NZZ's approach to succeeding in the digital subscription business

Daniel Ammann, NZZ WAN IFRA, Paris, 29.03.2019



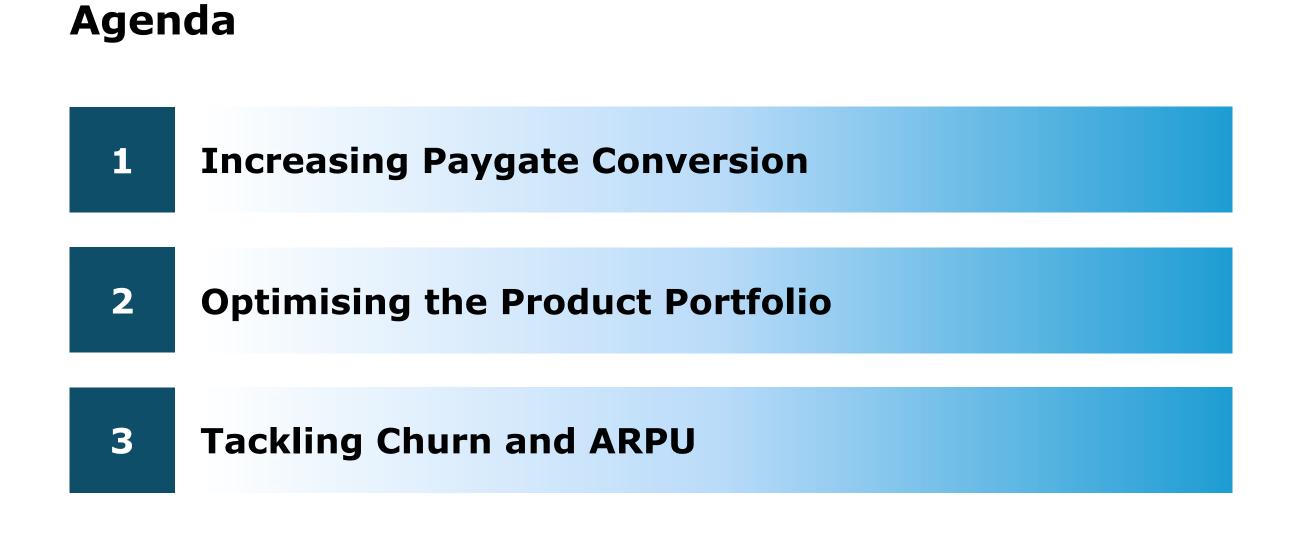
Most trusted media brand in Switzerland

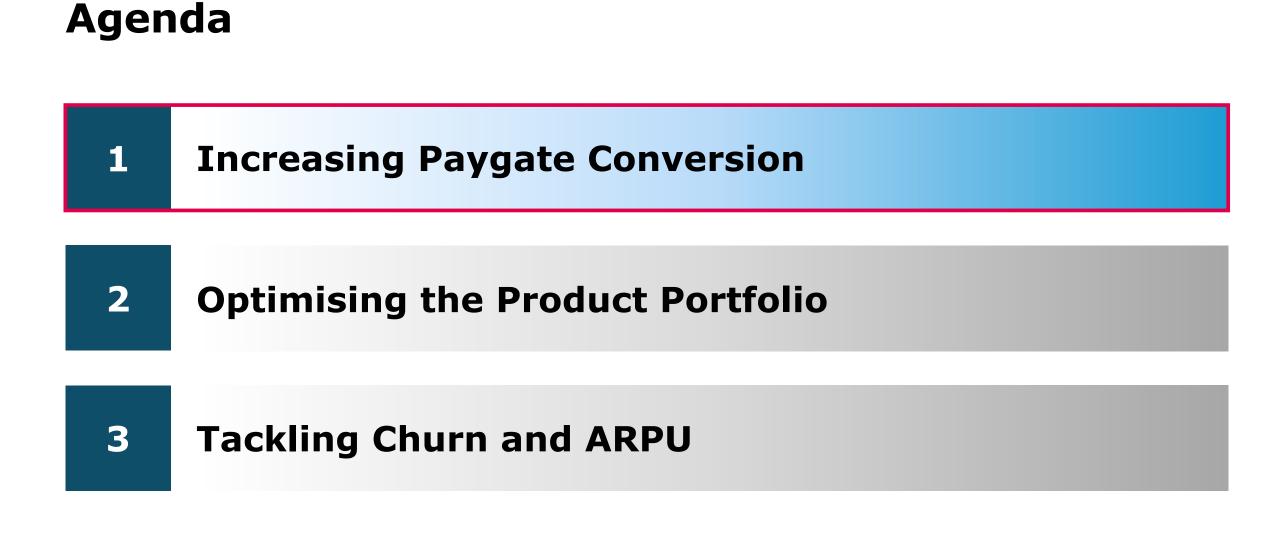
150m CHF in revenues

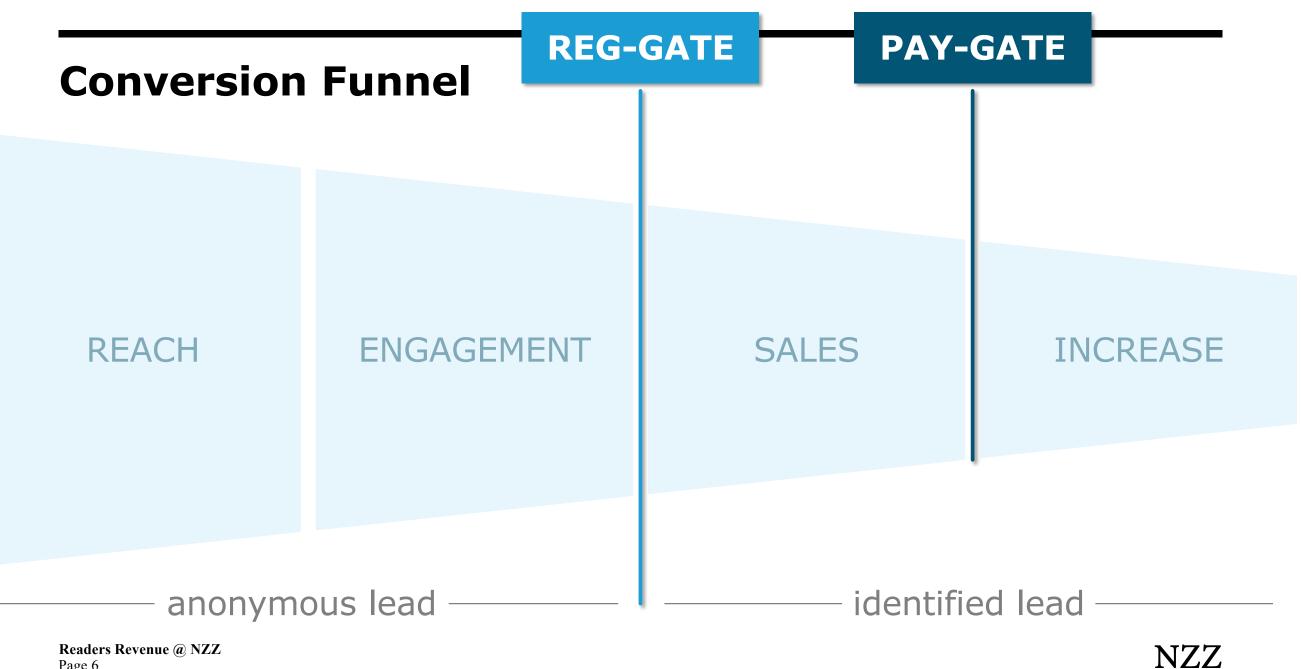
53% readers revenues

Neue Bürcher Beitung



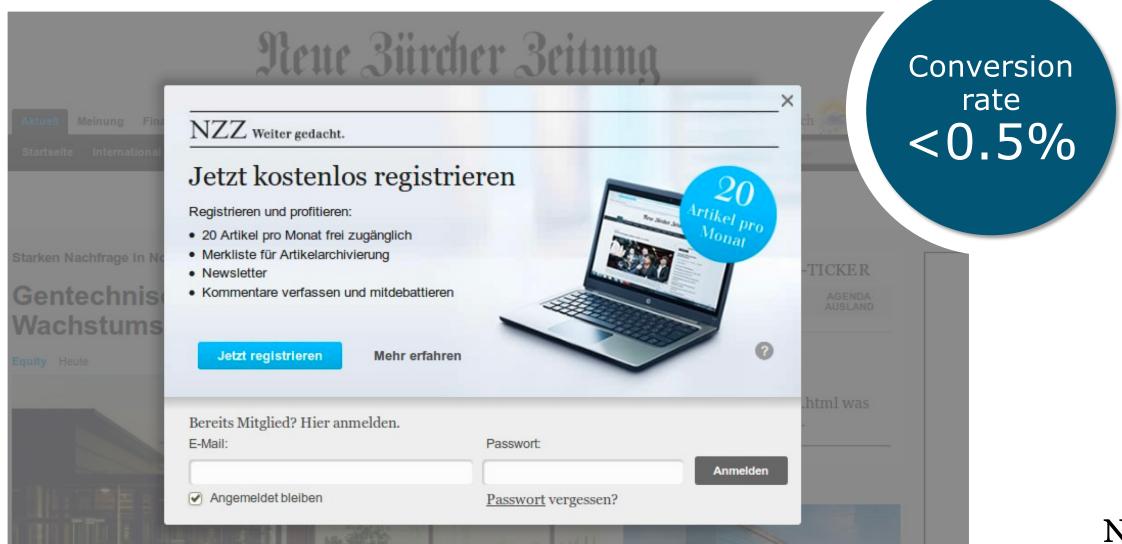






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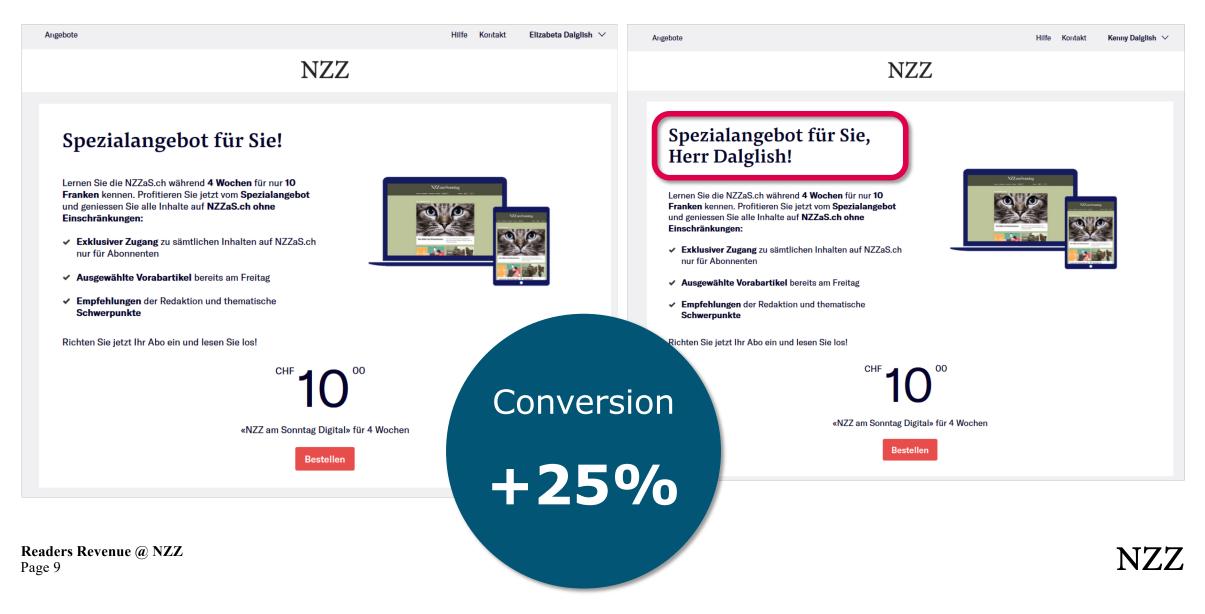
2012-2014: Classic Metered Paywall



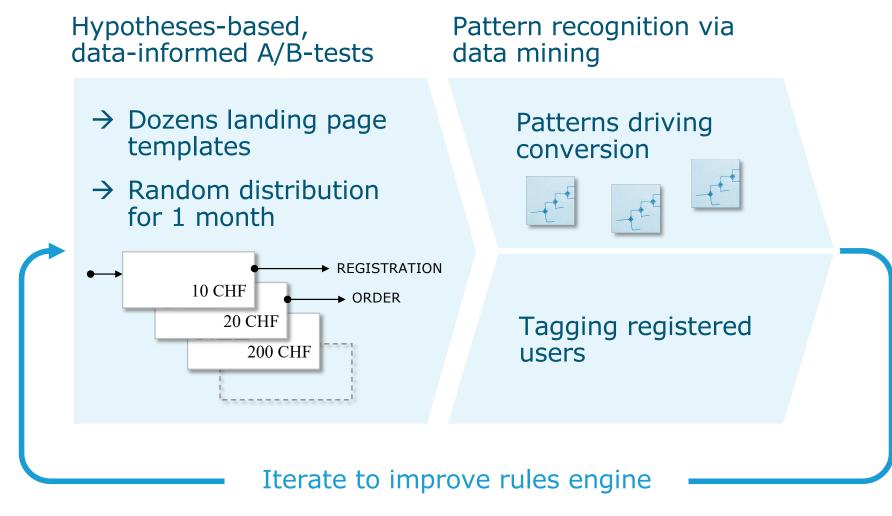
2014 to 2017: Developing flexible rules engine

Dimension	Reg- Prompt	Order- Prompt	Landing page
# of articles	\checkmark	\checkmark	
Reading behavior	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Prompt ON/OFF	\checkmark	\checkmark	
Call-to-action	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Format	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Personal greeting	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Time of day	\checkmark	\checkmark	
Placement of prompt	\checkmark	\checkmark	
Offering	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark

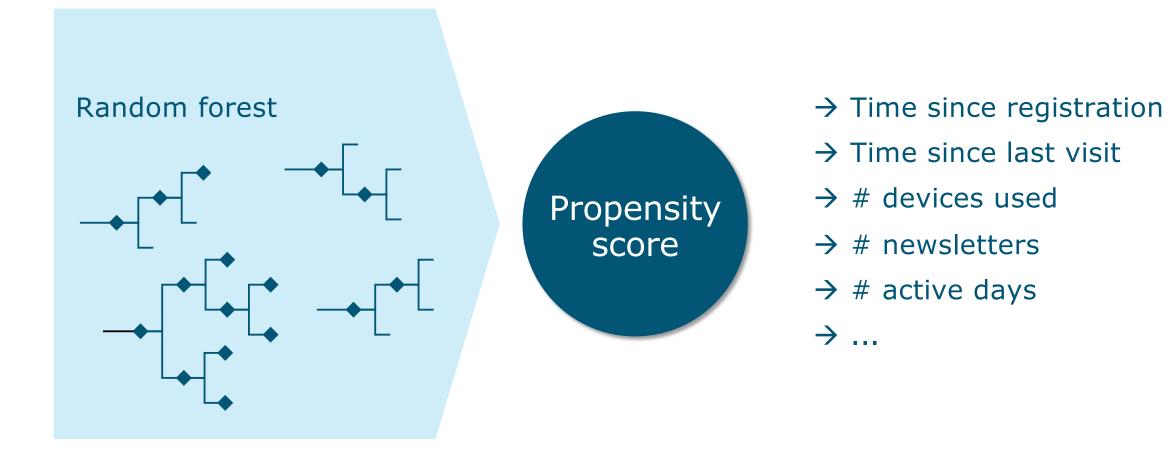
EXAMPLE: Personal greeting



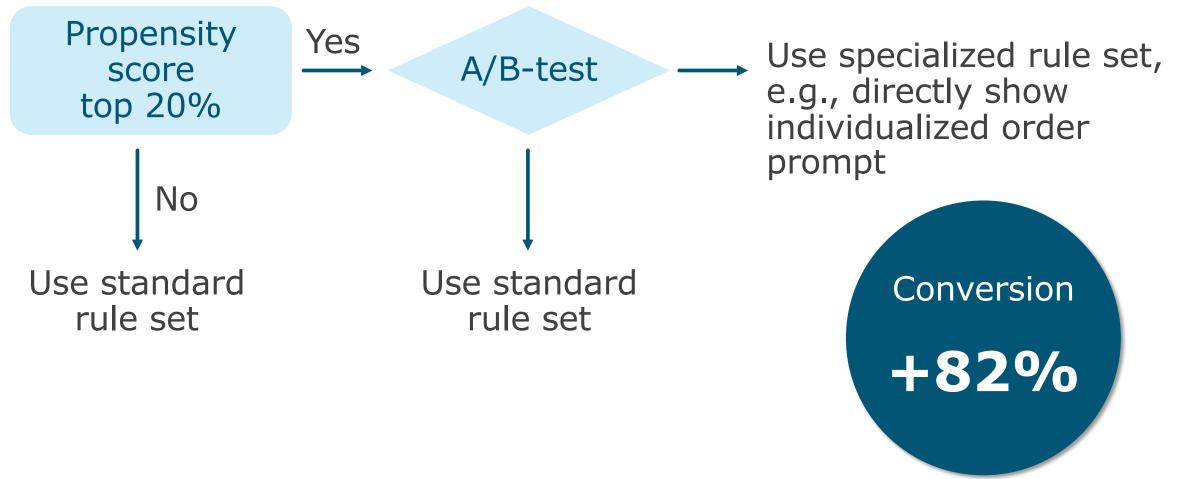
2017: Dynamic Paygate v0.9 – Target Groups



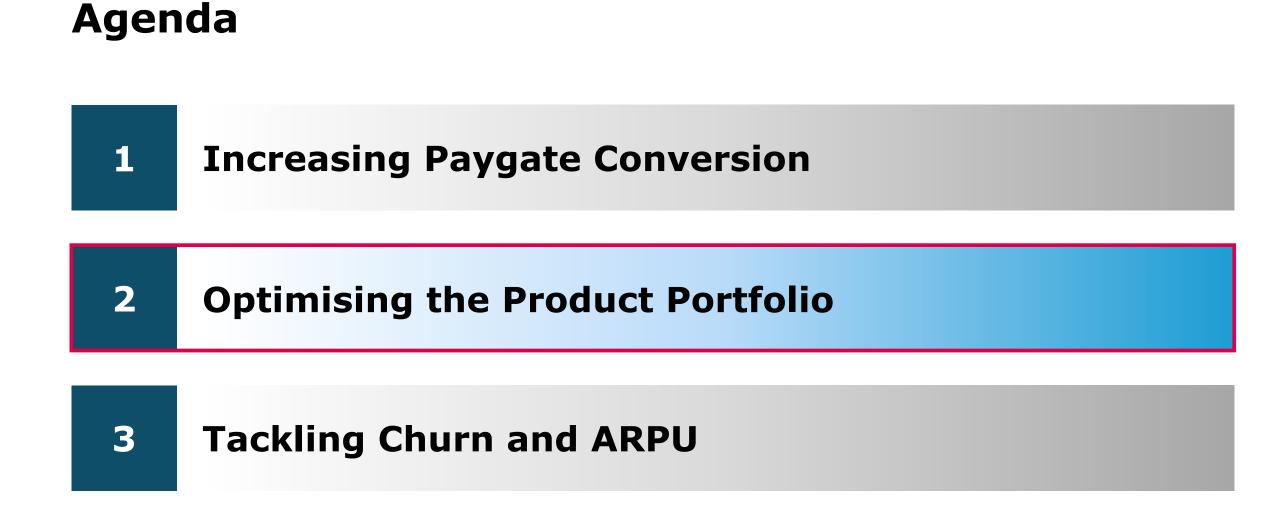
2018: Dynamic Paygate v1.0 Propensity scoring using machine learning

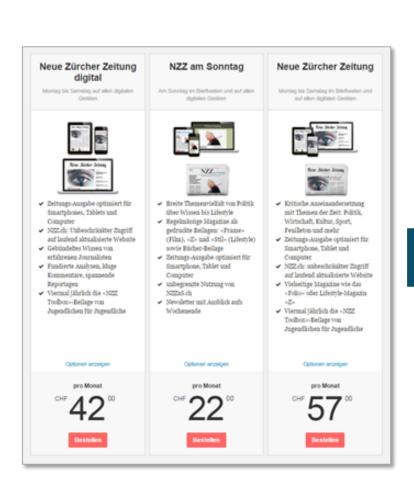


EXAMPLE: Propensity Scoring

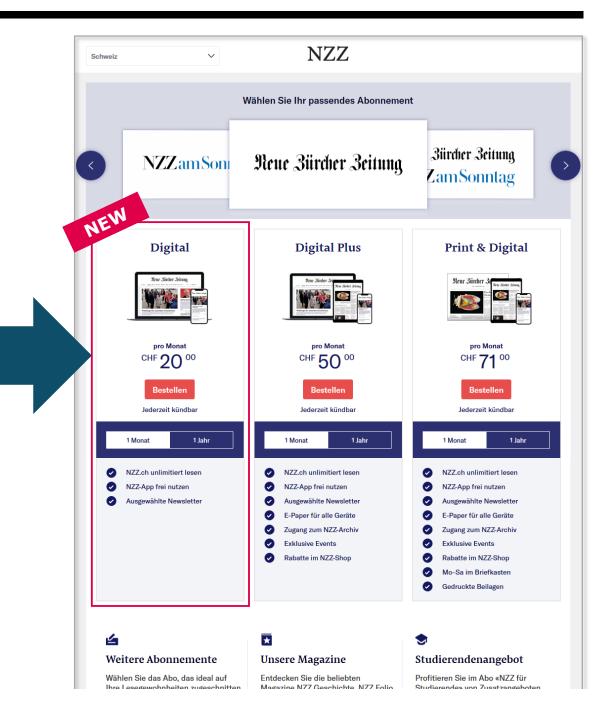


NZZ





New Product Portfolio



Enriching the Product Portfolio

Students

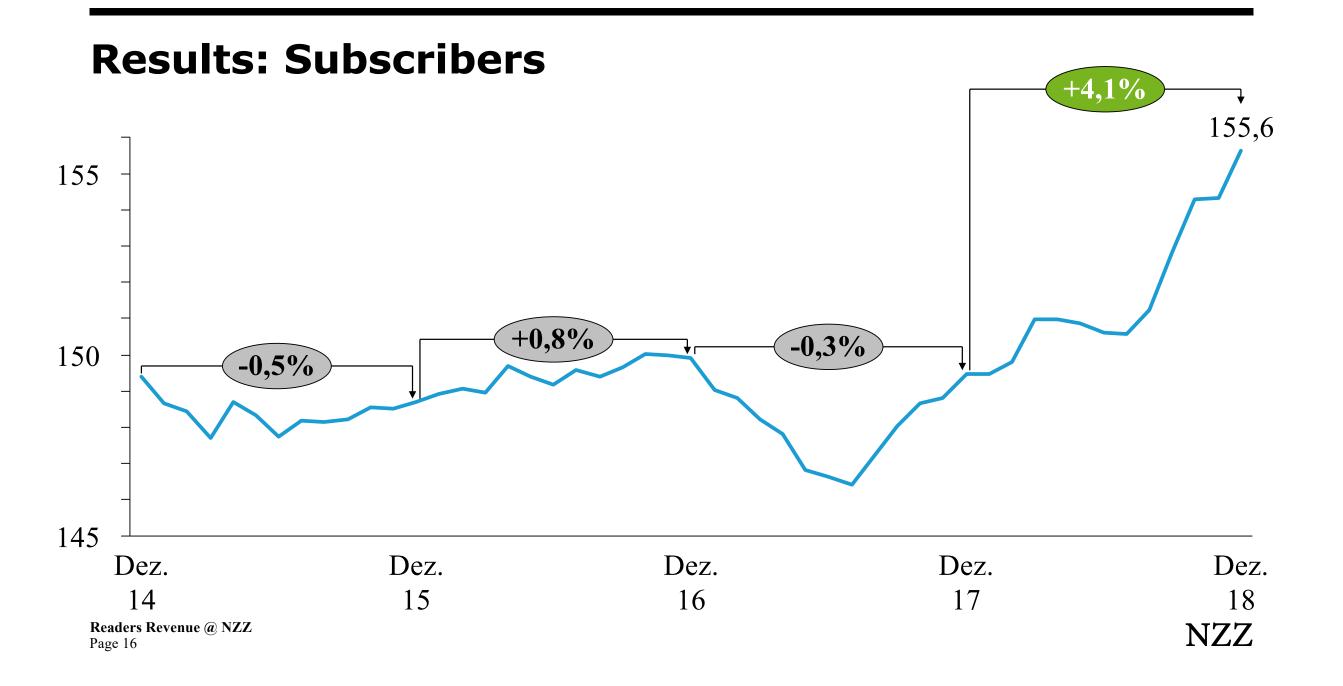
«Mama, du musst mir keine NZZ-Artikel mehr ausschneiden.»

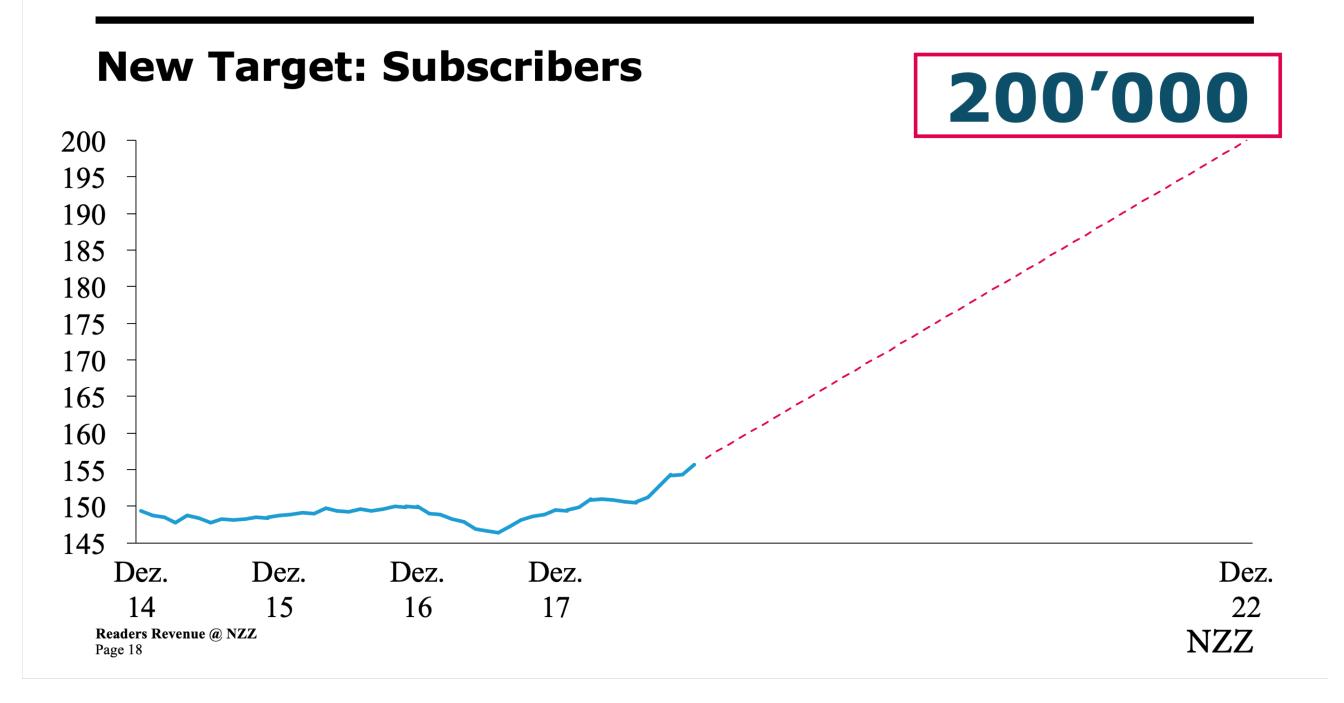
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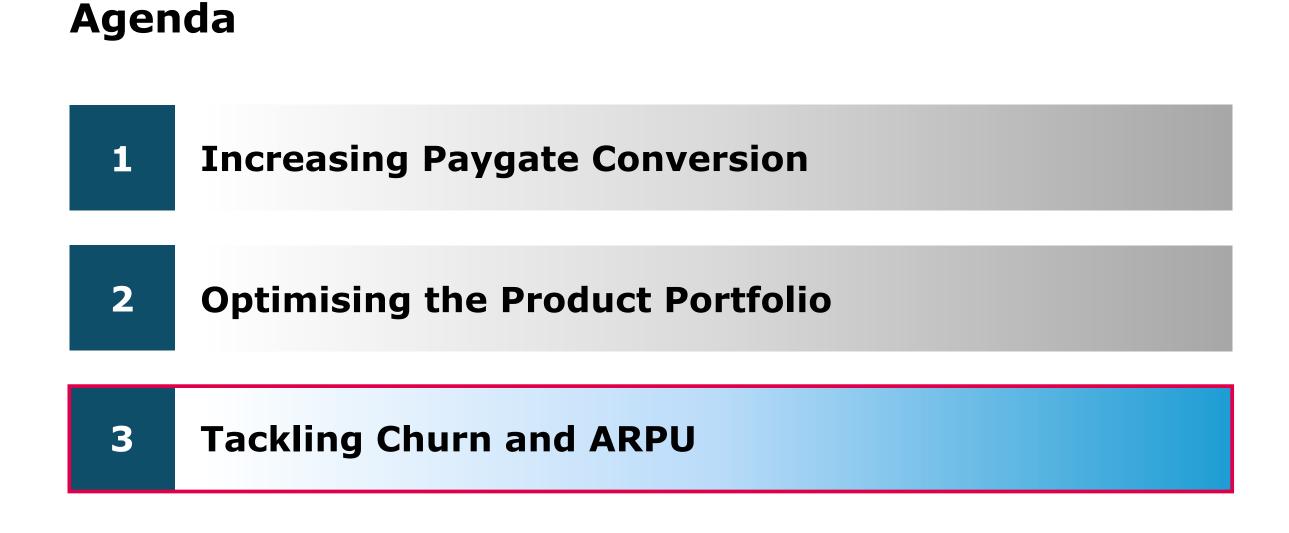
10% of Uni Zurich students subscribed

Germany

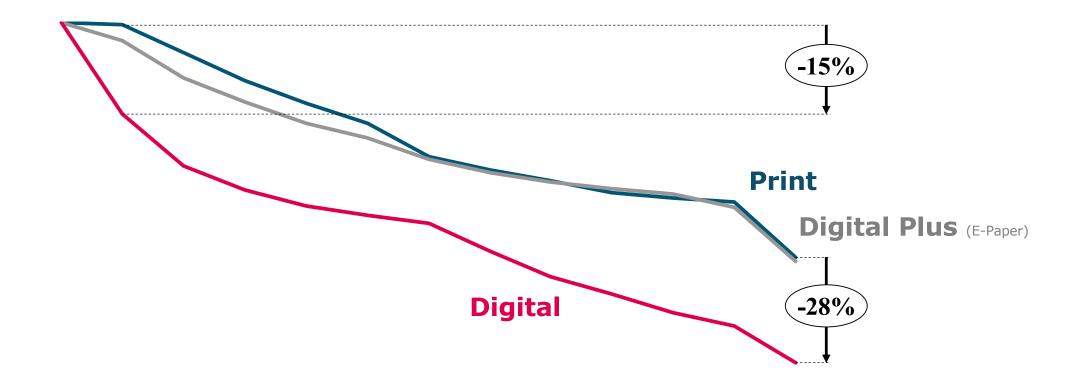






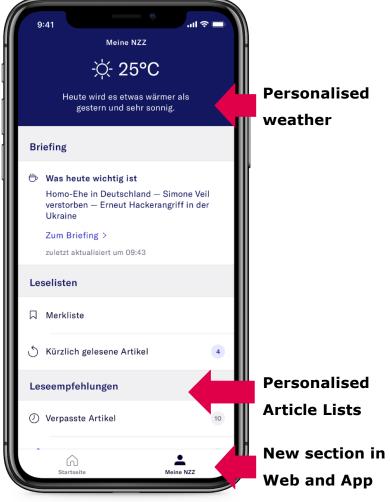


Challenge #1: Churn



M1 M2 M3 M4 M5 M6 M7 M8 M9 M10 M11 M12 M13

Personalisation: Content



Neue Zürcher Zeitung \equiv WEITERLESEN Wie schaffte es Angela Merkel aus dem Umfragetief heraus? Geöffnet vor 3 Stunden am Mac Push KOMMENTAR Die Sezessionisten sind auf dem Vormarsch Kein Nationalstaat ist heilig. Staatliche Legitimation setzt immer das Vertrauen seiner Bürger voraus. Doch auch wenn Regierungen dieses verspielen, ist Separatismus noch kein Grundrecht. Daniel Steinvorth BRIEFING 2 Meine NZZ Startseit

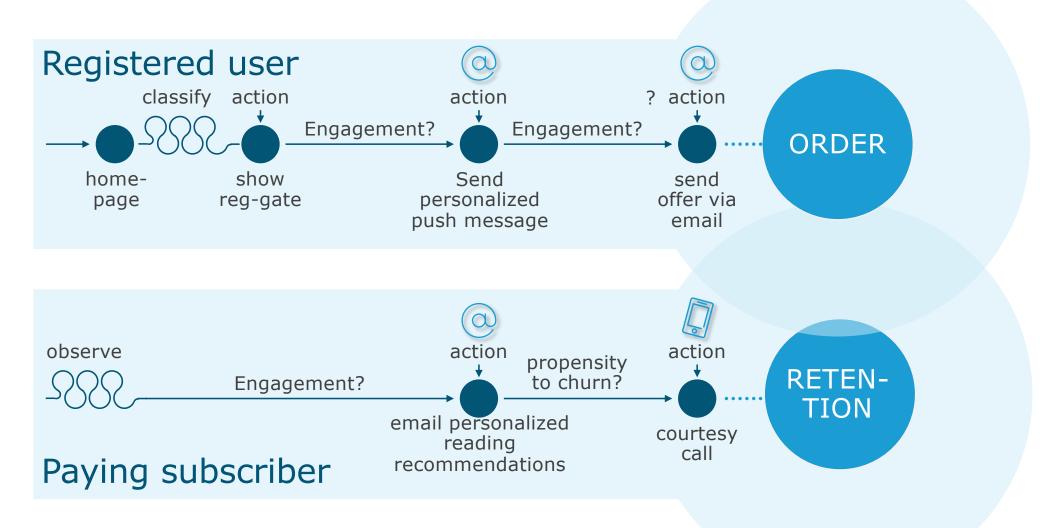
Personalised

20% of subscribers use it

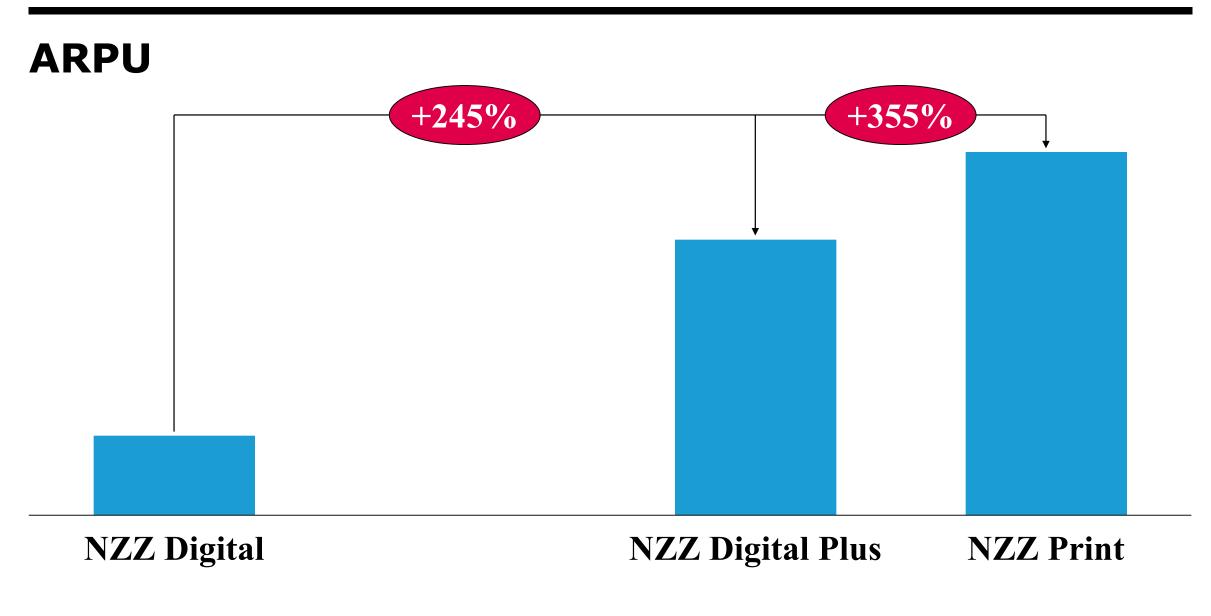
<0.4% total traffic



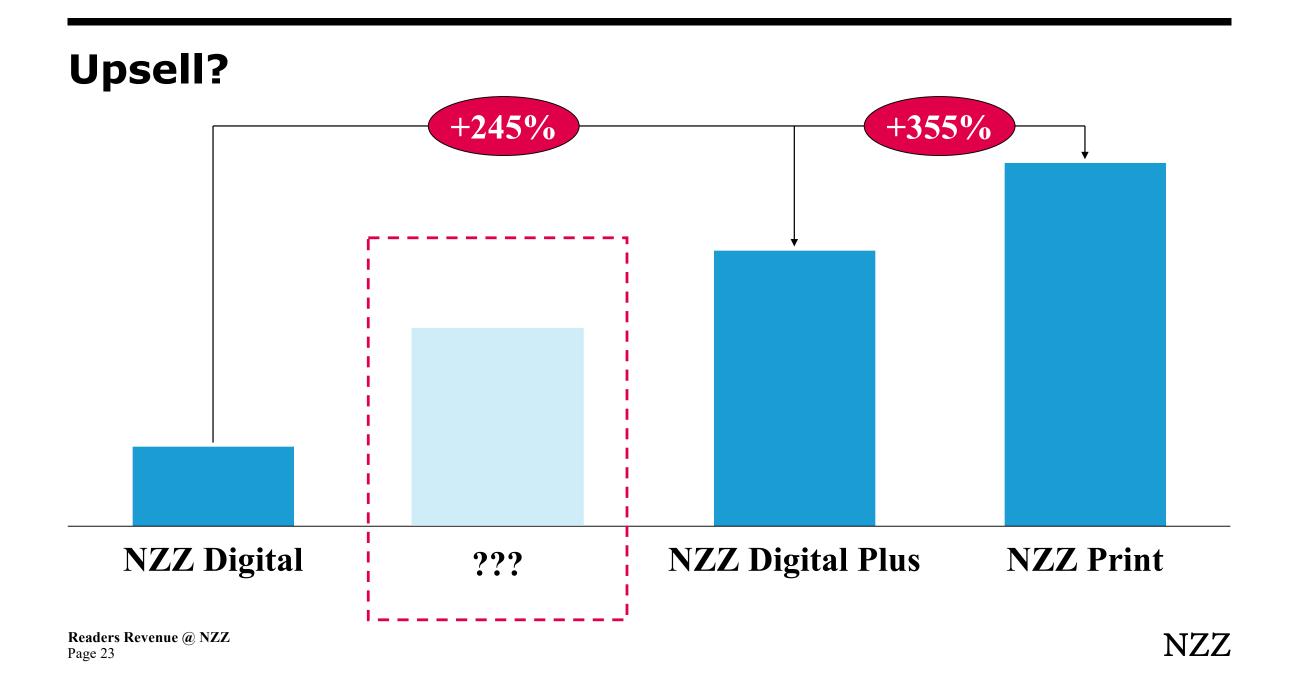








Readers Revenue @ NZZ Page 22



Key Take Aways



Machine learning (propensity score) really helped us getting people to pay

2

It was worth to take the risk: To reach new audiences, the **right product portfolio** is key

3

We now direct efforts and ML powers towards churn and ARPU challenges

Thank You!

Daniel Ammann Head of Portfolio Management

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