Experience and Product Design philipsutherland@msn.com

UX Case Study: Wayfair Premium Brand Home

Project Type: B2B Desktop Application

Dates: 10/20 - Present

My Role: Product Design Lead (solo)

Partners & Stakeholders:

- Wayfair Partner Home Platform
- Merchant Application Engineering Group
- North America Retail Technology & Analytics (internal data group)

Overview

Premium Brand Home is a highly scalable and data-intensive B2B application allowing "Suppliers" (manufacturers and distributors) selling their home goods products on the Wayfair e-commerce platform to participate, manage and measure their success in several high-profile, "flagship" branding and marketing programs. The application supports thousands of Wayfair Suppliers, each with potentially hundreds of products enrolled in a half-dozen different Premium Brand programs.

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Users/Audience:

Professionals in Supplier organizations responsible for negotiating and managing marketing, branding, and related distribution relationships with Wayfair. These would include, for example, "E-commerce Channel" managers. In small- to mid-size Suppliers one or two people may be responsible for the entire business relationship with Wayfair. In larger Suppliers, there could be an entire team and higher-level managers tasked purely to managing this business relationship.

User Needs, Tasks & Pain Points

A User (Supplier organization) needs to:

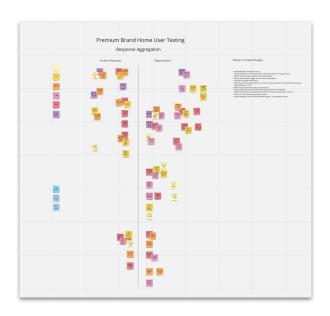
- Receive offers from Wayfair that product(s) from the Supplier's catalog be included in "Premium Brand" marketing programs.
- Evaluate and determine whether or not to accept or reject these offers, employing both data Wayfair provides and the Supplier's own. This evaluation is fundamentally an ROI calculation - to participate in programs, a Supplier must "exclusively" sell a product on Wayfair and make financial commitments.
- Track the status and success of their products in the programs.
- Respond to requests from Wayfair on particular products.
- Resolve cases where products are found to violate the required business terms for inclusion in programs.

Design Requirements & Constraints

- Create application using an established enterprise design system (in Sketch) that primarily supported asset management applications and table views.
- Design a very initial MVP that can be quickly extended.
- Dedicated "landing page" with data visualization would not be initially available.
- Enable users to optionally export and import table data into spreadsheet formats and to analyze and make decisions outside the application.
- Conceive the design for intermittent, rather than consistent users.

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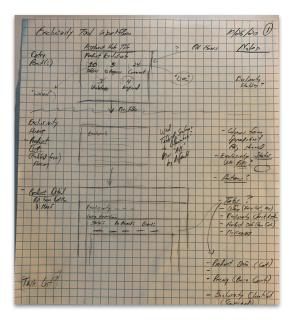
Design Process

A Brief History of Premium Brand Home

- 10-11/2020 Generative Research (minimal). Speculative sketching, iteration, and low-fidelity prototypes. Some user engagement.
- Q4 2020 Q1 2021 design discovery and drafts, user testing, technical foundation.
- Q1-Q2 2021 MVP designed and built.
- Q2 2021 MVP launched to initially small pool of Suppliers, which was gradually increased. User testing and refinement continued.
- Summer, 2021 gradually increased pool of Suppliers with access to application. Added new features.
- Fall, 2021: Design and user testing of MVP "Violations" feature.
- Spring 2022: Dashboard/landing page draft designs.

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Design Solutions

- I conceived, proposed, designed and helped built a new "lifecycle" status structure for Premium Brand Home that enabled Suppliers users to track and manage their products throughout different programs.
- I designed a set of table views and a supporting "product detail drawer" that kept the application architecturally flat and easier to developed, while enabling users to remain on a primary, "workspace," view.
- I created actionable table cell mechanisms using existing design system components so that users could see information necessary for them to make decisions but take action either within the application or via exported/imported spreadsheets.
- I constructed the application so that the team could add relatively easily new lifecycle stages, notably a "Violations" view by which Wayfair could alert Suppliers to identified breaches of business terms.
- I devised a "mini dashboard" by which users who only periodically engaged the program could quickly see - and respond to - changes since a previous session.

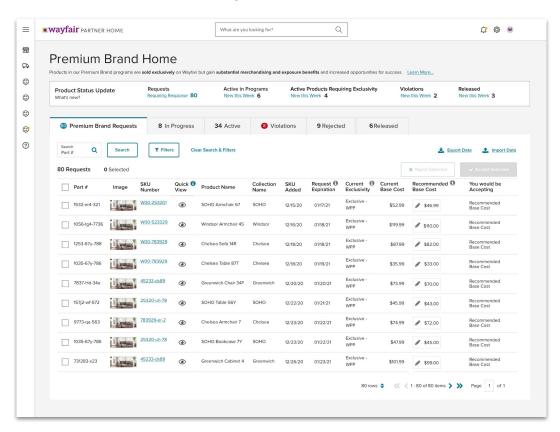
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Example sequence 1: Supplier user analyzes and acts upon one or more offers from Wayfair for products to be included in Premium Brand Programs.

- To prioritize for an MVP, and because data access was a work-in-progress the default initial view for a user is the "Offers" table (shown right), rather than a dashboard-style landing page (current in development).
- User has the option to accept, reject, or possibly respond to a set of "offer parameters" for each product.
- A user will evaluable each offer parameter, and the offer generally, within the context of several data points, such as whether a product already is being sold exclusively on Wayfair and its wholesale base cost.

Premium Brand Home Sequence - 1a



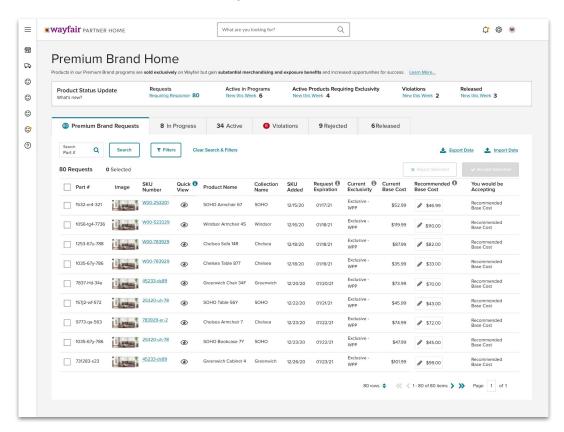
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Example sequence 1: Offer Review and Acceptance

- To prioritize for the MVP, and because data access was a work-in-progress, the default initial view for a user was the "Offers" table (shown right), rather than the dashboard-style landing page I originally conceived.
- User has the option to accept, reject, or possibly respond to a set of "offer parameters" for each product.
- A user will evaluate each offer parameter - and the offer generally within the context of several data points, such as whether a product already is being sold exclusively on Wayfair and its wholesale base cost.

Premium Brand Home Sequence - 1a



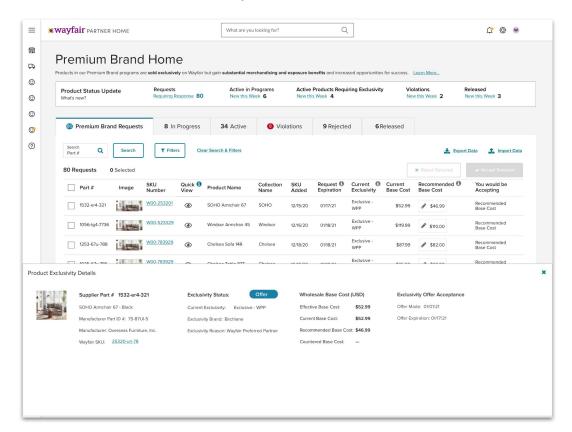
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Example sequence 1: Offer Review and Acceptance.

To keep the application's structure "flat" and easier to build, I employed a "drawer overlay" so that users could access information they might want to make decisions without navigating away from the primary table view.

Premium Brand Home Sequence - 1b



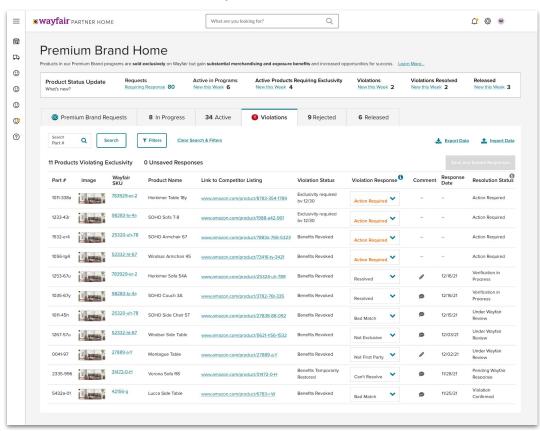
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Example sequence 2: Supplier is notified within the application that one or more of its products in Premium Brand programs may have violated business terms (usually "Exclusivity"). Supplier can take action(s) to address these possible violations and track resolution over time.

A user navigates to the "Violations" view of the application either via the tabbed sections (a part of the design system) or via the "mini-dashboard" at the top of the application. The mini-dashboard links both alert users to changes since previous engagements, navigate to corresponding tables, and pre-filter the table contents.

Premium Brand Home Sequence - 2a



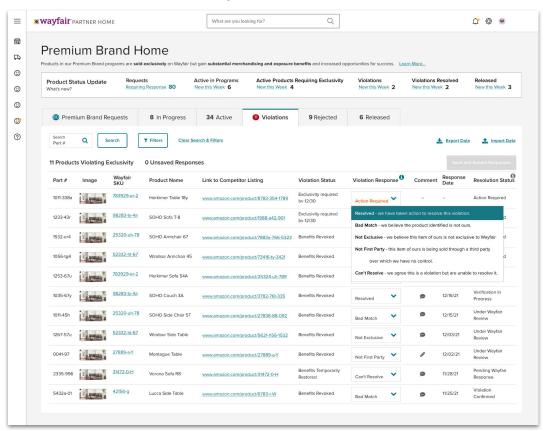
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Example sequence 2: Violations

A user can respond to identified violations either via the row-level dropdown menu or by exporting the table data, making changes offline, and then importing the data back into the application, which populates the Violations table to reflect the offline actions

Premium Brand Home Sequence - 2b



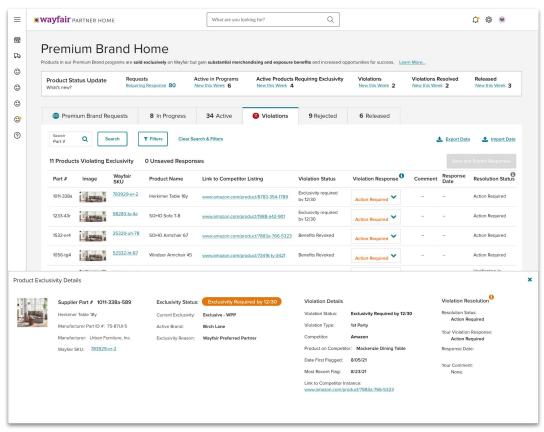
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Example sequence 2: Violations

A user can access additional information about a product and its identified violation via an overlay drawer.

Premium Brand Home Sequence - 2c



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Example sequence 2: Violations

A user can enter a comment for each product, facilitating communication between a Supplier and Wayfair about an identified violation. Generally speaking, the "Violations" function supports a basic dispute resolution.

Premium Brand Home Sequence - 2d

