

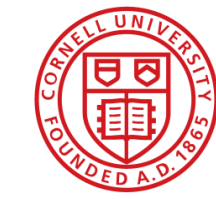


Merlin Entertainments

Business Project

50575, 48342, 43346, 43519, 46935, 46423

How to use digital in the end-to-end guest journey to ensure loyalty and repeat visitation for Merlin?



Cornell University



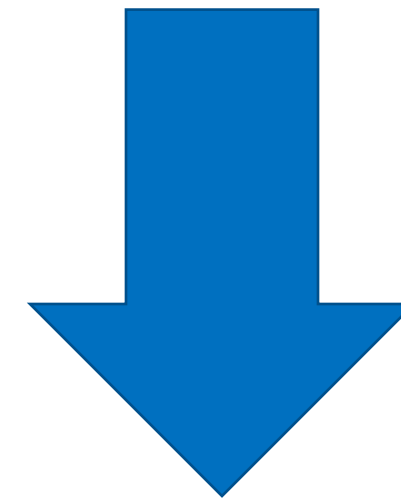
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POLITICAL SCIENCE



Link to video presentation



<https://youtu.be/c7VUbPmE3il>

Our Agenda



- 01 — Our Team
- 02 — Problem Statement & Scope
- 03 — Literature Review
- 04 — Benchmarking Analysis
- 05 — Methodology
- 06 — Survey Results & Analysis
- 07 — Recommendations
- 08 — References & Appendix



Our Team





Cornell University

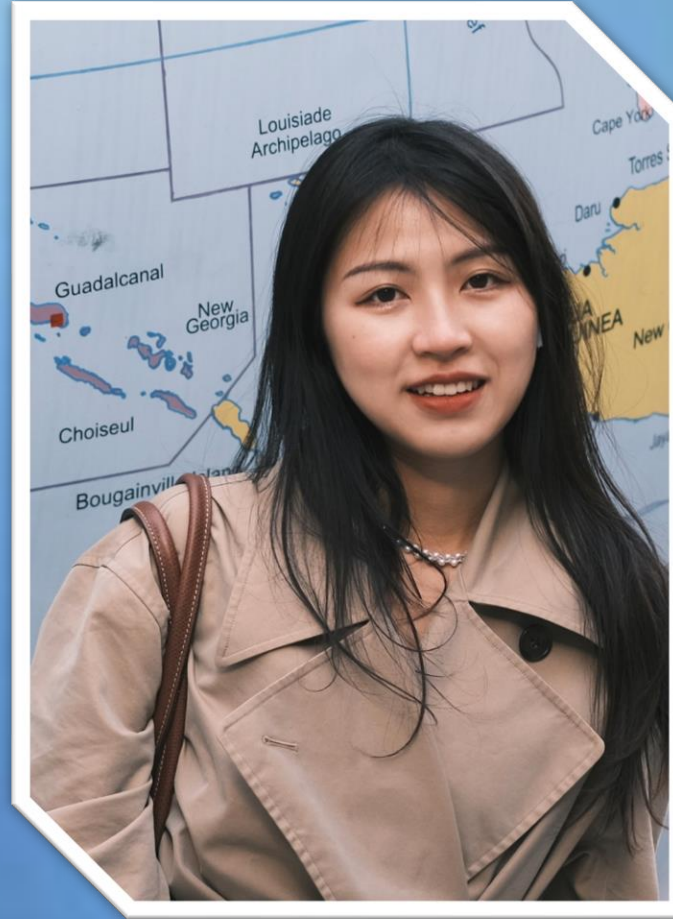


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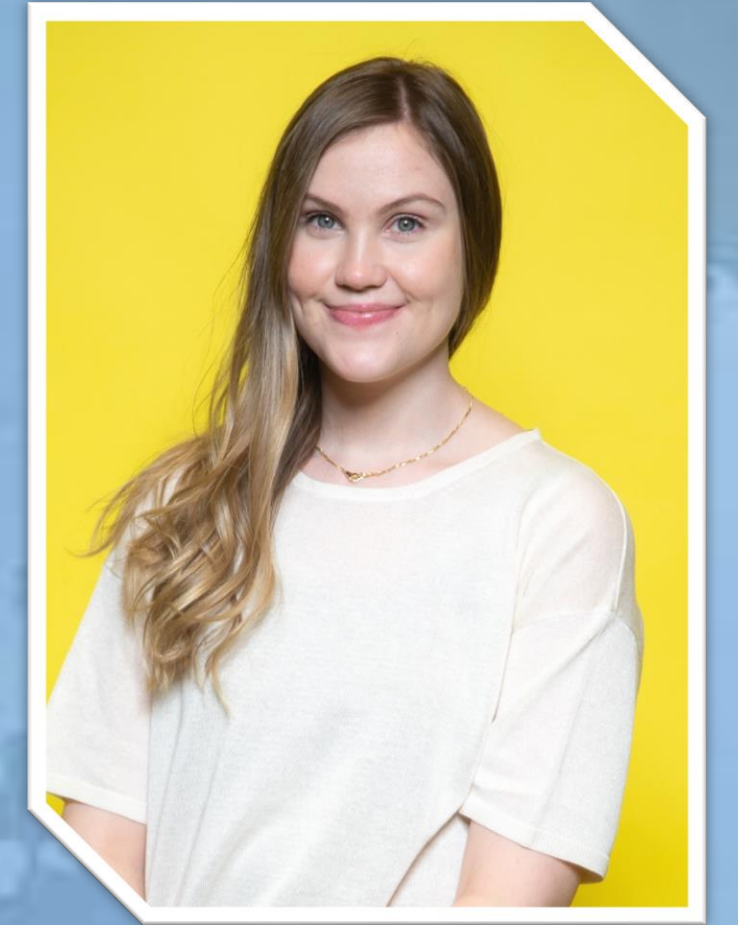
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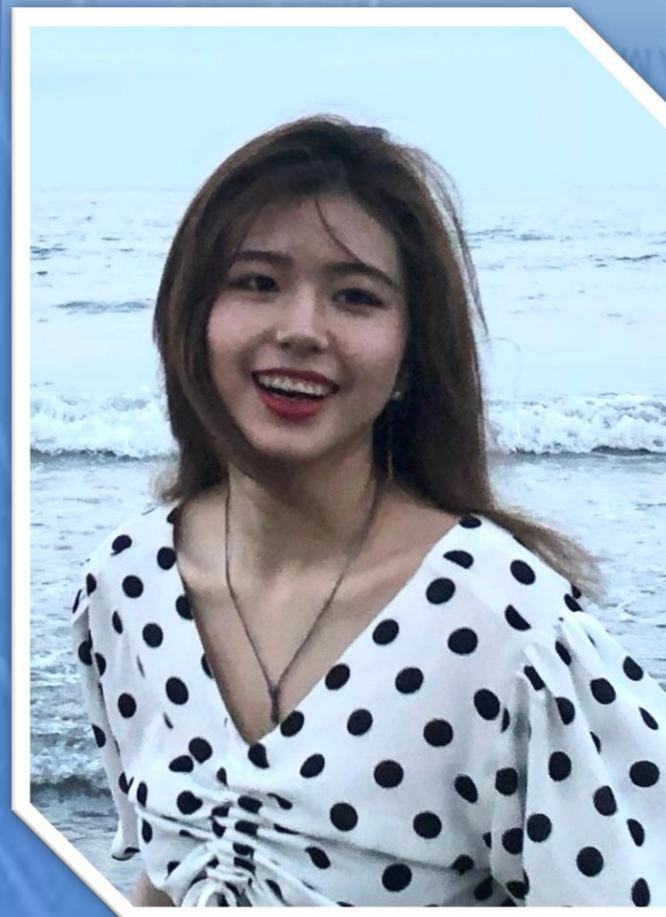


THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE IN MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

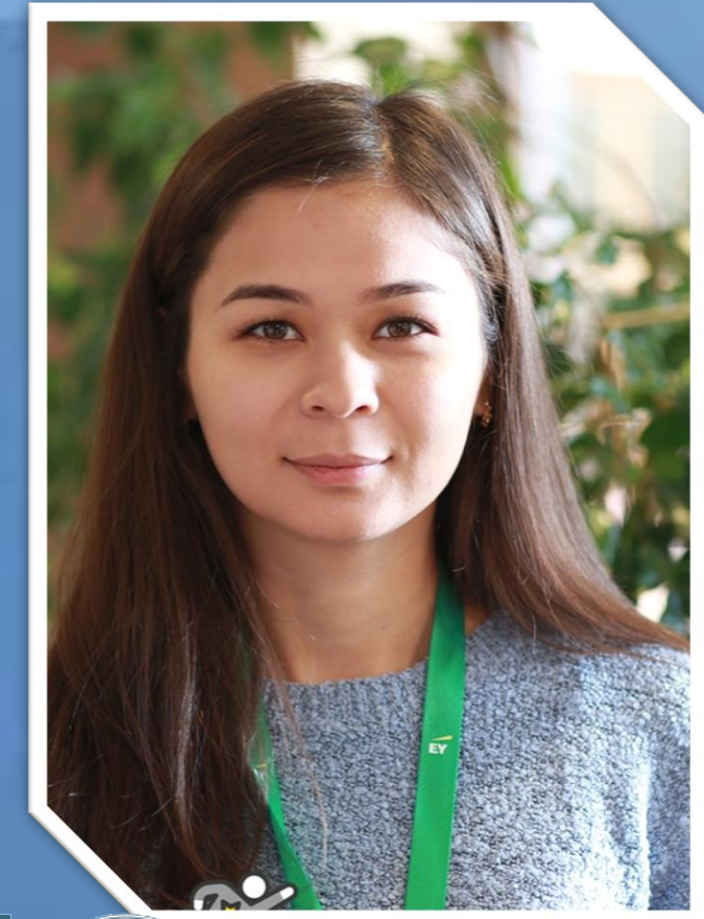
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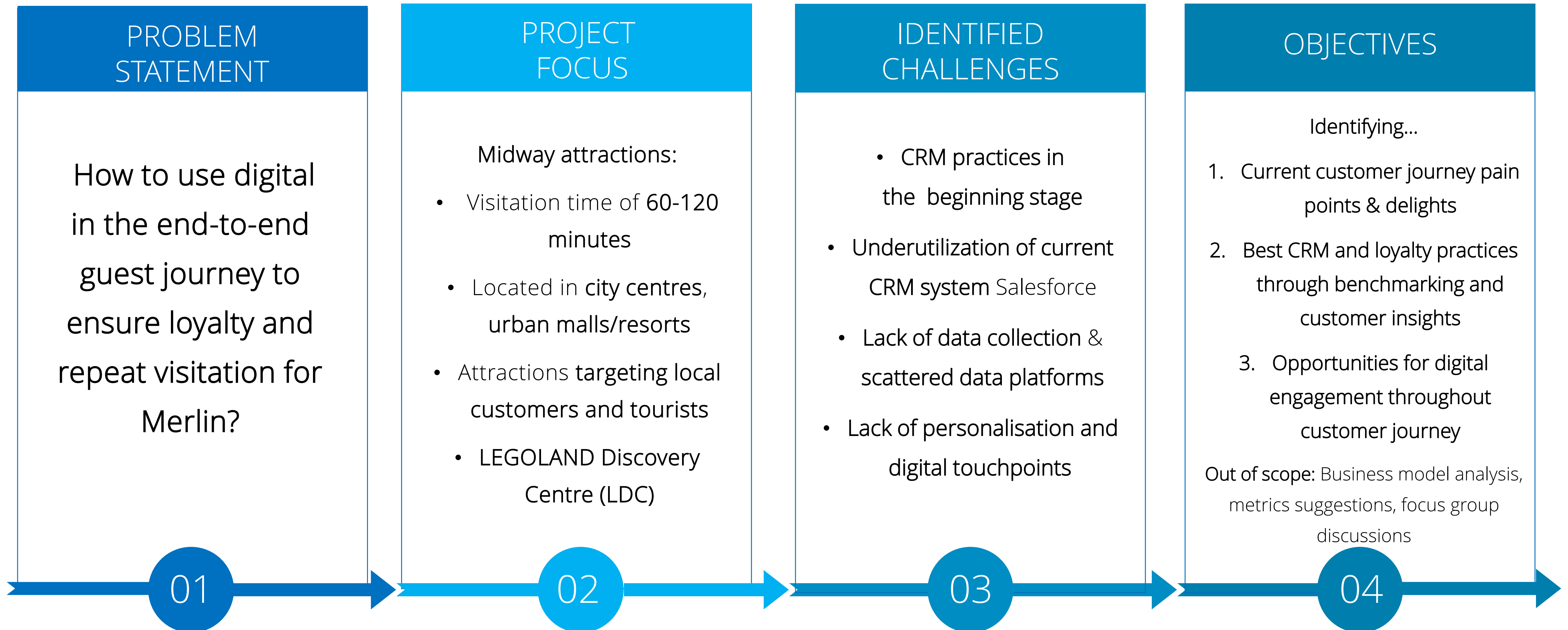
Problem Statement & Scope



Multiple challenges and objectives identified related to digital customer journey, loyalty & brand stickiness



Merlin Entertainments is a **global leader** in location-based, **family entertainment** and the owner of multiple **brand experiences** all over the world, such as **LEGOLAND Discovery Centre (LDC)**, SEA LIFE, Madam Tussauds and many others



Project timeline and deliverables throughout the 13-week completion period

Problem Statement & Scope

Project Kick-off

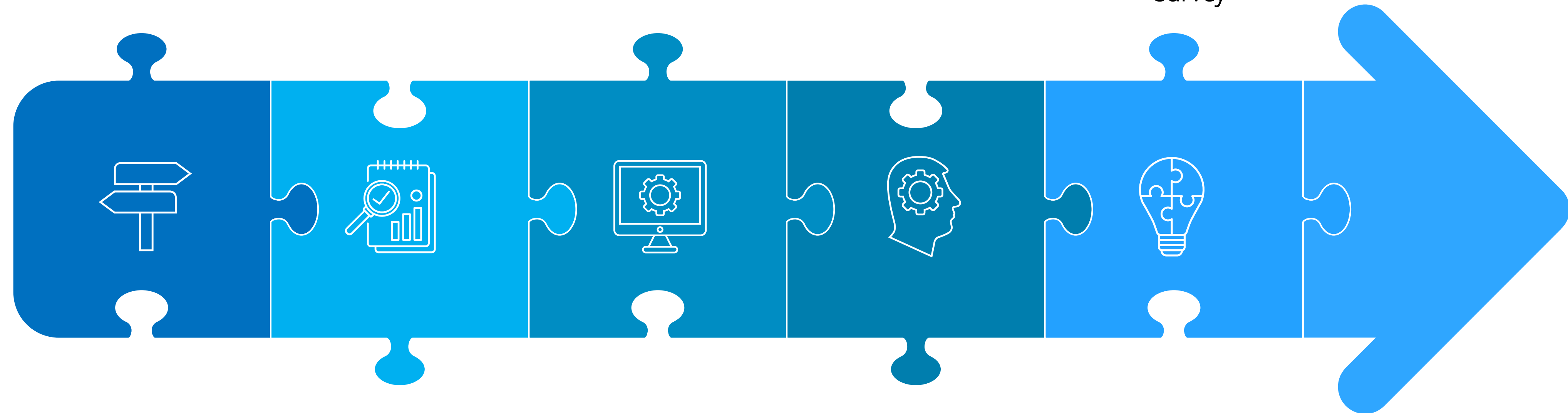
- First client-meeting and scope definition
- Allocation of roles in team

Method design

- Development of methodological approach
- Survey design

Recommendations

- Providing recommendations based on literature, benchmarking & customer survey



Literature Review & Benchmarking

- Academic literature review
- Non-direct competition benchmarking

Data Collection & Analysis

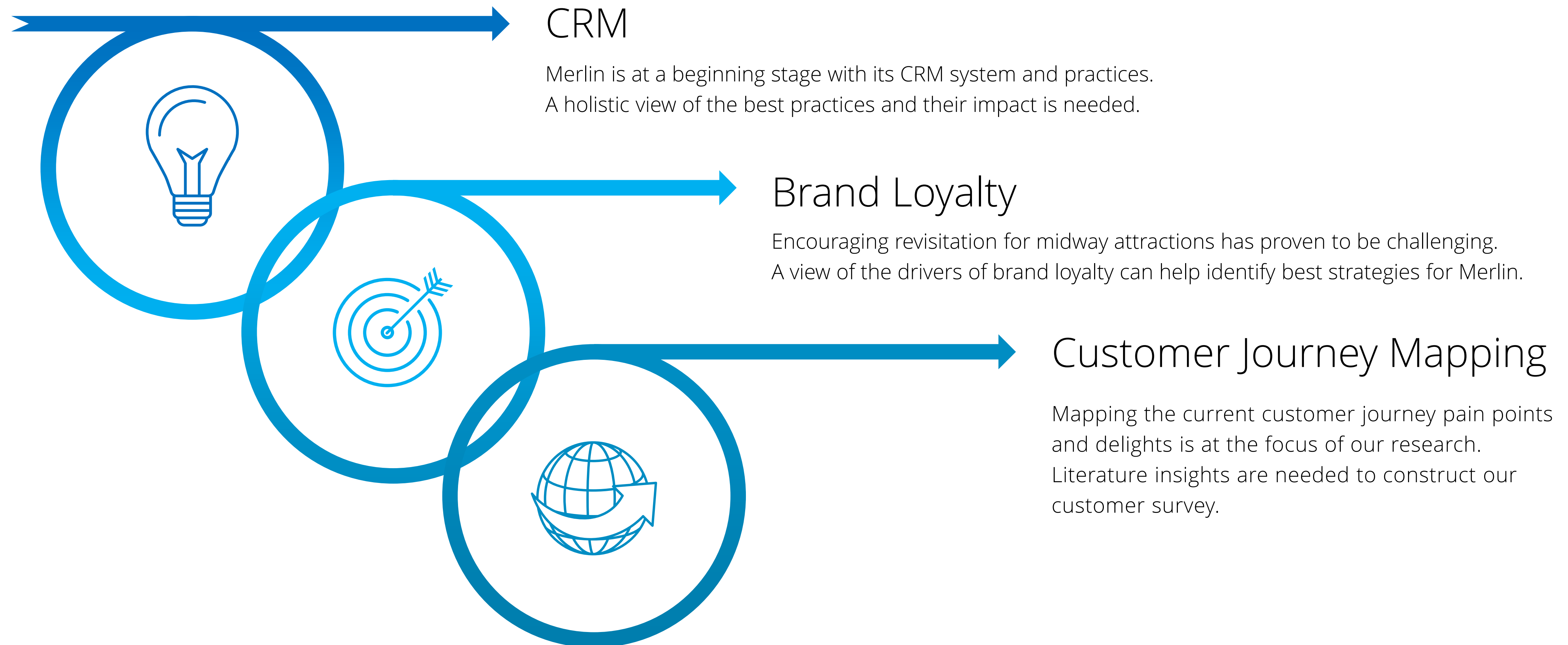
- Online customer survey launch for LEGOLAND Discovery Centre
- Qualitative & quantitative insights
 - Analysis of results



Literature Review



In order to get a **better understanding** of the problem statement and identified challenges, we dove deeper into **3 key areas of research**



A realistic customer journey map can help the company better **understand its pain points and foster innovation**

Customer journey mapping (CJM) visually **depicts the sequence of events** through which customers may **interact with a service organization** during an entire purchase process

Developing the horizontal axis with customer research

- Begin the CJM process by meeting with **management team** to **identify the touchpoints** customers might experience during a trip
- **Categorize the touchpoints** into periods: those that transpire before, during, and after service
- Select the vital touchpoints based on **marketing research** and **customer surveys**

Developing the vertical axis for service innovation

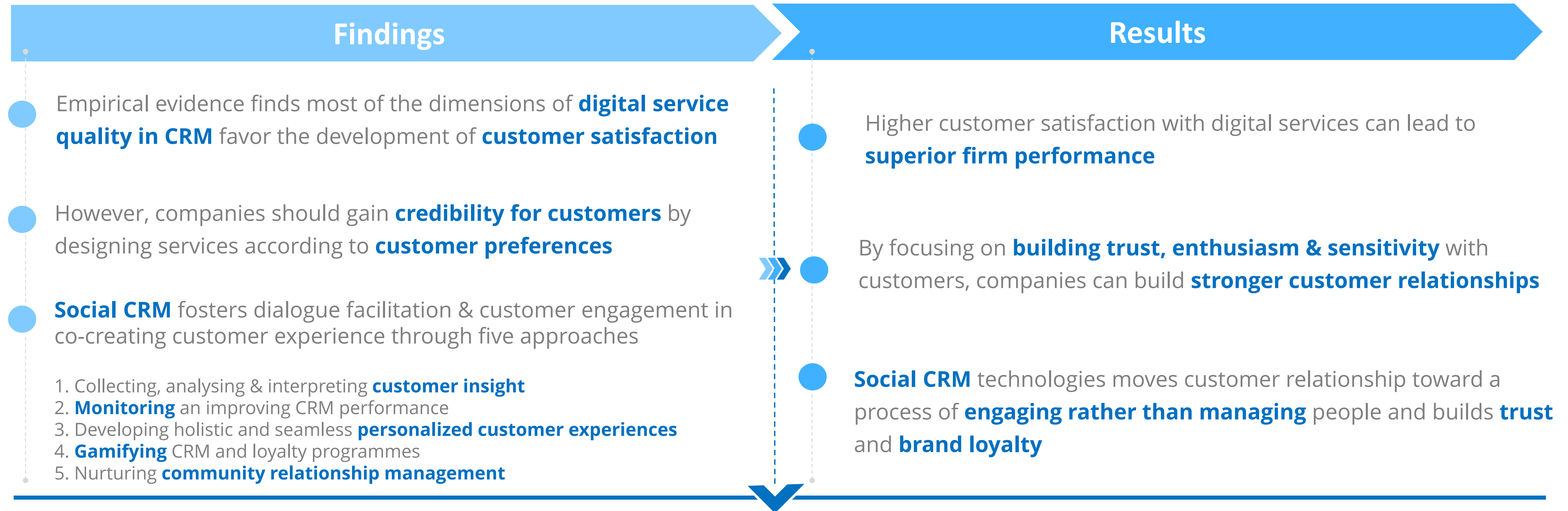
- The vertical axis should also depict **managerial cross-functional actions** within a service system that are inextricably **linked to the touchpoints**, as doing so connects the CJM process with **service blueprinting and service innovation**
- Developing the vertical axis of the customer journey map by focusing on **managerial practices** that help ensure **customers experience** of each **touchpoint** in a satisfactory manner

Customer journey mapping helps companies identify pain points and delights in customer experience and fosters innovation



Investing in digital & social CRM can help build **stronger customer relationships** and **enhance company performance**

Demirel & Demokaan (2022) present empirical evidence from an online survey examining how customer-centered management systems contribute to CRM through the use of digital services

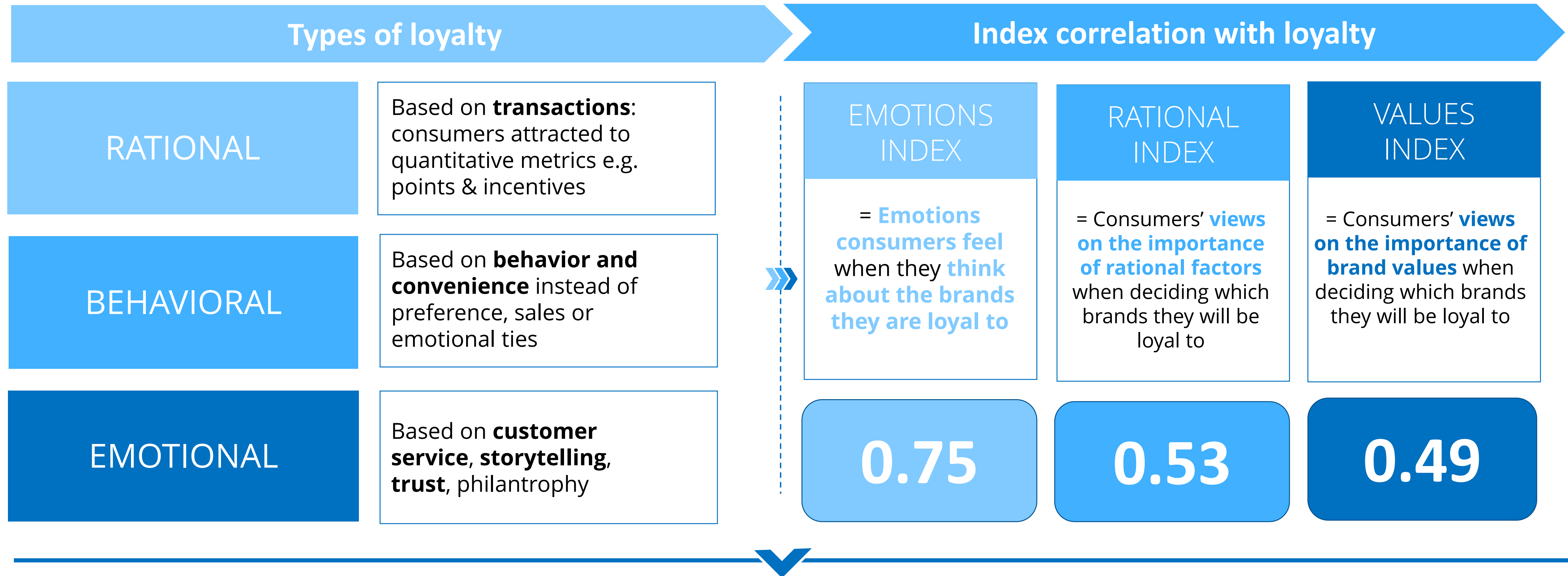


Digital and social CRM can help companies build consumer trust, loyalty and improve firm performance



Many brands **limit themselves to rational loyalty** as opposed to **emotional loyalty**

Emotional loyalty entails a **deeper level of commitment** to the brand because the emotional tie goes **beyond economic incentives**



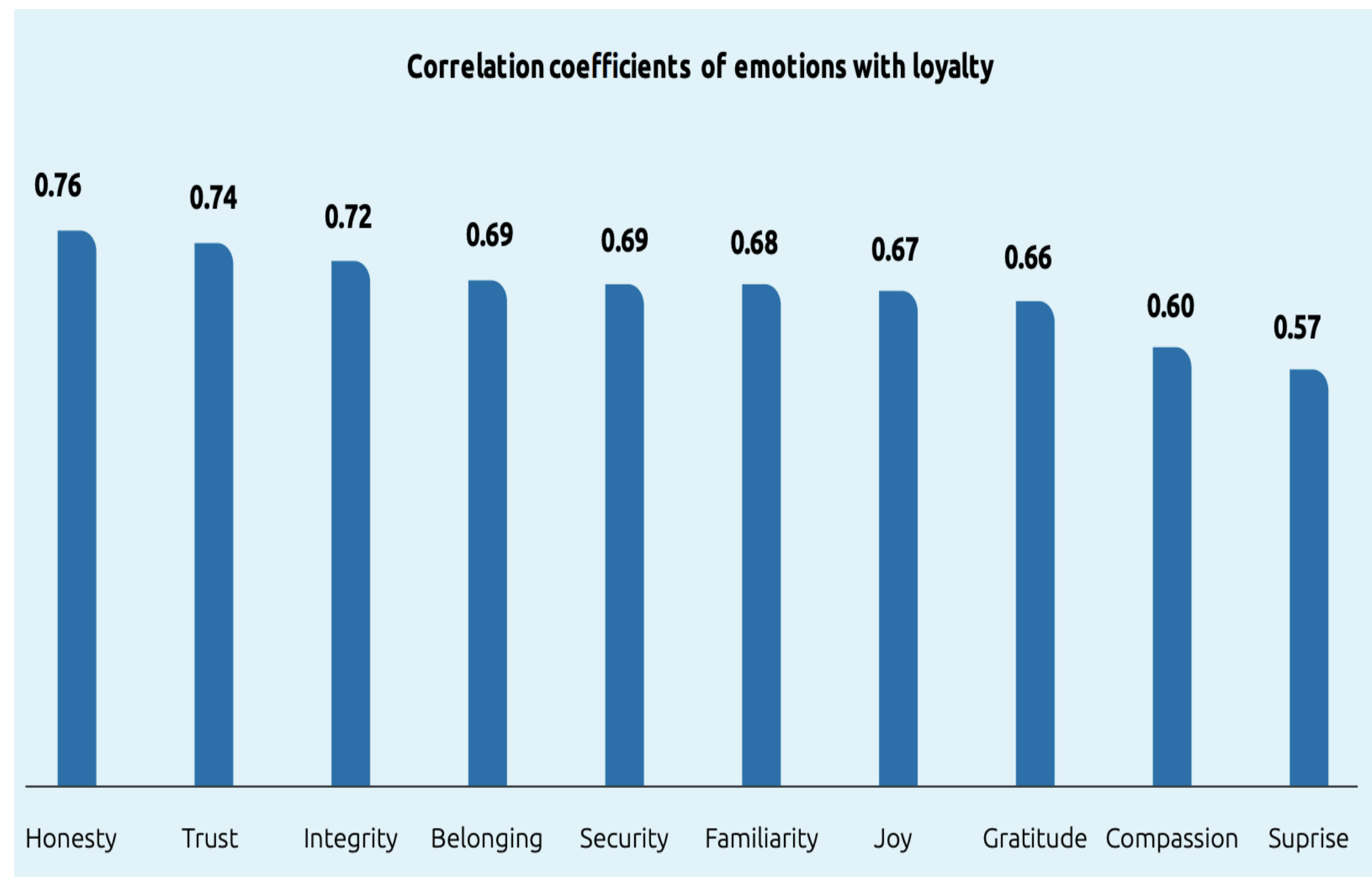
Emotions have the strongest impact on loyalty



Emotionally engaged consumers spend more and promote brands they are loyal to

Emotional loyalty entails a **deeper level of commitment** to the brand because the emotional tie goes **beyond economic incentives**

Emotion correlation with loyalty



Consumer behaviour



70%

of consumers with **high emotional engagement** spend up to **two times** or more on brands they are loyal to



81%

of consumers with **high emotional engagement** **promote a brand** they are loyal to among family and friends

Honesty and trust have the **greatest influence** on loyalty

Emotionally engaged consumers **spend more and promote brands** they are loyal to

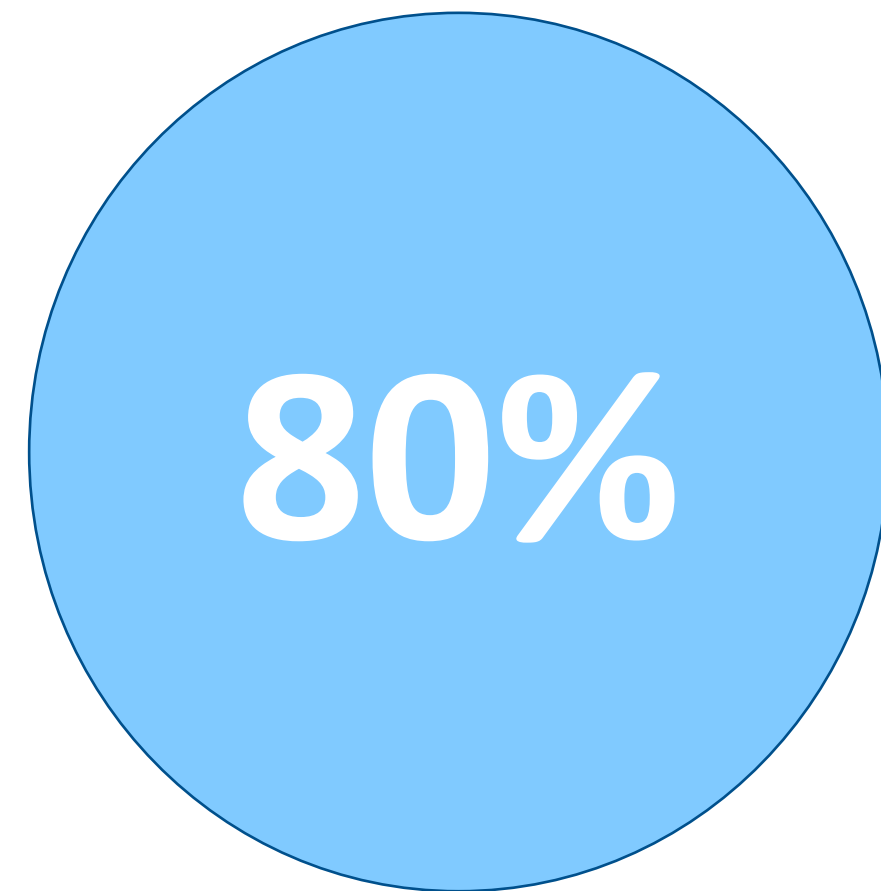


A balanced approach of emotional and rational loyalty tactics needed

Emotional loyalty entails a **deeper level of commitment** to the brand because the emotional tie goes **beyond economic incentives**

Consumer preferences

Combined approach



of emotionally engaged consumers say that **price competitiveness, promotions** and instant **customer service** are **important factors** when deciding which brand to be loyal to

RATIONAL DRIVERS

Price
Offer
Service
Time

EMOTIONAL DRIVERS

Respect
Reciprocity
Recognition
Reward

ENGAGING EXPERIENCES

Rewarding experiences that increase **loyalty & brand stickiness**

Respect = Promote **honesty, trust & integrity**

Reciprocity = Build a **two-way** relationship

Recognition = Make the **effort** to know your customers

Reward = Provide **timely & meaningful** rewards

A **balanced** approach of **emotional** and **rational** loyalty tactics needed

Engage emotionally by focusing on the **4 R's**



Company Benchmarking Analysis



Why and how did we choose the benchmarking companies?



Best practices of companies with top CRM and loyalty programs



Non-direct competitors



Companies that have been less studied



Companies with less frequent visits/usage such as flights/hotels/cinemas



Point-based loyalty program



AI and personalized rewards



Consumer Loyalty & Rewards



Customer Data Platform



Customer Digital Platform



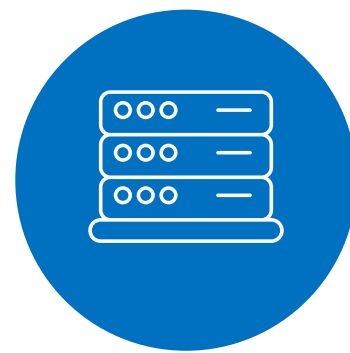
Identify best practices of companies with top CRM and loyalty programs

Loyalty program - Delta airlines



Delta Air Lines, a leader in domestic and international travel, offers airline tickets & flights to over 300 destinations in 60 countries with successful **SkyMiles loyalty program**.

Taking actions



SkyMiles are earned through **flying** with Delta or its **partner** airlines, using Delta-branded **credit cards** by shopping online, by dining out and via various other travel partnerships



SkyMiles can be **redeemed** for the flight, **premium** beverages, baggage, preferred seats, etc.

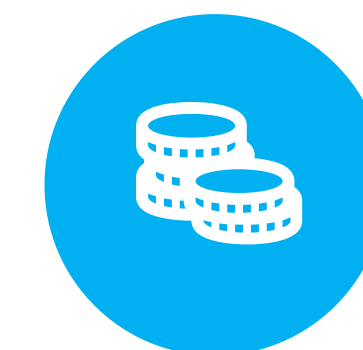


SkyMiles can be also redeemed with **airline partners** or changed to **Delta Gift Card**.

Better results



The program today has over **100 million members**. In 2022 Delta added a record **8.5 million** new SkyMiles Members.



In 2022, **10%** of **revenue miles** flown on Delta were from **award travel**, as program members redeemed miles in the loyalty program for approximately **25 million award tickets**.

Loyalty program - Delta airlines



Similar problems faced by Merlin

Suggestions and solutions for Merlin

01

Guests do not tend to revisit

Both LDC and Delta Airlines need to focus on **guest retention** to keep their customers coming back. This requires offering a loyalty program that provides **valuable rewards and benefits** that are attractive to guests.

02

Short visit times (around 60-90 minutes)

Customers of both LDC and Delta airlines **do not spend long times** in the service during their customer journey.



Usage of the points at every step of the customer journey

- *Pre-service*: Points are earned through **purchasing** the ticket and can be used for buying an **additional activity**
- *Service period*: Points are earned through **participating** in different activities at the center and used on food, merchandise, and other activities
- *Post-service*: Points can be used on the **gift card**

Points can be used at other Merlin mid-way attractions

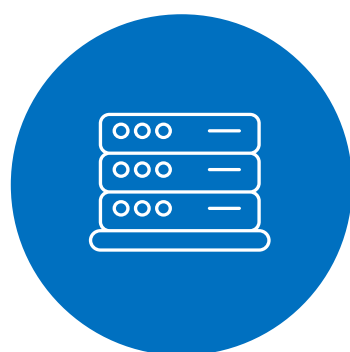
- Similarly to Delta airlines, Merlin may offer their customers to spend points not only in LDC, but at **other locations**

AI and personalized rewards - HSBC



HSBC uses AI to deliver relevant rewards and loyalty offers to customers and has seen higher rewards redemption rates based on the **AI-generated recommendations**.

Taking actions



Machine learning predicts the rewards a loyalty program member is likely to redeem over the next year



AI suggests a category to promote to each member & calculates the percentage of clients likely to redeem in different categories



75,000 credit card rewards members were sent emails in 4 categories: travel, merchandise, gift cards, cash. Control group received a randomized category

Better results



40% increase in opened emails in the AI group



70% off those who redeemed, redeemed in the suggested AI category



AI promotion was three times more efficient than the control group



Similar Problems faced by Merlin

Suggestions and solutions for Merlin

01

Lack of data collection

Focus only on age and gender rather than behavior and interests

02

Salesforce system not utilized to its full potential

Currently the timing of data collection from purchase to retrieval is too slow to drive any potential upsell impact.

03

Current CRM model unable to provide individualised offers

Having a personalised approach advances customer relationships, which drives both repeat engagement and loyalty overtime.



1. Starting with simple & low cost preference data collection upon LDC customer purchases

- Which of the following attractions would you be interested in visiting?
- Which of the following loyalty benefits would you like to receive?

2. Re-engagement trigger via email

- Suggesting a visit to an attraction of their preference
- Suggesting a discount of their preference

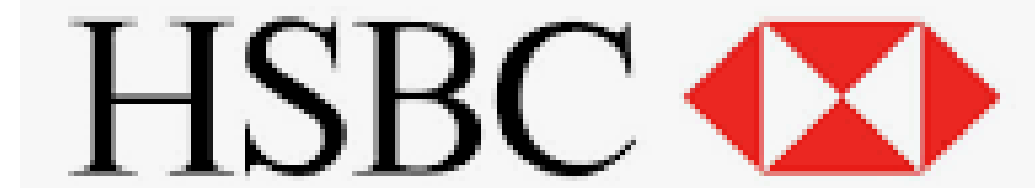
3. Analysis of campaign performance

- How did LDC consumers respond to personalized offers?

If successful, followed up by implementation of the Salesforce Einstein AI, which offers the exact same tools as HSBC is using



AI and personalized rewards - HSBC



With Einstein AI you can:

- Build custom predictions and recommendations with clicks
- Embed predictive insights into any record or in any app
- Operationalise AI by adding it to every workflow or business process

WATCH DEMO >

Einstein AI

- Discover **hidden insights** such as main drivers behind **customer satisfaction** or why certain products sell more in certain regions
- **Predict future outcomes**: which offers are most likely to be redeemed?
- Detect **customer sentiment**, e. g. through online reviews or social media posts

<https://www.salesforce.com/eu/products/einstein/features/>

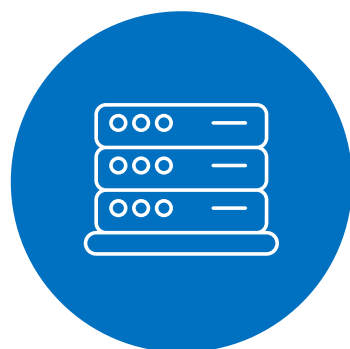


Consumer Loyalty & Rewards - Keep APP



Keep is a highly popular fitness app in China that enables users to **track and share** their running and exercise milestones. The app has achieved **tremendous success** by meeting people's needs for socialising, collecting, and sharing their fitness journeys.

Taking actions



Personalization

Keep **personalises** the user experience by showing content and features based on the user's preferences and behaviors. It increases **user loyalty** by providing a more **personalised experience** and enable users to create and share content



Data collection

It collects valuable **customer data**, such as email addresses, demographic information and purchase history, and layers **personalised interfaces** and products to users based on this data



Boost sales through stimulation

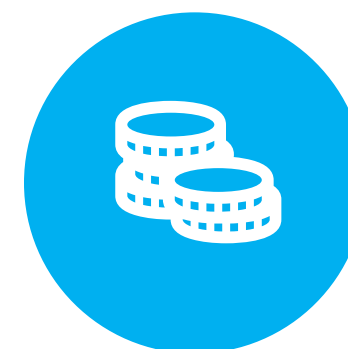
It develops online running series activities and designs personalised **physical medals and badges**, which fully mobilise customers to participate

Better results



Rapid growth of users

Keep filed for an IPO in HK to become the **first** public company of its kind. Launched in 2015, Keep has stormed the market ever since with over **300 million** users



Faster checkout process

Keep **speeds up** the checkout process by allowing customers to **save** their billing and shipping information



Consumer Loyalty & Rewards - Keep APP



Similar Problems faced by Merlin

Suggestions and solutions for Merlin

01

Difficulty in achieving virality among target customers

The challenge of achieving virality in the digital realm is particularly important for these industries, where the success of a particular offering often depends on its ability to capture the attention of a broad audience.

02

Low revisit rate without sufficient customer stimulation

Both Keep and LDC face the challenge of attracting customers to their digital platforms, and are struggled to keep them engaged over time.

03

Lack of personalized marketing strategies based on customer profiles

Both Keep and LDC are struggled to collect and use customer data effectively to create personalised marketing strategies that resonate with individual customers.



Design a point-based loyalty program on the idea of gamification and competition

- The points can be collected by **attending, participating and winning events** hosted by LDC Birmingham and other Merlin attractions
- Make events as **competitive** and **memorable** as possible to encourage customers to share it on social media

Choose and design rewards wisely

- Decide the types of rewards for point collection based on consumer preferences. These could be discounts, free products, access to exclusive events, or other incentives.

Establish a login system on website or mobile app

- Login system allows for valuable data collection that allows personalisation of the customer experience



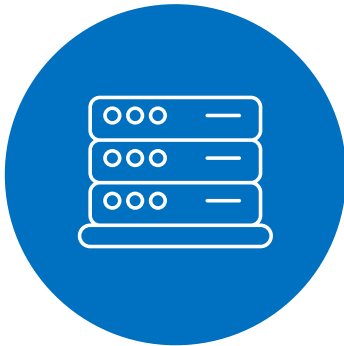
Customer Data Platform - TGV Cinema



TGV Cinemas, the cinema destination of choice in Malaysia, with 39 cinema locations, 310 screens, and over 50,000 seats has conducted the **CDP program** to increase customer loyalty and experience

Taking actions

Better results



Customer data

Data is enriched with relevant attributes about customers, including **days between cinema visits**, **preferred cinema location**, and the **language** of the last film seen



Open rates

TGV has seen its **email open rates double** through the utilisation of segmentation and personalization



Customer motivations

Transparency regarding customer **motivations** to join member programs and sequential experiences that drive visitation for **various segments**



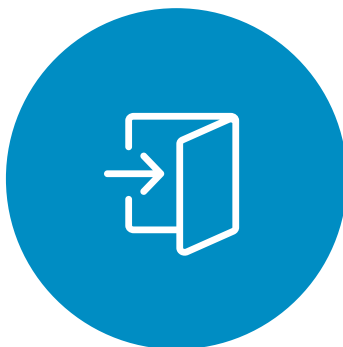
NPS scores

With real-time access to customer NPS data, TGV has lifted its customer NPS score by **34%**



Personalised marketing

Personalised and automated marketing campaigns executed within 30 minutes, down from 2-4 days



Repeat visits

With a better understanding of customer value and visitation patterns, TGV has grown its visitation-frequency loyalty program members to almost **twice the number**



Similar Problems faced by Merlin

Suggestions and solutions for Merlin

01

No clear profile of the customer

Similar to that in cinema, most tickets are purchased two hours before, a key focus is to convert potential LDC visitors relatively quickly when they show interest. Merlin should act **quickly** enough to **effectively employ LDC customer data**, which impacts visitation at present

02

Poor personalised customer experiences

The process of gaining customer insights linked to **personalised customer experiences** is at a low level to serve their needs

03

Low retention and repurchase rate

Despite seeing many high-value customers back onsite and blockbuster events returning to blockbuster turnovers, a **sizeable percentage** of database has **only returned once** or not at all



Digital transformation for collecting data

- Building platforms and make more digital touch points to **track the customer behaviours** and thus know more about your customer

Customer segmentation driven by data

- Through CDP and other analytic methods to **segment the customer group** - define and segment the customer type by their behaviours

Personalised marketing by customer segmentation

- Make the marketing and service more **personalised** - touch the customer through more accurate ways to retain them

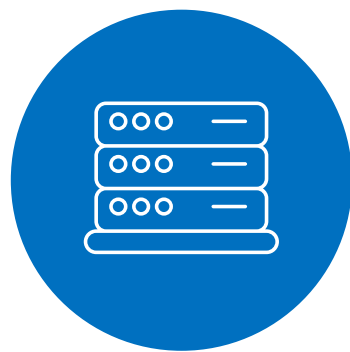


Social media & loyalty – Taco Bell



Using **social media** to increase brand stickiness, customer loyalty & gather customer insights

Taking actions



Being present on all platforms

Taco Bell is able to reach an audience of diverse demographic backgrounds by existing on all major platforms: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Google Plus, Tumblr, Pinterest, Reddit, Snapchat...



Engaging in fun and unique interactions

Taco Bell's strategy is to personally engage with consumers, using humor to jump on random conversations about tacos, emojis and trending topics



Connecting with the consumers emotionally

Taco Bell does not use copy paste in their content creation: every response is unique, real-time and personal, creating a more intimate relationship with consumers

Better results



Large social media following and engagement

Taco Bell has an incredible social media following of 10M+ and an unseen level of engagement from consumers



Personal consumer relationships

As each reply is personal and unique, Taco Bell is able to connect with consumers and appeal to the feeling of being a friend rather than a mindless corporation

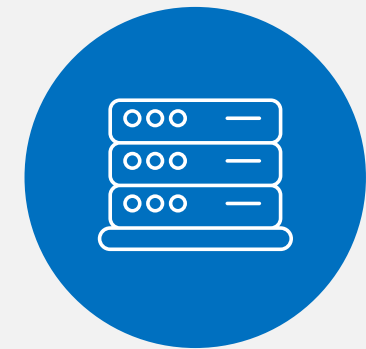


Brand loyalty & stickiness

Taco Bell is enhancing brand loyalty & stickiness by connecting with consumers in a friendly, personal, and creative way and appealing to their emotional loyalty



Social media & loyalty – Taco Bell



Social media listening tools help companies like Taco Bell to create audience-driven content

Social media listening tools allow companies to build an understanding of how customers and potential customers think about the brand, and analyze what they say on social channels

What does this mean in practice?

Automatically tracking every mention of your brand on social media

- Insights into....
- How customers **feel** about your products or services
- What their **pain points** are
- What they'd like to **see from you** in the future

Tracking competing brands

- What are they posting and are their posts gaining engagement?
- Possibility to **jump in on the conversation**

Tracking trending content

- **Identifying opportunities** for the brand to **jump in** and start engaging with the consumers

Creating sentiment analysis

- Analysing the **sentiment** behind consumer comments, reviews and social media posts
- Better understanding of **customer satisfaction**
- Early warning system that alerts you to positive and negative changes in **brand perception**

By tracking relevant keywords and hashtags that are related to the industry, it is possible to follow the latest trends and make sure the brand is always ahead of the curve



Social media & loyalty – Taco Bell



Similar problems faced by Merlin

Suggestions and solutions for Merlin

01

Improving brand loyalty & stickiness

Competition in the entertainment market is fierce, and options are endless – as is in the fast food sector. It is a necessity for companies to find ways to stand out to their clients and enhance brand loyalty, and the first step is to build awareness.

02

Understanding consumers pain points and delights

In order to deliver excellent customer experience, a thorough understanding of customer's current perception of LDC is needed, for which social media offers free customer insights in real-time.

03

Leveraging short visit times through emotional engagement

Average visit times at Merlin LDC attraction is short, making it challenging to maximise consumer purchases. Emotionally engaged consumers spend up to two times more* on brands they are loyal to.



All brands under Merlin are fun – much more than Mexican fast food – why not harness this energy in social media in a similar way?

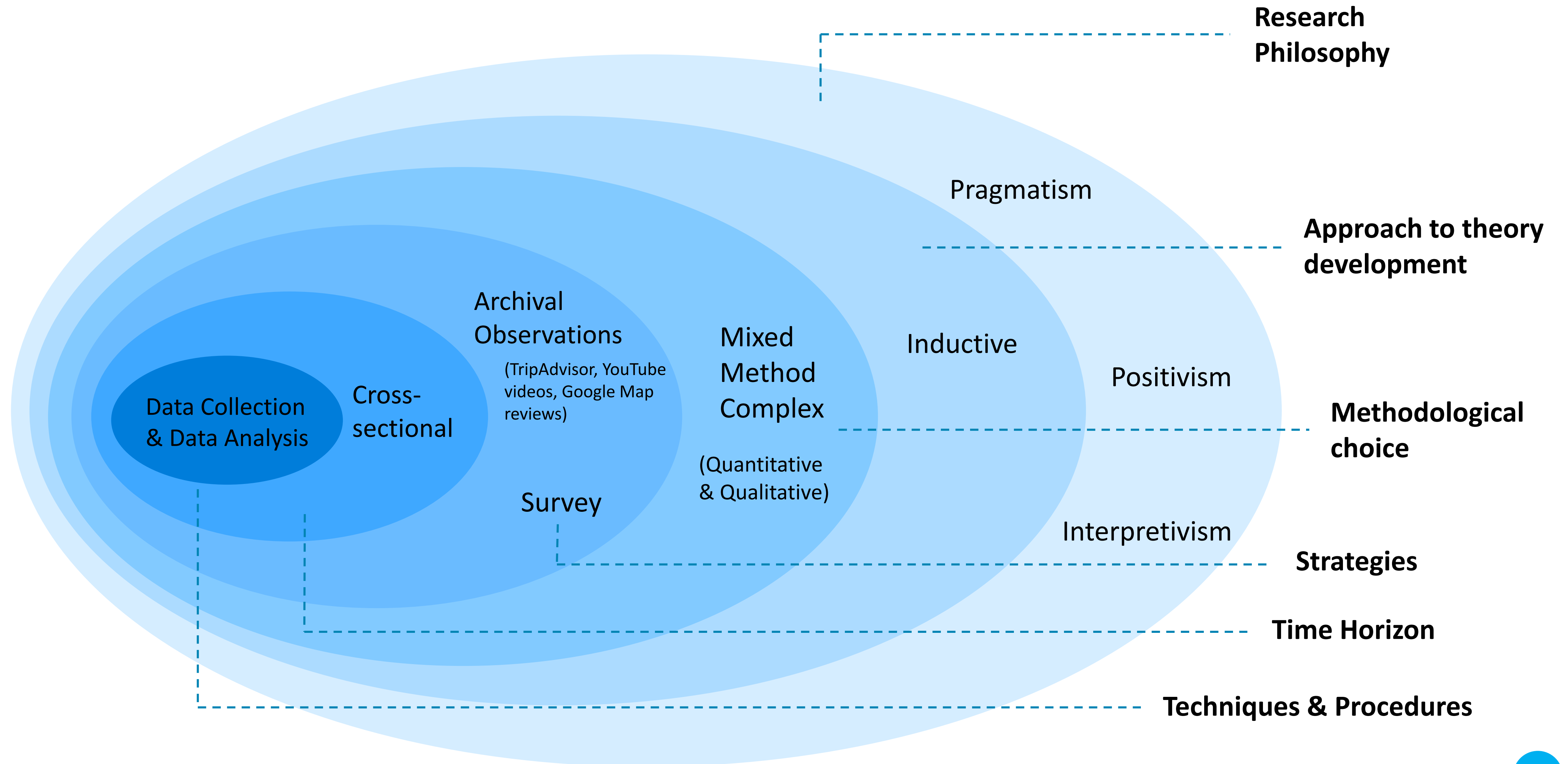
- Identifying the target audience, understanding their habits and creating audience-driven content
- Investing in an engaging, timely, fun and creative interactions with consumers on every major platform
- Implementing social listening tools to track and analyse customer posts, tags, mentions and overall trends and sentiment
- Salesforce Einstein AI can help with these strategies

- ✓ Increased brand recognition
- ✓ Increased visits and spending
- ✓ Increased customer loyalty



Methodology

Our Research Methodology: A six-layered analysis based on the Research Onion Framework



Research Strategies – Using different sources of customer insights



Existing knowledge base

- Benchmarking companies
- LDC information (qualitative) shared by our client



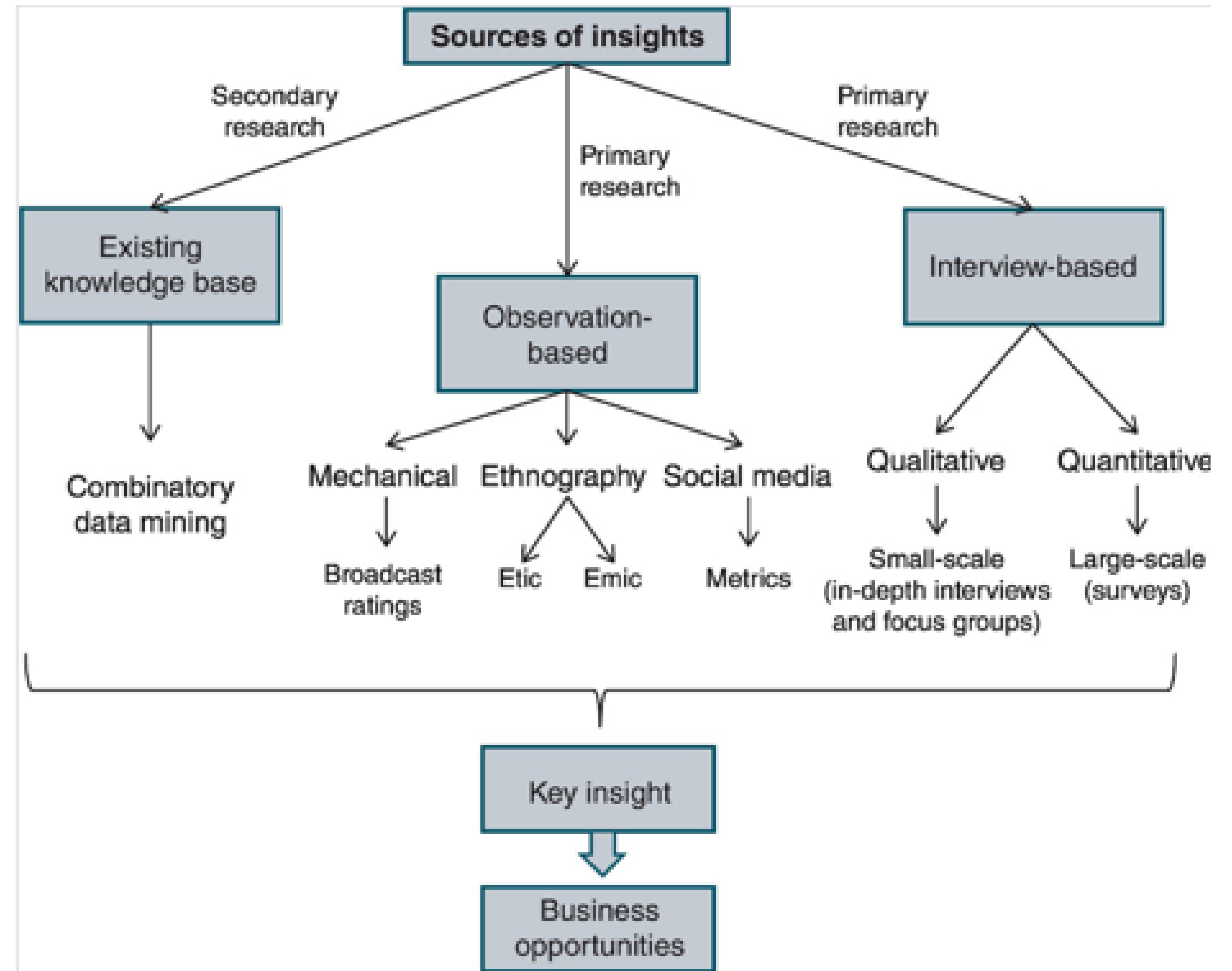
Observation-based

- Archival Observations
 - TripAdvisor online customer reviews
 - Google Map reviews
 - YouTube videos (i.e., vlog)



Interview-based

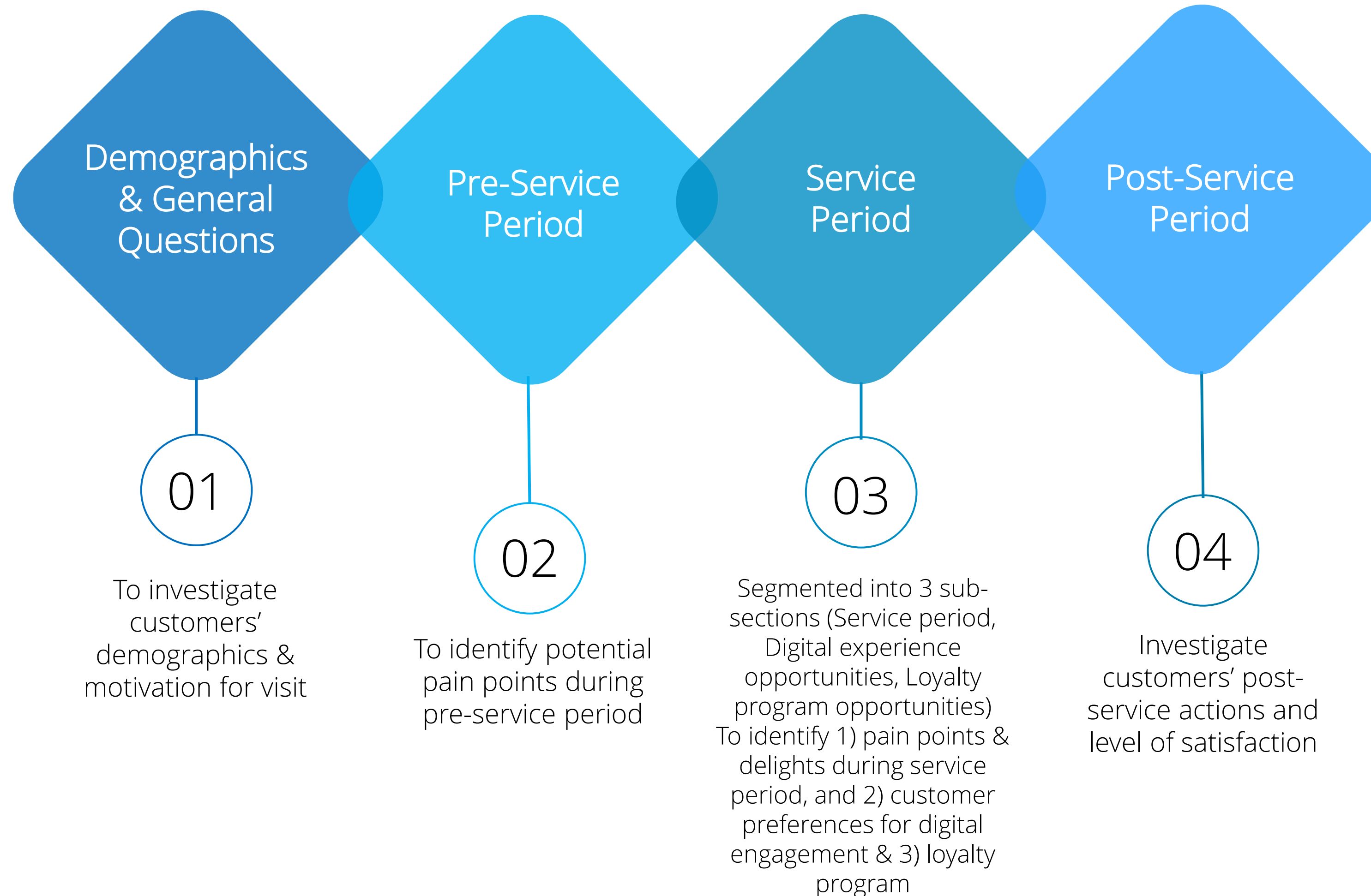
- Survey with 195 responses



Source: Ang, Lawrence (2014)



Survey Design



Survey Objectives:

- To identify LDC customers' **pain points & moments of delight** throughout the entire customer journey
- To identify current **non-digital/digital touch points** throughout customer journey at LDC
- To identify **opportunities** for **digital engagement** and **loyalty program** at LDC based on customers' preferences

Survey Design:

- ✓ Following **Ethical Guidelines** for surveys
- ✓ Survey designed based on Mark S., Mauricio & German (2017) approach to comprehensively analyse customer journey through **3 different periods**: Pre-service, Service & Post-service period.
- ✓ Survey questions for loyalty program are formulated leveraging company benchmarking insights
- ✓ Use a combination of dichotomous, multiple-choice, likert scale and open-ended questions to generate both **quantitative** and **qualitative** responses
- ✓ Survey distributed through LEGOLAND Discovery Centre (LDC) **online platform**, generating valuable responses from **existing LDC customers**



Different methods used for data analysis

Area of Focus	Data Analysis Methods	Recommendation
Identify customers' pain points & delights, and current touchpoints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct descriptive analysis based on survey results to observe and summarise customers' key pain points & delights throughout customer journey, as well as current touchpoints that customers are interacted with • Customer Journey map built upon 1) survey results and 2) archival observations to visualise the entire customer journey 	<p>Based on our findings, we will provide recommendations for Merlin to tackle customers' pain points and improve customer revisitations at LEGOLAND Discovery Centre (LDC) through focusing on 1) CRM & loyalty program and 2) digital engagement throughout customer journey</p>
Digital Engagement Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative research: Word cloud generated by R studio to identify opportunities for digital engagement throughout customer journey (see next slide) • Descriptive analysis based on survey results to investigate customers' preferences for digital features 	
Loyalty Program Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inferential statistics: Conduct ANOVA F-test by SPSS to identify customer satisfaction towards current loyalty program (see next slide) • Descriptive analysis based on survey results to identify customers' preferences toward different types of loyalty program and features 	



Exploring Survey Data: Explanation of **Qualitative Research** and **Inferential Statistics**

F-tests in Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

- We conducted a **between-group F-test** using SPSS and presented the results in an Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) table.
- **ANOVA** utilizes F-tests to statistically evaluate the equality of means between different groups. In our case, we compared the responses of annual pass holders and non-loyal customers to assess if there was any difference in customer satisfaction.

Word Cloud generated by R studio

- We utilized R Studio to generate a **word cloud**, a visual representation of our text data. Specifically, we used it to analyze the responses to the question, "How to improve your experience in LEGOLAND Discovery Centre Birmingham."
- A word cloud is a cluster of words depicted in various sizes, with the larger and bolder words indicating their frequency and importance within the given text.

Source: Hinton, P. R., Brownlow, C., & McMurray, I. (2004). SPSS explained. Psychology Press.



Potential Methodology Limitations in our research and analysis



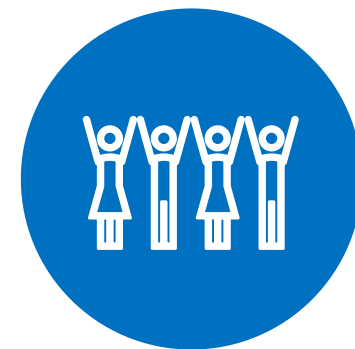
Limitation of Cross-sectional Research Methodology

Lack of temporal depth: Cross-sectional studies only provide a snapshot at a single point in time, meaning that we are not able to capture the pattern of changes in customer preferences and behaviours over time



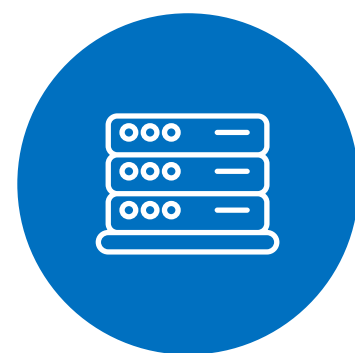
Limitation of Survey & Observations Methodology

Limited depth: Since we were not able to conduct focus group, all of our research and analysis are purely based on survey results as well as insights generated from archival observations. Thus, our findings may lack the depth and nuance of other qualitative data collection methods



Sample Biases

Non-response bias: With only 17% male participation in our survey, the results may not fully capture the male customers' journey, potentially limit the applicability of our findings to the broader male demographic



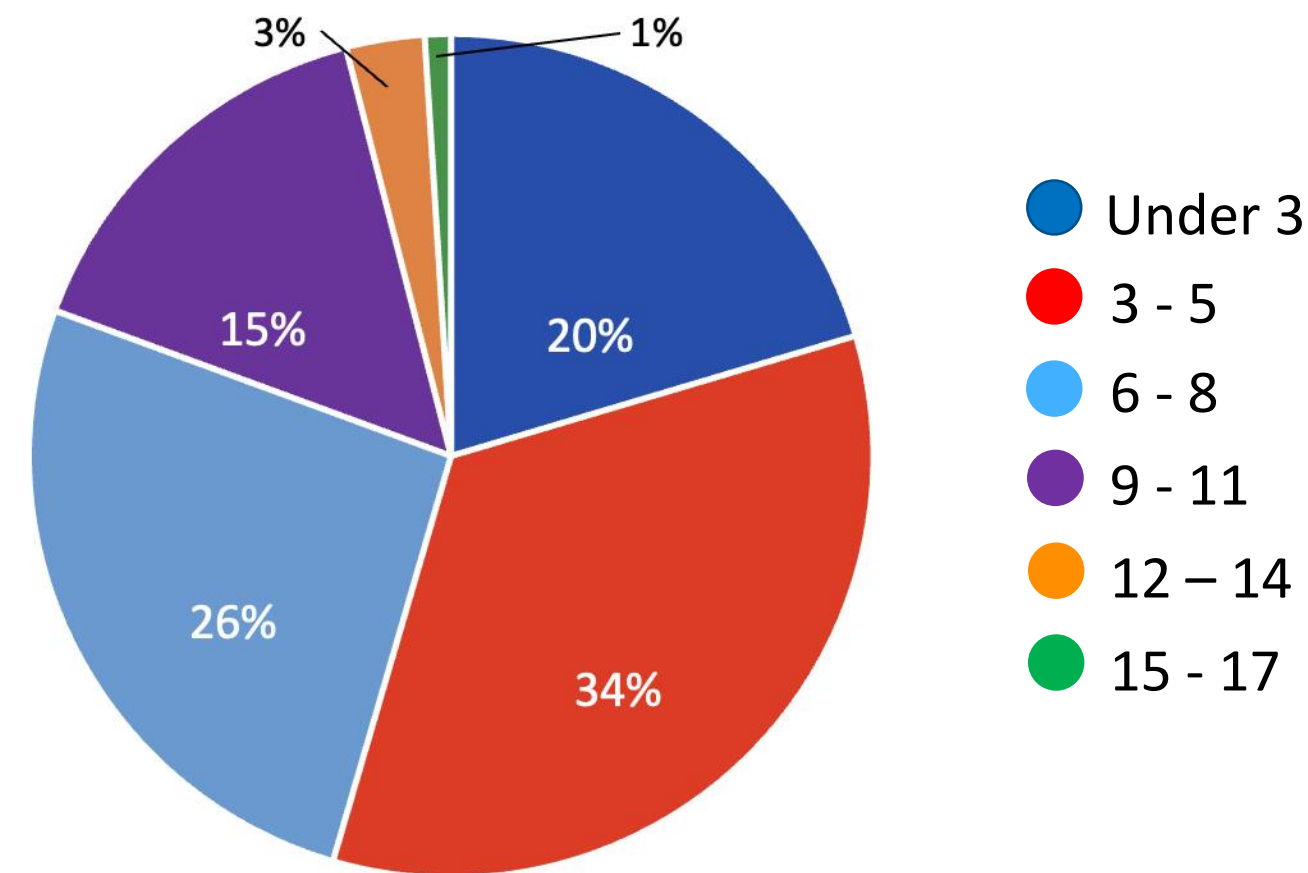
Limitation of the ANOVA F-test

Limitations of the F-statistic test itself: The limitation of the ANOVA F-test is that if we reject the null hypothesis, we do not know which treatments can be said to be significantly different from the other, nor, if the F-test is performed at level 95%, can we state that the treatment pair with the greatest mean difference is significantly different at level 95%



Survey Results & Analysis

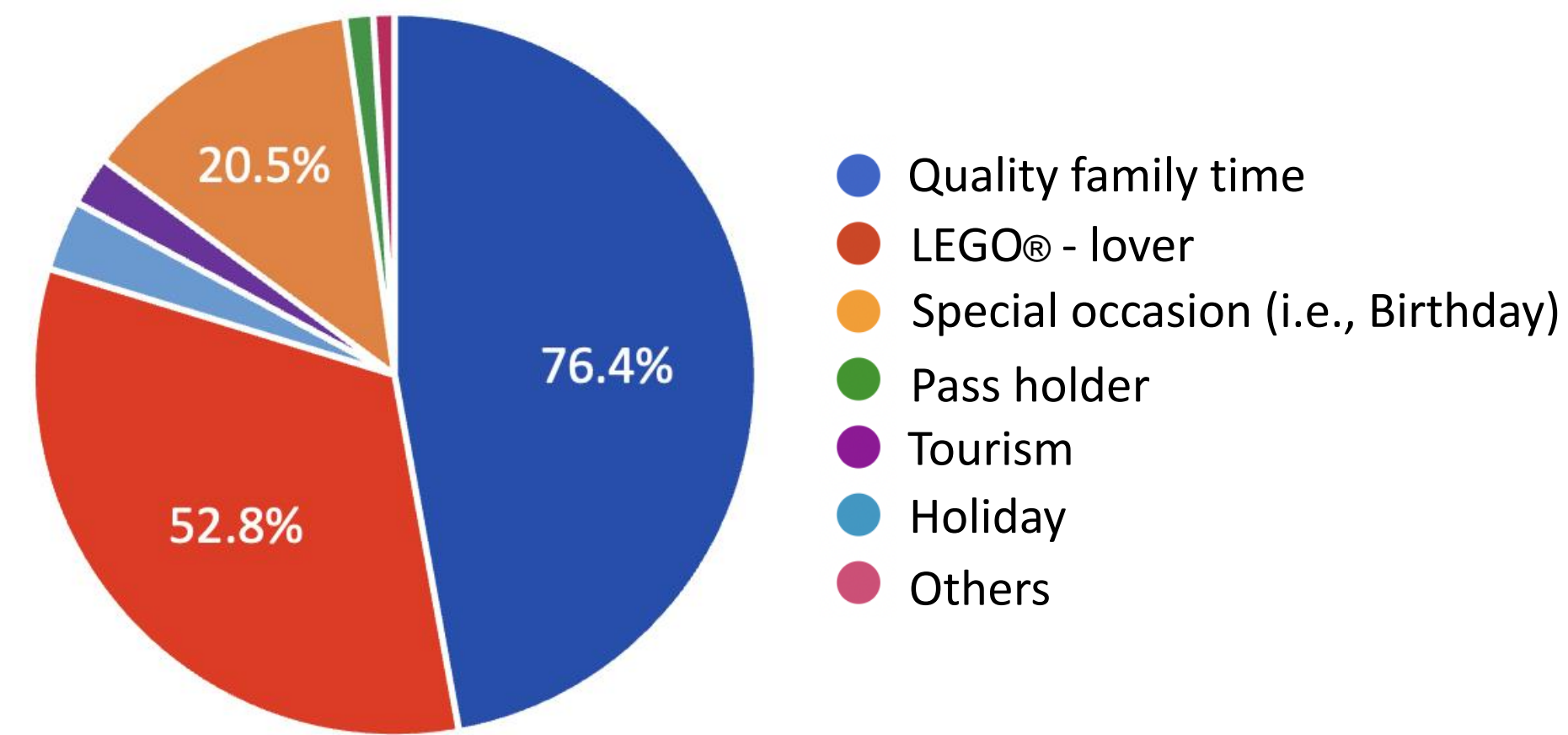
Demographics & General information



Age of child

Underserved market

Children aged between 9 and 17 years old only represent **19%** of total customers (excl. adults)



Motivation for visit

Customers' motivation for visit unveils potential for loyalty program

20.5% of survey respondents visit LDC due to special occasion such as celebrating their children's birthday, which can be an opportunity for LDC to improve customer loyalty

We generated a total of

195

Responses

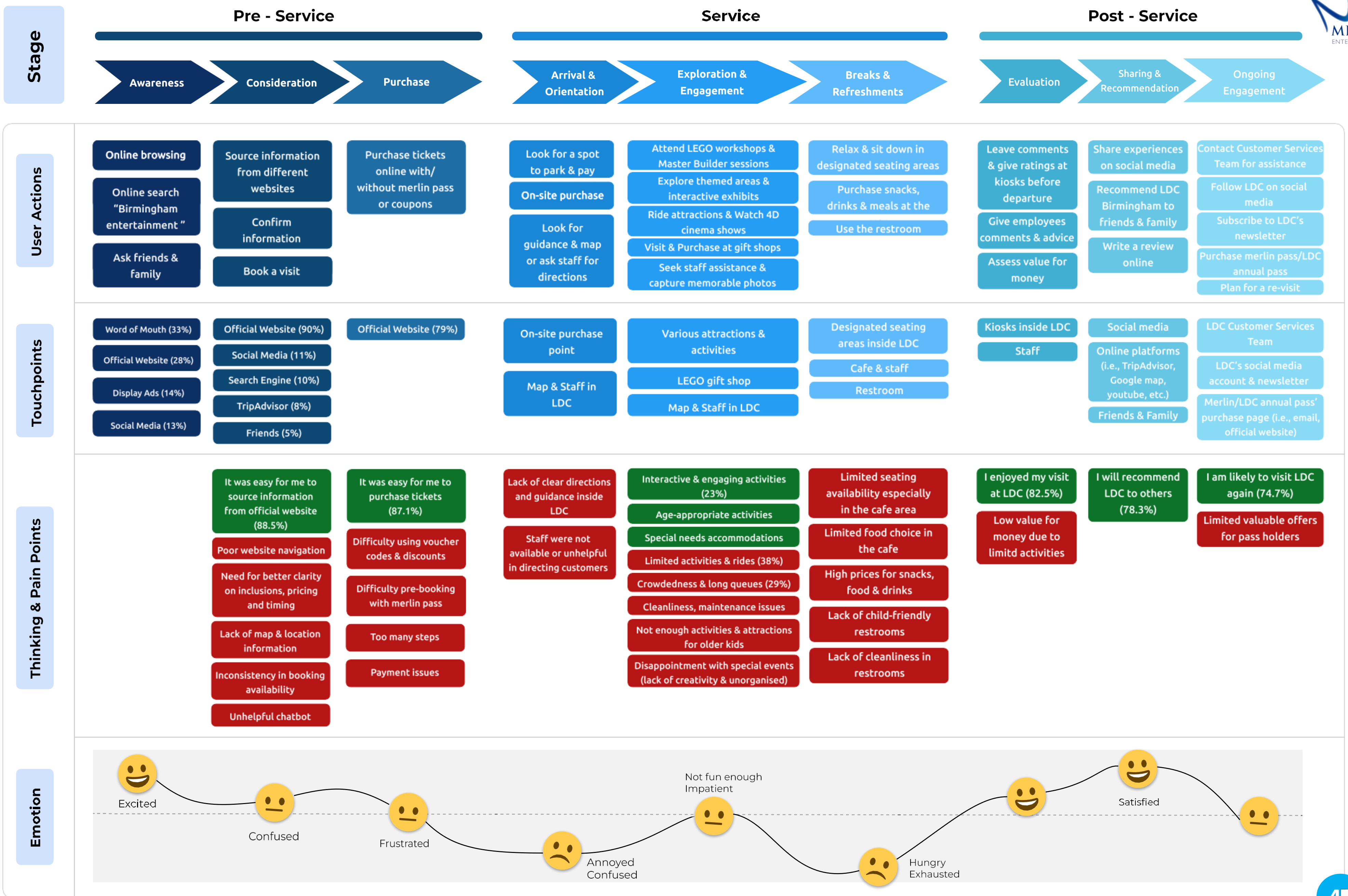
from LDC existing customers



Customer Journey Map

Survey
~100* Archival Observation

Identifying moments of delight & pain points



Key Approaches to Increasing Customer Satisfaction



“How can LDC improve your experience for the future?” A text cloud of answers.

Key Aspects of Improving Customer Satisfaction

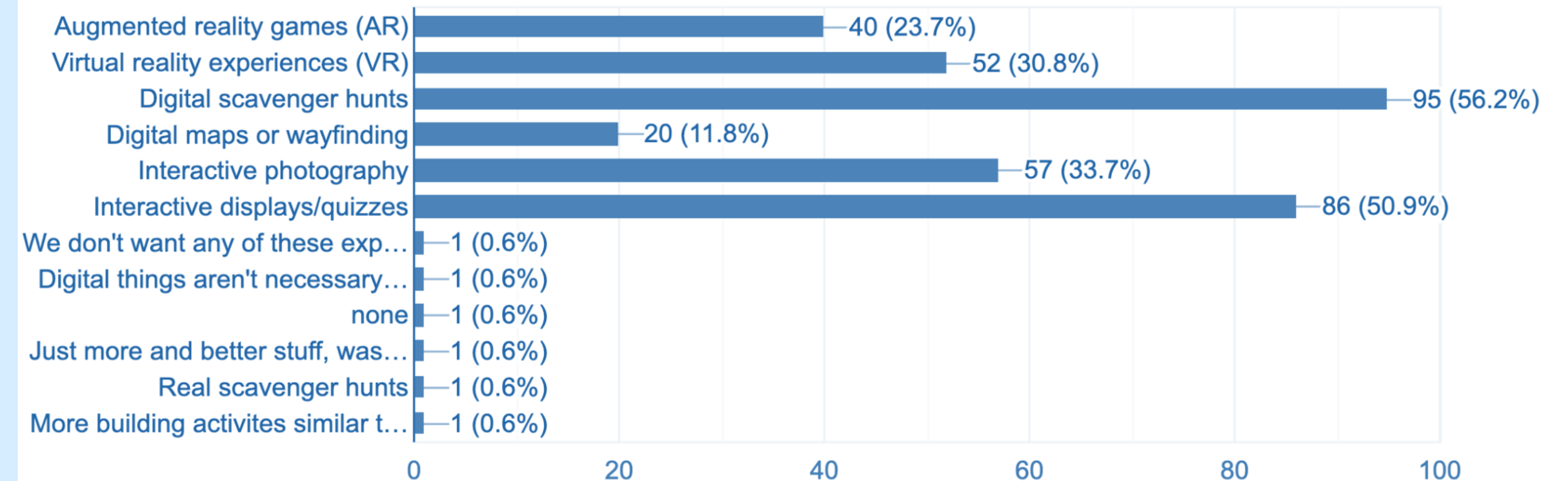
- More activities
- New attractions
- Consider older children and babies
- More space and seats
- Better facilities, café and food
- Cleanliness
- Lower price



Digital Innovations

Which digital features would you be interested in to enhance your experience inside LDC?

169 responses

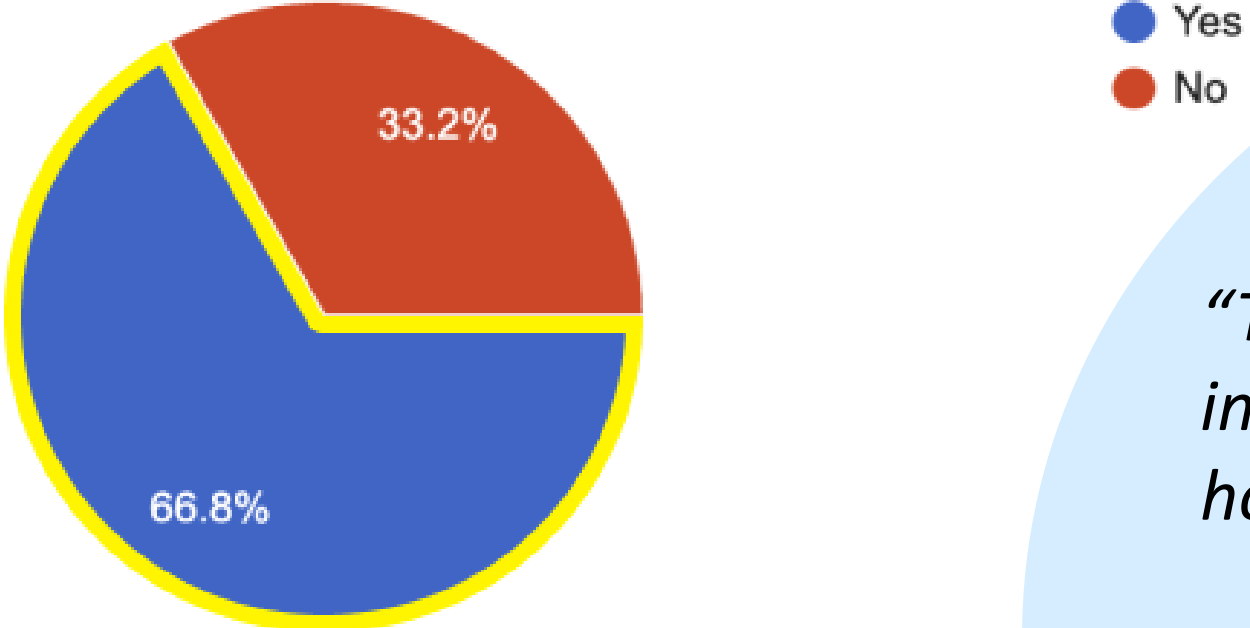


Identify potential for Merlin to improve participation in loyalty program



Are you aware of the Annual Pass LDC offers?

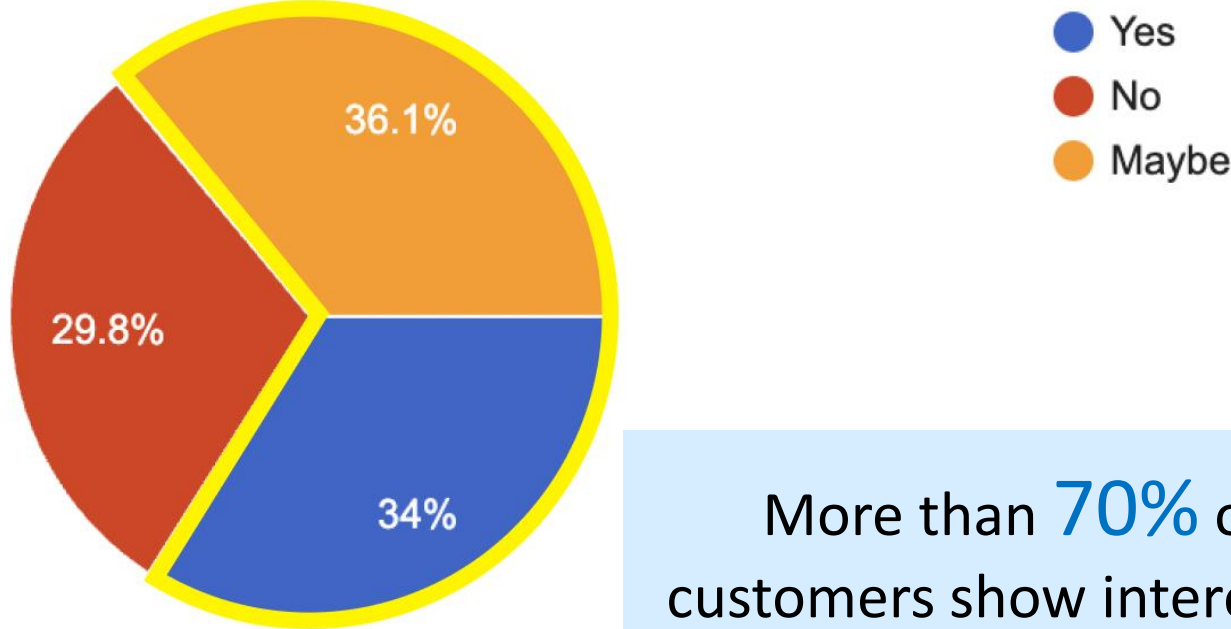
193 responses



Only **67%** of customers are aware of LDC loyalty program

Would you be interested in participating in a LDC loyalty program?

191 responses



More than **70%** of customers show interest in joining LDC loyalty program

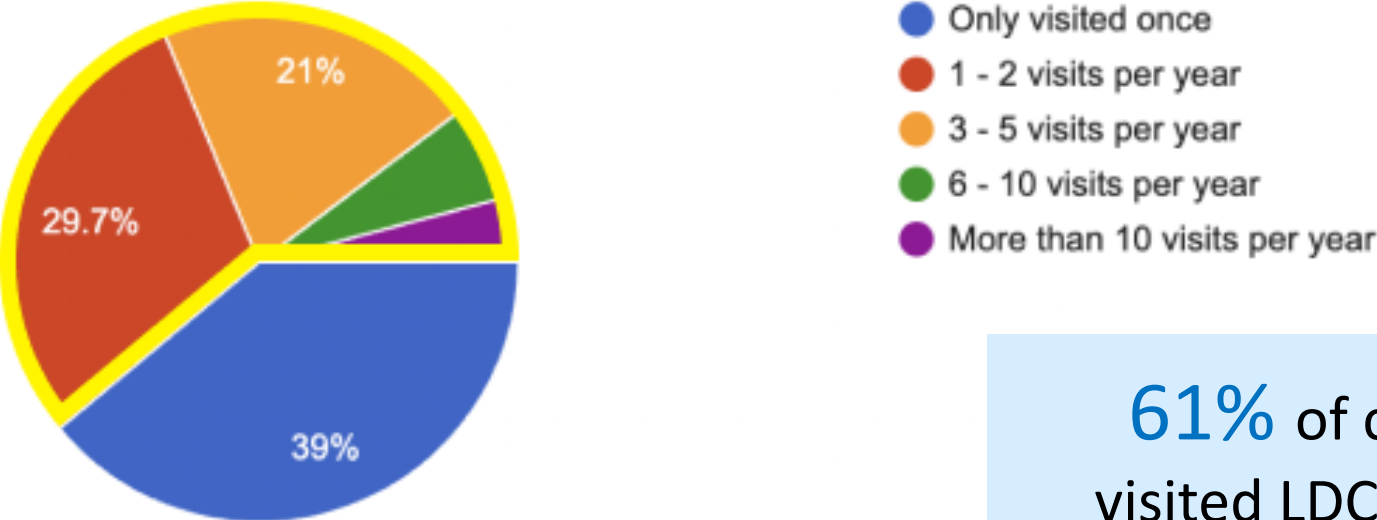
Key Findings

*“There is clearly a **huge potential** for increasing the number of annual pass holders”*

*“The current **inconsistency** between (potential) strong demand and weak sales may be due to a **lack of promotion & unattractive benefits** offered by the current loyalty programs”*

How often do you visit the LDC?

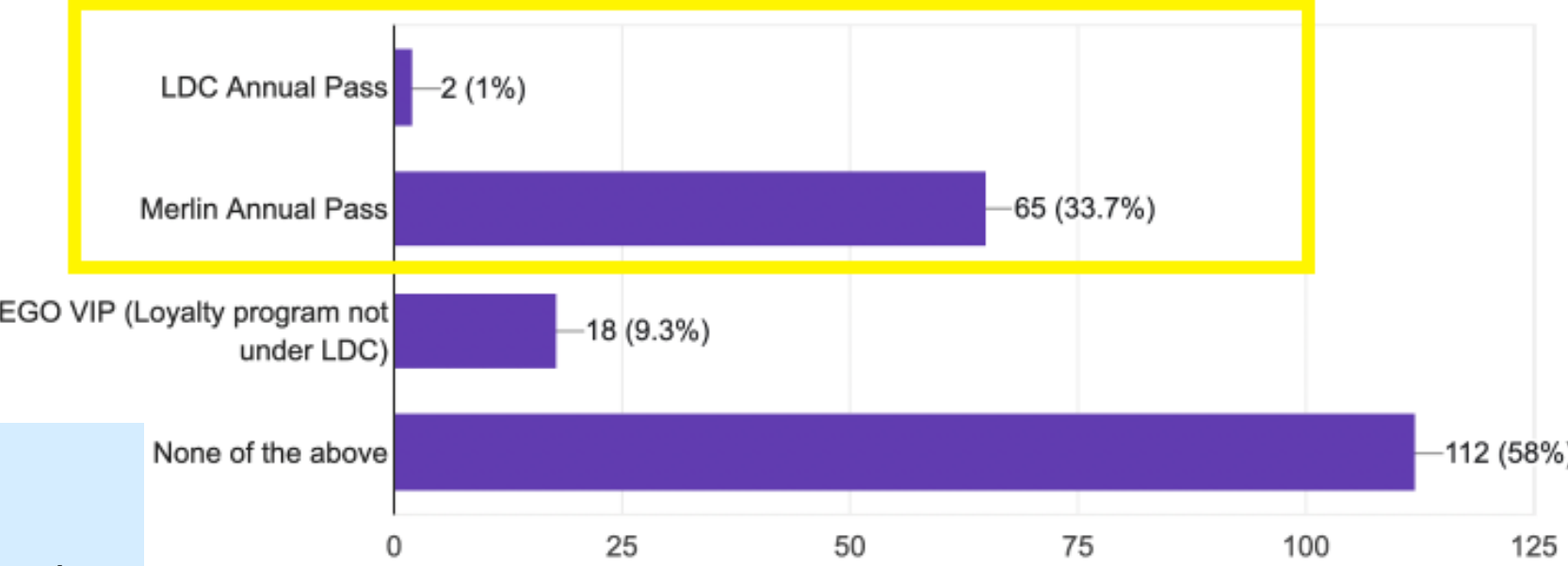
195 responses



61% of customers visited LDC more than once per year

Which annual pass or loyalty program have you purchased or subscribed to?

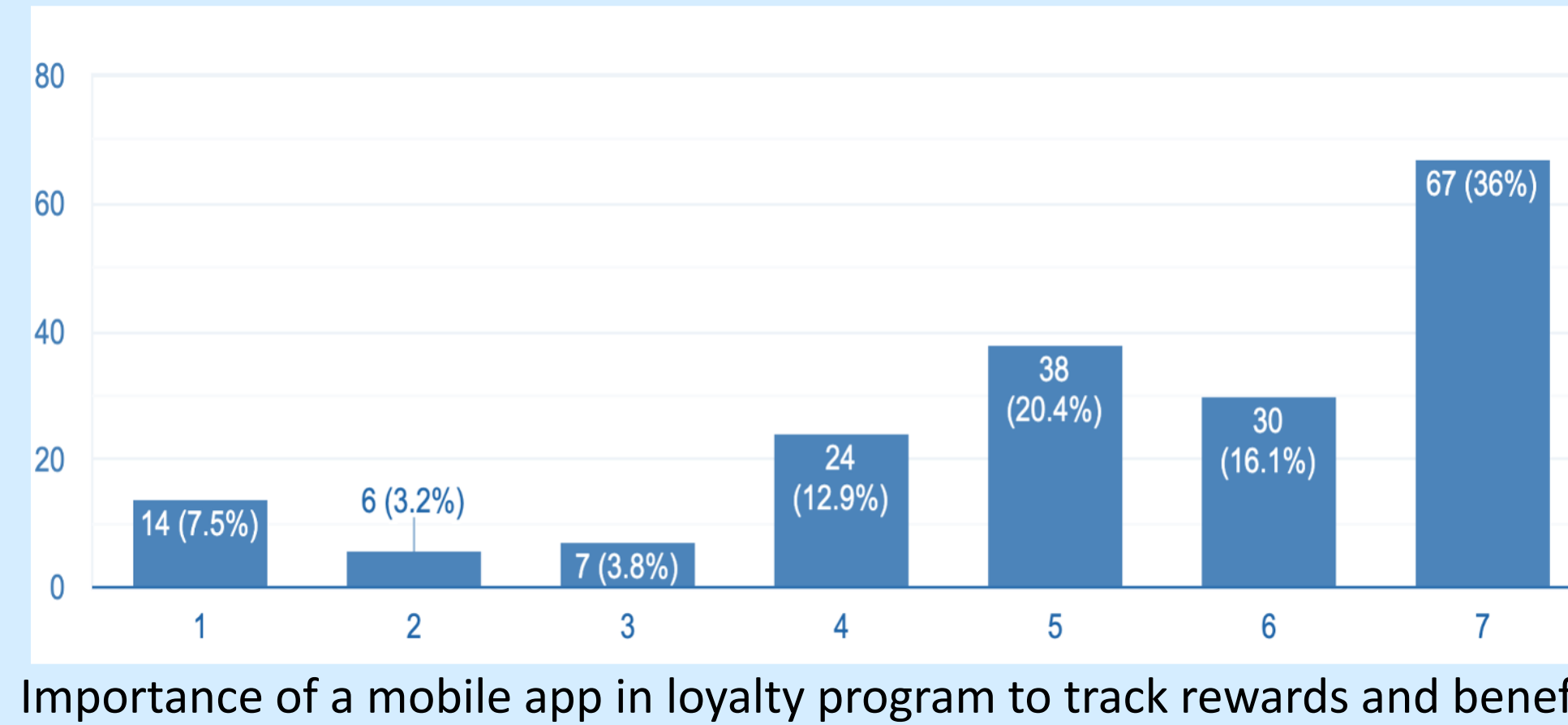
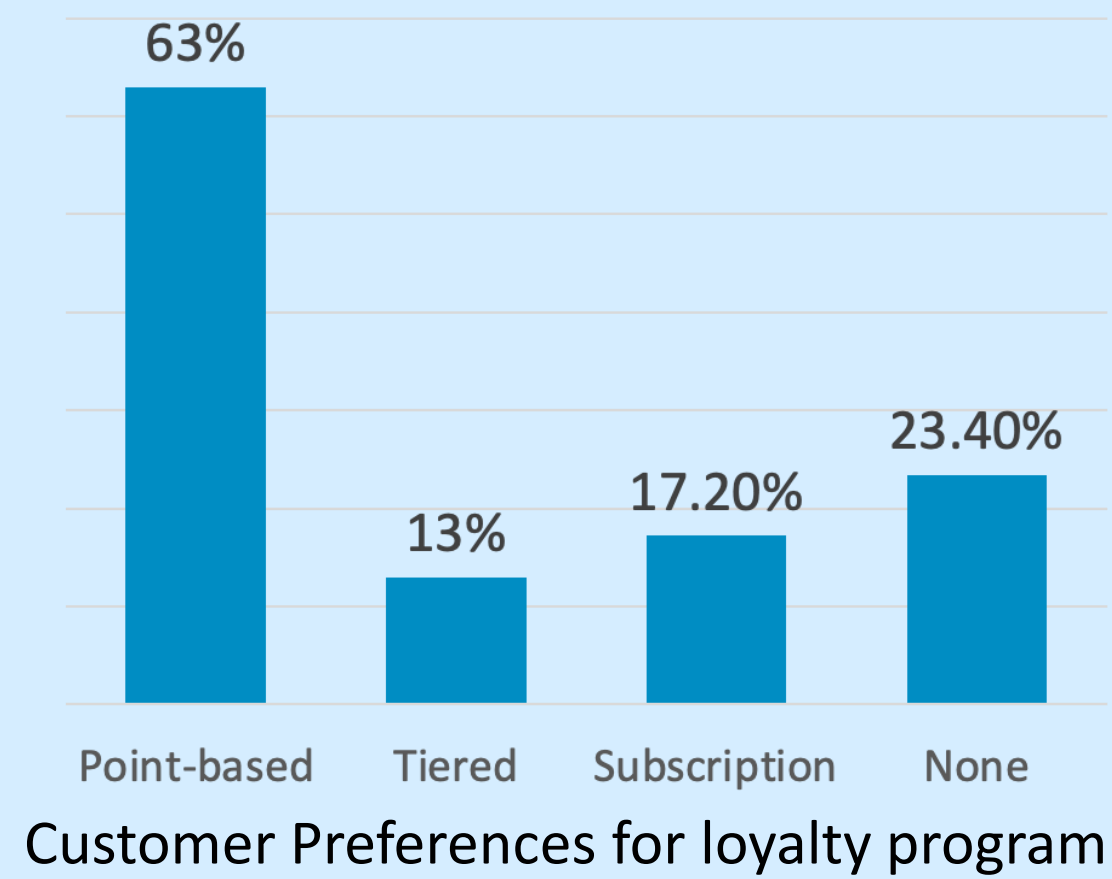
193 responses



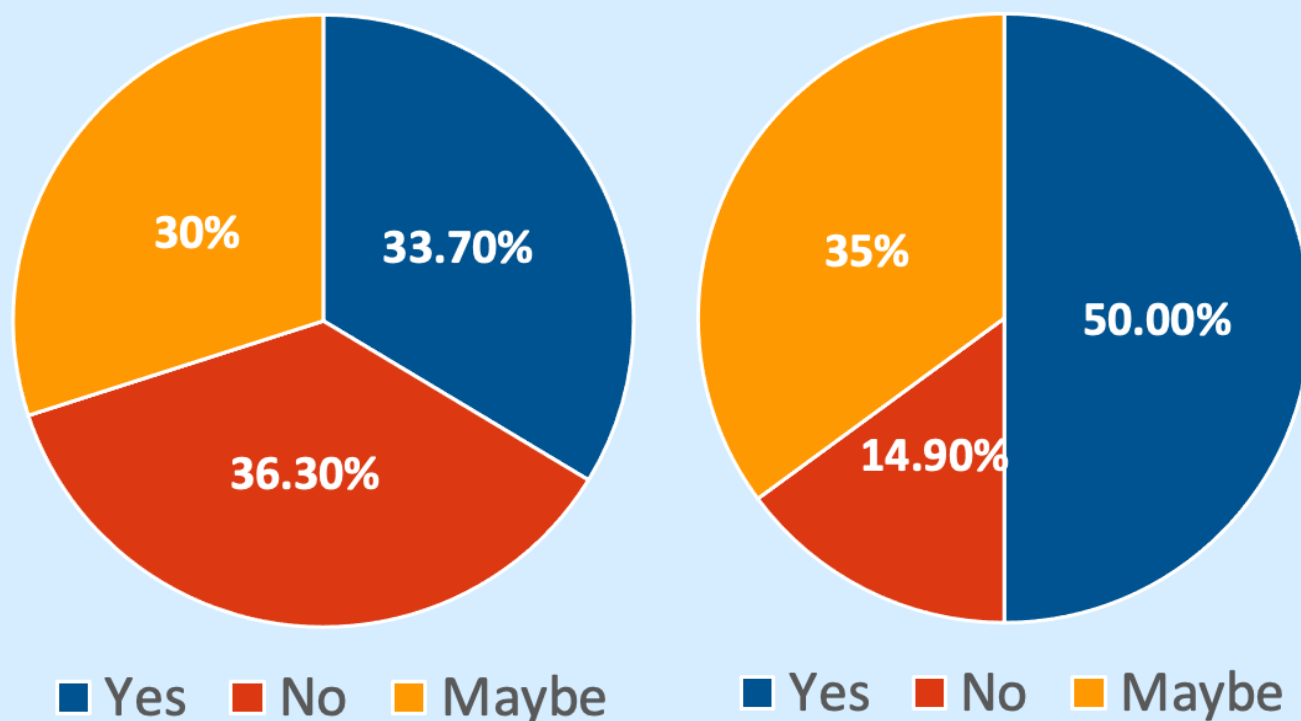
only **34.7%** of customers are annual pass holders



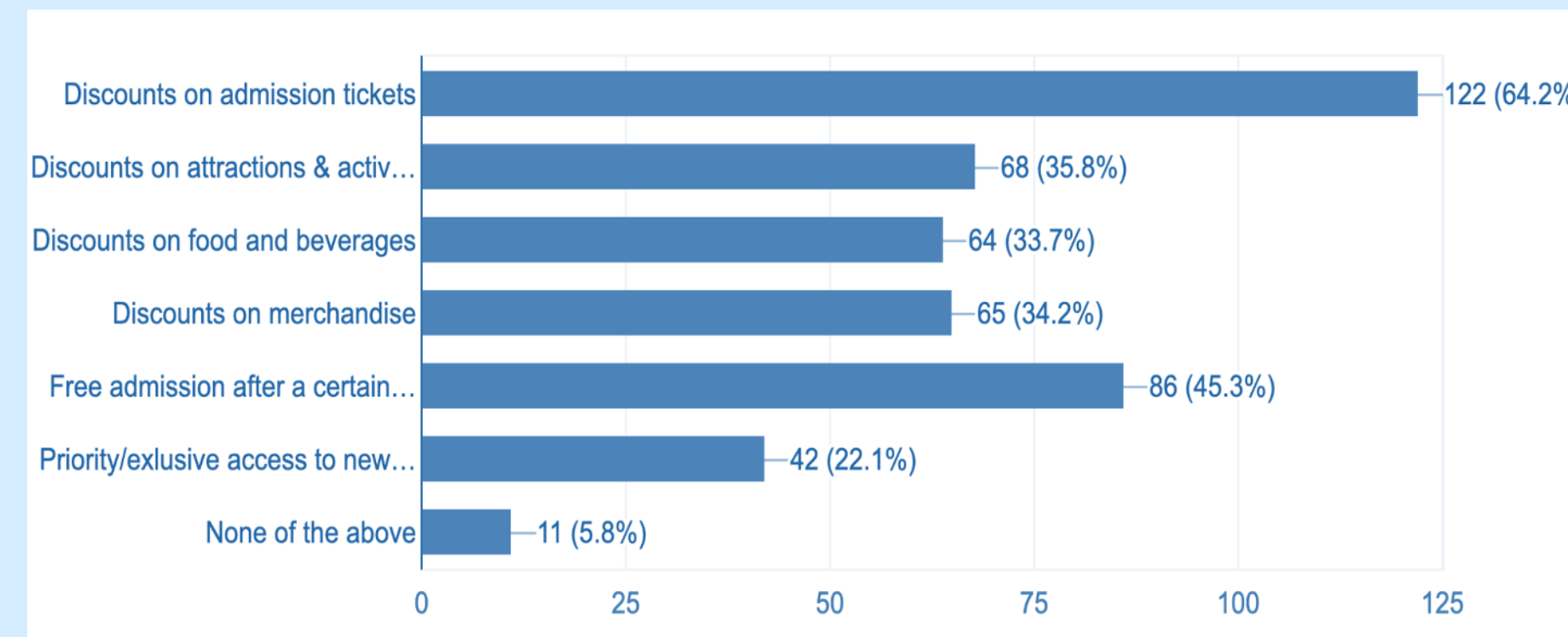
Key Approaches to Improving Loyalty Programs



- Most of participants find the point-based loyalty program most attractive
- In general, people feel that a mobile app is important to them in loyalty programs



Interest in loyalty programs Interest in loyalty programs with exclusive benefits and rewards



Respondents' Responses to the Most appealing benefits and rewards

- With exclusive benefits and rewards, consumers become more interested in joining loyalty programs
- Discounts on admission tickets are the most appealing rewards



Link Survey Analysis to Key Recommendations

		ANOVA				
		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
In a loyalty program, how important is it for you to have a mobile app to track your rewards and benefits?	Between Groups	4.755	1	4.755	1.469	.227
	Within Groups	582.811	180	3.238		
	Total	587.566	181			
I enjoyed my visit at LDC.	Between Groups	.015	1	.015	.006	.938
	Within Groups	455.393	187	2.435		
	Total	455.407	188			
I am likely to visit LDC again.	Between Groups	39.929	1	39.929	10.707	.001
	Within Groups	693.624	186	3.729		
	Total	733.553	187			
I would recommend LDC to others.	Between Groups	6.528	1	6.528	2.015	.157
	Within Groups	602.451	186	3.239		
	Total	608.979	187			

Those with annual passes are significantly associated with a greater willingness to revisit,

- **Improve loyalty programs** to increase attraction and make more consumers join to increase revisits

but they are no more satisfied than those who did not participate in the current loyalty program.

- **Increase consumer satisfaction** to make more people want to buy and repeat loyalty programs

The ANOVA table compares the results between the annual passholders and other customers

Improve loyalty programs

- Point-based loyalty program
- Provide exclusive benefits and rewards
- A mobile app to track rewards and benefits

2

Increase consumer satisfaction

- More activities
- New attractions
- Consider older children and babies
- More space and seats
- Better facilities, café and food
- Cleanliness
- Lower price



Recommendations

1

Points-based loyalty program based on personalised offers appeals to rational loyalty



WHY?

- 70% of survey respondents **likely to participate** in a LDC loyalty program
- 63% of survey respondents find points-based program **most appealing**
- 84% **likely to participate** in a loyalty program with **personalised offers**
- **Majority** (52%) **not willing to pay** for a **subscription-based program**
- **Successful examples** from non-direct competitors
- Merlin-wide points-based loyalty program would contribute to **cluster sales** and **repeat visitation**

WHAT?

- Offering **most desired discounts** to consumers:
 1. **Discounts on Merlin admissions** with points
 2. **Free admission** after achieving a certain level of points/number of visits
 3. **Other discounts** on food/beverage/merchandise
- Leveraging **referral discounts**: majority of survey respondents enjoyed their visit and would recommend a visit to friends & family
- **Exclusive access** to special events, e.g. birthdays

HOW?

- Short-term trial: **Personalized offers** through **simple data collection** upon purchase
- Mid-term solution: **Salesforce Einstein AI** for advanced personalised offers & CRM
- Long-term investment: **Customer Data Platform & Loyalty Mobile App**
- **Majority** of survey respondents deem a mobile app **necessary** for loyalty tracking
- Investing in marketing and communication efforts, as the current **Merlin Pass** program was **unknown to 33%** of respondents
- Using **gamification** methods in CRM to engage consumers



POINTS-BASED PROGRAM APPEALS TO CUSTOMERS' RATIONAL LOYALTY



WHY?

- Due to short visit times, there is a **need to build strong brand loyalty outside visitation**, and this can be achieved through social media
- Building more intimate customer relationships online **adds to emotional loyalty** by increasing feelings of **trust, honesty & belonging**
- Emotionally engaged consumers **spend up to two times more** on brands they are loyal to

WHAT?

- High level of **engagement** with consumers, reply to comments and complaints in **real-time** on all relevant platforms
- Prioritize **personal responses** to consumers to build deeper consumer relationships that are based on **trust** and appeal to the feeling of being a **friend**
- Jump on existing **hashtags and trends** and use this information to your advantage in marketing campaigns
- Analyse customers' **brand perception** through online sentiment analysis and make more **accurate strategic decisions**

HOW?

- Reshaping the marketing strategy to cater to **real-time, fun** and **personal** responses to customers
- **Establishing presence** on all major social media platforms
- **Hiring millennial/gen-z marketing talent** and collaborating with influencers to be up to date on latest communication trends
- **Investing in social media listening tools**, e.g. Salesforce Einstein AI to track consumer trends

ENGAGING SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY APPEALS TO CUSTOMERS' EMOTIONAL LOYALTY



WHY?

- **23%** of survey respondents like the **interactive and engaging element of attractions & activities**
- However, **38.3%** of survey respondents feel there are **not enough attractions & activities** and thus **not worth the money**
- Having limited and less interactive attractions & activities can significantly **reduce customer retention rate** and the **number of pass holders**
- **Underserved market:** Children aged between 9-17 yrs old only represent **19%** of total customers (excl. adults) and felt LDC was less suitable for older kids
- Having more **digitally innovative applications** further create a sense of interaction and will engage older kids to a larger extent

WHAT?

- Pre-service period
 - **Interactive quizzes & games**
- Service period
 - **Interactive quizzes & games**
 - **Creative QR codes made of LEGO:** encourage customers use LDC mobile app and drive up-sell
 - Four popular **gamifications** selected by customers:
 - **Digital scavenger hunts**
 - **Interactive photography**
 - **Virtual Reality Experiences**
 - **Augmented Reality games**
- Post-service period
 - **Interactive quizzes & games**

HOW?

- Interactive quizzes & games: offer through **websites, app, social media and emails** (pre- & post-service period)
- Creative QR codes made of LEGO: Function as **display ads**, which can be placed at every corner of LDC
- Connect with **mobile app** to create seamless digital experience for customers
- Connect with the **point-based loyalty program** to encourage customers participate in different games, aiming to improve brand stickiness and customer retention rate


 DIGITAL INNOVATIONS APPEAL TO CUSTOMERS' EMOTIONAL LOYALTY


Thank you!

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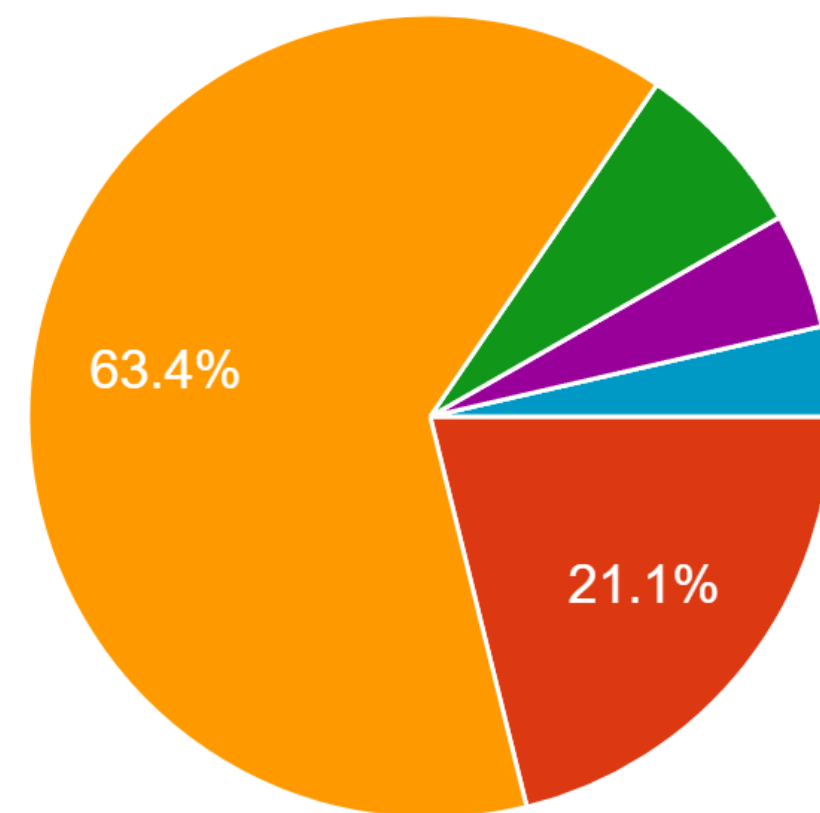
Appendix

Additional Survey Results

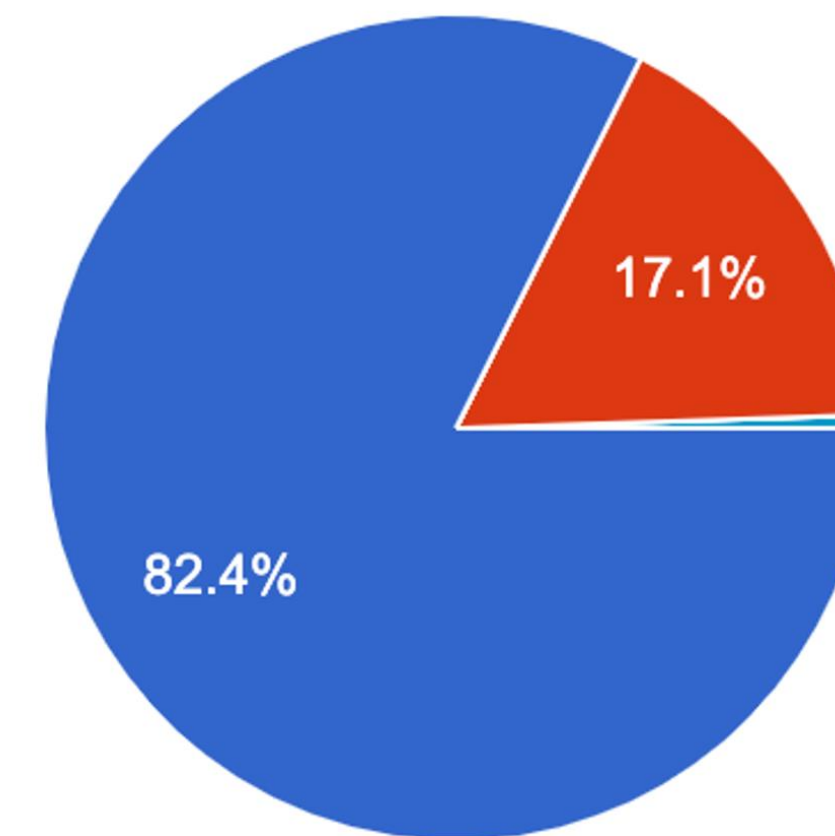
Survey Analysis – Customer Demographics

What is your age?

194 responses



- 18 - 24
- 25 - 34
- 35 - 44
- 45 - 54
- 55 - 64
- 65+



- Female
- Male
- Transgender Female
- Transgender Male
- Gender Variant/Non-conforming
- Prefer not to say

Survey Analysis – Most popular **Mobile App Features** selected by customers



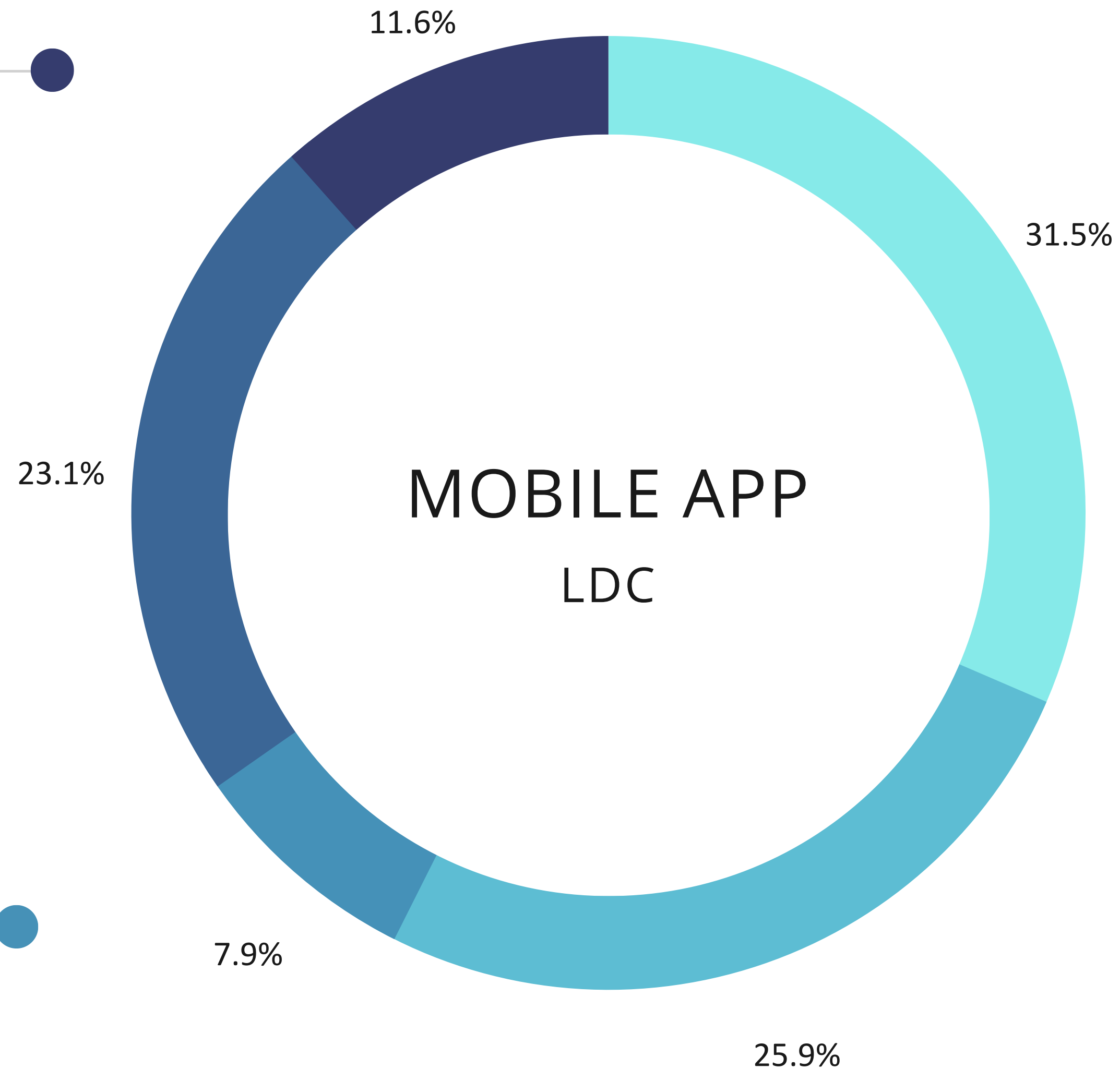
Mobile payment options

Access to exclusive content or games

Purchase merchandise or souvenirs

Digital map with real-time wait time for attractions

Order food, snacks & beverage



Digital Innovations Detailed

Digital Innovation: Gamification

The Concept: To use Gamification as a means to enhance digital touchpoints and improve data collection.



Engaging Customers

Enhance customer's digital experience through a fun and rewarding interaction with the company, resulting in an increased engagement, loyalty, and positive perception with the brand.



Customer Insights

Through gamified touchpoints, the collected data will allow businesses to gain valuable insights into their customers' behaviours and references. Such information could be used to improve products and services, develop more targeted marketed strategies, thus creating an overall more superior customer experience.



Motivating Behaviour

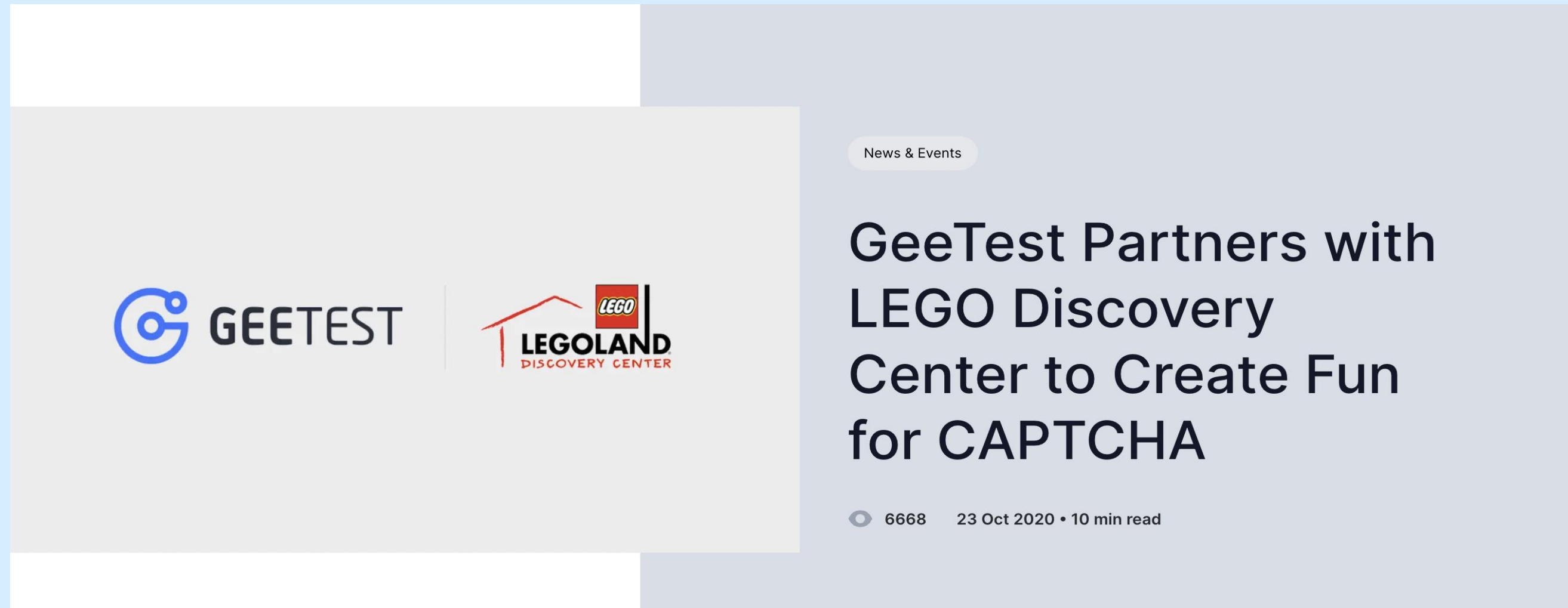
Encouraging customers to perform certain behaviours beneficial for business like filling out surveys.



Data Collection

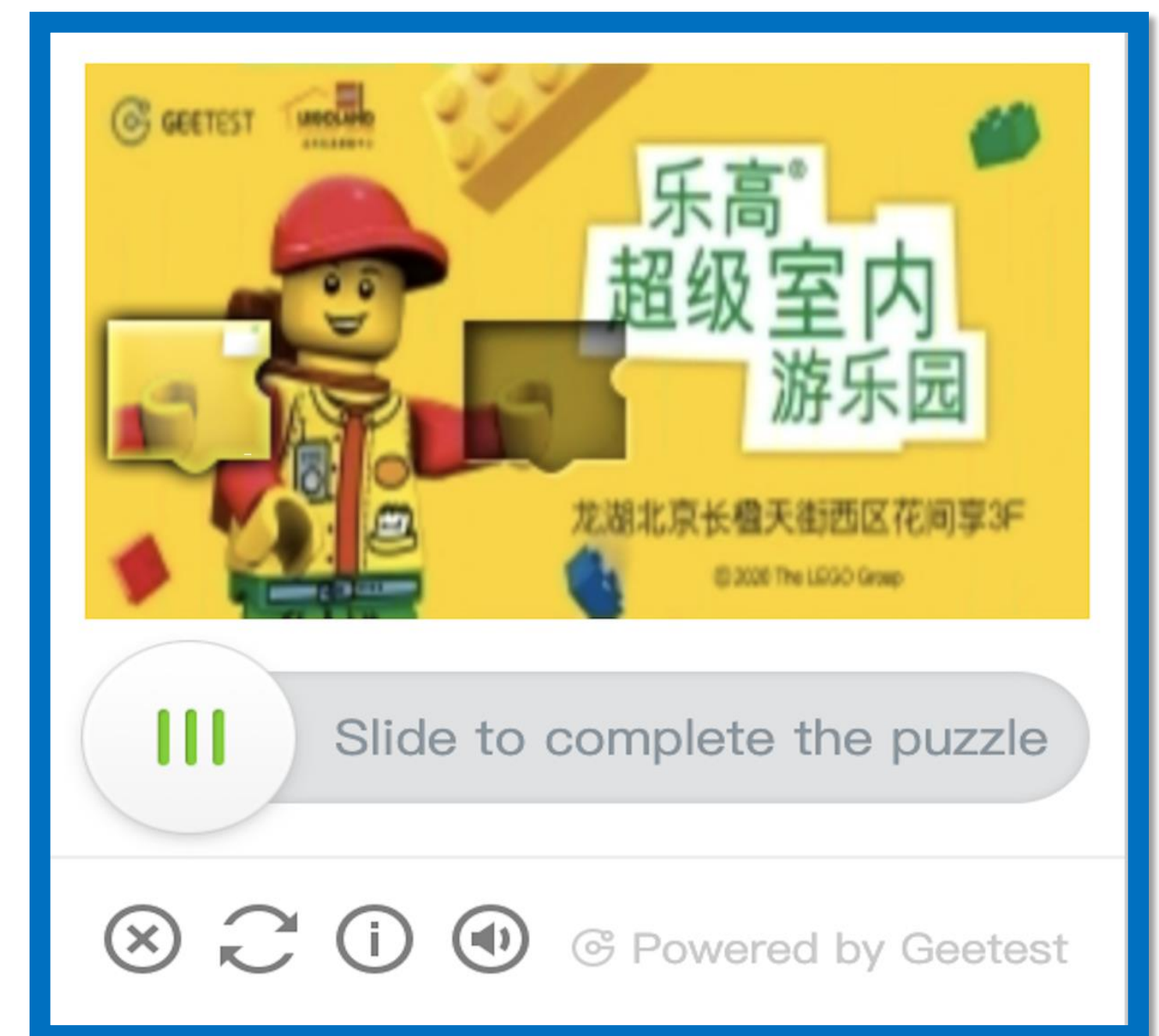
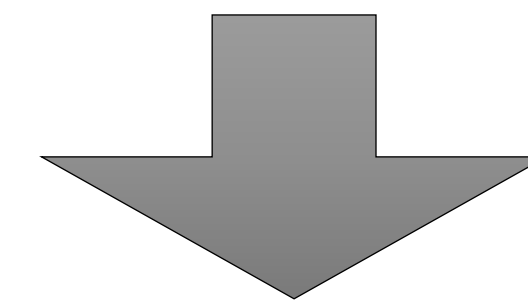
Customers are more likely to give out information through gamification methods. More accurate and comprehensive data are likely to be collected when customers are engaged and willing to engage with the company through gamification methods.

Gamification: LDC's Application [CAPTCHA]



GeeTest introduced jigsaw puzzles CAPTCHA to the world, replacing the old 'Text CAPTCHA' 8 years ago, transforming this mundane and somewhat irritating process into a fun and effortless experience.

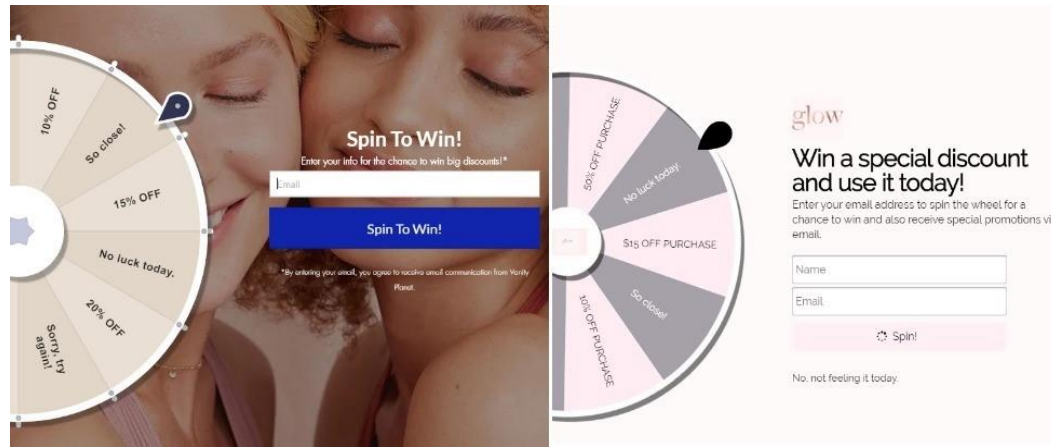
The use of GeeTest's smart internal commercial recommender system can dynamically display images stored in their ads resource pool to the targeted audience, making gamification even better with a personalized touch.



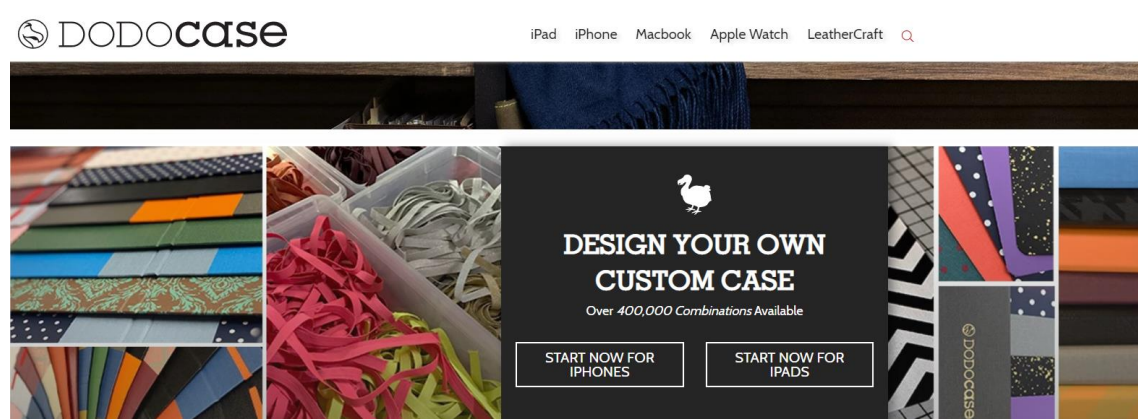
Gamification: Interactive Quizzes & Games [Examples]



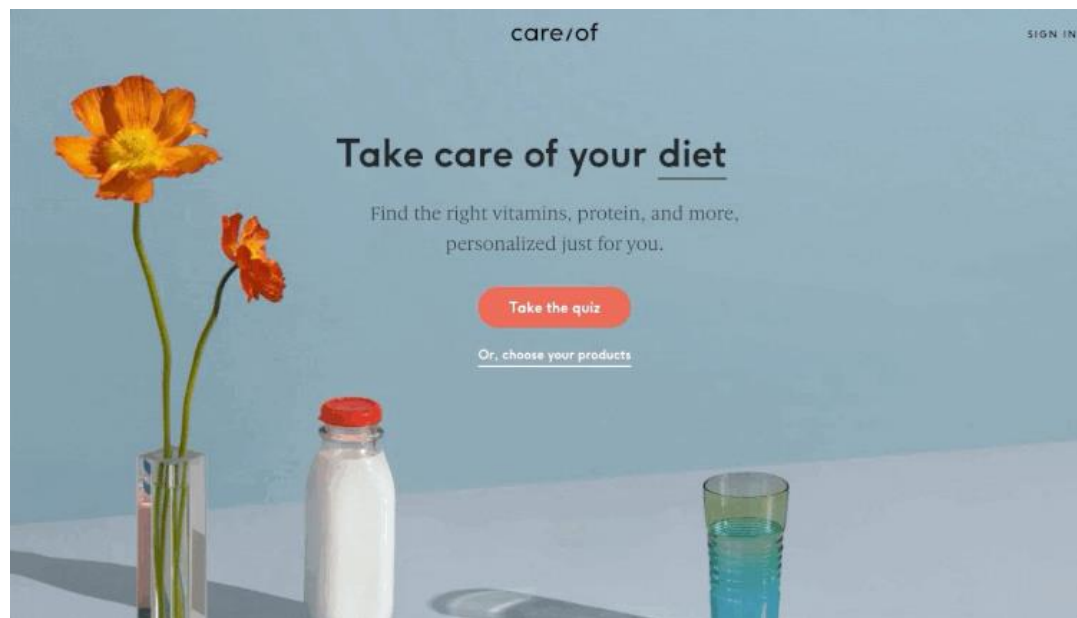
Websites



Company: glow
Wheel of Fortune: Easy and effortless.



Company: DODOCASE
Custom DIY: Unconventional, interactive, encourages customer input and originality, merging/bridging the gap between customers and the company.



Company: Care/of
Quiz: Engaging customers in a more dynamic way.

Social Media



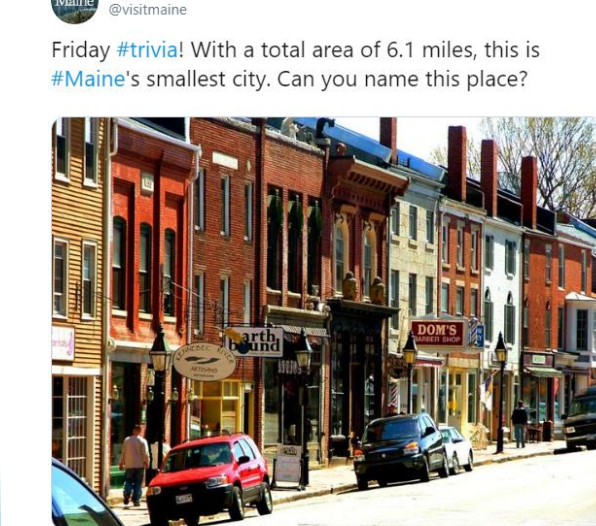
Company: M&M
I Spy // Maze



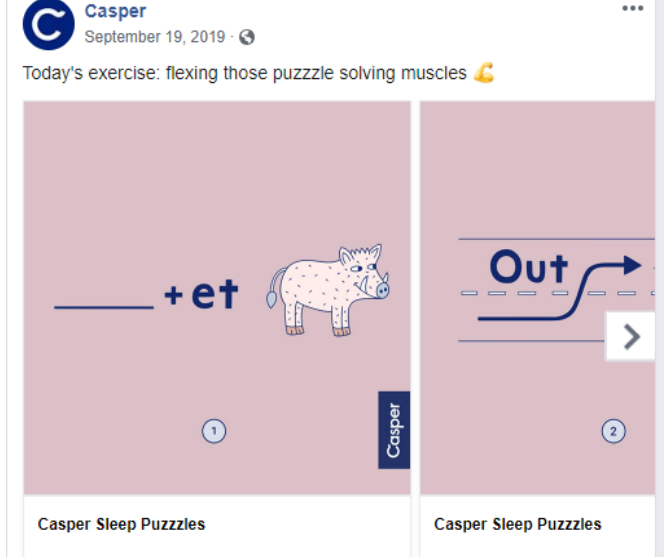
Company: The Honey Baked Ham Company
Spot the Difference



Company: The Maine Tourism Office
Trivia



Company: Casper
Puzzle



Emails

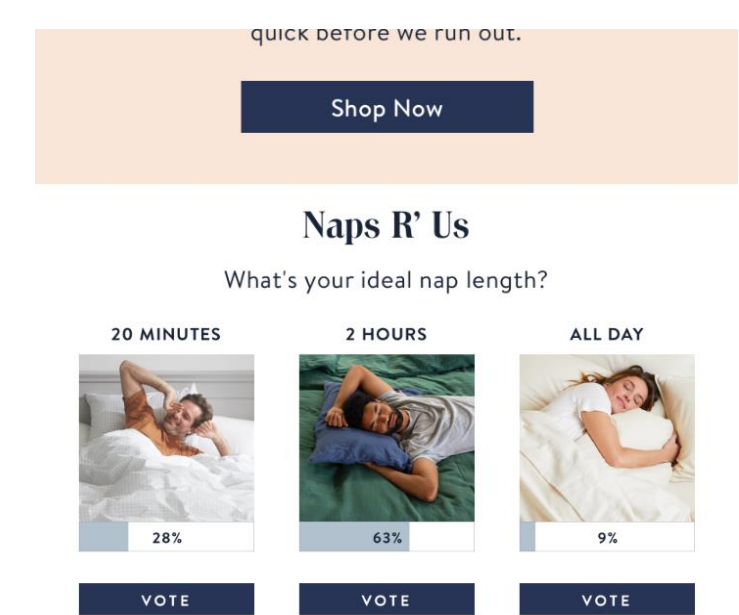
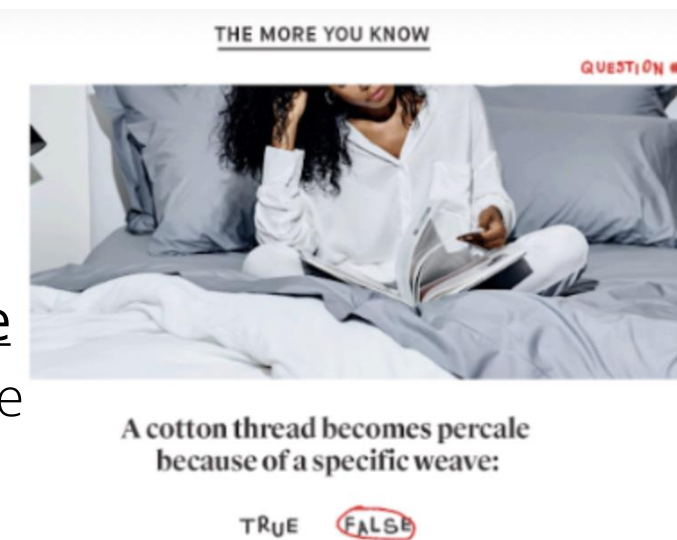


Company: Casper
Choosing Between Options

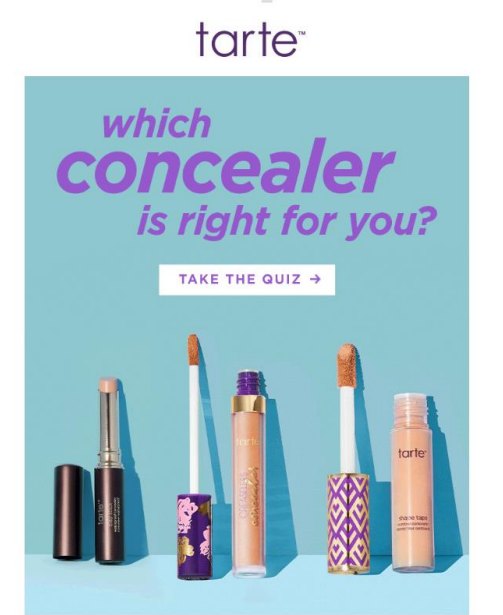
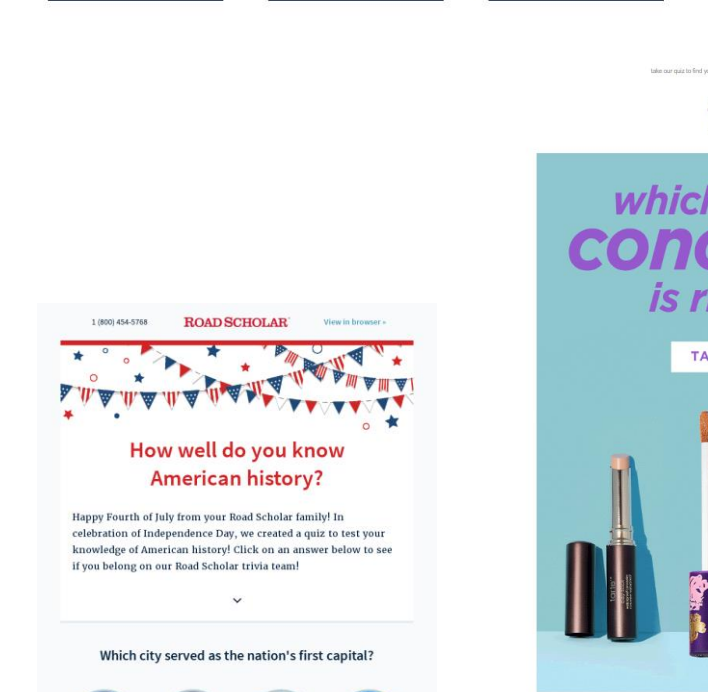
Company: Taco Bell
Virtual Board Game



Company: Snowe
True or False



Company: Naps R' Us
Voting Game



Company: Tarte
Quizzes



Company: Road Scholar
Trivia

Service Period: LEGO QR Codes

Enhancing digital touchpoints: Use creative QR codes made of LEGO as display ads to motivate customers to scan them



Brand Recognition

It can help increase **brand recognition** for LDC as the iconic toy brand is instantly recognisable and associated with fun and creativity.

Target Audience

It can help **capture the attention** of families and kids who are likely to be interested in visiting a Legoland theme park.

Emotional Engagement

Lego is a nostalgic and sentimental brand for many people and using it in the display ads can tap into this **emotional connection**, making the ads more impactful.

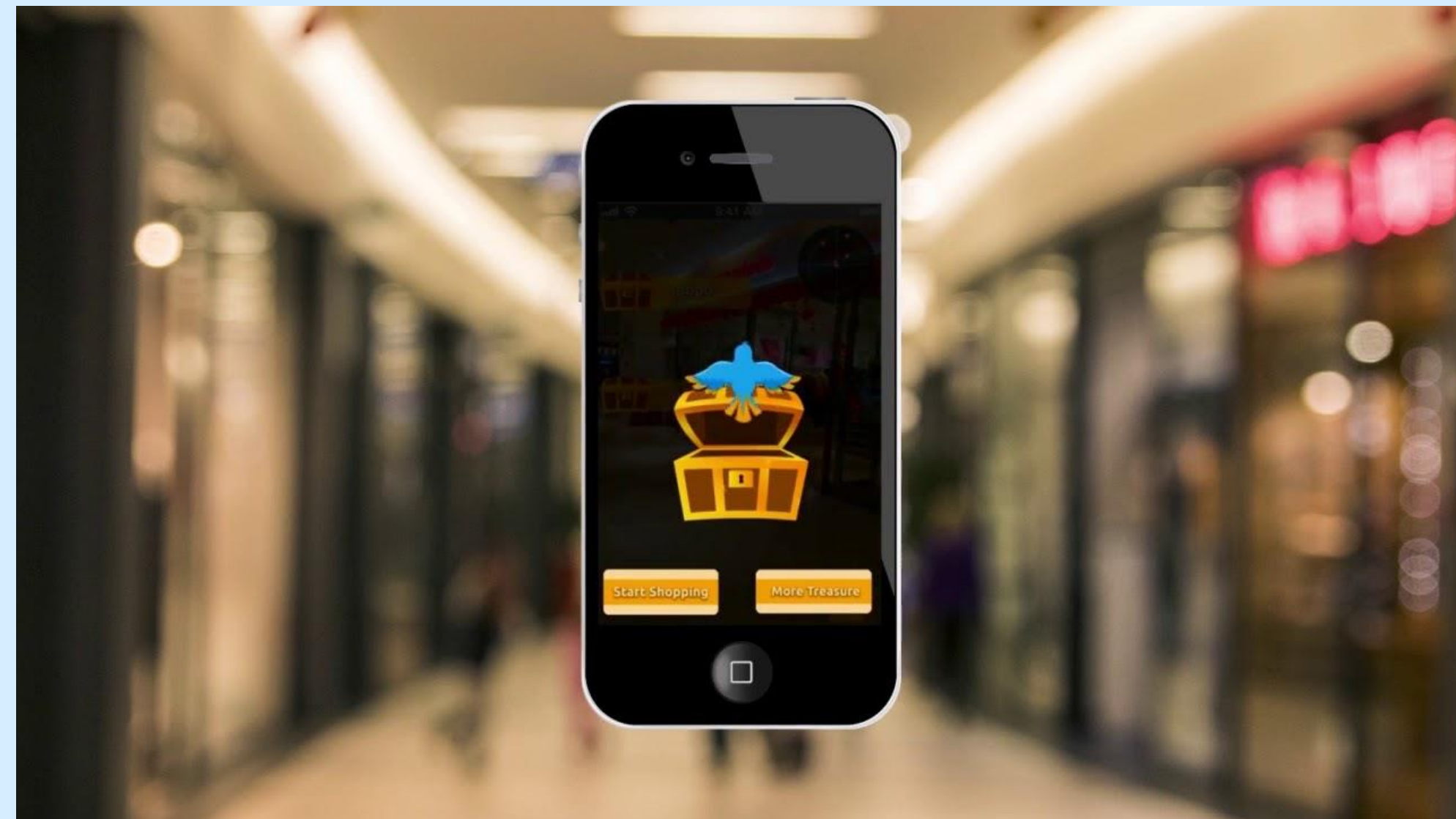
Creative potential

It gives LDC's marketing team the opportunity to **showcase their creativity** and create eye-catching digital ads.

Brand Alignment

LEGO and LDC are both family-friendly brands with a focus on fun and creativity. Using LEGO in the display ads. can help reinforce LDC's brand values and create **a stronger alignment** with the Lego brand.

Service Period: Digital Scavenger Hunts



Digital scavenger hunts game allows customers to **search for designated items** via AR-enabled mobile app inside LDC.

Theme of the game should be **updated regularly** (i.e., on a monthly basis) to improve incentives for re-visit.



Connected with **mobile app** which shows the remaining number of treasures and winners in real-time.



Customers who successfully find those items can be **rewarded** (earn points).

Service Period: Interactive Photography

Set up various LEGO-themed **photo backdrops** combining physical LEGO pieces & characters placed in front

Interactive

Create an opportunity to **engage parents with their child**, as well as capture memorable photos

Drive up-sell

Charge for **professional photography** which can be booked through website or app, and offer an upsell for a **physical/digital photo package** with fun filters and stickers



Service Period: Virtual Reality Experiences



VR Rides [Implemented]



THE GREAT LEGO® RACE VR EXPERIENCE

1

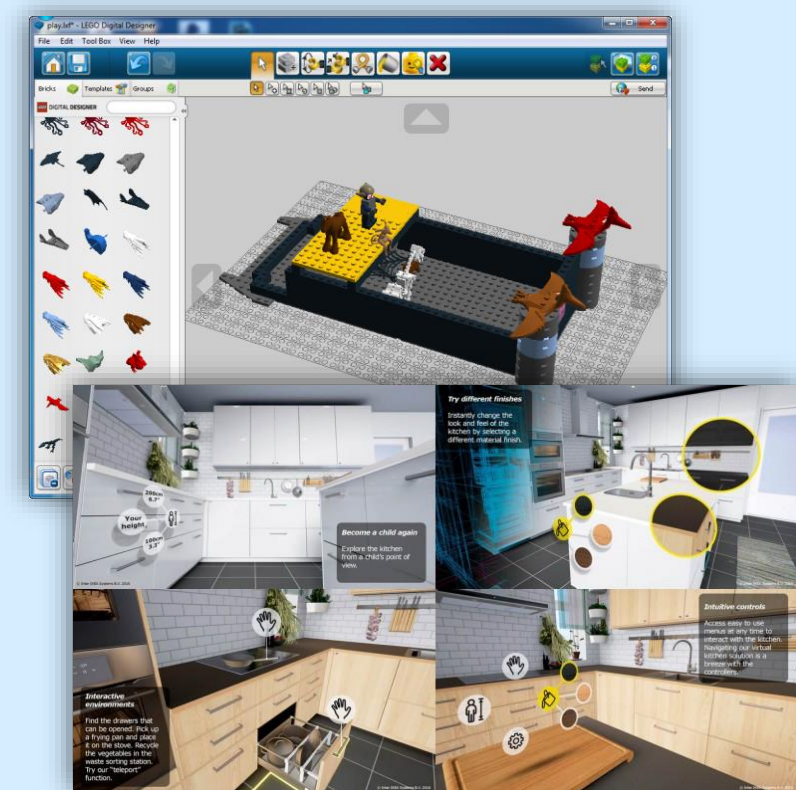
Interactive VR Games

Developing themed interactive VR games (e.g., Lego Ninjago or Batman) that visitors could play individually or in groups – more appeal to big families.

2



Virtual Building Challenges



Promoting total immersion using VR to create building challenges where visitors can create and design their own virtual Lego models.

3

4

Virtual Tours

Using VR for virtual tours of LDC's exhibits and attractions for customers to explore at their own pace. The virtual tours can act as a digital map. Many customers complained the difficulty to navigate inside LDC.



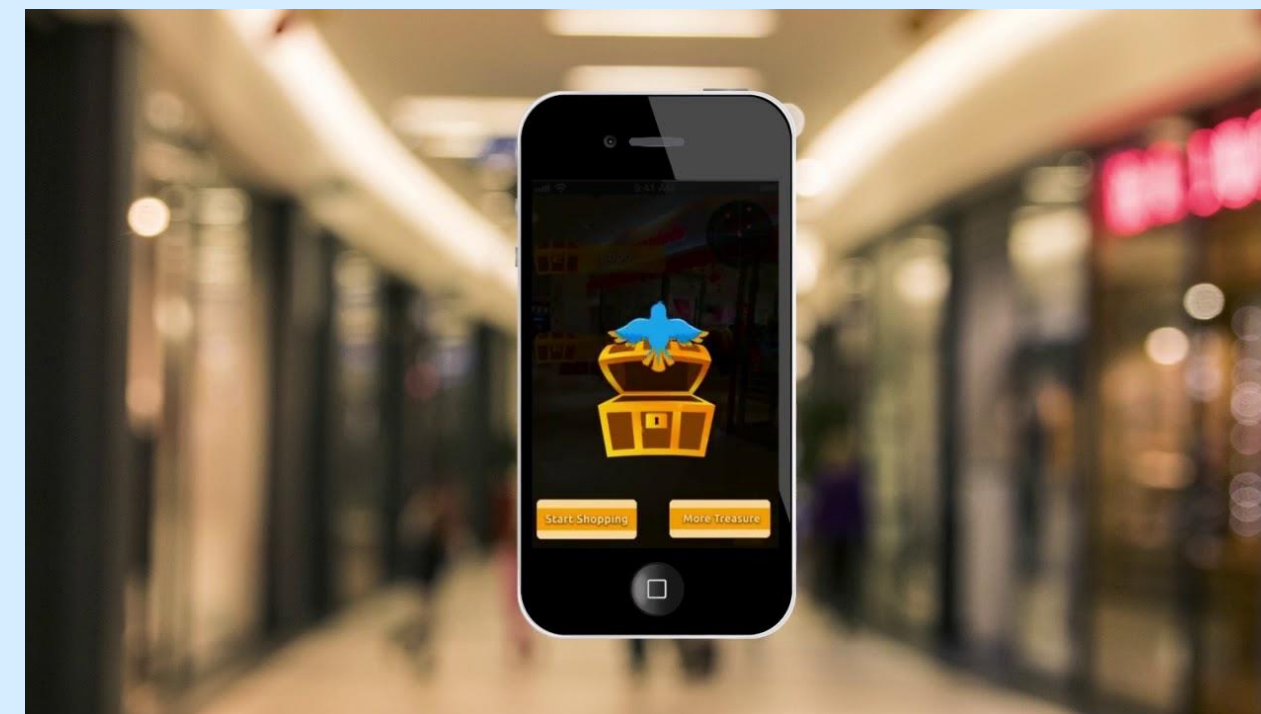
Service Period: Augmented Reality Games

Meet with the Virtual World



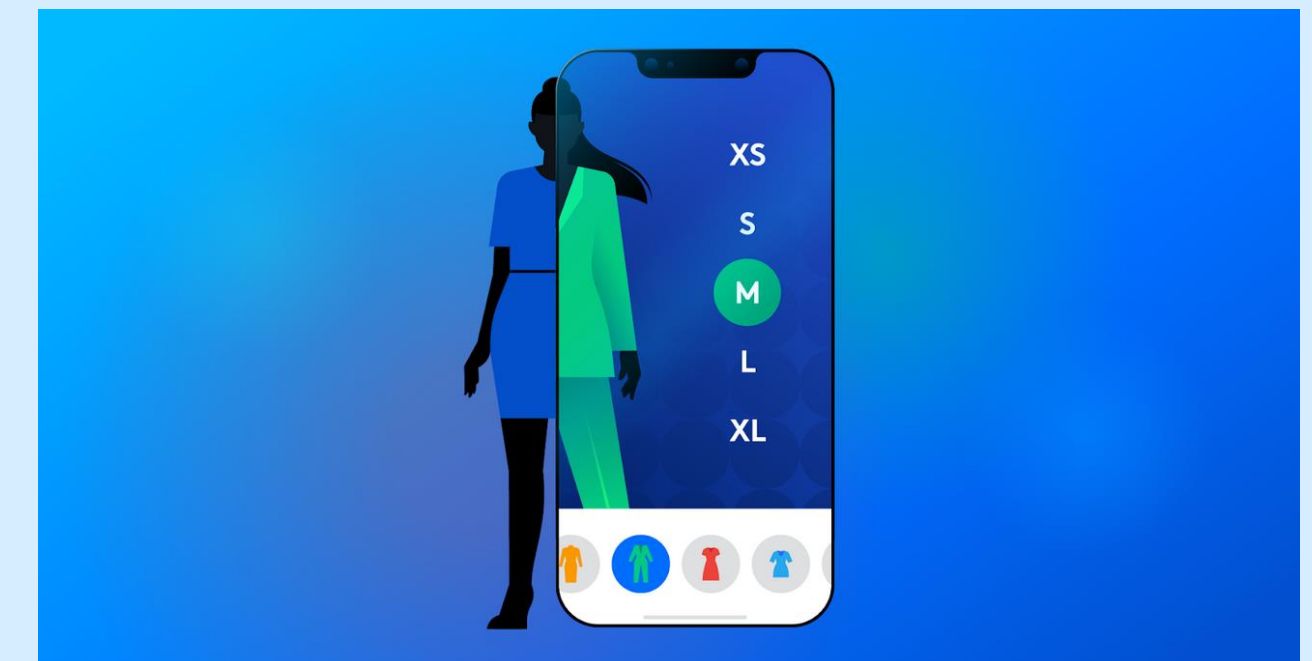
Create an AR-enabled mobile app that allows guests to **interact** with **LEGO models and displays** (i.e., Miniland), **animating characters** (i.e., LEGO Friends).

AR-enabled Scavenger Hunts



Integrate **AR-enabled scavenger hunts**, encouraging guests to explore LDC while collecting virtual treasures

Virtual Try-on



Customers can **virtually try-on** exclusive LEGO-themed clothing or accessories. **Driving upsells** by allowing customers to purchase them through the mobile app/LEGO store.

Mobile App Features



"An integrated mobile app to create seamless digital customer experiences"



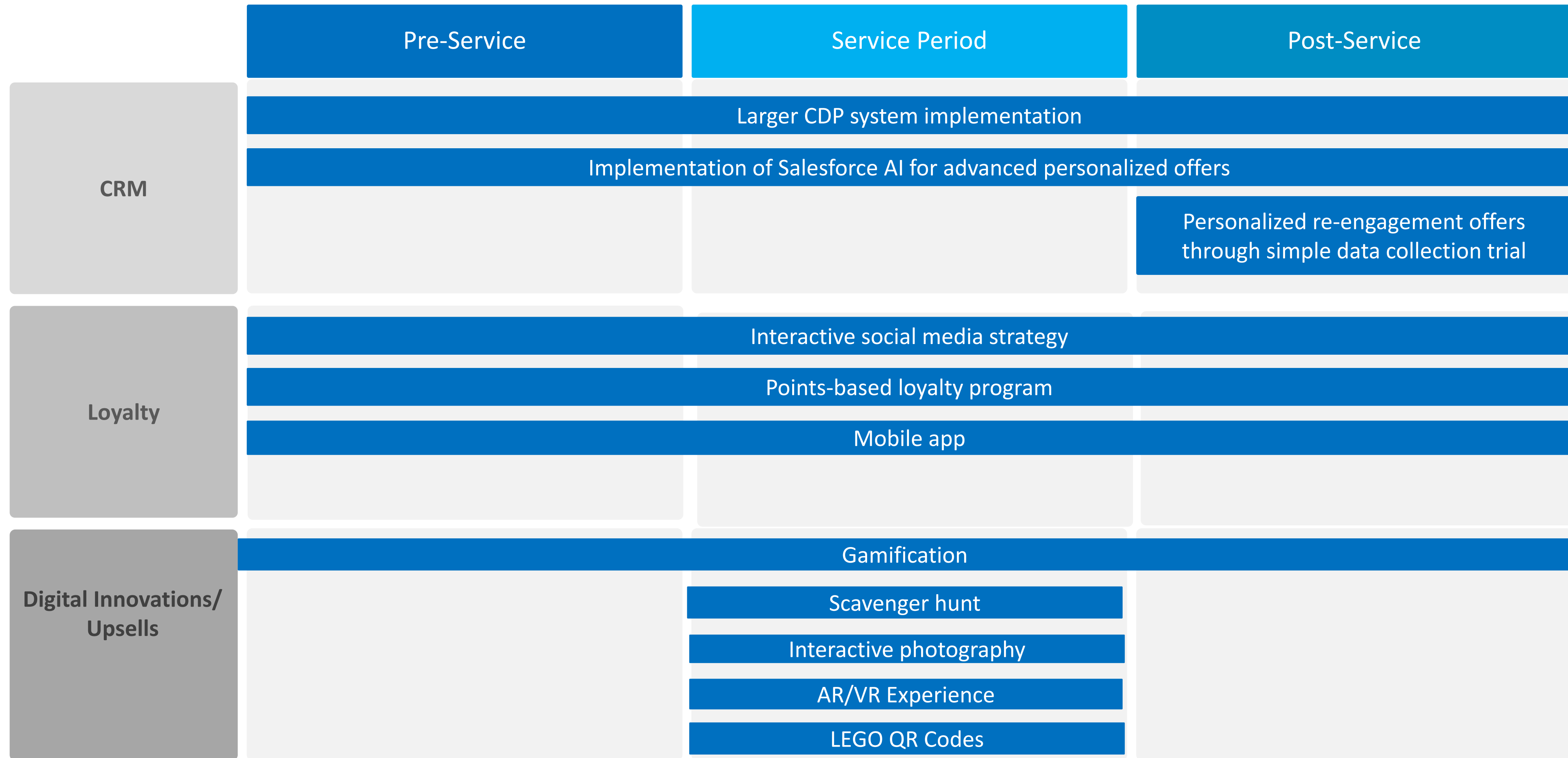
Further Recommendations

Further actions need to be taken to address key pain points shown on customer journey map



	Pain Points 	Solutions 
Pre-service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor website navigation Difficulty using voucher codes & discounts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-construct the web page design through multiple A/B testing, implement the best solution based on customer purchasing rate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of clear directions and guidance inside LDC Birmingham 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide clear directions and guidance through 1) digital map on the mobile app and 2) virtual tours based on VR technology
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited activities & rides Not enough activities & attractions for older kids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement more digitally innovative applications, which further create a sense of interaction, while engaging older kids to a larger extent
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crowdedness & long queues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adding mobile app features which not only allow customers to pre-book slots, but also show available slots and wait times for attractions & activities in real-time, giving a chance for customers to organise their own times
Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleanliness & maintenance issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase size of cleaning team and pay extra attention to the cleanliness of restrooms. More frequent maintenance check & make sure all interactive components are functional
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disappointment with special events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up more attractive special events (i.e., birthday) through personalised offers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited seating & limited food options and high prices in the cafe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increase food availability during lunch time. 2) Provide creative LEGO-themed snacks, food & drinks and charge premium. 3) Offer a “food pass” when purchasing tickets for unlimited access to certain items throughout the visit. 4) Snack packages can also be incorporated with cinema, offer options to upgrade cinema ticket package and charge premiums.
Post-service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited valuable offers for pass holders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement points-based loyalty program, which contains the most desirable offers (discounts, exclusive access to special events, etc.) for customers. The personalised feature of the loyalty program can tailor to customers’ needs and further improve customer satisfaction

CRM, loyalty & digital innovation recommendations visualized in the service timeline



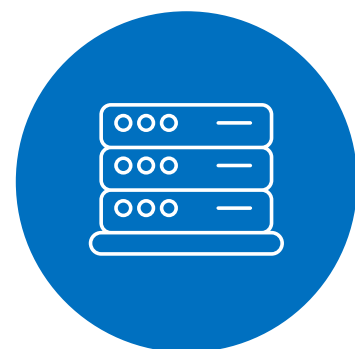
Additional Company Benchmarking Material

CRM - Indigo airline



InterGlobe Aviation Limited, doing business as IndiGo, is an Indian low-cost airline headquartered in Gurgaon, Haryana, India. It is the **largest airline** in India by passengers carried and fleet size, with a **~57% domestic market share** as of October 2022.

Taking actions



Customer data

Usage of customer data to make personalised offers, recommendations, and services that are tailored to each customer's preferences and needs.



Seamless booking experience

User-friendly website and mobile app that allow customers to **easily** book and manage their flights. The mobile app offers features such as mobile check-in, flight alerts and a virtual assistant to **help customers** with their queries.



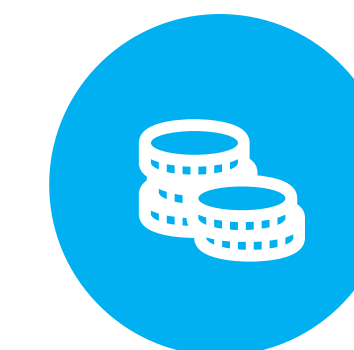
Social media

Social media presence on platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Better results



'**Best Low-Cost Airline in Central Asia and India**' award by Skytrax in 2019 and 2020



Highly profitable and **fastest growing** airline in India



Similar Problems faced by Merlin

01

Lack of customer data on Merlin LDC's customers

Current data collection focuses only on age and gender rather than behavior and interests.

02

Keeping consumers engaged with a mobile app

Mobile app might be used only before and during the visit and then deleted.

Suggestions and solutions for Merlin

Data collection for personalized offers



- Implement **account set up** on the website and a possible mobile app
- Wi-fi and **location tracking** & **social media** and marketing
- **Surveys** and feedback forms during or after visit

Implementation of a mobile app for a seamless customer experience

- Offer **exclusive** in-app discounts
- Create **gamification** Features: quizzes, scavenger hunts, or challenges, bedtime stories for kids
- **Personalise** offers: ask about kid's preference about the thematic weeks and provide early access; collect data about kid's birthday and interests and provide special offers
- Offer **mobile ordering**: options for food, beverages, and merchandise
- **Integrate** with the **loyalty program**: point tracking, information and notifications on how and where points can be used (e.g., Sea Life, Warwick Castle, Alton Towers in Birmingham)
- **Augmented Reality** features: guests can use the app to scan codes and unlock AR experiences throughout the attraction
- **Push notifications**: Sending relevant and timely push notifications to guests could encourage them to use the app for purchases and promote offers and promotions.

Social media & loyalty – Examples of Taco Bell's success



Using humor and creativity, Taco Bell connects with the consumers on a personal level, increasing consumers' emotional engagement with the brand

Master in increasing brand awareness, Taco Bell received more than half a million tweets in a day by creating a "Taco Emoji Engine"



Survey Design

Survey Design 1/7

Informed Consent *

Dear Participants,

You are invited to participate in a research project about the customer experience at **LEGOLAND® Discovery Centres (LDC)**. The study is conducted by students from London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) on behalf of Merlin Entertainments, the owner of LDC.

What is the study about?

The purpose of the research project is to better understand your experience before, during, and after your visit to LEGOLAND Discovery Centre. Our goal is to identify areas where we can improve your experience.

What will my involvement be?

You will be asked to take part in a survey about your most recent experience with LEGOLAND Discovery Centre. **The survey should take no longer than 5 minutes.**

Do I have to take part?

Your participation in this survey is voluntary. You may refuse to take part in the research or exit the survey at any time. You may skip any question you do not wish to answer.

What will my information be used for?

We will use the collected information for a research project with Merlin Entertainment (the owner of LDC) aiming to enhance the overall customer journey at the LEGOLAND Discovery Centres.

Will my information be kept confidential?

Your survey answers will be stored initially with Google Forms. Data will later be downloaded and stored for analysis purposes. Please rest assured that all responses will be kept strictly confidential and used for research purposes only. Your participation will be anonymous - your name will not be used in any reports or publications resulting from the study.

Contact

If you have questions concerning the study, contact the researcher, by email at j.ye16@lse.ac.uk.

Please select your choice below. You may print a copy of this consent form for your records. Clicking on the "Agree" button indicates that

- You have read the above information
- You voluntarily agree to participate
- You are 18 years of age or older

Yes, I agree

No, I disagree

Survey Design 2/7

Demographic/General Questions

Description (optional)

What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Transgender Female
- Transgender Male
- Gender Variant/Non-conforming
- Prefer not to say
- Other...

What is your age?

- 18 - 24
- 25 - 34
- 35 - 44
- 45- 54
- 55- 64
- 65+

What was the age of the child/children you visited LEGOLAND® Discovery Centre (LDC) with?

- Under 3
- 3 - 5
- 6 - 8
- 9 - 11
- 12 - 14
- 15 - 17

How did you hear about LEGOLAND Discovery Centre (LDC)?

- Display Ads
- Official website
- Word of mouth
- Social Media
- Other...

What was your motivation for visiting?

- Quality family time
- LEGO®-lover
- Holiday
- Tourism
- Special occasion (i.e., Birthday)
- Other...

When was your most recent visit?

- Within last 6 months
- Within last year
- Within last 1 - 3 years
- More than 3 years ago
- Other...

Survey Design 3/7

Pre-Service Period

Description (optional)

Where did you seek information for the visit to LDC?

- Official website
- TripAdvisor
- Social media
- Search engine (e.g. Google)
- Friends
- Other...

It was easy for me to find what I was looking for on the official website.

***Skip if not applicable**

Strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly agree

If you disagreed, please state a reason.

Long answer text

Where did you purchase tickets for your visit?
Including admission tickets and attraction tickets (e.g. LEGO Race VR Experience, Miniland, LEGO 4D Cinema)

- Official website
- On-site purchase
- Other...

It was easy for me to purchase tickets.

Strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly agree

If you disagreed, please state a reason.

Long answer text

I found the chatbot helpful in answering my inquiries.

*** You may skip this question if not applicable**

Strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly agree

If you disagreed, please state a reason.

Long answer text


Survey Design 4/7

Service Period


Description (optional)

Which parts of the visit did you and your group like the most?


Miniland




LEGO 4D Cinema




LEGO Race VR Experience




Kingdom Quest




LEGO CITY




LEGO FRIENDS




Merlin's Apprentice Ride




LEGO Racers




LEGO Duplo Farm



Play Sessions




Little Play Squad



LEGO playground

Creative workshops

VIP Master Model Builder Sessions



None of the above

What made you and your group enjoy the attractions/activities chosen above?

Long answer text

⋮

Was there anything that made your visit less enjoyable?

Long answer text

Survey Design 5/7

Digital Experience Opportunities



Description (optional)

If LDC offered a mobile app to enhance your guest experience, which of the following features would you be interested in?

Select at most 3.

- Digital map with real-time wait times for attractions
- Mobile ordering for food and beverage
- Mobile purchase for merchandise or souvenirs
- Access to exclusive content or games
- Mobile payment options
- Not interested in a mobile app
- Other...

Which digital features would you be interested in to enhance your experience inside LDC?

Select at most 3.

- Augmented reality games (AR)
- Virtual reality experiences (VR)
- Digital scavenger hunts
- Digital maps or wayfinding
- Interactive photography
- Interactive displays/quizzes
- Other...

How interested would you be in a LEGOLAND Discovery Centre metaverse experience that allows you to interact with LEGO characters, play games, and explore virtual versions of the attraction?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Not interested at all ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ Extremely interested

Survey Design 7/7

Post-service Period ⌵ ⋮

Description (optional)

I enjoyed my visit at LDC.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Strongly disagree Strongly agree

If you disagreed, please state a reason.

Long answer text

I am likely to visit LDC again.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Extremely unlikely Extremely likely

I would recommend LDC to others.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Strongly disagree Strongly agree

How can LDC improve your experience for the future? (e.g. new activities, customer service, new attractions, etc.)

Long answer text

Can we contact you for a more detailed follow-up interview?

Yes

No

If yes, please leave the following contact details below: 1. Email
2. Phone number.

Long answer text

Distribution of workload

Distribution of workload Excel

MG488 - GMIM Project- Distribution of Workload Form

A:Members	B:Project defintion/ Scoping	C:Literatur e Review	D:Methodology	E:Analysis	F: Solutions/ Recommendation S	G: Other	If this project is not governed by an NDA do you consent for this project to be shared with future students (Every member of the team must indicate yes or no)
Client	Merlin Entertainments	Project	How to use digital in the end-to-end guest journey?	Faculty coach	Christine Cote	NDA (Indicate Yes/No)	Yes (they informed us of an NDA but never sent papers to be signed)
Anna Rekola	Team leader, taking care of project management and leading meetings	Loyalty & CRM literature and slides	Participation in survey design	Benchmarking analysis HSBC & TacoBell	Definition of points-based & social media strategy recommendations		No
Nargiz Ussenova	Participated and presented in client meetings		Participated in developing survey	Analysed benchmarking companies in airline industry		Prepared PowerPoint slides for benchmarking companies	No
Leanna Lam	Point of contact with clients, and brainstormed initial ideas to provide insight and guide the potential direction of the project, helped to take care of team meetings when necessary, keeping team's communication lubricative		Participation in survey design	Provided assistance to benchmarking analysis	Digital innovation, gamification concept - why and how that could be utilised into the different areas of recommendations	Prepared slides for digital innovation section: gamification and further detailed slides	No
Xiaorui		Customer journey literature and slides	Participation in survey design	Benchmarking analysis TGV		Prepared slides for benchmarking companies	No
Lan Yang	Participation and presenting in meetings		Participation in survey design & conducting data analysis	Data analysis & limitations & KEEP App benchmarking		Prepared slides for methodology and benchmarking	No
Jingyi Yip			Lead methodology and survey design, methodology slides	Conduct survey results analysis including building customer journey map	Digital innovation recommendation slide	Appendix:1)Additional survey results slides; 2)Digital innovations detailed slides; 3)Further recommendation slide	Yes (they informed us of an NDA but never sent papers to be signed)