2019

Steve Farquharson

UX/UI, Product + Visual Design Portfolio

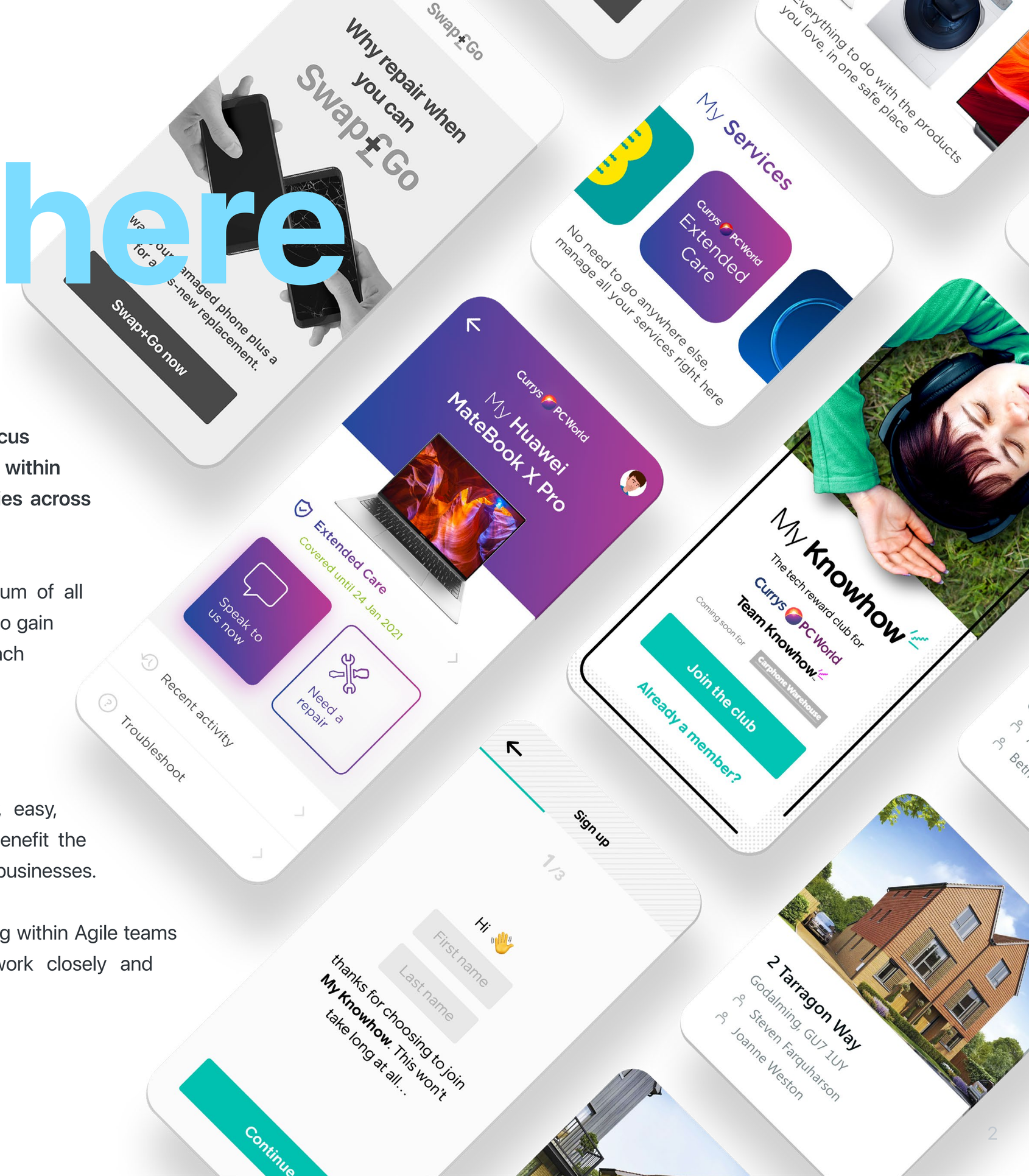
Hey there

I'm Steve Farquharson, a passionate and empathetic UX/UI, Product and Visual designer with a true customer-centric focus and over 15 years experience working within e-commerce, retail and automotive industries across many websites and mobile apps.

Knowing that customer experiences are a sum of all parts, I love delving into end-to-end journeys to gain a complete understanding of the role of each touchpoint and through customer research, identify pain-points and areas of meaningful improvement.

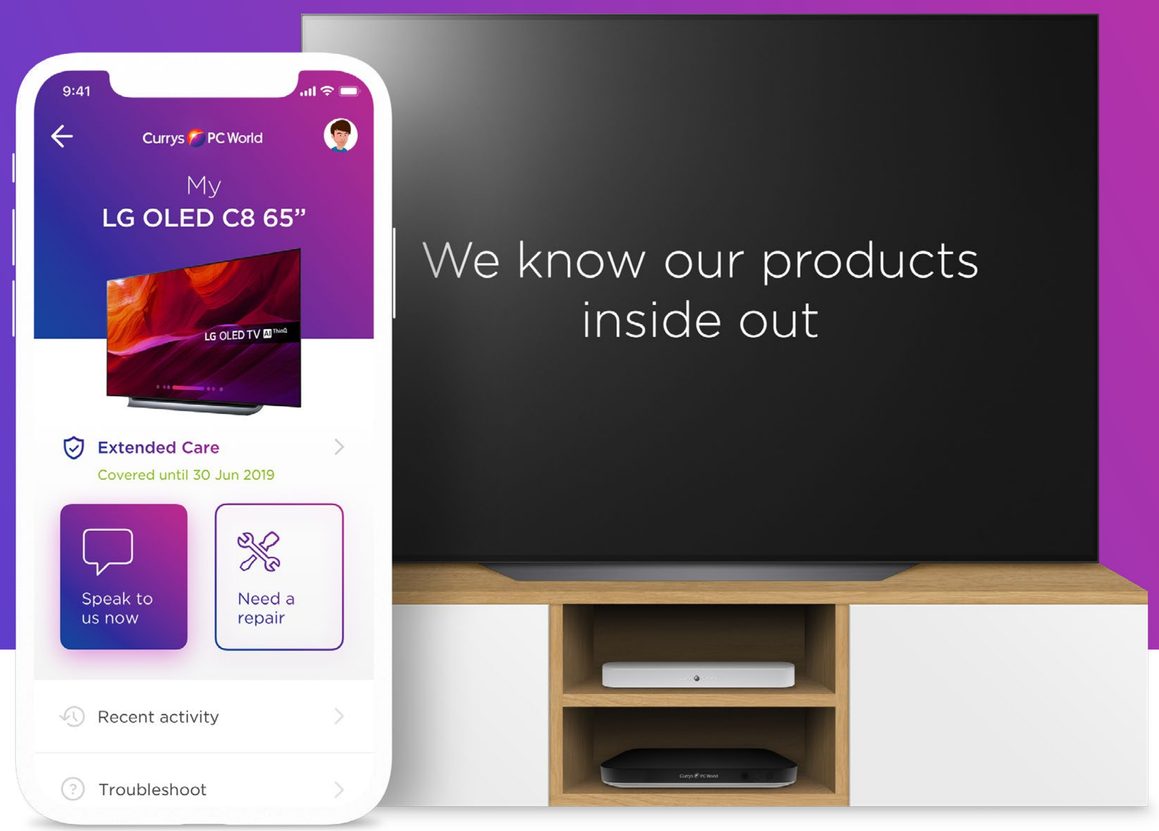
My aim is always to achieve user-friendly, easy, consistent and joined-up experiences that benefit the user in order to generate improved revenue for businesses.

I find it most rewarding and productive working within Agile teams where designers, engineers and product work closely and collaboratively throughout.



Extended Care: The future of insurance

Currys PC World



My Role

Lead UI/UX Designer

Duration

Jan - Apr 2019

Apps & Skills

- Sketch
- Photoshop
- Craft
- Illustrator
- Large Format Print

Summary

Currys PC World wanted to create a vision of the future of their insurance proposition. Keen to simplify their product and make it more customer-focussed, I was brought onboard to consult and create all forms of design.

Not your ordinary leaflet

To bring a series of end-to-end customer experience recommendations to life I was asked to create a range of exciting leaflets (not my usual gig!) that also linked to an interactive Sketch protoype which needed to showcase how Extended Care could be managed online.

For many of their customers the journey begins in-store where they are handed the obligatory insurance leaflet.

I set out to create a series of engaging leaflet concepts that clearly and honestly introduce customers to the service and how it could truly benefit them. I also wanted to somehow convey Currys PC World's

passion and deep knowledge for the technology they sell and service to reassure the customer that they are in the safe hands

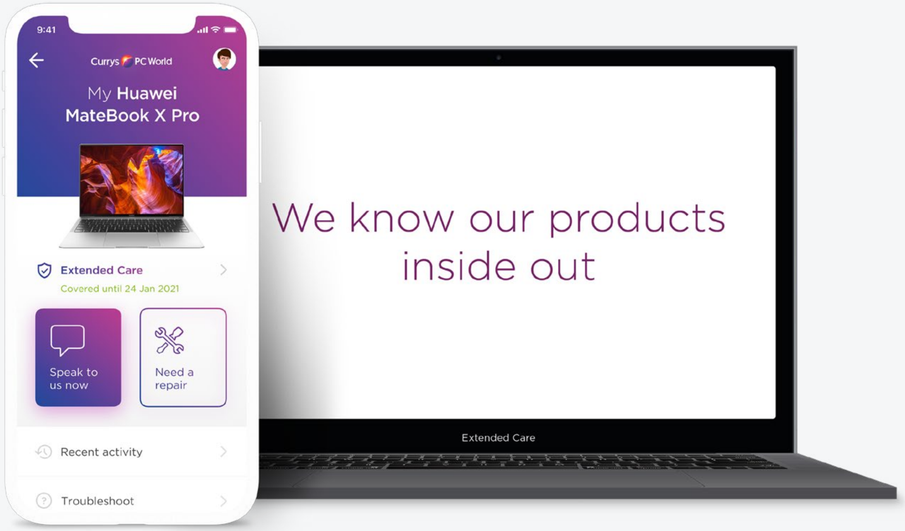
I decided quite early on that a standard leaflet or booklet just wouldn't be enough, no matter how well designed. So I began exploring ideas of how the leaflet could fold up and then eureka! What if opening up the leaflet actually gave the sense of taking a product apart, similar to what a technician would do when performing a repair.

I needed to create prototypes for each of their three main categories - Computing, Television and Kitchen Appliances.

Computing felt the most straightforward as the leaflet could sit within a wallet that looked like a laptop and the leaflet contained within could resemble the keyboard and its internals.

If I took the exact same approach with the Television category, I thought it could quite easily get confused with a tablet computer. So to make it more obvious I felt it required some form of furniture to fold out and sit on.

The people at Currys PC World were quite keen to use a washing machine for the final one due to it being the most popular kitchen appliance to be insured and repaired.

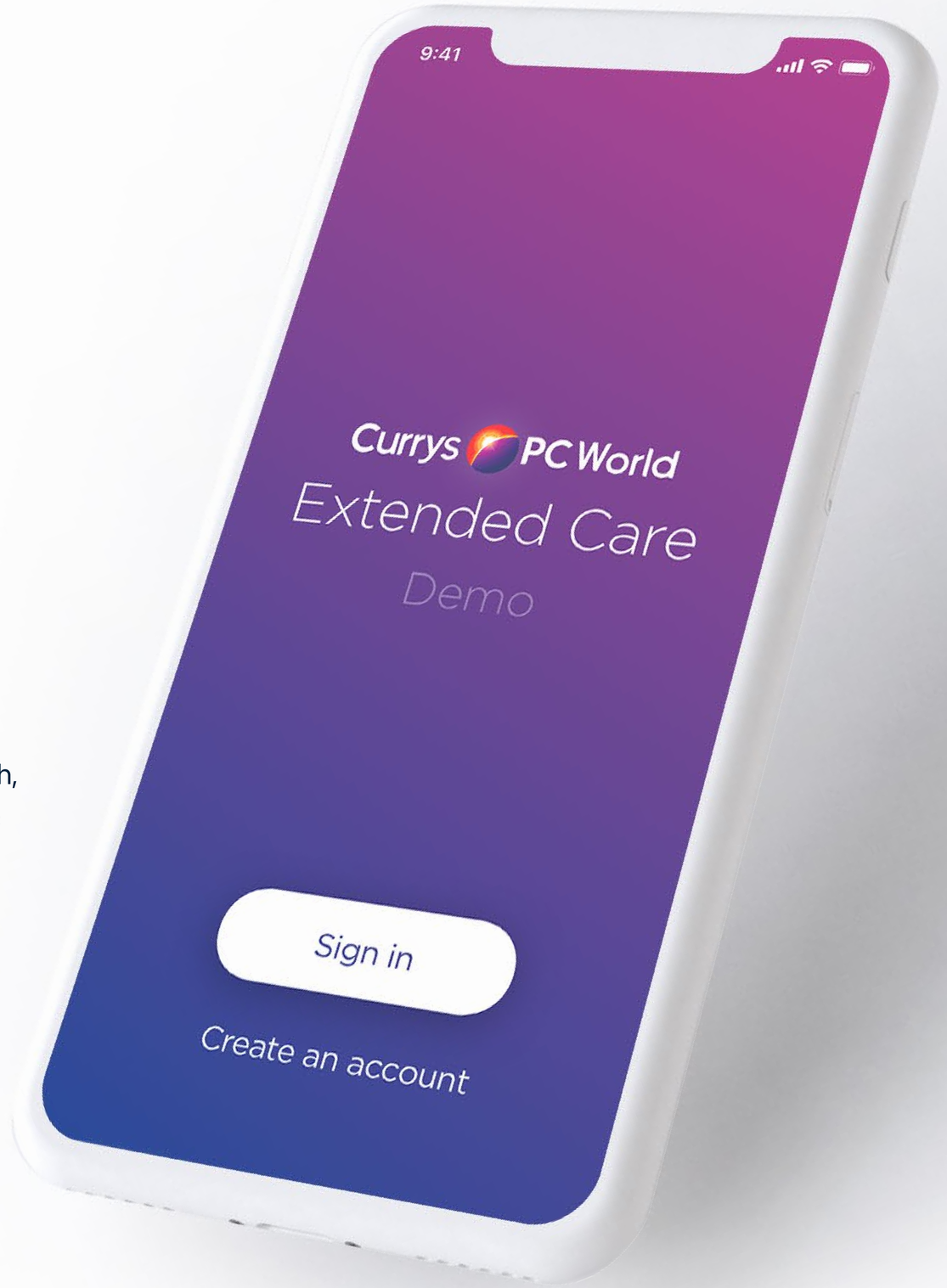

9:41
Currys PC World
My Huawei MateBook X Pro
Extended Care
Covered until 24 Jan 2021
Speak to us now
Need a repair
Recent activity
Troubleshoot
We know our products inside out
Extended Care

9:41
Currys PC World
My Samsung W8800
Extended Care
Covered until 08 Dec 2022
Speak to us now
Need a repair
Recent activity
Troubleshoot
Currys PC World
Extended Care

leaflet slides out here
We know our products inside out
wallet folds for support

Inside this pack you will find everything you need to know about Extended Care. We have made it simple by removing the small print and loop holes and included clear advice on what is covered, how it works and how to make a claim.
If you would like to register for an online account go to atcurrysweecare.com where you will be able to manage every aspect of your cover, avoid waiting in queues by requesting a call-back, view purchase information, including your receipt and easily make claims.
We are here to support you whether you need to make a claim or if you have any technical questions related to any of your gadgets.
We can help you with installation, set-up and getting the most out of your product.
Book repairs in seconds
One stop repair booking service that allows you to select a convenient day and time-slot for when we visit your home to collect your item or alternatively book an appointment in store to drop off your repair.
Easily amend your cover
Add services, edit your details or cancel your care plan at any time using your online account.
What's included
Protection against breakdown
We'll fix or replace your product within 7 days. We only ever use authorised parts, no extra costs to pay ever. If we do need to repair in your home we'll give you a choice of 2-hour time slots.
Handy online account
Keep on top of everything online - from scheduling and tracking repairs to getting product assistance. We will keep a complete service history and no need to keep receipts, these will automatically be stored when you purchase any new product from us.
New for old replacement
If we can't repair your product, you can choose between a replacement or equivalent and we'll deliver it. Alternatively you could choose store credit and pick a replacement at a time convenient for you.
Jump the queue with call-back
If you have any questions whatsoever about using your new product we'll always be at hand. We'll also be in touch later on down the line to check in and see how you're getting on with your product.
Easy to make a claim
A service that finally makes it easy to make a claim. No more long forms to fill out, no chasing, we'll resolve the issue as quick as possible and keep you informed along the way.
No-claims bonus
If you don't make a claim by the end of your cover we'll award you a no claims bonus.
Optional Accidental Damage Cover
For extra peace of mind get cover for unexpected mishaps - like drops, knocks, scrapes and spillages. A small excess fee of £25 applies.
Our 7-day repair promise
We have built Extended Care around our 7-day repair promise, this is a guarantee that your
7 days or less. The repair promise starts from the moment you speak to us or make the claim o
choose a convenient date and 2-hour time slot for the collection and we'll keep you informed wit
repair along the way, right up until it is returned at a convenient time for you. If we fail to fix your TV
give you a replacement.
If you need your product repaired urgently there is an option to reduce the repair time to 5, 4 or 3 days, this
discussed at point of claim.
Repair needed
Call us to make a claim
or
Make a claim online
We'll collect it from you
Our Specialist Repair Centre
Diagnose & Order parts
Repair & Test
Deliver back to you
Repaired in 7 days or we'll replace it
Currys PC World
My
LG OLED C8 65" TV
Extended Care
Covered until 6 Dec 2022
Speak to us now
Book a repair
Recent activity
Troubleshoot

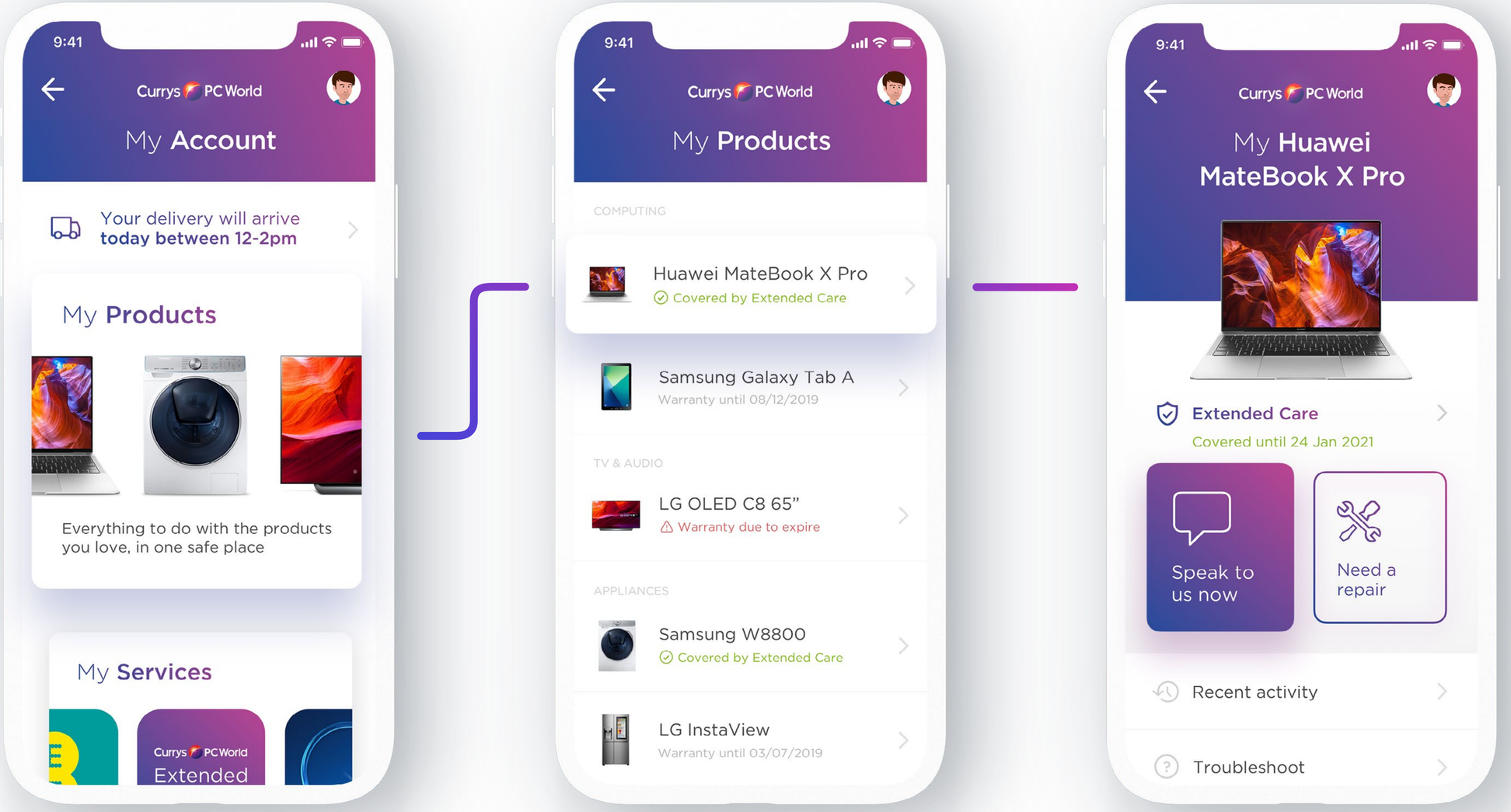
Care, in your hands



I didn't spend the entire time printing, cutting, folding and glueing (although, I must admit that was quite refreshing!) In conjunction with the leaflets the app experience had to also be prototyped.

Although at this stage they did not require an extensive experience, it had to demonstrate how customers could:

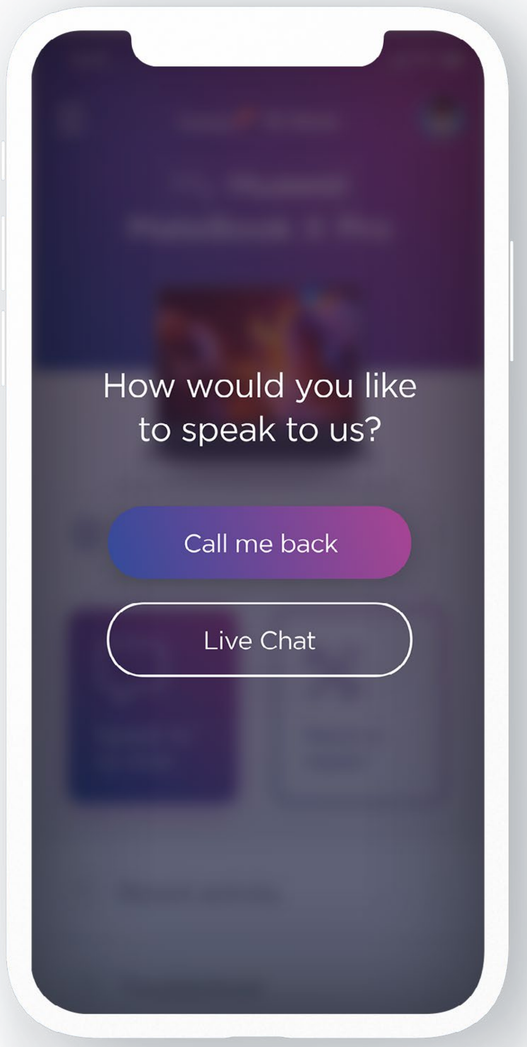
- **Navigate their account and the products/services they have purchased**
- **Have quick and easy access to support from a human in a way that is comfortable for them**
- **Easily be able to book a repair for a product**

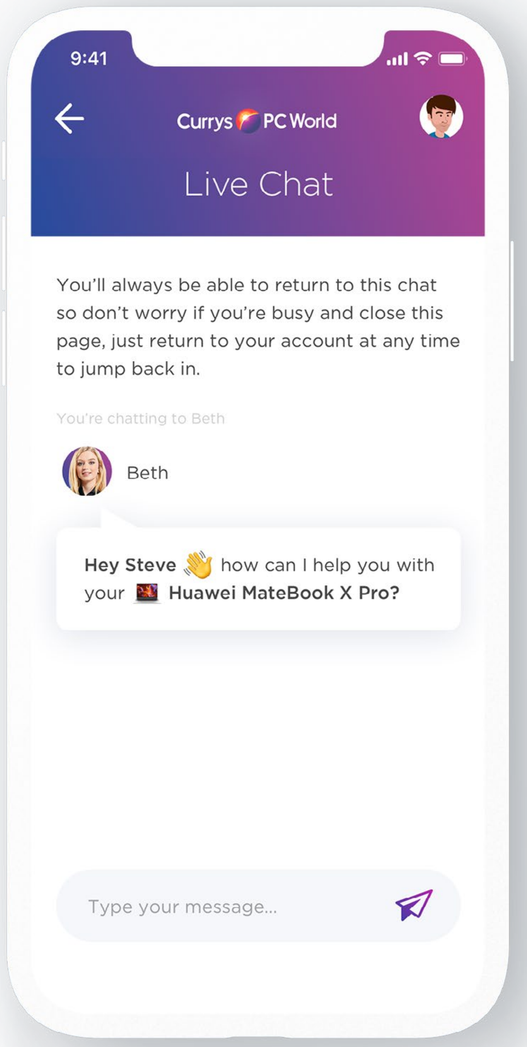


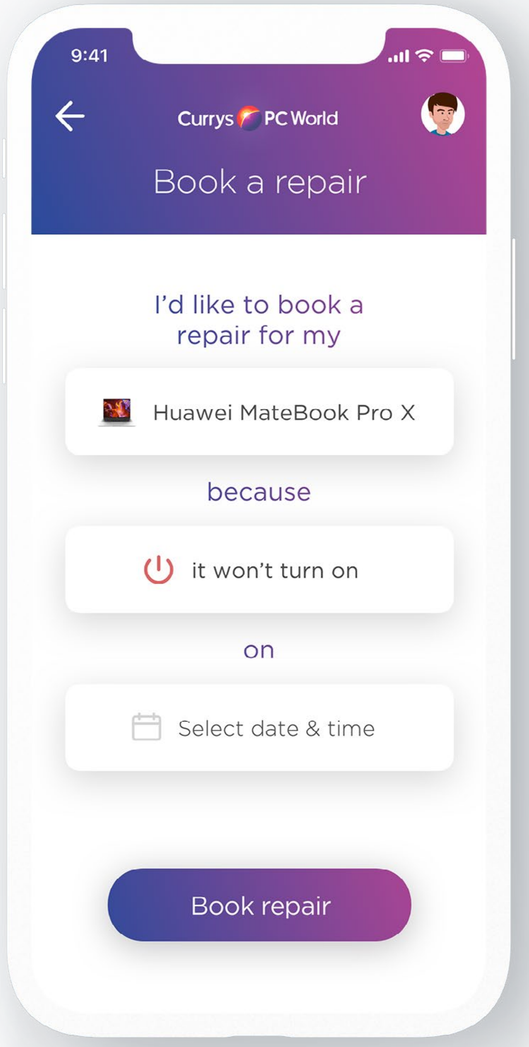
Due to time constraints and also because of the similarities between parts of this and the My Knowhow Membership project (I had more or less wireframed My Account and My Products screens before) so it made sense to jump straight to visual design.

I was simultaneously working on the leaflets so the look & feel naturally formed to work well across both - a big benefit to channel-agnostic design! I really liked the gradient I chose, inspired by the colours in the Currys PC World logo but at a higher saturation to give a more modern vibrant punch. This had the correct level of prominence I needed to really inject enough brand ID across the screens whilst also keeping a balance of not being too heavy or garish.

Due to everything below these headers being on white, it becomes really easy to establish a straightforward visual hierarchy - so anything that needs to be elevated or given more prominence has added colour, like the primary and secondary buttons on the third screen above. 'Speak to us now' being the primary button, has a solid gradient whilst 'Need a repair' is secondary here so the gradient is just applied to its border stroke.







Although this wasn't by any means an extensively ironed out experience I was glad I was able to lay out the foundations for a friendly, engaging and simple experience.

End-to-end customer experience consultation

Dixons Carphone

My Role

Lead UI/UX Designer

Duration

Jun - Dec 2018

Apps & Skills

- Sketch
- Photoshop
- Illustrator
- Large Format Print

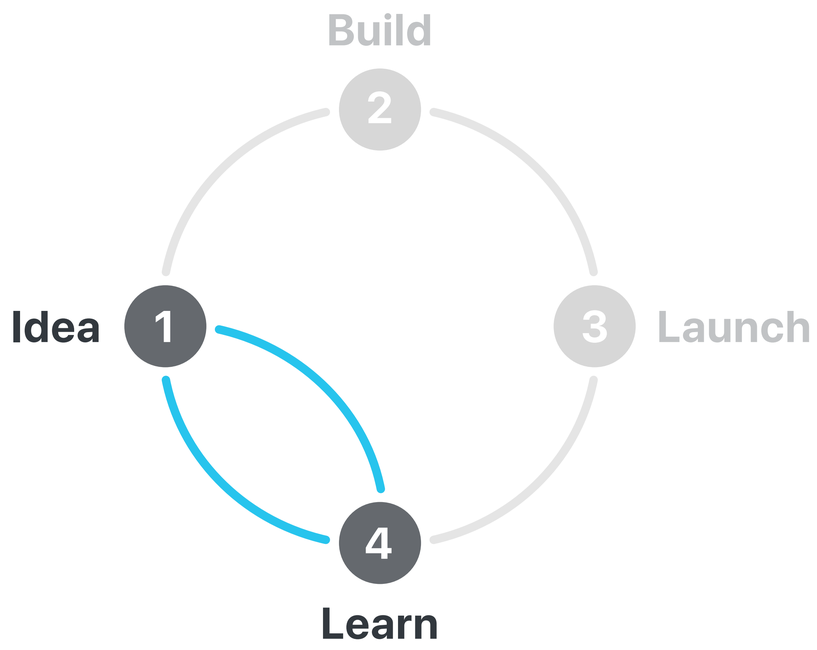
Summary

An intensive but very rewarding time spent working as an integral member of a small group of experts, assembled to answer some critical customer experience questions for Dixons Carphone.

GV Design Sprint

Over the course of a few months we needed to identify keys areas within the used phone/phone repair and kitchen appliance markets where Dixons Carphone should focus their resource and investment.

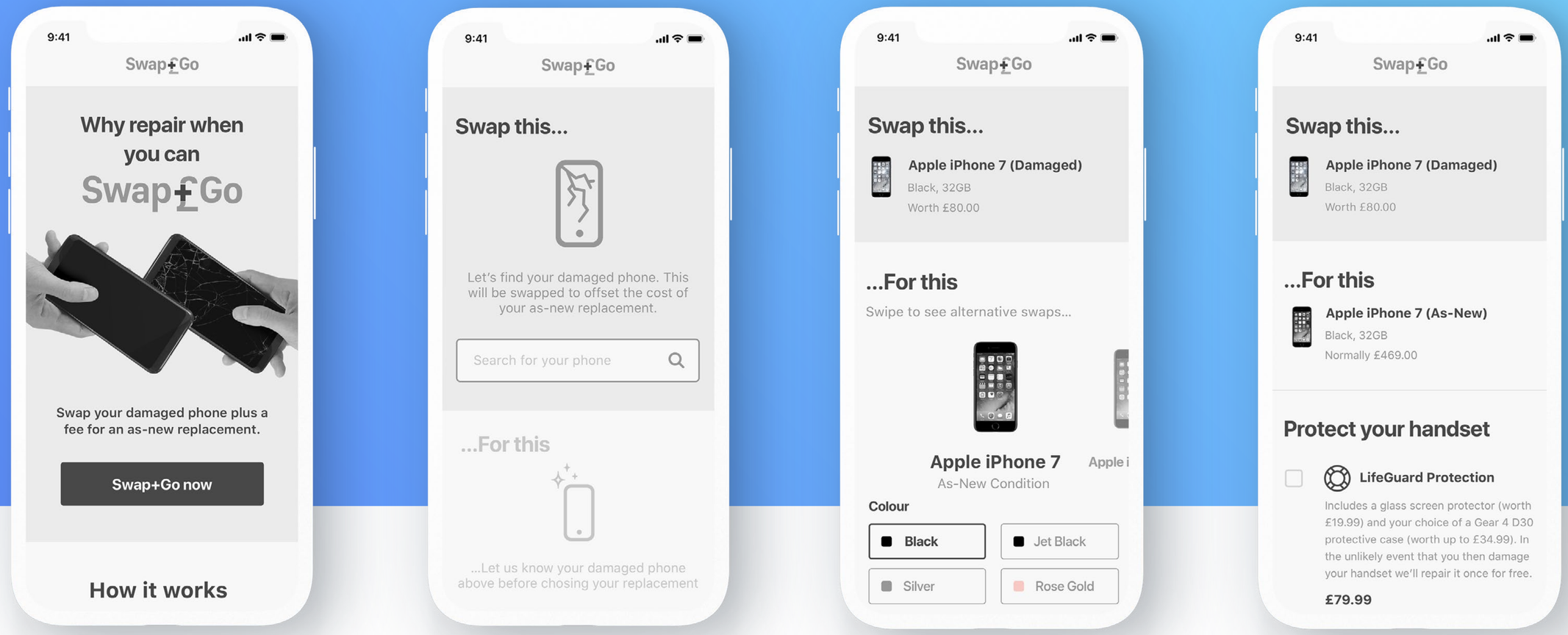
Google Venture Design Sprints was the perfect methodology to adopt as it allowed us to fast-track traditional processes. We rapidly created realistic looking prototypes to test with actual customers and guaged their reactions before making any expensive commitments.



During our initial two sprints we quickly established that customers loved the quality of Carphone Warehouse's refurbished phones and although they value genuine accredited repairs they're far too tempted to go to a local repair shop and get a quick low-cost and low-quality fix.

A large portion of their refurbished units enter the business via their Trade-in service where they are are expertly restored to a variety of high quality conditions. To capture the low-price repair market what if you combined Trade-in with the selling of refurbished units? So basically allow customers to swap a damaged phone for a nearly new one (same model or different) at a highly competitive price and even faster than the quickest of low-quality repairs. This is exactly what we tested!...

Swap+£Go



Swap+Go tested very well, so well that Carphone Warehouse have already adopted it in store.

Customers again loved the condition of the refurbished units, commenting that they were as good as new and that even the lowest grade looked better than their own, before they had even damaged it. When they saw the price they were also very surprised that it could even compete with the price of fixing a screen at their local repair shop. Those that couldn't bare to be without their phones loved that they were able to reserve a swap online and check model and colour availablity before completing the swap in store.

Customers were also shocked to see there was an option to complete the swap fully online and that Carphone would send their like-new phone out for next day delivery complete with a return package to send their damaged phone back - "so trusting that they'll send the swap out before I need to send my damaged one to them!"

Our next set of sprints focussed on a very different part of the Dixons Carphone business - large kitchen appliances, specifically washing machines.

Manufacturers are increasingly making washing machines smarter and more feature-rich. If you're an expert in washers and know how to get the most out of each product then that's great but the majority of customers aren't and quite often only know things like which spin speed or drum capacity is right for them. This is usually because they have either made those choices before or have learnt they need faster/slower or larger/smaller through use.

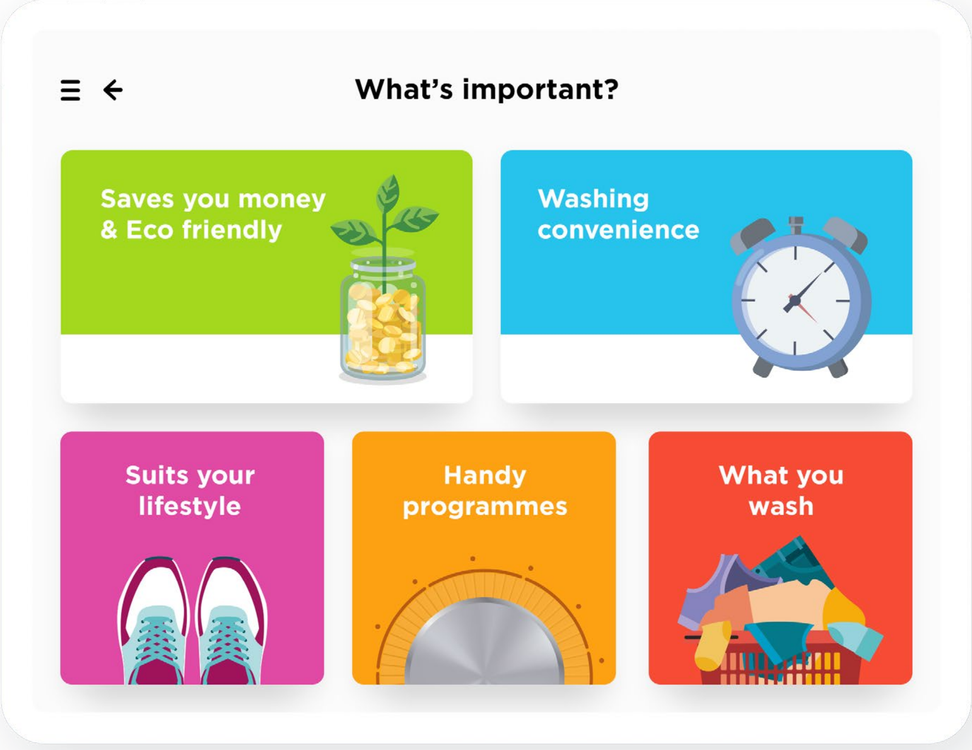
If you add on top of that all the overly-complex brand product descriptions, trade marked technology names and a lot of technical language that customers are faced with having to choose (Eco Bubble, Active Care, Wave Drum, i-DOS to name a few) it's easy to see why customers become so confused.

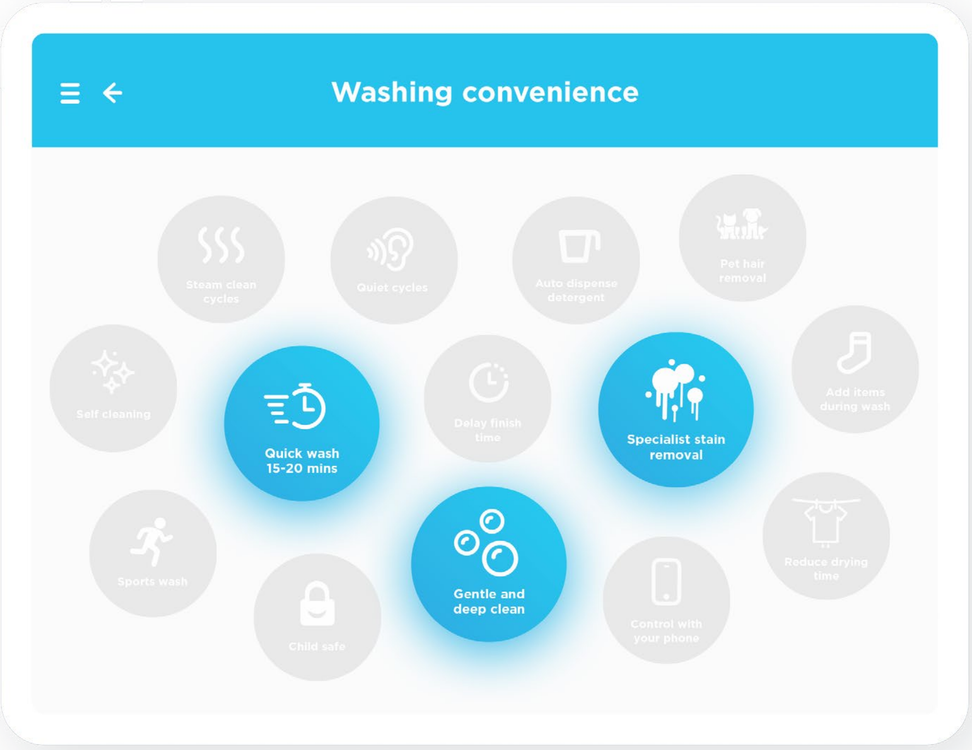
It is also very difficult for store staff, especially part-time colleagues to be on top of all these features, what they mean and also how they can actually benefit customers.

After unearthing a lot of these customer and colleague concerns (one of our experts worked in store and also through many cross-business interviews and nation-wide customer group research) we began looking into ways we could solve them.

Part of our extensive customer experience recommendation focussed around creating a more personalised profile/view of a customer and their actual real-life needs. The idea is to understand their circumstances and what is important to them through customer-friendly language and real-life scenarios that also explain how today's technology can make a real difference to them.

On top of that we also found customers are genuinely excited to discover how technology can help them especially when it comes to saving time and money.

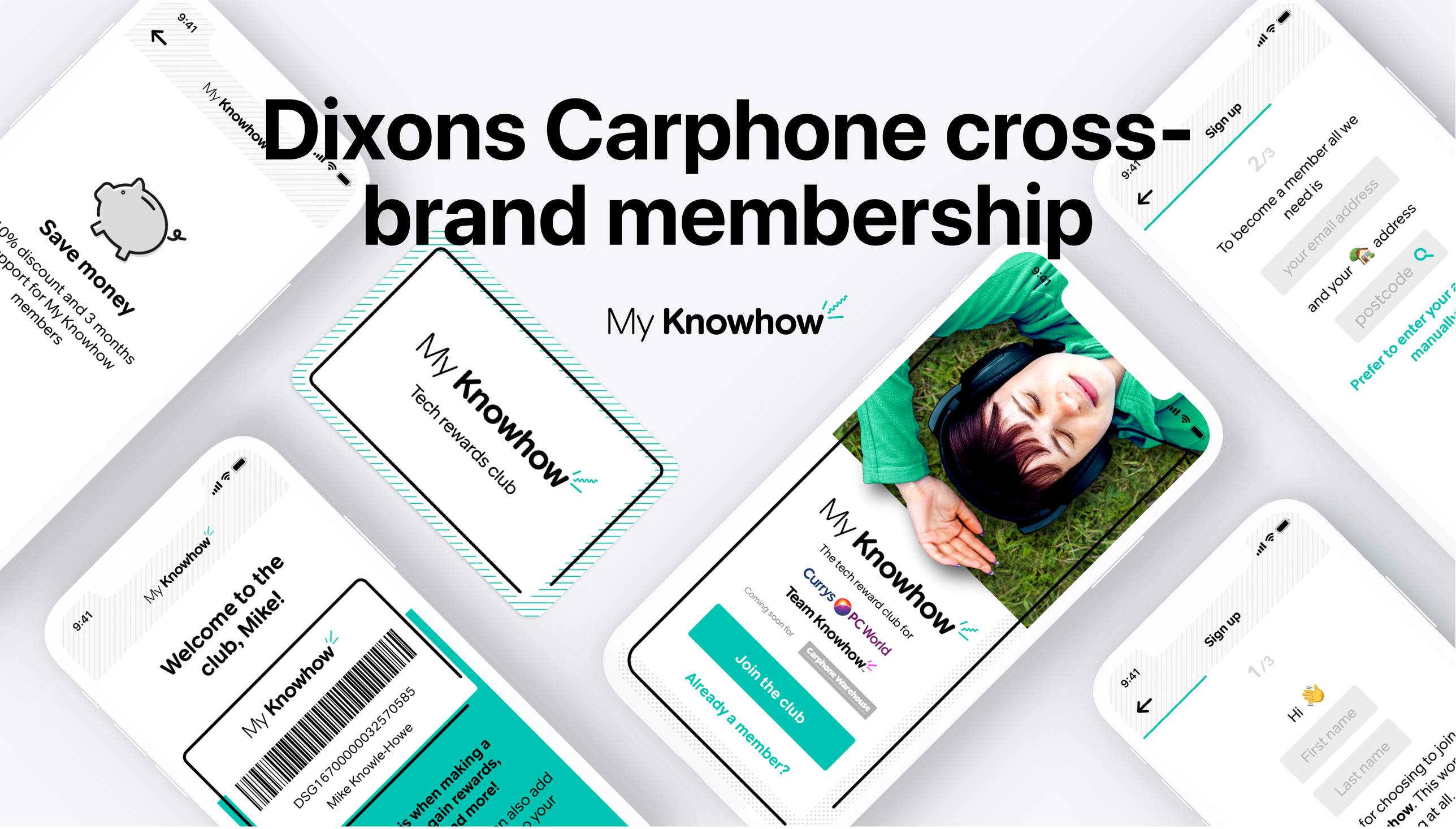




Storyboard

To bring all our end-to-end recommendations to life I created a storyboard that neatly illustrated each step of our proposed seemless omni-channel experience.

Dixons Carphone cross-brand membership



My Role

Lead UI/UX Designer

Duration

Dec 2017 - Jun 2018

Apps & Skills

- Sketch
- InVision
- Photoshop
- Principle
- Illustrator

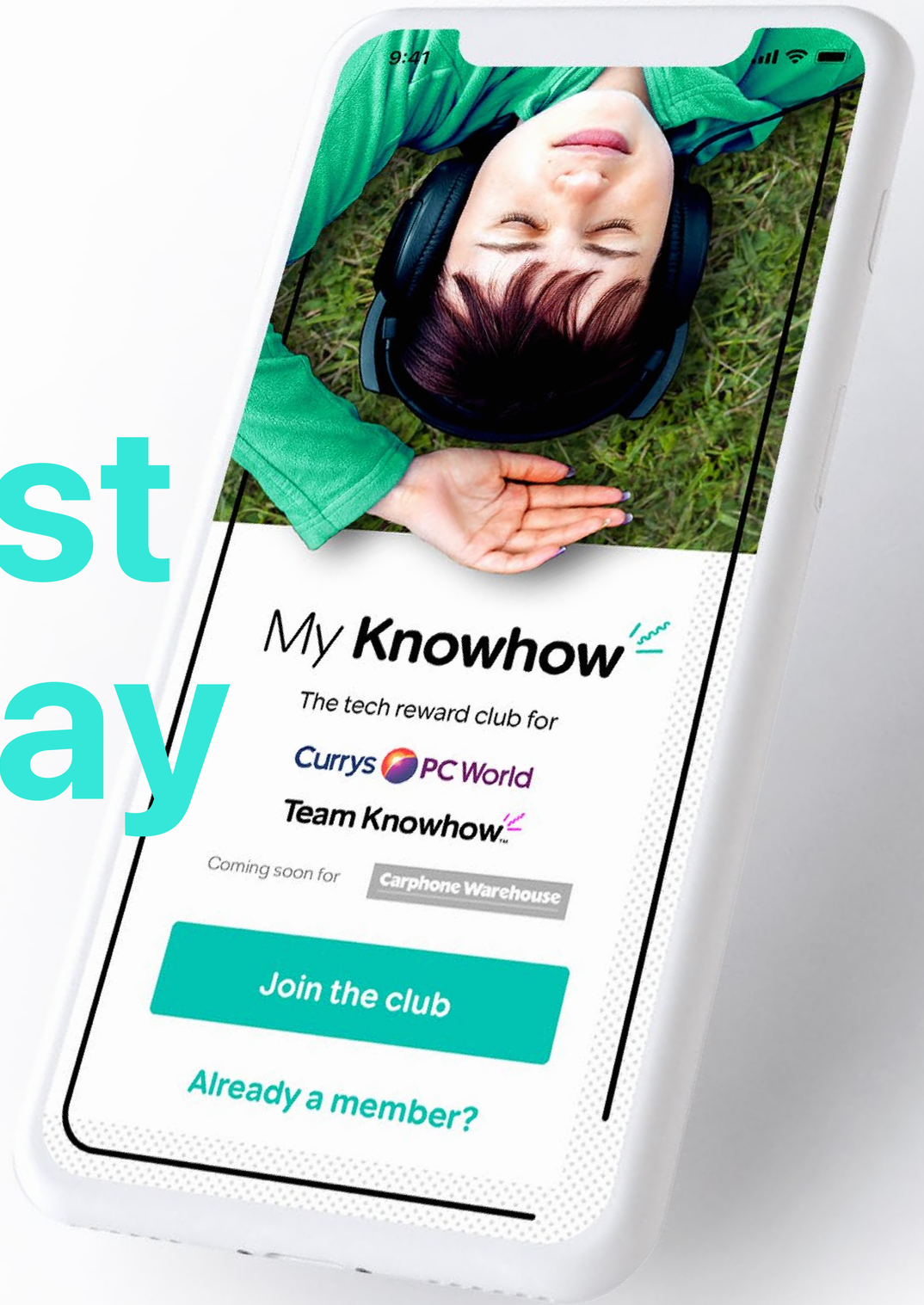
Summary

Our Agile Product Team was chosen to create and deliver the beginnings of the Dixons Carphone cross-brand membership experience. We wanted to create the warmest of welcomes to this friendly, customer-centric technology club.

As we embarked on this membership project My Knowhow's branding was still in it's very ealy stages. This was great because it meant I could work closely with Brand & Marketing to help shape the look & feel whilst also being able to encourage a truly mobile-first approach.

In my eyes this membership project was the key to paving a way to a joined-up omni-channel experience.

Mobile-first in every way



For a a long while now it's often made sense to have a mobile-first strategy when designing products or websites but for this project the mobile was completely at the heart of the entire omni-channel experience - from being able to quickly sign-up from your mobile in-store to tracking and redeeming loyalty bonuses later online through the app.

I worked closely with Brand & Marketing to ensteel this approach and to feed into the wider guidelines. I also created the online style guide complete with Sketch UI library.

Techy Teal
#00c4b3

Practical grey
#808080

Sensible grey
#d9d9d9

Typography

h1.My Knowhow heading bold 48px

h2.My Knowhow heading bold 36px

h3.My Knowhow heading bold 30px

h4.My Knowhow heading bold 24px

h1.My Knowhow heading regular 48px

h2.My Knowhow heading regular 36px

h3.My Knowhow heading regular 30px

h4.My Knowhow heading regular 24px

21 px intro paragraph - lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Morbi purus justo, facilisis et dictum eget, sollicitudin ut lectus. Donec ultrices augue id nisl congue.

18px paragraph - lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Morbi purus justo, facilisis et dictum eget, sollicitudin ut lectus. Donec ultrices augue id nisl congue.

15px small - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.

Buttons

Primary

Ghost

Hover

Primary

Ghost

Active

Hover

My knowhow link

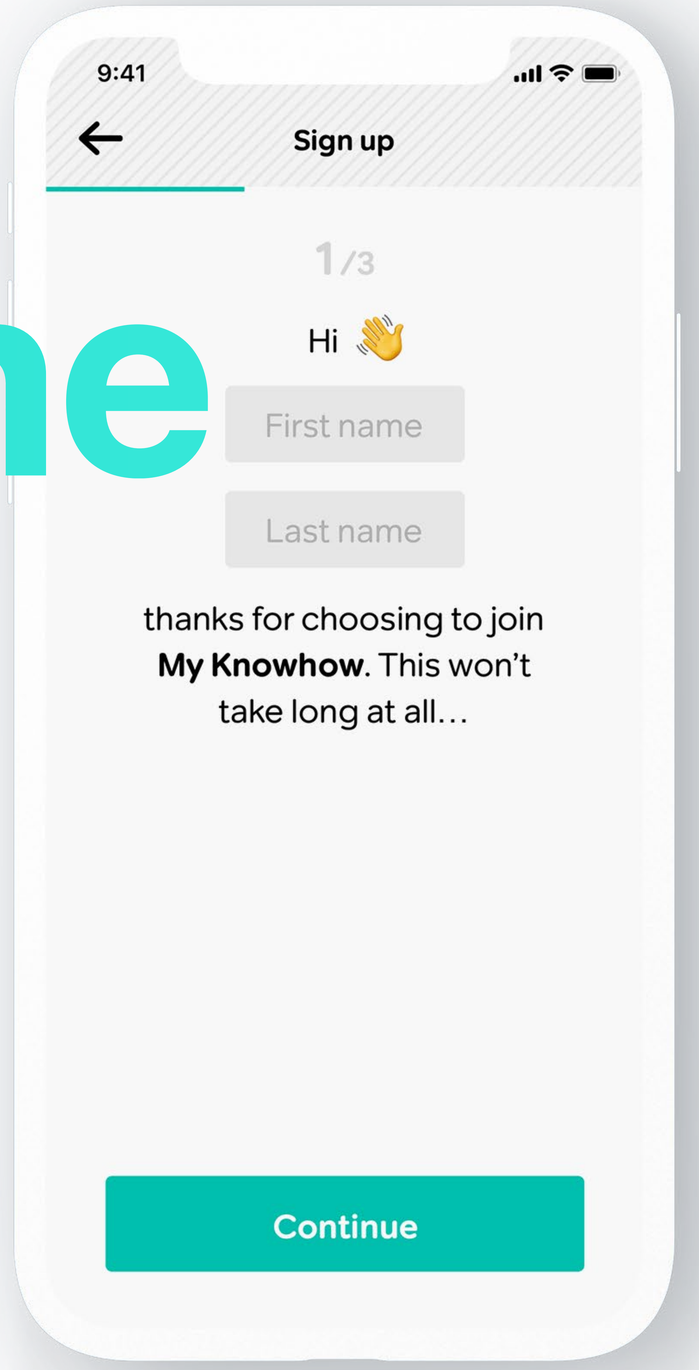
My knowhow link

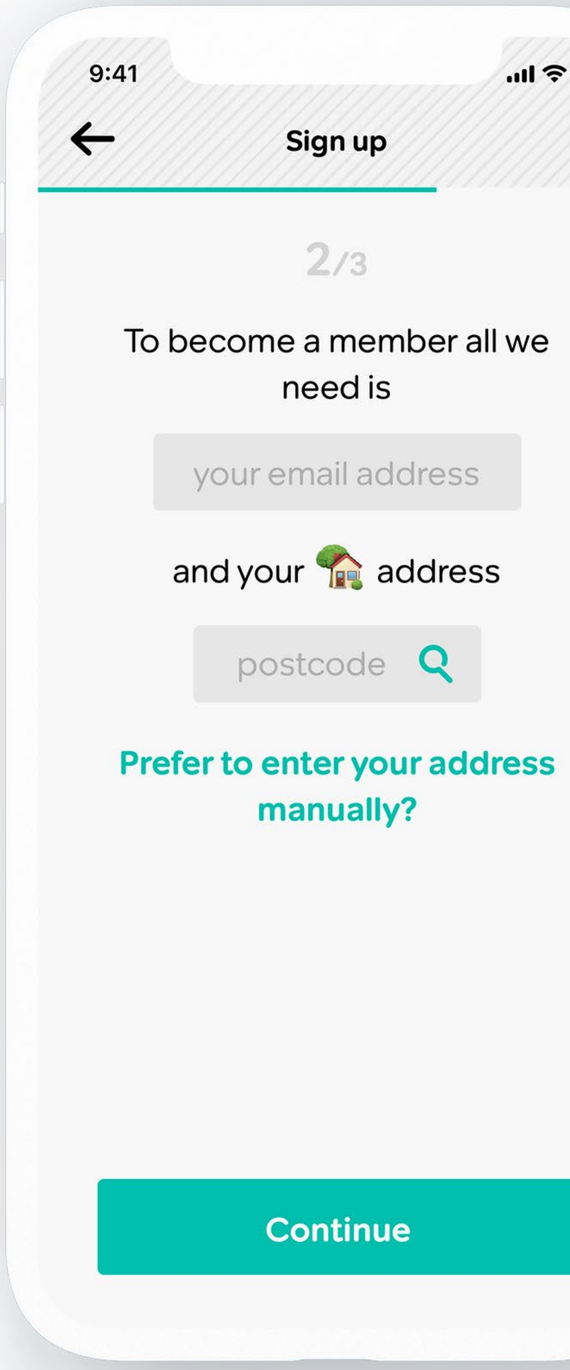
Warm welcome

I wanted to set a precedence during the sign-up journey and give customers a little taste of the My Knowhow experience. I also wanted to convey the informal, friendly nature of the brand without bloating what should be a quick and easy registration.

Instead of a typical form I decided to make the experience more welcoming by giving it a more conversation-like feel.

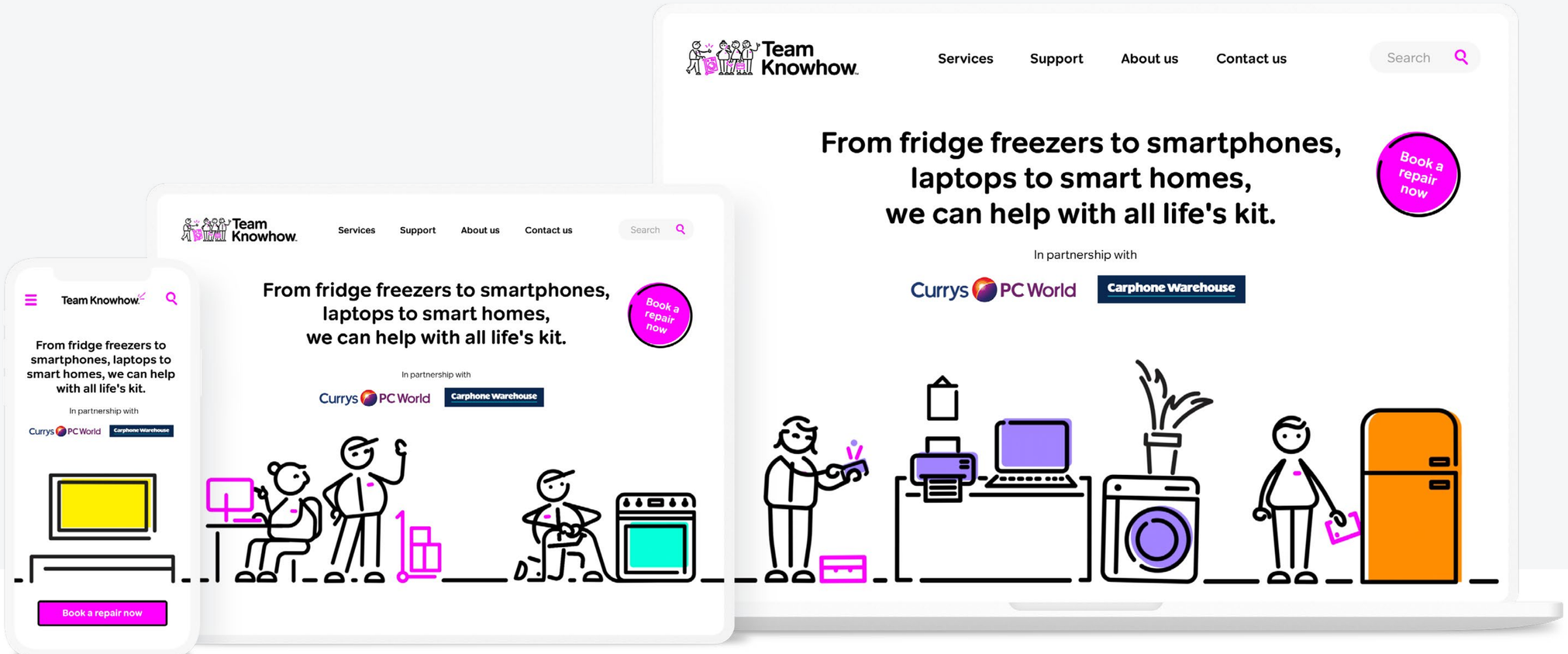
When tested, people found it very refreshing that it didn't feel like a typical data entry form and because it was broken down into bite-sized steps they felt it was actually faster to fill out.





The future of Dixons Carphone services

Team Knowhow™



My Role

Lead UI/UX Designer

Duration

Aug 2016 - Dec 2017

Apps & Skills

- Photoshop
- InVision
- Illustrator

Summary

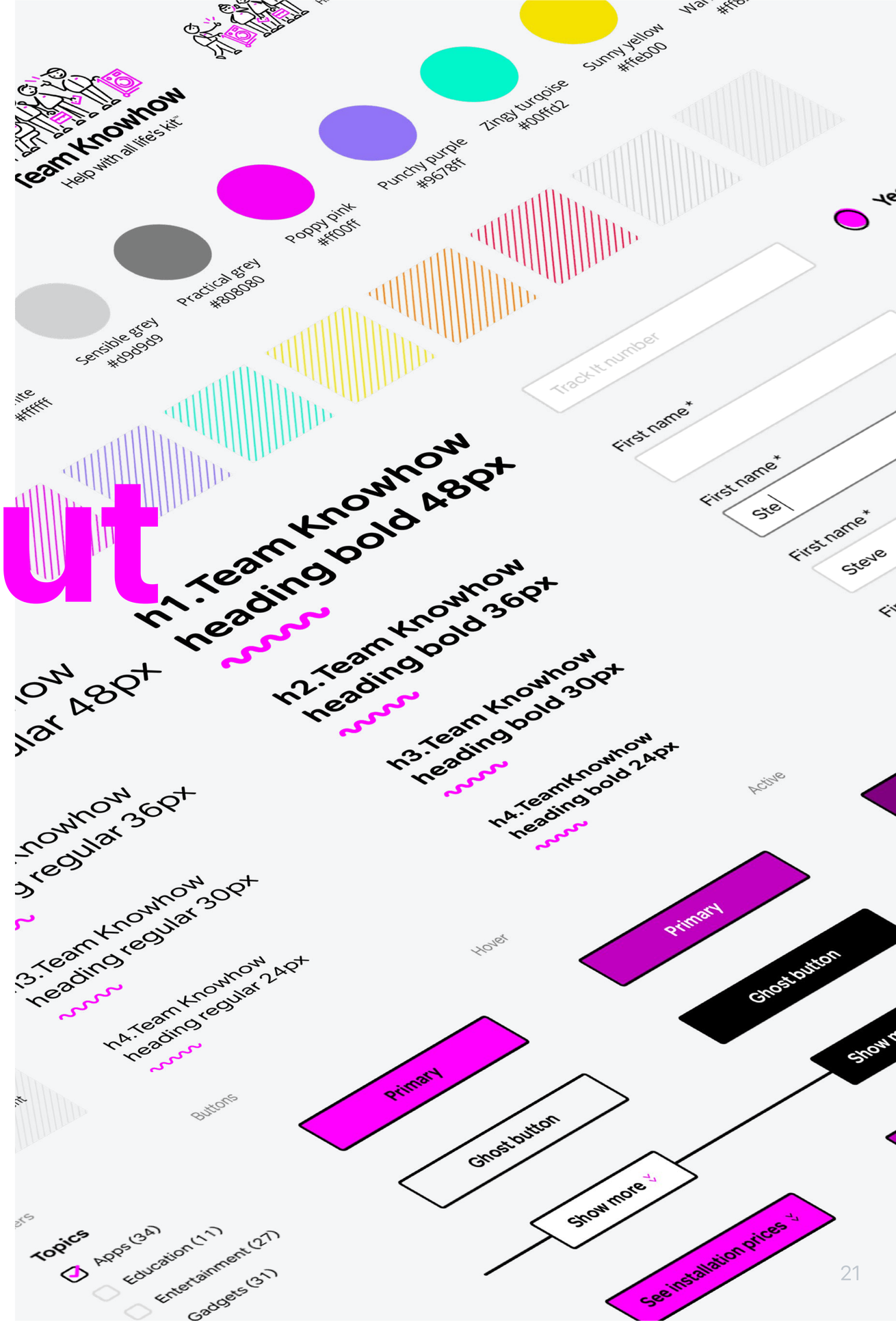
Geek Squad (Carphone Warehouse insurance) and Knowhow (Currys PC World services) were being united under a single brand umbrella - Team Knowhow. I led the complete redesign - from translating the brand created by Wolff Olins and producing our online style guide to wireframing journeys and creating final responsive UI visuals across every aspect of the website.

Brand DNA throughout

I wanted to create a style guide that perfectly balanced user familiarity with an inherent sense of brand DNA. It was also crucial that users would be able to distinguish between illustrations (animated or not), content and of course interactive elements.

This was achieved through a very simple visual hierachy. The branding included offset background patterns that allowed us to give prominence to certain areas and the vibrant “Poppy Pink”colour worked really well at lifting intereactive elements like primary buttons, links etc.

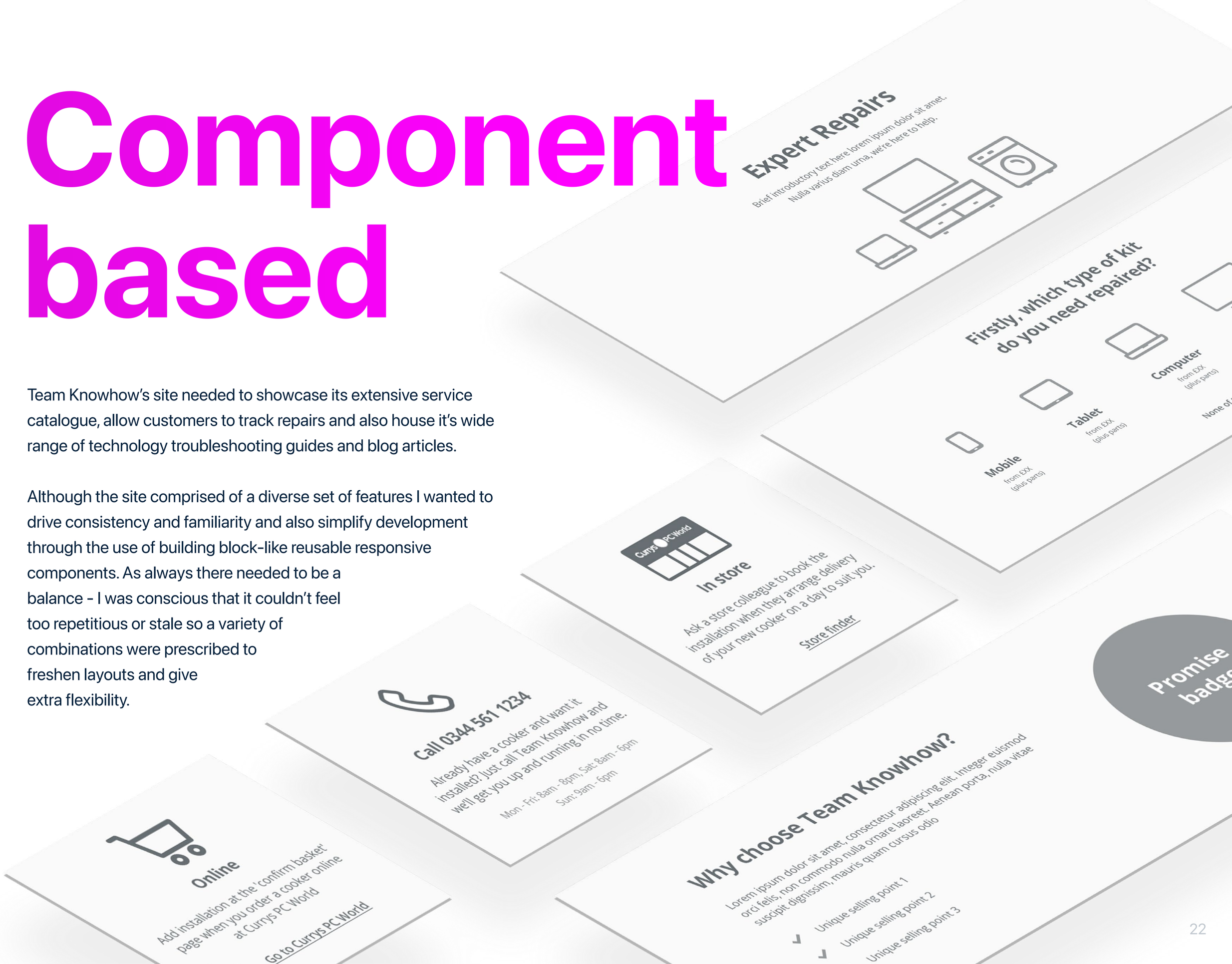
I felt I really captured the simple, clean, playful yet professional aesthetic through every custom built icon and UI element whilst still maintaining usabilty and accessibility.



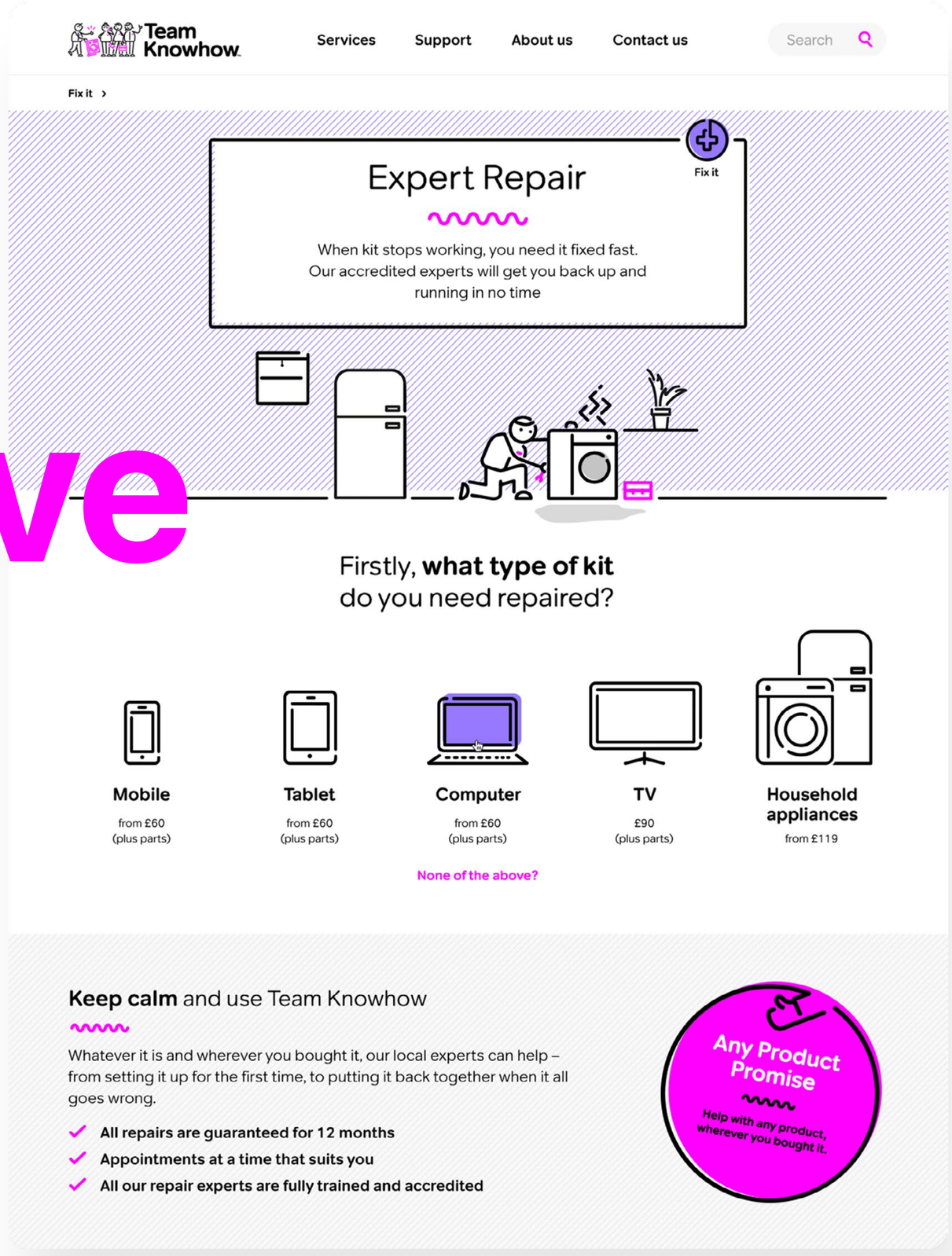
Component based

Team Knowhow's site needed to showcase its extensive service catalogue, allow customers to track repairs and also house it's wide range of technology troubleshooting guides and blog articles.

Although the site comprised of a diverse set of features I wanted to drive consistency and familiarity and also simplify development through the use of building block-like reusable responsive components. As always there needed to be a balance - I was conscious that it couldn't feel too repetitious or stale so a variety of combinations were prescribed to freshen layouts and give extra flexibility.



Pixel-perfect responsive UI



Here's part of a final UI visual for a service category page, it's a great example of how the UI, content and illustration work in complete unison on any screen size - bringing a clear prominence and focus to what the user is meant to do whilst also conveying the brand's personality and expertise.

A great deal of time and effort was put into creating the various vector icons and illustrations to ensure the graphics were perfect and crisp on any sized screen.