

The Salesforce logo, consisting of the word "salesforce" in white lowercase letters inside a blue cloud-like shape.

salesforce

ENGAGE WITH TODAY'S CUSTOMERS:

4 WAYS RETAIL CAN
REIMAGINE BUSINESS



Introduction

Reimagining Retail

There's a new business model in play across industries. Everywhere you look, technology is disrupting how customers interact with companies and brands. At the center of these interactions is speed and instant gratification. Decisions are now just a swipe away.

Take the dating app Tinder. Users simply run their finger across the screen of their smartphone: to the right if they're interested in a potential partner, and to the left if they're not. If people are making romantic matches this easily, what are the implications for how they choose to buy clothing, groceries, or tires?

Consider a world in which retailers could create a shopper decision-making process for its products that was as simple and seamless as Tinder. For retailers who want to compete and thrive in this new landscape, it's not a matter of if, but when.

On the following pages, we will take a look at four of the big ways retail can reimagine the consumer shopping experience. Each chapter will also feature a major retailer that has reimaged its customer experience, plus examples on how this was accomplished.

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Chapter 1

Digical

Mobile tools and social media are now a huge part of the shopping experience. All signals point to the buying process being about personalization and engagement. There is a blurring of lines between the digital and physical experience. Bain has dubbed this transformation “[digical](#).”

Digital + Physical = Digical

Digital devices are changing how customers discover, evaluate, purchase, receive, use, and return products. These include smartphones, tablets, and phablets. And while more and more customer interactions take place entirely online, brick and mortar retailers still control between 94 percent and 97 percent of total retail sales.

This all points to one conclusion: Omnichannel retailers — those that seamlessly integrate the best of both digital and physical worlds at each step of the customer experience — are likely to enjoy significant advantages over retailers that try to pursue either one alone or both independently.

To get there, retailers, whether luxury, specialty, big box, department store, or e-commerce, need to reimagine websites

and mobile apps as not just e-commerce ordering vehicles, but as front doors to their brick and mortar stores. If a product is out of stock onsite, a shopper should be able to order it from another location and have it sent to her home.

At the same time, stores should no longer be viewed simply as showrooms. They are now digitally-enabled inspiration sites, testing labs, purchase points, instantaneous pickup places, help desks, and shipping centers.

Modern technology is ready and waiting for retailers that want to transform. Social tools allow brands to participate in the buying experience with customers. Mobile puts them where their clients are, while cloud gives companies the flexibility and speed to do both at the new pace the industry demands.



“ 65 percent of U.S. consumers shop across at least two channels, while 21 percent use four or five channels to shop. ”

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Retailer Spotlight:

ALDO

ALDO, a leading fashion footwear and accessory brand, started using Salesforce to gain better insight into its customers' preferences to be able to serve them better. This increase in customer knowledge helps ALDO better anticipate the customers' needs and expectations and select the best channels to engage with them more effectively.

Salesforce now allows ALDO to have a 360-degree vision of its customers. As part of its cross-channel strategy, ALDO is also building a suite of mobile apps with the Salesforce1 Platform. Not only are the apps fun to use, but they also help ALDO increase its knowledge of its customers, which will ultimately allow the company to provide a better service.

In the future, the company will be able to use information from Salesforce to create synergies between physical and digital channels, allowing them to interact in a fluid and personalized manner with their customers anywhere in the world.



Chapter 2

In-Store Experiences

Another thing today's retailers need to do to reimagine the customer experience is to make sales more personal and relevant. A great example is the country store that knew everything about its customers, including their recent purchases, their financial situation, and their kids' birthdays.

Clienteling

Clienteling uses the old idea of retail associate's "little black book," but digitizing it to create relevant customer journeys. Customers want stores to make their visit worthwhile. If they've browsed something, but their size or preference is out of stock, stores should make it easy for the client and ship the right product to them.

Connected Operations

The second part of reimagining the customer experience involves treating employees as customers too. These staff members are already social and mobile in their everyday lives. It makes sense to bring that same experience to

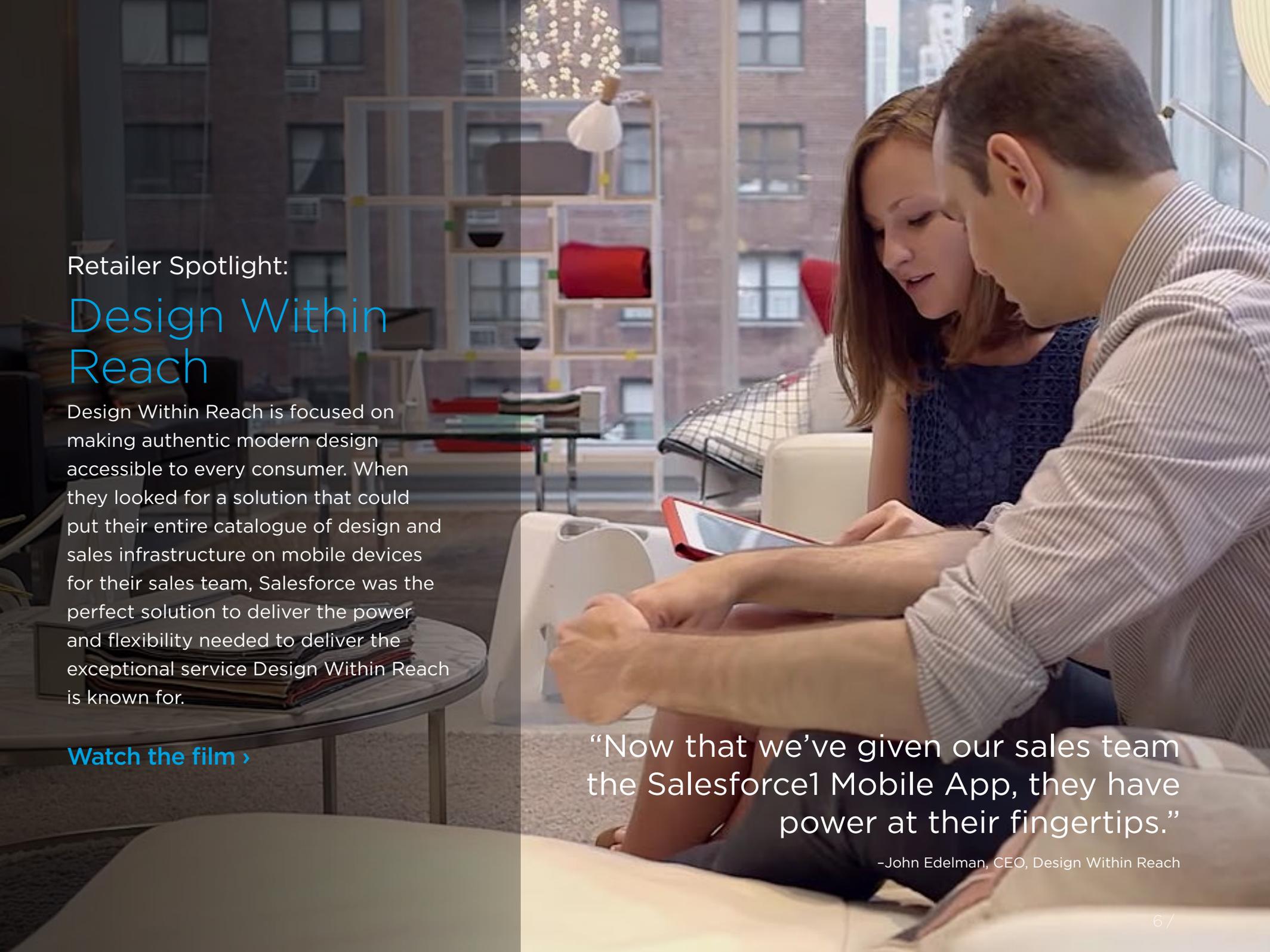
their workplace, instead of forcing them to reference paper-based binders and training manuals.

Larger retail operations should connect siloed systems and devices so employees have everything they need at their fingertips, keeping in mind that the majority of them never sit behind a desk. Simple, bite-sized updates at "moments-of-truth" help to improve store associates' productivity and engagement.

Mobile tools should include product information, training, and legal and regulatory updates so store employees are empowered to do their jobs. They should also feature customer history and preferences. This will help employees better coordinate operations so customer service is improved and personalized.

“ 90 percent of shoppers surveyed would prefer to buy in a brick-and-mortar store across demographic and age groups. ”

A.T. Kearney Omnichannel Shopping Preferences Study

A man and a woman are sitting on a white sofa in a modern office or living space. The man, wearing a striped shirt, is pointing at a tablet held by the woman, who is wearing a blue top. They are both looking at the screen with interest. In the background, there is a white shelving unit with various items, a desk with a laptop, and a window with a view of a city building. The lighting is warm and ambient.

Retailer Spotlight:

Design Within Reach

Design Within Reach is focused on making authentic modern design accessible to every consumer. When they looked for a solution that could put their entire catalogue of design and sales infrastructure on mobile devices for their sales team, Salesforce was the perfect solution to deliver the power and flexibility needed to deliver the exceptional service Design Within Reach is known for.

[Watch the film >](#)

“Now that we’ve given our sales team the Salesforce1 Mobile App, they have power at their fingertips.”

-John Edelman, CEO, Design Within Reach

Chapter 3

Customer Engagement

Modern technology is ready and waiting for retailers that want to transform. Social tools allow brands to participate in the buying experience with customers. Mobile puts them where their clients are, while cloud gives companies the flexibility and speed to do both at the new pace the industry demands.

Here are some of the most valuable ways retailers can use these technologies to better engage with customers and transform the customer experience:

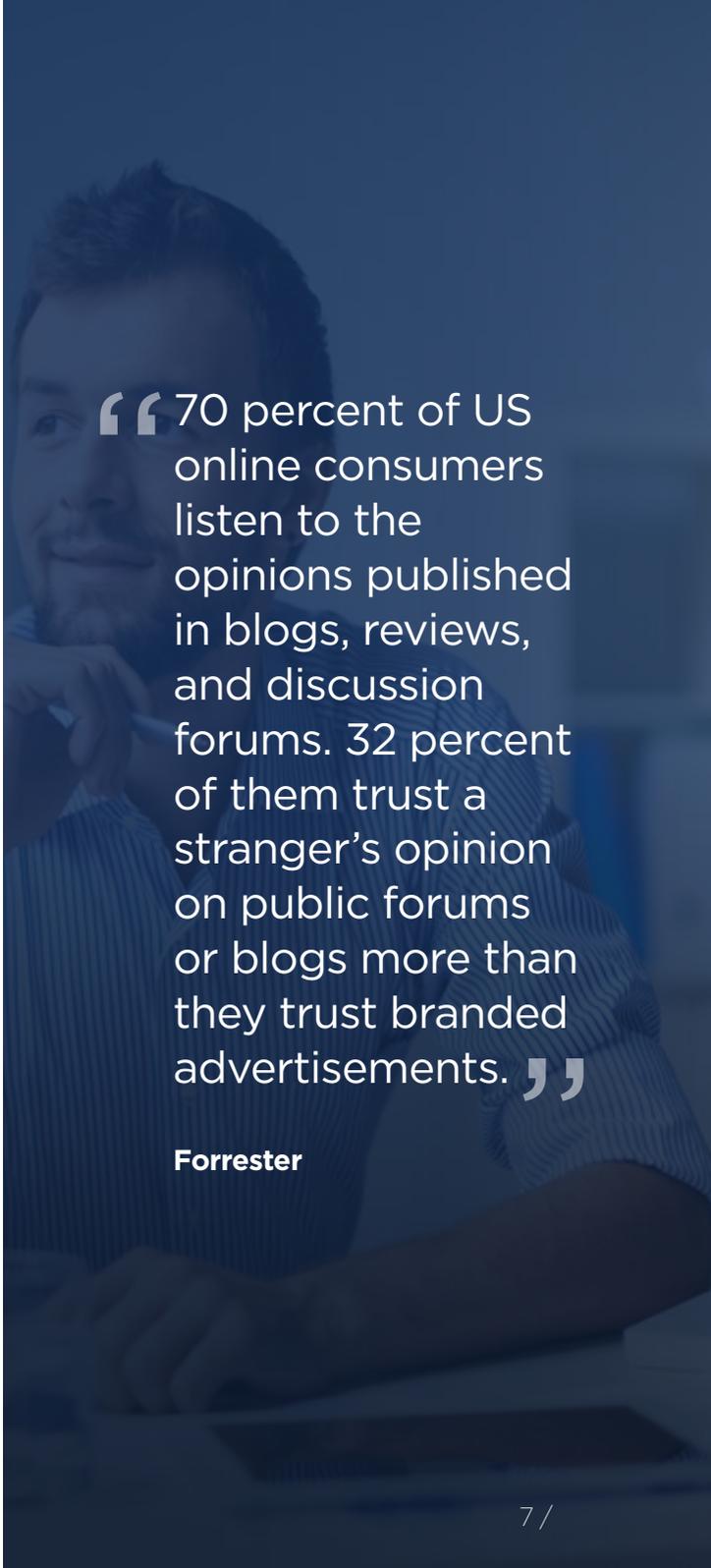
Omnichannel - Because customer journeys of today span multiple channels, retailers need to offer a solution that provides the same personalized customer experience across all channels, regardless of where customers are and which channel they move to.

Journeys - A recent McKinsey survey found that 50 percent of customer interactions happen during a multi-event, multichannel journey. Customer journeys are about capturing each significant moment during a customer lifecycle. They

also define how a brand communicates with customers across all touchpoints and marketing channels.

Service - Today's customers want service on every channel and every device, anytime, anywhere. And they want their service experience with retailers to be seamless. Customers now expect your company to solve their issues quickly and give them the capability to find solutions easily on their own, 24/7, anywhere, and on every device.

Communities - In the same way digital is the blending of the digital and the physical, retailers can leverage communities to blend people into a single place, with a single voice. This group of internal employees and customers serve as brand ambassadors, and engage with each other in a helpful and social way.



“ 70 percent of US online consumers listen to the opinions published in blogs, reviews, and discussion forums. 32 percent of them trust a stranger's opinion on public forums or blogs more than they trust branded advertisements. ”

Forrester

Retailer Spotlight:

TOMS

For each product the company sells, it gives to a person in need—One for One. Since the company was founded in 2006, sales and giving activities have skyrocketed. To maintain personal connections with consumers as it continues to grow, TOMS uses Salesforce.

The company started by implementing Service Cloud to help call centers in the U.S. and Europe manage phone calls and inquiries on social media. “We aren’t measuring ourselves by the traditional service metrics of call volume or resolution times,” explains Chief Digital Officer Zita Cassizzi. “We care about customer happiness, satisfaction, and long term relationships.” Service Cloud helps agents see full views of customers—including their social media profiles.

It’s not just consumers that are important to TOMS. The company also needs to stay connected with its giving partners including organizations that deliver donated shoes or eye services to those in need. The company plans to add partners to its Salesforce implementation and bring every aspect of its business together.



Chapter 4

Mobile Strategy

In recent years, we've seen more and more companies using mobile to disrupt traditional business models. Think of what Uber and Lyft have done to taxi service, or how Airbnb and Hotel Tonight have changed the way people book overnight lodging.

Even with all of the innovation out there, it's no secret that many retailers struggle with a mobile strategy. The first step is to reimagine a business model where retailers not only think outside the box, but also move fast enough to disrupt their industry.

The Sharing Economy

Traditionally, the retail industry encompasses any company that is selling goods to a consumer, from a brick-and-mortar luxury, specialty, big box or department store, to e-commerce, to mobile. Merriam-Webster even defines retail as "to sell (something) to customers for their own use."

In spite of all that, one recent shift on the mobile front has been from shoppers owning products outright, to sharing

them instead. While consumers might not want to rent a produce item, for example, clothes, jewelry, bags, cars, and even electronics are fair game. This new social model allows for more consumer choice and better interaction with brands.

Here are a couple of examples: Founded in 2009, Rent the Runway has been described by The New York Times as "a Netflix model for haute couture." The company allows customers to borrow designer dresses, plus accessories, for a few days or an unlimited amount of time. Along the same lines, Bag Borrow or Steal leases designer handbags for extendable one-month periods.

4 out of **5** consumers
use smartphones to shop.
- comScore

Retailer Spotlight:

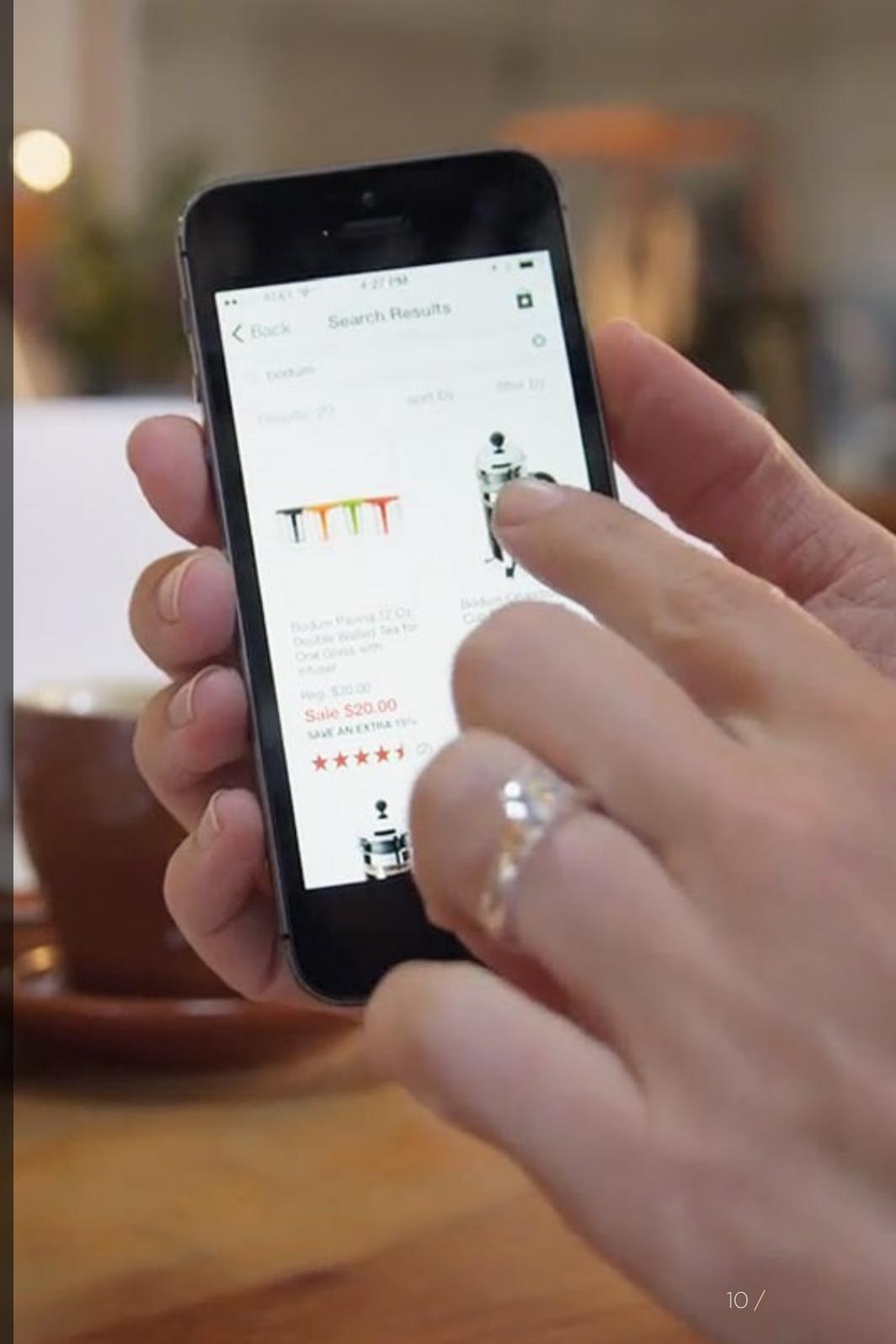
MACY'S

Retail giant Macy's has been in the business for over 150 years. With 800+ stores globally and 170,000+ employees, this iconic retailer has aggressively pursued a localization and omni-channel strategy to integrate brick and mortar stores with their digital experience through their online Macys.com, Bloomingdales.com, and mobile sales channels.

Macy's ultimately replaced its outdated IT technology with a flexible developer cloud platform. This way, the company could move faster and handle large customer loads, while keeping their innovation secure. First up was a social sharing app that allows shoppers to select items from the Macy's website and instantly create a Facebook poll where their friends can vote on what they should buy.

Since the success of the social sharing app, Macy's has launched over 40 additional applications, including apps for gift card registration, customer journeys and personalization, and real-time inventory and search. Additional mission-critical apps continue to be launched by Macy's online business to deepen customer engagement and drive more revenue.

[Watch the film >](#)





Conclusion

Disruption Time

According to Shelley Bransten, Salesforce SVP, Industry Solutions, and former Gap Inc. executive, the retail industry will change more in the next three years than it did in the last five decades. The playing field has been leveled. To survive, retailers need to think big about the possibilities that the future holds.

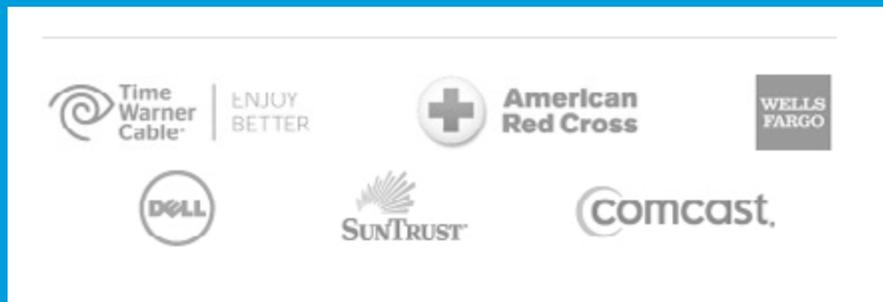
While many large retailers spent half a century getting to \$500 million, Gilt Groupe accomplished it in just three years. There's a new industry clockspeed at play. Traditional technology projects that take 18 months to roll out no longer cut it. Retailers need a tech infrastructure in place that allows them to experiment, fail, and make improvements, fast.

In addition, consumers want a shopping experience that is more relevant and personal. To meet these expectations, retailers need to blend the digital and physical world by transitioning from a system of record to a system of engagement. Retailers must now either disrupt themselves, or be disrupted.

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