Google News Initiative

GNI Subscriptions Lab

APAC Program Explainer



2020





What

Objectives, target outcomes and Program overview

How

Project deliverables and required commitments

When Expected timeline

Who

Google, WAN | IFRA, FTI Consulting project teams

Program objective and overview

Program objective	Engage a group of selected publishers in a journey that will help them define an ambitious vision for their digital subscription business and build the engine that will take them to their goal
Program overview	The Lab offers an ambitious, intensive four-month experience that will address every step of the digital subscriptions process from discovery to conversion to retention
Publisher	Participating publishers will receive dedicated 1:1 support and be
experience	asked to share their successes and learnings with the broader industry towards the end of 2020

Target outcomes



Business Performance

Increase in total digital subscriptions revenue and growth rate

Improvement in key subscriptions metrics (e.g. conversion rate, average revenue per user, retention, etc.)



Capability Building

Successful
implementation of
technical and
business
recommendations
made during the
program

Adoption of a continuous optimization process based on best practices

Key phases



Discovery

Understand where you stand on the maturity curve and size the opportunity

August



Roadmap

Identify short term tactics and long-term opportunities to scale reader revenue

September - October



Build, test, learn

Build the path to reader revenue growth by experimenting, learning and improving

November

Program modules and deliverables

Discovery

Business review

- Market opportunities, challenges, strengths and weaknesses
- Focus growth areas and quick wins

Subscriptions diagnostic

- Top to bottom analysis of subs business performance
- Performance benchmarking across conversion funnel

Capabilities assessment

- Overview of subscription model capabilities
- Identification of development areas to grow subscriptions

Roadmap

Roadmap strategy

- Identification of short term initiatives and long term opportunities
- Building of experiment roadmap and long term roadmap

Build, test, learn

Continuous improvement framework

- Framework and methodology to build strategic path through experimentation and learning
- Comprehensive dashboard monitoring progress

Publisher journey and approach

The Publisher Partner Journey













Data

FTI Assessment

Publisher Virtual Onsites

Roadmap Development Cohort Sessions Publisher Bootcamps

The APAC Subscriptions Lab will start with analytics and executive interviews to develop a baseline for current digital subscription operating model We will work with publishers to develop strategic action plans and make recommendations to address digital subscription gaps across people, process and technology

Required publisher commitments



Digital subscriptions is a **strategic priority**

Digital subscriptions is a top three strategic priority

Launched a digital subscriptions business; seeing growth



Senior management is bought in

Senior executive application letter CEO or proxy agrees to join SteerCo



'Skin in the game' operationally

Assign a project lead, and working team across key functions Commitment to testing / iteration during 'on-site' phase Fully participate in cohort activities over the Program duration



Willingness to **share knowledge** with ecosystem

Be a full participant in an ongoing 'community of success'

Agree to fully participate in cohort activities, off-site workshops

Share conversion performance data with cohort for benchmarking purposes

Agree to participate in industry bootcamps, appear in case studies

Note: These publisher commitments also serve as important selection criteria for publisher selection

When

Proprietary + Confident

Full program timeline

Public Announcement

Subs Lab announced at WAN | IFRA Asian Leaders eSummit. Publisher application process opens.

Publisher Workshops

We will complete Subscriber Model Diagnostics and Benchmarking Analysis in August -September.

Roadmap | Experiments

We will develop individual publisher roadmaps to grow reader revenue along with designing experiments to gain quick insights.

July Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Kickoff and Pre-Start

Program will launch in mid-August. Onboarding of publishers and data requests.

Cohort Meetings

We plan to have multiple publisher cohort meetings throughout the Lab, designed to share best practices and a forum to learn from peer publishers facing similar challenges.

Lab Wrap Up | Bootcamps

The Lab sessions will wrap up in November followed by Publisher bootcamps to share learnings broadly with the APAC region and the industry at large.

Program stakeholders







The Google News Initiative is a global \$300 million initiative focused on partnering with the news industry to help journalism thrive in the digital age

WAN-IFRA serves as a knowledge hub and a leading global resource for publishers, with three focus areas: Press Freedom and Journalism, Media Sustainability, and Media Innovation FTI is a leading global management consulting firm, with deep expertise (300+ client engagements) in the publishing industry

Apply for consideration <u>here</u>. The deadline is August 7, 2020.

Thank You!



