#### Case Study / Arcesium

# True Daily P&L

## Redesigning process tracker application

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#### Project Date

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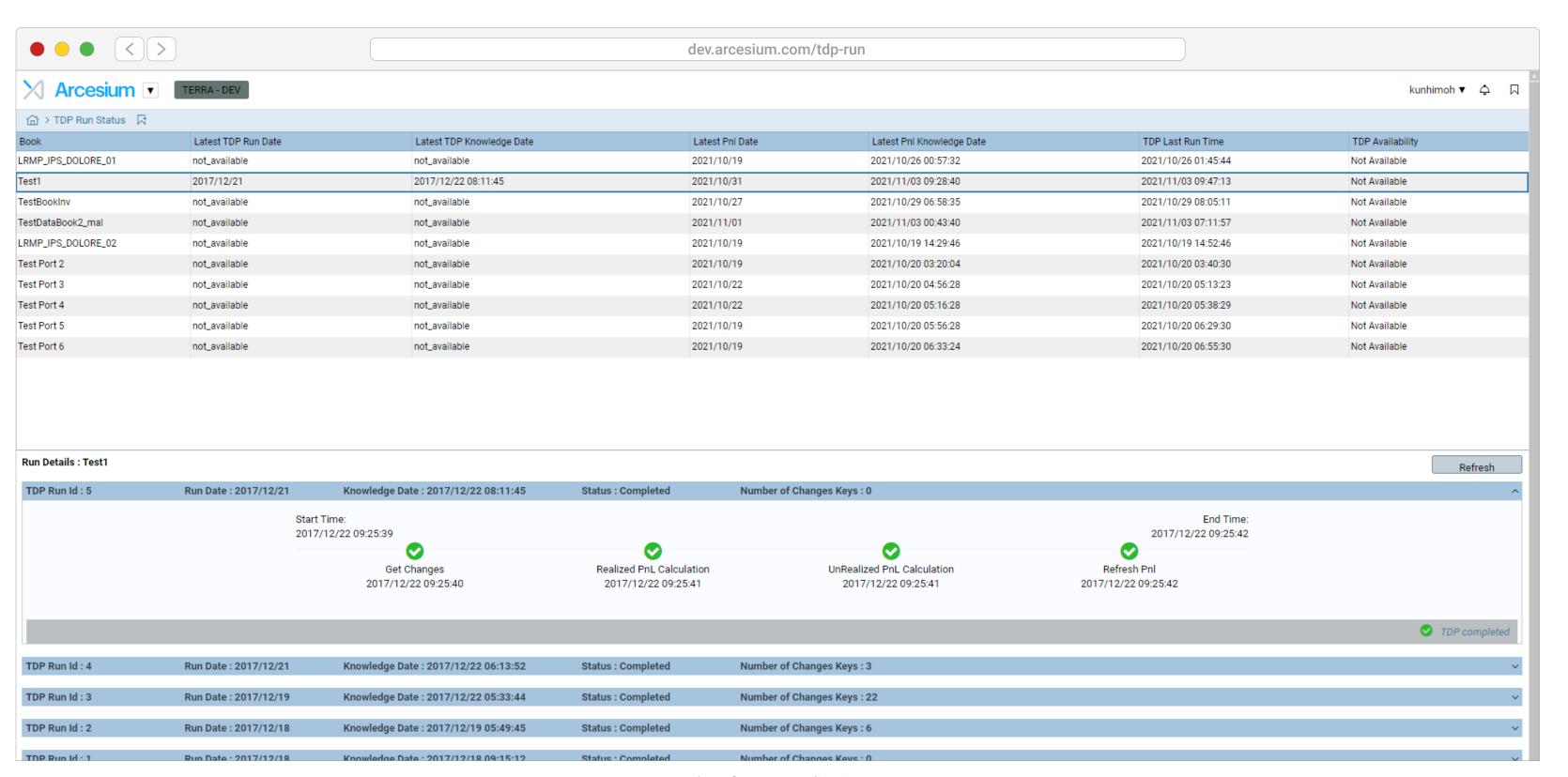
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## **Application Overview**

Profit & Loss (P&L) runs occur on a daily basis to calculate each client's positions. However, there can be cases when corrections are made in the data at a later date. These corrections are captured in True Daily P&L (TDP) runs. Because clients rely on TDP data for their end of day reporting, any delays in the TDP runs cause breaches in their internal SLAs.



Snapshot of current application

## Problem Description

The current application reports the TDP run completion status, without providing any further information about the cause of the delay, backlogs, task breakdowns, etc. In the event of delays, the Client Liaison team have to reach out to the Operations team to get these details. Considerable amount of time is spent co-ordinating with different teams to fetch this information and relay the same to the clients to ensure that their tasks are getting completed before any deadlines. Many of these tasks are repetitive in nature, but in the absence of a dedicated UI, have to be manually fetched by Operations team causing loss of time.

# Project Objectives

## Primary Objectives

The primary objective of this project was to provide meaningful visibility of TDP runs and schedules in order to:

- reduce informational TDP delay support tickets
- reduce turnaround on TDP delay support tickets
- reduce Operations team's time to address TDP related queries

### Secondary Objectives

The secondary goal of this project was to educate the users about the background processes involved in a TDP run, so that they can debug certain types of delays themselves and choose the correct course of action. This will reduce the number of support tickets logged by clients, and save a lot of time.

## Design Process

Research

Support tickets logged in the last 3 months were analyzed to identify areas of improvement in the workflow, personas, as well as map out process flowcharts. The current application was discussed to visually connect the requirements. Details for various fields required were also captured at this stage.

User Archetypes & Service Blueprint

Identified user archetypes based on frequency and usage patterns.

Service blueprint was created to highlight touch-points between the various archetypes and the application. The goal of this was to come up with a strategy on how to layer the information.

Wireframes & Whiteboarding

Wireframes were created and later discussed in a whiteboarding session. Focus of this session was to pull the ideas from our research to improve the same, as well as to ensure parity with the rest of the platform in terms of layout and interactions.

Prototyping & Review Meetings

Prototype was created and iterated upon using a custom prototyping setup<sup>1</sup>. Meetings with various stakeholders were held to gather their feedback and improve upon the iterations.

#### Final Deliverable

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A final version of the prototype was presented to the stakeholders to get a sign-off before handing it over for development. Non-critical feedback was documented as notes for developers to incorporate during implementation.

<sup>1.</sup> I created a template based prototyping tool using HTML, CSS & JS. I chose to do this over using available tools like Figma, because I was also assisting the frontend development team with the HTML/CSS code of our in-house component library. This method allowed the developers to extract the DOM and CSS styles directly from the mockup.

## User Archetypes

Interviews were conducted with the current users to understand their needs and current usage patterns. Based on these interviews, three user archetypes were created to help understand the information and actionable items required by each archetype.

#### **Client Liaison Group**

(Internal Users)

As the primary users of the application, they monitor the current day's P&L runs and report any delays to the Client. They also co-ordinate with the Operations team to understand the reason for delay as well as the estimate time for completion, or to get any additional information as requested by the Client.

#### **Interview Notes:**

Lack of available actions/
information in the current
application them to reach out
to Operations team every time.

#### **Clients' Executives**

(External Users)

Executives from the Client's firm visit the application to confirm the completion status of the P&L runs, before they start their work. Depending upon their company setup, they often are interested only in a subset of the runs happening on the platform.

#### **Interview Notes:**

Would like to search using one or more criteria like date, run mode, completion status, IDs, reason codes, etc.

#### **Operations Analysts**

(Internal Users

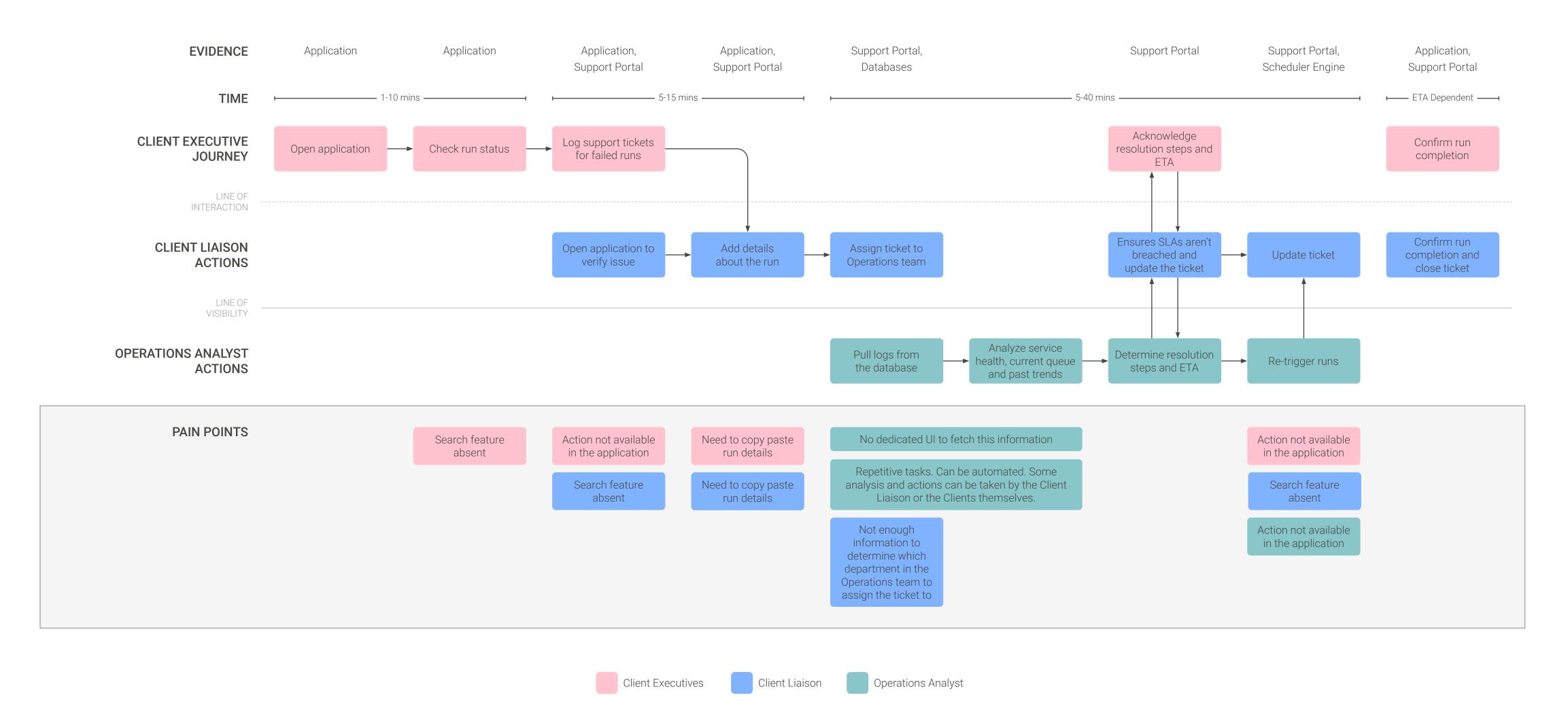
Analysts from the Operations team usually communicate with the Client Liaison, and provide them with information regarding the run schedule, estimate time for completion, past trends, or re-trigger the runs (in case of time-outs or failures).

#### **Interview Notes:**

Many support tickets are resolved by re-triggering the runs, which could potentially be done by the Client Liaison or the Client themselves.

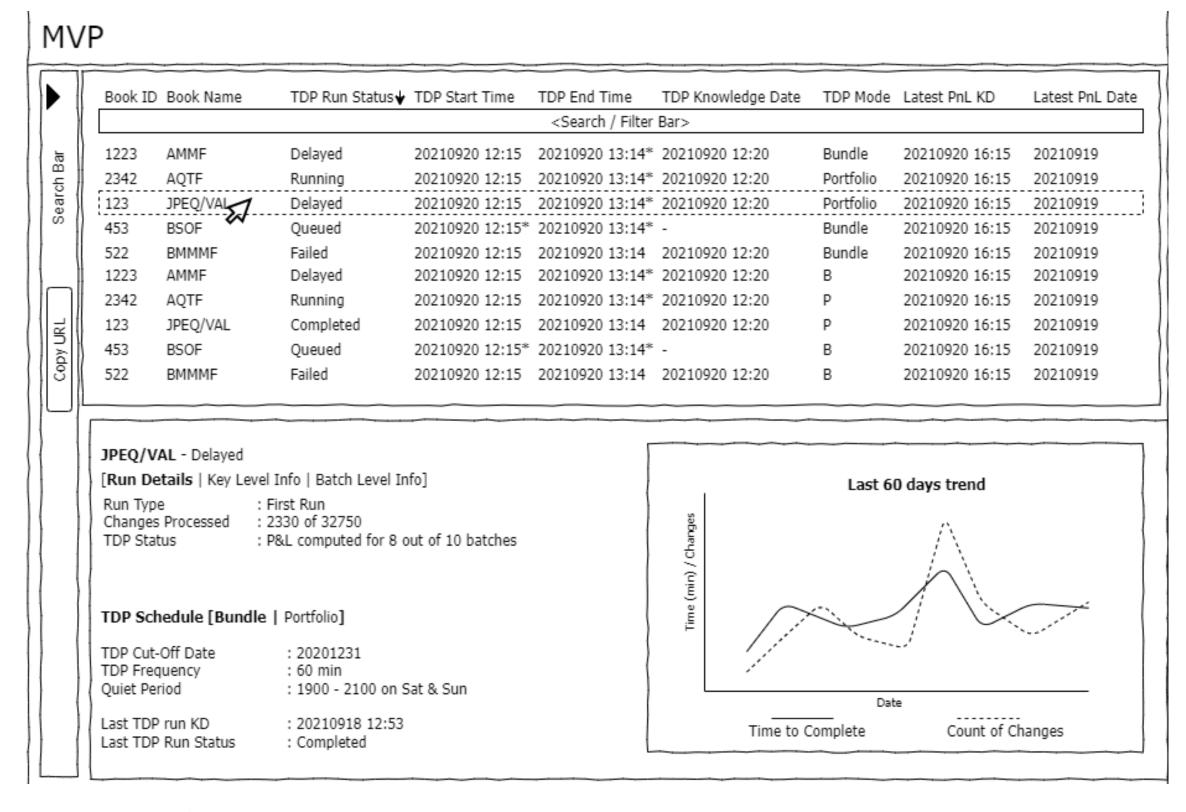
## Service Blueprint

I created a service blueprint to map out the various stages, time taken across the broad group of stages, as well as mention any pain points that came up during our discussions with the archetypes. This helps to understand the different touch-points between the archetypes and the application, identify areas of improvement as well as how to structure the flow of information. One major theme across all the archetypes was the lack of actions available to them.



## Initial Wireframes (1/2)

#### MVP + Good to Haves Book ID Book Name <Search / Filter Bar> 1223 Delayed 20210920 12:15 20210920 13:14\* 20210920 12:20 Bundle 20210920 16:15 20210919 AQTF Portfolio 20210920 16:15 20210919 2342 Running 20210920 12:15 20210920 13:14\* 20210920 12:20 20210920 12:15 20210920 13:14 20210920 12:20 20210920 16:15 20210919 Delayed 20210920 12:15\* 20210920 13:14\* -453 **BSOF** 20210920 16:15 20210919 Queued 522 BMMMF 20210920 12:15 20210920 13:14 20210920 12:20 20210920 16:15 20210919 Failed 1223 AMMF Delayed 20210920 12:15 20210920 13:14\* 20210920 12:20 20210920 16:15 20210919 2342 AQTF 20210920 12:15 20210920 13:14\* 20210920 12:20 20210920 16:15 20210919 Running 123 20210920 12:15 20210920 13:14 20210920 12:20 20210920 16:15 20210919 Completed 453 BSOF 20210920 12:15\* 20210920 13:14\* 20210920 16:15 20210919 Queued BMMMF Failed 20210920 12:15 20210920 13:14 20210920 12:20 20210920 16:15 20210919 JPEQ/VAL - Delayed Last 60 days trend [Run Overview | Run Details - Key | Run Details - Batch] : First Run : Calculating P&L for all changes : 2330 of 32750 [*details*] : 8 out of 10 [*details*] Changes Processed Batches Processed ------**7**Set Reminder Cancel Run TDP Schedule [Bundle | Portfolio] : 20201231 TDP Cut-Off Date TDP Frequency [All | Securities | Transactions | GDTP | FX | Others] : 1900 - 2100 on Sat & Sun Quiet Period Time to Complete Count of Changes Last TDP run KD : 20210918 12:53 Last TDP Run Status : Completed



Initial wireframes (created by Vipul Gupta, Product Manager)

# Initial Wireframes (2/2)

JPEQ/VAL - Delayed Last 60 days trend [Run Overview | Run Details - Key | Run Details - Batch] Changes Identified : 33950 Changed Missed : 1200 < DARTs / CSV> : 2330 of 32750 [details] Changes Processed Change Breakdown : 2542 [usually <2000] Security : 3500 [usually <3000] - Transaction : 21546 [usually <4000] (effects on P&L availability) - GDTP : 0 [usually <500] - FX Rate - Others : 4962 Date
[All | Securities | Transactions | GDTP | FX | Others]

JPEQ/VAL - Delayed

[Run Overview | Run Details - Key | Run Details - Batch]

Batches Created : 10 : 10

TDP Status : P&L computed for 8 out of 10 batches

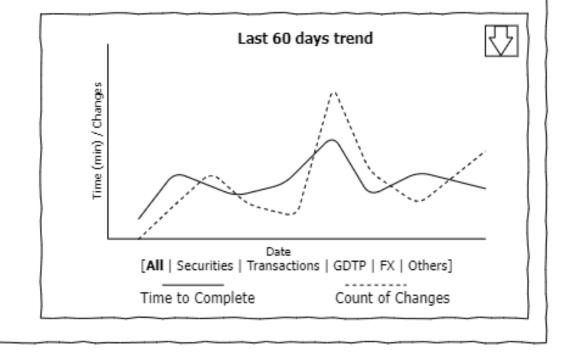
Batches Created

Batches Processed : 8

Time since start : 37 min of estimated 45 min

 Connector : 22 min : 12 min Adaptor : 35 min\*\* - UBOR

TDP Status : P&L computed for 8 out of 10 batches



Time to Complete

Count of Changes

Initial wireframes (created by Vipul Gupta, Product Manager)

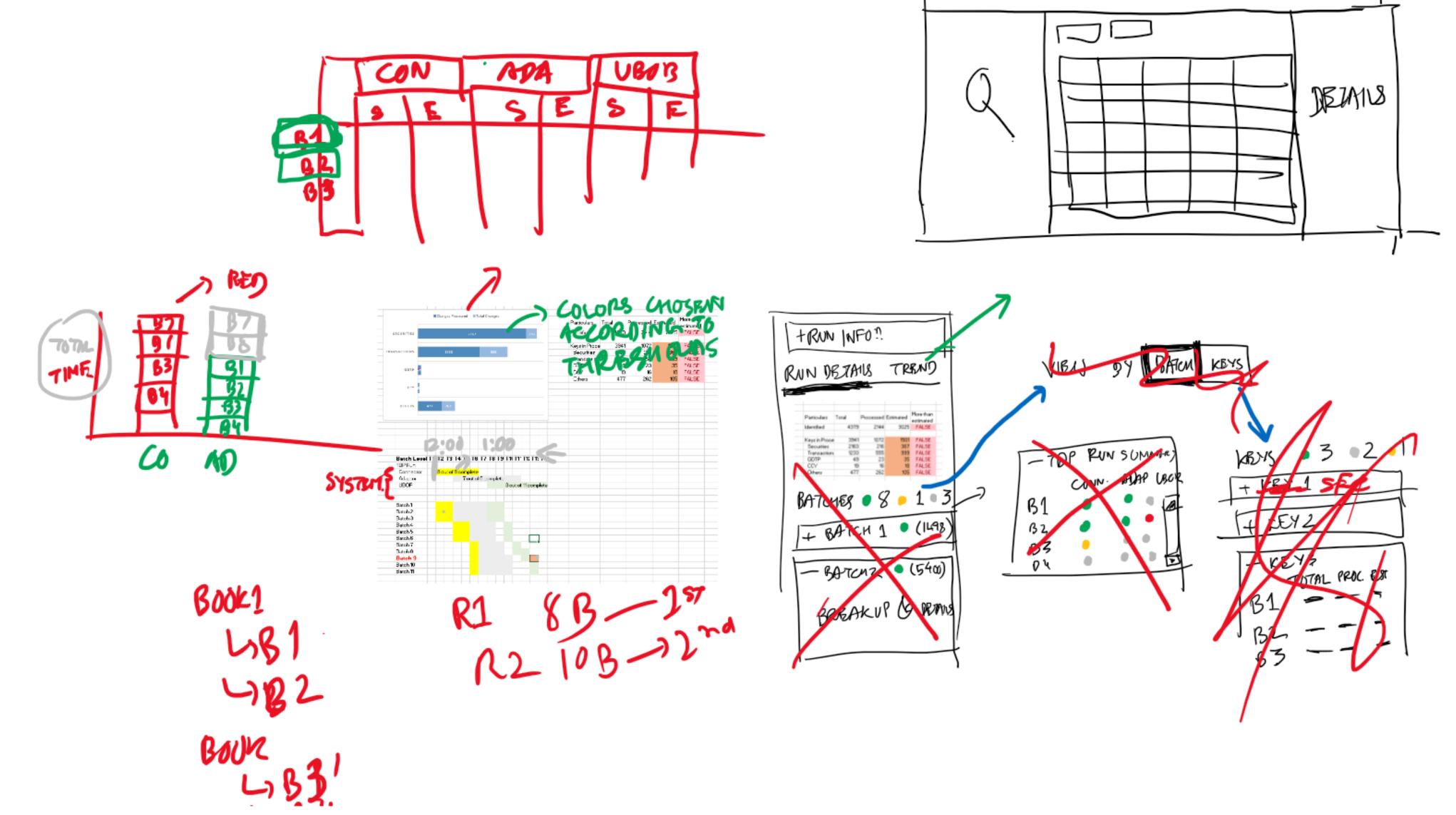
 $\Delta$ 

Stage : Calculating P&L for all changes - Step 1. Step 2. Step 3. Step 4. Changes Identified : 33950 Changed Missed : 1200 < DARTs> : 2330 of 32750 [details] Changes Processed Change Breakdown : 2542 [usually <2000] Security : 3500 [usually <3000] Transaction : 21546 [usually <4000] : 0 [usually <500] GDTP - FX Rate : 4962 Others Current Status : Awaiting data from Accounting Engine

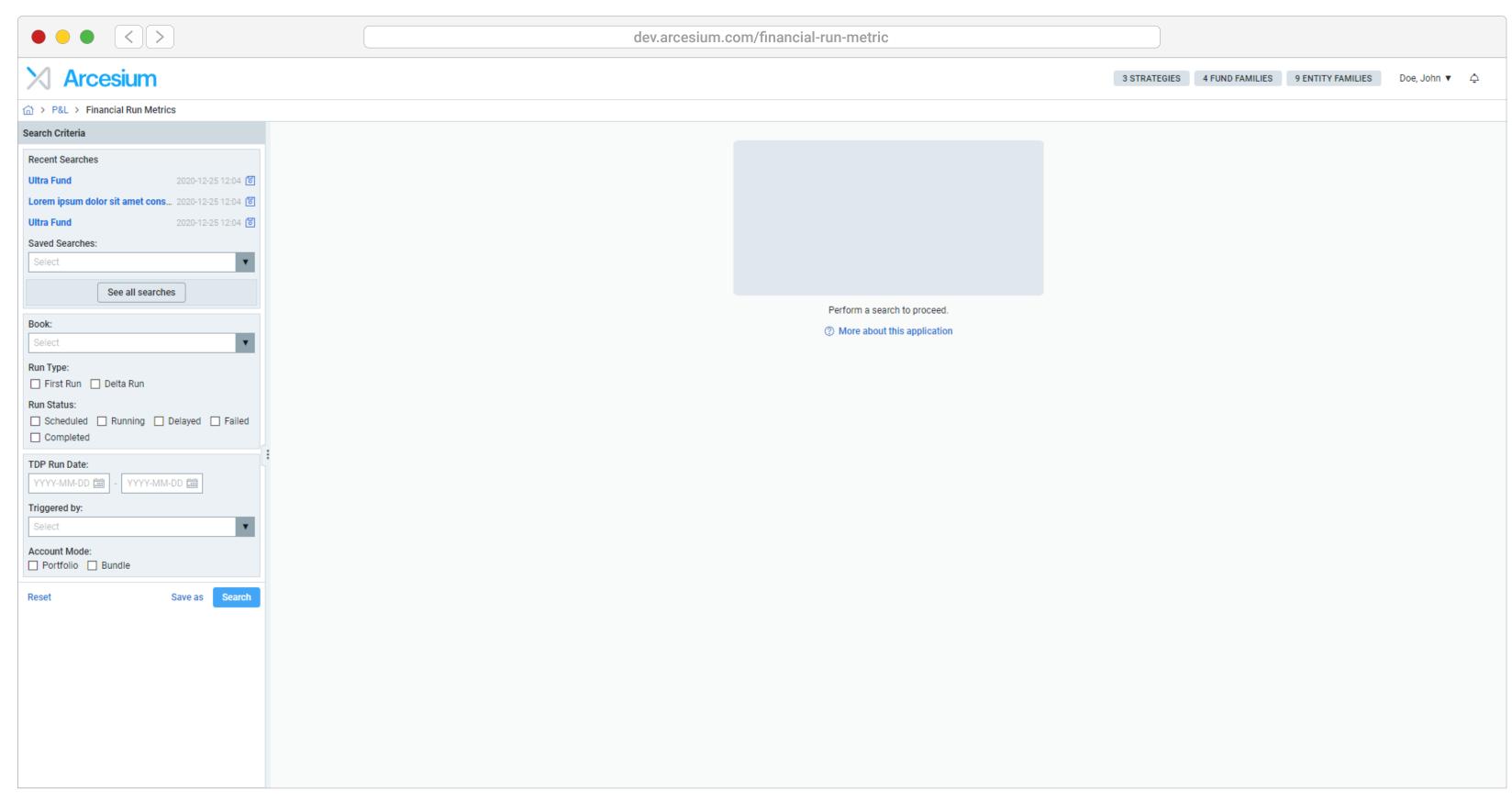
# Whiteboarding Session (1/2)



# Whiteboarding Session (2/2)



# Prototyping & Feedback (1/3)



Search page design when the user lands on the application

## Design Decisions

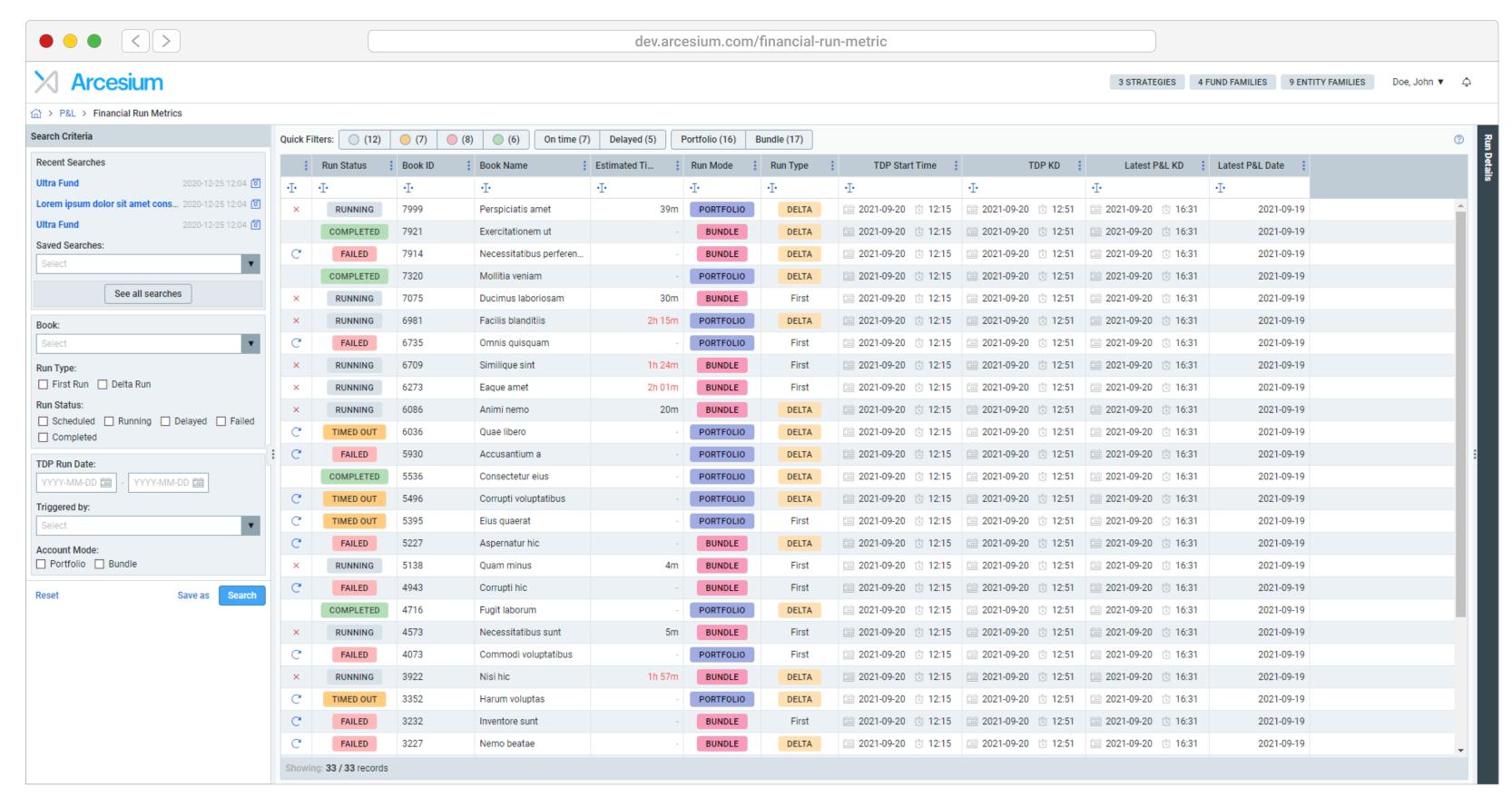
- A search panel was added to the application, allowing the users to search for runs based on varying criteria, as well as quickly execute recent search queries.
- Ability to save these search criteria and set the same as default was also introduced, as different user groups searched for runs using different criteria.
- A link to the application wiki was added in the empty space where the results would otherwise get populate.

#### Feedback

#### Client Liaison: "We don't usually search for historical dates."

We implemented the standard search pattern in this application, where a user lands on a page and has to execute a search to proceed. The users felt that this was an unnecessary step as they visit this application to get information on the current day's runs. The feature to save their search criteria and set it as their default search was welcomed.

## Prototyping & Feedback (2/3)



Sample search results

#### Design Decisions

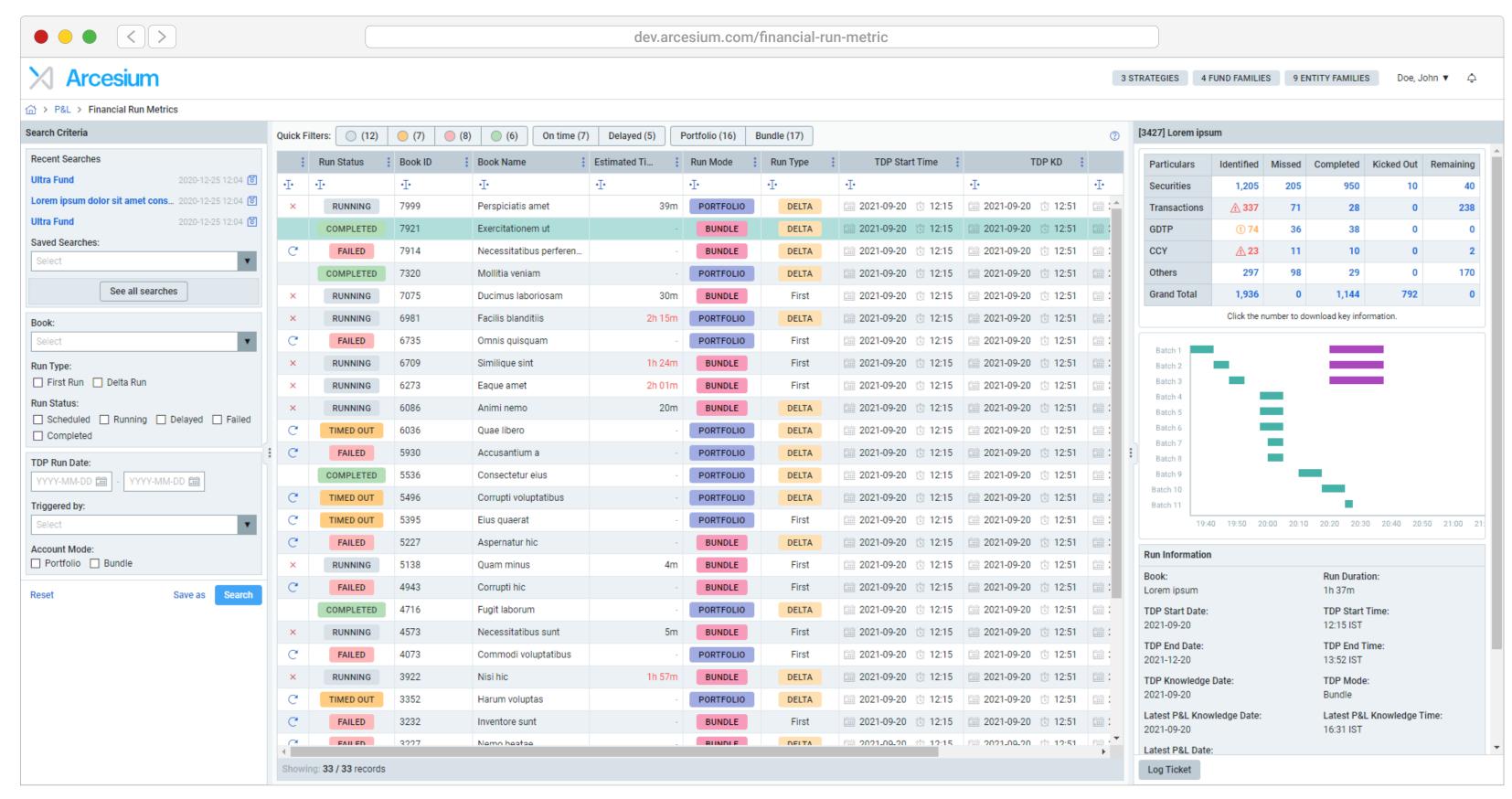
- Colour coded the values in different columns so that the users can easily differentiate between the different records, and thus reduce cognitive load.
- Runs which has exceeded the expected run duration were highlighted in red to further draw the user's attention. Non-critical information was dropped from the search results grid (and moved to the details panel showcased in the next page).
- Frequently used filters were added above the grid, along with a count of the underlying records.
- The link to the application wiki was moved above the grid in the corner to the right.

#### Feedback

#### Client Liaison: "There is too much colour on this page."

While the initial assumption was that colour coding the columns *Run Status, Run Mode, Run Type* will help the user easily differentiate the different entries, the feedback we got was that it's not achieving its intended purpose. Information like *Run Mode* and *Run Type* aren't critical, and by colour coding them, the focus shifted away from the *Estimated Time for Completion* column just to the left of *Run Mode*.

# Prototyping & Feedback (3/3)



Details panel opens up when you select a record

## Design Decisions

- The details panel expands whenever the user selects any record in the grid by clicking on it. This done to layer the information so that the primary users of this application (Client Executive & Client Liaison) aren't bombarded with information in the results grid.
- Colour coded metrics were added so that the Operations team can analyze the data and look at the timelines to determine the cause of failure.
- Complete run information was added to include the columns that were dropped from the results grid. This enabled us to reduce the amount of horizontal scrolling users need to do in order to see the complete meta-data for a given run.
- A button to log ticket was added which would automatically add a deep link to this run's details panel on the ticket, along with relevant meta data.

#### Feedback

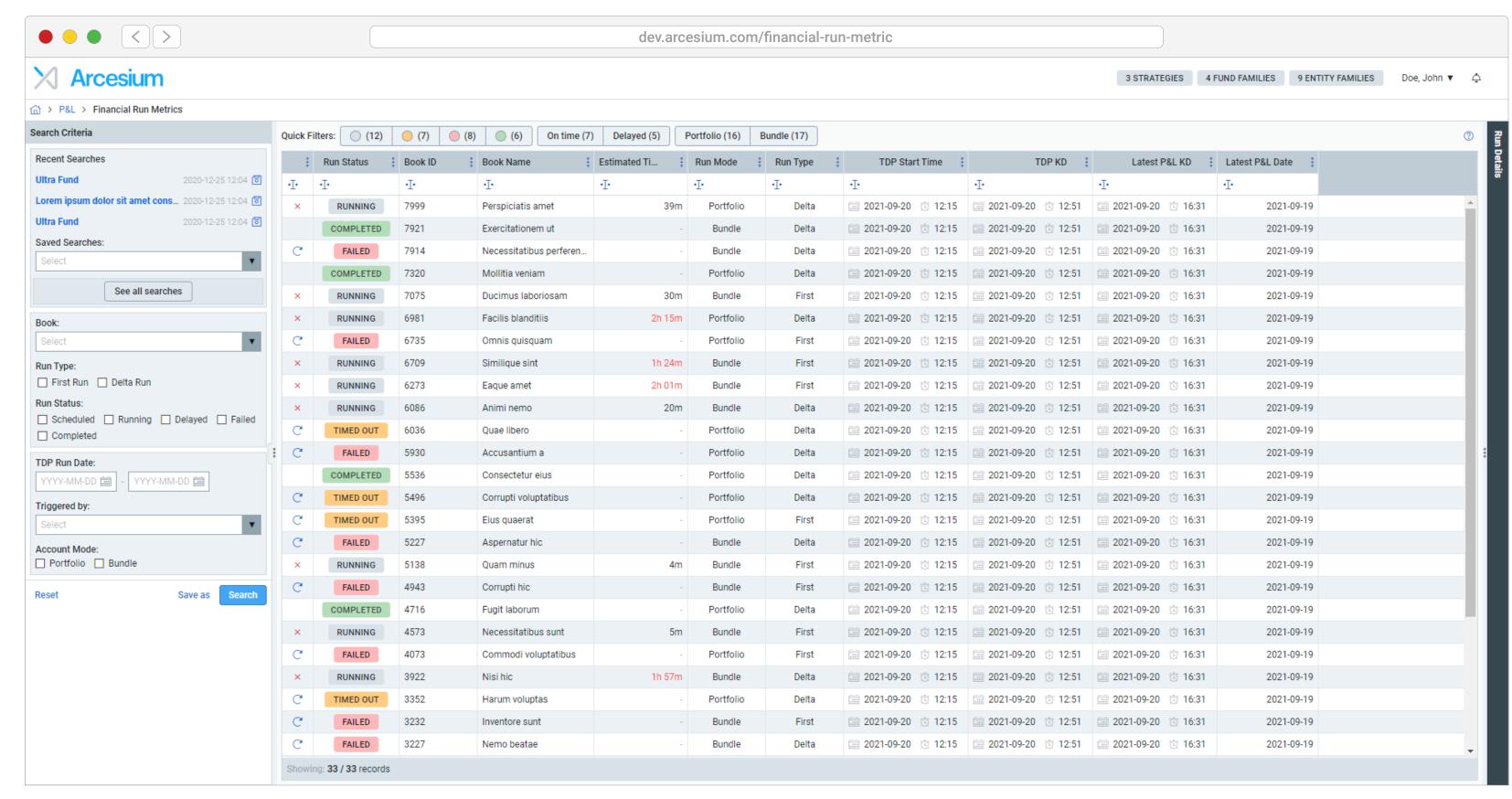
Client Liaison: "The clients don't fully understand the metrics and may misinterpret the data."

Client Liaison: "Clients may abuse the Log Ticket button."

Operations Analyst: "It's not clear which task has failed."

We simplified the underlying data keeping our secondary goal in mind without overwhelming the users, but it missed the mark, as the Client Liaison still felt overwhelmed, and the Operations Analysts felt they didn't have enough information to make an informed decision.

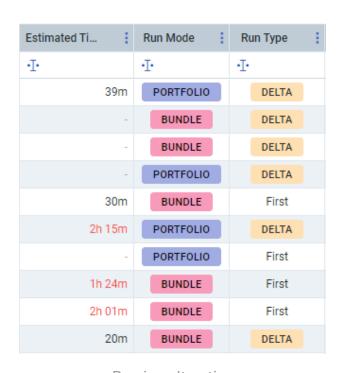
# Final Prototype - Run History (1/2)

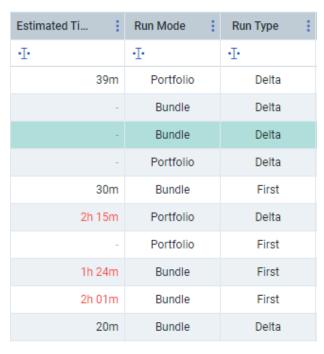


Search results automatically loads when user lands on the Run History Page

#### Design Decisions

- While the search panel was remained untouched, the search is now automatically triggered based on the user's default search preferences, whenever they land on the application.
- Colour coding was removed for Run Mode and Run Type columns to draw more attention to the Estimated Time for Completion column

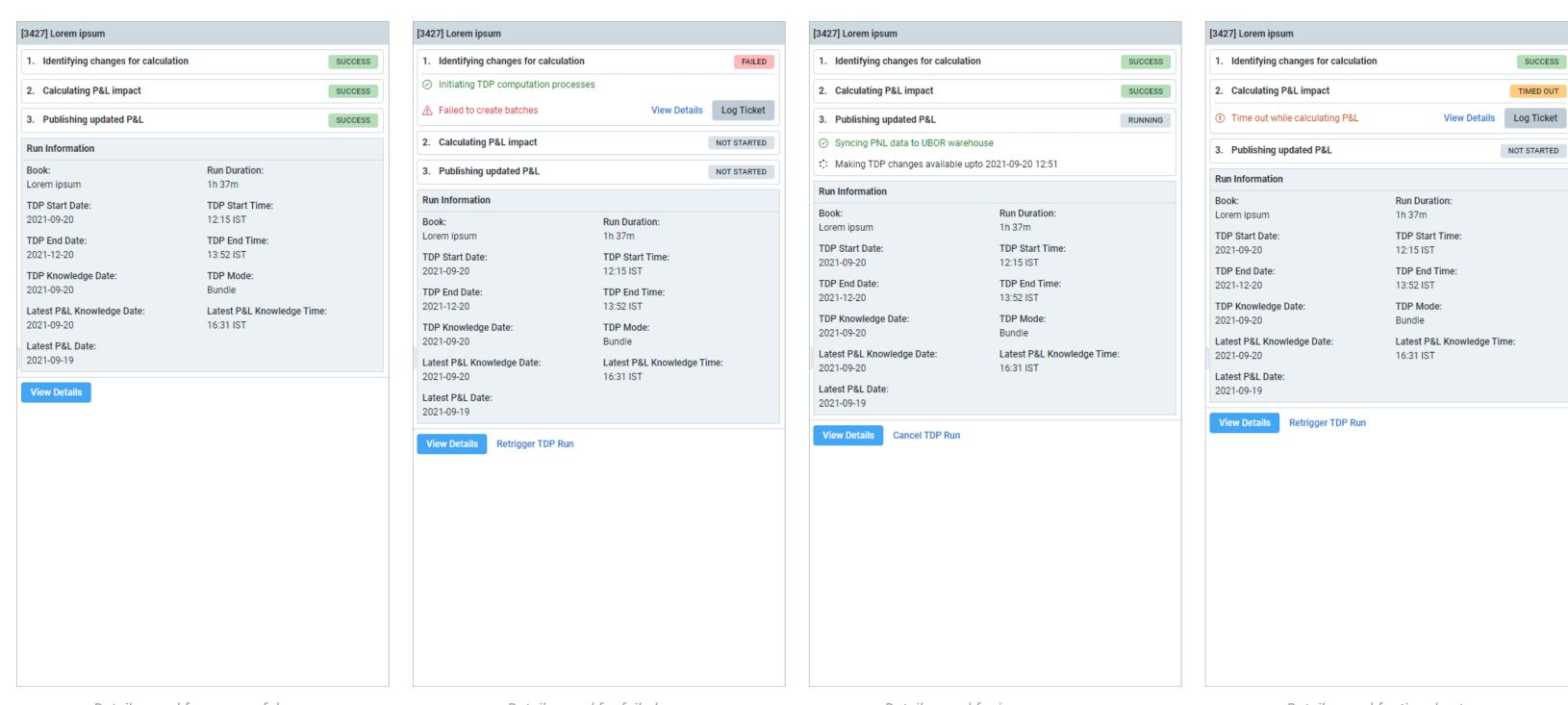




Previous Iteration

Final Version

# Final Prototype - Run History (2/2)



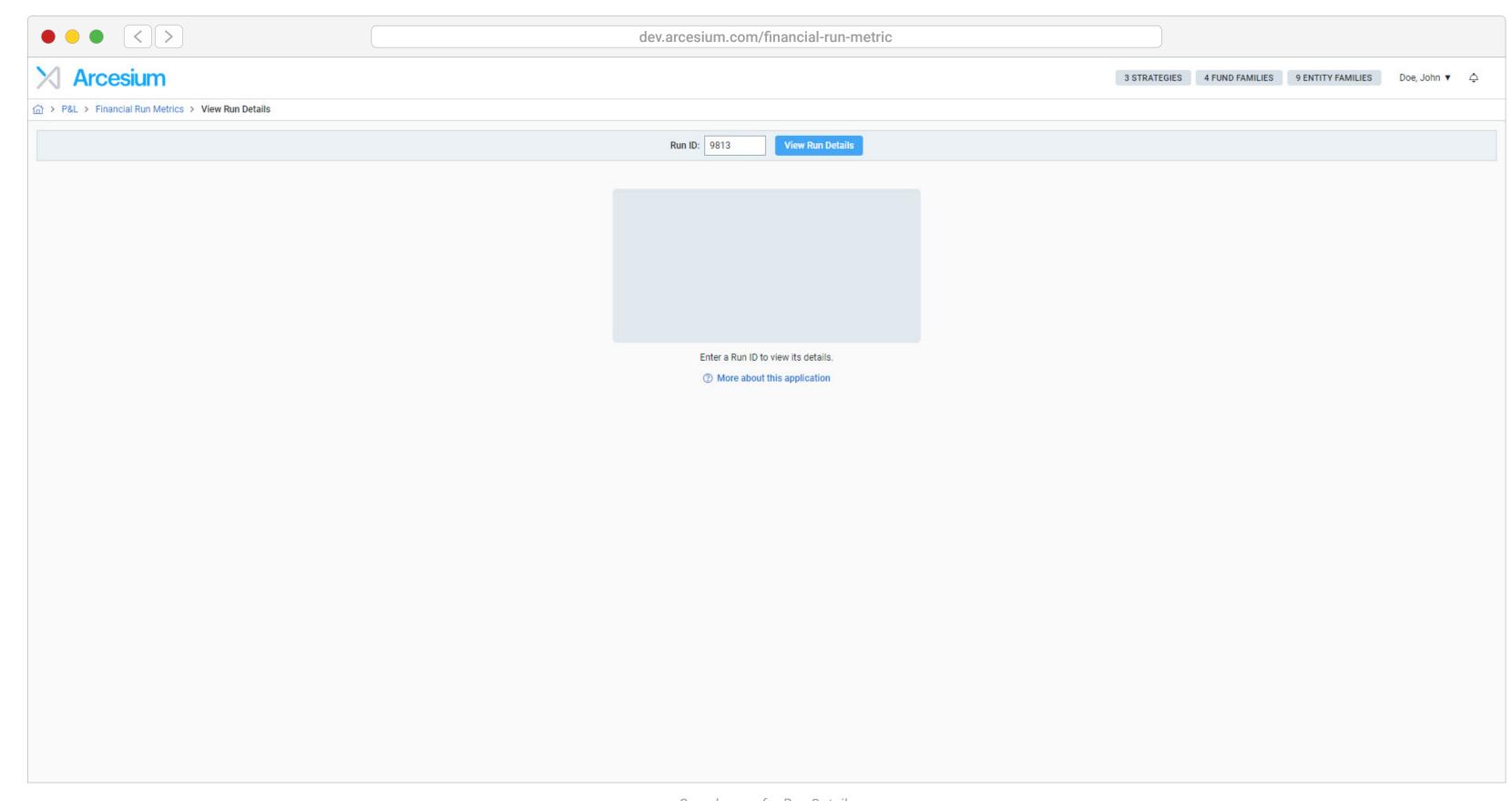
Details panel for successful runs Details panel for failed runs Details panel for in-progress runs Details panel for timed out runs

## Design Decisions

The details panel was completely revamped, and was redesigned to cater to Client and Client Liaison groups only. A dedicated details page (showcased later) was created keeping the needs of the Operations team in mind, as well as to allow the other user groups to learn more about the underlying processes should they want to.

- Details were simplified and focus was kept on high level process stages. Additional information was presented only if a particular stage had failed, or was in progress.
- Option to log ticket was removed as a first-class action, and instead was made available only for runs which had failed or timed-out. While the core functionality of this button wasn't changed, the deep-link d in the ticket will now point to the relevant section in the dedicated details page.
- To achieve our secondary goal for the project, link to the details page was added both as a panel action at the bottom, and in the relevant steps in case of failed and timed-out runs. While both actions would take the user to the same details page, the latter would jump to the relevant section in the page.

# Final Prototype - Run Details (1/3)

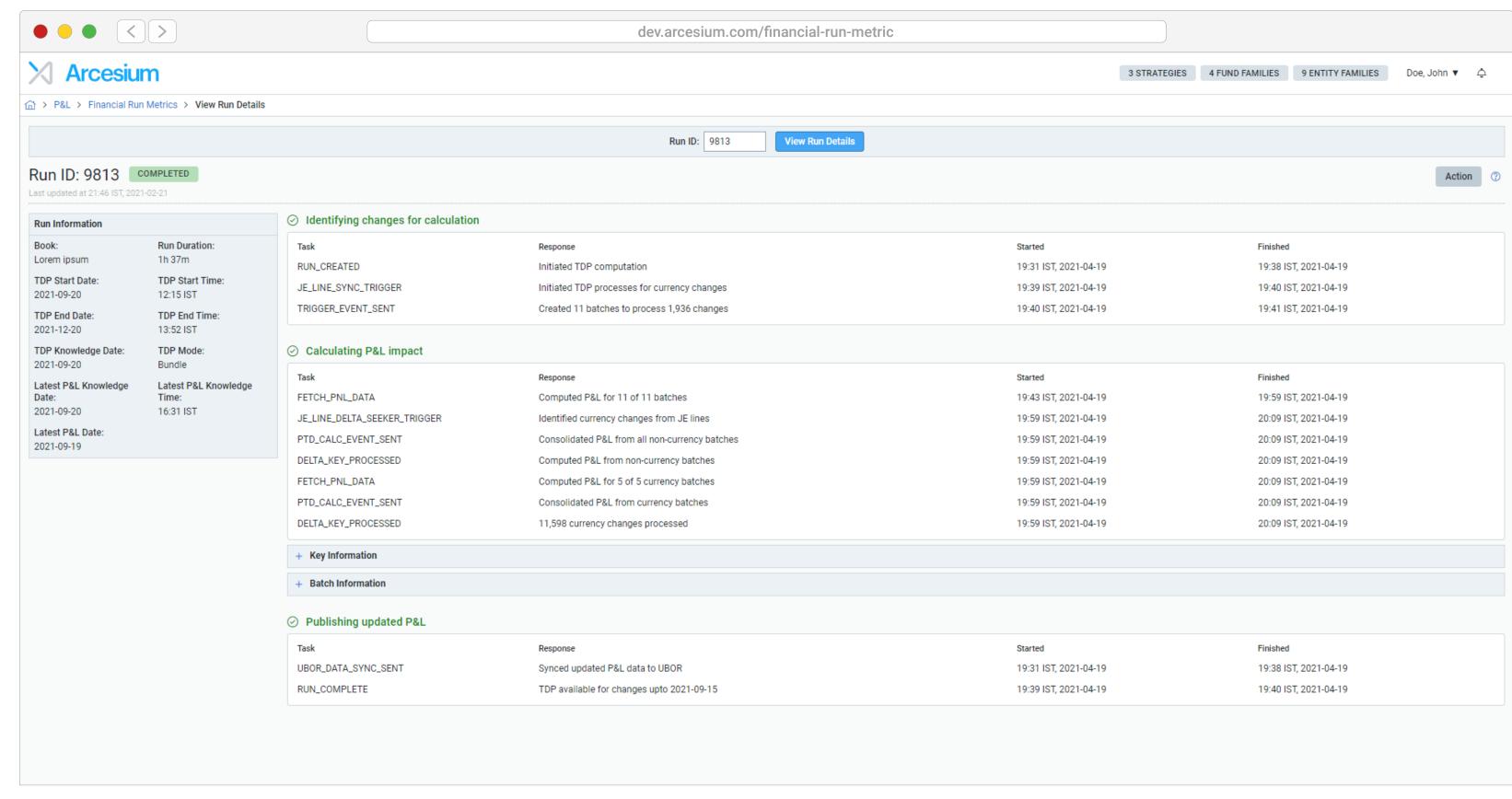


Search page for Run Details

## Design Decisions

- Users who land on this page directly can search for a particular Run ID and fetch its details.
- As with the Run History page, a link to the application wiki was added.

# Final Prototype - Run Details (2/3)



Search result for Run Details

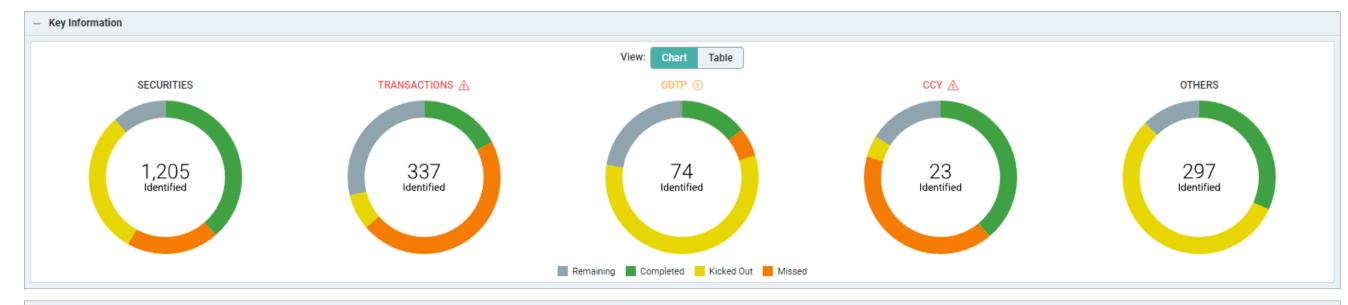
## Design Decisions

- Completion status was added to the overall run, as well as individual stages.
- A complete breakdown of each task split by different stages was included in the details page.
- Sub-tasks within a particular task were collapsed into the parent task, rather than have them repeat multiple times and overloading the UI (see image below).

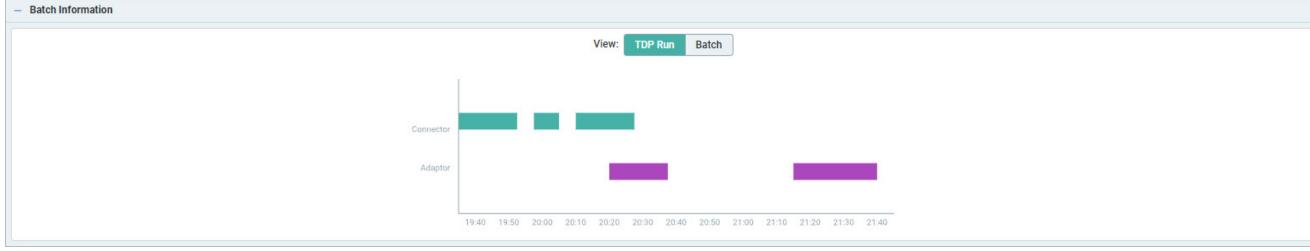
| Task                         | Response                                  |
|------------------------------|---|
| FETCH_PNL_DATA               | Computed P&L for 1 of 11 batches          |
| FETCH_PNL_DATA               | Computed P&L for 2 of 11 batches          |
| FETCH_PNL_DATA               | Computed P&L for 3 of 11 batches          |
| FETCH_PNL_DATA               | Computed P&L for 4 of 11 batches          |
| FETCH_PNL_DATA               | Computed P&L for 5 of 11 batches          |
| FETCH_PNL_DATA               | Computed P&L for 6 of 11 batches          |
| FETCH_PNL_DATA               | Computed P&L for 7 of 11 batches          |
| FETCH_PNL_DATA               | Computed P&L for 8 of 11 batches          |
| FETCH_PNL_DATA               | Computed P&L for 9 of 11 batches          |
| FETCH_PNL_DATA               | Computed P&L for 10 of 11 batches         |
| FETCH_PNL_DATA               | Computed P&L for 11 of 11 batches         |
| JE_LINE_DELTA_SEEKER_TRIGGER | Identified currency changes from JE lines |

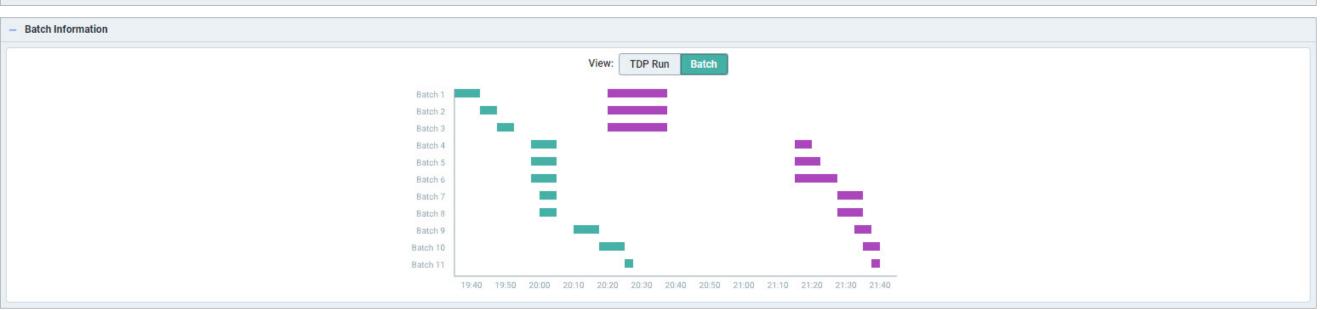
Actual entries in the logs (above) were collapsed into one single entry for ease of viewing

# Final Prototype - Run Details (3/3)









## Design Decisions

• Different view types of the underlying data was added to the details page to help the operations team view it from different angles.