

# The Silent Defector Phenomenon (Strategy)

Language: PostgreSQL

```
1  /*
2  BUSINESS QUESTION:
3  "How much revenue are we losing from customers who left despite having
4  zero late deliveries and positive review sentiment – proving the churn
5  is caused by external factors we cannot see in our operational data?"
6
7  WHY THIS MATTERS:
8  This is the most important strategic query. When a customer churns
9  after a bad experience (late delivery, damaged product), the fix is
10 operational. But when a customer churns despite PERFECT execution –
11 no late deliveries, 4-5 star reviews – the cause is external:
12 competitor pricing, market shift, or unmet needs we are not measuring.
13
14 This revenue figure is the board-level answer to: "How much money
15 are we losing to forces outside our control, and how big is the
16 strategic gap we need to close with product innovation or pricing?"
17 */
18
19 WITH delivered_base AS (
20     SELECT
21         c.customer_unique_id,
22         o.order_id,
23         o.order_purchase_timestamp,
24         o.order_delivered_customer_date,
25         o.order_estimated_delivery_date
26     FROM olist_customers_dataset AS c
27     INNER JOIN olist_orders_dataset AS o
28         ON o.customer_id = c.customer_id
29     WHERE o.order_status = 'delivered'
30 ),
31
32 rfm_metrics AS (
33     SELECT
34         db.customer_unique_id,
35         (SELECT MAX(order_purchase_timestamp)::DATE FROM delivered_base)
36         - MAX(db.order_purchase_timestamp)::DATE AS recency_days,
37         COUNT(DISTINCT db.order_id) AS frequency,
38         ROUND(SUM(p.payment_value)::NUMERIC, 2) AS monetary
39     FROM delivered_base AS db
40     INNER JOIN olist_order_payments_dataset AS p
41         ON p.order_id = db.order_id
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42     GROUP BY db.customer_unique_id
43 ),
44
45 rfm_scores AS (
46     SELECT *,
47         NTILE(5) OVER (ORDER BY recency_days DESC) AS r_score,
48         NTILE(5) OVER (ORDER BY frequency ASC) AS f_score,
49         NTILE(5) OVER (ORDER BY monetary ASC) AS m_score
50     FROM rfm_metrics
51 ),
52
53 rfm_segments AS (
54     SELECT *,
55     CASE
56         WHEN r_score >= 4 AND f_score >= 4 AND m_score >= 4 THEN 'Champions'
57         WHEN r_score <= 2 AND f_score >= 4 AND m_score >= 4 THEN 'At Risk'
58         WHEN r_score >= 4 AND f_score <= 2 AND m_score <= 2 THEN 'New Customers'
59         WHEN r_score >= 4 AND (f_score >= 3 OR m_score >= 3) THEN 'Potential Loyalists'
60         WHEN r_score >= 3 AND f_score >= 3 AND m_score >= 3 THEN 'Loyal Customers'
61         WHEN r_score <= 2 AND f_score <= 2 AND m_score <= 2 THEN 'Hibernating'
62         ELSE 'Need Attention'
63     END AS customer_segment
64     FROM rfm_scores
65 ),
66
67 /* ■■ Sentiment: last review score per customer ■■ */
68 dim_sentiment AS (
69     SELECT customer_unique_id, last_review_score
70     FROM (
71         SELECT
72             db.customer_unique_id,
73             r.review_score AS last_review_score,
74             ROW_NUMBER() OVER (PARTITION BY db.customer_unique_id
75                 ORDER BY r.review_creation_date DESC,
76                 r.review_answer_timestamp DESC) AS rn
77         FROM delivered_base AS db
78         INNER JOIN olist_order_reviews_dataset AS r ON r.order_id = db.order_id
79     ) ranked WHERE rn = 1
80 ),
81
82 /* ■■ Operational Friction: late delivery count per customer ■■ */
83 dim_friction AS (
84     SELECT
85         customer_unique_id,
86         SUM(CASE WHEN order_delivered_customer_date > order_estimated_delivery_date
87             THEN 1 ELSE 0 END) AS late_delivery_count
88     FROM delivered_base

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89     WHERE order_delivered_customer_date IS NOT NULL
90     GROUP BY customer_unique_id
91 ),
92
93 /* ■■ Isolate the "Silent Defectors": churned + perfect operations ■■ */
94 silent_defectors AS (
95     SELECT
96         rfm.customer_unique_id,
97         rfm.customer_segment,
98         rfm.monetary,
99         rfm.recency_days,
100        rfm.frequency,
101        snt.last_review_score,
102        COALESCE(f.late_delivery_count, 0)           AS late_delivery_count
103    FROM rfm_segments      AS rfm
104    LEFT JOIN dim_sentiment AS snt ON snt.customer_unique_id = rfm.customer_unique_id
105    LEFT JOIN dim_friction  AS f   ON f.customer_unique_id   = rfm.customer_unique_id
106    WHERE rfm.customer_segment IN ('At Risk', 'Hibernating')
107        AND COALESCE(f.late_delivery_count, 0) = 0           /* Zero late deliveries */
108        AND snt.last_review_score >= 4                     /* Positive last review */
109 )
110
111 /* ■■ FINAL: The board-level answer ■■ */
112 SELECT
113     '■■ OVERALL SILENT DEFECTOR IMPACT ■■'           AS analysis_level,
114     customer_segment                               AS segment,
115     COUNT(*)                                       AS silent_defector_count,
116
117     /* Total revenue from customers who left despite perfect execution */
118     ROUND(SUM(monetary)::NUMERIC, 2)               AS total_revenue_lost,
119
120     /* Average LTV of a silent defector – shows they are not low-value */
121     ROUND(AVG(monetary)::NUMERIC, 2)               AS avg_ltv_per_defector,
122
123     /* Average recency – how long ago they went silent */
124     ROUND(AVG(recency_days)::NUMERIC, 0)           AS avg_days_since_last_order,
125
126     /* Review score distribution – proves the satisfaction was genuine */
127     SUM(CASE WHEN last_review_score = 5 THEN 1 ELSE 0 END) AS five_star_count,
128     SUM(CASE WHEN last_review_score = 4 THEN 1 ELSE 0 END) AS four_star_count,
129     ROUND(AVG(last_review_score)::NUMERIC, 2)       AS avg_review_score,
130
131     /* Context: what % of all At Risk / Hibernating are silent defectors? */
132     ROUND(100.0 * COUNT(*)::NUMERIC / (
133         SELECT COUNT(*) FROM rfm_segments
134         WHERE customer_segment IN ('At Risk', 'Hibernating')
135     ), 1)                                           AS pct_of_all_churned

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136
137 FROM silent_defectors
138 GROUP BY customer_segment
139
140 UNION ALL
141
142 /* Grand total row for the board presentation */
143 SELECT
144     '■■ GRAND TOTAL ■■' AS analysis_level,
145     'All Silent Defectors' AS segment,
146     COUNT(*),
147     ROUND(SUM(monetary)::NUMERIC, 2),
148     ROUND(AVG(monetary)::NUMERIC, 2),
149     ROUND(AVG(recency_days)::NUMERIC, 0),
150     SUM(CASE WHEN last_review_score = 5 THEN 1 ELSE 0 END),
151     SUM(CASE WHEN last_review_score = 4 THEN 1 ELSE 0 END),
152     ROUND(AVG(last_review_score)::NUMERIC, 2),
153     ROUND(100.0 * COUNT(*)::NUMERIC / (
154         SELECT COUNT(*) FROM rfm_segments
155         WHERE customer_segment IN ('At Risk', 'Hibernating')
156     ), 1)
157 FROM silent_defectors
158
159 ORDER BY analysis_level, total_revenue_lost DESC;
```