The Backbone of a Compelling CX Strategy

Four Critical Artifacts

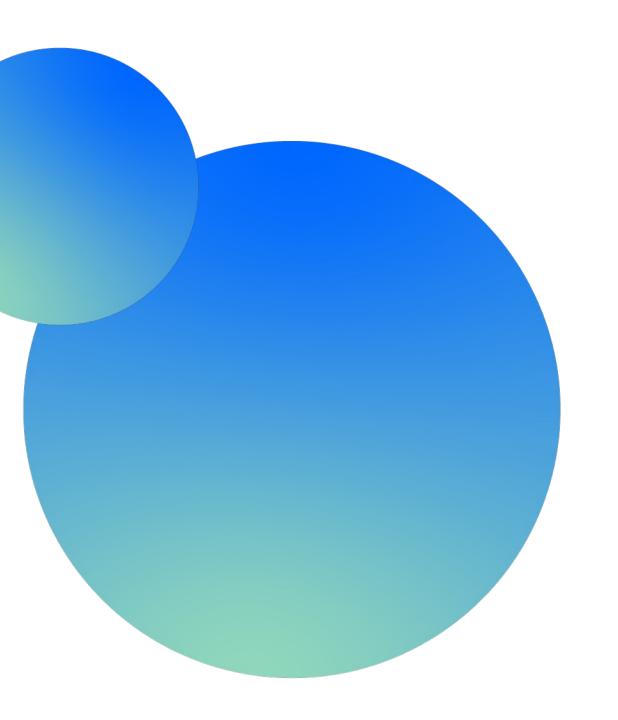


About me

Kathryn Kollett (Kat)

Director, CX Strategy
One North





TOPICS FOR TODAY

- What is a CX Strategy?
- Shaping and Sharing a CX Strategy
- Four Critical Artifacts
- CX Resources

WHAT IS A CX STRATEGY?



\'kə-stə-mər\ \,ik-'spir-ē-ən(t)s\
noun

- 1. The collection of interactions, across channels, that support a customer in engaging with a company.
- 2. The overall impression customers have of a company based on their interactions over time, and particularly based on engaging with their products or services, or with those supporting their products or services.

BRAND

How do we determine what we are known for in the mind of the public?

CONTENT

How should we **share information to ensure success**?

USER EXPERIENCE

How should we **design customers' interactions with us**, particularly via digital channels?

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

How should we **shape the** reality of engaging with us and our offerings?

TECHNOLOGY

How do we ensure availability, accuracy, and performance for our offerings?

DATA

How can we use data to assess and continually improve our customer and user experiences?

Strategy @ One North

Strategy @ One North

CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

How should we **shape the**reality of engaging with us
and our offerings?

A CX Strategy project answers questions like...

- How well are we currently meeting our customers' needs?
- What might we offer to better meet their needs and complement their processes?
- Are we making it as simple as possible to take advantage of our offerings and interact with us?
- Where do the biggest opportunities lie to engage our customers in new ways?
- How might we anticipate future needs and lead our industry, offering solutions to overlooked or accepted problems?
- Where are the biggest gaps in our internal processes and how might resolving them bolster our business?
- Does the experience of interacting with us match our brand positioning?



A CX strategy is a vision and plan to align the people, processes, and technologies needed to support a seamless, supportive experience across touchpoints, then continually innovate and evolve that experience.

Initiatives included in a CX strategy may not be customer-facing

Great customer experiences are dependent on strong internal relationships and processes, integrated tools, and shared data.

CX strategy work is not just for customers

"CUSTOMERS"

- Customers
- Employees
- Recruits
- Partners
- Suppliers

While important in their own rights, each of these groups also has a very real impact on the experience our clients provide for their customers.



A good CX strategy is...

Grounded in the needs, and oriented to the lived reality, of customers

Centered on expanding and/or deepening a company's relationships with its customers

A natural and practical [enough] extension of a company's current offerings, services, and capabilities



Value to your Customers

Customer
Acquisition
& Retention

Brand & Marketing Strategy

Value to your Business

Customer Tools & Processes

Interaction Design & Product Strategy

Customer Experience Strategy

Internal Tools & Processes

Technology & Data Strategy

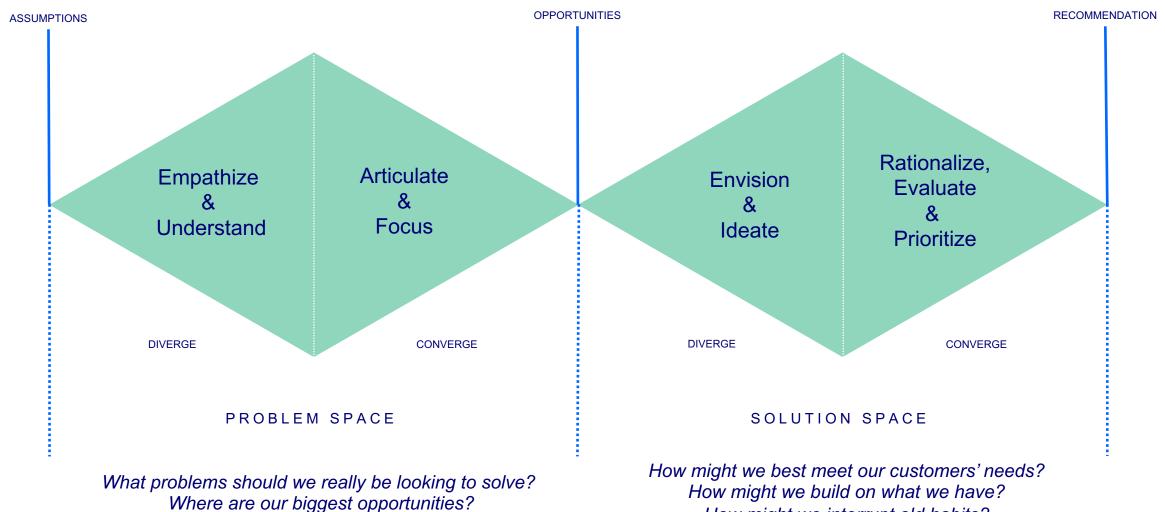
Technical & Fiscal Feasibility



A compelling CX strategy is all of this, plus the buy-in and momentum needed to take the necessary steps to bring it to fruition.

SHAPING AND SHARING A CX STRATEGY

Our approach is grounded in human-centered design



How might we interrupt old habits?



Our activities vary over the course of a project*

EMPATHIZE & UNDERSTAND

- Review previous work
- Facilitate discovery workshop(s)
- Conduct stakeholder interviews
- Design research
 materials
- Conduct customer/ service evaluative research
- Complete secondary research
- Review current state tools and technology

ARTICULATE & FOCUS

- Synthesize and validate research findings
- Map current state experiences
- Develop insights
- Identify opportunity areas
- Deliver discovery read-out

ENVISION & IDEATE

- Design and facilitate ideation workshop(s)
- Establish a future state vision and guiding principles
- Generate and expand on experience concepts
- Design and facilitate validation and/or cocreative research
- Distill, articulate, and define supporting enablers

RATIONALIZE, EVALUATE & PRIORITIZE

- Consolidate and refine concepts
- Map enablers to existing capabilities
- Design and facilitate enabler prioritization workshop
- Develop experience roadmap
- Document next steps
- Craft illustrative scenarios
- Deliver final presentation

⁰

We produce a variety of artifacts and deliverables*

EMPATHIZE & UNDERSTAND

- Research protocols
- Emerging themes
- Current state ecosystem summary
- Current state KPIs

ARTICULATE & FOCUS

- Insights
- Personas
- Journey maps (or other experience maps)
- Insight validation data
- Opportunity areas
- Discovery read-out deck

ENVISION & IDEATE

- Vision statement
- Guiding principles
- Concepts to fulfill on vision
- Concept validation research results
- Enablers to support concepts

RATIONALIZE, EVALUATE & PRIORITIZE

- Refined concepts
- Prioritization workshop materials
- Enabler details
- Roadmap
- Illustrative scenarios
- Final read-out deck



Four of these form the backbone of a compelling CX strategy

EMPATHIZE & UNDERSTAND

- Research protocols
- Emerging themes
- Current state ecosystem summary
- Current state KPIs

ARTICULATE & FOCUS

- Insights
- Personas
- Journey maps
 (or other experience maps)
- Insight validation data
- Opportunity areas
- Discovery read-out deck

ENVISION & IDEATE

- Vision statement
- Guiding principles
- Concepts to fulfill on vision
- Concept validation research results
- Enablers to support concepts

RATIONALIZE, EVALUATE & PRIORITIZE

- Refined concepts
- Prioritization workshop materials
- Enabler details
- Roadmap
- Illustrative scenarios
- Final read-out deck



FOUR CRITICAL ARTIFACTS

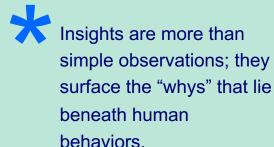


FOUR CRITICAL ARTIFACTS INSIGHTS



Insights are distilled learnings that reveal fundamental—and sometimes unexpected—truths.

They highlight the shared, human, lived experience of customers, and surface opportunity areas or conflicts to be resolved.



CX insights point to, customer needs, and why they matter to a client.



While insights can be identified through a variety of data, CX insights are strongest when based in primary customer research.

In speaking about their work and interacting with Complexico, widget resellers consistently touched on four themes.

INSIGHTS

In action

Discovery Insights — Logistics | Support | Innovation | Community

Service Over Price

While price influences supplier choices, Complexico's commitment to support for resellers and service providers often outweighs this consideration.

complexico

66 Our customers often ask for less expensive solutions, but we continue to recommend Complexico. For the quality, sure, but also because we know we have their support. They make serving our customers easier.

- Medium Reseller, Oregon

We do offer competing options, yes, but we always groan a little when we see an assignment that's not Complexico. We know when we get to the site, we'll be on our own.

- Large Reseller, Nevada

• Support

Logistics

Innovation

Community

Discovery Insights — Logistics | Support | Innovation | Community

Staying Up to Date Has Costs

Resellers are excited by the speed with which Complexico's offerings evolve, but find it challenging to keep the wide variety of replacement parts needed to support their customers in stock.

- Complexico's commitment to innovation is wonderful, but we can't keep up. I can only keep so many parts in our warehouse, and it just doesn't make sense to order ahead before a new offering has taken off. Unfortunately, that means my customers have to wait when they run into problems.
 - Small Reseller, Californi
- We have a handful of customers that are always asking for the latest and greatest, and we know in the back of our minds that we'll need to get ahead of their maintenance needs to keep them happy.

– Large Reseller, Nevada

complexio

0



INSIGHTS

Clarifying their purpose

Insights are

- The building blocks of a foundation for brainstorming ideas
- Intended to reflect research participants' underlying sentiments
- "Explanations" behind the themes that have surfaced over the course of research
- Qualitative in nature

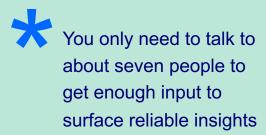
Insights are not

- Straightforward observations or themes
- A true or complete reflection of all of the products and/or services our client offers
- A reflection of participants' priorities
- Recommendations or requirements to be fulfilled
- Quantitative in nature



Benefits

- Help us understand customers as whole people
- Provide perspective on how well offerings fit into their lives
- Help confirm or refute assumptions—and reveal hidden biases we might have—related to customers
- Highlight opportunities to provide something new or different to deepen our relationships with them
- Provide valuable input for shaping future work



If desired, insights can be validated at scale via surveys



Getting started

Take stock of your offering.

- The ways you interact with them

What you say its

value to customers is

 Your goals for your relationships with your customers

We generally gather this information through stakeholder interviews

Talk to your customers.

- Learn how your offerings and interactions support them
- Explore their concerns and goals

Develop a discussion guide for your conversation to ensure consistency and unbiased questions

Synthesize your findings.

- Surface themes related to needs and pain points
- Look for proof or lack of alignment with your customers' goals

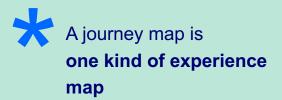
Group and regroup findings as needed true insights are in the in-between



FOUR CRITICAL ARTIFACTS JOURNEY MAPS

A CX journey map is a visualization of the shared experience customers have related to a company's offerings, from the customers' point of view.

Journey maps provide rich narratives around the ongoing relationships our clients have with their customers.



EXPERIENCE MAPS:

- Journey maps
- Ecosystem maps
- Service blueprints
- Empathy maps
- Combinations of these

MAPS CAN REFLECT:

- Individual personas' experiences
- Current or future state
- End-to-end or focused experiences

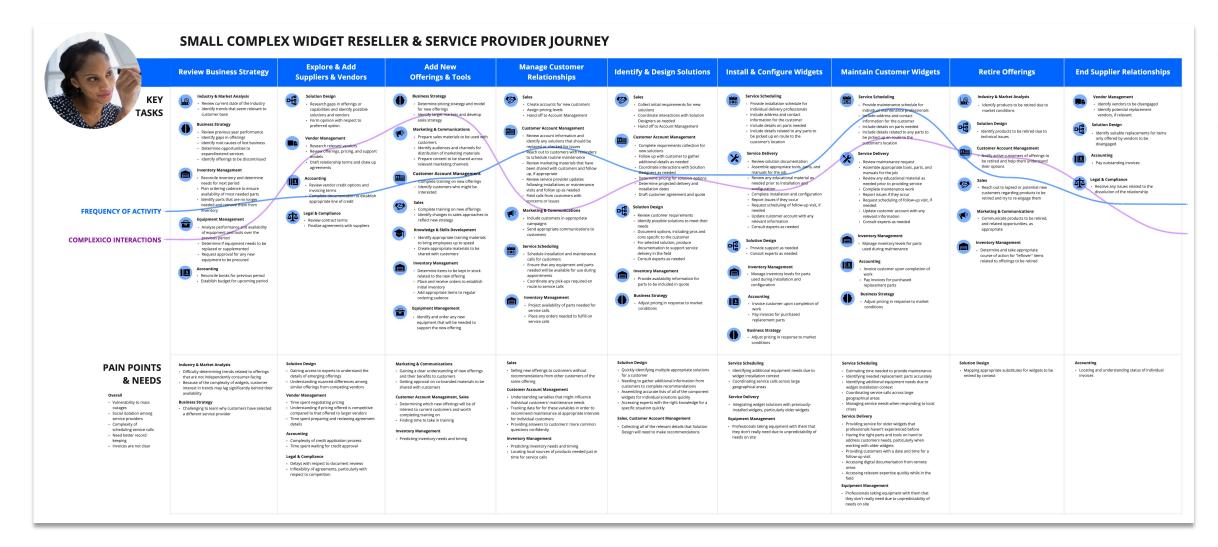


As for insights, we prefer to base journey maps on primary exploratory customer research—this research provides the information we need to reflect customers' contexts.

ne

O O JOURNEY MAPS

In action





SMALL COMPLEX WIDGET RESELLER & SERVICE PROVIDER JOURNEY

KEY	
FREQUENCY OF ACTIVITY -	
COMPLEXICO INTERACTIONS —	

Review Business Strategy

Business Strategy

Industry & Market Analysis

Identify gaps in offerings

· Determine opportunities to

expand/extend services

Inventory Management

needs for next period

Equipment Management

previous period

Review current state of the industry

· Identify trends that seem relevant to

Review previous year performance

· Identify root causes of lost business

· Identify offerings to be discontinued

Reconcile inventory and determine

· Plan ordering cadence to ensure

· Identify parts that are no longer

needed and remove them from

Analyze performance and availability

of equipment and tools over the

replaced or supplemented

· Request approval for any new

equipment to be procured

· Determine if equipment needs to be

Reconcile books for previous period

Establish budget for upcoming period

availability of most needed parts

Explore & Add Suppliers & Vendors

Research gaps in offerings or

Form opinion with respect to

Research relevant vendors

Review offerings, pricing, and support

Draft relationship terms and draw up

Review vendor credit options and

· Finalize agreements with suppliers

on to establish

solutions and vendors

preferred option

Vendor Management

Accounting

invoicing terms

Legal & Compliance

Review contract terms

appropriate line of credit

capabilities and identify possible

Solution Design

Add New Offerings & Tools

Business Strategy

sales strategy

interested

reflect new strategy

shared with customers

Inventory Management

initial inventory · Add appropriate items to regular

ordering cadence

Equipment Management

Identify and order any new

equipment that will be needed to support the new offering

related to the new offering

Sales

for new offerings

Determine pricing strategy and model

Identify target markets and develop

Prepare sales materials to be used with

· Identify audiences and channels for

distribution of marketing materials

· Prepare content to be shared across

Customer Account Management

· Identify customers who might be

· Complete training on new offerings

Knowledge & Skills Development

to bring employees up to speed

· Create appropriate materials to be

Determine items to be kept in stock

· Place and receive orders to establish

· Identify changes to sales approaches to

Identify appropriate training materials

omplete training on new offerings

relevant marketing channels

Marketing & Communications

Manage Customer Relationships

· Assign pricing levels

up, if appropriate

concerns or issues

customers

Service Scheduling

appointments

service calls

service calls

calls for customers

route to service calls

Inventory Management

Create accounts for new customers

· Hand off to Account Management

Customer Account Management

Review account information and

replaced or checked for issues

to schedule routine maintenance

Review service provider updates

visits and follow up as needed

Field calls from customers with

Marketing & Communications

Include customers in appropriate

· Send appropriate communications to

Schedule installation and maintenance

needed will be available for use during

Project availability of parts needed for

· Place any orders needed to fulfill on

· Ensure that any equipment and parts

· Coordinate any pick-ups required en

identify any solutions that should be

Review marketing materials that have

been shared with customers and follow

following installations or maintenance

Reach out to customers with reminders

Collect initial requirements for new solutions

Identify & Design Solutions

- · Coordinate interactions with Solution Designers as needed
- · Hand off to Account Management



Customer Account Management

- Complete requirements collection for new solutions
- · Follow up with customer to gather
- additional details as needed Coordinate interactions with Solution
- Designers as needed Determine pricing for solution options Determine projected delivery and
- · Draft customer agreement and quote



Solution Design

installation dates

- Review customer requirements · Identify possible solutions to meet their
- · Document options, including pros and
- cons specific to the customer For selected solution, produce
- documentation to support service delivery in the field Consult experts as needed



Inventory Management

Provide availability information for parts to be included in quote



conditions

Business Strategy Adjust pricing in response to market



configuration Accounting

Solution Design

- · Invoice customer upon completion of
- · Pay invoices for purchased replacement parts

Install & Configure Widgets

Provide installation schedule for

individual delivery professionals

· Include address and contact

information for the customer

· Include details on parts needed

be picked up en route to the

customer's location

manuals for the job

· Report issues if they occur

relevant information

· Consult experts as needed

· Provide support as needed

· Consult experts as needed

Inventory Management

Manage inventory levels for parts

used during installation and

Service Delivery

configuration

· Include details related to any parts to

Review solution documentation

Assemble appropriate tools, parts, and

Review any educational material as

· Complete installation and configuration

· Request scheduling of follow-up visit, if

· Update customer account with any

needed prior to installation and

Service Scheduling



Business Strategy

Adjust pricing in response to market



PAIN POINTS & NEEDS

- Vulnerability to mass outages
- · Social isolation among service providers
- · Complexity of scheduling service calls
- · Need better record
- · Invoices are not clear

Industry & Market Analysis

- · Difficulty determining trends related to offerings that are not independently consumer-facing
- · Because of the complexity of widgets, customer interest in trends may lag significantly behind their availability

Business Strategy

· Challenging to learn why customers have selected a different service provider

Solution Design

- · Gaining access to experts to understand the details of emerging offerings
- Understanding nuanced differences among similar offerings from competing vendors

Vendor Management

- Time spent negotiating pricing Understanding if pricing offered is competitive compared to that offered to larger vendors
- · Time spent preparing and reviewing agreement details

Accounting

- · Complexity of credit application process
- · Time spent waiting for credit approval

Legal & Compliance

- · Delays with respect to document reviews
- · Inflexibility of agreements, particularly with respect to competition

Marketing & Communications

- · Gaining a clear understanding of new offerings and their benefits to customers
- · Getting approval on co-branded materials to be shared with customers

Customer Account Management, Sales

- · Determining which new offerings will be of interest to current customers and worth completing training on
- · Finding time to take in training

Inventory Management

· Predicting inventory needs and timing

· Selling new offerings to customers without recommendations from other customers of the

Customer Account Management

- · Understanding variables that might influence individual customers' maintenance needs
- · Tracking data for for these variables in order to recommend maintenance at appropriate intervals for individual customers
- · Providing answers to customers' more common questions confidently

Inventory Management

- · Predicting inventory needs and timing
- · Locating local sources of products needed just in time for service calls

Solution Design

- · Quickly identifying multiple appropriate solutions for a customer
- Needing to gather additional information from customers to complete recommendations
- · Assembling accurate lists of all of the component
- widgets for individual solutions quickly · Accessing experts with the right knowledge for a
- specific situation quickly

Sales, Customer Account Management

· Collecting all of the relevant details that Solution Design will need to make recommendations

Service Scheduling

- · Identifying additional equipment needs due to widget installation context
- · Coordinating service calls across large geographical areas

Service Delivery

· Integrating widget solutions with previouslyinstalled widgets, particularly older widgets

Equipment Management

· Professionals taking equipment with them that they don't really need due to unpredictability of needs on site

Mainta

Service Sche Estimating

 Identifying · Identifying widget inst

Coordination

geographic

· Managing

Service Deliv

· Providing s profession

· Having the address cu working wi

 Providing c follow-up v Accessing of

· Accessing r **Equipment N**

O O JOURNEY MAPS

Clarifying their purpose

Journey maps are

- Aggregate and abstracted maps of customers' relevant activities
- Customer-centric and context-specific
- Simplified from a flow perspective
- Expansive—they include the entirety of the customer experience, whether supported directly by our client or not
- Meant to provide an impression of the overall experience
- Intended to illuminate customers' collective needs,
 times of ease, and frustrations

Journey maps are not

- Specific representations of individual customers' experience
- Representative of all customers
- Comprehensive logs of all customer activities and tasks
- All the same they can be adapted to include the phases and information that is most helpful to an individual company, offering, or initiative
- Meant to communicate requirements



O JOURNEY MAPS

Benefits

- Provide clear, simple references and shared understandings of customers and their needs, particularly for complex journeys
- Contextualize findings from research to make them more readily actionable
- Serve as critical input to design work (UX, UI, service, etc.), ensuring that customers and their needs are kept in mind
- When produced across disparate customer groups, help identify commonalities and opportunities to serve customers more efficiently
- Offer stakeholders with a view across their organization and highlight areas where divisions and departments are not collaborating effectively



More expansive journey maps are more insightful. Understanding customers' needs while interacting with a company and during related activities reveals the most opportunities.



Getting started

Start with an assumed journey.

Talk to your customers.

Map your findings.

- Include your customers' activities and your own
- Note frustrations you're aware of
- Identify the questions you have

If you don't know what phases to include, start with the 5 Es

- Ask about their processes
- Test your assumptions
- Get answers to your questions

If possible, have them show you what they do rather than tell you

- Adapt your assumed journey to reflect the "truth"
- Translate activities and frustrations into customer needs

You may want to start fresh, using phases your customers talk about



FOUR CRITICAL ARTIFACTS VISION STATEMENT



A CX vision statement succinctly articulates the direction and purpose of your efforts to evolve your customer experience.

It is an internally-facing "north star" used to provide context for initiatives.



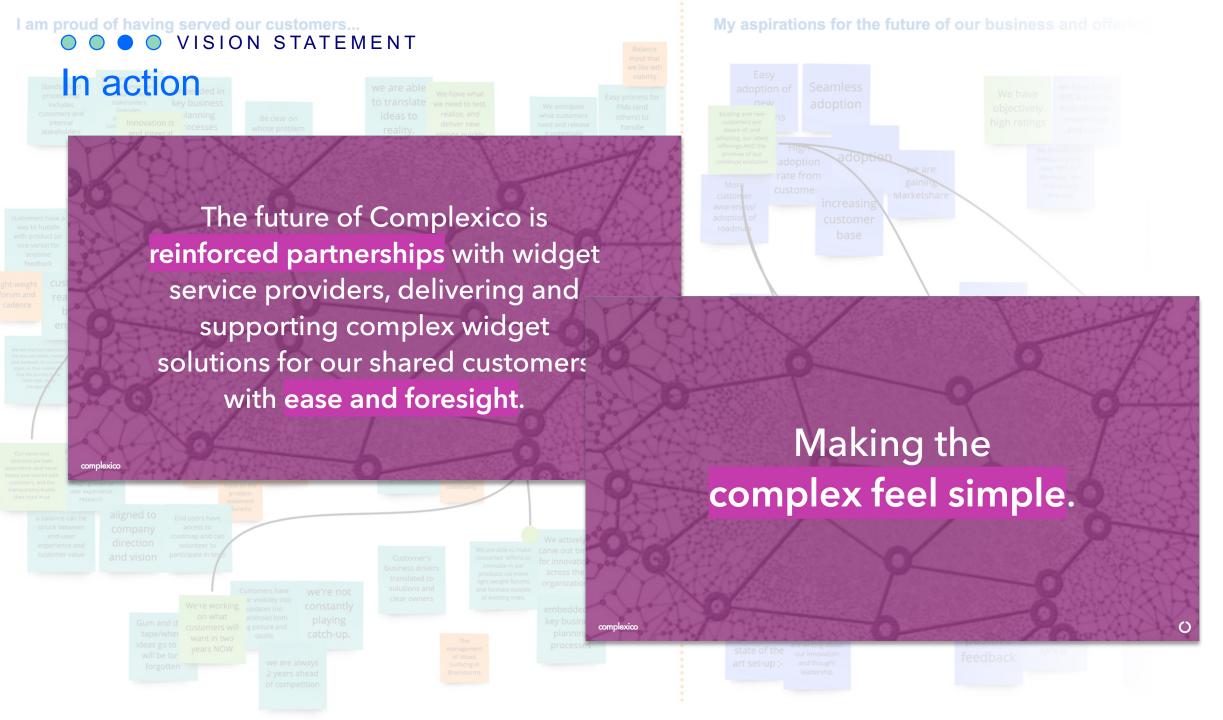
Vision statements are often paired with Guiding Principles, which provide direction for realization of the vision



We sometimes produce multiple versions of a vison— a full, detailed version and a quicker catch-phrase



Vision statements are agnostic with respect to specific implementations—they are intended to shape a future way of being to serve customers.





Clarifying its purpose

A vision is

- An over-arching narrative to guide future work
- A way to contextualize CX efforts within an organization
- A framing for individual initiatives and lower-level strategies
- Written in the future tense

A vision is not

- A tagline
- A brand strategy
- A positioning statement
- A product or technology recommendation
- Intended to be shared externally

Benefits

- Provides a focus and goal for an organization without being attached to a specific implementation
- Serves as a quick framing and reminder of priorities as followup initiatives begin
- Informs both shorter-term, incremental changes and more transformational innovation work

The biggest benefit of a vision is the alignment created through crafting it



Gather input.

Find common themes.

Distill the vision statement.

- Speak with internal stakeholders
- Ask about their proud moments serving customers
- Learn about their aspirations

This exercise is a great lead-in to ideation

- Identify the "already great" to build upon
- Articulate common dreams for the future
- Note where themes align with customer needs and goals

At its best, this work will reveal the "heart" of a business

- Craft your sentence
- Collaborate with stakeholders to ensure they are aligned and see themselves in the vision
- Edit liberally

The thesaurus is your friend, but avoid \$1000 words



FOUR CRITICAL ARTIFACTS ILLUSTRATIVE SCENARIOS



Illustrative scenarios are narratives that bring CX concepts to life.

They bring shape and form to ideas that can feel abstract, and allow people to imagine future-state customer experiences clearly.

CX concepts are ideas to create new customer experiences aligned with our findings and vision

Beyond story-telling, scenarios highlight initial implementation considerations



ILLUSTRATIVE SCENARIOS

In action



Complexico/Pro is the future state of Complexico's support for their resellers/service providers.

Our scenarios are set 3 to 5 years from now, when existing capabilities have been augmented and consolidated into a single digital experience.

complexico Welcome to complexico/pro

complexico/pro Supporting Service Providers Working with Leading-Edge Solutions

Vanessa is notified that the tools she'll borrow and supplies she may need for her service call are ready for pickup.

> She stops by the local Complexico distribution center on her way to her appointment.

She'll only be charged for the supplies she uses.

complexico/pro



Complexico provides comprehensive support to Service Providers as they begin supporting newly-emerging widget solutions, from tools and supplies to expertise.









complexico/pro

Having tried without success to follow the trouble-shooting guide, she requests support.

Dal is on the line in moments, and helps her through the issue.





O O O ILLUSTRATIVE SCENARIOS

Clarifying their purpose

Illustrative scenarios are

- An imagined possible future
- Intended to showcase innovative
 experiences that support a CX vision
- Crafted to bring life to concepts
 recommended as part of a CX strategy
- In some cases, dependent upon enablers
 that are yet to be built
- Designed to inspire and build momentum around next steps
- Directional in nature

Illustrative scenarios are not

- A representation of "real" functionality
- Reflective of a complete design solution
- Meant to communicate requirements
- Limited to functionality that can be immediately or easily implemented
- Necessarily digital solutions
- Prescriptive in nature



O O O ILLUSTRATIVE SCENARIOS

Benefits

- Communicate concepts quickly through contextual stories rather than descriptions
- Make the abstract "real," particularly for people who will be affected by implied changes
- Build buy-in for follow-up initiatives among stakeholders
- Provide exciting socialization materials to share internally
- Allow teams to "jump start" design processes and get feedback as part of initial, closer explorations



- Slides
- Video
- Script
- Installation
- Story boards
- Mood boards



Develop and edit storyboards.

3

Add design.

- Identify key benefits of the future CX to be communicated
- Establish characters and a core storyline
- Weave in critical concept elements

Use multiple scenarios to paint the whole picture

- Add details to make your story relatable and human
- Simplify—keep only what's necessary
- Note the kinds of illustrations that will best serve each "frame"

Make sure the details feel "real" to your intended audience

- Source or create imagery
- Develop simple wireframes, if relevant
- Pull everything together visually

Scenarios also offer an opportunity to highlight culture— be mindful



A FEW QUICK FOOTNOTES

Experience artifacts are living documents

They are

 Meant to be adapted/updated as additional information and feedback are collected

They are not

 Permanent, unchangeable, or enduring for their own sake



CX strategy work is not just for customers

"CUSTOMERS"

Customers

How do we ensure that the experience we offer is aligned with our customers' needs and expectations, and that they feel great about our partnership?

Employees

How do we ensure that our employees have the resources they need to contribute their best possible work, know they are making a difference, and feel appreciated?

Recruits

How do we ensure that we can attract the best possible employees to our organization?

Partners

How can we support our partners in delivering an excellent customer experience, both for our benefit and theirs?

Suppliers

How can we make it as easy as possible for suppliers to sell their products to us and through us, and become a preferred customer of theirs?

While important in their own rights, each of these groups also has a very real impact on the experience our clients provide for their customers.



Getting started with CX strategy

1

Plan and complete some discovery work.

Start with what you have, but make sure you also have qualitative data.

Get curious about your customers and spend some time with them.

Explore what you don't know that you don't know.

2

Consider engaging a third party.

It can be helpful to have someone from outside your organization support you in CX work. They can focus on this work, they bring expertise and, most importantly, they bring perspective that you most likely can't.

Third parties will question assumptions you're not aware are assumptions.



QUESTIONS?

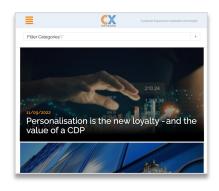


RESOURCES



Further reading

CX Network



McKinsey



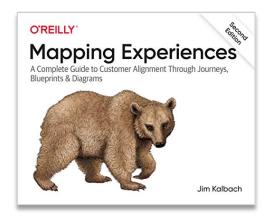
Ideo



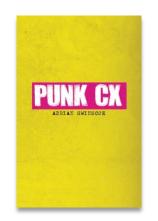
Roger Martin



A classic



Just caught my attention...





From One North



BRAND / Ø 3 MIN

CX strategy—Relationships all the way down

by Kat Kollett



USER-CENTERED DESIGN / 50 3 MIN

It takes two to tango: Keeping in step with customers—and your brand

by Kalev Peekna, Kat Kollett



B2B MARKETING / 🗗 5 MIN

B2BxCX—Common Challenges and Recommendations (Part 1)

by Kat Kollett



MARKETING TECHNOLOGY / 🗗 5 MIN

B2BxCX—Common Challenges and Recommendations (Part 2)

by Kat Kollett



MARKETING TECHNOLOGY / 🗗 4 MIN

B2BxCX—Common Challenges and Recommendations (Part 3)

by Kat Kollett

Subscribe to One North

If you found this webinar valuable, be sure to subscribe to our newsletter to keep up with future insights and events around CX and other relevant topics.

Sign up for our newsletter

onenorth.com/subscribe/



Thank you.

that we can do the work of multiple teams. With capabilities in brand and communications,

onenorth,com







one north

A TEKsystems Company