## well designed:

Tous empathy to create products people out



# Where do great new products come from?



### Is it vision?



"As a company, we certainly have a vision of where the product is going.

We generally have a North Star that we are all headed towards..."

Joe Gebbia
Chief Product Officer, AirBNB



### Is it process?



"There aren't a lot of examples of people who have gone through the whole process: how do you take a product, turn it into a startup, turn it into a company, turn it into an organization?

...At the speed at which startups grow, that process is very fragile."

Alex Rainert
Head of Product, The New York Times



### Is it just hard work?



"I've been doing this, essentially by myself, for seven years and two months.

...I love what I do. I get to watch sports all day and talk about math. I went four years without making a single dollar, without a single customer."

Mark Phillip CEO, Are You Watching This?!



## product management



**Kevin Cheng** Director of Product, Indeed.com

Josh Elman VP of Product, Robinhood

**Leland Rechis Senior Product** Manager, Google

Joe Gebbia Chief Product Officer, Airbnb

**Preston Smalley** VP of Product Management, Comcast























Frank Lyman Chief Product Officer, MyEdu

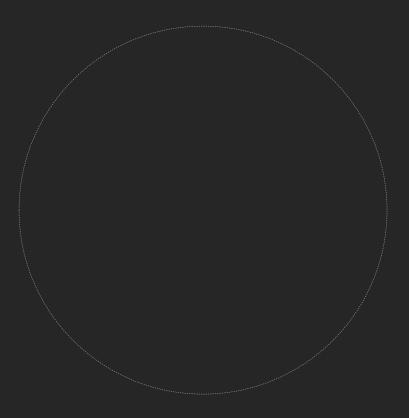
Maya Baratz Founder, Trust the Press

Mark Phillip CEO, Are You Watching This?!

**Alex Rainert** Head of Product, The New York Times

Gary Chou Former GM, Union Square **Ventures Network** 

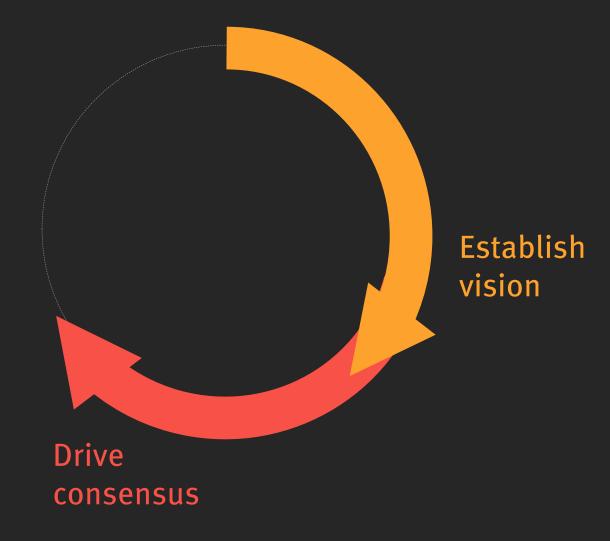




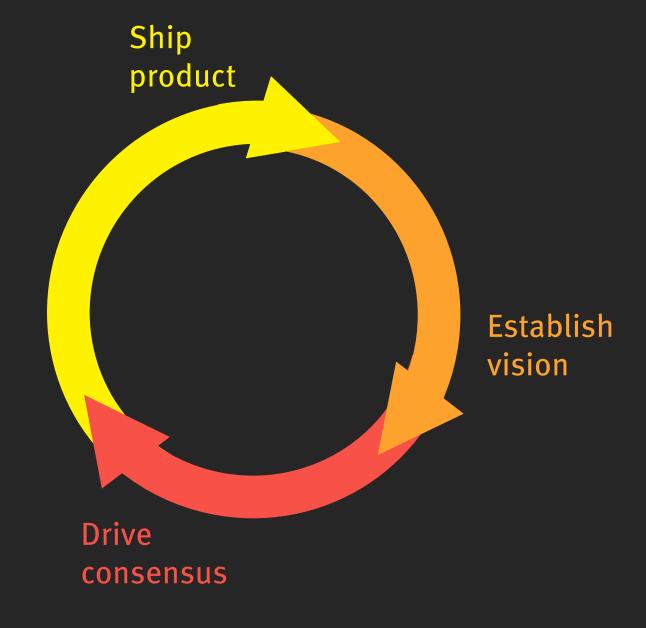




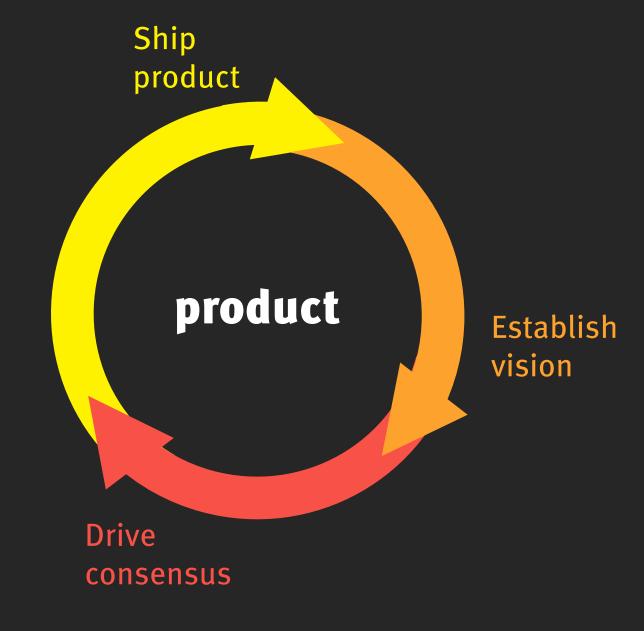




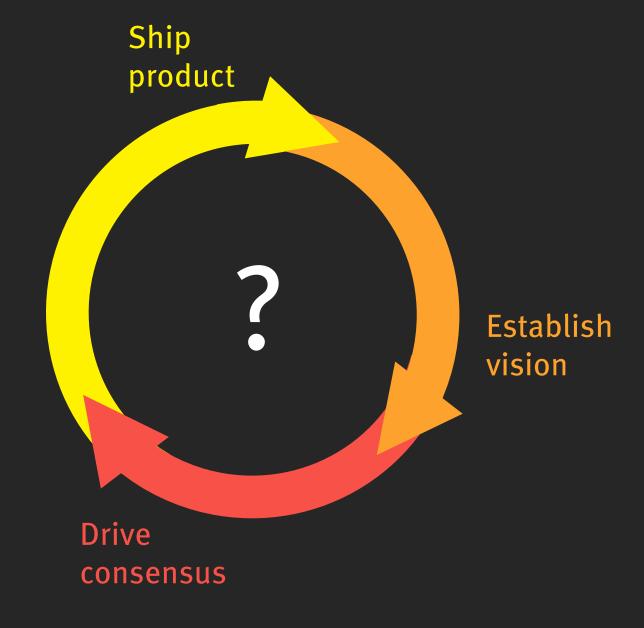




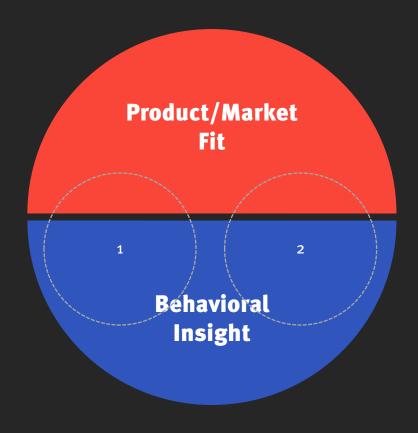














Broad Technological / Political Infrastructure 2

Product/Market Fit



Broad Technological / Political Infrastructure

Social Precedence

Product/Market Fit



#### Behavioral Insight



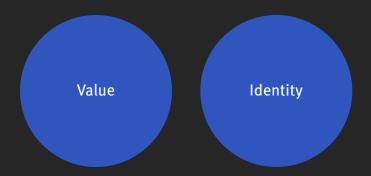


#### Behavioral Insight





#### Behavioral Insight





### **Product Management**



## What are the qualities of a good product manager?





"You need to be a good storyteller. Great product managers can tell a story about a user, what he is doing in his life today, and what he would be able to do in the future if we just got him the right product."

Josh Elman
VP of Product, Robinhood





Ability to tell stories about an optimistic future to the last of the last of

Josh Elman VP of Product, Robinhood





"I toggle between my rational brain that says, 'Here's what the competition is doing, here's what the data says the customers want', and my emotional feelings that 'this will have impact'.

Frank Lyman
Chief Product Officer, MyEdu





Ability to make sense of signals from people and the market

Frank Lyman Chief Product Officer, MyEdu





"It's about having the ability to have people open up. You have to be able to listen really well. Don't worry about being exciting.

Instead, ask a lot of questions.

Be interested, not interesting."

Mark Phillip CEO, Are You Watching This?!





A passion for listening and learning about people

Be interested, not interesting."

Mark Phillip CEO, Are You Watching This?





#### "It's about if you are curious enough. Curiosity will lead you to your next insight."

Gary Chou Former GM, Union Square Ventures Network





## "It's about if you are curious enough. Curiosity will lead you to your next insight." Curiosity about everything

Former GM, Union Square Ventures Network





"For better or for worse, product is the discipline that sits at the hub of the wheel. You need people that can work with designers, work with engineers, work with marketing, work with biz-dev."

Alex Rainert
Head of Product, The New York Times





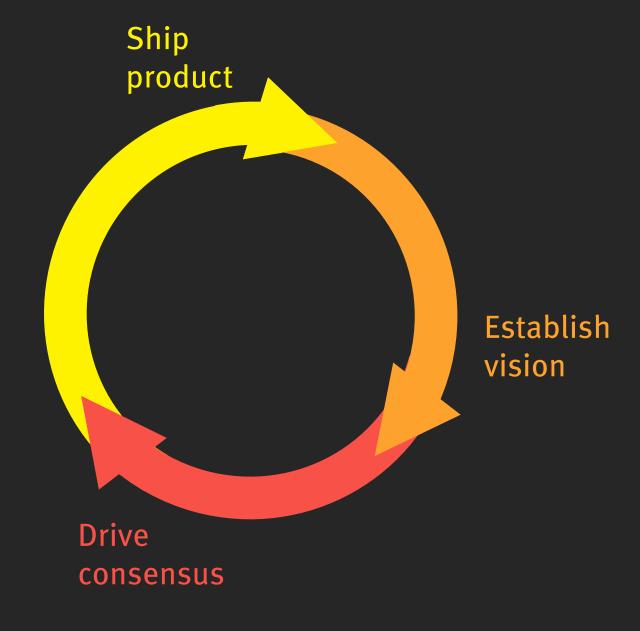
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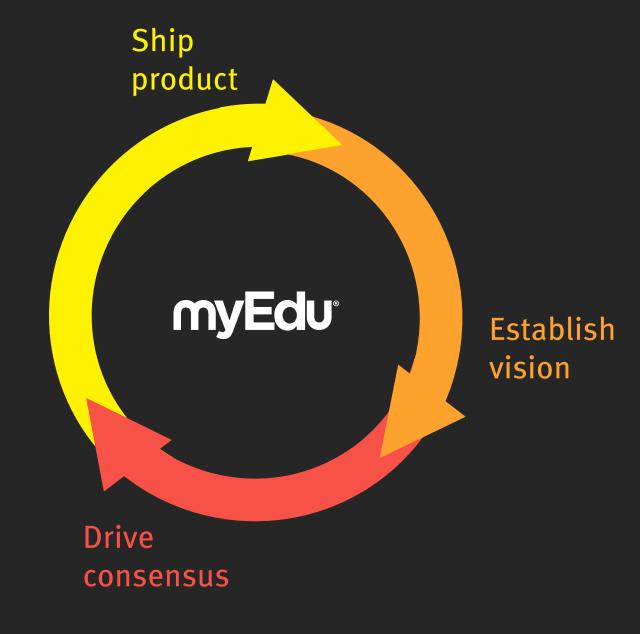


## So what does a product manager actually do?











59%

Six year graduation rate for undergrads in the US

US Department of Education



\$36,556

Four year tuition, public college

Collegeboard



\$124,924

Four year tuition, private college

Collegeboard



# myEdu°



Succeed in college



Tell their story



Get a job







Contextual Research
Synthesis & Sensemaking
Behavioral Insights

Value Proposition Feature Definition

Launch & Usage Metrics Iteration & Extensions

Communication Strategy Community Feedback

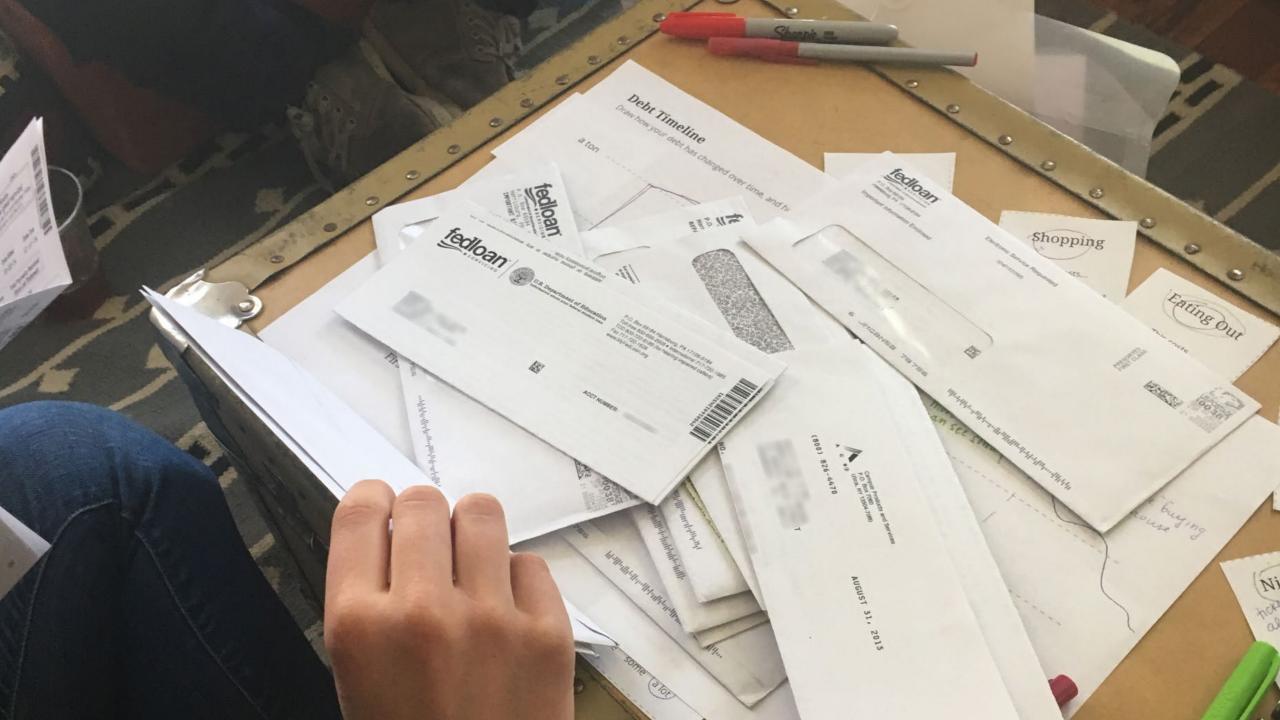




**Contextual Research** 

Build understanding
Gain empathy
Identify innovation opportunities









Everyone has a business degree these days, so I'll always be able to get a job.

I found out about the international business major from a guy at The Gap. I Googled it, and it sounded better than just regular business, so I just chose that.

My life decisions are based on stupid things."

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My life decisions are based on stupid things."



"[Students say] 'I could do anything — I think I could do this, I think I could do that.' You couldn't say something worse to a recruiter.

Don't apply to 5 of my jobs, because you aren't going to get any of them."

Meg
Recruiter, software company in Austin





**Contextual Research** 

Go to the people instead of bringing them to you

Watch them live, play, and work



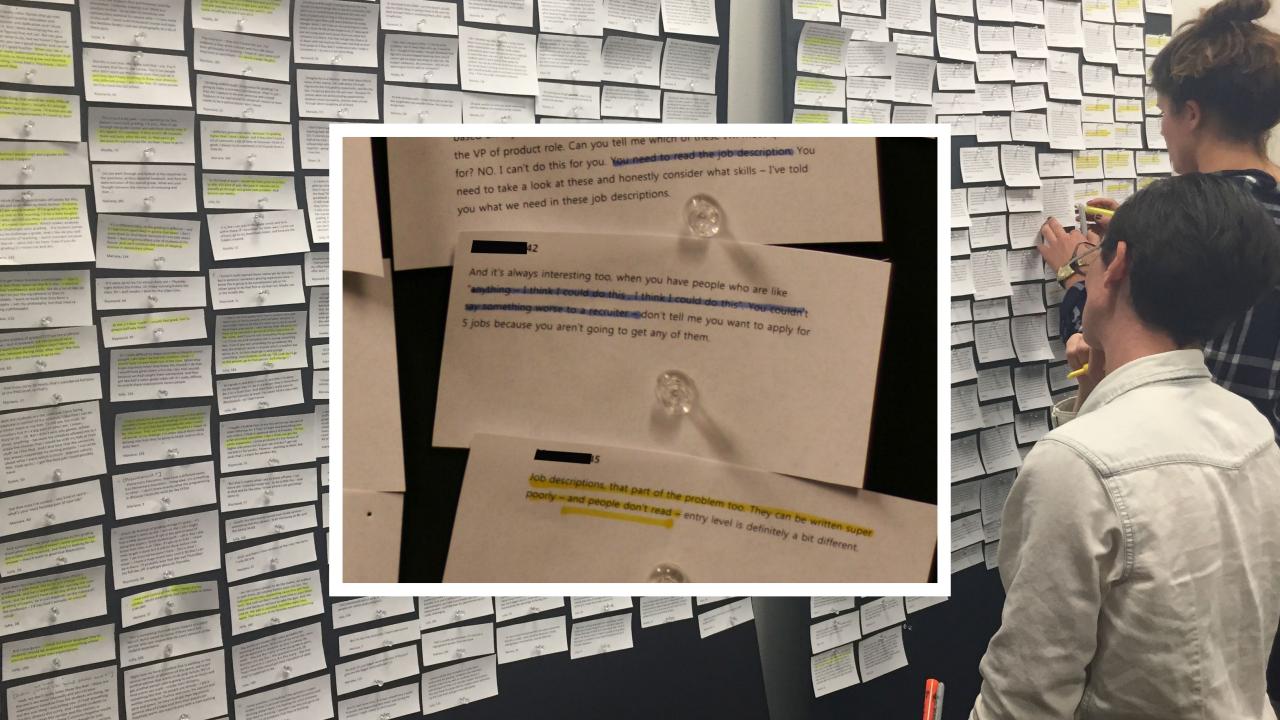


Synthesis & Sensemaking

To make sense of chaotic, qualitative research data

To find patterns and anomalies, and to look at the world in new ways

To act as a procedural stepping-stone between research and insight







# Synthesis & Sensemaking

Transcribe all of the research data

"Explode" the data, blending utterances across participants

Identify groupings, and make observations about them

**Identify anomalies** 





# **Behavioral Insights**

To formalize the "big rocks" that provoke new innovate ideas

To make inferential leaps about why people do the things they do

To make obvious the specific goal for driving behavior-change

"Your resume is like your life - it is your golden ticket to the chocolate factory." Samantha, international business major

Samantha, international business major

Emphasize bullets on a resume, rather than exhibit skills through artifacts (portfolio)

Think they should have a broad-but-shallow set of abilities, rather than a depth of competency in one area

Typically apply for any and every job

Samantha, international business major

# STUDENT KEY INSIGHT

Students think they have an idea of what employers want in a candidate, but they are often wrong.

Samantha, international business major

#### STUDENT KEY INSIGHT

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"Don't apply to 5 of my jobs, because you aren't going to get any of them."

Meg, Recruiter

Samantha, international business major

#### STUDENT KEY INSIGHT

Students think they have an idea of what employers want in a candidate, but they are often wrong.

"Don't apply to 5 of my jobs, because you aren't going to get any of them."

Meg, Recruiter

Form an opinion of a candidate in seconds based on a single data point

Are looking for specific skills, and evidence of competency in that skill

Create a mental narrative of what a candidate can do, based on how the student presents themselves

Samantha, international business major

#### STUDENT KEY INSIGHT

Students think they have an idea of what employers want in a candidate, but they are often wrong.

"Don't apply to 5 of my jobs, because you aren't going to get any of them."

Meg, Recruiter

#### **EMPLOYER KEY INSIGHT**

# These are **insights**: provocative statements about human behavior, framed as universal truths.

#### STUDENT KEY INSIGHT

Students think they have an idea of what employers want in a candidate, but they are often wrong.

#### **EMPLOYER KEY INSIGHT**





# **Behavioral Insights**

Ask "Why" about the utterances and observational groups, and force yourself to answer (even if you don't know for sure)

Make an inferential leap

Frame the statement as a universal truth (even though it's biased)





**Value Proposition** 

To formalize a new product or service trajectory based on insights

To identify the utility and emotional resonance you hope to provide

To create a North Star or vision for everyone to align around

# STUDENT KEY INSIGHT

Students think they have an idea of what employers want in a candidate, but they are often wrong.

# **EMPLOYER KEY INSIGHT**

It's important to be viewed as having a broad set of interests and being open for anything.

I don't really understand what happens during the hiring process.

I don't know how to show specific skills. I'm not sure I *have* specific skills.

The key to getting a job is having a resume and cover letter.

# STUDENT KEY INSIGHT

Students think they have an idea of what employers want in a candidate, but they are often wrong.

# **EMPLOYER KEY INSIGHT**

I need to see evidence that you can do certain things.

I'm looking to match a very specific skill profile.

I'll build a story about you based on the smallest details, and use this to decide if you move through the process.

•••

I'm very busy.

#### STUDENT KEY INSIGHT

Students think they have an idea of what employers want in a candidate, but they are often wrong.

# **EMPLOYER KEY INSIGHT**

#### WHAT-IF OPPORTUNITY

# What if we helped students identify their skills and present them to employers in a credible way?

#### STUDENT KEY INSIGHT

Students think they have an idea of what employers want in a candidate, but they are often wrong.



#### **EMPLOYER KEY INSIGHT**

Recruiters make snap judgments, directly impacting a candidate's chances of success.

#### **VALUE PROMISE**

# MyEdu promises to help students identify their skills and present them to employers in a credible way.

#### STUDENT KEY INSIGHT

Students think they have an idea of what employers want in a candidate, but they are often wrong.



#### **EMPLOYER KEY INSIGHT**

Recruiters make snap judgments, directly impacting a candidate's chances of success.





**Value Proposition** 

Tell (and show) a story of the existing problem state

Provoke "What-If" questions to find ways to improve the problem state

Frame the new capability as a statement of value provided to a person





#### **Feature Definition**

To define the capability in a way that supports the value proposition

To reduce ambiguity during development

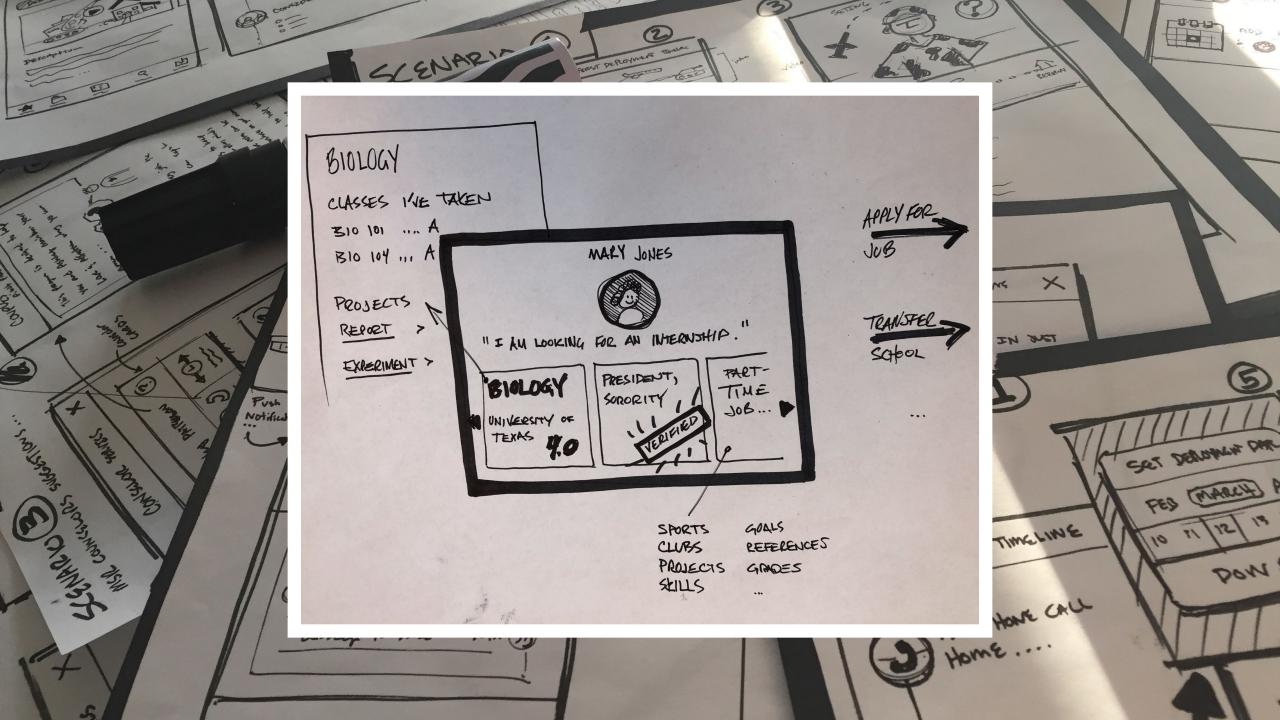
To ensure we ship the right product to the right people at the right time



#### **VALUE PROMISE**

MyEdu promises to help students identify their skills and present them to employers in a credible way.

How will we do that?



#### myEdu<sup>\*</sup>



#### 

University of Wisconsin 2013, BS Marketing & Advertising

#### **PROFILE COVER PAGE**

WORK EXPERIENCE (4)

PROJECTS (8)

**DEGREE** 

**INTERESTS** 

CONNECTIONS (22)

**PRIVACY** 

#### My Profile Cover Page

Still missing info PROFILE STRENGTH: Your Profile Is Incomplete! OK) Add your degree plan by name: Marketing & Advertising Skip this

MAJOR Marketing & Advertising

3.6

ACADEMIC YEAR Freshman

**HOMETOWN** Houston

WORK EXPERIENCE Intern at Hiebling Jan, 2012 - July, 2012 R Remove from EDIT

FEATURED COURSE

ENG1301 Introduction to **English Literature** (Classics)

Marketing Speech

22 credits earned

**DEGREE PROGRESS** 

**NETWORKS** 

Cover Page



Robin Smith



MAJOR
What's your
major?



What academic year are you in?



Where are you from?



WORK EXPERIENCE
What's your
most recent
job?



What courses have you crushed?



How close to a degree are you?



PROJECTS

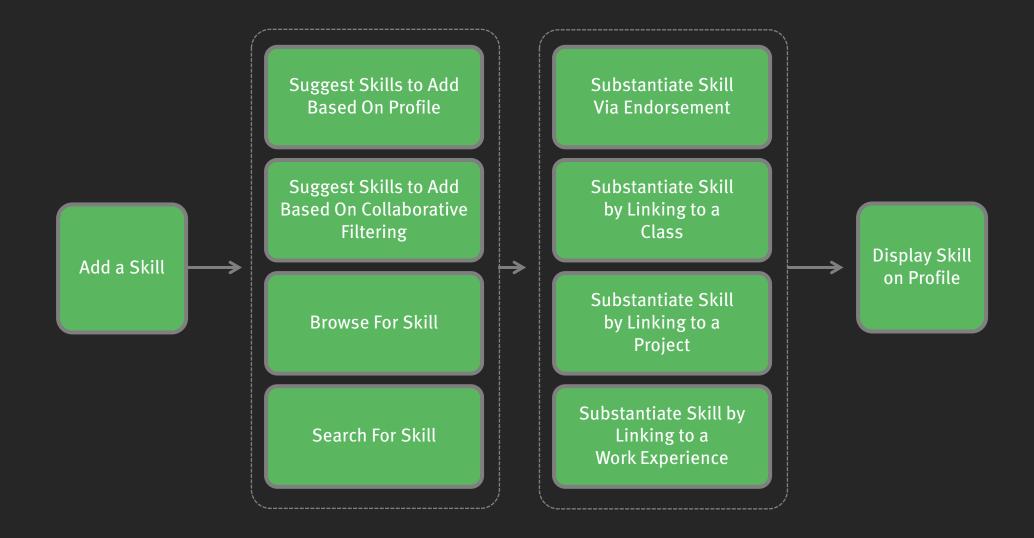
Show off your

work

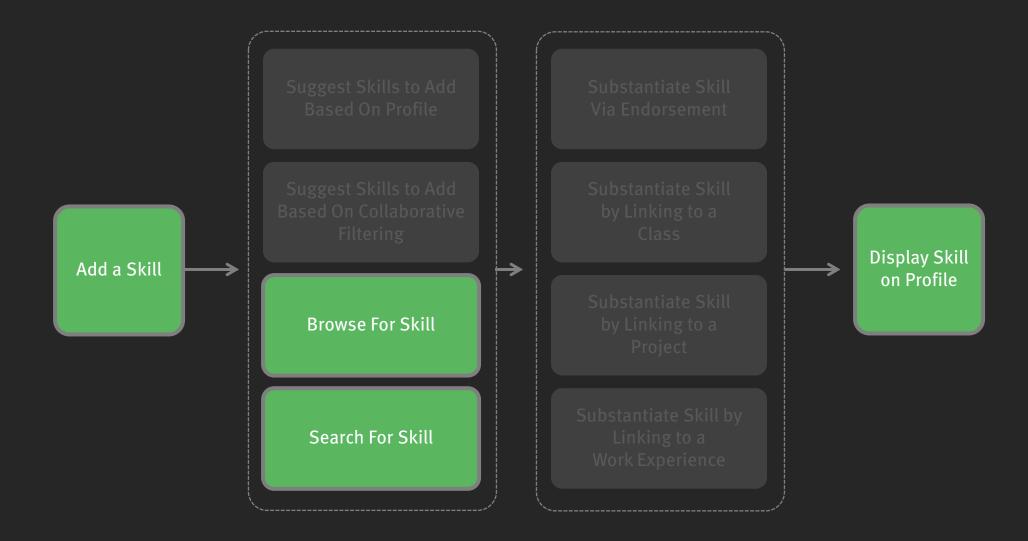


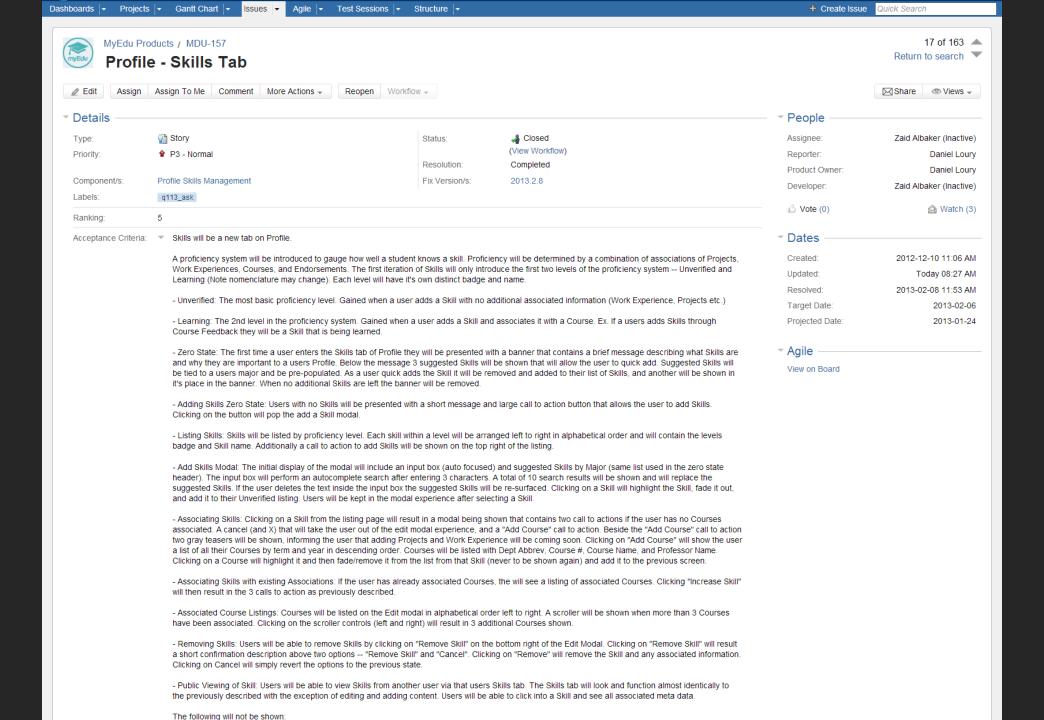
YOUR NETWORKS
Connect with
your friends











#### myEdu



Robyn Bagley **ZEdit** 

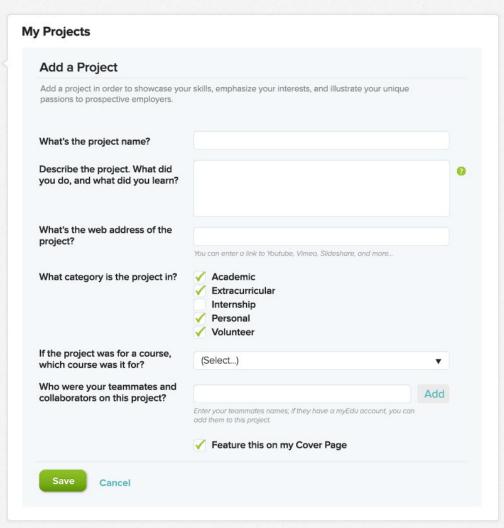
PROFILE COVER PAGE WORK EXPERIENCE

DEGREE

PROJECTS 🖸

INTERESTS

CONNECTIONS









#### **Feature Definition**

**Create scenarios and high-level flow diagrams of the ideal solution state** 

"Chunk" the ideal solution state into a series of smaller feature initiatives

Work with design to produce wireframes, comps, assets, etc





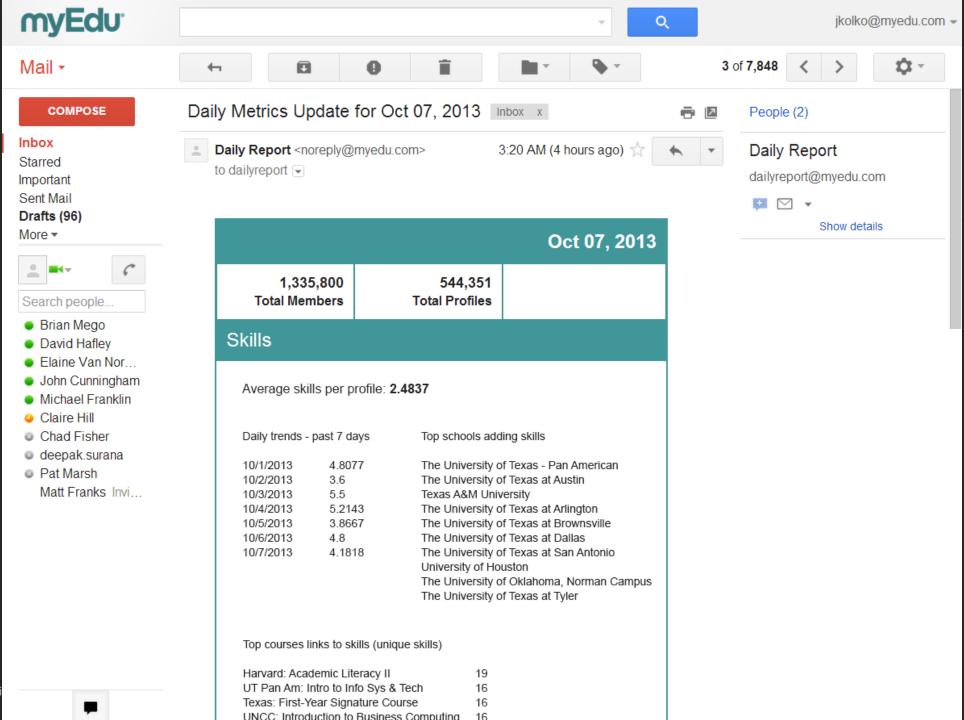
**Launch & Usage Metrics** 

To provide everyone with a common language for tracking & understanding success

To understand the effectiveness of the product changes you've made

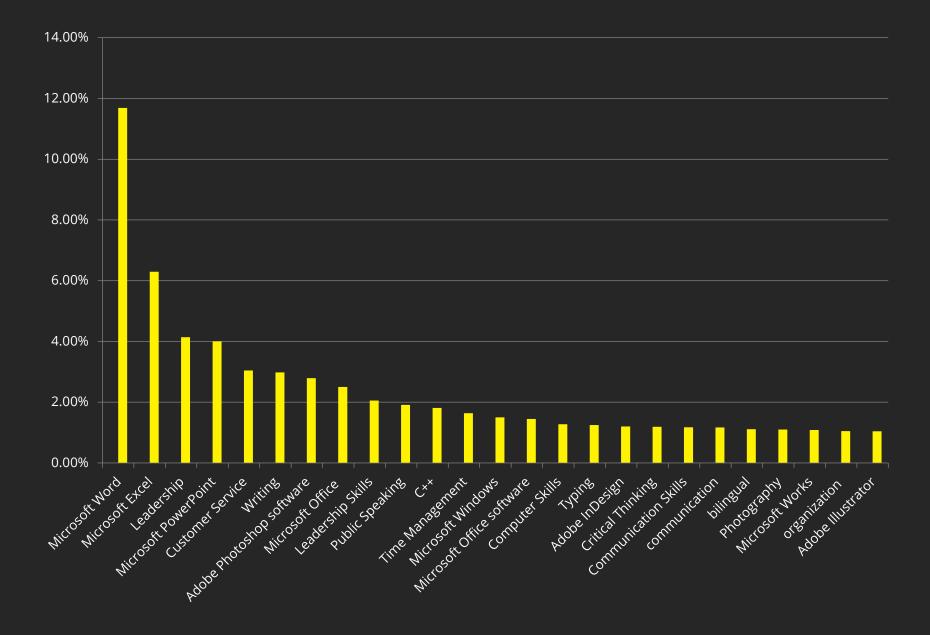
To adjust subsequent activities

WELL-DESIGNED













**Launch & Usage Metrics** 

Prior to launch, identify usage behavior that will indicate if your value proposition is being realized

Create a regular communication mechanism for disseminating results

Try to understand relationship between design and behavior





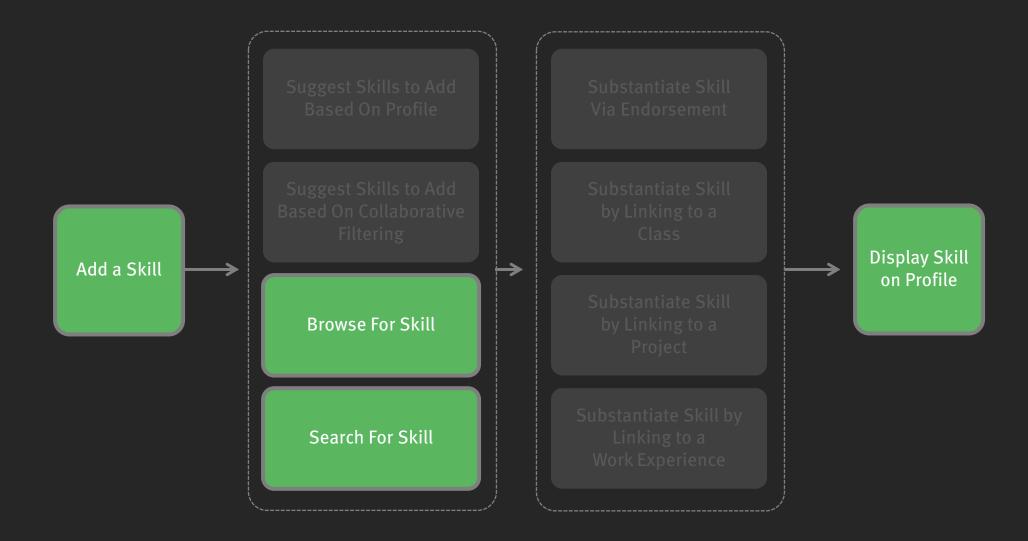
#### **Iterations & Extensions**

To improve a given capability based on usage data and insight

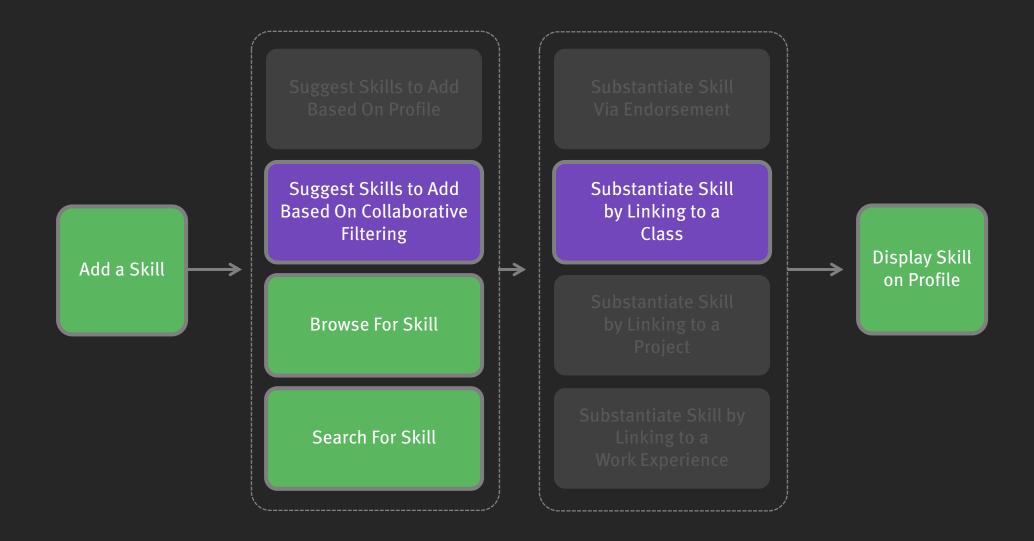
To fix defects or usability issues

To finish deferred work that directly supports the value proposition

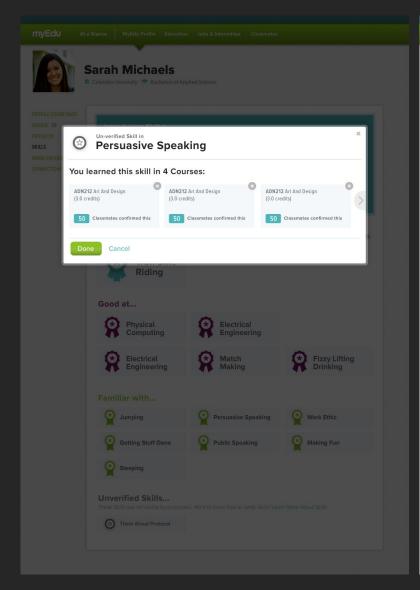


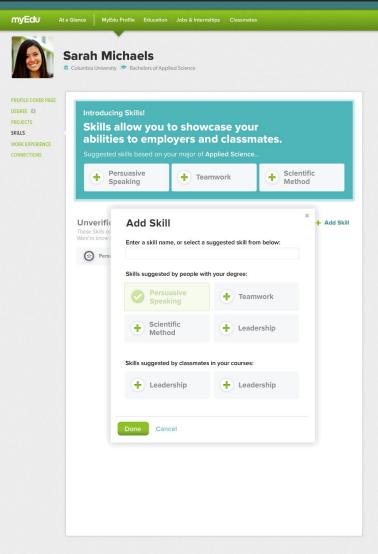


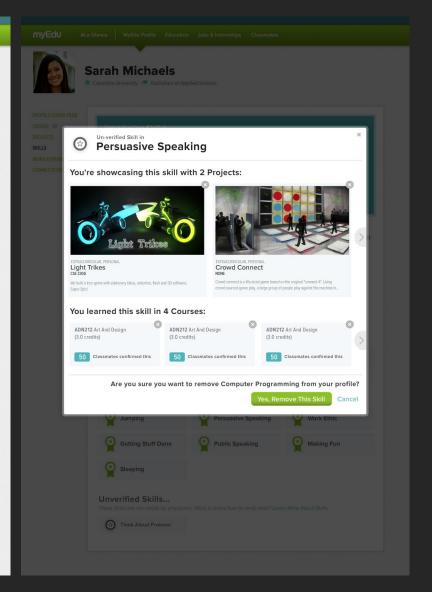
























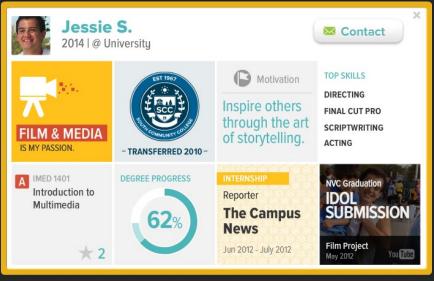
















#### **Iterations & Extensions**

Make hypotheses based on usage data and value proposition

Prioritize design changes based on assumed effectiveness

Work with design to produce wireframes, comps, assets, etc





#### **Communication Strategy**

To communicate the existence and value of a new capability

To increase the likelihood of realizing your value proposition

To formalize an entryway into the new capability or feature





March 15, 2013

Jon S. said he learned UV/VIS Spectrophotometry in General Chemistry Laboratory. Did you?



Yes, I learned this skill



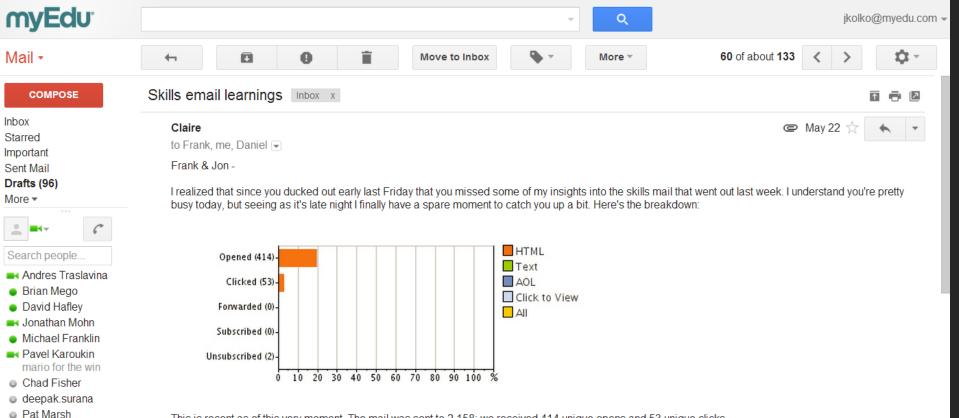
One of your classmates learned a new skill in a class that you've taken. If you've learned this skill, add it to your MyEdu profile so employers can find you and offer you a job or internship.







© 2012, MyEdu® Corporation



This is recent as of this very moment. The mail was sent to 2,158; we received 414 unique opens and 53 unique clicks.

Honestly, with a mail so targeted and with such a user-specific headline (%%first\_name%%, did you learn %%skill1\_name%% in %%skill1\_course%%?) I did expect better OR and CTR. However, I believe that I can attempt to explain.

When we send a mail I typically only target our users who have opened a mail at all OR users that have logged in in the last 30 days. Sometimes 60 if we want to really increase volume. Usually this ensures that overall we're sending to engaged users (and thus real inboxes, in theory, though we still hard bounce when new users sign up [which counts as a login] with bad emails). With this send, however, because the list was already so small, I did not add this extra condition in the query. We ONLY sent to users where they had classmates with skills. That was the only condition. And it appears our open rate took a hit for it. In a way it was a worthy experiment that proves our list may need to be eventually cleansed of inactive/incorrect addresses...

The low clickthrough rate, however, is fully dependent on the way the dynamic content populated the mail. Since that's different for every user, I can only assume that the skills added by the users' classmates were simply not relevant enough.

We hope to fix this, at least in the short term, by grabbing the top 8 majors and manually sending them their top 5 skills (dictated by our own research) according to their major. If I can manage it, I will build this new template to include any classmate's skills at the bottom, should a user qualify, which will effectively merge these two concepts in one mail.

It's my hope that this next skills mail targeting our top 8 majors will perform much better because in theory it will be far more relevant. As of right now it's a really manual process for me to build such a mail for 8 different majors, but I have an idea around the concept of a skills dashboard that will hopefully and eventually lead to dynamic content within the body of the mail and automation (like jobs!) as a result.

I hope this was thorough enough! Have a good one.

Matt Franks Invi





#### **Communication Strategy**

Identify strategic method for communicating value

Ensure method includes an action that supports the value proposition

Disseminate a test to a significant population of users





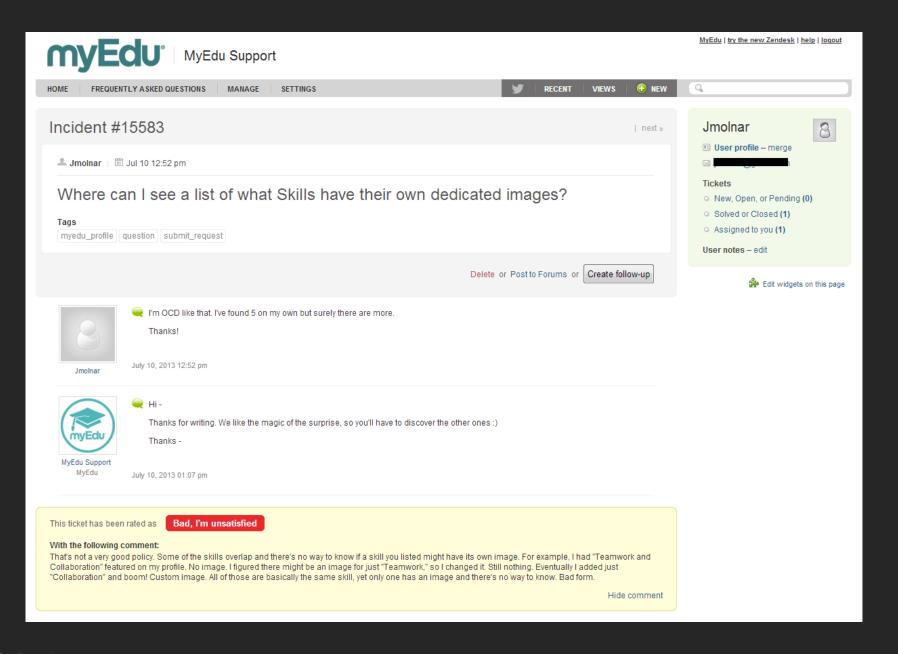
**Community Feedback** 

To leverage alternative signals related to product usage

To better understand how people perceive product changes

To understand the "gestalt" of the community









**Community Feedback** 

Ensure that you receive all communication that in any way touches an end-user



## Blackboard®

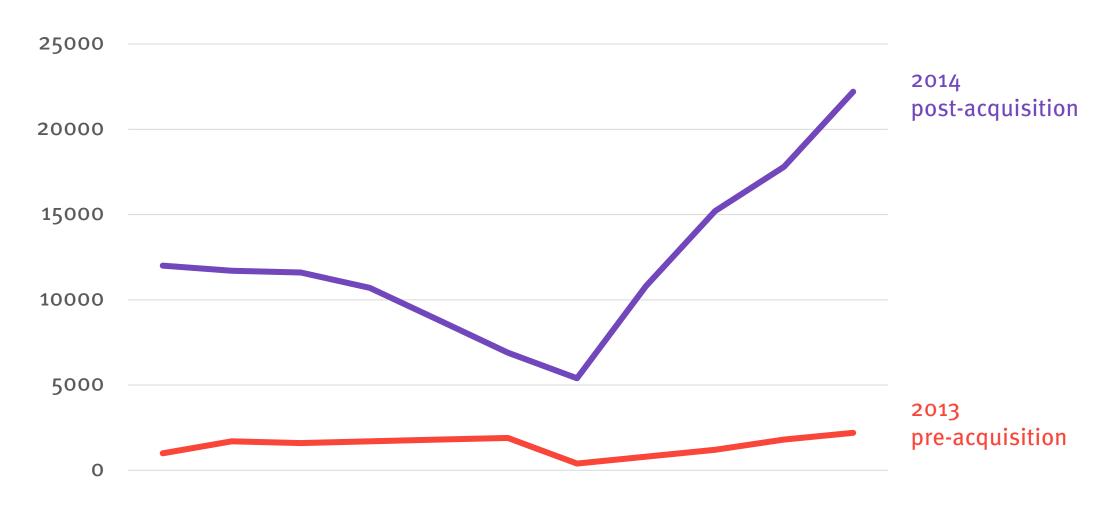


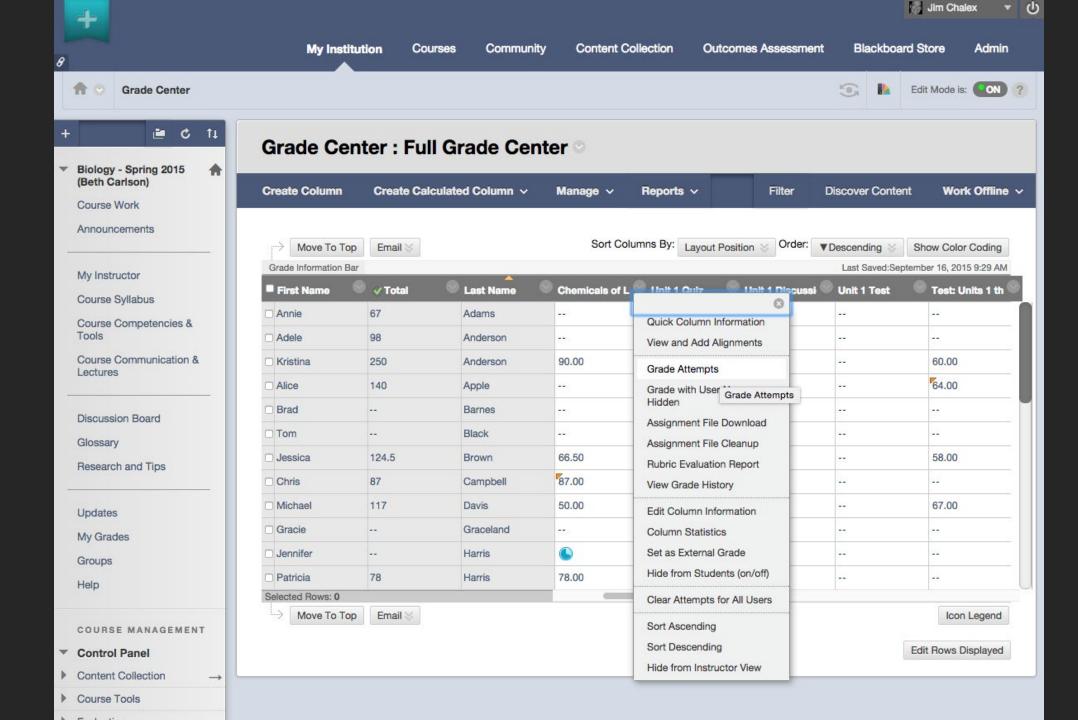
#### Profile Acquisition Per Day, Over Time

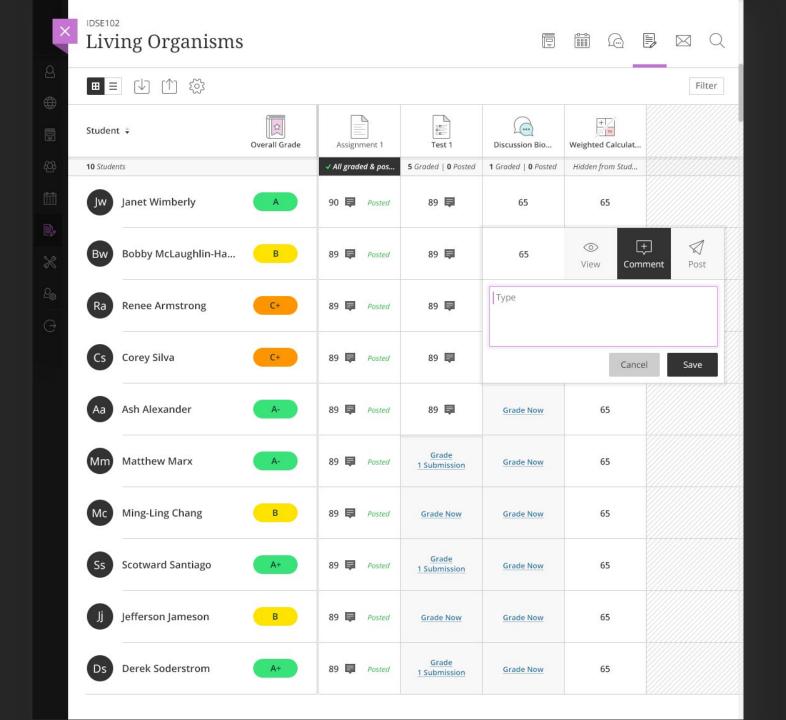




#### Profile Acquisition Per Day, Over Time



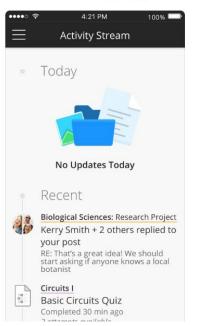


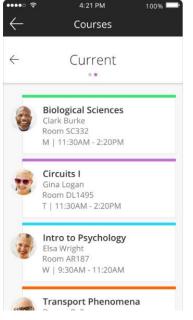


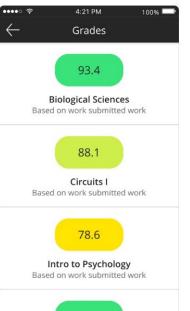


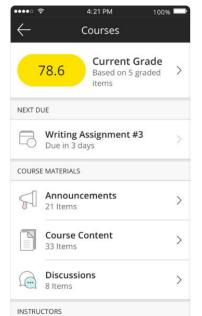


#### Screenshots iPhone iPad

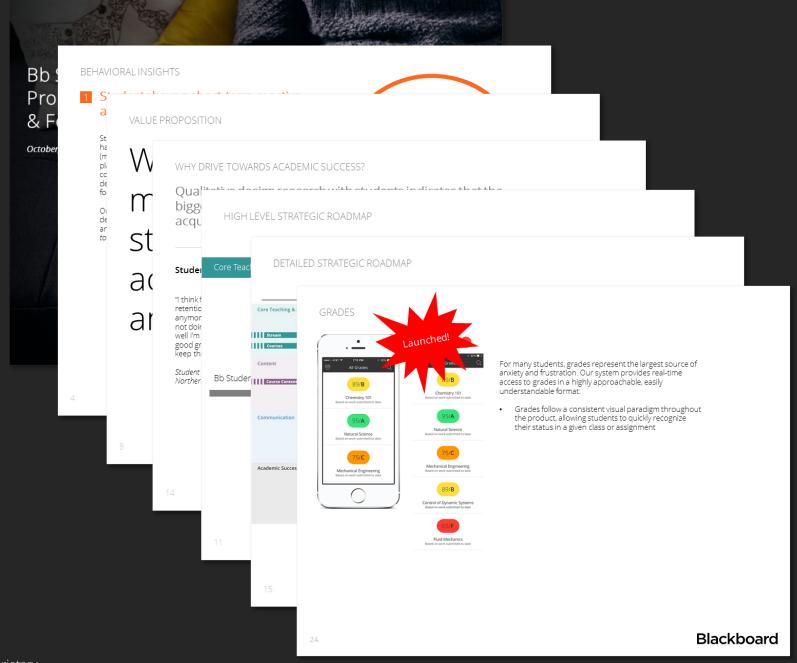
















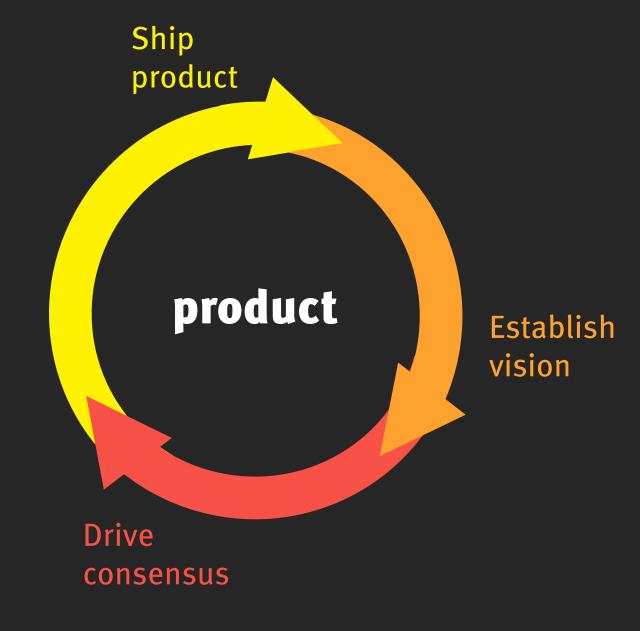
Contextual Research
Synthesis & Sensemaking
Behavioral Insights

Value Proposition Feature Definition

Launch & Usage Metrics Iteration & Extensions

Communication Strategy Community Feedback









"Get your hands as dirty as possible. Throw yourself into an experience of making. Coding, design, or whatever it is – learn it, and make something."

Joe Gebbia Chief Product Officer, AirBNB





# "Get some skills, first... you have to have some street cred. You have to have some experience in building something."

Leland Rechis Senior Product Manager, Google





"Go make something... If it succeeds, great, you have a business. If it fails, you have a great experience and a set of stories to talk about that make you very marketable to teams that need people like you."

Gary Chou Former GM, Union Square Ventures Network



## product/market fit



## behavioral insight



## Go make something!

- thanks!



www.wonderfulnarrative.com