


THE ENTREPRENEUR'S GUIDE TO COMMERCE:

# A Retailer's Definitive Guide To Shopify Store Optimization

 **shopify**plus

**nosto**

**Avalara**

 **gorgias**

**Klarna.**

 **KLAVIYO**

 **KLEVVU**

 **LOYALTYLION**

 **narvan**

 **ReCharge**

 **Signifyd**

 **tapcart**

 **YOTPO**

**YOTTA**



# Contents

## Introduction

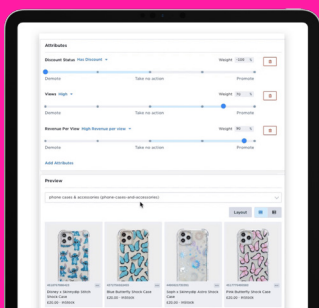


"Leveraging the Shopify developer ecosystem to enhance commerce experiences in 2021"

5



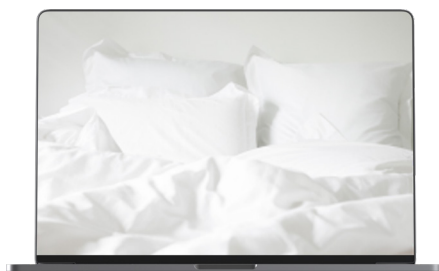
Commerce experiences that win customers for life



6



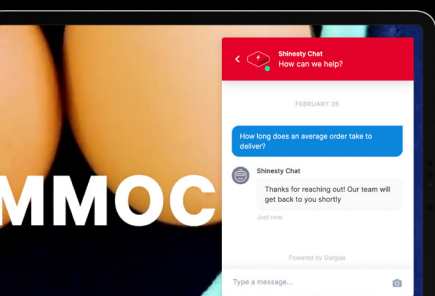
Automating sales tax compliance



9



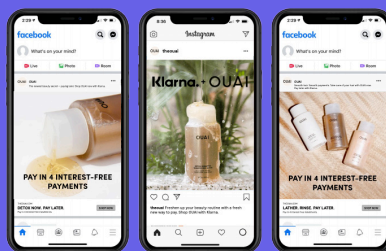
Creating a first-class customer experience online



12



Think flexible payments aren't sexy? Think again



15

# Contents



Solving personalization challenges with automation

Looks like you left something behind.

Grind

10 min

9:31 AM (5 minutes ago)

GRIND

Looks like you left something behind.

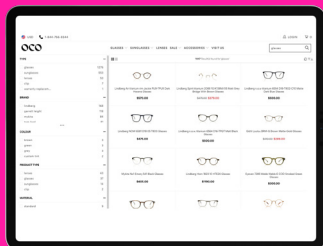
We missed it when you left. Pick up right where you left off.



18



Onsite search and the journey to product discovery



21



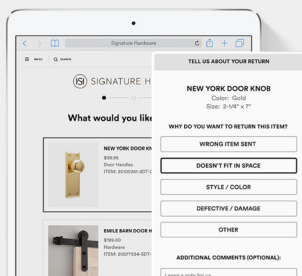
Customer communities:  
The untapped revenue stream



24



Making product returns less painful



27



Capitalizing on revenue growth using subscriptions

Engaged customers stay around for more than twice as many subscription periods

Customer Retention after signup

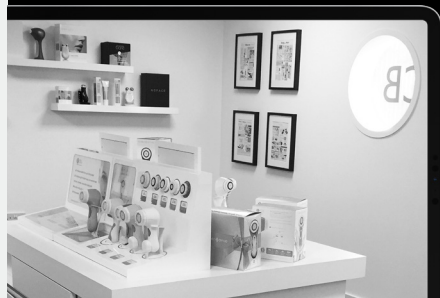


30

# Contents



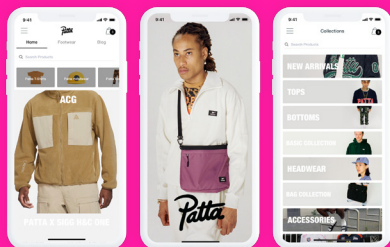
Managing the order tsunami  
in ecommerce's new era



33



Leveraging mobile apps  
to skyrocket your brand



36



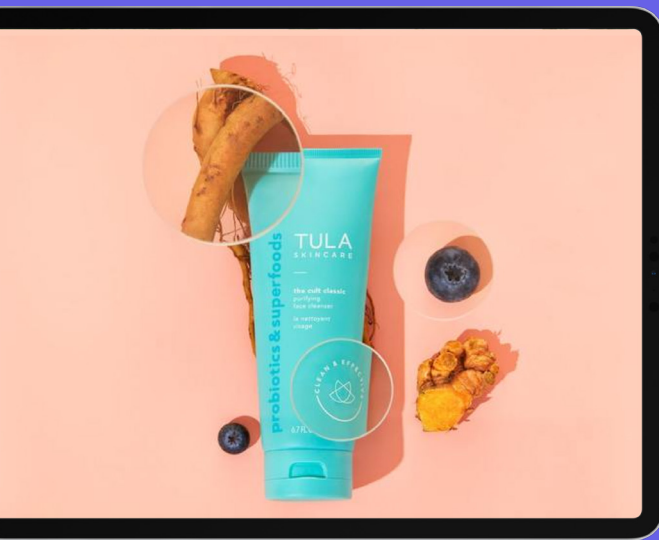
Optimizing ROI with  
ecommerce marketing



39

YOTTAA

Optimizing 3rd party  
apps for a faster site



42



# Introduction



What is the new normal for commerce? And how can brands thrive in 2021 and beyond?

Lockdowns, travel bans and retail closures have fundamentally changed how people shop. More people are buying online than ever before, and we are all buying a wider range of products. The landscape is becoming more competitive as established brands and DTC startups launch to meet surging demand, while large marketplaces and social platforms strengthen their commerce offerings.

Shopper expectations have never been higher; they expect to be able to browse or buy online and offline, securely and quickly, and receive their products as quickly as possible. In the event of any problems, shoppers expect to be able to resolve these quickly, engaging with brands via whatever channel they feel most comfortable with, live chat, social media, email, phone and in person.

How do leading brands rise to this challenge? Shopify Plus provides the robust and scalable commerce platform that helps over 10,000 brands build the future of commerce. Shopify's developer platform is growing as quickly as our customer base, and brands like **Skinnydip, OUAI and CurrentBody** are leveraging the Shopify developer ecosystem to enhance their commerce experiences.

---

**Author: Paul Gray**

Partner Marketing Lead  
Shopify Plus

---

In this e-book, **thirteen partners** share insights, expertise and examples of how they are helping brands thrive.

For brands that are looking to replatform, to those looking to improve their existing store performance, the ecosystem of Shopify's technology partners provide the insight, capabilities and experience needed to thrive.

# Rethinking Personalization in a Digital-First Era

The logo for Nosto, featuring the word "nosto" in a white sans-serif font followed by a square icon containing a stylized white symbol.

Most consumers today continue to rely on ecommerce to connect with retailers. The competition for digital real estate is only growing, and brands that do more than just sell are the ones that win customers for life. The winning formula? Agile personalization and merchandising combined with subtle cues that turn conversions into valuable connections.

## Strategic merchandising that is personal and profitable

For most brands, the global pandemic brought on a number of challenges that have gradually impacted ambitious growth goals: from loss of brick-and-mortar sales channels, to increased competition from native digital brands, to growing customer demand online and minimal resources to capitalize on those demands. In the case of fashion and accessories retailer Skinnydip London, these challenges did little to help them capitalize on the higher site traffic they were experiencing since the start of the pandemic. Their manual merchandising strategy also prevented them from fostering product discovery and driving site conversion.

To tackle this challenge, Skinnydip implemented Nosto's Category Merchandising on their site and A/B tested the impact of automated merchandising against their manual page setups (which were based on the assumption of which products would perform well). The results clearly showed the value that automated merchandising brings to the table.

---

**Author: Jake Chatt**

Head of Brand Marketing  
Nosto

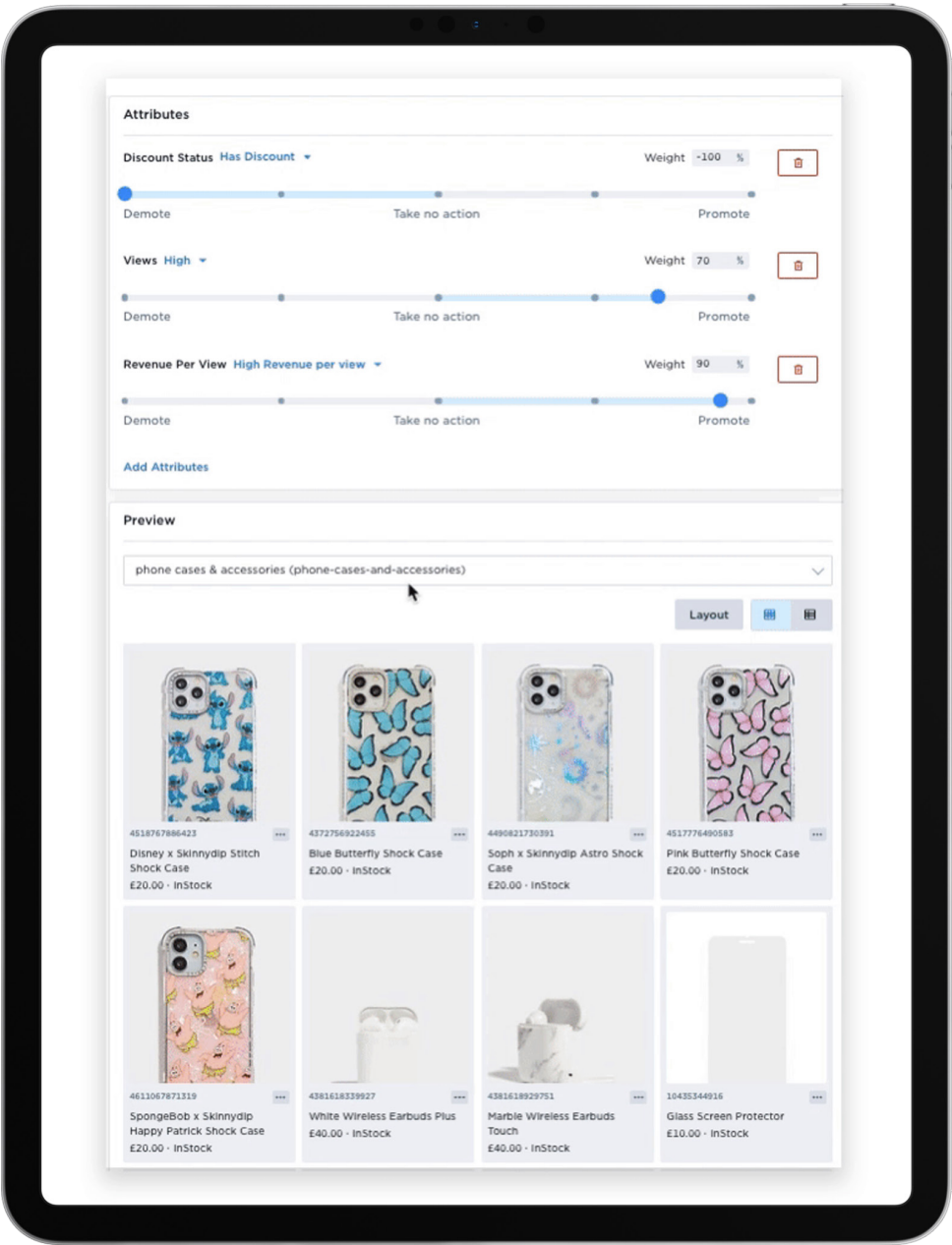
---

**For their Sale category,** Skinnydip tested the impact of promoting trending products that resonate with discount oriented shoppers and generate decent revenue per view. Skinnydip was able to zoom in on the highest potential product range in the sale category to rapidly rotate the most popular discounted inventory - increasing Sales category page conversion rate by 41% and click-through rate by 59%.

**For Non-sale categories,** Skinnydip tested the impact of showcasing popular products within their Beauty, Clothing and Phone Case and Accessories Category pages that generate a good return in the form of tangible revenue per view. Non-discounted products were prioritized on the respective Category page to maximize AOV and revenue while discounted items were demoted. After testing against their default page setup, Skinnydip saw:

- 36% higher conversion rate and 23% increase in CTR in the Beauty category
- 12% higher conversion rate and 26% increase in CTR in the Clothing category
- 35% higher conversion rate and 38% increase in CTR in the Phone Cases and Accessories category

“Category Merchandising was profitable in less than a month. It’s definitely a significant revenue and growth driver for us. That’s not the case for every tool.”  
- Meghan Lewis, Head Of Ecommerce, Skinnydip London



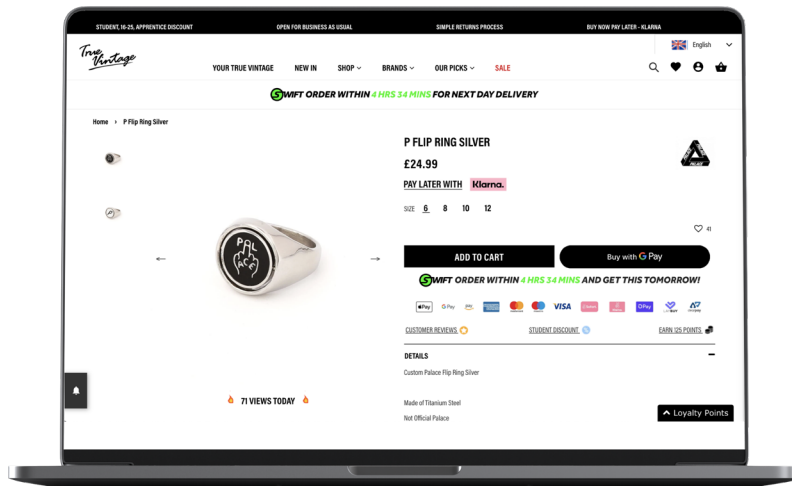
Skinnydip tested the impact of showcasing popular products within select category pages that generate a return in the form of tangible revenue per view.

15.6%

Increase in  
site-wide  
conversion  
rate

8x

ROI



## Subtle cues that create urgency

Consumers often trust the buying decisions of other shoppers more than they do their own. FOMO (or 'fear of missing out') leverages a shopper's need for communal validation – creating a level of urgency and product desirability that impacts conversion rate.

There are a number of FOMO-inspired tactics brands can use to influence a customer's buying decision, including:

**Personalized countdown timers:** Both first-time and returning visitors will be constantly aware of the ticking clock as they navigate your site.

**Product availability messaging:** Shown when product inventory dips below a certain number, engaging indecisive shoppers by showing them how many units are left of the item they're viewing.

**Product views messaging:** Similar to product availability messaging, product views play on the influence of social validation – prompting shoppers to eye out a product more if they see others are also interested.

**Promo banners:** These can include messages communicating free/discounted shipping (and can also target specific customer segments so you avoid discounting across the board)

True Vintage offers next-day delivery to customers who make a purchase within a limited time frame.

**Limited-time shipping options:** Encourages the customer make a purchase faster by guaranteeing fast shipping if they order within a certain time frame.

Gone are the days of 'basic' personalization. Strategic merchandising mixed with subtle, yet effective engagement cues are what will ensure your brand leads the digital charge.

## ABOUT NOSTO

Nosto enables retailers to deliver personalized digital shopping experiences at every touch point, across every device. An AI-powered Commerce Experience Platform designed for ease of use, Nosto empowers retailers to build, launch and optimize 1:1 omnichannel marketing campaigns and digital experiences without the need for dedicated IT resources or a lengthy implementation process. Leading commerce brands in over 100 countries use Nosto to grow their business and delight their customers. Nosto supports its clients from its offices in Helsinki, Berlin, Stockholm, London, New York, Los Angeles and Paris. To learn more, visit [www.nosto.com](https://www.nosto.com).

The Avalara logo is displayed in white text on a magenta rectangular background.

# Automate sales tax compliance in 2021

Selling online enables retailers to connect with customers near and far – and with COVID-19, it's become essential. Whether your customers are down the street or three states over, your ecommerce store needs to be able to handle the complexities of sales tax compliance.

## Nexus, tax rates, and product taxability

Sales tax nexus – the connection between a business and a state that allows a state to impose a sales tax collection obligation on the business — was once based almost entirely on physical presence. While physical presence in a state still creates sales tax nexus, states can now base nexus solely on economic activity in a state, or economic nexus.

Since most states enforce economic nexus, many businesses are required to collect sales tax in multiple states. To get it right, they need to know whether the goods and services they sell are taxable, and if so, which rate to apply.

Product taxability rules vary by location and are subject to change. There are complex taxability rules for a host of products and services, and determining the taxability of delivery or shipping charges is often challenging.

---

**Author: Gail Cole**

Senior Marketing Writer  
Avalara

---

Taxability can also impact your nexus footprint: Some states include exempt transactions in their economic nexus threshold, while other states only count taxable sales. You need to know what's what to know whether you're at risk of creating economic nexus.

If you do have an obligation to collect and the products you sell are taxable, you need to know which rate to apply to each sale. There are more than 13,000 different sales tax jurisdictions in the United States, many of them overlapping. Each has its own rate and reporting code.

Sales tax rates do not align with ZIP codes, so the most effective way to determine the proper rate for any transaction is to use geolocation technology that bases rates on the exact location of the sale. When incorporated into an online shopping cart, rates can be determined in the blink of an eye and changes are automatically updated in the system.

//

"I don't lose sleep worrying about late or misfiled taxes and penalties, and Avalara keeps us up-to-date as requirements change." – Robin Hecht, Controller Boll & Branch





Boll & Branch's ethos, "We don't do what's easy - we do what's right", guides how the brand's finance department approaches its sales tax obligations.

# 2014

Selling online  
with a warehouse  
in CA and an  
office in NJ

# 2021

Selling through  
Nordstrom, Boll  
& Branch stores,  
and online



**Tax challenge, meet tax solution.**  
**Avalara reduces the hassle and complexity of tax compliance at every stage – no matter the industry or size of your business.**

## Cross-border/multi-channel sales and managing sales tax

Selling across state and international lines? Once you cross a state's economic nexus sales or transaction threshold, you're required to register with the tax authority and comply with sales and use tax laws. Unfortunately, economic nexus thresholds differ from state to state.

Businesses with exempt customers need an ecommerce platform capable of handling exempt transactions: It should identify when tax should not be collected and work in concert with an exemption certificate management tool to collect all necessary information from exempt purchasers.

It's important to remember that exempt sales can impact your nexus footprint because many states include exempt sales in their economic nexus thresholds.

Businesses that sell through multiple channels can experience complications with sales and use tax compliance. You need to know whether sales made through a marketplace should be included when calculating an economic nexus threshold, and if those sales need to be reported separately. You also need to ensure all sales are reported. The more manual your sales tax management, from calculations to returns, the more onerous and error-prone the task.

Additionally, every seller has to deal with returns at some point. The more streamlined the process — the easier it is for customers to return products — the more satisfied customers will be.

Can an online purchase be returned or exchanged at a brick-and-mortar store? Is the shipping on return packages free? These are all important factors to consider. Equally important is getting the sales tax on returns and exchanges right: Sales tax refunds must be accurately reported. Using one system to calculate sales tax, file returns, and remit tax helps ensure nothing gets lost in the process. Look at your ecommerce platform with a critical eye. Make sure it does everything you need, including calculating sales tax, managing exempt sales, and facilitating returns.

---

## ABOUT AVALARA

Avalara helps businesses of all sizes get tax compliance right. In partnership with leading ERP, accounting, ecommerce, and other financial management system providers, Avalara delivers cloud-based compliance solutions for various transaction taxes, including sales and use, VAT, GST, excise, communications, lodging, and other indirect tax types. Headquartered in Seattle, Avalara has offices across the U.S. and around the world in Brazil, Europe, and India.

More information at [avalara.com](https://avalara.com).

# Creating a first-class customer experience online



Having a well-designed website no longer sets brands apart from competitors. With more ecommerce stores opening, it's become difficult to attract new customers.

How can ecommerce businesses stand out without a traditional physical store experience?

## Personalized experiences for online shoppers

The COVID pandemic accelerated ecommerce growth by 5 years as consumers move online for their shopping needs. As more shoppers moved online, merchants had to figure out how to accommodate all these new shoppers with smooth operations, support, and customer experiences.

Providing all these new shoppers with fast, helpful and empathetic service for their shopping became a difficult task - especially for those not equipped to handle it. By using a Helpdesk, brands could centralize all their customer communication into one platform (from email, social media, SMS, live chat and more).

Providing a positive customer experience pays off with improved conversion rates, retention and loyalty. Now more than ever is key for brands to personalize the experiences of online shoppers with friendly, helpful reps from your brand. Optimized customer journeys play a significant role in purchasing decisions and conversions. And the online experience is a key

---

**Author: Travis Cross**

Partner Marketing Manager  
Gorgias

---

differentiating factor as [86% of shoppers](#) are willing to purchase if the experience is great. And [91% of consumers](#) "are more likely to shop with brands that recognize, remember and provide relevant offers and recommendations".

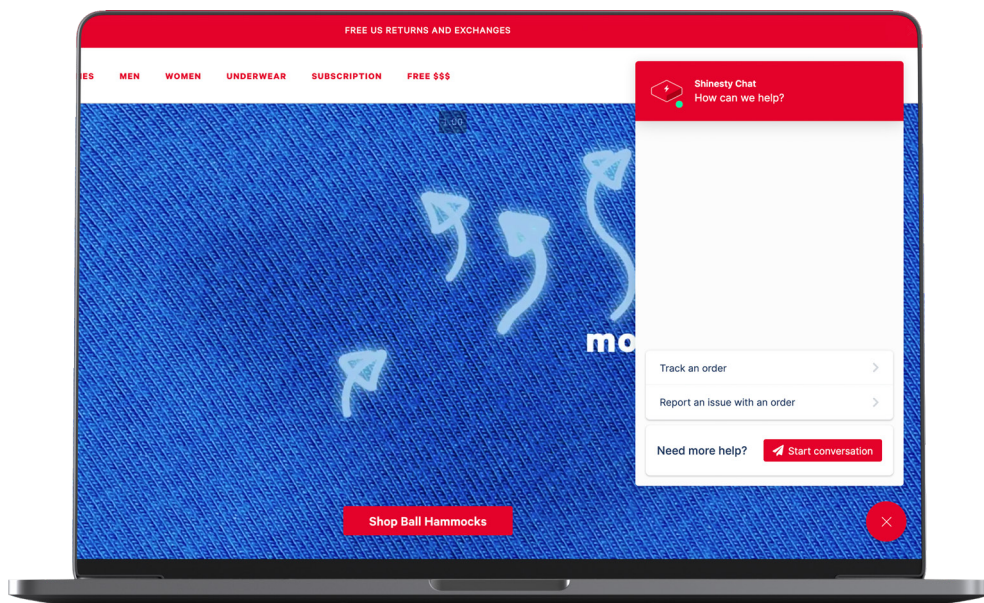
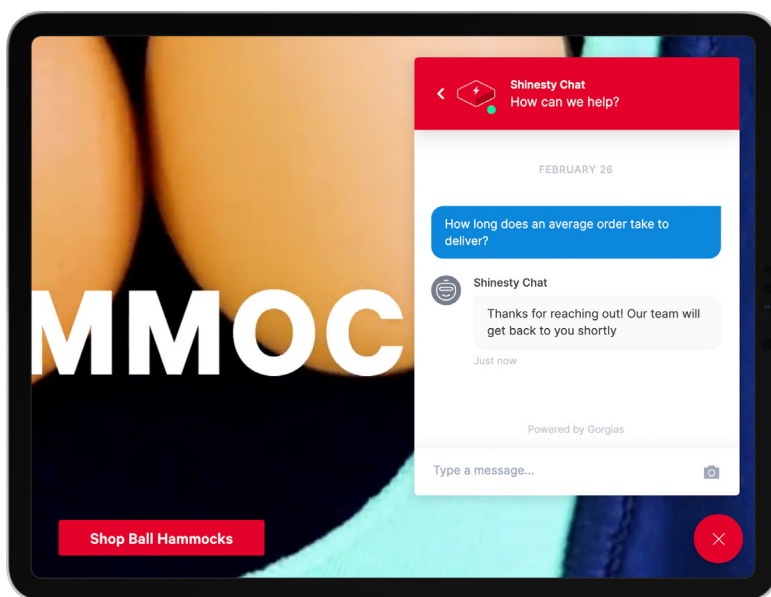
5 out of 10 people would not make another purchase if given a bad customer experience, and as marketing and acquisition costs continue to increase, it's more important than ever to focus on retaining the customers who are taking a chance on your brand.

During the pandemic, being able to provide helpful service was critical to elevating a customers experience, rapport and trust building.

Merchants using an ecommerce helpdesk can drastically upgrade their customer service even with small teams. Gorgias is built to automate commonly asked questions - personalized with Shopify customer data - to improve first response times, give agents more time on complex tickets, and provide live chat to support shoppers through their buying decisions.



"Shoppers who open a live chat conversation are 2.8x more likely to convert and purchase."



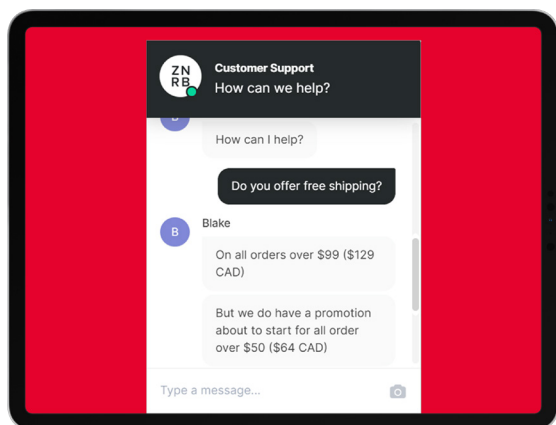
Launch live chat on Cart or Product pages to ease into inquiry volume and optimize based on consumer feedback before offering live chat site-wide.

28%

Conversion  
rate for pre-  
sale chats or  
SMS replied  
in < 10 min

>25%

In sales via  
5% increase  
in retention



Respond to your audience asking about your products on ads and social posts, increasing your sales and ad effectiveness by 5% increase in ad-spend.

## Replicating the in-store experience with livechat

Providing fast, always-on, personalized shopping experiences have been traditionally challenging, and few brands have actually been able to deliver to modern online shoppers. The modern online shopper is always “on” and is looking for exceptional CX from the brands they shop and engage with.

Traditionally, ecommerce websites have not been flexible enough to meet these expectations. But with new tech emerging, brands have an opportunity to set themselves apart from the rest of the pack.

How? Utilizing live chat to replicate the in-store experience, online.

Knowing your busiest hours and supporting shoppers when they are most engaged on your website can catch potential shoppers as they’re thinking about a purchase. When a website visitor is in the midst of their decision-making process, you can send a stand-by message letting them know you’re available to chat immediately.

Shoppers who open a [live chat conversation](#) are 2.8x more likely to convert and purchase. Live chat is a great way to engage shoppers on a personal level and overcome the obstacles to purchase that are concerning them at that very moment.

Incorporating live chat on your checkout page gives shoppers a chance to ask any questions they might have that could prevent them from completing their purchase.

But if not used correctly, live chat can damage your conversion rate.

You don’t want to distract your shoppers in the most important stage of the customer journey. So, the best way to use live chat on checkout pages is to insert a live chat button in a visible spot on these pages that never pops up by default.

Additionally, options like Gorgias allow you to add fields (such as email) to your chat visitors can be required to enter their email address to start chatting with you, which allows you to capture new leads.

---

## ABOUT GORGIAS

Gorgias is a leading helpdesk for Shopify, Magento and BigCommerce merchants where retailers can manage all of their customer communication & tickets in one platform (email, social media, SMS, phone). It’s powered with machine learning to automate up to 25% of commonly asked questions and seamlessly integrates into your existing tech stack to deliver better customer support.



# Think flexible payments aren't sexy? Think again.

The Klarna logo is displayed in white text on a bright pink rectangular background.

When you think of payment solutions, you probably think of layaways, BNPL, try-before-you-buy, and other financing options—and you'd be right. But there's more to payment solutions than just offering your customers a more flexible way to pay.

---

**Author: Ashley Young**

Partner Marketing Manager  
Klarna

---

## Payment solutions as a marketing tool

The events of 2020 not only transformed the way people shop, but what they buy and how they pay for it. Offering flexible payment options across all sales channels is now a standard, accelerated by the shift towards online shopping and shoppers becoming increasingly more mindful of their budgets. But beyond offering customers a more flexible way to pay, payment solutions can also drive top funnel engagement and preference.

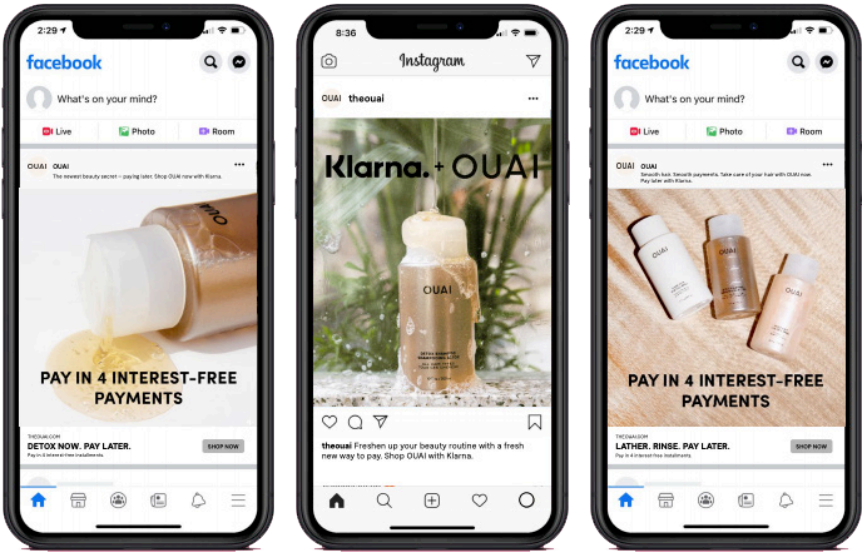
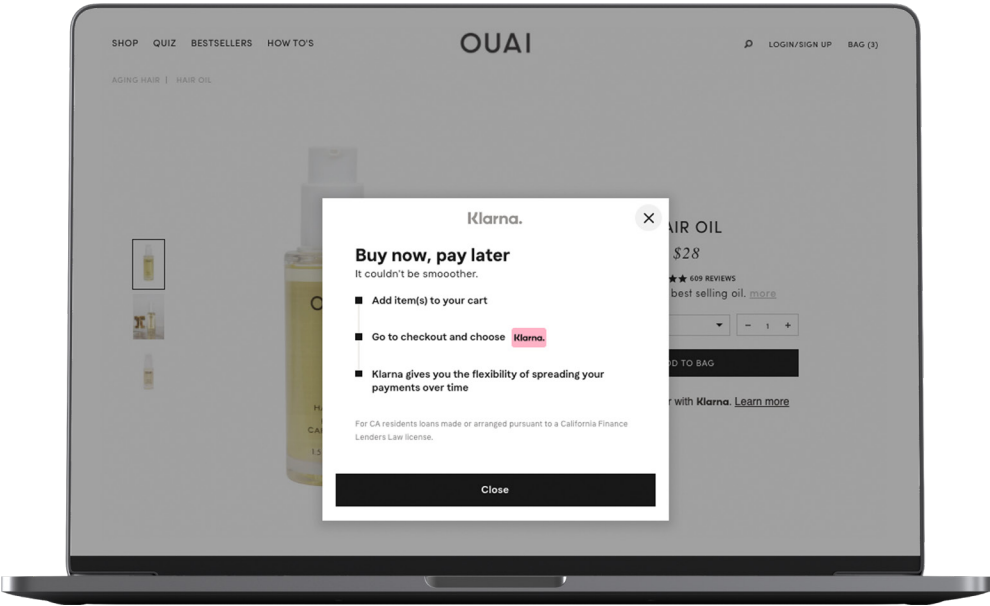
Klarna, the leading global shopping service and payments provider serving more than 90 million shoppers and 200,000 retail partners around the world, has seen firsthand how this shift in consumer spending behavior and expectations means that payment solutions can—and should—be utilized as a marketing and lead gen channel.

“Shoppers today, especially young shoppers, have different expectations than they once had. Because Klarna has built such an engaging brand that truly

resonates with shoppers of today's generation, we've built this vast network of millions of shoppers that are highly engaged and continue to use Klarna to shop everywhere,” says Matt Suraci, Head of Commercial, Klarna. “Because of this, we understand each shopper's persona and shopping behaviors, allowing us to be extremely targeted in our approach of promoting brands that are most relevant to them, making us one of the strongest tools a retailer can use for customer acquisition.”

Leveraging payment options to drive business growth starts with understanding your customers' wants and needs, and curating a shopping experience accordingly. One such example of how offering flexible payments can go beyond just making flexible payment options available is OUAL Haircare, who implemented Klarna's pay in four solution to acquire new consumers and make its products more affordable. With this new value proposition, OUAL's next challenge was to ensure shoppers were aware that they had the ability to pay in Klarna.

“We understand each shopper's persona and shopping behaviors, allowing us to be extremely targeted in our approach of promoting brands that are most relevant to them.” - Matt Suraci, Head of Commercial, Klarna



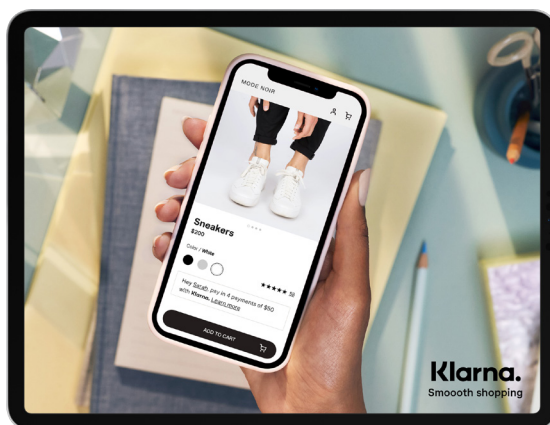
OUAI, a luxury hair care brand, increased AOV and boosted ROAS by 4X with Klarna.

28%

More add-to-carts

30%

More clicks to OUAI's site



## Finding the perfect match

Beyond checkout inclusion, OUAL used On-site messaging and incorporated Klarna throughout their top funnel marketing. From home page to product page announcements, On-site messaging ensures shoppers are aware of the option to checkout with flexible payment methods at each touchpoint in the shopping journey. OUAL also tested top funnel ad creative with and without Klarna messaging in their social ads. Though spend was the same, the Klarna ads proved more efficient, driving 30% more clicks to OUAL's site. With Klarna's interest-free payment tool available at checkout, OUAL's ads saw 28% more add-to-carts and an overall 4x return on ad spend (ROAS). Overall, OUAL has seen an increase of 20% average order value (AOV) by implementing Klarna. Read more [here](#).

As you work to optimize all touchpoints of your customer journey both online and in-store, it's important to take advantage of all the tools available to reach customers before, during, and after checkout. Choosing a payment partner with brand loyalty and a large following can enhance an omnichannel marketing approach and increase your ability to reach customers. To understand how effective a payments company can be as a marketing partner, learn how many customers are in their user base, number of monthly active users in their app, number of app downloads, and average

**Klarna is the brand for a new generation of shoppers.**

in-app session data to understand how engaged their audience truly is.

With [59% of shoppers](#) expecting the same level of customer service from retailers in-store and online, a consumer-centric brand, product, and experience are key. Leaning on a solution who can boost your marketing efforts through their own branding, complement your on-site messaging, and provide a seamless and intuitive post-purchase experience will take your business to the next level.

## ABOUT KLARNA

We make shopping smooth. With Klarna consumers can buy now and pay later, so they can get what they love today. Klarna's offering to consumers and retailers include payments, social shopping, and personal finances. Over 250,000 retail partners, including Etsy, STAUD, HAUS Laboratories, Thirteen Lune, Rebecca Minkoff, Beautycounter, and Fellow Barber have enabled Klarna's innovative shopping experience online and in-store. Klarna is one of the most highly valued private fintechs globally with a valuation of \$31 billion. Klarna was founded in 2005, has over 3,500 employees and is active in 17 countries. Learn more at [klarna.com](https://klarna.com).



# Solving personalization challenges with automation

Customers' inboxes are flooded with emails, so only the relevant earn attention. Failing to take customer preferences into account means risking customer loyalty and revenue. So how do you effectively scale 1:1 customer communications in email?

## The key to keep customers? Personalize + automate

When we say personalize, we don't mean simply including a first name in an email. The key to customer retention is crafting a relevant experience based on someone's behaviour with your brand.

Automated emails are inherently personalized because they're based on the actions that someone takes on your site. Manual email sends can be timely and relevant, but there are certain messages (like an order confirmation) that resonate immediately after someone takes an action (like making a purchase).

In 2020, the average click rate for automated emails was 6.34% ([based on all emails sent with Klaviyo](#)). In comparison, the average click rate for manual email sends was 2.25%. Delighting customers with highly relevant messaging can be the tipping point to convert a one-time buyer into a lifelong customer, and automation is a time-saver for your business.

For coffee business Grind, 71% of revenue comes from repeat customers. And one of the key drivers is

---

**Author: Aubrey Harper**

Content Strategist, EMEA  
Klaviyo

---

the brand's automated emails triggered by the data they've collected about customers and the actions they've taken on the brand's site.

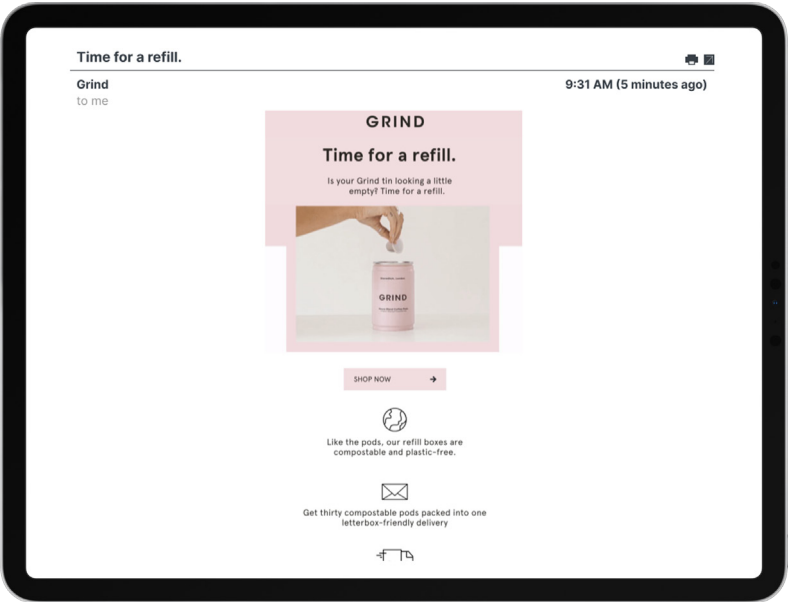
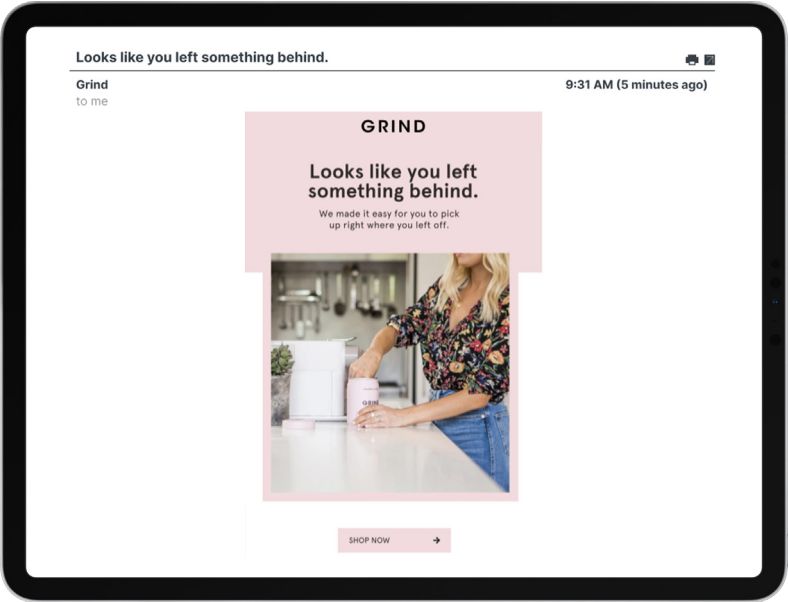
One example of the brand's automated campaigns is their email reminder to repurchase. Based on how long it takes to use a tin of 30 coffee pods, Grind's customers receive a reminder to resupply. This automated email flow drives 19% of Grind's total automated revenue and converts at 4.4%.

Grind's subscription cancellation is another example of a tailored automated message. Customers who cancel their subscription receive emails that address the specific concern they cited as their reason for cancellation.

The takeaway from these campaigns?

Your customers have engaged with your business because they see its value, so at key points in their journey, prove to them, in a personalized way, how they will benefit from your product or service.

“If you're sending content that's interesting, relevant, and personalized, then it's no different from marketing in person. You can't ignore email marketing—even if you'd like to.” - Frankie Cooke, Brand Coordinator, Grind



These automated emails help Grind send tailored messages at the perfect time in response to a customer's actions without having to manually click send.

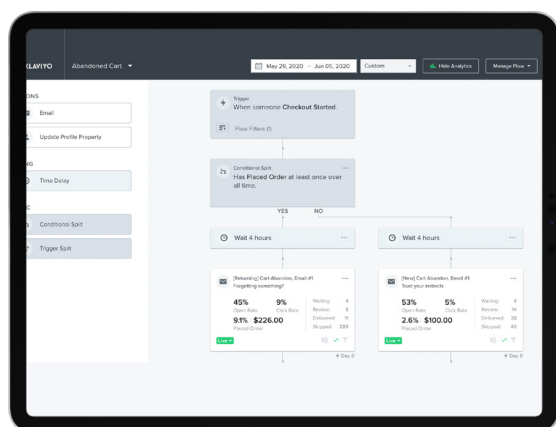
41%

Of automated flow revenue from abandoned cart

3,142%

YOY increase in revenue from email





Use real-time data to map out your ideal customer experience, based on key triggers like an abandoned cart or X number of days since last purchase.

## Win new customers with behavior-driven flows

Your current customers aren't the only people who respond to the personalization you employ with your automated emails. Capture the coveted attention of your future customers by showing them you're paying attention to and care about them.

One popular automated campaign is the abandoned cart email. Ecommerce brands may lose up to £12.9 billion (\$18 billion) in yearly sales revenue from abandoned carts, according to [Forrester Research](#). ecover some of that lost money by setting up an email series to nudge people to become customers.

Abandoned cart emails have high conversion rates: People open 45% of cart abandonment emails and click on 21% of emails, and 50% of the recipients who click make a purchase, according to [Moosend](#).

Based on those figures, cart abandonment emails have a purchase rate of just over 10%.

Grind uses two separate abandoned cart flows: A general one for customers who abandon one-off purchases and another for customers who abandon setting up a new subscription.

Grind's general abandoned cart series is their highest revenue-generating flow, driving a 12.3% conversion

rate and 41% of all revenue attributed to their automated emails.

*"Quite often, people have a look at our website and then they might forget about it and get distracted. It's not the case that they didn't want to purchase, so we send them a reminder and give a discount, which always helps," says Frankie Cooke, brand coordinator at Grind.*

Take advantage of the higher engagement and elevated customer experience value of automated campaigns. Your current and future customers will remember it—and your brand.

## ABOUT KLAVIYO

Klaviyo is a world-leading marketing automation platform dedicated to accelerating revenue and customer connection for online businesses using the channels they own like email, web and mobile. Enabling brands to leverage these owned marketing channels, Klaviyo makes it easy to store, access, analyze and use transactional and behavioral data to power highly-targeted customer and prospect communications. The company's hybrid customer-data and marketing-platform model allows companies to grow by fostering direct, high-fidelity relationships with customers, without giving up their valuable data to Facebook or Amazon. Over 60,000 innovative companies sell more with Klaviyo. Learn more at [www.klaviyo.com](http://www.klaviyo.com).

# On-site search: Make the journey to product delightful

The Klevu logo, featuring a stylized 'A' icon followed by the word 'KLEVU' in uppercase letters, all within a pink rectangular background.

Truly innovative product discovery technology has been the privilege of tech giants for too long. Here's how using an advanced on-site search solution can give your ecommerce business a boost from day one.

## The rise of natural language in search

Ecommerce search is changing, fast. Voice-led technologies are turning 'zero UI' interactions into ubiquitous experiences and consumers are getting more comfortable with using natural language for searching in all search experiences. Shoppers have realised that being more specific in how they search can get them relevant results more quickly and this behaviour is influencing not only web discovery, but ecommerce discovery. In fact, according to Google, mobile searches including qualifiers like "me" and "I" have grown over 60% in two years, signifying another shift toward a penchant for personalised results. This makes natural language processing within on-site search engines essential.

Klevu did research into the state of product discovery experiences on ecommerce websites and found that 78% of websites fail to deliver relevant results when processing complex search queries. Ecommerce websites that can deliver exact match results not only on the search results pages but also the type ahead search-as-you-type on mobile and desktop will see conversion rates soar.

---

**Author: Miles Tinsley**

Head of US

Klevu

---

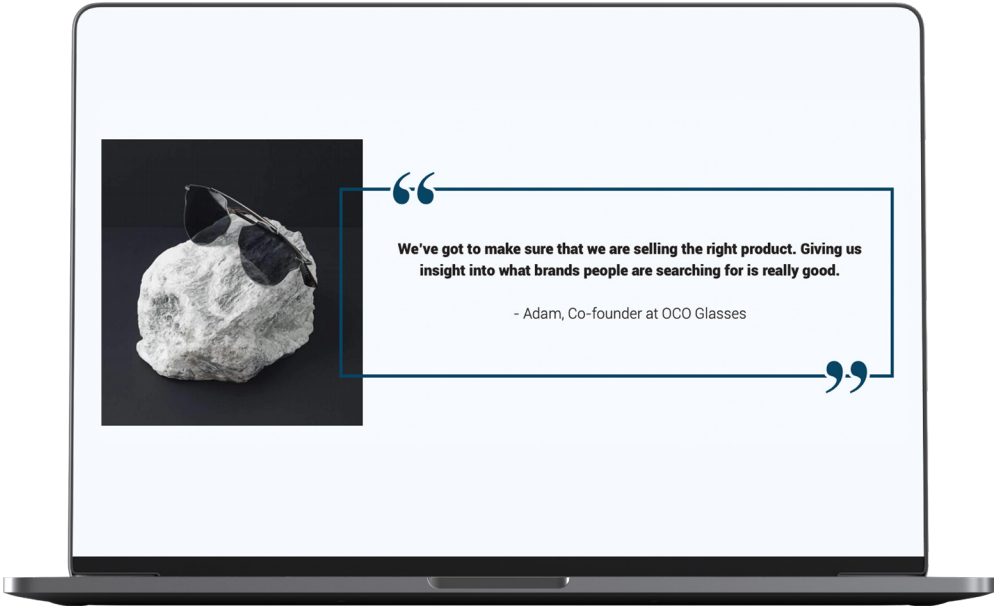
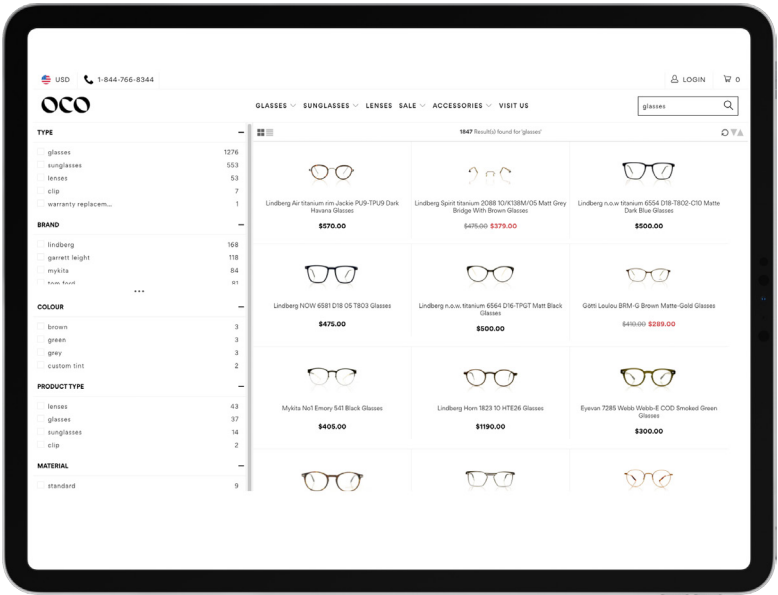
For luxury brand, Toteme, built by We Make Websites using Klevu's JSv2 library, the type ahead search delivers relevant results even when searching for product attributes such as price range and color ([try it here](#) and search for 'black boots under 600').

When the results are hyper-relevant, as in the Toteme example, it's beneficial to display relevant product information as quickly as possible. Displaying rich content such as product imagery, price and promotions can help shorten the journey to product and in the case of Oco Glasses, led to a 20% increase in site-wide conversion. ([Check out the search overlay here](#)).

All of these 'bells and whistles' on ecommerce websites can significantly impact conversion. If the search engine can handle natural language and display hyper-relevant results, the impact will be positive, if not, it may cause more harm than help.

“

“78% of websites fail to deliver relevant search results to complex queries.”



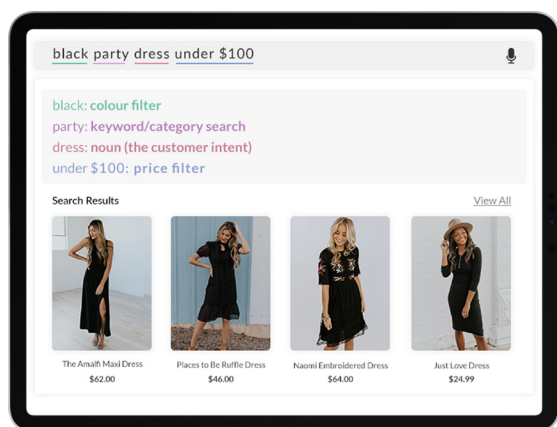
Product discovery at its best:  
OCO Glasses + Klevu

20%

increase in  
conversion  
rate site-  
wide

26%

longer time  
spent on the  
website after  
search



Using NLP, Klevu Smart Search can identify nuances of spoken or typed language, identify shopper intent, and display relevant results.

## Delight your shoppers with discovery

Truly innovative product discovery technology has been the privilege of tech giants such as Amazon and Google for too long. Retailers invest so much getting shoppers to their websites, only to hemorrhage much of that investment because the on-site search just doesn't work.

Exposing the search bar drives more shoppers to use search, and since search converts 4-6x higher than other website journeys, it's a no brainer to expose the search bar on mobile and desktop devices and make it really clear what shoppers can search for.

In brand new Klevu Ecommerce Discovery Index research, Klevu found that many retailers were not optimising the start of the product discovery journey, especially on mobile. The research found that 52% of retailers display the full search box on mobile, compared to 86% that display it on desktop devices. In addition, only 36% of retailers make it clear what shoppers can search for.

In conclusion, making search the best possible discovery journey is not just beneficial for shoppers, it provides you with relevant high-intent data you can use to personalise the rest of your website. How to optimise your search experience:

1. **Have the search box clearly visible** on page load with text in the box that helps shoppers know what they can search for, e.g. brand, advice, products.
2. Show a search overlay that **starts showing product and relevant content right away** when the shopper types into the search.
3. Ensure the on-site search can **handle natural language**, meaning that it can identify nuances of spoken or typed language to identify shopper intent and searches all available product data to return only relevant results.

There's never been a better time to double down on your on-site customer experience, and Klevu can help.

---

## ABOUT KLEVU

Through AI and NLP-powered product discovery technology, Klevu enables merchants to deliver hyper-relevant, personalized ecommerce experiences powered by real-time shopper intent. Klevu's AI Discovery Suite includes Search and Merchandising. For more information or to learn more, schedule a demo. Klevu solutions are quick and easy to install and compatible with all ecommerce platforms. Klevu powers thousands of ecommerce businesses worldwide and has offices in the UK, US, Sweden, Finland, and India.



# Customer communities: Your untapped revenue stream

[54% of customers](#) are loyal to brands if they feel part of a community – but “community” often gets a bad rep. It can be seen as a vanity tactic that’s hard to measure and doesn’t impact the bottom line.

However, brands with communities can see over [4,000% ROI](#).

## I’d like a perk with that: customer community in practice

2020’s quickest thinkers were the ones who built communities to stay in touch with their customers. They knew that as consumers became disconnected, they would seek ways to fill gaps. For many shoppers, brands they already felt connected to satisfied that craving:

- In the first half of 2020, [68% of consumers](#) preferred to return to the comfort of brands they already knew and trusted.

Brands that built on this emotional attachment and united their existing customers saw more brand engagement. They gave customers a reason to return to their store and engage even when they weren’t looking to spend. But how?

[LIVELY](#) is a prime example of this. Their website houses a whole space for community-focused

---

**Author: Mollie Woolnough-Rai**  
Senior Content Marketing Executive  
LoyaltyLion

---

content, including "[The Lively Podcast](#)" – where they interview female entrepreneurs – and keep recordings of the events they’ve run, such as baking tutorials and yoga sessions.

LIVELY’s ambassador program also encourages customers to become “part of a community of smart, strong women”.

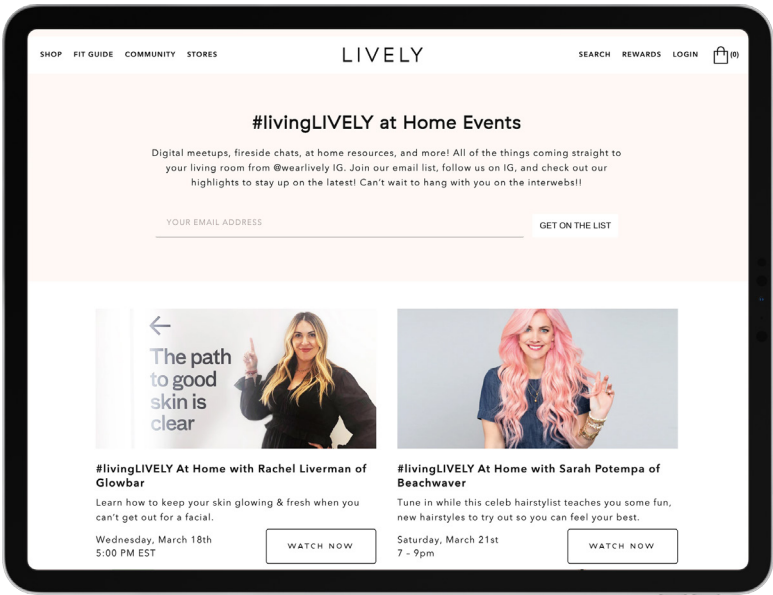
Once registered, ambassadors can participate in the brand’s #GivingLIVELY moments (their philanthropic activities) and get “Crew perks”. This includes early access to launches, brand swag, and the opportunity to be featured on LIVELY’s own social platforms.

[LIVELY](#)’s community members also get enrolled into the brand’s loyalty program when they create an account. Here, members get more exclusive rewards the more they spend. Those in the top tier of the program get experiences like the ability to vote on upcoming styles and invites to exclusive events.

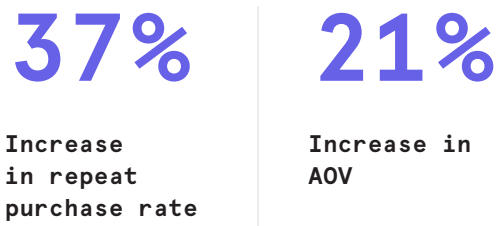


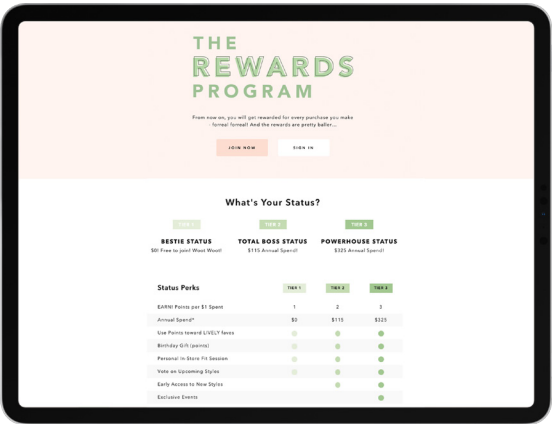
“Our loyalty program is an extension of this appreciation for our community and a way for us to show our customers how much we value them.”  
– Michelle, Founder and CEO, LIVELY





LIVELY’s landing pages for “The Lively Podcast” and their “at Home Events”.





Let’s connect: Finding your shared consciousness

Customer communities aren’t only about giving your shoppers a better customer experience. They’re also about promoting shared values and finding common interests you can connect on.

With conscious consumerism on the rise ([62% of customers](#) will be loyal to a brand if it has a positive social impact on the causes they care about) why not connect over a shared, moral responsibility? Brands like [Edgard & Cooper](#) and [Pacifica Beauty](#) are using their loyalty programs to unite their communities through charitable initiatives:

- [Edgard & Cooper](#) lets customers spend their loyalty points to plant a tree
- [Pacifica](#) gifts shoppers points if they return their empty packaging to be recycled

By giving their communities the tools to do good through the program, brands can encourage customers to connect with their store (and one another) around shared values. This means they’ll return and spend more with these stores, rather than turning to others in the market they aren’t aligned with. Once you’ve welcomed your existing customers into your community you need to stop it from getting stale. It’s now your job to get fresh faces interested and engaging with it.

LIVELY’s loyalty program and tiers. These community-focused initiatives and VIP rewards re-engage LIVELY’s existing customers – even when they weren’t planning to purchase. The perks also show that the brand cares about their community, strengthening the emotional bond with customers.

The more shoppers feel part of LIVELY’s brand world, the more likely they are to become engaged community members who spend more and share the brand.

If you’ve done a good job of making your customers feel valued through perks and shared values they’ll be itching to share you with others they think will like you. Encourage your customers to welcome new members to your community with a referral program that rewards shoppers for introducing your store to others. The bikini brand, Cupshe, rewards customers 1,000 loyalty points if they refer a friend, for example.

Customers acquired this way spend [200% more on average](#). This is because the recommendation came from someone they know. And, if you’ve got community initiatives they can go back to and engage with, bingo: you’ve got them locked in and spending for the long-haul.

ABOUT LOYALTYLION

[LoyaltyLion](#) is a data-driven loyalty and engagement platform that powers ecommerce growth. A loyalty program is about more than points and rewards. It is about unlocking real insights to increase customer lifetime value. With LoyaltyLion, you can build a better understanding of what drives longer-lasting customer relationships, and use those insights to connect and accelerate your existing marketing efforts. Proven to increase retention and spend, LoyaltyLion is trusted by thousands of fast-growth ecommerce merchants worldwide.

# Returns are inevitable: make them less painful



It's no secret that returns are a pain point, with ecommerce rates 2-3x higher than in-store. But a great returns experience can drive loyalty: [76% of customers say](#) it influences repeat visits. So how do you make returns beneficial to your business?

## Convenience as a competitive advantage

One of the most important strategies you can implement is to expand the number of convenient options you offer customers so they can choose what works best for them. [Narvar research](#) found that consumers are increasingly seeking convenience and predictability. The restrictions posed in response to the pandemic have only accelerated these preferences:

Consumers are demanding **more accessible locations** to make the most of their trips out of the house. A third of consumers used an [alternative location](#) like a locker or pharmacy to drop off their last return, with 30-40% of them citing convenience of location or hours as their primary motivation, and 41% saying they like to consolidate multiple errands in one trip. For retailers who may have a limited store footprint, leveraging a network of locations like this can increase your reach beyond driving foot traffic back to your stores.

---

**Author: Andria Tay**

Director of Marketing  
Narvar

---

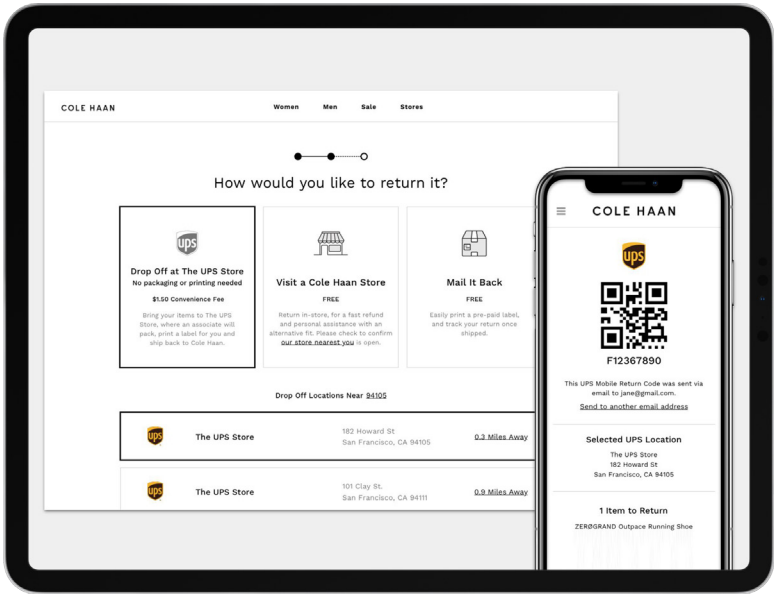
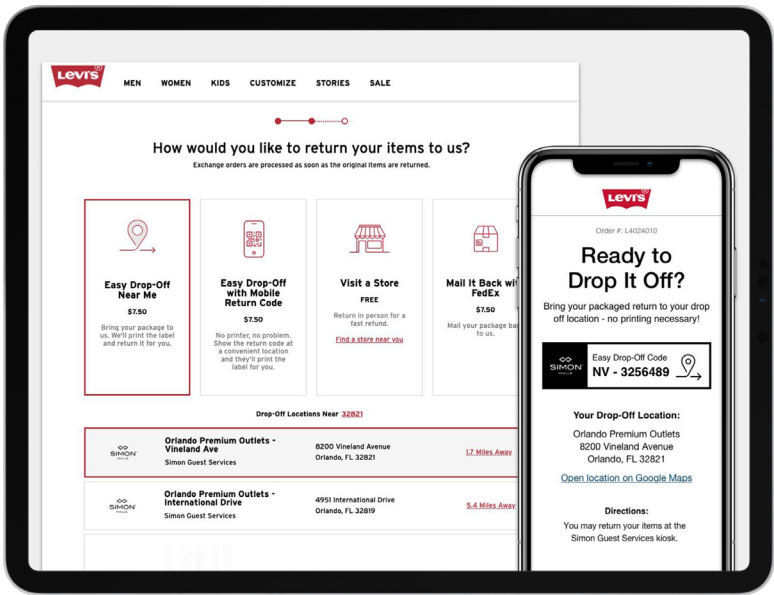
Nearly double the prior year, 28% say they want a **printerless option (like a mobile QR or short code)**. Besides losing access to printers at the office or school during lockdown, it's just one fewer task to deal with.

About 20% said they'd be **willing to pay up to \$5 to have return packaging provided**, indicating how much they really value this service. From a real-world perspective: Narvar launched [boxless returns with UPS](#) right before the holidays with a selection of apparel & footwear brands, and we've seen a consistent 10% adoption rate of this service and very high NPS scores.

Retailers also benefit because consumers return faster when they are provided more convenient options, reducing the time that inventory is out of circulation. In some cases, you'll also see reduced return shipping rates when the package is sent from a commercial location like Walgreens rather than a residential address.

//

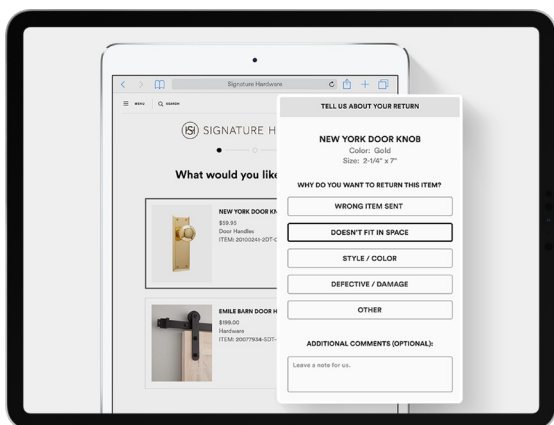
"By leveraging the returns data we receive from Narvar, we can better meet [customer] expectations as well as reduce returns before they happen."  
- Sean Fisher, Signature Hardware



Levi's and Cole Haan provide an array of return options that allows customers to choose what is most convenient for them.

28%  
Want  
printerless  
(QR code/  
no label)  
returns

25%  
Average  
potential  
for returns  
to become  
exchanges



Signature Hardware is one of the many retailers using timely insights from the Narvar online portal to prevent returns in the first place.

## Big benefits of taking the label out of the box

Another key strategic change is to shift your returns process online. By taking a pre-printed label out of the box and giving customers an easy-to-use online portal to process returns, you gain control and data visibility which can be leveraged in highly impactful ways:

- **Smart rules-based routing of returns reduces operational & shipping costs.** You can plan resourcing at DCs and send inventory to the nearest location or directly to a store where it's needed, which is more eco-friendly.
- You can **offer immediate online exchanges to “save the sale”**. Brands report about 15-35% of potential returns becoming exchanges, depending on product category and inventory availability.
- **Prevent returns in the first place** by improving product information on the fly or fixing quality issues further up the supply chain. Aggregated data about returns reasons allows you to identify actionable issues early, before receiving the return. Dozens of brands report they've reduced return rates for “problem” items by supplying more accurate sizing advice or photos based on these insights — critical since over 60% of consumers now report “[bracketing](#)” regularly.

[Signature Hardware](#) has seen great benefits from timely, rich data that provides additional fidelity into what's being returned and why. With this new insight, they can do ongoing quality checks and update product images and descriptions to make sure what they're showing is true to life. If there is a serious, recurring issue, the team can alert the manufacturer or remove the product from inventory.

“It is critical for us to provide the highest-quality product we can, and ensure that it meets customer expectations upon arrival,” says Sean Fisher, Senior Director, Brand Experience. “By leveraging the returns data we receive from Narvar, we can better meet those expectations as well as reduce returns before they happen.”

## ABOUT NARVAR

Narvar is an intelligent customer experience platform that helps commerce companies simplify the everyday lives of consumers. Serving over 800+retailers globally including Sephora, Patagonia, Levi's, Bose, Warby Parker, Home Depot, LVMH, and L'Oréal, Narvar ensures every touchpoint along the consumer purchase journey engages consumers and enables emotional connections—from pre-purchase to in-store experiences and beyond. With customizable customer messaging and tailored interfaces driven by unparalleled data intelligence, Narvar empowers commerce brands to turn every touchpoint into an opportunity. To learn more about Narvar Return for Shopify, visit [narvar.com](https://narvar.com).

# Capitalizing on revenue growth using subscriptions



You know what's often better than getting new customers? Retaining the ones you have. Attention spans are more fickle than they've ever been, so how can you keep the focus of your customers and convert it into revenue?

---

**Author: Chase Alderton**  
Growth Marketing Manager  
ReCharge

---

## Subscriptions as a retention tool

Subscriptions have been one of the most important and paradigm-shifting business models of the 21st century. Many of the largest and most successful companies have been built on recurring revenue or shifted their legacy businesses to this model like Microsoft and Adobe.

Consumers are well-conditioned to purchasing subscriptions online thanks to trailblazing digital and media companies such as Netflix and Spotify. The data speaks for itself with the subscription market projected to grow to [\\$478 billion by 2025](#).

Customer retention is one of the major benefits of a subscription model. Merchants who can provide a quality product delivered on a consistent cadence

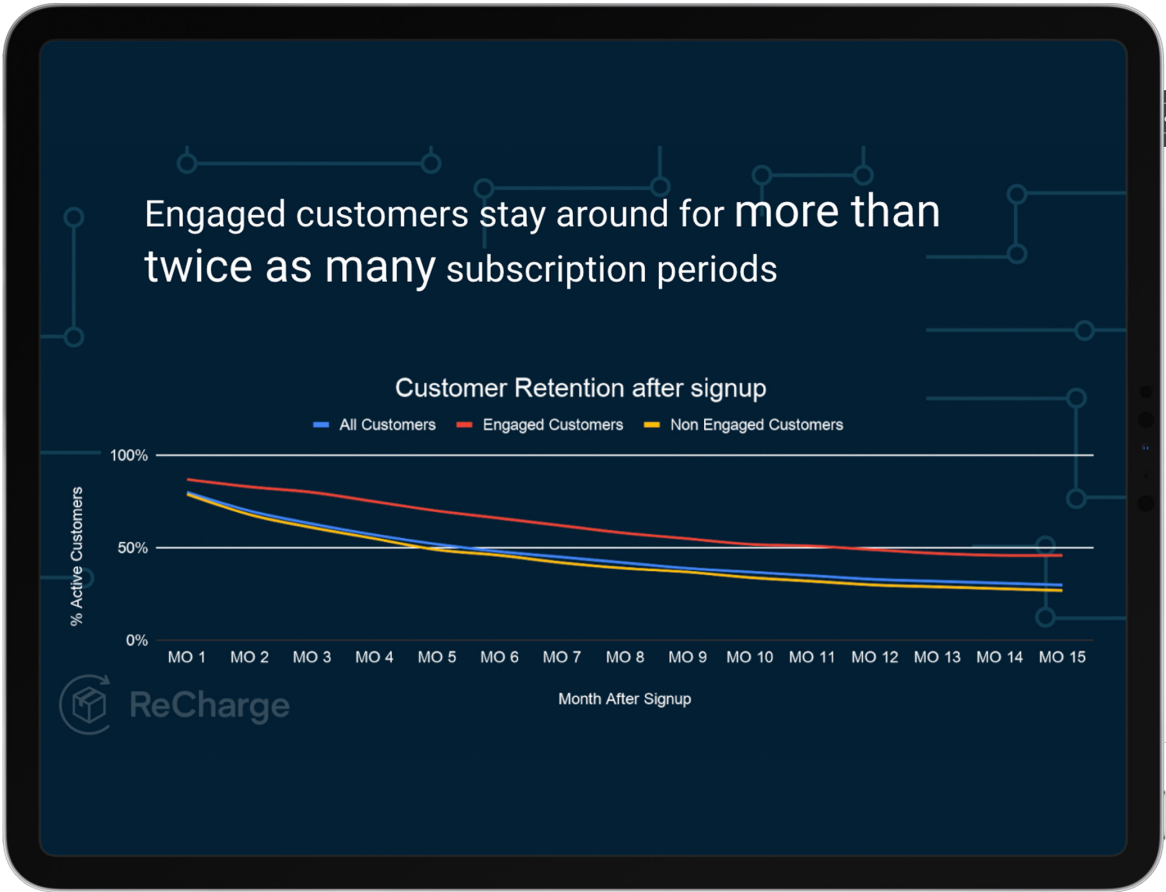
unlock a key to stable growth and scale past plateaus. Customers share in the windfall as well, enjoying the convenience of the product they desire delivered regularly on a predictable schedule of their choosing.

Replenishable products like kitchen and bathroom items, supplements and nutrition, or beauty and personal care products have seen tremendous success by harnessing the power of subscriptions.

The benefits to [reducing churn](#) are baked into the subscription model, with customers getting the products they want on their timelines. What's more, [customers who are engaged with the brand](#) often stay subscribed up to twice as long as other consumers.



"The benefits to reducing churn are baked into the subscription model, with customers getting the products they want on their timelines."



The more engaged a customer is with the brand, the greater retention that can be expected.

\$478B

Subscriptions projected to grow to \$478B by 2025

2x

Engaged customers stay subscribed up to 2X longer





## Non-revenue activities that actually grow revenue

Finding creative ways to engage with your subscribers has proven to be successful in boosting retention, which in turn leads to revenue growth.

Traditional ecommerce companies struggle to maintain attention of their customers in a transactional business model. When the extent of the relationship ends at the checkout, there aren't opportunities to re-engage organically with customers.

With subscriptions and a relational model of commerce, the conversation between merchant and subscriber is ongoing. From initial welcome emails, Customer Portal activities (skip, swap or one time purchases add-ons), upcoming shipment notifications to unboxing notes — there are countless opportunities to continue growing engagement.

As a subscriber to [Tiege Hanley](#), the quality of the engagement they've created has been outstanding. For example, in the first box they send customers receive a handwritten note welcoming them to the Tiege Hanley team as well as an instruction card showing how to use their products to get the best results.

Tiege Hanley's insert showing how to use the products in the box to get the most out of them.

With each upcoming shipment Tiege Hanley were always teasing surprise products to come or sending little notes of appreciation. The experience never gets old or feels disingenuous, which maintains a personal relationship with the brand (and my ongoing subscription) strong month over month.

While most brands continue to look for activities that grow measurable revenue day after day, sometimes the best retention boosting activities are the ones that have nothing to do with revenue, but everything to do with community.

## ABOUT RECHARGE

ReCharge is guided by the mission to power subscriptions for the fastest growing brands. The ReCharge platform allows merchants to reduce their churn and increase lifetime value by creating a seamless buying experience. ReCharge is used by over 14,000 businesses and over 20 million end customers, including brands like Native Deodorant, Hubble Contacts, Lola, Soylent and Billie.



# Managing the order tsunami in ecommerce's new era

The pandemic-driven digital acceleration has been good news for many ecommerce enterprises that have seen sales double in a time of lockdowns. But with the order surge comes a need for speed while protecting the business and the customer experience.

## The great digital acceleration

We can all stipulate that ecommerce is not looking back. The mountainous wave of online sales driven by stay-at-home orders and consumers' wariness of shopping in stores has pushed digital sales to new heights. Sales in key verticals continue to show year-over-year [increases of 80% to 100%](#), according to Signifyd's Ecommerce Pulse data. Each of Signifyd's top 500 customers saw sales at least double in 2020.

Every day now is like the peak of the holiday season. The increase in orders brings a need to scale, while redoubling efforts to protect the enterprise from fraud and consumer abuse. Fraudsters capitalize on chaos. As fraud teams scrambled to keep up with the crush of additional orders, fraud attacks increased.

Fraud pressure — defined as the number of very risky orders likely to be fraudulent — is up nearly 4x this month since pre-pandemic days, Signifyd data shows. And instances of consumer abuse — cases in which a shopper falsely says an online order never

---

**Author: Mike Cassidy**  
Lead Storyteller  
Signifyd

---

arrived or says they never made a purchase that they did — are also on the rise during the pandemic. Signifyd's Customer Abuse Index — a measure of chargebacks filed and won by Signifyd — is up more than 350% compared to a pre-pandemic benchmark.

All of these trends accelerate the challenges that online and omnichannel retailers have faced since well before the pandemic. Health and beauty technology brand CurrentBody has been growing rapidly while expanding globally. The difficulty of sorting legitimate from fraudulent orders in a new territory proved too much for CurrentBody's previous fraud-protection provider. CurrentBody had to pick up the slack, spending as many as 20 hours a week reviewing orders the previous vendor declined.

That commitment simply wasn't sustainable, given CurrentBody's rapid growth.

So, CurrentBody turned to Signifyd.



"Our team had to constantly make requests for more information and waste time on the phone with customer success. It was clear this process needed an overhaul." - Lynn Carbine, CurrentBody Head of Trading



# CURRENTBODY

THE BEAUTY DEVICE EXPERTS

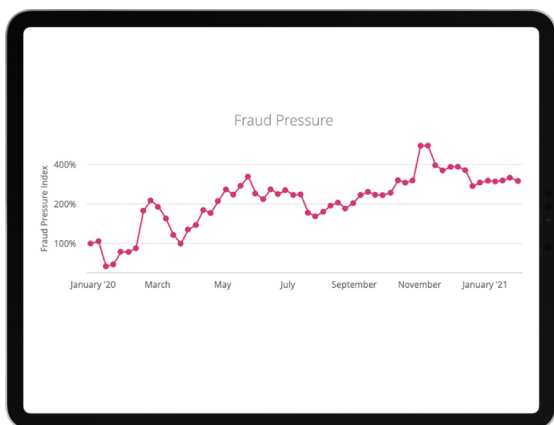
CurrentBody lowered its chargeback rate and boosted approval rate with Signifyd's Commerce Protection Platform – all while growing dramatically and expanding internationally.

**.04%**

.5% to .04%  
CurrentBody  
chargeback rate  
improvement

**98%**

93% to 98%  
CurrentBody  
approval rate  
improvement



Fraud pressure has increased dramatically during the pandemic as fraud rings seek to take advantage of the disruption.

## Finding answers to pandemic-era challenges

By implementing Signifyd's Revenue Protection solution, CurrentBody significantly decreased its chargeback rate and increased its approval rate, while reducing the time it dedicated to manually reviewing orders from 20 hours a week to one to four hours a week. Furthermore, Signifyd's Abuse Prevention solution helped CurrentBody stamp out unauthorized resellers who potentially could harm the CurrentBody brand and upset key relationships with those who actually were authorized to resell CurrentBody products.

Signifyd's machine-learning-based Commerce Protection Platform was instrumental in CurrentBody being able to expand into three new countries without worrying about scaling up for increased orders with novel characteristics.

And the story doesn't end there — not for CurrentBody, which has additional and aggressive international expansion plans, nor for other merchants looking forward to a post-COVID world.

Signifyd's market research indicates that consumers intend to stick with the habits they've formed during the pandemic. Specifically, 49% of those surveyed by Upwave on behalf of Signifyd said they intended to continue to do more of their shopping online even once the virus is vanquished.

And somewhat less uplifting is the evidence that consumers may have grown more comfortable with being dishonest in order to take advantage of brands and merchants selling online. In a Signifyd consumer sentiment survey conducted six months into the pandemic, 40% of respondents admitted to falsely claiming that a legitimate charge on their credit card statement was fraudulent. Another 33% had [claimed that an online order never arrived](#) or that it was unsatisfactory, when neither was true. That figure was up from 14% who admitted to such falsehoods when Signifyd asked similar questions in January 2020.

All of which is to say that the increase in ecommerce orders is not going to fade. And neither is the increase in fraud and abuse that goes along with it.

---

## ABOUT SIGNIFYD

Signifyd provides an end-to-end Commerce Protection Platform that leverages its Commerce Network to maximize conversion, automate customer experience and eliminate fraud and customer abuse for retailers. Signifyd counts among its customers a number of companies on the Fortune 1000 and Internet Retailer Top 500 lists. Signifyd is headquartered in San Jose, CA., with locations in Denver, New York, Mexico City, Belfast and London.

# Leverage mobile apps to skyrocket your ecomm brand



2020 was all about mobile. For the first time, we saw brands seriously thinking with a mobile-first mentality, and not just a “mobile-friendly” one. 2021 is going to take this a step further with codeless mobile apps as a leading trend in the eCommerce space.

## Modernize mobile for constant conversions

With folks on lockdown, businesses pivoted to address the complex challenges posed by the crisis and how they'll evolve moving forward. The clear consensus for retail brands was to prioritize the online experience. In fact, 2020 demonstrated that COVID-19 accelerated companies' digital strategies by [an average of 6 years](#). Brands needed to specifically focus on mobile because a majority of ecommerce traffic comes from shopper's devices. In 2021, mobile app usage and consumer spending in-app is predicted to continue to skyrocket, with no sign of plateau. Adding a mobile app to your omnichannel strategy is a powerful move to drown out the noise and boost rapid retention with a mobile commerce channel that you actually have full control over.

Ecommerce brands are turning to native apps because they are literally built for the mobile shopper and it's the sure way to offer the best mobile

---

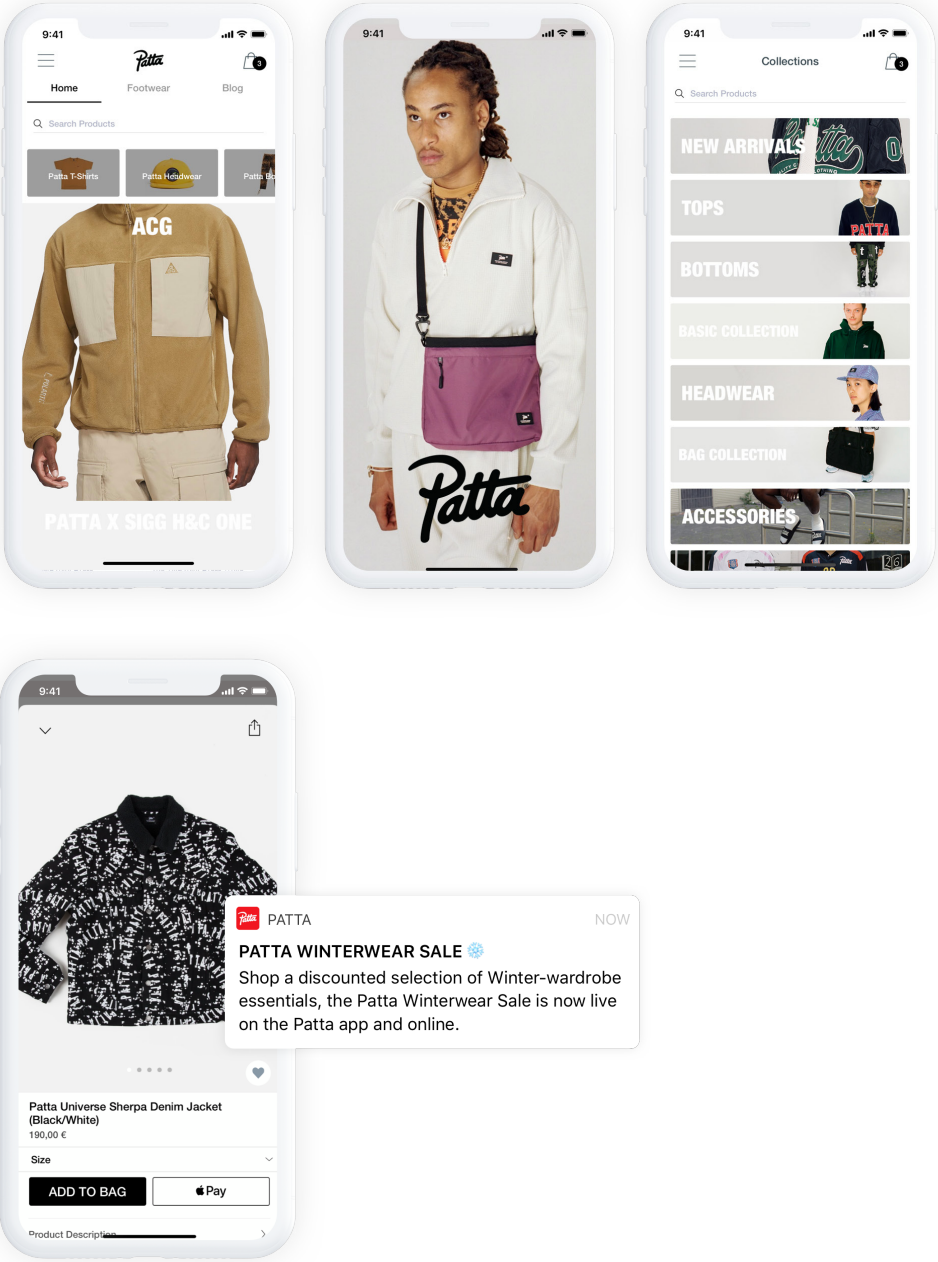
**Author: Alex Rosas**  
Marketing Associate  
Tapcart

---

experience and convert. But hey, my website is optimized for mobile, that's enough right? At the end of the day, the responsiveness and functionality will always be geared towards a laptop. If the experience isn't fluid, shoppers will bounce. In fact, stores lose 7% of your conversions for every second your page lags and 40% of shoppers will bounce if your page doesn't load in 3 seconds. Here's another scary stat to prove the stakes are higher than ever: 79% of customers “dissatisfied” with site performance are less likely to buy again.

From a consumer perspective, apps are far easier to shop on because they require zero load time and offer an instant, seamless shopping experience. This speed has a direct impact on conversion, with conversion having the potential to be 80% higher on mobile apps. Mobile apps not only offer a seamless shopping experience, but they also are awesome platforms for hosting content and rewarding top shoppers.

“Leveraging push notifications is the strongest asset for any business. Tapcart allowed us to have another channel and was complementary to what we were doing. The return was well worth it.”  
- Danny Haryono, COO, Patta



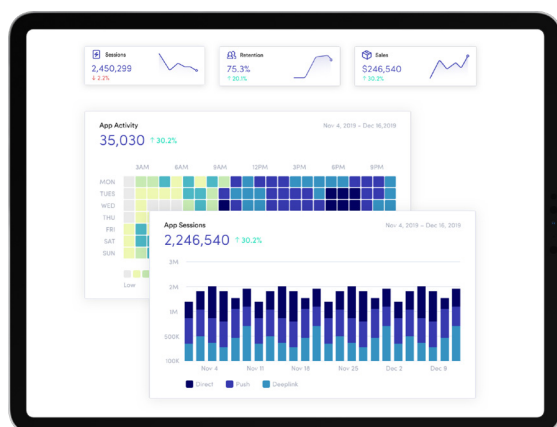
75% of Patta’s target consumers are on mobile. As an epicenter for streetwear news, they needed a fresh way to drive engagement with their content.

8x

In just one push notification, Patta’s revenue surged 8x

19%

Patta’s mobile app has a 19% returning customer rate



Apps are 4x faster than mobile web, and have a host of other benefits, including increased AOV, retention, and conversion.

## Push notifications: A top marketing channel on mobile

Ecommerce brands are being challenged more and more with meeting their consumers “where they are.” Push notifications are the only marketing channel that’s literally built for mobile, so at a high-level, it’s the most optimized channel available today. Push notifications have a 10x higher open rate than email, and have shown to increase revenue by over 1000% within two hours of message deployment. Engagement increases by 88% with mobile apps, and ecommerce brands are increasingly interested in the value of engagement when it comes to retention and lifetime value.

Push notifications add an aura of reliability and ownership over your marketing efforts, which ecommerce brands struggle with today. Social media’s algorithms are unreliable, and if an SMS takes too long to send out you may miss the mark on that promotion. You have full control over push notifications in that they’re instantaneous and you truly own your audience so you can understand your shopper’s behavior. Then with mobile analytics you can use these insights on your app’s activity to inspire your next marketing move. On top of that, you get your own real estate and landscape on that device that you don’t have to share with anyone else. Pretty neat, if you ask me.

A Tapcart power user, Diesel Power Gear, used to spend \$180K on SMS marketing and now they spend \$0 on push notifications to app subscribers. Every time they send a push notification they reach their entire list of 45K push notification subscribers. With 62% of app users opted in to push notifications, one notification alone generated \$67K in sales. Push isn’t just there to surge your revenue; it’s also a direct line of communication to share content with your loyal customers. You can send any type of content you want, from promotion videos, new products, collections, social media announcements to in-app content.

---

## ABOUT TAPCART

Tapcart is a Shopify Plus Certified App that allows retailers of any size to design and launch a fully-native codeless mobile app for their store quickly, and seamlessly. Tapcart is available through a tiered-subscription plan and is used by thousands of ecommerce merchants across 66 countries. Tapcart has been recognized for the quality of its technology as well as the platform’s ability to solve complex merchant needs and is used by some of the biggest Shopify retailers including Fashion Nova, Brandy Melville, Chubbies, Urban Planet, and The Hundreds.



# Optimizing ROI with an ecommerce marketing platform



For brands, the biggest accelerator to success is leveraging an ecommerce marketing platform that enables you to maximise revenue and scale fast. There are many benefits to an integrated platform, but here we've highlighted the top five.

## 4 benefits of an ecommerce marketing platform

Learn how five brands used Yotpo's ecommerce marketing platform to meet — and in many cases, exceed — their goals.

**Reduce abandoned carts with SMS:** When accessible supplement brand [Alkaline Herb Shop](#) was looking for a more meaningful way to connect with customers, they decided to take a chance on SMS. In less than six months with SMSBump by Yotpo, Alkaline Herb Shop has been able to recover over 33% of abandoned carts using SMS Cart Abandonment flows and has seen an overall 160x ROI from SMS alone.

**Collect more reviews:** Implementing Yotpo Reviews has helped UK-based sports nutrition brand [Bulk](#) collect a staggering 200,000+ reviews across all domains and over 1,000 reviews per month per domain. This has led to 30% YoY growth and 150% uplift in the average time onsite. Rather than make claims about how a product affects health and fitness outcomes, Bulk uses customer reviews to educate

shoppers about their products and recommend items based on the goals they are hoping to achieve.

**Increase CLTV with a loyalty program:** Customizable footwear brand [PLAE](#) needed a way to drive lifetime value in an industry where customers typically make infrequent purchases. By switching to Yotpo Loyalty, PLAE was able to create a tailored program that weaves loyalty throughout the site, with pages that display point balance and incentives while shoppers browse. As a result, PLAE loyalty program members are 2.7x more likely to make multiple purchases than non-program members, and they have 26% higher annual LTV.

**Drive revenue from referrals:** As [Ministry of Supply](#) expanded their clothing line, they wanted to create a referral program that could successfully bring new customers into their community. Over half (52%) of referrals now come from loyalty program members who have spent over \$300. With engaging loyalty program perks, the brand's referral solution now gets 10x higher engagement, accelerating customer spending between tiers to drive ROI.

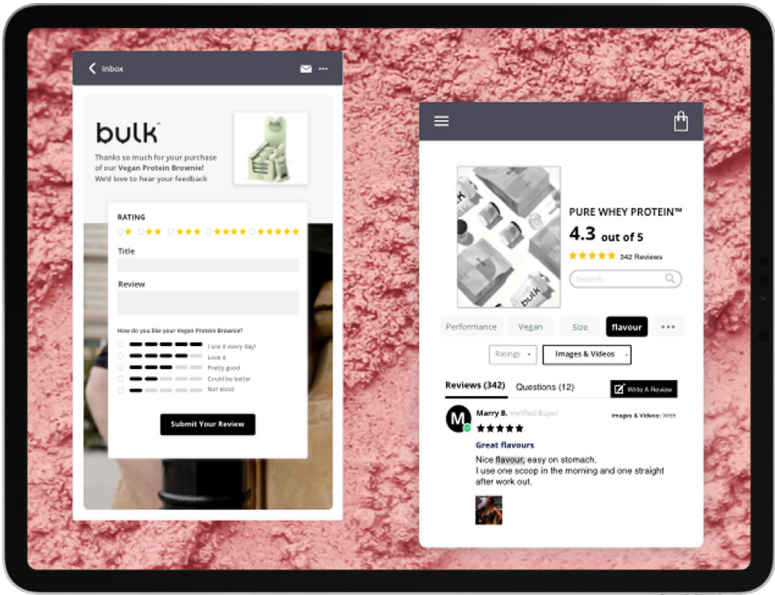
---

**Author: Talia Shani**  
Director of Marketing  
Yotpo

---



"I was skeptical about SMS, but if you're on the fence, I recommend going for it." - Suhail Rivera, Founder, Alkaline Herb Shop



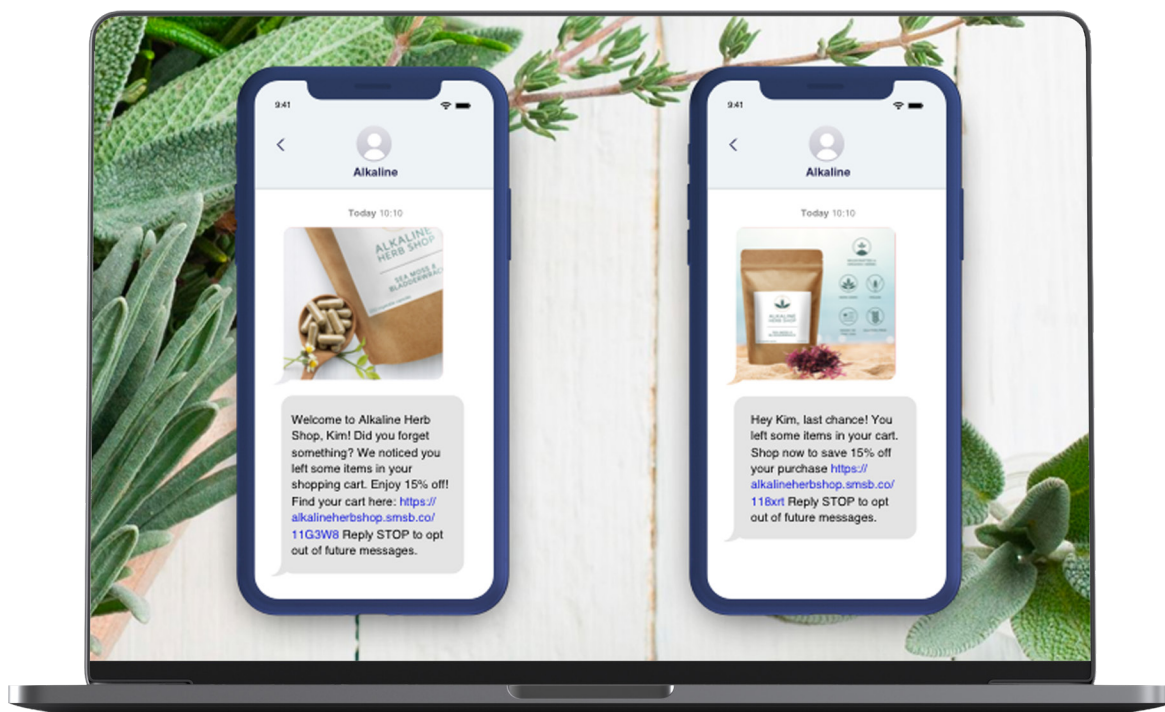
Bulk collects a staggering 200,000+ reviews across all domains and over 1,000 reviews per month per domain.

30%

YoY growth

150%

Uplift in the average time onsite



Alkaline Herb Shop has recovered over 33% of abandoned carts using SMS Cart Abandonment flows – generating an overall 160x ROI from SMS alone.

## Hit your 2021 goals with an ecommerce platform

Without a consolidated platform, your brand might be stuck relying on various marketing technologies, resulting in siloed data, difficult time management, and missed engagement opportunities. A disconnected marketing tech stack results in disconnected customer experiences — making it harder to extend lifetime value.

An ecommerce marketing platform like Yotpo is the key to maximizing efficiencies, lowering costs, building community, and driving revenue. With an integrated platform, your brand can streamline operations and focus on what matters most: delivering cohesive — and high-converting — customer experiences.

### ABOUT YOTPO

Yotpo, the leading ecommerce marketing platform, helps thousands of forward-thinking brands like Patagonia, Rebecca Minkoff, MVMT, Tweezerman, and Bob's Discount Furniture accelerate direct-to-consumer growth. Yotpo's single-platform approach integrates data-driven solutions for reviews, loyalty, SMS marketing, and more, empowering brands to create smarter, higher-converting experiences that spark and sustain customer relationships. We integrate with the tools you use every day, including Google, Instagram, top ecommerce platforms, and the rest of your tech stack. Yotpo is a Forbes Cloud 100 company with offices worldwide including New York, London, Tel Aviv, and Sofia. More information can be found at [www.yotpo.com](https://www.yotpo.com).

YOTTAA

# Optimize 3rd party apps for a faster site in 2021

After the wild ride that was 2020, the margin of error for ecommerce site speed has all but disappeared. Shoppers need a fast and functional site in order to complete their transactions.

---

**Author: Beth Moriarty**

VP of Product & Corporate Marketing  
Yottaa

---

## How TULA Skincare sped up their site

In terms of site functionality, Shopify makes it extremely easy for brands to add 3rd party apps to make shoppers happy (i.e. ratings and reviews, chatbox, social media, etc.). Unfortunately, these apps can cause issues for site speed. Oftentimes, brands are surprised to find out how many 3rd party tags are loaded on their sites or how they impact overall performance. Considering the average ecommerce site has between 40 - 60 3rd parties, things can get very hairy very quickly. Because YOTTAA has full visibility into over 1,500 ecommerce sites, we know that 3rd party apps can account for as much as 75% of page load time. While this has a huge impact on site speed, it also provides the biggest opportunity to speed up your site.

TULA Skincare, a Shopify merchant and leading skincare brand, added many 3rd party technologies to its site to provide shoppers with rich, engaging experiences. Unfortunately, these 3rd parties were causing slow page loads.

With a goal of providing its shoppers with both a fast site and awesome experiences, TULA worked with YOTTAA and saw immediate improvements in site speed: 32% on desktop, 29% mobile, and an increase in conversions. And since TULA has a small tech team, YOTTAA's ability to "set it and forget it" has enabled the company to focus on initiatives other than site performance.

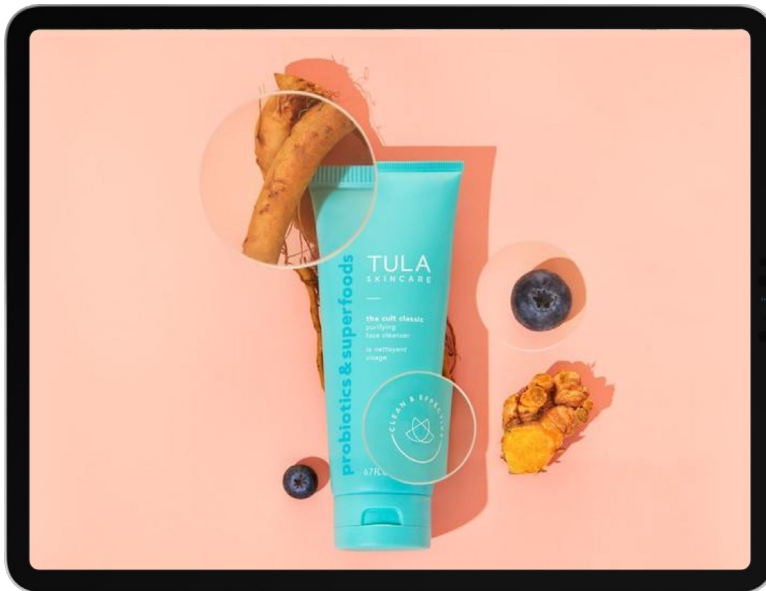
“

YOTTAA's RAPID inSITE provided granular details about our 3rd party inventory and site performance. We've upgraded to RAPID CTRL and our site is now 30% faster and converting better than ever.”

- Ilan Levine, Head of Technology & Digital Product, TULA Skincare

# TULA

## SKINCARE



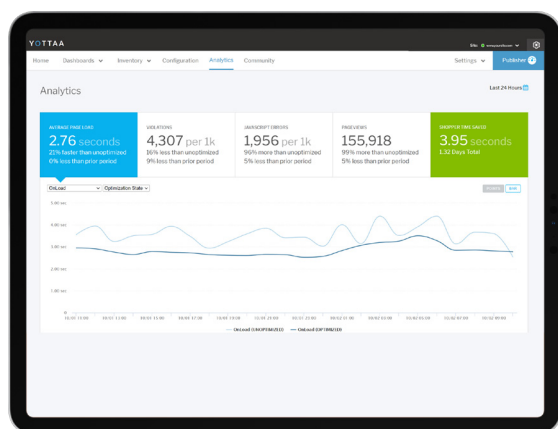
TULA, which means “balance” in Sanskrit, is a leading skincare brand built on the power of probiotics and superfoods.

# 32%

Increase in  
desktop page  
load speed

# 29%

Increase in  
mobile page  
load speed



With YOTTA, Shopify brands can achieve faster pagespeed in 1-click, optimize 3rd party apps, and use the same technology as enterprise retail brands.

## Analyze and control 3rd parties for a faster site

In 2020, consumers became reliant on ecommerce sites like never before. While this increased site traffic, it also destroyed any patience shoppers had left for slow loading sites. Shoppers won't wait more than 3 seconds for a site to load, and will end up choosing a competing site, potentially never returning to yours again. The idea that a faster site yields more conversions has been proven over and over again. 2021 is the year to focus on site speed or suffer the consequences.

YOTTA, the leader in ecommerce acceleration, provides fast-growing Shopify brands, such as TULA Skincare, Allbirds, Bombas, Brooklinen, and Tommy John, the ability to gain deep analytics on site performance, 3rd party inventory, and performance errors through YOTTA's free Speed Analytics tool (AKA Rapid inSITE). Additionally, these brands, and many more, increase page speed and conversion rates by upgrading to Page Speed Accelerator (AKA RAPID CTRL), YOTTA's comprehensive site optimization solution.

YOTTA's free Speed Analytics enables brands on the Shopify platform to gain full visibility into how their website is currently performing and how 3rd parties and other site elements are impacting page load time. Our free Speed Analytics provides robust site

performance insights with the option to implement optimizations, and will not impact the operations of your site.

After trying YOTTA's free Speed Analytics, brands can do a 14-day no-cost trial of the robust ecommerce Page Speed Accelerator solution, to optimize and control all browser-based site elements. Combining YOTTA's patented application sequencing and actionable analytics, this enables online retail brands to speed up ecommerce sites in a matter of hours. The end result is reduced 3rd party performance violations, a super fast ecommerce site, and increased online conversions.

## ABOUT YOTTA

Leading brands such as Allbirds, Tula Skincare, Brooklinen, Bombas, Vuori, Boll & Branch, Dr.Axe, and Briogeo rely on Yotta to accelerate, optimize, and secure their ecommerce sites. By optimizing the loading of third-party ecommerce technologies, high resolution images, and other website elements, Yotta enables online brands to deliver superior customer experiences, improve web performance up to 60%, and increase online conversion up to 20%. To learn more about how Yotta can optimize every page load on your ecommerce site and increase conversions, please visit [www.yottaa.com](https://www.yottaa.com) or follow [@yottaa](https://twitter.com/yottaa) on Twitter.

**Produced by Nosto.**

LEARN MORE OR GET IN TOUCH AT [WWW.NOSTO.COM](http://WWW.NOSTO.COM)