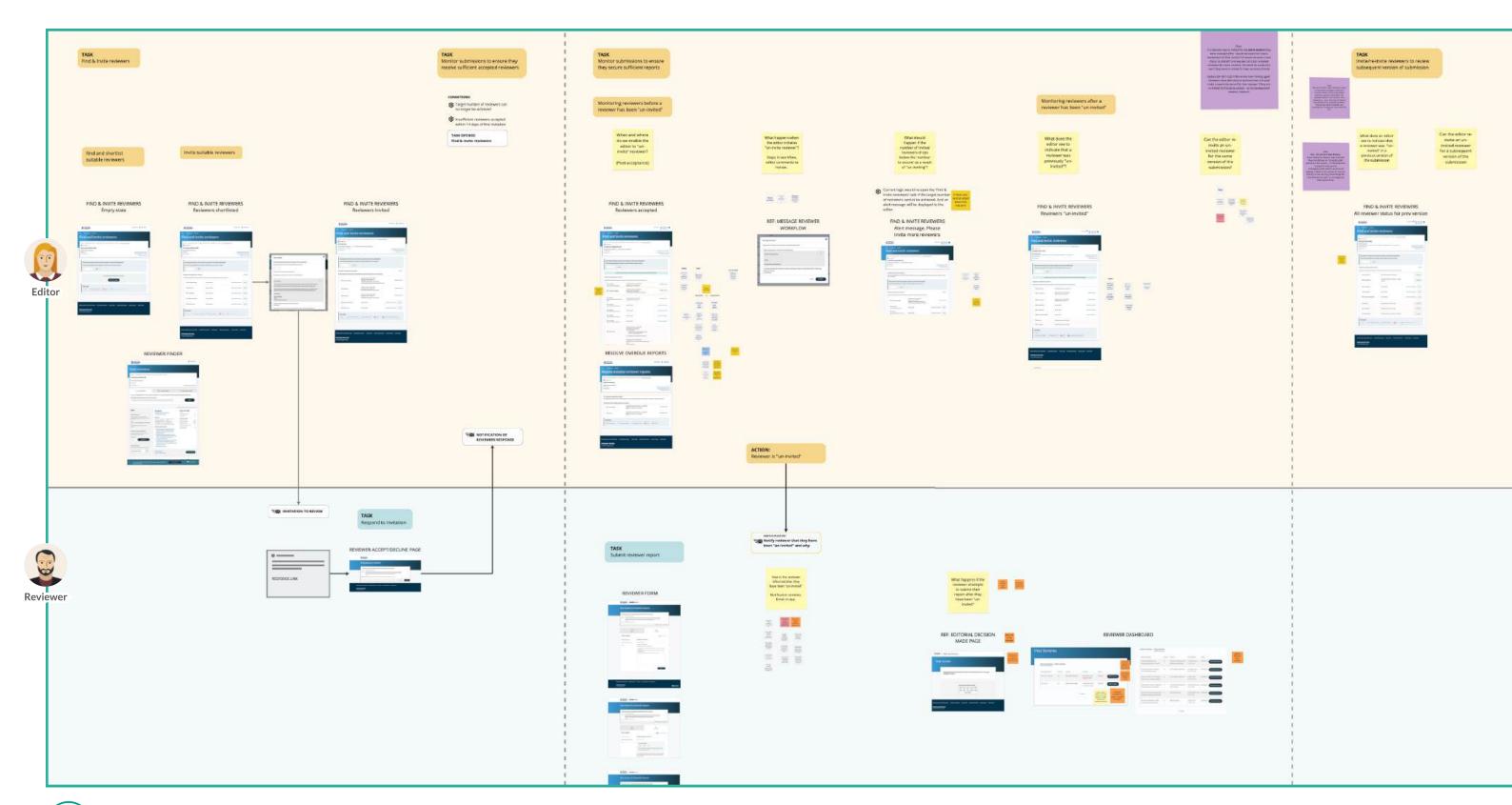
This relates to our other broad objective which is to improve customer satisfaction, and the program goal of making it "faster and easier"



EXAMPLE: Ideation session - Enable Editors to "uninvite" reviewers - Ideation and Design



I conducted the main part of this workshop by walking the team through a pre-prepared user journey, with the aim of ensuring that all aspects of any potential solutions would be considered. I had identified a series of essential questions that needed to be discussed and any thoughts, ideas, concerns or decisions from these resulting discussions were captured on the board throughout the session.





CO-DESIGN WITH USERS



In some situations it can be valuable to involve users directly in the design process. It is important to caveat that the output of this will not represent the final design solution as many more considerations need to be taken into account, however such a session can be a valuable means to inform a final solution.

How I approach codesign with users

In the following example I took
the users through a series of
scenarios, which they would
typically experience in their
editorial role. In each scenario, I
would have them express what
content or information they
needed in order to complete their
task, and describe how or where
they might expect to see this.
During this process I would
sketch what they described on a
whiteboard for them to see and
input further.



Example questions:

What information do you need to see in order to complete this task?

In what way
does this
information
enable you to
complete the
task?

Would you be able to complete the task without it?

How or where might this be shown on the page?

What steps do
you need to take
in order to
complete the
task?

EXAMPLE: Co-design of reviewer invitation management

We were designing a part of the system that would allow editors to manage their reviewer invitations for a given submission. The activity of finding, inviting and securing suitable reviewers was well known to be the most time consuming stage in a submission's lifecycle. As such it presented a great opportunity for optimisation.

Format:

I lead a group of 5 editors from different journals through a series of typical scenarios relating to reviewer management. Each scenario presented new situations that would necessitate adding additional complexity to the page. The output of the discussion was sketched on the whiteboard or captured as post-it notes.

Scenario 1:

You are ready to invite the first batch of reviewers for this submission. You have shortlisted 10 potential candidates and you want to initially invite 4 of them.

Content to display:

- shortlisted reviewers
- invited reviewers

Example questions:

How or where might this be shown on the page?

What information about reviewers do you need to see in order to decide who to invite?

Scenario 2:

Some time has passed and several reviewers have responded to their invitations but you still don't have enough accepted reviewers. You want to cancel reviewers who have not responded at all, and invite more as necessary.

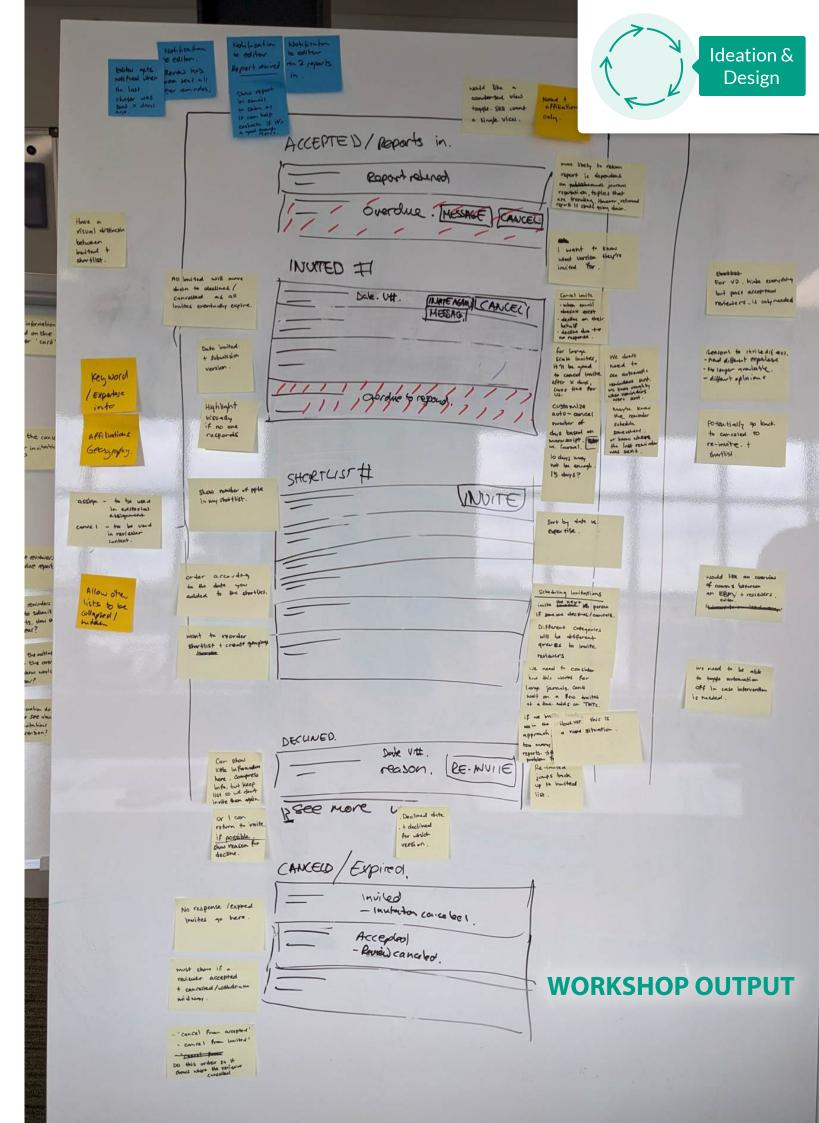
Content to display:

- declined reviewers
- reminders sent to reviewers
- Action: cancel invitation

Example questions:

Where would you expect to see reviewers who have declined?

What information do you need to see in order to judge if you should cancel an invite?



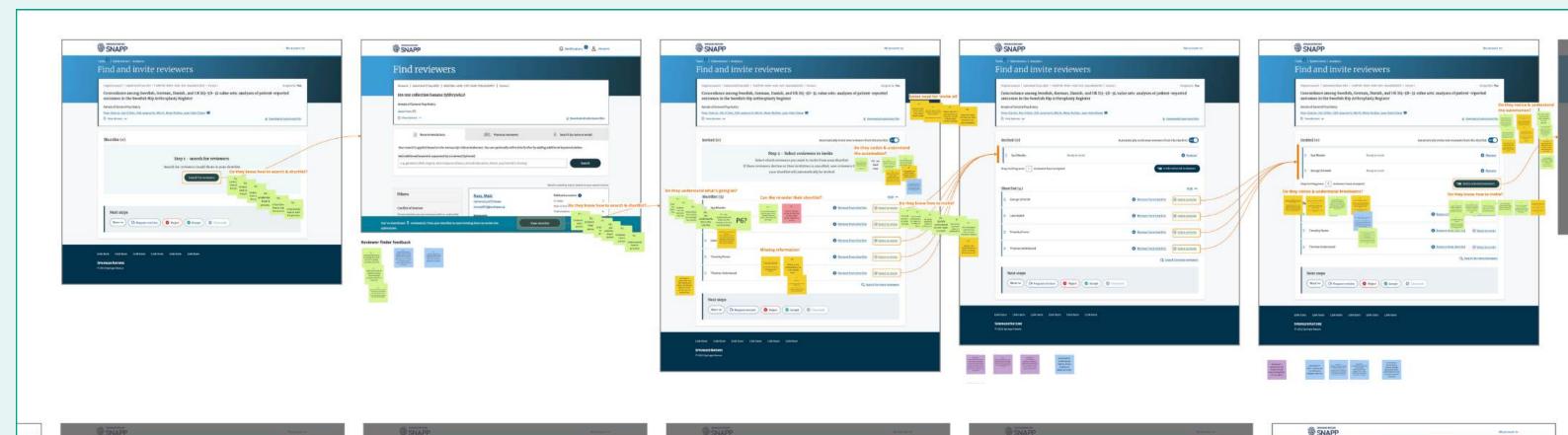
SEEKING VALIDATION ON OUR DESIGN CONCEPTS



I believe that in order to pick the best method to validate your hypothesis or designs, you need to consider a number of factors, e.g. what it is that you need to validate, the complexity of the planned feature or change, project delivery timelines, your access to users etc. Sometimes it's worth making a prototype and conducting moderated user testing, sometimes it's faster and cheaper to build a feature directly and to measure the impact, sometimes simple discussions with users or stakeholders can be sufficient.

In the following example I conducted a round of moderated user testing as the feature would introduce significant change, and the evaluation of the planned feature could be clearly structured around a series of scenarios and task.

Example: User testing design concepts for the reviewer "auto-invite" mechanism. Raw notes for scenario 1.



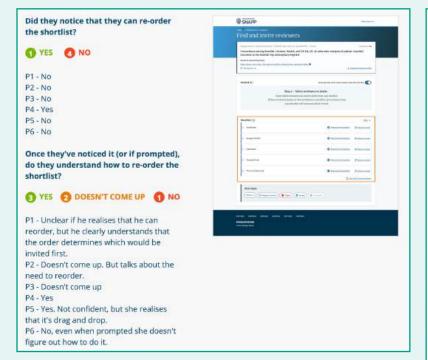
SHARING BACK OUR FINDINGS WITH THE TEAM

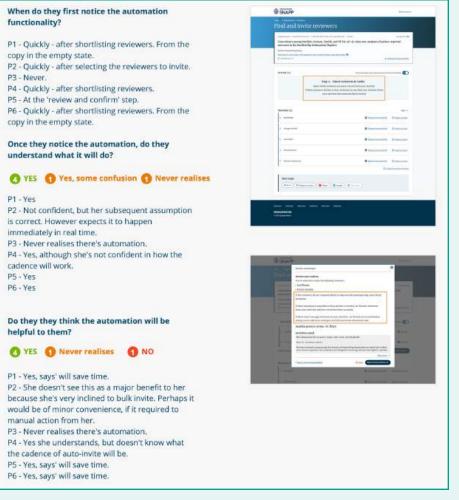
I believe that it is valuable, when possible, to have team members directly participate in some research activities, be it as observers, note takers or in some cases co-facilitators. It's also essential to share back a full summary of the findings to the full team so as to inform the next stages of design or development.

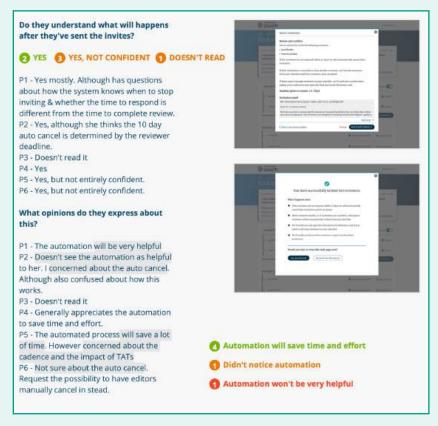


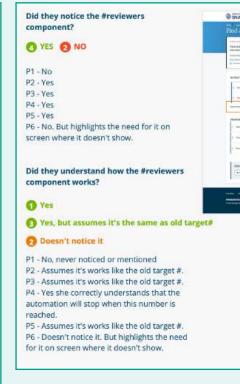
In the following example I was able to structure the share-back around our task based objectives. This gave us some clear criteria on which to base our redesign.

Example: Share-back of findings from reviewer "auto-invite" user testing











SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT & DESIGN DOCUMENTATION

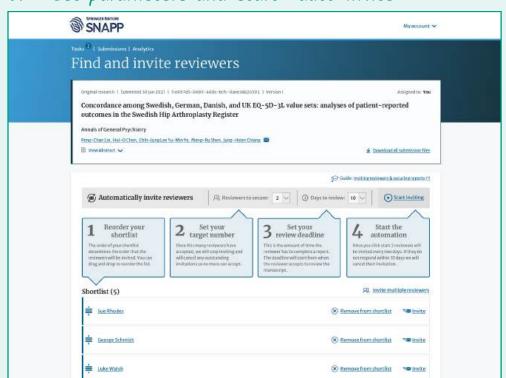
I believe that by establishing a collaborative approach to design, we can reduce dependency on documentation, and to be more flexible to unforeseen challenges further down the line.



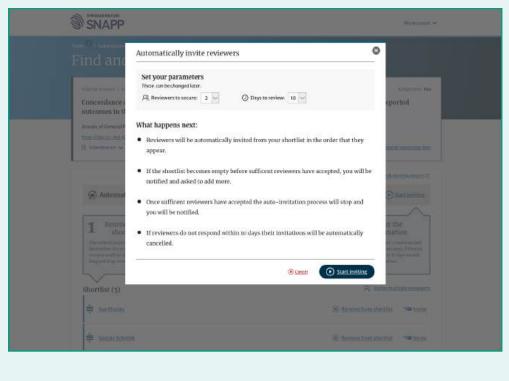
After having defined the broad strokes of our design with the wider team, I typically work closely with UI design and front end development to produce a refined UI design that is compliant with our organisations design principals, accessible and intuitive for our users. I provide further specifications within our Jira tickets and always maintain an open dialogue with developers throughout the entire design and development process.

Example: Final UI designs for 'auto-invite' reviewers functionality

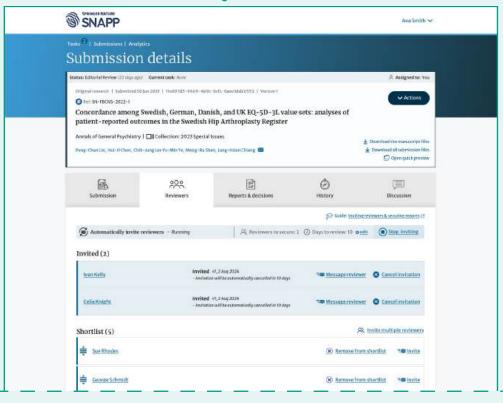








03 - Automation running



Automation stopped - Success! reviewers secured.

Shortlist (5)

< □ Fix 2 ② 10 Start Inviting

Automation stopped - Problem! Insufficient reviewers Automation stopped manually by user

There are no reviewers left in the shortlists. Please add more so that the auto-invite can be resumed.

Accepted (2)

Accepted (2)

No reviewers invited

No reviewers invited

Shortlist (o)

Accepted (2)

Repart submitted vi_2a.

Sainsbury's

Case Study:
Sainsbury's
Legacy Transformation

THE CLIENT:

Sainsbury's has an extensive digital infrastructure that underpins all aspects of their business operation. They are undergoing a legacy transformation initiative to retire old systems and replace them with cloud based micro service allowing for greater flexibility and reducing risk.

THE BRIEF:

To work with the agile teams to design new cloud based digital services for User Management and Pricing Management, replacing those capabilities currently provided by the obsolete system RMS (Retek Merchandising System).

Aims: Improve operational efficiency, reduce human error, increase system security and facilitate better decision making.

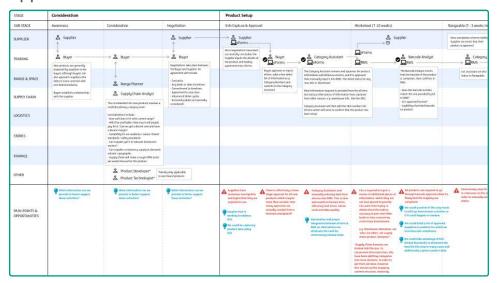


PHASE 1 - DISCOVER

I supported the wider program through a number of discovery and diagnostic activities. The aim of this was to provide essential insight into the behaviour and needs of RMS (Retek Merchandising System) users, understand dependent downstream systems and bring together a common vision of the future.

WHAT WE DID:

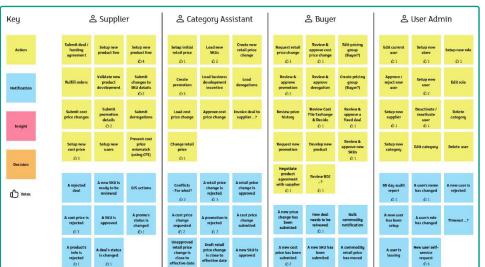
Product lifecycle blueprint to identify business processes, users, dependant downstream systems, painpoints and opportunities.



RMS user survey to determine who was using it, for what, and to establish a usability benchmark against which to measure future improvements.



Business and user needs discovery workshops with project stakeholders to understand project objectives and their understanding of user needs.



Personas outlining user groups by role, common tasks, painpoints, touchpoints and key contacts



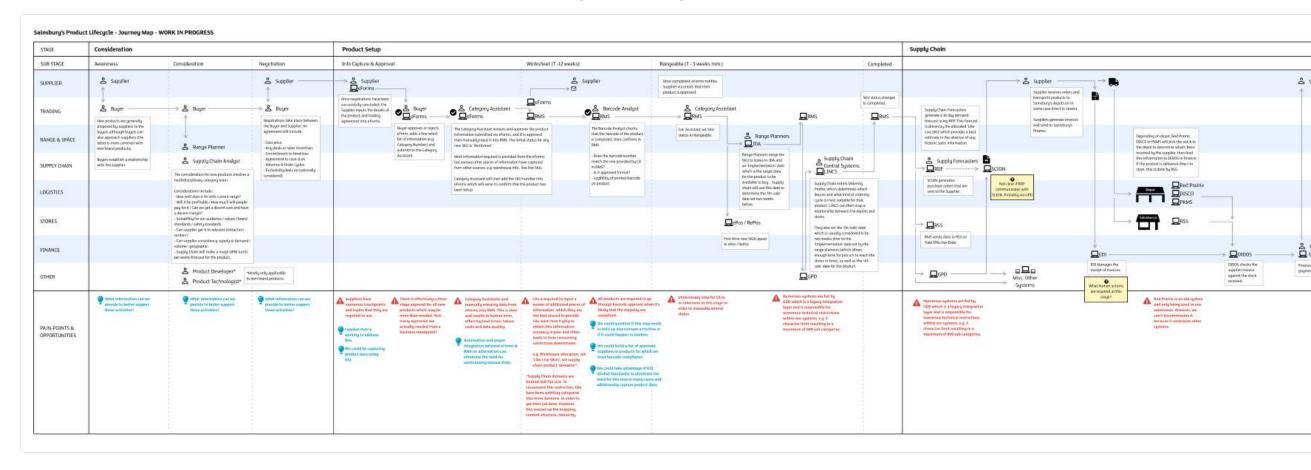


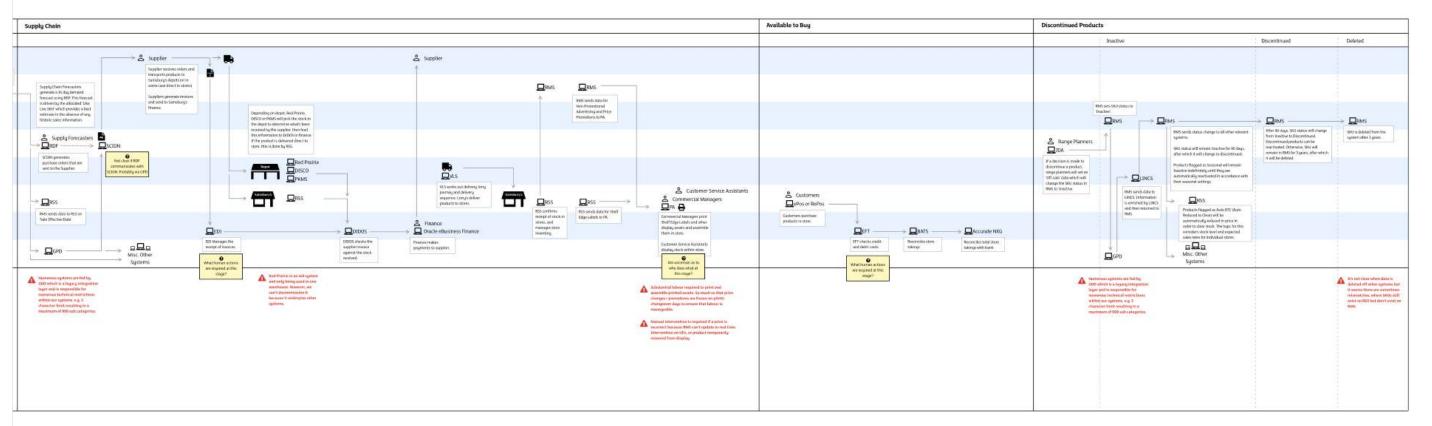




EXAMPLE: Product Lifecycle Blueprint

This document was built up over time and represents input from numerous different stakeholders and users.





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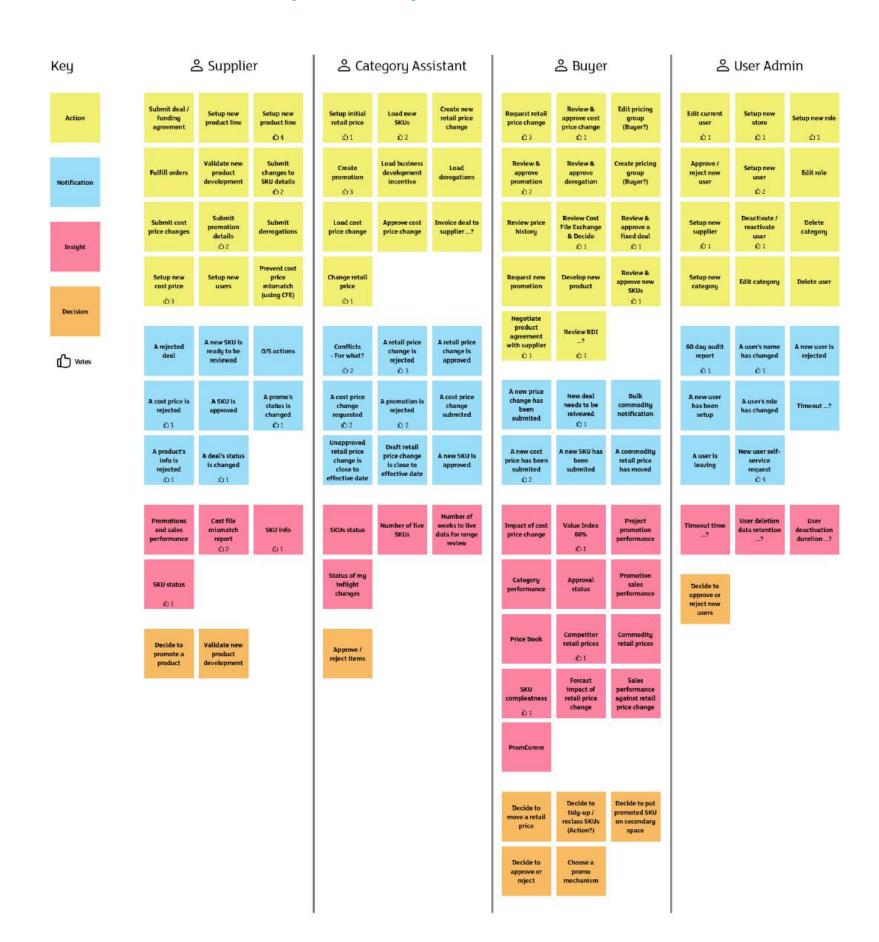


EXAMPLE: User Needs Discovery Workshop

WORKSHOP APPROACH

- 01 We started by asking each participant to identify key roles through dot-voting.
- 02 Participants captured information for each category (see key) on post-it notes and grouped by user. We went through each category one at a time. The aim was to not only capture what users did but to uncover fundamentally why they were doing this.
- 03 Post-its were sorted to remove duplicates, then each one was explained by their authors.
- 04 Participants were given a limited number of dots to dot-vote for which post- its they thought were most essential.

In subsequent sessions we built on this information further, covering other users and mapping key processes in more detail.



PHASE 2 - Agile Product Development

In this phase I was divided across two product workstreams, User Management and Pricing Management, both of which aimed to employ Agile working practices to achieve their goals.

We did a certain amount of rapid concept work upfront and then proceeded to follow an iterative Lean UX approach during the subsequent sprint cycles. A high degree of cross-functional collaboration ensured that we were always taking the most efficient approach to continually deliver business value.

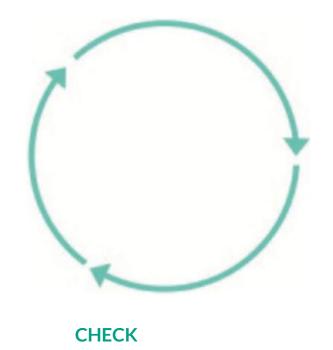
Upfront

- Analysis of current business process and legacy UI
- Initial design concepts
- User testing and feedback from stakeholders
- Supporting product owner in initial backlog creation

Sprint cycle

THINK

- Discovery and analysis of current process
- Prioritise stories in backlog
- Break stories down into smaller stories
- Analysis of user feedback from previous sprint



- Sprint demos
- Stakeholder

feedback

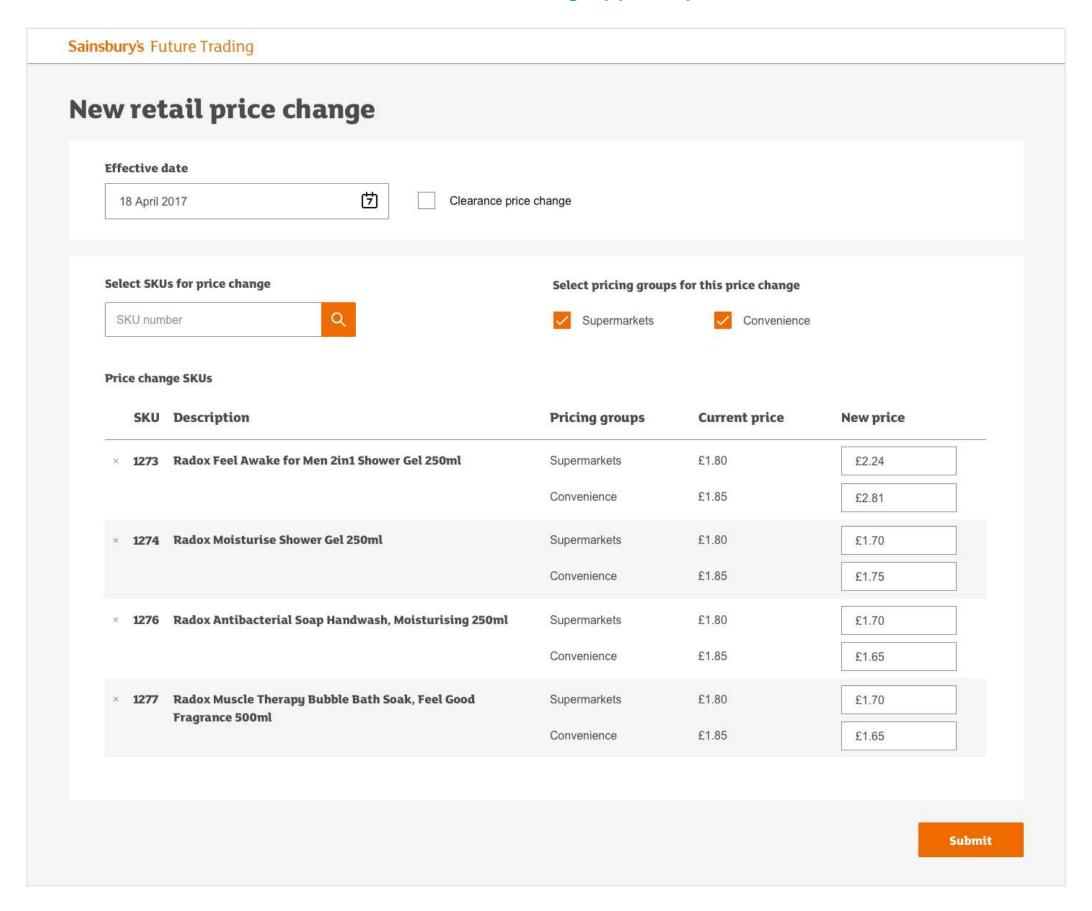
User testing

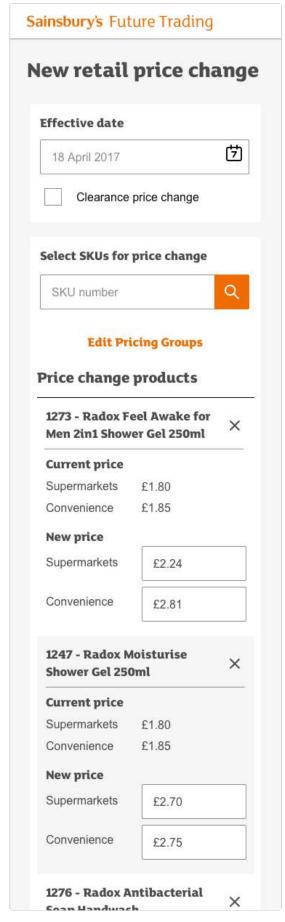
MAKE

- Process design
- UI design
- Discuss and refine solutions with dev team
- QA of built UI



EXAMPLE: Pricing App Sample Screens







EXAMPLE: New User Onboarding Process - Before & After

We worked with stakeholders to implement an improved process for on boarding new users onto the system. It took a fair amount of work to reach a consensus on this. It was difficult to reach consensus as stakeholders were very used to doing things the way they always had, but in time we were able to build confidence and get buy-in.

If the trainer setup the users in

to pass around information

that they currently use.

the new app then there's no need

needlessly. It will be just as fast

as filling out the sharepoint form

Approve is notified automatically

when a new user is added. Theu

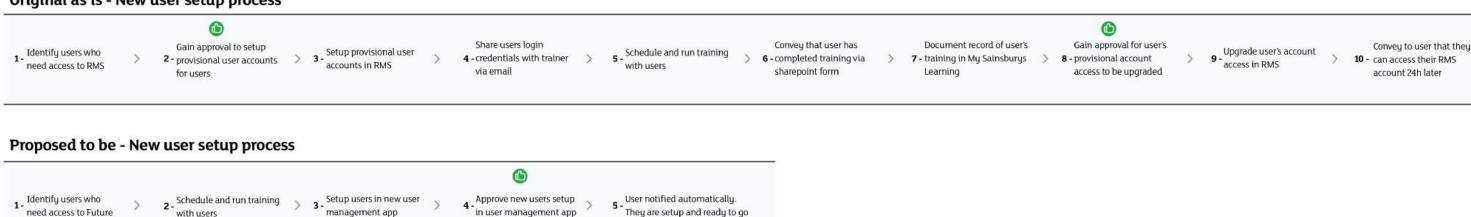
can review and approve with a

few simple steps. This puts in

place a more robust audit trail as

approvals are now in the system.

Original as is - New user setup process

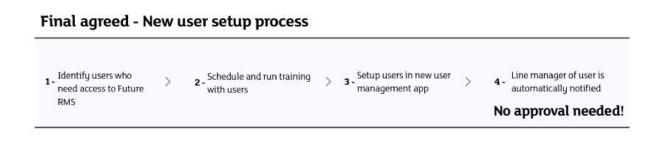


No need to manually tell users

that they are setup. No need for

users to wait 24h for their access

privileges to come into effect.



A training environment will

access.

enable users to be trained without

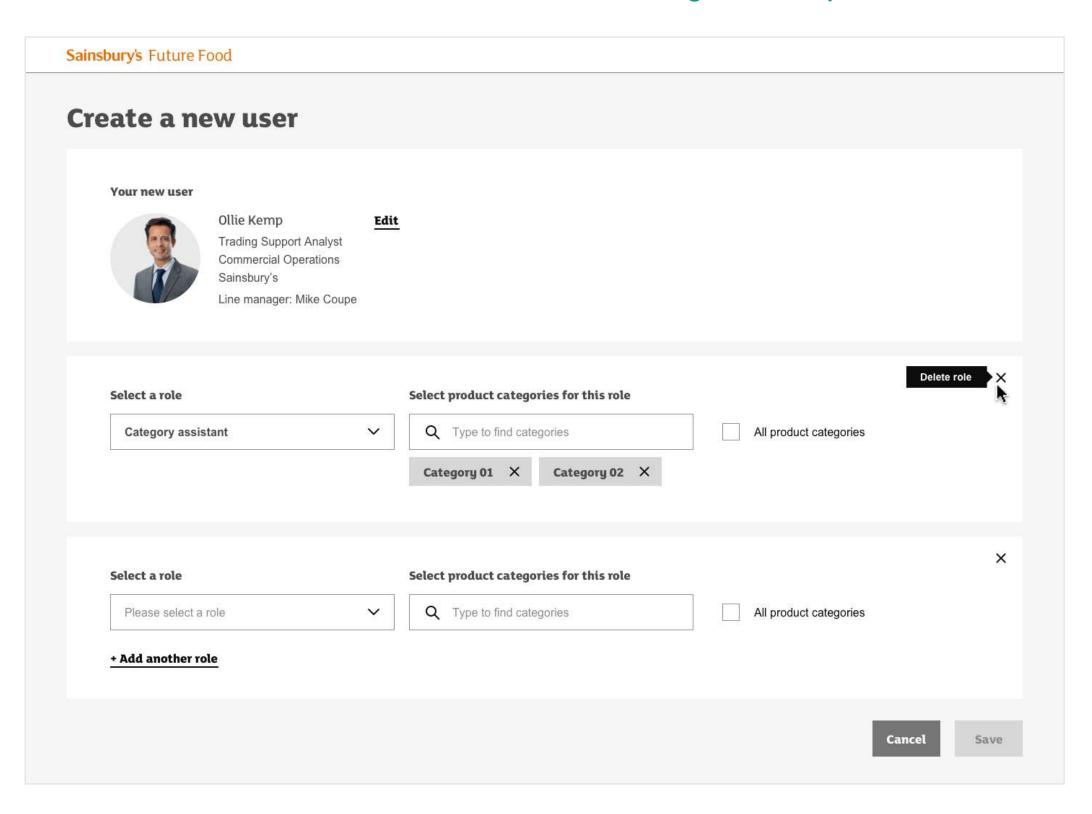
the need for provisional account

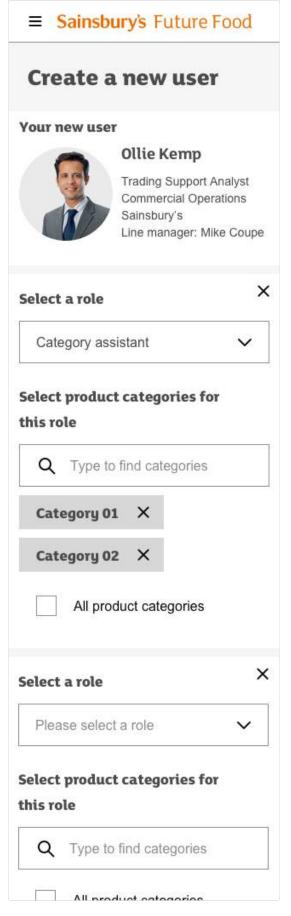


RMS

IMPROVEMENTS:

EXAMPLE: User Management Sample Screens







Other Highlights

Here are a few more highlights that I'd like to share with you.



UK National Grid Website redesign

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

- Stakeholder discovery workshops
- User research, remote testing, web surveys & analytics
- Navigation, usability and content audit across 1000+ page site
- User needs analysis & audience segmentation
- Information architecture through card sorting workshops
- Iterative UI design in collaboration with stakeholders
- Extensive UI specification and asset library to support development of website and CMS

During my time at Realise I I lead a project to fully redesign National Grid's UK and Corporate websites, addressing the numerous usability and performance concerns.





The Ministry of Health & Labour, Saudi Arabia

Service Design & Digital Transformation with Seren







His Excellency, Adel Fakeih, Minister of Health & Labour, Saudi Arabia

During my time at Seren I worked on a number of projects across a large program of work for the Minister of Health and Labour in Saudi Arabia.

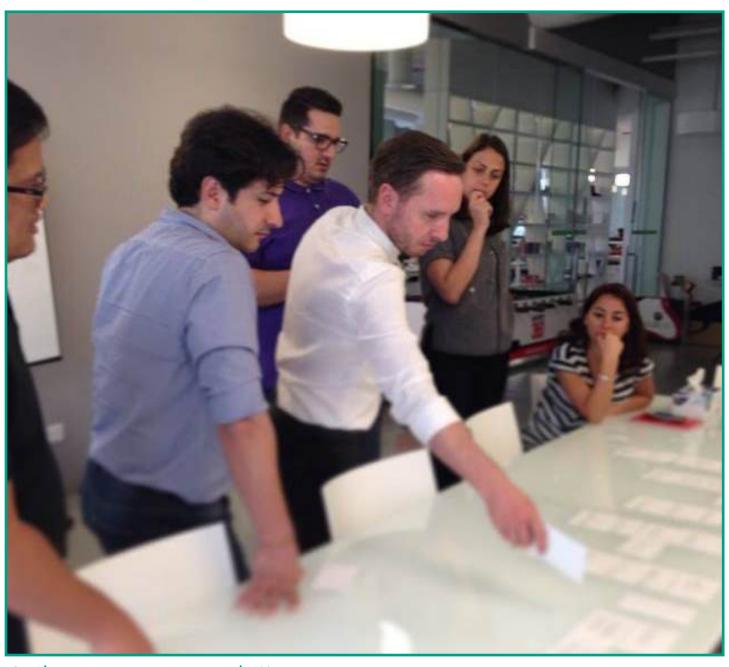
The objectives of the program were to bring about holistic and digital transformation of the minister's private office and support mechanisms for maximum productive efficiency; whilst taking a people-centric approach though stakeholder engagement to inform new policies and procedures.

KEYACTIVITIES:

- Job Role Definitions
- Ethnographic Research
- Best Practice Desk Research
 Policy & Procedure
- Change Management Planning
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Process Mapping
- UX Design of Digital Tools
- Service Blueprints

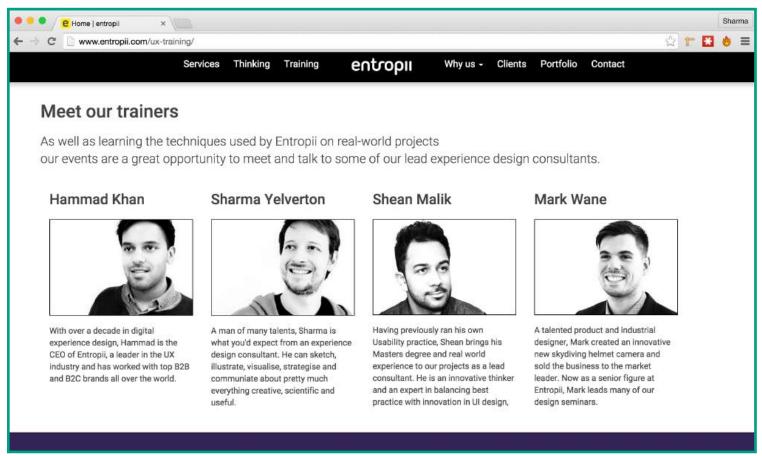
HAVAS DIGITAL (DUBAI) Delivery of training on UCD methodologies

During my time at Entropii, I had the opportunity to deliver several courses on UCD methodologies, including one for the team at Havas Middle East in Dubai.



Card sorting exercises with Havas team.





Screenshot from our course training page on the entropii website.

QUEENS AWARD FOR ENTERPRISE

Application management tools for Admin and Assessors

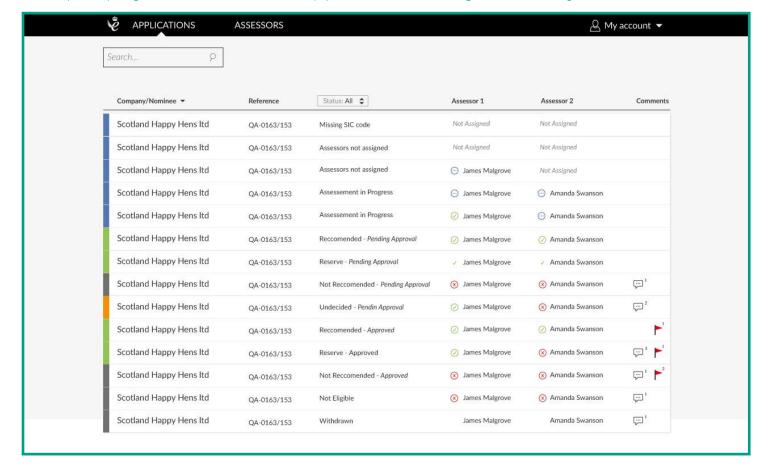
During my time at BitZesty I had the opportunity to work on a complex administration system for the Queens Award for Enterprise.

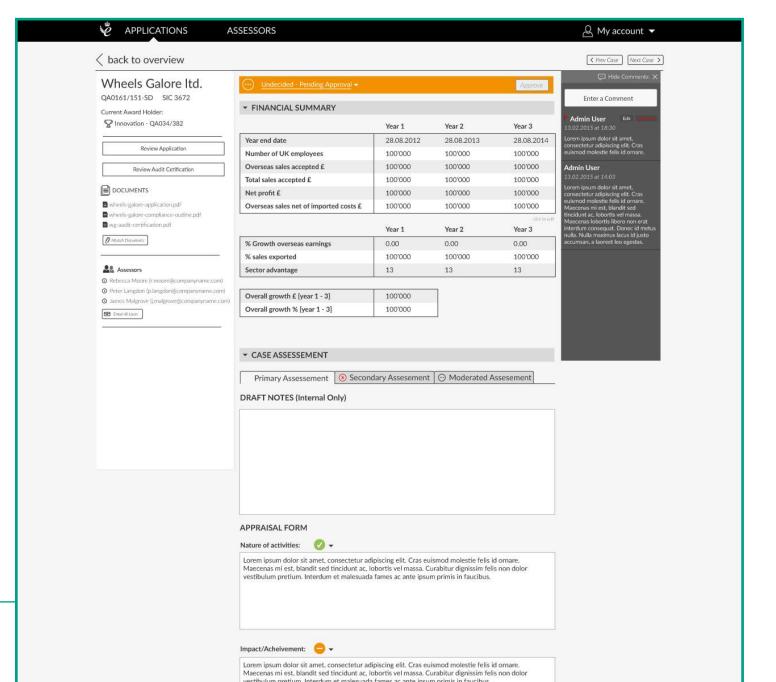
KEYACTIVITIES:

- Rapid Concept Design
- User Testing
- Stakeholder Management
- Technical Specifications



Sample pages: Assessor's Applicant Management System









THANK YOU

for

taking the time to look at my work.

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07369 50208 hello@sharmayelverton.com

