How an On-demand Private Jet Charter Company Developed a Mobile App to Improve Cost Transparency and Drive a 488% Increase in Leads

JONATHAN LEVEY
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#### Things You Can Purchase With Your Fingerprint





Concert tickets ~\$175.00



Charter a private jet~ \$20,000.00



## Jonathan Levey

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#### **How Does Skyjet Serve its Customers?**

- A leading provider of on-demand private jet charters
- Founded in 1997
- Part of Directional Aviation
- Skyjet provides an easier and more transparent way for customers to book private jets on demand



## Discovering the Need for an App

#### **Increase in Mobile Performance**

#### In one quarter, Skyjet saw:

- A 50% increase in mobile traffic
- A 177% increase in quote requests on mobile devices
- Average mobile user spend 29% longer on Skyjet.com than desktop user



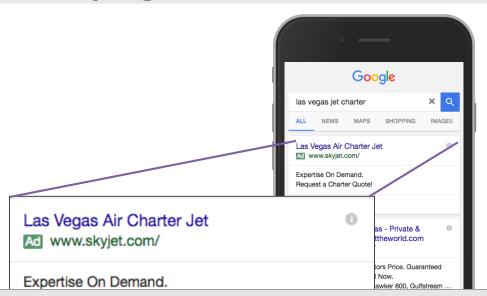
#### **Increase in Mobile Performance**

In one quarter, Skyjet saw:

# While we weren't there yet, our customers were already on mobile.

#### Google Mobile AdWords Campaign

- Showed ads when travelers searched for private flights near major airports & at peak travel days and times
- Influenced our overall approach to digital markating





93% Increase in Website Bookings

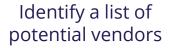
## **Building the App**

#### **Choosing the Right Partner**



#### **Identifying a List of Potential Vendors**







Ask for client references



Engage in concept workshop

- Started by evaluating 10 vendors
- Considered:
  - Portfolio of work
  - Portfolio of clients in a similar vertical
  - Awards received
  - Technical capabilities

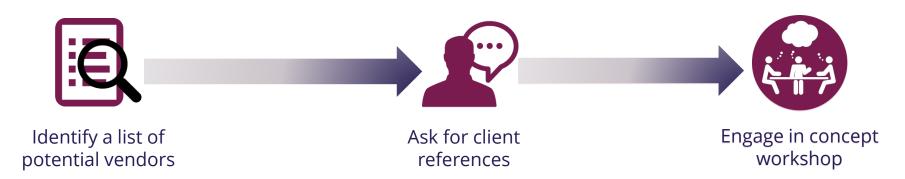
- Development process
- Support and maintenance
- Project management process
- Design and UX capabilities

#### **Asking for Client References**



- Narrowed down to six vendors
- Asked previous clients about:
  - Development process
  - Quality of work
  - Responsiveness and communication

#### **Engaging in Concept Workshop**



- Vendor selected
- On-site meeting where the scope of the app was further developed
- Resulted in the following features:
  - "Contact rep via phone" prominent on each screen
  - Apple Pay as a payment option

#### **Choosing the Right Features and Platform**

- Apple Pay:
  - Book with the touch of a finger
  - Secure and private
  - Competitive differentiator in the market



- Ungated price estimates:
  - Only app at the time that offered instant, ungated price estimates



#### **Tying into Your Current Systems**

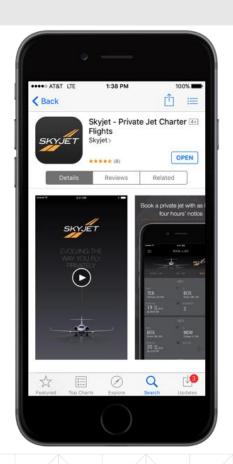
- "Even the best user experience can still be shackled if the technology can't deliver on the promise."
- We used web services that our team established in the early 2000s.
- Per Apple, apps must meet the app transport security minimum of TLS 1.1.

```
c.version="3.3.7",c.transition_duration=150,c.prot
attr("href"),d=d&&d.replace(/.*(?=#[^\s]*$)/,"")),!
:b[0]}),g=a.Event("show.bs.tab",{relatedTarget:e[0]
closest("li"),c),this.activate(h,h.parent(),functio
ion()};c.VERSION="3.3.7",c.RESET="affix affix-top
.scrollTop(),f=this.$element.offset(),g=this.$targ
his.unpin<=f.top)&&"bottom":!(e+g<=a-d)&&"bottom"
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et.scrollTop(),b=this.$element.offset();return
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## Launching the App and Growing User Adoption

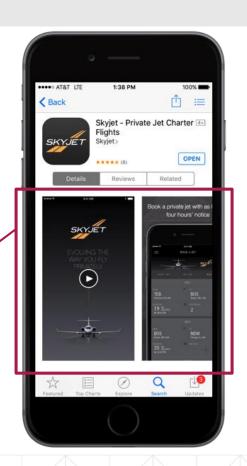
#### **App Store Optimization**

- Choose the right app name
- Maximize your keywords
- Write a compelling description
- Stand out with a unique icon
- Include a video and screenshots
- Encourage ratings and reviews

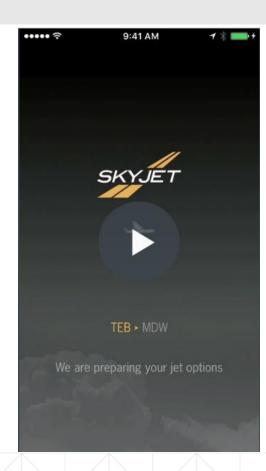


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#### **App Store Video**



#### **Press Coverage**

- PR enabled us to target a very specific set of publishers and create different story angles for our key audiences
  - Extremely targeted outreach list
  - Press kit with strong visuals
  - Story angles included: Apple Pay, user experience and ungated price estimates
- Results
  - · Reach: 150 million



#### **Print Advertising**

- Wanted to increase brand awareness and generate more installs of the new app
- Featured in *Robb Report* and *Jetset Magazine*
- Hard to attribute installs or ROI to print ads, but there was a lift in site visits and installs after the ads ran



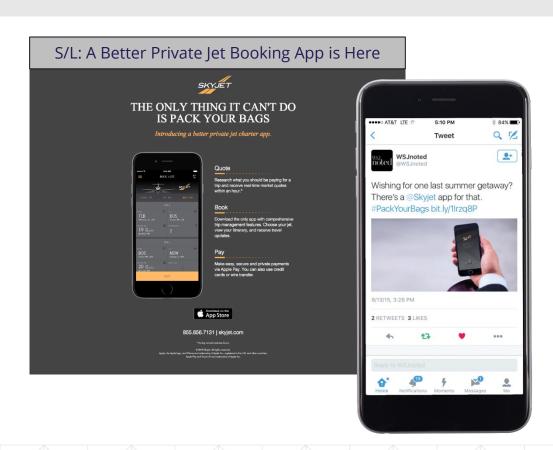
#### **Email and Social**

#### **Email**

- Part of our go-to-market strategy for the app
- A way to leverage our media partners' existing subscribers, and the Share of Voice was 100%
- Saw an 11% conversion rate in click-toapp downloads

#### **Social**

- Leveraged our media partners' existing followers
- Enhanced our overall campaigns by extending the message to a responsive audience through highly engaging visual posts

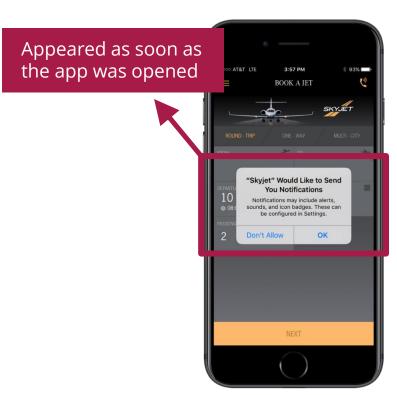


## Growing Engagement

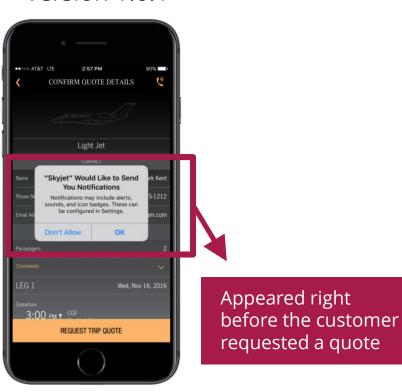
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#### **Original Push Notification Opt-in**

Version 1.0.0

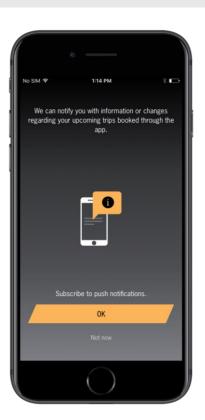


Version 1.0.1



#### Placement of "Soft Asks"

Customer Action	Soft Ask
Performs three itinerary searches but hasn't logged in or booked	We see you've been searching for jets but haven't booked a trip yet. We can notify you when we have specials or one-way deals.
Just requested a quote and sees the "Thank You" screen	We can notify you as soon as your on-demand expert has your flight options prepared.
Just paid for an instant booking or confirmed a quote and paid for a trip	We can notify you with information or changes regarding your upcoming trips booked through the app.



## Learning From the App

1 2 3 4

#### **Transforming the Business Model**

- Skyjet went from broker to hybrid broker
  - Customers now get charter access to a fleet of aircrafts without any membership fees, upfront costs or repositioning fees
- Instant booking
  - Reduced steps to book in the app by 40%
  - Average booking process time decreased from 1-2 hours to less than 60 seconds due to no longer having to source the market for availability and pricing on behalf of the client
  - Transferred this new technology to the website



#### Results

- More than **35,000** downloads since app release in August 2015
- Average 38% week-over-week user acquisition growth rate during first 12 weeks in App store
- More than 1,350 itinerary searches processed each week in 2016
- 24% of Skyjet's bookings came through the app in 2016

#### **Awards**





2016 Winner "Best Travel App"





2016 Winner "Best Travel Mobile App"





2016 Winner "Best Mobile Travel User Experience"





2016 Silver Addy Winner "Mobile Application"

#### **Top Takeaways**

- Understand how and where your customers are interacting with your brand make sure you are in that space.
- When entering a new space, do your research. Make sure you are creating the best experience possible for your customers.
- Mobile marketing goes beyond app installs. Successful marketing requires effective user engagement.



## Thank You!

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