Summary

BusinessIQ (BIQ) is an Experian application that allows companies to pull credit reports. The goal of the project is to not only improve BIQ's user experience and design—but also update the code framework as well.

Our key deliverables were wireframes & designs backed by customer feedback. We delivered our designs to development in the form of an interactive prototype built in the same framework as the end product.

User Research

The first month of the redesign project was spent on the road talking to our users all over the United States. We interviewed 27 Participants across 16 different companies and the primary personas we talked to were Credit Analysts and Credit Managers.

Our The primary purpose of our research trip was to monitor how our customers use & navigate BIQ—and to see what areas in BIQ are most important to them and why and what areas aren't used at all.

We talked to both large companies like UPS & Canon, as well as our small business partners to obtain all perspectives and roles of who uses BIQ and why.

Our user research consisted of three steps:

- Preparation of interview questions in the form of a script.
- Interviewee recruitment.
- Conducting the user interviews and recording feedback.

The most used area of BIQ is search—so we decided that should be the key area of focus for the next version.

We discovered most users start at search. They search a company, pull a report, then save that report and pass it to their Credit Managers for policy review.

Some other things we learned:

- Dashboard isn't used in it's current state.
- Average time spent in BIQ is 10 30min a day for a typical user. Larger companies—however—have entire departments dedicated to just pulling reports, sometimes all day long.
- Generating a report is a force-of-habit action from users. They don't—in general—know the differences between different report types.

Results

The new design of the application provides users with the ability to:

- Easily search and find business owners and companies to pull credit reports.
- View and manage affiliated companies within their portfolio.
- Design their own credit reports to only get the information most important to them.
- Easily pull credit reports.
- View portfolio performance.

Style Guide & Design

We decided to go forward with Angular as our new framework along with Material—Google's library of common components.

Overall Improvements To Design

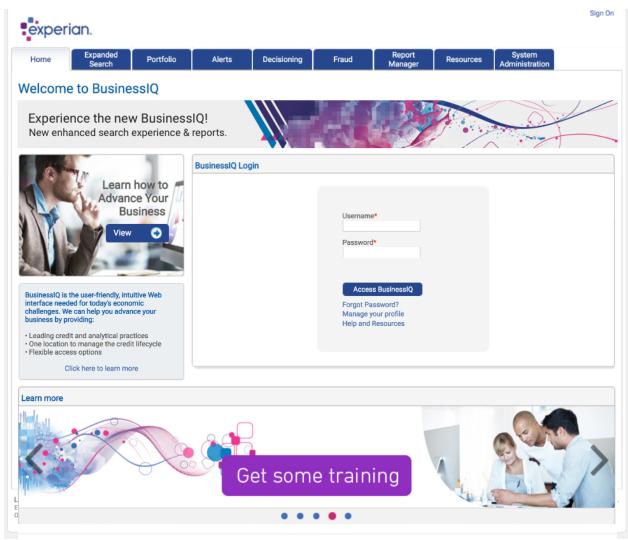
- Increased the font size from (11px -12px) to (14px 16px) for better readability—as well as updated the font family to Google's Roboto throughout BIQ.
- Increased width of application from 972px to full width of the browser.
- Updated layout to a more modern feel.
- Added descriptions for report types for clarity.
- Decreased the amount of clicks to pull a report.
- Made design more seamless with Experian's brand identity.

Initial Concepts

We came up with some first initial screens to gauge customer interest and also provide a north-star to aim for.

The new design would utilize a more modern workflow and empathy driven decisions behind how we present and render credit information.

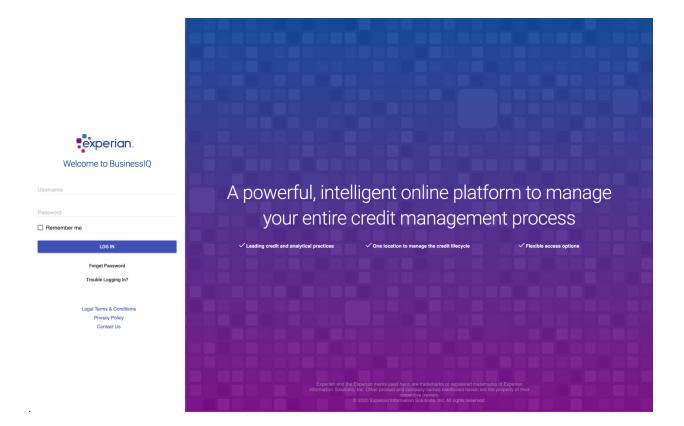
Original Login Page



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Login page concept



Improvements to login:

- We simplified the forgot password workflow.
- Updated the design with a more modern layout.
- Added "remember me" functionality

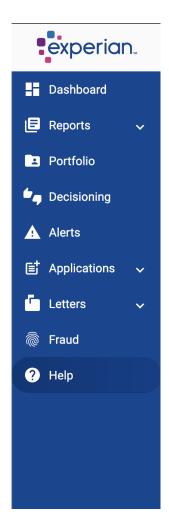
Navigation

We updated the navigation into a single, stationary side bar that is always visible to the user.

Classic Navigation



New Navigation



Improvements to navigation:

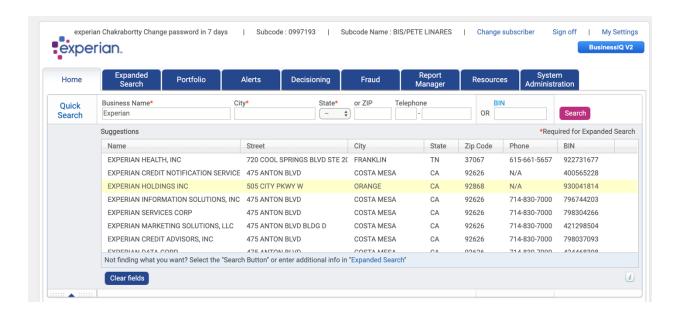
- Updated layout of navigation by moving it to the side, giving more space to the content area of the application.
- We removed search from navigation since it's now in the header.
- Reordered search elements based on order of importance via customer feedback.

Search First

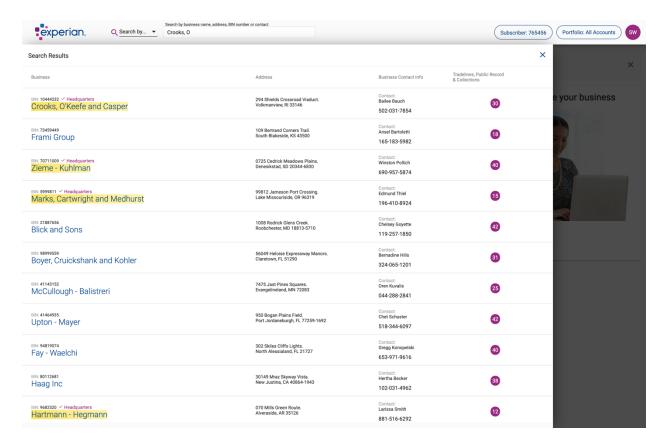
The first thing we discovered is that the most used area of BIQ was search. Since search is such an important element to the application, our goal made search the primary focal point of the application.

In the old design, to search a company to get to their pull report page, it takes anywhere from 7 to 11 seconds. In the new design, it only takes 5 – 6 seconds to complete the same task.

Old Search Experience



New Search Experience



Improvements to search:

- Search results now have a larger area.
- You can search from anywhere in the application.

- One search field to fill out instead of seven fields.
- Added search term highlighting for clarity.

We decided search deserved more real-estate within BIQ. We also decided that search should be conducted from anywhere in the application—not just the dashboard and expanded search page.

In the new design, search results have been placed in their own panel. This allows a user to conduct a search from anywhere within BIQ, and not have to leave their current workflow just to find a business. There is also a single unified search field at the header of BIQ 2.0 instead of having to type within 7 different fields in the old experience.

Pulling Reports

Arguably the most important workflow to BIQ is pulling a credit report on a company.

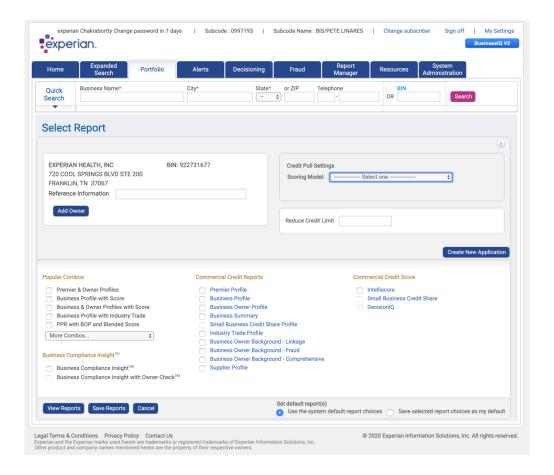
If a customer wanted to pull a new report in the old design, they would need to first search a company, view an old report, click on pull new report, view report configuration options, and then click view report.

With the new design, the user searches a company, views company information alongside report configuration options, and then click on pull report.

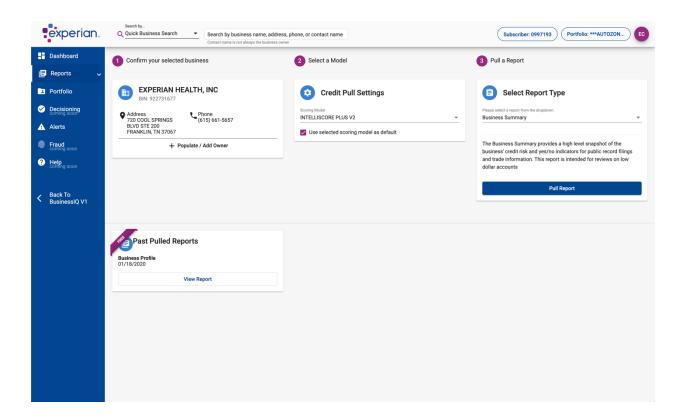
The old design requires potentially 26 form inputs, while the new design contains only 6.

Our goal made pulling a report easier by making the configuration options into a series of steps the user could just follow to ensure that they are pulling the correct credit report on a company.

Old Credit Configuration



New Credit Configuration Experience



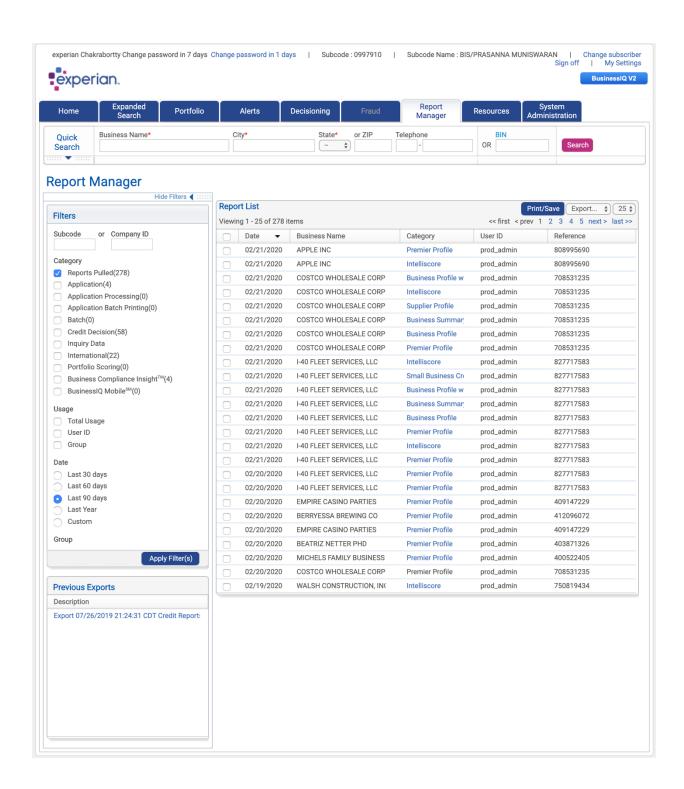
Improvements

- 85% of users stated they never changed the report type because they simply didn't understand what each report type contained. We added a summary for each report type.
- Since users often pull the same report, we added a separate card for past report pulls.
- Used a 1, 2, 3 step approach to make the configuration options easier.
- One callout with all options already default selected and a lot less form inputs.

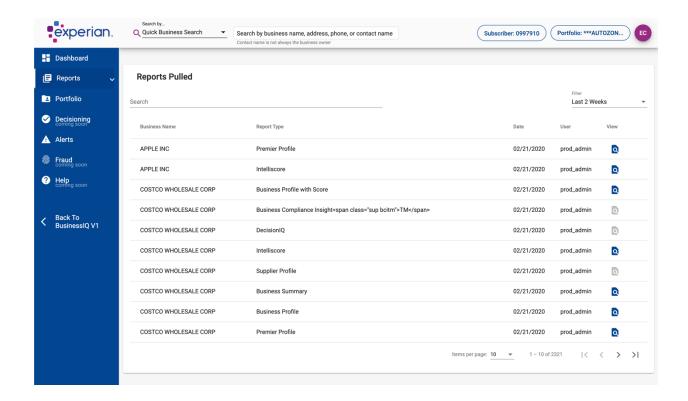
Managing Reports

We've simplified the way reports are managed for our users. Our goal is to make it less jarring to view and manage the way our customer use our reports, so they can quickly access exactly the report they're looking for to make accurate credit decisions.

Old Report Manager



Old Report Manager



Improvements

- Added a quick search filter to find exactly the report you're looking for.
- Rolled up the filters into a simple selector delimited by date.
- The user now has control over how many reports they can view at once with our new paginator.
- Business name as the focal area instead of date.
- Removed the reference code as it wasn't being used among users.

In Conclusion

We are constantly pursuing making our products easier to use for our customers. BIQ is loved and used by many companies—and we would love to continue to hear what you have to say.

Please feel free to fill out our survey to tell us your thoughts.

~ Casey Hald UX Designer at Experian