Building a Portal to IT

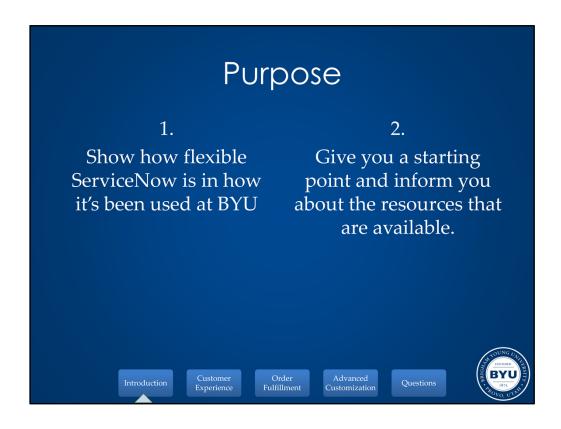
James Farrer Brigham Young University Office of IT



About Brigham Young University

- 32,980 full time students
- 4,016 full time faculty and employees
- 13,973 part-time student employees
- Office of Information Technology is the central IT shop
- 171 Services from network to class registration system to servers
- 25,218 orders in the first year, 72,876 total



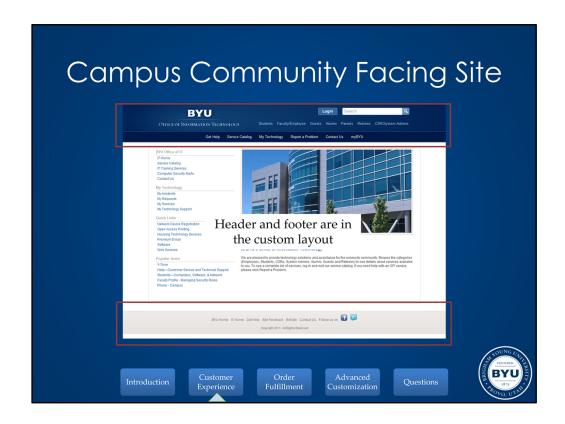


There's some information about what we did, and some about how we did it.



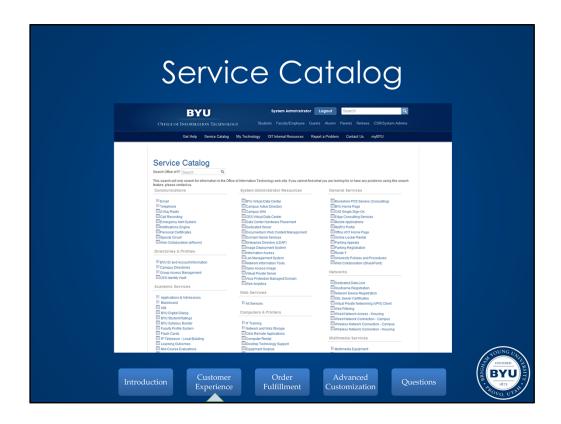
Three areas of focus:

- 1. Customer Experience how we've made things easier for our customers
- 2. Order fulfillment how we've implemented things on the back end
- 3. Advanced brief foray into JellyScript, which makes many things possible



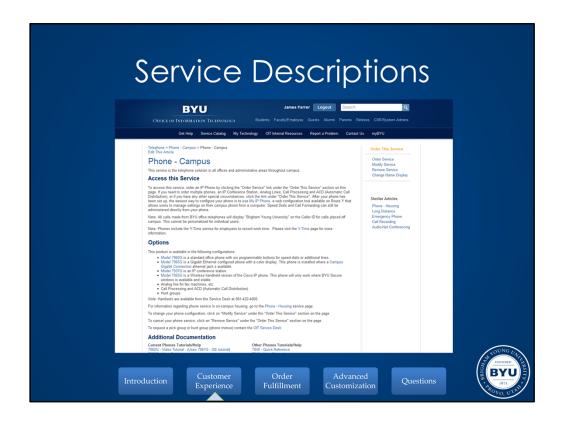
ServiceNow is the portal to OIT's services

- Provides descriptions and documentation for our services
- Several methods of navigating the site (search, topical and role based menus, and an overall list of services) all leads to the same content with an actionable Service Catalog where possible



We use the out-of-the-box Service Catalog structure with the content driven by the Knowledge Base.

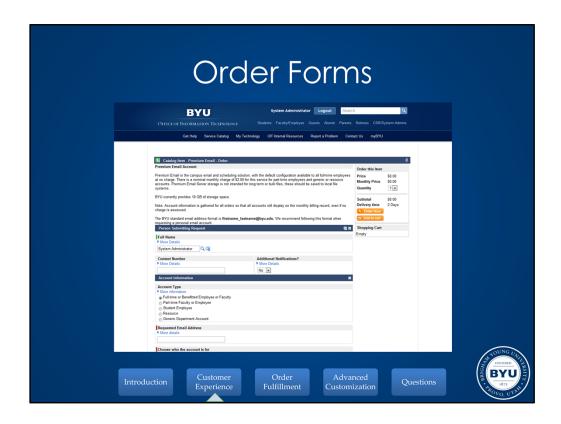
Respects users roles and utilizes knowledge feedback and search



Central place for documentation for each service.

Added breadcrumbs using the Service Catalog Structure and Knowledge Base Categorizations.

Order forms are available from the right side.



- Made a custom CMS page for forms and guides
 - URL's are smaller and simpler
 - Prevents issues with URL's that are too long (specifically with order guides)
- Form is wrapped in an iFrame block that auto resizes
- Dynamic Descriptions to separate the description text from the functioning of the form for easier updating
 - Knowledge Manager has control over the descriptions on all order forms
 - Descriptions are displayed via a UI Page variable
 - UI Page looks up a custom table that contains descriptions
 - Knowledge Manager has access to the table
 - Provides a way to change the order form without needing the update set process

Next 3 slides on order forms:

- 1. Benefits of Variable Sets
- 2. How we incorporated Monthly Price
- 3. Custom Cart for free orders



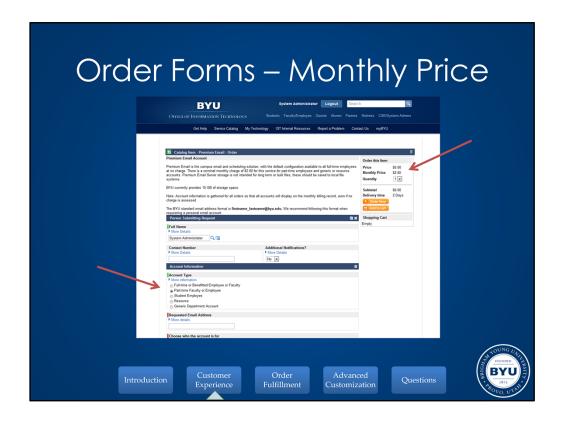
Variable Sets

- Consistent experience for contact details and billing information
- Easily update and make changes

Recent Example:

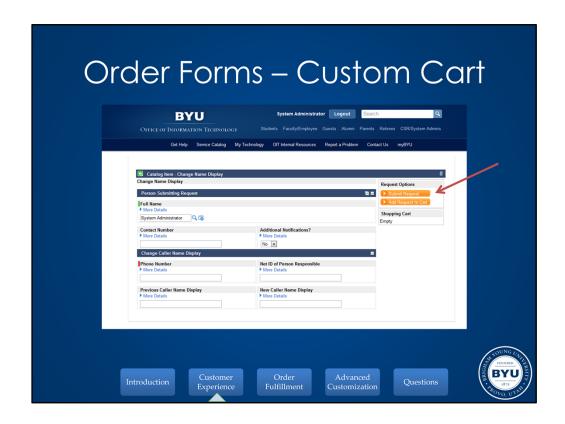
All of the account code verification functionality is rolled into a Variable set, including AJAX calls to that billing system.

We just made a change that displays department information in the verification box. The change affects 90+ order forms, but is extremely easy to roll out because it modifies the variable set and not the individual order forms.



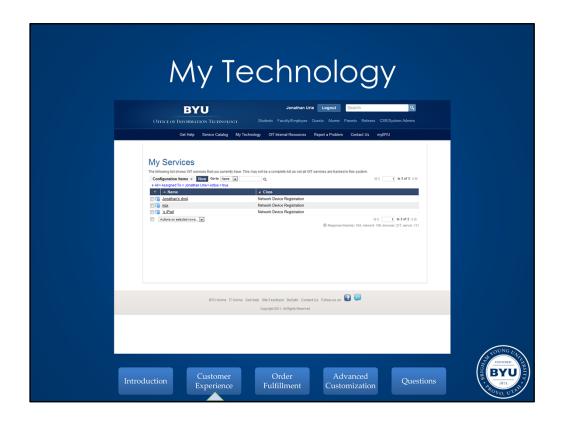
We customized the Shopping Cart and added in a monthly price when needed.

A UI Script does the heavy lifting of calculating differences in the price depending on the options selected. There is a simple javascript function that we can call that updates the price.



We received user feedback that the cart was confusing when the order was just submitting information or requesting something that didn't have a price.

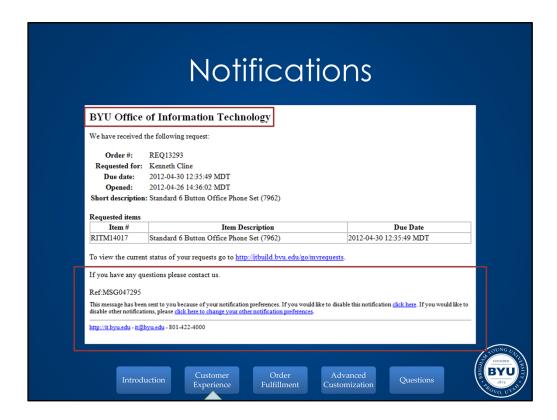
To improve their experience we took the original cart, made a copy, and stripped almost everything out. We changed the wording so it reflected the "free" nature of the orders being submitted.



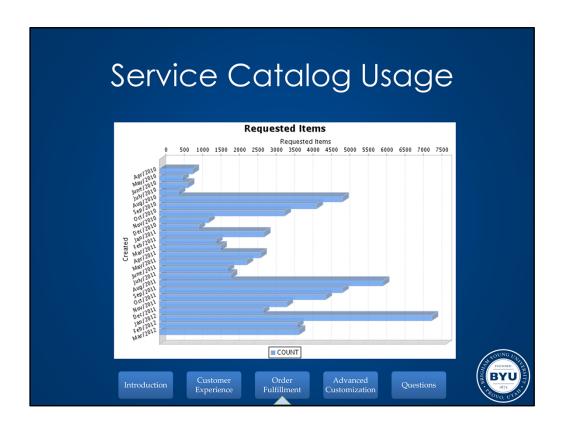
To provide a place for users to find out what the status is for their tasks we created a "My Technology" menu. It contains things like:

- My Requests
- My Technology Support (example of a custom JellyScript page, more on JellyScript later)
- My Services
- My Training Schedule
- My Notifications

Each link contains information that is filtered or tailored to the individual. There are a few other links that show up depending on roles

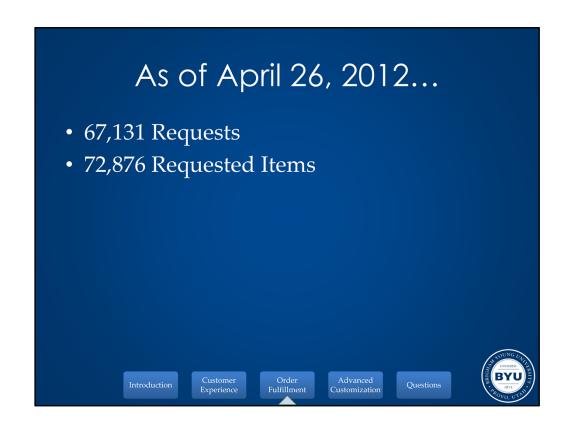


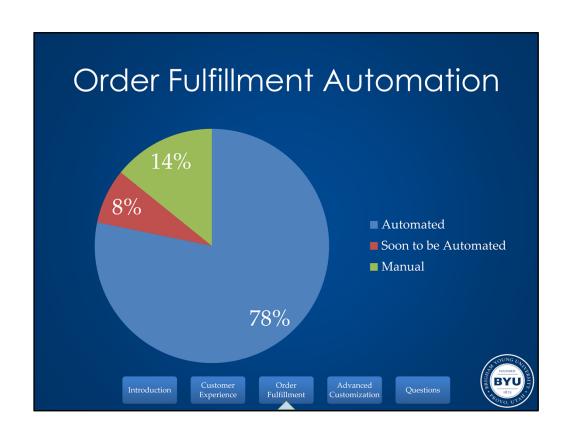
Email header and footers, including a link that allows for easy unsubscribing.

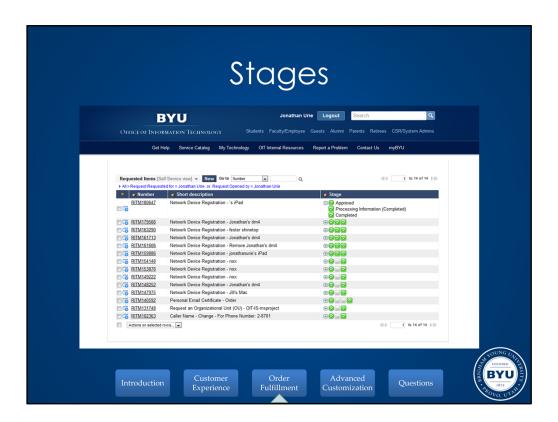


Moving on to what's going on in the background.

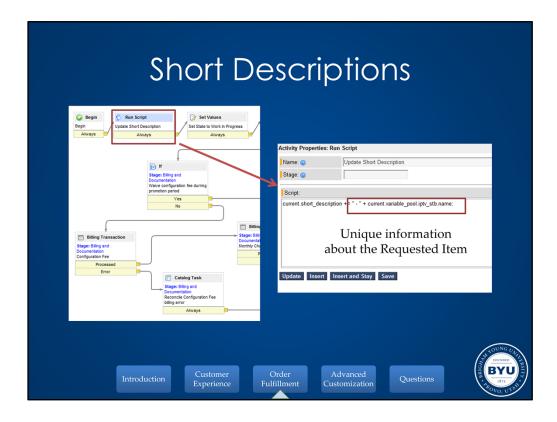
We've seen steadily increasing usage of the Service Catalog







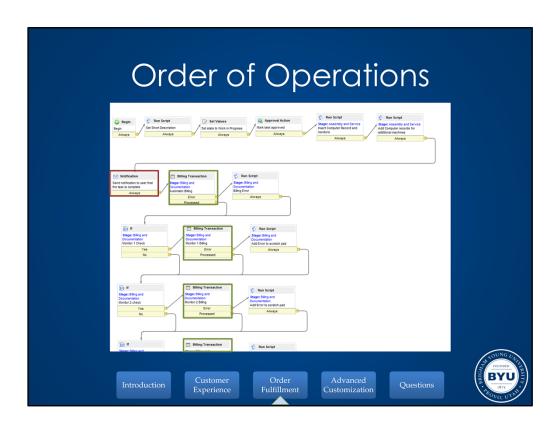
We try and use stages appropriate to the order that give a real indication to users of where the order is at. Some are better than others but overall it's pretty good. Significant improvement over our previous system.



In addition to stages we have found it is very important to include key information in the short description of the Requested Item and in the subject of emails.

Examples:

- For phone orders we include the phone number "Phone Order 2-1234"
- For accounts for individuals we will typically include name and username "Email Order for John Doe (john123)"



When working out the order fulfillment process,

- 1. Get them what they need
- 2. Let them know

Then

3. Work out billing and other paperwork

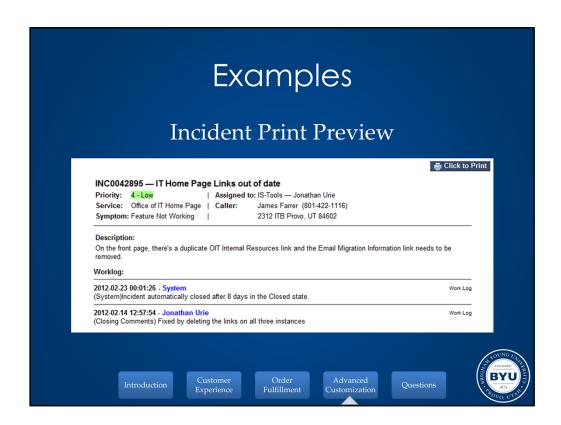


We created a custom workflow activity that calls a web service behind the scenes to add or remove the billing records. In the case of an error we have a manual task to reconcile it.

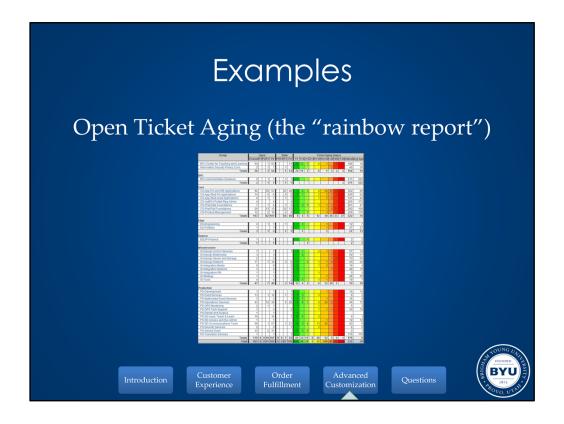
JellyScript • Provides Complete Control • wiki.service-now.com articles – Jelly Tags – Extensions to Jelly Syntax – How to Escape in Jelly • Several phases of processing, keep them straight

Helpful Links

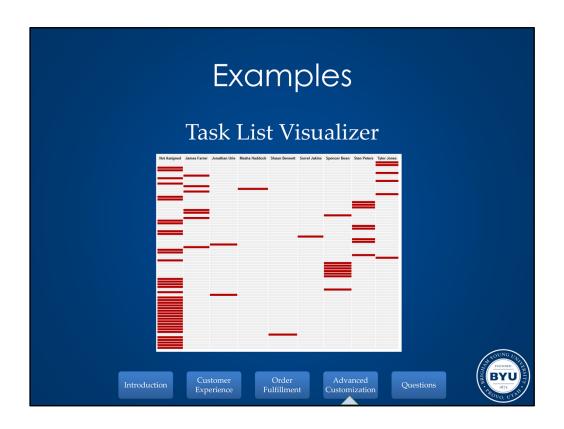
- List of Tags that are used http://wiki.service-now.com/index.php?title=Jelly Tags
- Basics of JellyScripting http://wiki.servicenow.com/index.php?title=Extensions_to_Jelly_Syntax
- Escaping in Jelly http://wiki.service-now.com/index.php?title=How_to_Escape_in_Jelly



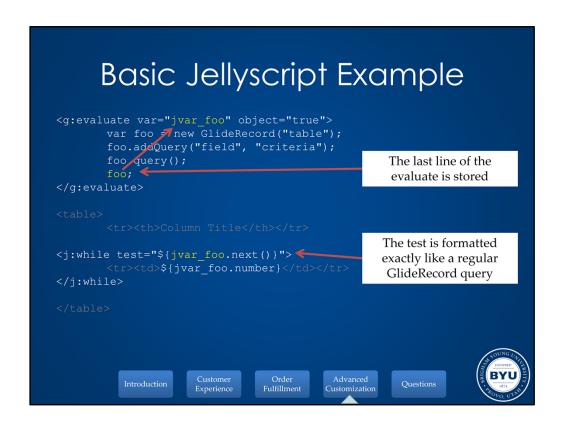
Our Incident form has too much information for printing so we created a UI Page that contains the important details for someone to print out and carry into the field.



We had reporting needs that went beyond what the built-in functionality could provide. We have created several custom reports that have been very helpful.



Here's a prototype we've been working on to help with prioritizing work within the team. It only took a few hours to put it together.



Lessons Learned

- You can do just about anything
 - Get to know the documentation
 - Look through the out-of-the-box pieces, there are many examples, so that aren't documented
 - Many things just need a CMS wrapper to be exposed
- It's worth the extra time to cater to the user
 - Prepopulate user info
 - Add error checking



