Brand.com and
Marketplace in the
evolving online path
to purchase

January 2021
Prepared by Google, Ipsos and SixthFactor









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Executive summary: Key takeaways for brand.com, marketplace and vertical differences



Brand.com story: Understanding brand.com via consumer purchase journey, exploring the perceived importance, motivations and barriers



Marketplace story: Exploring marketplace via consumer purchase journey, understanding the perceived importance, motivations and barriers



Vertical differences: Vertical breakdown to understand the difference purchase journeys, considerations, motivations and barriers across categories



Research Approach and Methodology

Qualitative Approach

Quantitative Approach

Sample/ Method

One-to-one in-depth interactions with shoppers, approx. 60 mins per session

Total of 24 interactions (8 interactions in each of these 3 markets: Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia)

Consumer tech and household appliances coverage only

25 minute online surveys conducted across 4 categories (Consumer tech, home appliance, beauty and apparel) across 3 markets: Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia

Total sample size n=3600

Market sample size n=1200 per market

Fieldwork period

29th July - 14th August 2020

30th October - 22nd November 2020

Definitions used throughout this report



Brand.com refers to official brand websites.



Marketplace refers to online e-commerce platforms which sells multiple product categories from a variety of sellers or brands

Disclaimer

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Reference

This report is a research program launched by Google with Ipsos and SixthFactor in 2020. The research uses consumer interviews and surveys to provide insights on brand websites and marketplace roles in the context of the consumer journey. Report is sources as "Google, Ipsos, SixthFactor, Brand.com and Marketplace in the evolving online path to purchase, 2020".

Category coverage across 3 markets, 4 categories



Increasing adoption of online shopping accentuated by COVID-19 has ignited a greater inspection into the roles of brand websites and marketplaces.

The research aims to understand in the context of the consumer purchase journey...



Role of brand websites (brand.com) & perceived importance amongst shoppers Role of marketplace & perceived importance amongst shoppers



...and understand where the future lies for these touchpoints in the online retail ecosystem





- Chapter 1: Key takeaways for Brand.com,
- Marketplace and vertical differences.

The power of a brand-led shopping experience is more in demand as shoppers continue to push their entire shopping journey online.

BRAND.COM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Future growth opportunity is ripe for brand.com

Across categories, brand.com is in a strong position to grow in SEA. Among marketplace buyers, future intention to use brand.com as a conversion channel is 1.22x higher than survey average. 55% of shoppers have used brand.com throughout the path to purchase journey. This is a clear indication the role of brand websites will continue to play a role in the consumer purchase journey.

Brand.com provides a unique immersive brand experience

Brand.com has an advantage over marketplace in offering experiential shopping. Brands needs to provide an interactive and positive experience to win over shoppers. 41% of brand.com shoppers indicated that brand.com gives them an immersive experience (compared to 35% of marketplace users). This demonstrates that an immersive brand experience is relevant in an online setting.³

Brand.com is able to command a higher price premium from shoppers

Although shoppers look for brand.com to provide competitive pricing strategies, purchases via brand websites are able to command a higher value from shoppers. Brands can avoid competing on price with marketplaces and instead, provide exclusive deals or additional services (e.g. warranty).⁴

Refer to slide 23 within this report for referenced data point

 $^{^{2}}$ Refer to slide 13 within this report for referenced data point $\,$

 $^{^{3}}$ Refer to slide 18 within this report for referenced data point

⁴ Refer to slide 17 within this report for referenced data point

Brands need to continually invest in brand.com to provide shoppers a more assured and *immersive* brand experience that is relevant to the right audience.

BRAND.COM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Website experience is key to retain buyers and attract non-buyers

The key drivers for using brand.com are clear product specs, an immersive experience with clear product photos and videos. Brand.com buyers and non-buyers will make judgements on the same website experience points, hence it is critical for brand.com to ensure these hygiene needs are continually being met across the whole purchase funnel.⁴

A localized brand website provides greater authenticity and trust

A key barrier to using brand.com, particularly evident from non-English markets, is the absence of local language options from product specs to delivery. This contributes to some issues of trust and reliability with brand.com. Longevity in an online space is dependent on connecting with shoppers in a relevant manner.⁵

Refer to slide 27 within this report for referenced data point

 $^{^{\}mbox{\scriptsize 6}}$ Refer to slide 28 within this report for referenced data point

Marketplace is a force in the online retail ecosystem; this is mainly driven by value and convenience.

MARKETPLACE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Marketplace is an emerging platform in online retail

Across categories, marketplace is in a strong position to further grow in SEA. 33% of shoppers have purchased from marketplace.⁶

Marketplace offers a convenient shopping experience

Marketplace's unique advantage as a retail platform gives shoppers the ability to explore a variety of brands and product categories. The mobile apps supports a seamless shopping user interface that makes it easy to search, explore and browse on-the go. Marketplace is also focused on transactions with saved personal account details such as delivery address, payment details, providing a smooth check out process.⁷

Price is the key drawcard for marketplace, but lowest price does not guarantee authenticity

Marketplace is able to deliver on price, offering attractive concessions (e.g. cashback, flash sales etc.). However, this raises concern over authenticity of sellers and products, lack of warranty and after-sales service. Shoppers purchase with a heightened sense of perceived risk - 31% cite authenticity as a key issue on marketplace.⁸

⁷ Refer to slide 32 within this report for referenced data point

⁸ Refer to slide 34 within this report for referenced data point

⁹ Refer to slide 39 within this report for referenced data point

Marketplaces have room to further deliver on assurance and experience, and brands can offer greater leadership to demonstrate these values.

MARKETPLACE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Marketplaces are part of a wider omni-channel strategy for brands

As part of a wider online omni-channel strategy, marketplaces offer brands an opportunity to reach a variety of shoppers. Brands can utilise the flagship store on marketplaces as 51% of shoppers recall purchasing from a brand flagship store within marketplaces. This is a clear indication that consumers tend to look for signs of a brand's official presence on marketplace, offering a voice of authenticity and credibility. However, continual investment into official brand websites are still required as there is higher trust with brand websites.

Deliver assurance and confidence with verified, authentic, safe-for-delivery, safe-for-payment certifications

Mitigate risks associated on marketplace by enhancing its features of 'Official store', 'Verified seller', as well as stronger features that support the after-sales service around returns/ refunds/ exchanges.¹⁰

Augment marketplace listings with distinctive advantage, price savings info, and mention product details

Make it easy to compare products by having detailed product listings on marketplace with visuals/ videos. Provide better quality reviews on product use and experience.¹¹

Refer to slide 40 within this report for referenced data point

¹¹ Refer to slide 41 within this report for referenced data point

¹² Refer to slide 41 within this report for referenced data point

KEY TAKEAWAYS



Brand websites are able to deliver holistic and immersive brand experiences and be a voice of authenticity for shoppers.

Brands need to continually invest in official websites to build relationships with shoppers in a fast moving online retail environment.



Marketplace has a unique strength in delivering a convenient shopping experience.

However, there are room for improvement to deliver assurance and authenticity.



Brands and marketplaces can coexist in the online retail ecosystem and do not need to compete with each other as each have unique offerings.

As part of a wider omni-channel strategy, brand.com should not be neglected and partnerships with marketplaces can be strengthened to capture more shoppers across the purchase pathway.



Chapter 2 Brand.com Story

Brand.com Provides a Holistic End-to-End Journey for Shoppers Among marketplace buyers, future intention to use brand.com as a conversion channel is



higher than survey average.

This demonstrates the continual need for brand.com to invest in brand websites as shoppers rely on brand.com in the purchase journey.

For big ticket items above \$\$1,000, I would prefer to buy from brand.com. I feel more assured about the product authenticity and also, in case of any issues, I know I can go back to the brand directly."

SG Brand.com shopper



Assured me that the information was correct and true



Gave me an understanding of the whole brand

Importance of touchpoints[^] brand.com compared to marketplace

This indicates that brand.com is poised for strong future growth.

Key needs expressed along the e-commerce path-to-purchase showcase shoppers willing to invest time in the upper and mid funnel.

It took me around 2 weeks to make a decision. I took quite a long time researching on the brands, comparing options before I finally decided on the product that I wanted to get."

Upper Funnel

Authenticity

Seek the confidence and affirmation of making the right/ best choice by taking pains to research and evaluate all available options.

Brand.com assured me that this product was trustworthy or authentic - 42%

Brand.com assured me that the information displayed was correct & true - 41%

Immersion

Immerse in the shopping experience, take time to enjoy the process by exploring and deliberating on the product, considering options before purchase.

Brand.com gave me the complete understanding of the whole brand - 37%

Facilitation

An external push to trigger the shopping consideration, and support needed throughout the shopping journey to make decisions and close the purchase loop.

Brand.com helped me decide on the best product for me - 30%

Convenience

Look for features that ease the shopping process through filtering options, support decision making and help complete the purchase as quickly as possible.

Brand.com was a seamless experience from searching, payment and checkout - 34%

Mid and Lower Funnel

SG Marketplace shopper



Total sample size n=3600, SG = 1200, IN n=1200, TH n=1200

Brand.com is well placed to deliver more assured and immersive experience, in the upper and mid funnel.

Assurance

Brand.com provides the assurance of having made the right choice, more so for the high investment purchases.

Brand.com assured me that this product was trustworthy or authentic - 42%
Brand.com assured me that the information displayed was correct & true - 41%

I have confidence when buying from brand.com, as I know the product will definitely be authentic, in good condition, if I buy directly from manufacturer."

TH brand.com shopper

Immersion

Brand.com delivers an immersive, experiential shopping, providing a complete shopping experience

Brand.com gave me the complete understanding of the whole brand - 37%

I just enjoy looking at all these aesthetics on [consumer electronics brand] website. I think I went into the website several times — maybe four times — to see if there's an emotional connection with the product. That was the day I thought, okay, I'm just going to get it."

SG brand.com shopper



By providing an immersive shopping experience in upper and middle funnels...

Engaging content for immersive experience

Animations, clear photos and video provide an impressive experience

Professionally shot images, 360 degree view of product also add to the positive brand image.



Upper Funnel		Middle Funnel	
Price deals / promotions	69%↓	Clear product specs	57% ↑
Product reviews	55%	Deals / promotions / discounts	39%
Product specs via photos	45% ↑	Clear product video/photos	35% ↑
General product specs	44%	Compare products from the same brand	34% ↑
Product specs via videos	35% †	Easy to navigate	32% 🕇

1/1 Brand.com is significantly higher/lower than Marketplace (MP)



ACTION POINTS: Brand.com provides a more immersive and experiential shopping experience - especially in an online setting. Brands need to provide an interactive brand experience to demonstrate brand value and win over more shoppers.







...Brand.com has the ability to command a 20% higher spend premium from shoppers.

Shoppers are assured that the product they receive from brand.com is authentic, and in case of any issues, they can return to the official seller for warranty and after-sales services. Hence, willing to pay a premium on brand.com.

Brand.com that offers extended warranty, or looser terms for refunds/ exchanges also command a premium e.g. product is open and used but in good condition can still be returned as opposed to marketplace where product has to be returned in sealed condition.

I checked the prices and brand.com is 2-3% more expensive compared to marketplaces, but for the 14-day change-of-mind returns policy it offers, it is worth it."

SG Brand.com shopper

Average claimed spend across categories





Brand.com vs. marketplace spend





1.2x







\$707 USD

1.1x

Home appliance









Beauty

















1.2x



Ease of navigation & detailed product information also contributes to an immersive experience.

Comparison function for decision-making

Easy to compare between models on brand.com when viewed side by side with details of product specs.

Intuitive product categorisation for easy navigation

Easy to find the product on brand.com due to clear categorisation .



Motivations across the purchase journey

MOTIVATIONS (among buyers)

Upper Funnel		Middle Funnel	
Price deals / promotions	69%↓	Clear product specs	57% ↑
Product reviews	55%↓	Deals / promotions / discounts	39%
Product specs via photos	45% †	Clear product video/photos	35% 🕇
General product specs	44%	Compare products	34% †
Product specs via videos	35% †	Easy to navigate	32% ↑

I liked the comparison function on [brand.com website]...
I could select two models and they will pull out a
side-by-side table comparison for me to see the
differences between the two models."

Brand.com gave me a complete understanding of the whole brand



Brand.com users vs. Marketplace users



ACTION POINTS: Brand.com can provide functions to allow shoppers to easily compare and intuitive product categorisation will lead to an enhanced experience.





TH Brand.com shopper

The point of difference for brand.com is the ability to provide product assurance & after-sales support in lower funnel.

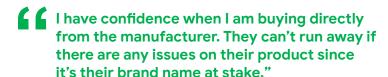
Motivations across the purchase journey

MOTIVATIONS (among buyers)

Lower Funnel				
Price discount	44%↓			
Genuine/Authentic products	25% †			
Refund/exchange service	23% ↑			
Membership rewards/points	22%			
Warranty service	22%			

1/1 Brand.com is significantly higher/lower than Marketplace (MP)

Assurance on product authenticity drives conversion on brand.com



TH Brand.com shopper

After-sales support is a differentiator for Brand.com

Assurance that there is after-sales support in case of on any issues e.g. product warranty. Offering easy exchange or returns (no questions asked returns).



ACTION POINTS: Do not compete on price at the lower funnel. Instead, offer shoppers an authentic brand experience where credibility and trust are key indicators of a successful and satisfactory brand experience. Exclusive deals & additional warranty are also ways to demonstrate value.







What are the key opportunities for brand.com? How can brand.com leverage its unique role for shoppers?



Markets differ in core orientation towards online shopping; role and opportunity of brand.com varies.



SINGAPORE

Here 'value definition' goes beyond mere price - authenticity and experience matters

Sophisticated brand.com shopping landscape, strongly competing with marketplace.



THAILAND

Customer service is a perceived differentiator - an opportunity for developing competitive advantage.

With a developing brand.com landscape, wide preference for marketplace and retailers with strong online presence.



INDONESIA

Structurally predisposed and oriented towards marketplace conversion - brand.com has regulatory limitations.

Brand.com conversion rare, mobile-first market means most shopping journeys are marketplace app oriented.

ACTION POINTS: Given the varying levels of brand.com shopping landscape across the markets, there is a need to adopt a localised strategy that is relevant to the shoppers.









SINGAPORE

INDONESIA

THAILAND

	Brand.com	Marketplace	Brand.com	Marketplace	Brand.com	Marketplace
Influence rating measured against average of all touchpoints	1.03 x	1.09x	1.08x	Not significant	Not significant	1.01x
Usage rating measured against average of all touchpoints	1.5x	1.6x	1.15x	2.3x	1.4x	1.4x

A clear differentiation and role of brand.com is needed to compete for shoppers' attention.

Brand.com is poised for strong growth due to strong influence and future usage willingness.

Both brand.com and marketplace have opportunities to further create value for shoppers.

Despite regulatory limitations in ID, brand.com has a sizable opportunity in ID.







Brand.com still needs to show up at moments of deliberation.

In the upper funnel, brand.com is frequented less as a touchpoint when shoppers are exploring brands available in the category.

Driving awareness on brand at this stage is essential to future growth. Being present early on in the purchase journey is paramount to driving awareness and brand visibility.

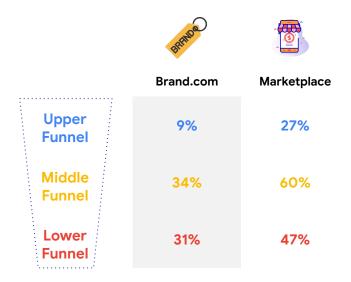
Middle funnel can also be strengthened to driver greater consideration.

Overall, 55% of shoppers have used brand.com throughout the path to purchase journey.*

When I am not sure what brands are in the category, I search on Google or on marketplace to get an idea of the top brands in the category."

ID marketplace shopper

Touchpoint usage across purchase journey





B2. Think about the very first moment when you decided to buy [Category], please select the first place you visited.

S6a (S20PIPEIN). Within the past 6 months, where did you purchase the following categories? Please select all that apply for each of the categories.

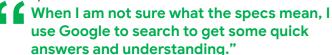
*This indicates the overall usage score across the path to purchase

Brand.com can elevate influence in the decision making process with Google and YouTube by providing authenticity and immersive experience needs.



Assurance

Provides multiple sources to allow cross-checking and validation of product specs and reviews.



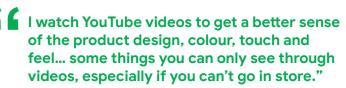
ID marketplace shopper



YouTube

Assurance

Provides content that explains product specs and demonstrates user experience, giving shoppers assurance on their product decision



Immersion

Provides variety of content for shoppers to engage in the shopping process.

I spend time just searching on Google for different reviews, and looking at different opinions, pictures, videos to decide which model I should get."

SG brand.com shopper

Immersion

YouTube video content helps augment shopper engagement with for choice-making and product usage experience.

I already know the specs, but I just want to watch the videos on YouTube to see and experience the design and the colours."



MY brand.com shopper

In upper funnel stage, price and availability are key barriers for not using brand.com as a touchpoint.



Overall barriers across the purchase journey

BARRIERS (among non-buyers)

25% Availability 19% Price

Upper Funnel		Middle Funnel	
The product I wanted was not listed on the local brand website	25%	Prices were too expensive	19%
Prices were too expensive	20%	Delivery issues (cost, no options)	19%
I want to compare different brands	19%	Brand website does not show user reviews	16%
Product videos+photos issues	18%	Product videos/photos issues	15%
Brand website was in foreign language	18%	'	13 /0
Brand website does not show user reviews	17%	The product I wanted was not listed on the local brand website	14%

Highly price-sensitive shoppers are dissuaded from using brand.com

A common perception is that prices on brand.com are often **more expensive compared to marketplace**, hence deterring shoppers from considering the channel.

It is commonly known that brand.com is always the most expensive. So I will check and use it as a benchmark, knowing that the prices in marketplaces will definitely be cheaper."

ID Marketplace shopper



ACTION POINTS: Despite price barriers, brand.com should not compete on price with marketplace as brands can provide perks that are not easily measured in monetary terms to attract shoppers ~ a better online shopping experience with interactive website and high quality visuals/videos, a professional delivery service, or a better after-sales service.



Lack of clear and reliable information on brand.com is a key barrier in lower funnel.



Overall barriers across the purchase journey

Product Information

Lower Funnel

Product information was not clear or detailed enough	26%
Expensive delivery / shipping costs	22%
Product information was not reliable	21%
No promotions, deals or discount	19%
Not reliable/ trustworthy	14%
Product not available	14%
Higher price compared to other websites / platforms	14%

Not all brand.coms provide a strong positive experience

Categorization of products is not immediately intuitive and shoppers do not know where to navigate to find specific items.



I don't think I can find the product that I want on brand.com... I am looking for a vacuum cleaner, but the categories they have are 'Sound & Vision', 'Personal Care'... It is easier for me to search on Marketplace and all the results will pop out."

ID Marketplace shopper



ACTION POINTS: YouTube can help shoppers get more detailed information and a 'feel' of the products they're interested in.



If it was possible, I would have gone to the store to get a look and feel of the product. Because of COVID-19, I used YouTube to watch the video reviews, to get a sense of the size, feel and material from the videos."

ID Marketplace shopper



Focus on providing an experiential shopping experience to win over non-buyers.

Buyers and non-buyers evaluate brand.coms on the same aspects ~ detailed product info, photos and videos, ease of navigation.

	ad	Motivation across the pur		
	MOTIVATIONS (among buy	/ers)	BARRIE	
<u>_</u>	Price setting	69%↓	Prices were too e	
Upper	Product reviews	55%↓	Product videos p	
7	Product specs via photos	45% †		
	General product specs	44%	Brand website do reviews	
	Product specs videos	35% ↑		
45	Clear product specs	57% ↑	I want to compar	
₩	Deals / promotions / discounts	39%	Prices were too e	
Middle	Clear product video/photos	35% ↑	Website was not	
Σ	Compare products	34%↑		
	Easy to navigate	32% †	Product videos/p	
<u>e</u>	Price discount	44%↓	Product info was	
ower.	Genuine/Authentic products	25% ↑	Product info was	
_	Contained action the products	2070	No promotions, c	

BARRIERS (among non-buyers)	
Prices were too expensive	20%
Product videos photos issues	18%
Brand website does not show user reviews	17%
I want to compare different brands	28%
Prices were too expensive	19%
Website was not suitable for inspiration	19%
Product videos/photos issues	15%
Product info was not clear	26%
Product info was not reliable	21%
No promotions, deals or discount	19%

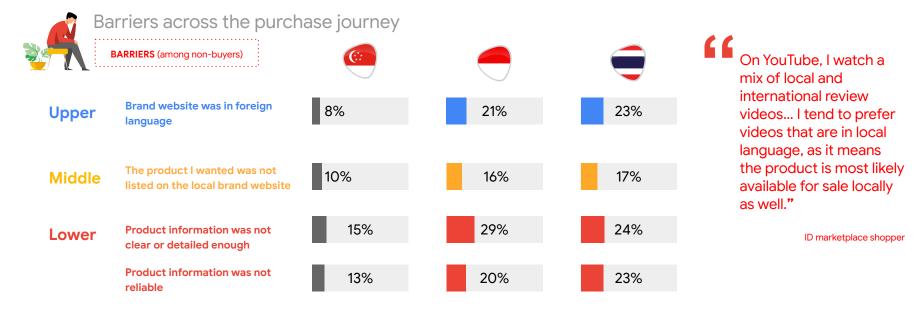


ACTION POINTS: What non-buyers consider as barriers are the same as what motivates buyers. Hence, brand.coms need to focus on the aspects of an immersive shopping experience to retain buyers and attract non-buyers.





Localisation is key for brand.com - particularly important for non-English speaking markets.





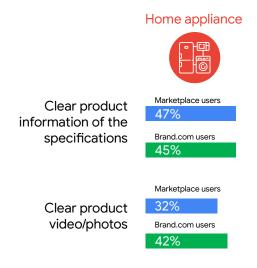
ACTION POINTS: Provide a brand experience in local language to offer shoppers the opportunity to interact and understand the brand on their terms. Depending on the brand's local growth strategy, connect with shoppers with the right information in local language to create greater relationships with shoppers.



Perceptions of brand.com by marketplace users at mid funnel stage

Brand.com still required in high involvement categories, demonstrating shoppers' need for assurance.

Marketplace users still rely on brand websites for clear product information - especially where information needs are high.



Assured me that this model/brand was trustworthy or authentic

Marketplace users
43%

Brand.com users
37%

Consumer tech



Marketplace users

66%

Brand.com users

61%

Marketplace users

40%

Brand.com users

37%



BRAND.COM KEY TAKEAWAYS



Future growth opportunity is ripe for brand.com

Across categories, brand.com is in a strong position to grow in SEA. Brand building is also key to ensure shoppers are exposed to the brand, regardless of their eventual checkout location.



Brand.com is able to command a 20% higher price premium from shoppers

Purchases via brand websites are able to command a higher value from shoppers. Instead of competing on price, brands can offer exclusive deals and additional services (e.g. extended warranty) to demonstrate value. 13



Brand.com has a unique opportunity to provide an immersive brand experience

Brand.com has an edge over marketplace in offering experiential shopping. Brands needs to provide an interactive and positive customer engagement to win over shoppers. This will demonstrate brand value and a holistic brand experience in an online setting.



Website experience is key to retain buyers and attract non-buyers

The key drivers for using brand.com are product specs, an immersive experience with clear product photos & videos. Brand.com buyers and non-buyers alike will judge brand.com on the same points. It is critical ensure these needs are continually being met.¹⁴



A localized brand website provides greater authenticity and trust

Key barriers to using brand.com, particularly evident from non-english markets, is the absence of local language options from product specs to delivery. This contributes to some issues of trust and reliability with brand.com as shoppers are unsure if products are sold/available locally. Longevity in an online space is dependent on connecting with shoppers in a relevant manner. 15



 $^{^{14}}$ Refer to slide 27 within this report for referenced data point









¹⁵ Refer to slide 28 within this report for referenced data point

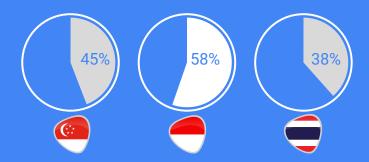
Chapter 3 Marketplace story

Marketplace: Catering to shoppers in an increasingly price cautious world

47%

Shoppers have purchased from Marketplace in the past 6 months*

3-MKT average



Total sample size n=3600, SG=1200, IN n=1200, TH n=1200Soa. Within the past 6 months, where did you purchase the following categories? Please select all that apply

Sóa. Within the past 6 months, where did you purchase the following categories? Please select all that appl Sóc. In the past 6 months, how many times have you made a purchase online in each of these categories? *Based on usage as a final conversion channel.

Channel conversion by category varies. For consumer tech and home appliance asked amongst 2 channels, beauty & apparel asked amongst 4 conversion channels

Marketplaces are more 'customer minded' - in terms of the smoothness and ease of transactions. In comparison, purchase process on Brand.com may not be as smooth because it is not specific for selling.

ID Marketplace shopper

Average no. of purchases (vs. brand.com)

Consumer tech

60% 1.6 (vs. 1.5)

Home appliance



56%

1.6 (vs. 1.6)

Beauty



37%

2.1 vs. (1.7)

Appare



33%

3.0 (vs. 2.3)

Marketplace plays different roles throughout the purchase journey.

Marketplace plays different roles throughout the purchase journey. It is being leveraged as a important touchpoint for shoppers, making it a platform that provides important information across the consumer journey with easy check out experience.

Upper funnel - help shoppers to discover and compare brands

Middle funnel - provide product information and customer reviews

Lower funnel - ease of check-out with saved information (e.g. address, payment)

I start with searching on marketplace to know what are the brands that are available in Jakarta. Then, I will use Google to search for more information about each of these brands."

ID Marketplace shopper

Touchpoint usage across purchase journey

	BEHNDE	
	Brand.com	Marketplace
Upper Funnel	9%	27%
Middle Funnel	34%	60%
Lower Funnel	31%	47%



Consumers can easily transact and finalise purchases with marketplaces.

Facilitation

Marketplace provides the nudges that push shoppers towards checkout e.g. message reminders, displaying stock availability, limited time sale.

After I made a decision on the product, I actually added to cart but got distracted and did not check out. It was only when the seller messaged me again 3 days later if I wanted the item, then I decided to make the purchase there and then."

TH marketplace shopper

Convenience

Marketplace has some unique strengths over brand.com with its mobile app and stronger shopping UX features by catering to shopping journeys that are focused on the transaction.



I saw an ad on [Social Media Platform] that the [Consumer Tech Brand] announced the new model. And at the time, I also happened to get my salary. So I started shopping on [Marketplace] and bought it right away. **Everything was done in an hour."**

ID marketplace shopper



...By catering to shoppers' need for a convenient shopping experience.

Marketplace has unique strength which supports an easy shopping user interface, allowing shoppers to explore & evaluate.

Ease of product search, price check with app

Stronger shopping features such as add to cart, save to wishlist, options to filter results

Ease of checkout with saved information such as address and credit cards



Upper Funnel		Middle Funnel		
	Price deals / promotions	76% †	Deals / promotions / discounts	57% 🕇
	Product reviews	55%	Compare products	41% †
	General product specs	42%	Everything I want in one place	34% ↑
	Product specs via photos	37%↓	Clear product info	33%↓
	Product specs via videos	25%↓	Fast delivery	32% 🕇

1/1 Marketplace is significantly higher/lower than Brand.com



I like the filter features on [Marketplace platform]... I am able to filter by price, brand, seller location, seller rating, etc. It is so convenient to shop on Marketplace."

TH Marketplace shopper



ACTION POINTS: As 'clear product info' is significantly lower than brand.com, Marketplace can strengthen its role in upper and middle funnel through providing more detailed product listings, with enhanced visuals/videos.



The marketplace shopping experience is supported by competitive pricing - attracting the price conscious shopper.

Price-conscious shoppers go to marketplace for the best deal

Marketplace hosts many sellers on its platform, making it easy to compare prices.

It offers competitive pricing and best deals - if shoppers are savvy enough to do the necessary checks (filtering of authentic and trustworthy sellers). Shoppers know how to get and use the platform coupons and look out for cashback tie-ups. Savings are quite significant compared to brand.com.

Loyalty programs also draw shoppers to accumulate their spend on the platform - locking them in for repeat purchases.

There are many sellers of the same product on marketplace. So they have to keep their prices competitive to attract shoppers. Moreover, you can collect coupons for more discounts, wait for flash sales, or look out for those cashback tie-ups with credit cards."

SG Marketplace shopper



Motivations across the purchase journey

MOTIVATIONS (among buyers)

Lower Funnel		
Price discount	54%	
Flash sales	29%†	
Easy navigation	21%	
Returns/exchange service	20%	
Cashback deals	20%	

1/1 Marketplace is significantly higher/lower than Brand.com





What are the key opportunities for marketplace?



The spotlight will be on marketplace as a forthcoming player in the online retail space.

Current marketplace usage is higher than brand.com





How shoppers perceive marketplace...





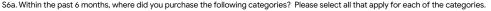
and intend to use in the future



1.5x

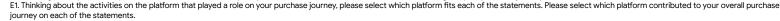
Marketplace plays a unique role in making shoppers aware of price promotions and sales, which is stronger compared to brand.com





E6. How much influence or impact did each of these platforms have on each of the key stages of your purchase journey?

E9. Thinking about your future purchases of [Product]. How likely are you to use each of these online channels in each stage of your purchase journey?

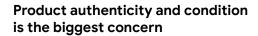


However, buying from marketplace comes with perceived risks.

I am not sure if the products are first-hand, second-hand, or if it has already been opened. It could break down, or explode. It's not safe. I feel more confident from brand.com - it would definitely be brand new and in good condition."

No supporting / additional services available

TH marketplace shopper



Shoppers are uncertain about product authenticity, e.g. receiving counterfeit products, faulty or damaged products.

To overcome these concerns, shoppers rely on user ratings and reviews, and filter for reliable sellers e.g. Flagship stores. Overall barriers across the purchase journey

BARRIERS (among non-buyers)

31% Authenticity		26% Authenticity		
Upper Funnel		Middle Funnel		
Authenticity of products	31%	Authenticity of products	26%	
Product videos+photos issues	31%	Sellers on the platform do not seem trustworthy	21%	
Sellers on the platform do not seem trustworthy	23%	Delivery issues (cost, no options)	19%	
No supporting / additional services available	16%	Product videos+photos issues	19%	







Product info was not detailed enough

Brands and Marketplaces can leverage each other's strengths.

Both brands and marketplaces need to offer strong evidence of authentic sellers or genuine products & information to shoppers. As shoppers are seek assurance and authenticity with brands, both platforms can leverage each other's unique strengths.

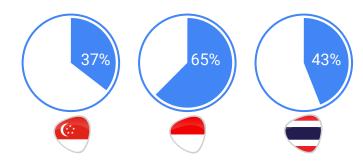
My first choice is to buy from brand.com, but when I went into the Brand website, I couldn't find any option to buy and they redirected me to their official Store in [Marketplace]. I only felt assured to buy from [Marketplace] because the link to the shop is provided on the brand website, so it must be coming from the brand itself."

TH Marketplace shopper

51%

Shoppers recall having purchased from a **brand flagship store** on marketplace in the past 6 months.*

3-MKT average



^{*}Score derived amongst Marketplace buyers

Shoppers want confidence from marketplace in terms of delivery assurance and after sales support.

Provide more assurance around delivery

Consumers notice indefinite delivery dates when the products are shipped from overseas. Lack of choice in courier (some couriers have better reputation and hence, preferred by shoppers) is also a frustration.

Ensure there is after-sales services/ local warranty included

One of the primary concerns is the lack of after-sales service in case of issues, warranty, repairs. Also, if it is an overseas seller, there is the concern of no local warranty.

I won't buy from marketplace as I am not sure if they include warranty or provide any after-sales service like installation or repair, so I rather buy from brand.com."

TH Brand.com shopper



Upper Funnel		Middle Funnel		
Authenticity of products	31%	Authenticity of products	26%	
Product videos+photos issues	31%	Sellers on the platform do not seem trustworthy	21%	
Sellers on the platform do not seem trustworthy	23%	Delivery issues (cost, no options)	19%	
No supporting / additional services available	16%	Product videos+photos issues	19%	
Product info was not detailed enough	14%	No supporting / additional services available	16%	



ACTION POINTS: Marketplace needs to mitigate risks associated through stronger features that provide assurance and confidence such as verified, authentic, safe-for-delivery, safe-for-payment certifications



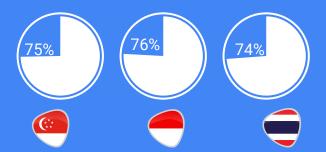


Marketplaces and brands can leverage Search to help shoppers along their pathway journey.

75%

Survey respondents have used Google to search, explore and evaluate products from brands.

3-MKT average



I always start with Google - especially if I don't have any brands in mind. I will search to find the top brands for this category."

Then after, I will use Google to search for more information and details on the brand and models to compare and make decision."

ID Marketplace shopper

I use Google to search for more info about the model. Results from many websites came out [various Marketplace platforms]. At one glance, I can see which are offering the lower prices, so I went to click into each result to check the details."

TH Marketplace shopper

Usually on marketplace, the product info is very minimal, or maybe even incorrect as there are typos. So I will search on Google to get more details to compare across the brands or models to make my decision on the final product to buy."

Marketplaces can leverage Search and YouTube to deliver on convenience with price comparisons and direct links to the platforms.



Facilitation

Search provides quick answers and price comparisons to facilitate the decision making.



SG Marketplace shopper



Google shopping provides shortcuts to compare across different marketplaces.



Sometimes, the brand/ model I want is not available, so I use Google to find where I can buy it from."

TH Marketplace shopper



YouTube

Facilitation

YouTube provides quick and easy to understand answers (in video format) to questions around product specs and usage to help shoppers make decision quicker.



My preference is just to watch YouTube...
At one glance, I can understand the specs better, and the features like the 'touch bar' easily."

SG Brand.com shopper



MARKETPLACE KEY TAKEAWAYS



Marketplace plays different roles throughout the purchase journey

Shoppers are able to explore, search and compare brands/products and transact on marketplace. Shoppers are leveraging it as a touchpoint which allows shoppers choose the right products.¹⁶



Deliver assurance and confidence with verified, authentic, safe-for-delivery, safe-for-payment certifications

Mitigate risks associated on marketplace by enhancing its features of 'Official store', 'Verified seller', as well as stronger features that support the after-sales service around returns/ refunds/ exchanges.¹⁹



Marketplace offers a convenient shopping experience

Shoppers are attracted to marketplace's advantage as a retail platform to explore a wide variety of brands and product categories. The mobile apps supports a seamless shopping user interface that is focused on transactions. 17



Augment the marketplace listings with distinctive advantage, price savings info, and mention product details and info on the side

Make it easy to compare products by having detailed product listings on marketplace with visuals/ videos. Provide better quality reviews on product use and experience.²⁰



Price is the key drawcard for marketplace, but lowest price does not guarantee authenticity

Marketplace is able to deliver on price, offering attractive concessions (e.g. cashback, flash sales etc.). However, this raises concern over authenticity of sellers and products on marketplace. Shoppers are acutely conscientious about this and purchase with a heightened sense of risk. 18







¹⁶ Refer to slide 33 within this report for referenced data point

 $^{^{\}mbox{\scriptsize 17}}$ Refer to slide 35 within this report for referenced data point

¹⁸ Refer to slide 39 within this report for referenced data point

¹⁹ Refer to slide 41 within this report for referenced data point

Refer to slide 41 within this report for referenced data point

Apparel Beauty Home Consumer technology

- Chapter 4
- Investigating
- Category
 Differences



Usage incidence across touchpoints

Both brand.com and marketplace are important in the mid funnel - especially for marketplaces.

Marketplace is typically the first touchpoint used in the journey (28%).

Brand.com commands a Higher claimed spend

Brand.com has the unique ability to command a higher claimed spend (1.2x 3-mkt average and 1.8x in Indonesia).

Motivations to use touchpoint

Brand.com & marketplace deliver the same benefits to shoppers at the upper & mid funnel (price, product specs, photos, reviews).

However lower funnel motivations differ: brand.com performs on genuine products and delivery.

Marketplace performs on ease of use and flash sales.

Market nuances for brand.com

Opportunity areas for Singapore: to build on credible reviews & exclusive deals.

Opportunity areas for Indonesia: Secured delivery, filter, set range, sort.

Opportunity areas for Thailand: Side-by-side comparison, exclusive deals.



Both brand.com and marketplace are important in the mid funnel - especially for marketplaces.



3-MKT AVERAGE: USAGE INCIDENCE OF TOUCHPOINTS

	akhue	
	Brand.com	Marketplace
Upper Funnel	10%	28%
Middle Funnel	33%	63%
Lower Funnel	21%	33%



Brand.com is able to command the highest claimed spend from apparel shoppers.







Brand.com & marketplace deliver the same benefits, however lower funnel experience is different between brand.com & marketplace.



TOP MOTIVATIONS ACROSS BRAND.COM & MARKETPLACE

	Upper Funnel	Middle Funnel	Lower Funnel
	COMMON MOTIVATIONS	COMMON MOTIVATIONS	DIFFERENT MOTIVATIONS
Brand.com	Price/Deals- 62% Reviews- 51% Photos- 46%	Price/Deals - 60% † Price/Deals - 50% Ease-of-use 37%	Genuine- 30% Price/Deals- 51% Delivery- 25% ↑
Marketplace	Price/Deals- 84% † Reviews- 52% Product Specs- 48%	Price/Deals- 56% Product Specs- 35% ↓ Ease-of-use- 34%	Price/Deals- 53% Ease-of-use- 35% † Flash sales- 32% †

1/1 Brand.com is significantly higher/lower than Marketplace (MP)







TOP 5 BARRIERS FOR BRAND.COM



Upper Funnel		Middle Funnel		Lower Funnel	
Product not listed on brand site	25%	Cannot compare brands	26%	Product info not detailed enough	31%
Unsuitable for inspiration	21%	Too expensive	20%	Product info not reliable	27%
Too expensive	20%	Unsuitable for inspiration	17%	Website not trustworthy	27%
Brand website in foreign language	15%	Never thought of it	16%	Overseas website, do not trust	25%
No user reviews	14%	Brand site has no reviews	16%	Expensive shipping	24%



Apparel shoppers perceive authenticity as a fundamental barrier for marketplace.



TOP 5 BARRIERS FOR MARKETPLACE



Upper Funnel		Middle Funnel		Lower Funnel	
Unsure of product authenticity	29%	Unsure of product authenticity 2	25%	Expensive shipping cost	23%
Looking for inspiration, Marketplace not suitable	24%	Untrustworthy sellers 2	21%	Marketplace redirected me elsewhere	20%
Untrustworthy sellers	22%	Ond distworthly sellers	.176	Product info unclear	19%
Niche product	18%	Never thought of it	20%	Product info not reliable	17%
Niche product	10 %	Looking for inspiration, Marketplace	8%	No promotions	17%
Product info not helpful	18%	not suitable for		Long delivery time	16%
Product photos not detailed enough	18%	No supporting services	6%	Untrustworthy sellers	16%



Market nuances: key delivery points for brand.com











Genuine product
Trustworthy specs
Secured delivery
Long term warranty
Express delivery

Clear product pic/vid Exclusive deals Credible reviews

Filter, set range, sort



Genuine product Trustworthy specs Express delivery

Clear product pic/vid Secured delivery Filter, set range, sort

Express delivery Credible reviews



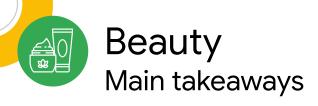
Genuine product Secured delivery Express delivery Clear Product pic/vid
Side-by-side comparison
Exclusive deals

Filter, set range, sort









Usage incidence across touchpoints

Beauty brands need to be visible at awareness and consideration stages to capture value from shoppers.

Marketplace is typically the first touchpoint used in the journey (28%).

Brand.com commands a higher claimed spend

Brand.com has the unique ability to command a higher claimed spend (1.3x 3-mkt average).

Motivations to use touchpoint

Beauty shoppers appreciate brand websites & marketplaces that offer them an 'easy-to-use' experience.

Rewards programs also a lower funnel benefit for brand.com.

Market nuances for brand.com

Opportunity areas for Singapore: exclusive deals, easy to find info, reward points, express delivery.

Opportunity areas for Indonesia: Discovery of new products, secure delivery.

Opportunity areas for Thailand: Secure & express delivery, reward points, exclusive deals.



Beauty brands can improve awareness of official websites at upper funnel stage. Marketplaces are important in the mid funnel in beauty category.



3-MKT AVERAGE: USAGE INCIDENCE OF TOUCHPOINTS

	BRHIDE	
	Brand.com	Marketplace
Upper Funnel	2%	28%
Middle Funnel	30%	58%
Lower Funnel	20%	37%



Brand.com is able to command a higher claimed spend from beauty shoppers - 30% more than marketplaces.







Beauty shoppers appreciate brand websites & marketplaces that offer them an easy-to-use experience. Rewards programs also a lower funnel benefit for brand.com.



TOP MOTIVATIONS ACROSS BRAND.COM & MARKETPLACE

	Upper Funnel	Middle Funnel	Lower Funnel
€	COMMON MOTIVATIONS	COMMON MOTIVATIONS	DIFFERENT MOTIVATIONS
Brand.com	Price/Deals- 65% Reviews- 58% Product Specs- 45%	Product Specs- 61% † Price/Deals- 37% ↓ Ease-of-use- 25%	Price/Deals- 42% ↓ Genuine- 26% Membership rewards program - 26%
Marketplace	Price/Deals- 69% Reviews- 66% Product Specs- 36% J	Price/Deals- 61% † All-in-one platform- 34% † Product Specs- 31% ↓	Price/Deals- 57% † Ease-of-use- 34% † Flash sales- 32% †

1/1 Brand.com is significantly higher/lower than Marketplace (MP)



Market nuances: key delivery points for brand.com





Opportunity areas
(strong future usage impact + average perf.)





Genuine product Trustworthy specs Secured delivery Exclusive deals
Easy to find info
Membership Reward points
Express delivery

Credible reviews



Genuine product
Priority queue for latest product

Discover new products Secure delivery Tailored curation of products
Easy to find info
Search function



Genuine product Trustworthy specs Long term warranty Secure delivery
Membership Reward points
Express delivery
Exclusive deals

Credible reviews



Total sample size n=600, SG = 200, IN n=200, TH n=200

EO. Which of these features will attract you to use brand.com when you next want to purchase the category?



Home appliance Main takeaways

Pandemic has shifted online shopping behaviour

55% of brand.com home appliance shoppers are first time online shoppers. Brands need to be more visible online more than ever.

Reasons for online purchases for home appliances are driven by quality, value for money and authenticity.

Usage incidence across touchpoints

Usage of brand.com is lower compared to marketplace. Marketplace is typically the first touchpoint used in the journey (31%).

Brand.com as a higher future intention to use rating against marketplace in home appliance category (1.5x stronger future intention to use)

Barriers against using touchpoints

Given that product quality is a predominant concern in this category, the pain point for brand.com lies with reliability & purchase options - especially for Indonesia and Thailand.

47% of Thai home appliance shoppers have concerns with brand website reliability. Brands need to provide a platform where shoppers can interact and trust will be pivotal.

Market nuances for brand.com

Opportunity areas for Singapore: Exclusive deals, express delivery, ability to sort & filter, credible reviews & easy to find info.

Opportunity areas for Indonesia: exclusive deal, secure delivery, trustworthy specs, ability to sort & filter, credible reviews.

Opportunity areas for Thailand: exclusive deals, secure & express delivery, trustworthy specs, long term warranty.



Pandemic has shifted home appliance shopping behaviour. Brands need to be visible online more than ever.

55% of brand.com home appliance shoppers are first time online shoppers.



Reasons for online purchase	COVID-19 impact (physical stores closed & in lockdown)	41%	
	Cheaper online than in physical stores	36%	
Key category	Quality of the product	63%	
considerations for online purchase	Value for money	54%	
	Authenticity of product / genuine product	44%	
First time	3 mkt-average	51%	
purchasing online	Brand.com users	55%	
	Marketplace users	48%	



SG Brand.com shoppe

Home appliance brands can improve awareness of official websites at upper funnel stage. Both brand.com and marketplaces are important in the mid funnel.



3-MKT AVERAGE: USAGE INCIDENCE OF TOUCHPOINTS

	BRHID	
	Brand.com	Marketplace
Upper Funnel	2 %	31%
Middle Funnel	32%	57%
Lower Funnel	44%	56%
MOTIVATIONS (among buyers)	Price/Deals- 38% 24hr support 23% † Warranty 25% † Membership rewards- 23%	Price/Deals- 51% † Flash sales- 25% † Ease-of-use- 24% † Refund 24%

For big ticket items like home appliances, I use many different channels to get information and compare brands, models and prices... I want to be sure that I have sufficient information to make the right choice."

SG Marketplace shoppe

I check YouTube reviews to see - is the feature easy to use, is there any defect, is there anything undetected until you are using it, maybe it will shake strongly/trembling during wash... such info won't be on brand.com, we only know it when we watch user video reviews."



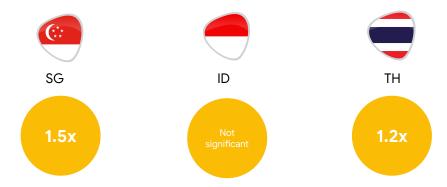
SG Marketplace shopper

Brand.com has a role to play in home appliance category.



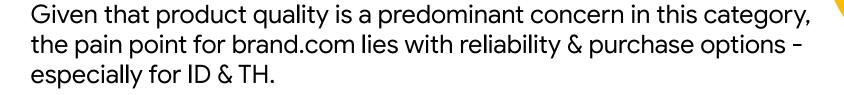


Brand.com as a higher future intention to use rating against marketplace in home appliance category.

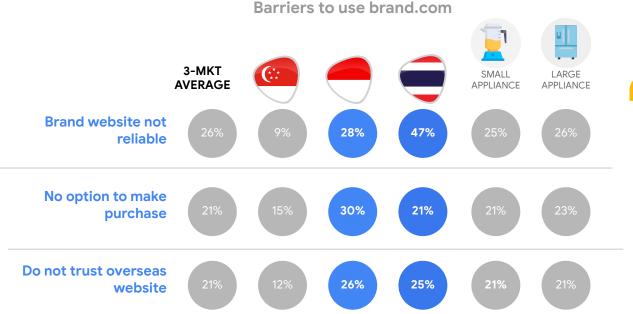


For big ticket items like home appliances, I will definitely visit brand.com website to check the specifications and details of the product... on marketplace, sometimes they provide all the details, or the visuals uploaded are not as clear so I will still go to brand.com to check product information."

SG Marketplace shopped









I went to brand.com first as for such big ticket items like home appliance, I prefer to buy direct from manufacturer.

But, when I went to their website, there was no option to buy. Instead, they redirected me to their flagship store in marketplace so I couldn't buy it from brand.com."





Market nuances: key delivery points for brand.com







(strong future usage impact + average perf.)



Continue to reinforce

(strong impact future usage + strong perf.)



Genuine product Trustworthy specs Secure delivery Long term warranty



Genuine product Long term warranty



Genuine product

Exclusive deals
Express delivery
Ability to sort & filter
Credible reviews
Easy to find info

Exclusive deals
Secure delivery
Trustworthy specs
Ability to sort & filter
Credible reviews

Exclusive deals
Secure & express delivery
Trustworthy specs
Long Term warranty

Express delivery





Consumer technology Main takeaways

Pandemic has shifted online shopping behaviour

44% of brand.com consumer technology shoppers are first time online shoppers. Brands need to be more visible online more than ever.

Reasons for online purchases for consumer technology appliances are driven by quality, authenticity and value for money.

Opportunity is ripe for brand.com and marketplaces

Opportunities for brand.com to grow in ID & TH. Further work required in SG due to market maturity and consumers' wider repertoire of channels which compete for attention.

Consumer tech brands need to be visible at key stages of the purchase journey.

Motivations for using touchpoints

Consumer tech shoppers appreciate brand websites for warranty & genuine products.

Marketplaces offer shoppers an easy to use online retail experience.

Market nuances for brand.com

Opportunity areas for Singapore: exclusive deals

Opportunity areas for Indonesia: secure & express delivery, clear product videos/photos

Opportunity areas for Thailand: side by side comparison, clear product photos/videos, exclusive deals, express delivery



Pandemic has shifted consumer tech shopping behaviour. Brands need to be more visible online more than ever.

44% of brand.com consumer tech shoppers are first time online shoppers.



Reasons for online purchase	COVID-19 impact (physical stores closed & in lockdown)	43%	
	Cheaper online than in physical stores	42%	
Key category	Quality of the product	66%	
for online	Authenticity of product / genuine product	55%	
purchase	Value for money	49%	
First time	3 mkt-average	42%	
purchasing online	Brand.com users	44%	
	Marketplace users	40%	

If it was possible, I would have gone down to the store to get a look and feel of the product. Since the shops are closed during COVID-19, I used YouTube to watch the video reviews, and one can also get a sense of the size, and a sense of the product from the videos."

ID Marketplace shopper.

Total sample size n=1800, SG = 600, IN n=600, TH n=600

E1. Thinking about the activities on the platform that played a role on your purchase journey, please select which platform fits each of the statements. Please select which platform contributed to your overall purchase journey on each of the statements.

E9. Thinking about your future purchases of [Product], How likely are you to use each of these online channels in each stage of your purchase journey?





3-MKT AVERAGE: USAGE INCIDENCE OF TOUCHPOINTS

	BRING		
	Brand.com	Marketplace	
Upper Funnel	10%	25%	When I read a certain spec that I don't understand on
Middle Funnel	41%	61%	Marketplace, I use Google to search "AMD Radeon vs Core i3" to compare the differences to decide which brand of
Lower Funnel	40%	60%	laptop to buy" ID Marketplace shopper



Consumer tech shoppers appreciate brand websites for warranty & genuine products. Marketplaces offer shoppers an easy to use online retail experience.



TOP MOTIVATIONS ACROSS BRAND.COM & MARKETPLACE

Upper
Funnel

COMMON MOTIVATIONS

Price/Deals- 73% Reviews- 66% Product Specs- 45%

Marketplace

Brand.com

Price/Deals- 76% Reviews- 63% Product Specs- 42% J

Middle Funnel

COMMON MOTIVATIONS

Product Specs- 63%↑
Price/Deals- 36%↓
Ease-of-use- 33%↑

Price/Deals- 62% ↑
Product Specs- 35% ↓
Lowest price 33%
Everything in 1 place 33%

Lower Funnel

DIFFERENT MOTIVATIONS

Price/Deals- 46%↓
Warranty- 32%↑
Genuine product- 30%↑

Price/Deals- 54% ↑
Ease-of-use- 27% ↑
Everything in 1 place 33%

The Brand.com is significantly higher/lower than Marketplace (MP)



Market nuances: key delivery points for brand.com











Genuine product Trustworthy specs Secure & express delivery Long term warranty

Exclusive deals

Credible reviews



Genuine product Trustworthy specs Long term warranty

Secure & express delivery Clear product pic/vid Ability to filter & sort Credible reviews



Genuine product Trustworthy specs Secure delivery Long term warranty Side by Side comparison Clear product pic/vid Exclusive deals Express delivery





Thank You





