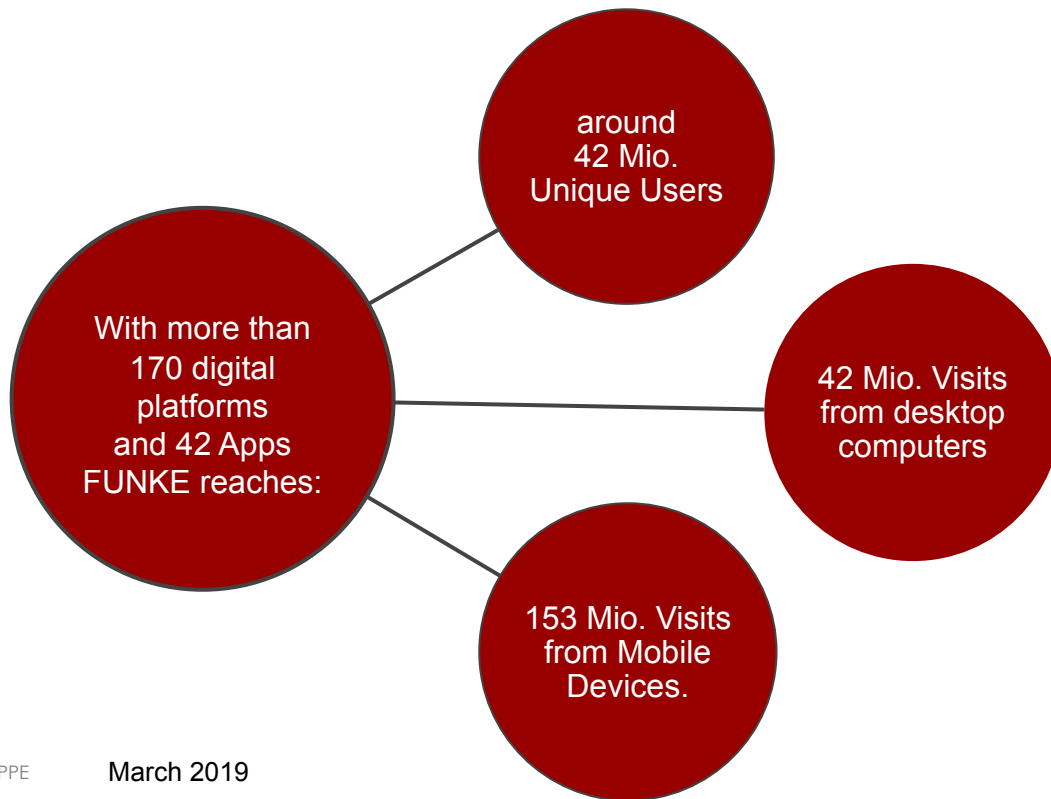




**Value-based pricing:
Psychology of choice and price increases**

Who we are



Project 1

Increase prices and improving the product

Project Summary

GOAL

- 1st paid content price increase for all subscribers at FUNKE NRW
 - from **7,99€ to 9,99€ per month (+25%)**
 - from **79,90€ to 83,88€ per year (+5%)**
- **Promote annual** subscriptions
- **Prevent cancellation** wave
- **Increase retention rate** by promoting upselling option with price advantage
-

CHALLENGES

- How to justify a higher price?
- What could be the right added value?
- How to increase the retention rate even though subscribers have to pay more?
- How to make users choose the annual subscription?

ACTIVITIES

- **Listen to your (former) customers** and understand their needs and churn reasons
- Be **transparent** why you are increasing prices
- **Communicate** before, while and after the price increase
- Emphasize **added value** (**-70% ad reduction**) and **special offers (annual subscription)** for your existing customers

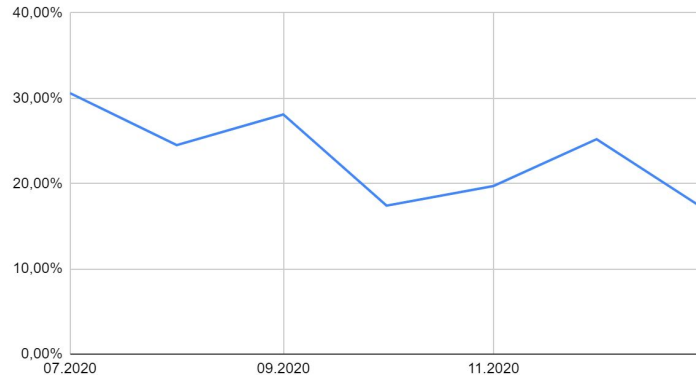
How to justify a price increase of 25%?

What is the added value that are people willing to pay for?

Listen to your customer to find the right added value

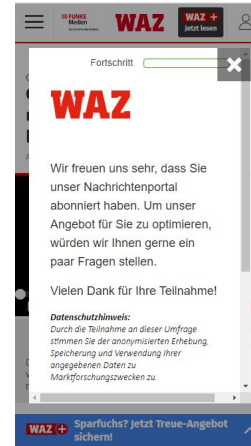
- By using quantitative and qualitative customer surveys and personal interviews we found out what our customers want
- Ad load and placements are one of the top mentioned churn reasons by subscribers (30%)**
- After reducing the ad placements significantly (-70%) for subscribers the surveys showed a drop of -13%p regarding this churn reason

% churn reason "ad placements" (mentioned by churners)

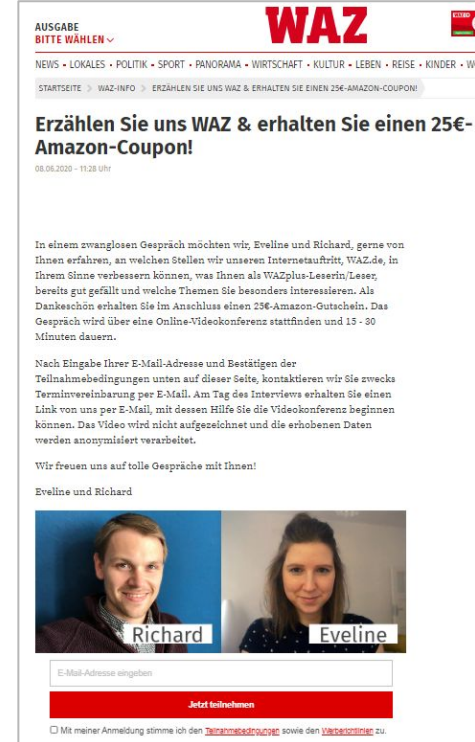


→ ad reduction was/is one of a relevant success factors for retention

onsite survey



campaign to recruit interviewees



1 | Make the annual subscription stand out

- introduction of the “decoy paywall” containing 3 offers:
 - monthly subscription
 - annual subscription
 - semi-yearly subscription (obviously not a good deal)
- **focus on central offer:** annual subscription → best value for money + max. CLV
- in any case: 70% less ads (exception: news app)

Sie haben bereits einen Zugang?
[Login](#)

WAZ (+)

Schnell. Optimiert. Werbereduziert.

FLEXIBEL ✓ 70% weniger Werbung ✓ jederzeit kündbar Für 9,99 € monatlich 1. Monat nur 0,99 €* 	12 MONATE ✓ 70% weniger Werbung ✓ 27 € sparen Für 83,88 € jährlich 6,99 € / Monat	6 MONATE ✓ 70% weniger Werbung ✓ halbjährlich kündbar Für 53,94 € halbjährlich 8,99 € / Monat
---	---	---

[Mehr Infos zu WAZplus](#)

2 | The added value: 70% less advertisement

before



after



3 | Transparency of price & new benefits

WAZplus-Abonnenten sehen jetzt deutlich weniger Werbung

Anne Krum

Aktualisiert: 30.07.2020, 10:32



Wer WAZplus abonniert hat, sieht ab dem 29. Juli deutlich weniger Werbung. Zugleich steigt der Preis. Foto: André Hirtz / FUNKE Foto Services

ESSEN. WAZplus-Abonnenten bekommen jetzt 70 Prozent weniger Werbung als andere Nutzer angezeigt. Wechseln Sie jetzt ins günstige Jahresangebot.

Liebe Leserin, lieber Leser,

In turbulenten Wochen wie diesen sind gut recherchierte und fundierte Informationen wichtiger denn je. WAZ.de liefert Ihnen rund um die Uhr die aktuelle Nachrichtenlage aus Ihrer Stadt und Region, gut recherchierte Hintergründe und Kommentare aus Politik und Wirtschaft, alles Wissenswerte aus Sport und Kultur und – nicht zuletzt Ratgeberthemen für Ihren Alltag.

Werbeaussspielung erheblich reduziert

In den vergangenen Monaten haben wir durch Umfragen erfahren, dass die Werbung auf WAZ.de den Lesefluss sehr stören kann. Wir möchten deshalb auf die Rückmeldungen unserer Leser reagieren: **Wir haben die Werbeeinblendungen für unsere Abonnenten von WAZplus um 70 Prozent reduziert.**

Es ist kein Geheimnis, dass WAZ.de durch Werbeanzeigen Geld verdient. Um den Verlust der Werbeeinnahmen aufzufangen, müssen wir zudem den monatlichen Preis für das WAZplus-Abonnement ab dem 29.07.2020 auf



Der Miniatur-Fernrohr erobert Deutschland
Besser als jedes 3000 EUR Fernrohr?

Ad

2 weeks before go-live:

- our editor-in-chief wrote an **article explaining completely transparently why we are increasing prices and what our journalism stands for.**
- we focused on emphasizing the big benefits for loyal subscribers: 70% less ads
- We also presented an option to **keep the current price per month by upgrading to an annual subscription**

→ **building trust and understanding with transparent communication was one of the key success factors**

4 | Marketing - Onsite Touchpoints

prominent placement of added value on onsite sticky banner: promotion of 70% less ads, only 0,99€ for the 1st month

The image shows a screenshot of the WAZ website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the WAZ logo and various menu items. Below the navigation bar, there is a sticky banner with a blue background and white text that reads: "WAZ+ 70% weniger Werbung - im 1. Monat nur 0,99 €!". The banner is highlighted with a red border. Below the banner, there is a main article titled "Corona-Gipfel: Lockdown bis 14. Februar beschlossen" with a sub-headline "Corona-PANDEMIE Corona-Gipfel: Schulen könnten noch Wochen dicht bleiben". Below this article, there is another sticky banner with a blue background and white text that reads: "WAZ+ Nur jetzt: 70% weniger Werbung - im 1. Monat nur 0,99 €!". This banner is also highlighted with a red border. To the right of the main article, there are three smaller articles: "Illegale Party am Baldeneysee - Embolo bestreitet Teilnahme", "Breel Embolo erweist dem Fußball einen Bärendienst", and "Rechte Polizeichats: Einer Reihe von Beamten drohen Anklagen". Each of these articles has a "WAZ+" logo next to its title. Below these articles, there are three more articles: "KOMMENTAR Breel Embolo erweist dem Fußball einen Bärendienst", "POLIZEI-SKANDAL Rechte Polizeichats: Einer Reihe von Beamten drohen Anklagen", and "NRW-SPD Kutschat vor dem Sprung zur SPD-Spitzendandidatur in NRW". Each of these articles has a "WAZ+" logo next to its title. The bottom of the page shows a footer with the text "ESSEN. Ein Ausflug nach Essen bringt den" and "ESSEN/MÜLHEIM. Staatsanwaltschaft stuft" and "DÜSSELDORF Die NRW-SPD klärt frühzeitig".

WAZ+ 70% weniger Werbung - im 1. Monat nur 0,99 €!

Corona-Gipfel: Lockdown bis 14. Februar beschlossen

Corona-PANDEMIE Corona-Gipfel: Schulen könnten noch Wochen dicht bleiben

WAZ+ Nur jetzt: 70% weniger Werbung - im 1. Monat nur 0,99 €!

Illegale Party am Baldeneysee - Embolo bestreitet Teilnahme WAZ+

ESSEN. Die Polizei hat eine Party mit mehr als 20 Gästen am Baldeneysee aufgelöst - unter ihnen soll auch ein Fußballprofi gewesen sein. Der bestreitet.

Breel Embolo erweist dem Fußball einen Bärendienst WAZ+

ESSEN. Ein Ausflug nach Essen bringt den

Rechte Polizeichats: Einer Reihe von Beamten drohen Anklagen WAZ+

ESSEN/MÜLHEIM. Staatsanwaltschaft stuft

Kutschat vor dem Sprung zur SPD-Spitzendandidatur in NRW WAZ+

DÜSSELDORF Die NRW-SPD klärt frühzeitig

pre- and post-churn initiatives

to inform our existing subscribers

5 | Mailings

Mailing #1 1 week before price increase



open rate: 63%
click rate: 24%

Mailing #2 - Last Call 1 day before price increase



open rate: 34%
click rate: 18%

Homepage: an overlay promotes the Onsite Self Service Upgrade activation for e-mail-receivers



conversion rate:
18%

6 | pre- and post-churn initiatives

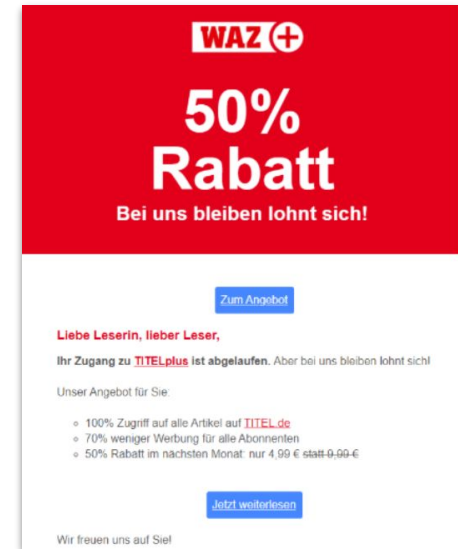
onsite touchpoints with loyalty
annual offer for existing
subscribers



churn prevention briefing for
the customer support



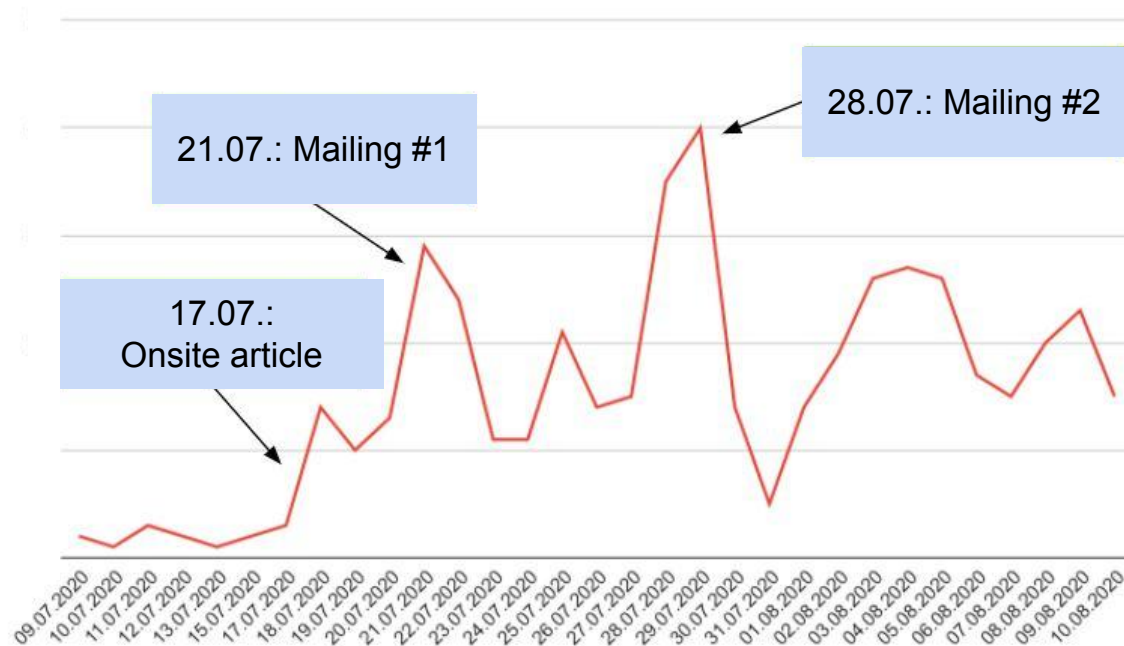
win back mailings for former
subscribers with a 50% off
offer on monthly



The outcome

Significant increase of yearly subscription upgrades as we started announcements

NRW overall - yearly subs per day (regular customers)



Higher Price! Happy Users! It works!



1

126% uplift of annual subscriptions within 4 weeks → main driver: Mailing for existing customers with attractive upselling option

2

21% average rate of annual subscription on the paywall template

3

low cancellation rate after price increase

4

Churn reason “ad placement” is reduced by 13%p

Project 2

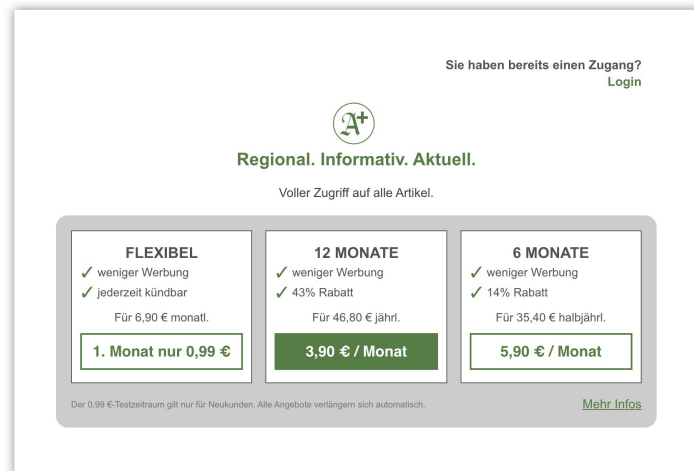
Test: Pricing for monthly subscriptions

Test: Pricing monthly subscription

Understanding that at least **90% of our subscribers want to go monthly**, we tried to increase our subscriber base by making the monthly more attractive.

As a consequence our other paywall products had to become cheaper too.

-> This experiment is a benefit for all targeting groups!



	monthly	annual	Half year
baseline	9,90 €	6,90 €	8,90 €
v2	6,90 €	3,90 €	5,90 €

Results

	Monthly subscripti on	Annual subscripti on	Share annual	Subscriptio ns total	CR	CLV12 monthly	RevenueCL V12/Paywall view	Retention monthly Trial --> regular
baseline	234	21	8,11%	259	0,0154%	20,34€	0,00366 €	54,51%
V2	310	59	15,95%	370	0,0214%	15,19€	0,00400 €	59,26%
Uplift	32,48%	180,95%	96,67%	32,62%	38,97%	-25,32%	15,87%	8,71%

A pure winner:

We are selling more, earning more and keeping more readers in our subscriber base!



Next steps

BUT...

What if some users would actually pay a higher price and be happy with that?

-> We will **retest the setup** for our **highly engaged users** via **Piano C1X LikelihoodToSubscribe** segments

Next steps

AND THEN...

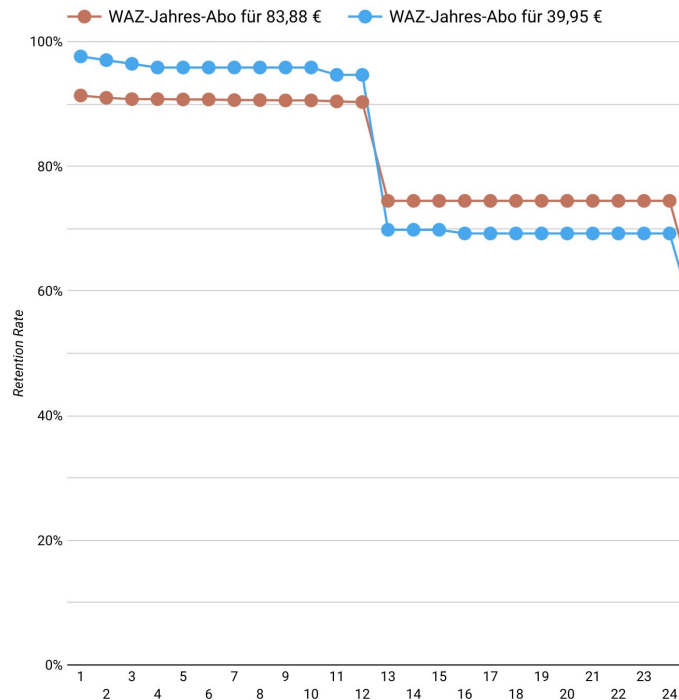
What if some of our low price subscribers can deal with a raise in price?

- > We are currently working on how to **define and pick** them in our database so we can **test churn rates on price increases**
 - > We are also figuring out how to make this work as an automated process
-

What we know...

We have seen a **great retention rate of almost 75%** from the first trial year (39,95 € for the first year) to the regular priced second year (83,88 €)

-> We wanna keep exploring lifting prices!



What we learned from the test



1

Cheaper overall prices increase sales, CR and retention

2

You might even sell so many cheaper subscriptions that you end up earning more revenue

3

Find out who is willing to pay higher prices

4

Uplift the prices for the cheaper subscriptions for the right user segments

Contact us, if you have any questions!



KIRA REIBE

Head of PMO & Subscription

kira.reibe@funkemedien.de



SARAH BARTH

Senior Conversion Manager

sarah.barth@funkemedien.de