Customer Success Operating Model

PART 3. ONBOARDING

Part 1. Core Elements
Part 2. Metrics
Part 3. Onboarding
Part 4. Adoption
Part 5. Expansion
Part 6. Core Skills

Version 1.0 October 2022
The 3 Goals of the Operating Model for Recurring Revenue:

Goal 1. Establish a common, and customer centric, language.
Goal 2. Apply standardized metrics to allow for benchmarking.
Goal 3. Create Interoperability between different functions.

It is based on the following steps:

Step 1. Use of the bowtie to model the entire customer journey.
Step 2. Split up the customer journey in phases.
Step 3. Establish key metrics for each phase [M, CR, PM].
Step 4. Identify a handful of Moments that Matter per phase.
Step 5. Create a Blueprint for each of these moments.
Step 6. Codify SPICED into a Blueprint so it can be trained, improved, etc..
Step 7. Measure metrics [M, CR, PM] and improve over time

The key functions are:

1. Lead Generation
2. Lead Development
3. Sales
4. Onboarding
5. Adoption
6. Expansion
Customer Success Operating Model

Introduction

The 2023 Blueprint format explained.

The location of where you are at:
- The CS Operating Model
- In the Onboarding Playbook
- Handoff to Customer Success
- Blueprint 01
- Large numbering allows you to navigate easily in the slide sorter.

CS Operating Model - Onboarding Phase

Handoff to CS

Effectively transfer critical account information.

A smooth and effective customer handoff from the Sales team to the Onboarding and CS team is critical. It helps the customer experience and, ultimately, your business outcomes.

Ensure Sales teams are accountable for completing detailed handoffs to the Onboarding and CS team before they move on from the account. Best practices for good handoffs include:
- Complete the handoff as close as possible while the information is still fresh.
- Transfer critical account info using SPICED, including crucial details about topics like org structure, personas, and red flags.
- Use clear handoff guidelines to ensure all team members know:
  - Who bought from us?
  - Why did they buy?
  - What were they doing before?
  - Why was that not working for them?
  - What was the problem to solve or avoid?

The goal of each blueprint is clearly stated upfront.

Expertise broken down into a series of steps, actions, best practices etc.

Visual that guides you through the experience as a function of customer engagement over time.

Reference to the next action and blueprint in the customer journey.

Presence of SPICED, the framework which creates interoperability between blueprints.

The banner provides a visual cue to actions that are identified as a moment that matters.
The customer onboarding phase is arguably the most critical part of the customer journey as it lays the foundation for the relationship. Unfortunately, it is also the easiest to do wrong.

Avoid using a “check-the-box” mentality in which both teams focus on the tactics of completing an onboarding checklist without really understanding the pain to solve and the Impacts to deliver.

If you don’t know what Impact you’re working to achieve, it will be tough to deliver it. To ensure you set your customers and your business up for success, make sure to embed these best practices in your customer Onboarding journey:

01. Handoff to CS
02. Customer Kickoff
03. Joint Impact Plan (aka Success Plan, Account Plan, etc.)
04. Achieving First Impact

Getting these motions right will directly impact your customer retention and expansion. It can provide critical insights to your sales and marketing teams to help them set great expectations with prospects.
Customer Success Operating Model

Handoff to Customer Success

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During or immediately after the handoff meeting, draft a Joint Impact Plan to be completed with the Customer during the kickoff.

- Determine a plan to achieve Impact.
- Verify if this is correct.
  - Calculate the real life Impact together
  - Make sure to confirm the date this is needed.

Insights disclosed during onboarding can cause a do-over of the deliverables.

- Follow-up immediately, share the recording, Joint Impact Plan etc.
- Do not lose momentum, swiftly move from one action to another.

The goal of this blueprint is to show the crucial steps for an effective internal handoff between Sales and Customer Success through the use of SPICED.
Customer Success Operating Model

**Kickoff Call**

02 Start the relationship off strong with an effective Kickoff call.

Tips for a strong Kickoff Call:

1. Research the attendees ahead of the call, so you know the titles and the context they have about the engagement.
2. Start the meeting by aligning on goals and confirm whether the attendees have other plans or expectations.
3. Be curious and listen. This isn't about you talking; it's about asking questions and hearing additional critical details that can set you up for success.
4. Set expectations around roles & responsibilities on both sides, and share keys to success and common pitfalls. Explain what working with your organization will look like over the first few months and beyond.
5. Start your close no later than 5 minutes before the end time. Ensure there are clear next steps and assigned action items.

The goal of this blueprint is to outline how to perform a kickoff call and transfer of critical account info. This at times may feel repetitive, but customers again and again express that they appreciate this, and often bring up additional details that can be valuable to achieve impact.
The Joint Impact Plan (JIP) is a customer-facing document that guides the entire ongoing engagement. Whether you refer to it as a JIP, a Success Plan, part of an Account Plan, or something else, the important thing is that it lays out clear goals and is created collaboratively with the customer.

1. Include details of short and long-term goals, such as the First Impact goal to achieve during Onboarding; adoption goals, internal organizational management goals, etc.

2. Use the JIP to discuss challenges openly with your champion, such as how to convert detractors, recognize change management challenges, etc.

3. Use the JIP to discuss opportunities openly with your champion, such as the goals they have for their org, the chance to unseat a competing product, etc.

During each Joint Impact Plan review call, use to validate & update:

- **Impact Goals** that are measurable
- **Challenges** with clear mitigation plans
- **Opportunities** and plan how to move forward

The three key metrics are:
- # of Joint Impact Plans
- # Review calls per month

The renewal date should be seen as an outcome and not a critical event date. Meaning you should know exactly where you stand with your customers.
First Impact refers to the moment the customer achieves tangible impact through the use and adoption of a product or service. The First Impact must be clearly defined at the beginning of the engagement and ideally goes beyond a simple login. To drive this conversation, you need to understand the various Impact a customer wants to achieve, prioritize them, and choose a "First Impact."

Achieving First Impact will signal the end of the Onboarding phase. It does not mean that your implementation work is complete. It simply means that an initial milestone towards a larger goal is achieved.

Examples of First Impact definitions:
- Downloading a report for the first time
- Completing a task in the system

Time to First Impact is the time it takes for a customer to achieve First Impact as defined during the Business Kickoff meeting, usually measured in days. Research has shown that customers with shorter Time to First Impact are generally more successful, and their likelihood of churn is much lower than those with longer Time to First Impact.

The goal of this blueprint is to establish that time is of the essence! It is not only important to get to first impact quickly but also to make it known to the customer when it is achieved, and in the process keep the customer and your team well informed (via CRM.)

Deliver First Impact Quickly to Build Confidence.

First Impact

The first moment they can use your product to do something new that contributes to the reason they purchased?

Align the implementation tasks with the desired Impact you agreed with the customer.

Keep the customer engaged with short notification, and notify any delay regardless who or what caused it.

Confirm if you got it right.

Do not lose the momentum, swiftly move from one action to another.

Confirm First Impact is achieved.

Update the JIP with new goals

Make sure the Onboarding Phase has a clear end and that the customer is aware of any new points of contact on the engagement.

Confirm via an email, that onboarding is completed.

Do not lose momentum, swiftly move from one action to another.

Define First Impact: What do they want to achieve with your product, and by what date?

High churn risk!

Joint Impact Plan

Define First Impact: What do they want to achieve with your product, and by what date?

Joint Impact Plan

Confirm First Impact achieved.

Joint Impact Plan

Update the JIP with new goals

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