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INTRO: A STORMY CHALLENGE

FROM THE CENTER OF THE STORM: STRUGGLES OF A MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

BENCHMARKS TO INSPIRE

"TO-BE" SCENARIOS

WIREFRAMES

STYLE GUIDE

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The company in the case has the responsibility to offer immediate maintenance services for its aircrafts.

The engineers in the team need to run checks for problems and provide fixing solutions. However, the solutions can not always be offered immediately.

- Not being able to assess the severity of non-normal conditions fully and certainly to take precautions,
- Not being able to identify possible needed parts for fixing hence ordering them beforehand,
- Lack of storage for parts to be replaced,
- Delays in orders

are among the obstacles that increase the time to solve the maintenance problems. As a result, the company can face operational costs due to cancelled flights and refunds while facing increased customer dissatisfaction.

The major challenge for engineers in the maintenance team is to

fix things before they are broken without letting obstacles get in their way.

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PRIMARY USER RESEARCH

BENCHMARKS TO INSPIRE

PERSONA

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PRIMARY USER RESEARCH

To understand the challenge through the perspective of the ones who are directly experiencing it, I have organized video-call in-depth interviews with

- Two project managers who are also taking part in maintenance planning in a national defense electronics company
- One production engineer working in the assembly line of a national white goods production company
- One mechanical engineer working as the design engineer in the production and assembly branch of a German originated transportation company

I have chosen to interview with above mentioned interviewees as they are all actively participating in supply chain management of their companies through material planning of production and maintenance, following the fulfillment of supplies, procuring the missing supplies through regular contact with suppliers and distributors.

PRIMARY USER RESEARCH

My user research is focused on understanding

- Challenges they face regarding planning of maintenance activities,
- How they respond to unusual circumstances (as an example for national defense electronics company, the urgent need of repairing the damaged infrastructure of license plate recognition system in rural part of east Turkey where is prone to terror attacks),
- The advantages and disadvantages they perceive about the tools they are using to plan maintenance,
- The difficulties they face with different suppliers about their orders

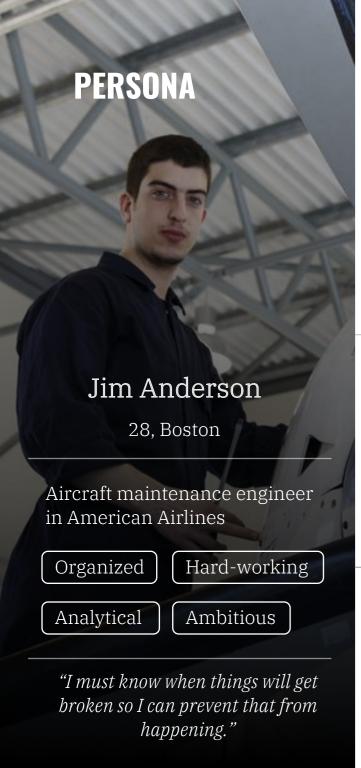
to develop a real persona representing a maintenance engineer.

PRIMARY USER RESEARCH

Major difficulties all the interviewees have are

- Last minute updates regarding missing spare parts under critical situations,
- Suppliers being not transparent about the delivery process hence orders taking longer than expected,
- Consuming time to reach senior engineers to solve some problems as "know-how" is not digitalized and accessible to everyone,
- Not being to always foresee complicated problems to take precautions before they happen.

The tools they are using were hard to learn in their first years of their jobs as new graduates. The tools provide them certain level of information they need regarding stocks, order status; however they usually double-check with a related responsible. They are skeptical whether the tools provide actual real-time feedback as all of them have at least one stressful memory of having hard time solving a maintenance problem. In addition, they think the tools are lacking adequate forecasting of possible major problems.



Bio

Since high school, Jim was interested in the aviation industry and he has been working as a maintenance engineer in American Airlines for the past 3 years. He likes his job; however, he also feels under pressure as he is part of a team to assure safety of millions as they are flying. When everything goes as planned, Jim feels confidents and in control; however, he gets stressed when there are many unexpected problems occur regarding the maintenance of the aircrafts, especially during unusual circumstances like during the storms. He also values the company; therefore, he wants it to be associated with safe and good flight experiences.

Habits

- Keeping the record of the problems, the spare parts he needs the most in Google Drive and updating them regularly
- Following weather forecasts
- Spending time with fellow engineers and discussing technology news

Workload

- Overloaded
- Balanced
- Flexible hours

Me-Time

- No time for himself
- Work-life balance
- More time for himself

Tech Background



Goals

- Getting faster in diagnosing aircraft problems
- Making more accurate predictions regarding future needs
- Becoming a team lead

Pain Points

- Not having well-kept data to assess quantities and costs to plan procurements
- Consuming time with finding guidance among paper manuals or searching for colleague with more experience for problems above his expertise
- Last minute updates about not having enough stocks
- Not being able to take immediate action due to delay of missing part orders
- Not being able to foresee and act before problems occur

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BENCHMARKS TO INSPIRE BEING PLANNED

"TO-BE" SCENARIOS KNOWING "WHEN" AND "HOW"

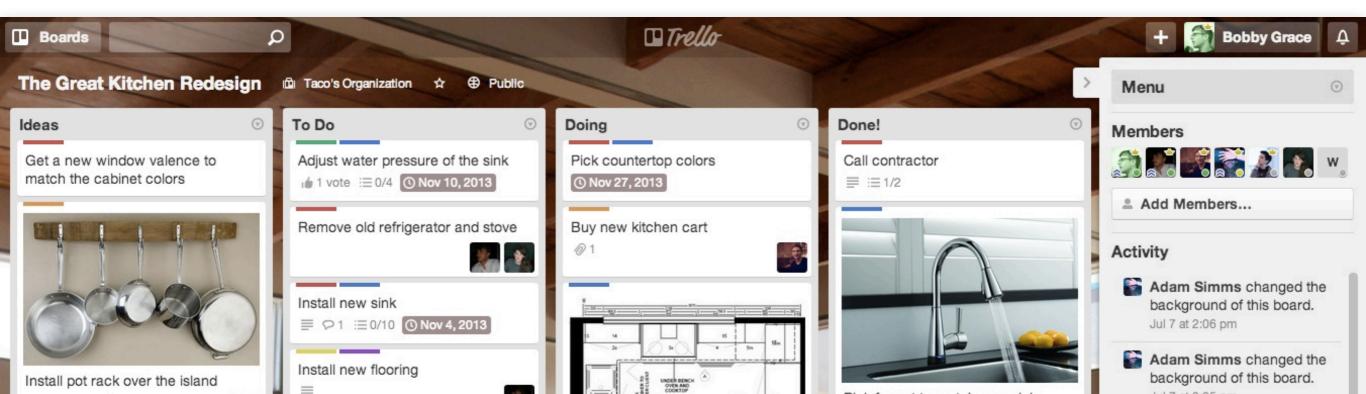
WIREFRAMES FEELING IN CONTROL

STYLE GUIDE FORECASTING WHAT TO EXPECT

BEING PLANNED

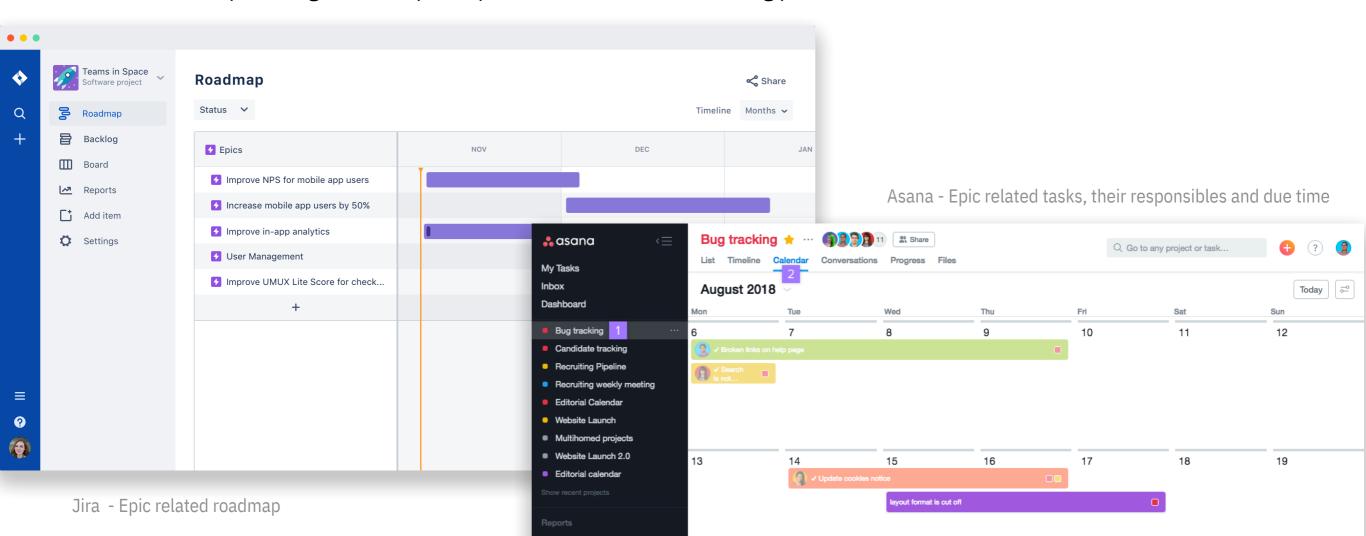
- Categorizing tasks as in "to-do", "in progress" and "done" helps to identify what is finished and what is remaining.
- Keeping track of unsolved problems also help to identify team's and individual's capacity hence helps to improve planning.

Trello - Task categorization and follow-up of progress



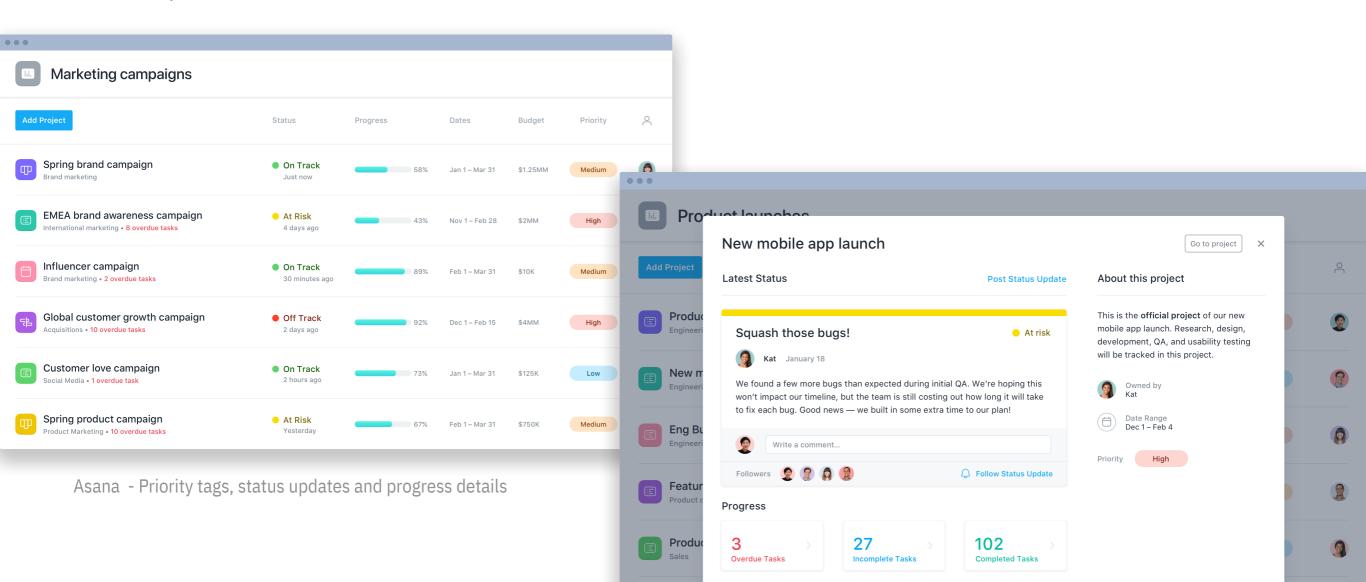
BEING PLANNED

 Presenting tasks and their responsibles on a roadmap facilitates planning for upcoming time frames while providing all active participants with the vision of the big picture.



BEING PLANNED

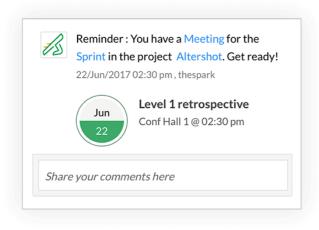
• Visible prioritization allows to differentiate what is critical hence needs to be focused on first.

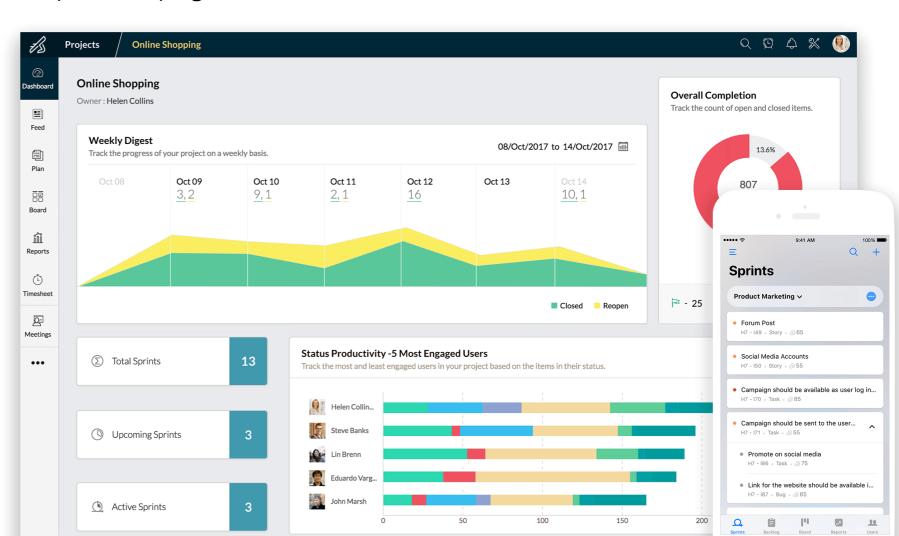


KNOWING "WHEN" AND "HOW"

- Status updates help to identify when issues will be resolved and which ones are problematic.
- Reminders about processes help to follow up with the progress.

Zoho Sprints - Status follow-up and reminders

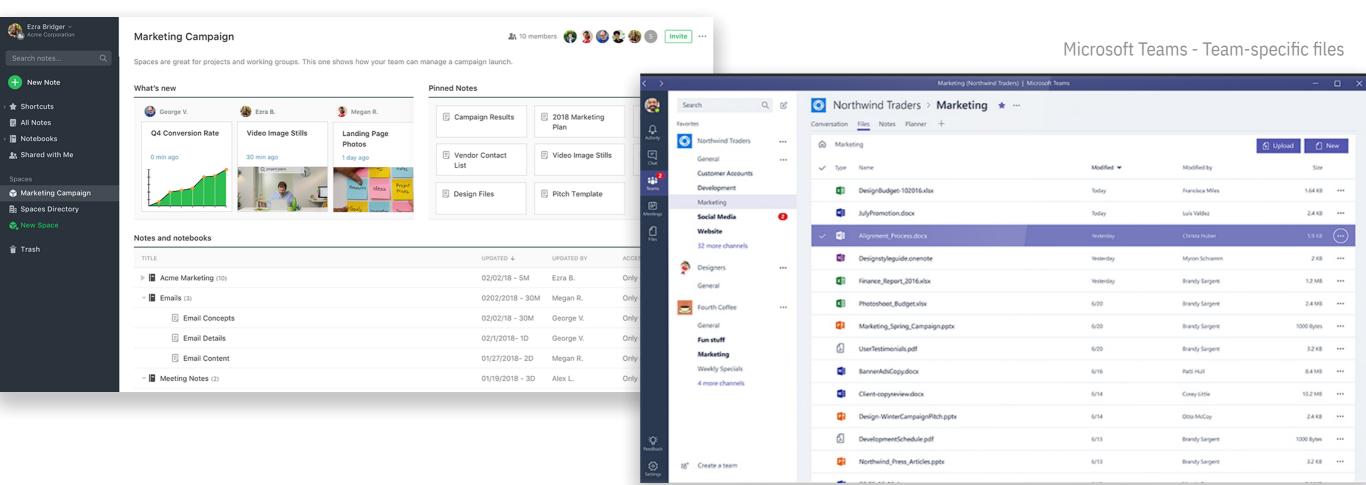




KNOWING "WHEN" AND "HOW"

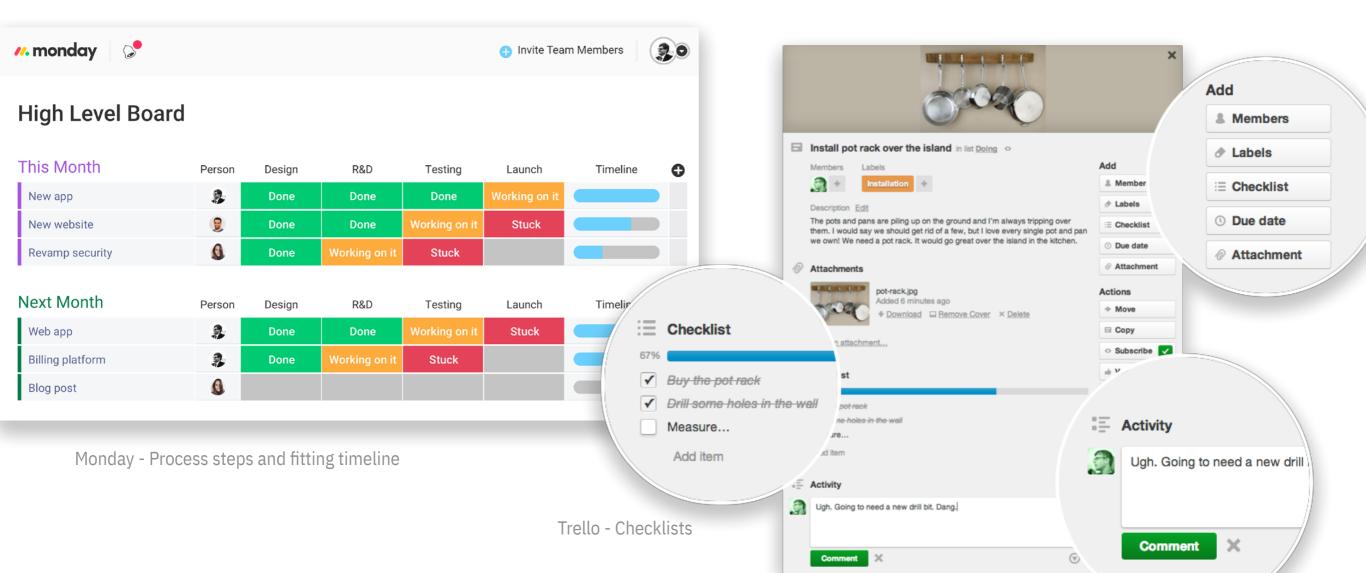
- Keeping online documentation provides accessible knowledge whenever needed.
- · Categorization of the documentation helps to find the information easier.

Evernote - Pinning notes under categories to facilitate access



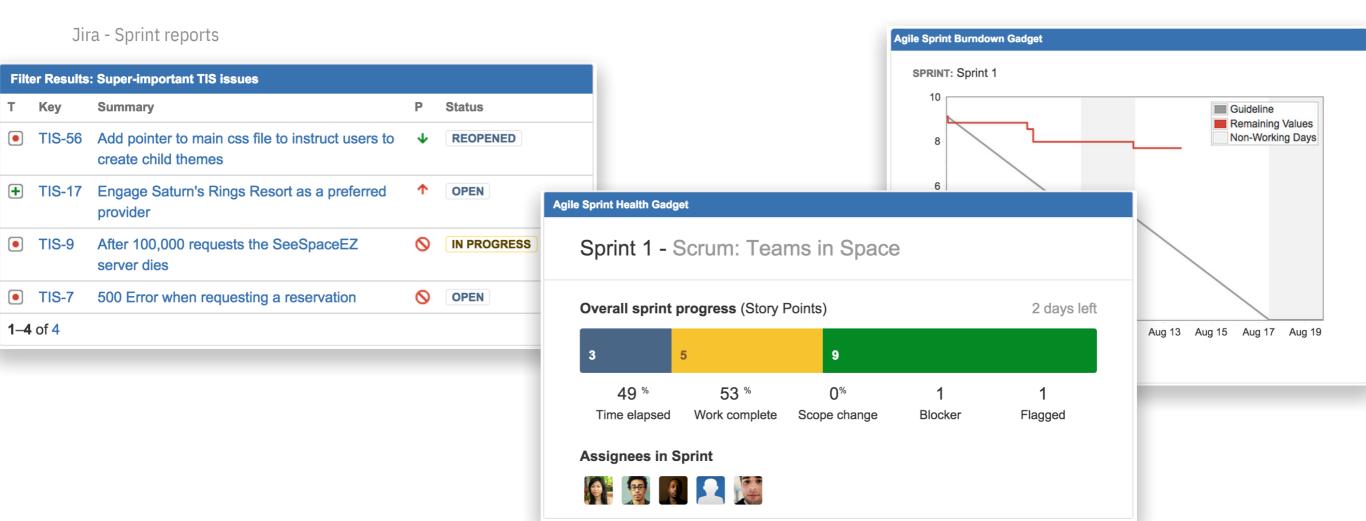
FEELING IN CONTROL

• Splitting tasks into checklists as steps facilitates follow-up of progress and fitting due dates.



FEELING IN CONTROL

 Progress reports allow to follow task completion success, problematic steps as well as a teams' or individual's performance.



FORECASTING WHAT TO EXPECT

 Data-driven reports help to make sense of big data to provide estimations about future; for example when orders should be placed to keep inventory levels high for sales or catch seasonality.



<u>Walmart's vendor-managed inventory</u> allowing suppliers monitor inventory rates to replace stocks hence Walmart to decrease order delays

| STATE | STAT

Percival - Aircraft maintenance forecasting

⊘ Settings

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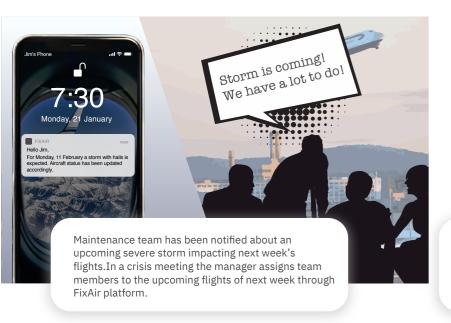
BENCHMARKS TO INSPIRE

"TO-BE" SCENARIOS TO-BE STORYBOARD

WIREFRAMES TO-BE JOURNEYMAP

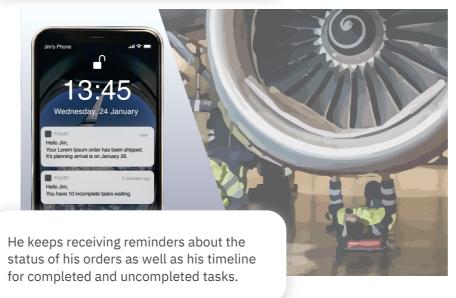
STYLE GUIDE

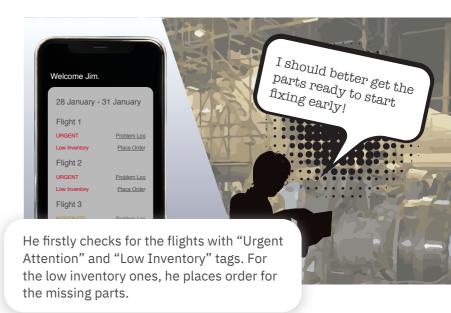
TO-BE STORYBOARD

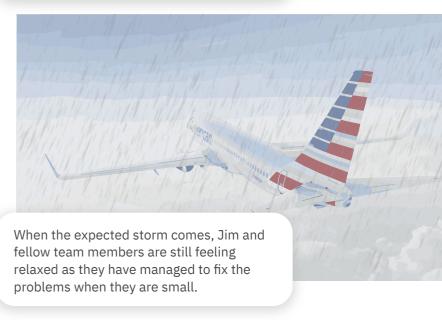




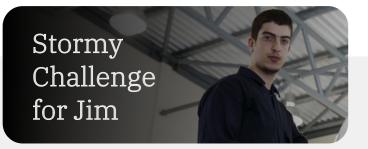








TO-BE JOURNEYMAP



Scenario

Jim is part of the airline maintenance team and with the upcoming storm, he needs to act quick before small problems get bigger hence unfixable in time.

Goals and Expectations

- Learning possible problems and their severity beforehand
- Accessing guidance with ease
- Getting status update feedbacks real-time

DISCOVERING

The maintenance team receives upcoming storm notification via FixAir platform.

The forecast about the severity of possible problems for the related week's flights are also updated in the backlog.

PLANNING

The flights are distributed among team members and Jim (as well as other team members) filters his assigned tasks for the related time period.

Tasks are ordered regarding their priority for attention.

PERFORMING

Each task containts information related to the urgency of fixing, inventory fulfillment, log history and guiding manuals.

Jim orders missing inventory items through the app and as he fixes the aircrafts, he uses digital manual and records of the flights.

FOLLOWING

Jim is updated about the status of his orders with notifications and order delivery progress in the app.

Jim is also regularly updated about his incomplete tasks, due dates and new information (ex. a new problem warning from an IoT sensor) with notifications and in-app warnings.

FINALIZING

Jim can review the condition of aircrafts after he sets all his tasks as "done".

Jim can also review his own task performance as well as the overall maintenance team's performance through variety of reports.



"Need to act fast and wise to provide safe flights!"



"I know I have a lot to do and it's good to understand where I should start from."



"When I need help, I can access the information I need with ease."



"I am fitting the timeline and all my orders will arrive in time"



"No storm can bring us down!"

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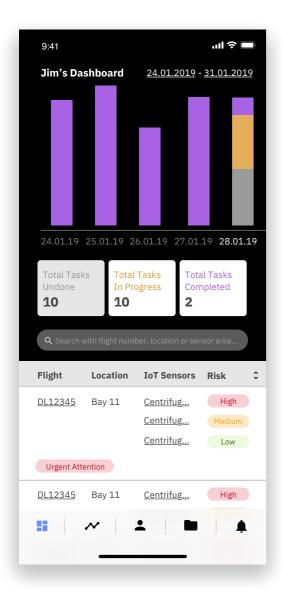
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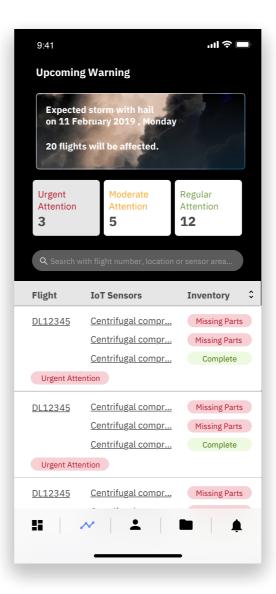
WIREFRAMES

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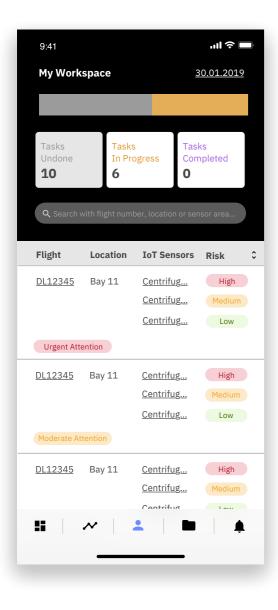
Dashboard

 Shows undone, in progress and completed tasks between a time range on day basis.



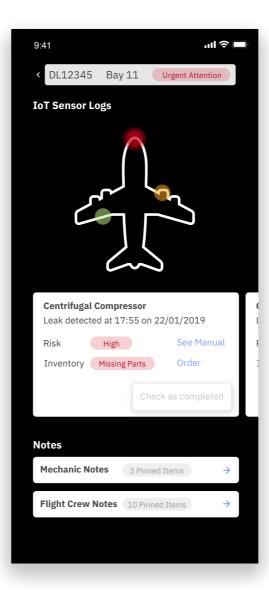
Forecast

- With updated
 warnings and
 aircrafts' conditions,
 shows aircrafts that
 will need urgent,
 moderate or regular
 attention.
- Also shows inventory levels provided through IoT sensors.



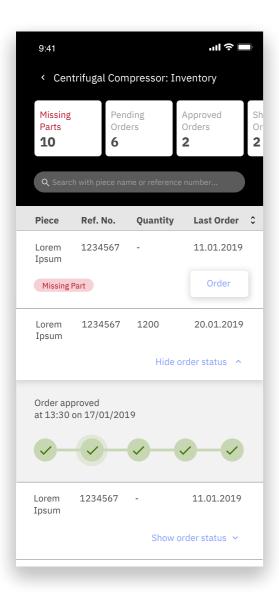
My Workspace

 Shows undone, in progress and completed tasks of one day with risk and urgency indicators.



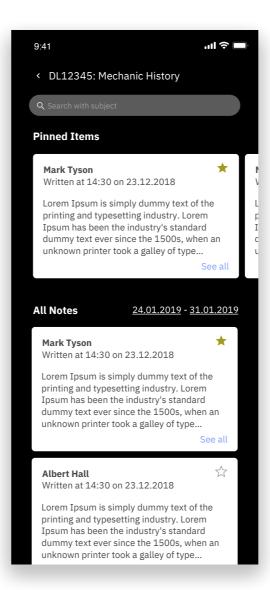
Flight Detail

- Shows where the IoT sensors are located.
- Shows sensor log with risk and inventory level indicators.
- Has an access to mechanic and flight crew notes.



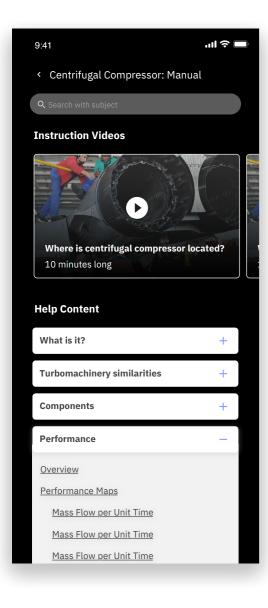
Inventory

- Shows information about missing parts and order status.
- Provides quick order for missing parts.



Notes (Mechanic)

- Shows notes
 between a time
 range.
- Provides quick access to pinned notes.



Digital Manual

 Contains instruction videos and help content.

Mass Flow per Unit Time



Sometimes termed radial compressors, are a sub-class of dynamic axisymmetric work-absorbing turbomachinery.[1]

The idealized compressive dynamic turbomachine achieves a pressure rise by adding kinetic energy/velocity to a continuous flow of fluid through the rotor or impeller. This kinetic energy is then converted to an increase in potential energy/static pressure by slowing the flow through a diffuser. The pressure rise in impeller is in most cases almost equal to the rise in the diffuser section.

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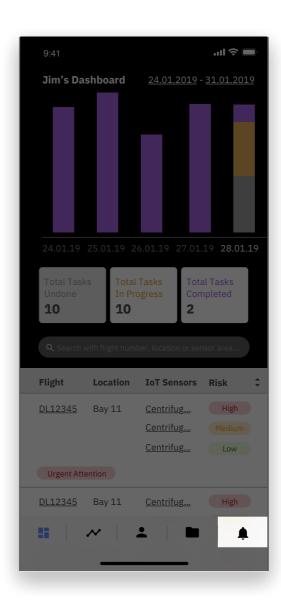
Digital Manual Detail

Help content items
 open in a pop-up to
 increase focus while
 reading.



Notifications

- Flight status
 changes, order
 status updates,
 forecast warnings
 are received as
 notifications.
- Can also be accessed in the app.



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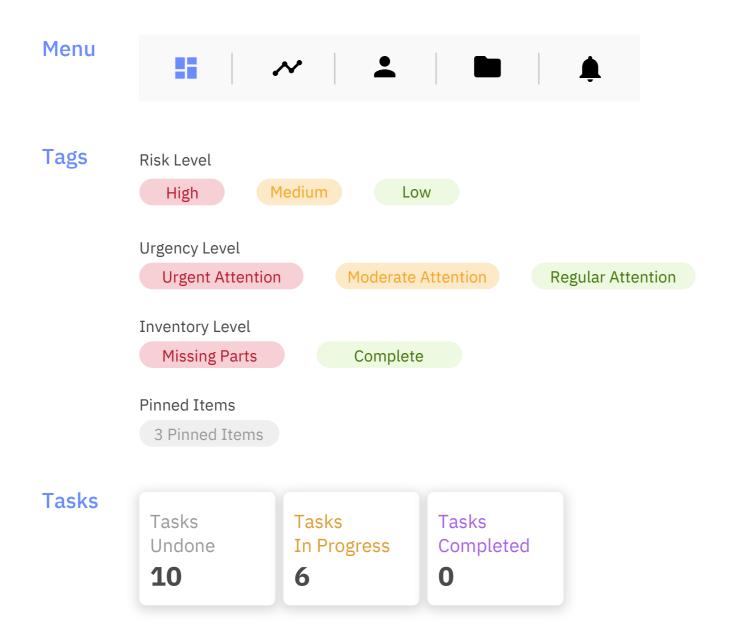
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FINAL WORDS

This challenge has enabled me to test my skills in a unique topic.

Within the limited time I am content that

- I have managed to conduct user research (a mini version) with people working in similar roles as in the case
- I have checked for different benchmarks and put together the ones that were more meaningful to me.
- I have worked on the user scenarios before getting to the solution; which helped me to analyze what I would focus in my solution.

What would I do next if this is an on-going project?

- I would prepare a prototype to test with the users I have interviewed to see the proposed solution in a context.
- I would analyze the missing parts and what needs improvement.
- I would reconsider and redesign the user journey and use flows regarding the insight I have gathered.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

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