

HMV online sales top the charts after teaming up with SciVisum's monitoring service

Music retailers have had a bumpy ride in recent years, thanks in part to the advent of online streaming services. But HMV managed to buck the trend in impressive style and recruited SciVisum to provide the proactive insight they needed to regain control of their web performance and deliver the online experience resulting in increased conversions.



hmv.com

Challenge

HMV may have decades of experience selling music and media to customers in their high-street stores but – like many other big brands – the company needed to replicate that long-standing retailing strength in the online marketplace.

With a new ecommerce business up and running – and everything to play for - the HMV web team was under pressure to deliver a fast, flawless shopping experience, despite the challenges of working with a third-party design and hosting provider and with only limited in-house resources to help manage and maintain the service.

Often, the most impactful services are those provided by a supplier who can extend the scope and scale of an in-house team with specialist expertise.

Solution

Delivering great user experience with a small in-house team

SciVisum experts were called in by HMV shortly after the launch of the company's new ecommerce store in July 2015.

HMV's Head of eCommerce, Steve Partridge, was aware of the urgent need for an effective independent monitoring service that would support the IT and ecommerce teams to troubleshoot problems quickly and fine-tune performance to offer customers the best online experience possible.

'We knew our new site needed a monitoring service and we simply didn't have the resources to manage this alone – an issue that was compounded by the fact that our web design and hosting services were provided by a third party,' explains Steve.

'Ideally, we wanted to extend our in-house team by enlisting the help of a specialist business and SciVisum offered this insight without over-complicating our reporting protocols.'

The HMV service delivery team needed the tools to provide feedback about the site's performance directly to their web support agency.

Getting the right tools for an extensive online catalogue

SciVisum's SV-Monitor performance monitoring service provides hard metrics – measuring in real time the performance, availability and consistency of journeys across the website.

In HMV's case, journeys were scripted to make random selections from the extensive online catalogue which tested all products and categories, so uncovering the issues that would otherwise go undetected.



This enhanced level of monitoring offers Steve and his team the ability to assess whether the site is meeting requirements and to pinpoint issues as soon as they arise.

'SciVisum's service provides access to a portal to create reports or draw down granular data regarding any errors – this type of data is presented so easily which saves time.'

Managing third-party providers with minimum input

SV-Monitor not only provides visibility of performance delivered by third parties but also communicates the performance data necessary for the third parties to resolve issues directly with minimum input from the client. For HMV, lengthy page load times were flagged as a possible issue early on in the process – a factor which can often deter

customers from continuing their journey and can impact conversion rates. The web design team were notified and were able to work on a resolution without further delay. An additional benefit of the monitoring service is that every team member can access the same data which increases engagement and saves time in web performance meetings. SV-Monitor helps to maintain optimum conditions for online customers by swiftly flagging errors that might otherwise adversely impact performance.

It has also helped Steve and his team to meet internal SLAs and to keep web performance firmly on the radar.

Steve believes that SciVisum's service has greatly helped HMV's online offering:

'I really must commend the SciVisum team for their support and personal service – they consistently exceed my expectations and help me deliver the very best website for HMV's customers.'



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If you would like to schedule a free consultation regarding your website performance concerns, learn more about one of our services or arrange a free trial then please contact us.

About SciVisum

Measuring realistic user experience for peak digital performance

SciVisum's cloud-based website performance monitoring and load testing services provide unparalleled insight into your customers' digital experience by behaving exactly as end users would. A unique combination of realism – delivered by an intelligent test engine, and expert human insight provides the most accurate, actionable data enabling you to take control of today's performance challenges.

For over ten years, SciVisum has helped leading UK brands such as Transport for London, Cineworld, Dixons Carphone, Channel 4 and Debenhams optimise user experience and deliver peak performance.



WEBSITE
MONITORING



MOBILE
MONITORING



LOAD
TESTING



PERFORMANCE
OPTIMISATION



MONITORING
ADD-ONS