





## Case study by Team ProdSquad

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YouTube is an American online video sharing and social media platform which has users who watch more than one billion hours of videos each day.





Assuming that you are a PM in YouTube, your task is to :

Design a simple feature which allows a user to disable ads for some time,

- 1. either at a cost,
- 2. or by by filling some surveys,
- 3. or by seeing more ads in the future.

Analyse the 3 options, providing pros and cons of each, and recommend one with clear reasoning. You can also suggest any other feasible option with reasoning.



## Option 1: At a cost

- 1. Premium subscriptions model
  - a. Buying short term plans for skipping ads for days or hours or for a particular ad.
  - b. Buying a subscription for a month or a year.

#### **PROS**

- 1. Ease of use
- 2. Saves time.
- 3. Flexibility to spend as and when required.

#### CONS

- 1. Can be expensive for some users.
- 2. Online payments can be tasking
- 3. Dis-trust in online payment.
- 4. User may not have any online payment mode.
- 5. Login necessary.

## **Analysing the given options**

# Option 2 : Filling out surveys

- A feature which asks for a short survey or poll at the start of an ad
- The result/inputs of other users of the polls can be displayed after the survey is filled.

#### **PROS**

- No monetary transaction required
- 2. Users get an idea of society's opinions on the topic due to the answers. (sense of belonging)
- 3. Users can share their views or grievances
- 4. No login required.
- 5. Data from surveys can be used to provide more apt suggestions.

#### CONS

- 1. Time-consuming
- Cognitively tasking
- 3. Might fill the surveys in a hassle giving false data.
- 4. Some surveys might trigger emotions in user, hence, discouraging use.

## **Analysing the given options**

# Option 3 : <u>Seeing more</u> ads in the future

- A feature which allows user to skip ad at the cost of 2 ads being credited to their account.
- A limit could be set after which the user will have to view the ads.

#### **PROS**

- 1. Hassle-free UX for the user.
- 2. Saves time and effort for the time being.
- 3. Improves chances of ad being seen

#### CONS

- Multiple
   credited ads
   might
   discourage user
   from app use.
- 2. Might lead to procrastination
  - Increased bounce rate.

### **Analysing the given options**

## Option 4: YouCoin Model

- We introduce a solution of , youtube currency called youcoins.
- These youcoins can be spent at the start of any ads to skip the ad.
- There are 2 ways to earn these coins
  - 1. By buying coins with real time money
  - 2. By watching full length ads to redeem youcoins.
- A dashboard keeps track of all your coin transactions and purchases.

#### **PROS**

- Freedom to spend either time or money
- 2. Easy to use
- 3. Motivates users to see more ads generates more revenue
- 4. Gamification increases retention
- 5. Extra source of income from purchase of youcoins.

#### CONS

- Demands
   decision making
   for every video
   having ads
- 2. Once chosen at the start of video, you cannot skip ads in between.

## **Analysing the new option**

## Prioritization Table (4>3>2>1)

Feature	Impact score = x						Cost = y			
	Aware ness 15%	Activa tion 15%	Engage ment 30%	Retent ion 20%	Reve nue 15%	Refer ral 5%	DevTi me 40%	Operational Efforts 40%	Extern al Risk 20%	Score
At a cost	1	1	1	3	4	2	2	1	4	-0.1
Filling some surveys	2	2	2	2	1	3	1	3	3	-0.3
Seeing more ads in the future	4	3	3	1	2	1	3	2	2	0.1
YouCoin Model	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	1	0.3

By the impact cost analysis we concluded that the YouCoin Model in which the users are allowed to skip Ads in a particular video by spending a sum of YouCoins (Wallet currency) is to be used for our problem statement.

### Product requirement document Youtube

#### **Contents**

- 1. Product brief
- 2. Objective
- 3. Functional Requirements
- 4. KPI/Metrics
- 5. Key Discussions for future
- 6. Wireframes and User flow



#### 1. PRODUCT BRIEF

Advertisements on YouTube specifically appear right before, or during a video of a monetized channel about 50% of the time. Various companies pay YouTube to sponsor them to help their business get stronger since YouTube is a busy site. These ads have been heavily criticized by many users. They are shown according to the viewer's location, the video, or a recent search on Google.

Youcoin is a feature which allows users to skip the ads for a temporary period at the same time providing incentive to users to watch ads.

It gives users the ability to use their time to save it in the future in case of emergencies.

#### 2. OBJECTIVE

- 1. Disable ads for a temporary period
- 2. Improves user engagement

#### 3. FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1.Creating selection pop-up at the start of videos

A pop up options menu will be displayed to ask the user to either spend X youcoins to skip all ads in the video or earn Y youcoin by watching all ads in the video

2. Portal to buy youcoins

- A dashboard where various offers of buying youcoins in exchange for real time money can be displayed.
- Complete transaction of the sale to be carried out via payment gateway.
- 3. Dashboard to maintain youcoin data of the user.
  - A dashboard required to display the number of youcoins available in the wallet.
  - To show debit and credit history of youcoins.

#### 6. KPI/METRICS

**Success Metrics:** 

Overall -

- -> Session length per user per day
- -> Number of ads watched per session

Feature Specific -

- -> No. of Coins credited by watching ads
- -> No. of Coins debited to skip ads.
- -> No. of Coins credited by paying fiat currency
- -> No. of logins/signup

North Star Metric -

YouTube - User Engagement should increase

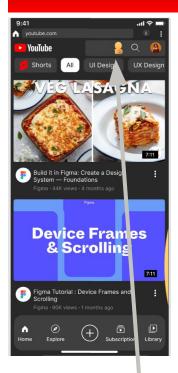
Feature - No. of coins credited/ No. of coins debited

#### 5. Key discussions for future:

- 1. Creating a model to skip ads in between videos.
  - a. Since our features provides an option to the user to skip all ads or watch all ads, in the next update we can allow the user to skip ads depending on the metrics we observe (% of videos watched till completion with in video ads).
  - b. a higher expense of youcoins can be charged for skipping in videos ads given they chose to watch all ads
- 2. Using Youcoins for other activities in Youtube:

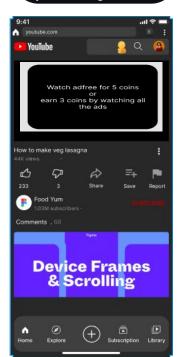
The Youcoins earned can be used for different activities like superchat,or subscriptions or donations in the future.

#### **WIREFRAMES**



Home page
Here there is an
option (icon on top)
showing youcoins.
User can access their
coin dashboard from

Video play page
Here, when user will
play the video, they
will see a popup
giving them option to
spend coin and watch
adfree or earn coin
by watching the ads

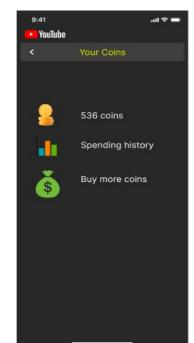


9:41 매 후 🔲 Leslie Alexander > leslie123@gmail.com Your Channel  $\square$ YouTube Stu Your Coins Time watched Get YouTube Premum Purchases and memberships Switch account Turn on Incognito Your data in YouTube Help and feedback Privacy Policy · Terms of Services

Settings From her

From here, the user can access the Your Coins dashboard to access their coin related information

YouCoins
Dashboard
Dashboard showing
your youcoins,
spending history and
button to buying





Offers page Here various offers for Youcoins are shown.