Carnival Cruise Line provides personalized, engaging communication service for its customers with push notifications

Introduction
Carnival Cruise Line, one of the world's largest leisure-travel companies, wanted to enhance how it re-engaged its customers. The objective was to send timely, customized information that did not have to compete for attention in a customer's inbox, worked on all devices and was easy to act on. Working with Mobify, Carnival implemented push notifications for mobile web users on Android and for desktop users on Chrome. The new strategy delivered a 42% engagement rate from customers who receive notifications.

Challenges
Until late 2016, Carnival primarily depended on targeted emails to re-engage customers who had placed a hold on cruise bookings. Internal research showed there was an opportunity to motivate more users to return to the site to complete their bookings. With a significant amount of its web traffic on mobile browsers, Carnival looked to innovative technologies such as push notifications on the mobile web as well as desktop to re-engage customers who had created their holds and wanted to receive highly relevant communication beyond the standard email.

Solution
Carnival and Mobify implemented push notifications, which let customers receive realtime updates on their "courtesy holds" including when the free hold on their vacation was set to expire. The information was critical in driving users back to the site to complete payment. On mobile, the notifications look the same as those from native apps, and arrive even when the browser isn't running. The new push notifications resulted in a 16 percent opt-in rate on desktop and 32 percent on mobile.

Carnival can now reach customers on multiple types of devices without having to wait for the user to check their email and miss the opportunity to book their vacation before the hold expires. The company is already seeing a high opt-in rate, which is a valuable difference to its bottom line.

“We see an improvement of our conversion rate supported by this new, innovative way of engaging our customers across different devices,” says Steven Frier, Carnival’s director of e-commerce. “There is a direct 42 percent click through rate from push notifications. Having another channel to reach our users is a game changer.”

Results
24% opt-in to push notifications: 16% on desktop, 32% on mobile
42% open rate

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Carnival Cruise Line

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