Stephen Hellens

Case Studies

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Edge Metadata

Data quality tools for e-commerce analytics platform

Project Edge Metadata platform for Edge by Ascential (now Flywheel)

Role Lead Product Designer

Timeline ~ 12 months

Team Remote with San Francisco-based Product Manager and

Prague-based engineering team

Challenge

Edge by Ascential (now part of <u>Flywheel</u>), a leading provider of e-commerce analytics and advisory services, needed to improve customer trust and support continued growth by enhancing data quality across its digital commerce platform.

Task

I was tasked with creating data quality tools to ensure the accuracy and reliability of insights provided to global manufacturers and brands. As the Lead UX Designer with responsibility for the user experience (UX), user interface (UI) and interaction design (ID), I drove the entire design process, from initial research and concept development to final design and implementation. I collaborated remotely with a product team in San Francisco and an engineering team in Prague to bring the new vision to life.

Solution

My starting point was discussion with the Product Manager to establish scope and requirements. Further scoping discussions took place with the engineering team. I mapped out and designed a suite of data quality tools that would:

- Implemented real-time data validation and cleansing processes
- Equip data teams with intuitive dashboards for monitoring data quality metrics
- Deliver automated alerts for potential data inconsistencies
- Integrate machine learning algorithms for predictive data quality management
- To aid accessibility I focused on keyboard driven interface to facilite fast data entry. This is best practice for high-proficiency users who require optimised experiences

Outcome

The new data quality tools significantly improved the reliability of Edge by Ascential's analytics platform:

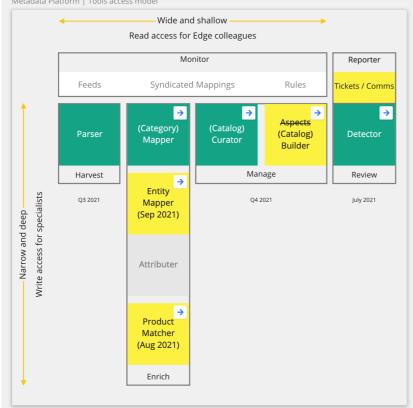
- Increased data accuracy by 18%
- Reduced time spent on manual data quality checks by a third
- Enhanced customer satisfaction scores related to data trustworthiness by 27%
- Supported the platform's scalability, contributing to its continued growth and eventual integration into Flywheel

Skills highlights

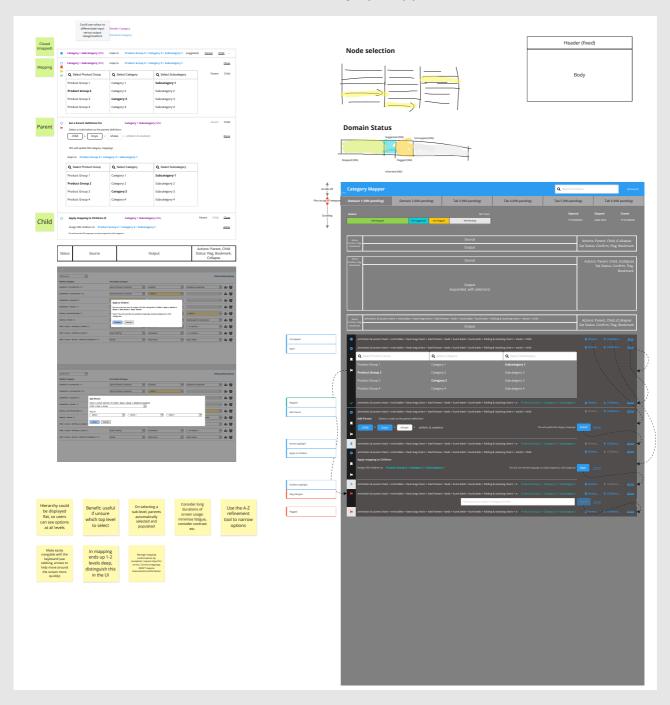
- UX and UI Design for complex data systems
- Collaboration with remote, cross-functional teams
- Design of a suite of sophisticated data processing tools
- Understanding of e-commerce analytics and data quality principles

This project demonstrates my ability to design critical tools for data-driven platforms, particularly in the e-commerce sector, and to work effectively with distributed teams to deliver high-value solutions.

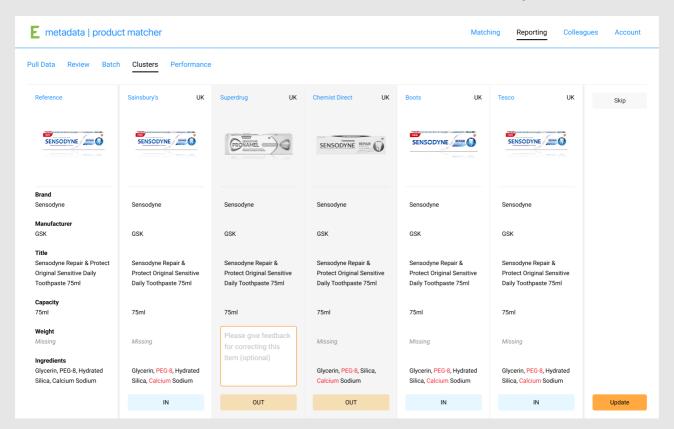
Conceptual map of Edge Metadata tools Metadata Platform | Tools access model Wide and shallow



Wireframes for Category Mapper Tool



Product Matcher: review attributes user interface design



Market Share 2.0

Rethinking an e-commerce analytics platform

Project Market Share e-commerce analyics for Edge by Ascential

Role Lead UX Designer

Timeline 18 months

Team Remote, (London-based)

Challenge

In 2016, Ascential, an international data and insights company acquired One Click Retail, an e-commerce analytics startup based in Salt Lake City, Utah. The platform, rebranded as Market Share, provided valuable insights to brands selling on major online marketplaces.

However, the existing customer experience was outdated and complex, leading to significant customer attrition and hindering the platform's growth potential. The challenge was to completely redesign and overhaul the user experience to make Market Share more intuitive, user-friendly, and valuable for its customers.

Task

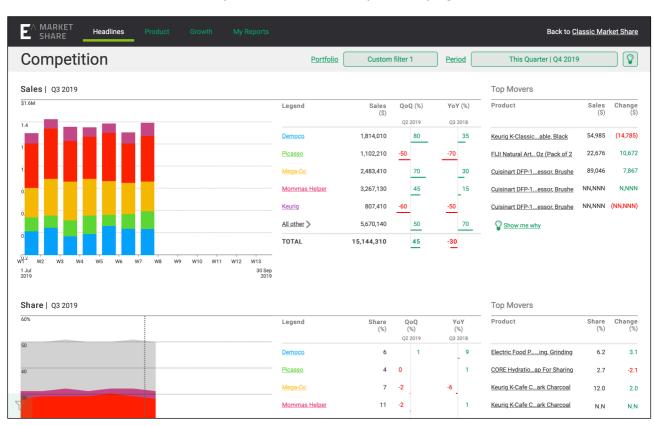
As the Lead UX/UI Designer, I was responsible for driving the entire redesign process, from initial research and concept development to final design and implementation. I worked remotely with a distributed engineering team to bring the new vision to life.

Solution

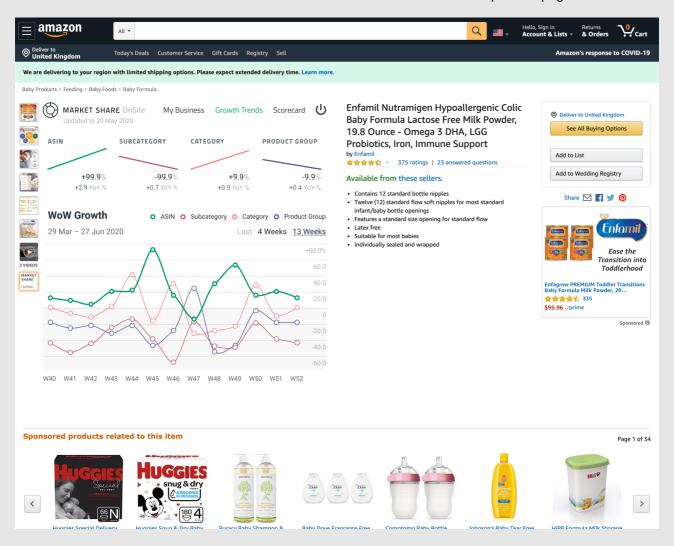
- 1. **Understanding the Problem:** I began by conducting thorough customer research, including customer interviews, interviews with internal users, and an audit and usability review of the existing platform. This research revealed key pain points, such as:
 - A cluttered and confusing interface
 - Difficult navigation and information architecture
 - Inconsistent design patterns and visual language.
 - The platform had become non performant. It would take minutes to return fresh data when queried
- 2. **Defining the Vision:** Based on the research findings, I developed a clear vision for the redesigned platform. The key goals were to:
 - Simplify the user interface and improve usability.
 - Create a more intuitive navigation and information architecture.

- Highlight the platform's key value propositions and provide actionable insights.
- Establish a consistent and modern design language.
- 3. **Design and Prototyping:** I then led the design and prototyping process, creating wireframes, mockups, and interactive prototypes to explore different design solutions. I worked closely with the engineering team to ensure that the designs were technically feasible and aligned with the platform's capabilities.
- 4. **Remote Collaboration**: Given that the engineering team was located remotely, effective communication and collaboration were essential. I utilised tools such as Slack, Jira, and video conferencing to facilitate seamless collaboration and ensure that everyone was aligned on the design vision.
- 5. Iterative Development: Throughout the development process, I continuously tested and refined the designs based on user feedback. This iterative approach allowed us to identify and address potential usability issues early on, ensuring that the final product met the needs of our customers.

Early wireframe for Competition page



Market Share OnSite for Amazon - Chrome extension for Amazon product pages



EU Community Design Registration

As part of the reimagined user experience for Market Share I designed an innovative date picker solution. This solution was highly adapted to the users of the platform who were greatly enabled by it. I advocated for and secured an EU Community Design Registration for it.

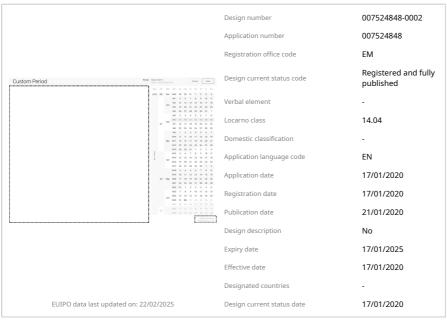
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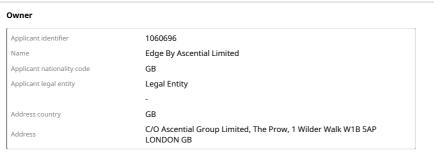
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Design number: 007524848-0002

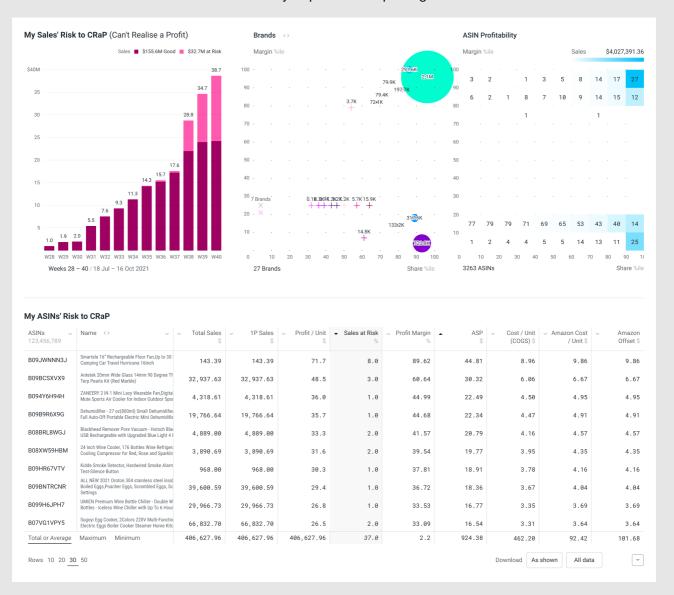
Indication of the product: Graphical user interfaces



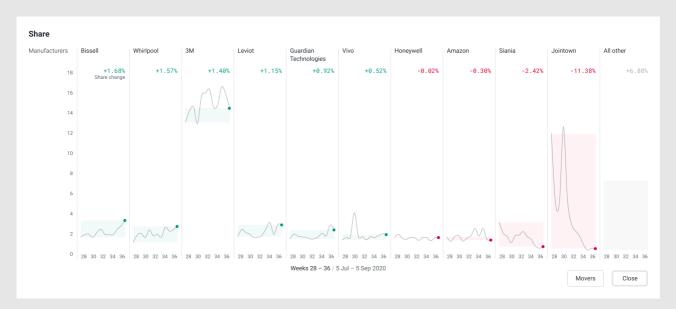




Profitability Report mock-up in Figma



Small Multiples



The core Market Share report layout shows share for top manufacturers. This concept enables more fine grained exploration, clearer comparisons and deeper comprehension of the data.

Small Multiples walkthrough (username: portfolio, password: uxsamples)

The Outcome

The redesigned Market Share platform was launched in March 2020. The new platform featured a streamlined interface, intuitive navigation, and clear data visualisations. The revamped customer experience made it easier for users to access the insights they needed to make informed business decisions. By January 2021, the impact of the redesign was evident: customer attrition had significantly reduced, and Market Share was back on the path to strong growth. The successful redesign revitalised the platform and positioned it for continued success in the competitive e-commerce analytics market.



Market Share 2.0 Press Release article

Skills highlights

- User Experience Design
- Customer Research
- Information Architecture
- User Interface and Interaction Design
- Prototyping
- Accessibility / WCAG alignment
- E-commerce Analytics
- Remote Collaboration

Heart of the City

Responsible business benchmark automation

Project Responsible Business Health Check automation

for Heart of the City

Role Responsible Business UX Manager

Timeline 12 months

Team Hybrid, London-based

Challenge

Heart of the City, a small but mighty London-based charity, runs training courses for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Members of their flagship programme Foundations for Responsible Business take a self-evaluated survey before and after the programme to evaluate how responsible, sustainable and ethical their business is and to find out how they can improve. Previously the team had to compile the results by hand, and there was no benchmarking capability.

My Role

The objective was to free up the team's time and improve the provision to SMEs by automatically providing their results in a timely and high quality way. Liaising with the Programme Team who were the internal project stakeholders, I took the lead in reviewing the existing manual process and researching options for automation.

I liaised with my colleagues, feeding back my findings at each stage and keeping them appraised of progress. I sought assistance from the central IT support department and found numerous forums and online sources of advice. I mapped out the solution iteratively using Miro and communicating those solutions to my teammates.

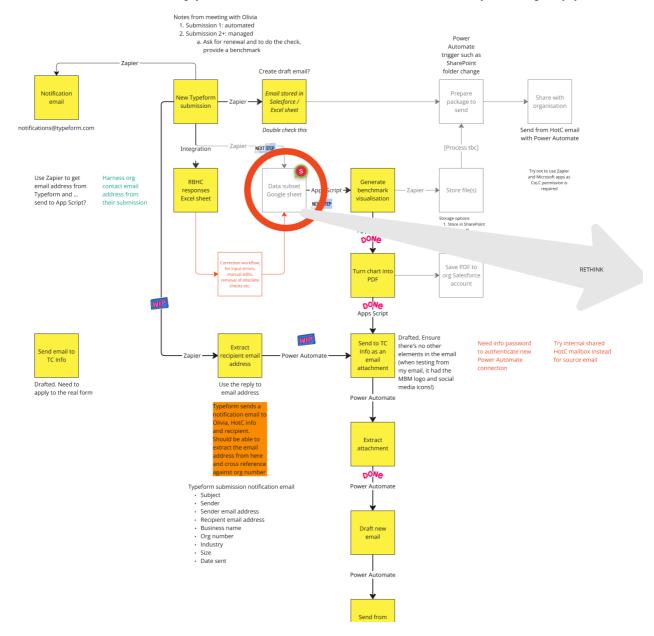
Solution

A requirement was that the solution had to respect the data privacy of participants and was constrained by budget (no additional money for tooling) and by adherence to external IT systems restrictions. It had to leverage the existing systems and tools that were already familiar to the organisation.

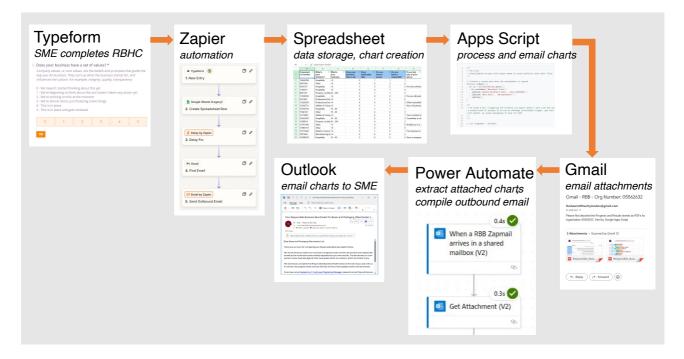
I devised the steps required for the automation. Through this review it was clear from the outset that it would be not be feasible to use just one or two tools. To assist me, I ran an audit across Heart of the City's systems and tools to identify which combination of tools might be able to manage the flow and processing of data.

I then built out a workflow and creating the smallest possible test or prototype to validate each step of the process.

Typeform / Excel / Sheets / email privacy approach



Snippet of RBHC automation workflow steps



RBHC automation workflow

Outcome

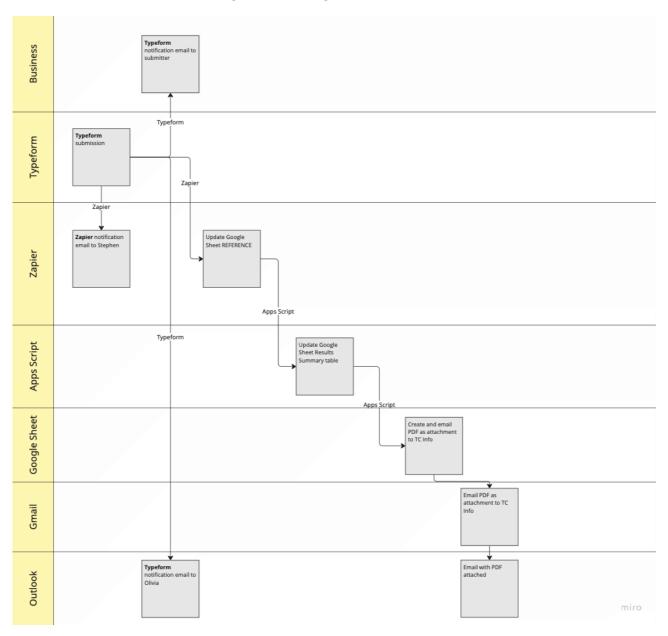
More than 100 businesses have taken the enhanced Responsible Business Health Check. This provides them with clear points of action to review and revise their responsible business operations:

- Businesses can compare themselves to their peers
- Heart of the City gain valuable market insights across industries, helping them tailor their training and target their support more effectively
- The workflow runs automatically, drastically reducing Programme Team members' time commitment and allowing them to focus on supporting businesses

Skills highlights

- Systemic thinking
- Prompt engineering to create the automation flow
- Use of automation tools to process and prepare the data for visualisation
- Data processing and advanced spreadsheet formulae
- Collaboration and communication with non-technical colleagues

Swimlane diagram showing RBHC automation workflow





The Repsonible Business Benchmark shows small businesses how they benchmark against similarly sized organisations in their sector