

Leveling the playing field

5 ways Social Media Can Make your Small **Business** Look BIG

Hands up, is your business...

using social media?

blogging for business?

using Facebook for business?

using LinkedIn for business?

using Twitter for business?

Leveling the playing field

- Leveling the playing field has long been a rallying cry.
 - Wikipedia definition:

"A level playing field is a concept about fairness, not that each player has an equal chance to succeed, but that they <u>all play by</u> <u>the same set of rules</u>."

 So what does this have to do with using Social Media to make your small business look BIG ?

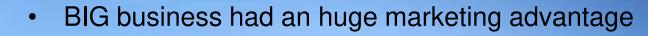


Well... Everything!



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Before the rise of Social Media



- Larger ad budgets for traditional media spend
- Traditional media was interested in "news about BIG business"
- Media outlets wanted to interview BIG company executives.
- Not so level a playing field for small business owners.



But Social Media has changed the playing field



Everyone can play with the big boys now!

- Today, buyers search online for purchasing information, before ever contacting a business.
- Its no longer about pushing your message out, its about <u>being found</u>.
- Social media gives everyone a fair shot at communicating with their target audience, and being found.



The playing field shift...

Traditional Marketing

- Direct mail
- Trade shows
- Yellow pages
- Print ads
- Email blasts
- TV/Radio ads

Interruption marketing

Social Media Marketing

- Blogging
- Social Networks
- Search Marketing
- Content sharing
- Free tools / trials
- Video sharing

Permission marketing

Interruption marketing is giving way to permission marketing. Your customers are shopping the market and narrowing the field... by learning online about your company, products and reputation.



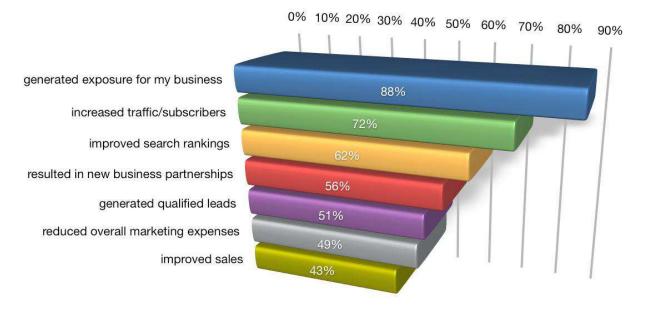
Will They Find your Business? Will They find What You Want Them to Find?

- Will your prospects find your business online?
- Will they find your competitors business?
- Are you losing lead opportunities?
- What do search engines say about your business to your prospects and customers?
- Are their reviews of your business online?
- Can Social Media make a difference ?



The Benefits of Social Media Marketing

*Social Media Marketing Report 2011





What the SMB said

ABOUT SOCIAL NETWORKING IN 2011 vs 2010

Social Networks "Very or Somewhat Beneficial" to Business:

Network	2011	2010
Facebook	54.8%	33.2%
LinkedIn	32.7%	20.0%
Twitter	32.0%	18.5%
MySpace	25.1%	17.0%
YouTube	30.9%	15.2%
Foursquare	13.9%	N/A
Yelp	17.9%	N/A
Groupon	16.1%	N/A
LivingSocial	14.4%	N/A

2011 Small Business Marketing Forecast, Ad-ology Research (n=752 SMB Owners)



Why social media works for small business...

*88.6% of business owners believe "targeting customers by what they think, feel and value is more effective than by demographic"

- Your prospects don't want to be sold anymore.
- They want information. From people they know, like and trust.
- They trust friends and online content more than advertising.
- They are finding it online and sharing with others in communities.
- Are they finding your business?







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Start to Think Like a publisher

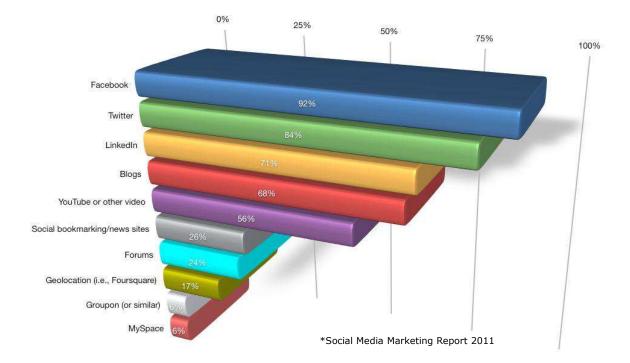
Social Media Marketing is about communicating with your audience



- Share your trusted industry expertise
- Provide the answers to your prospects questions in content that you create
- Produce "how to" content
- Share relevant information, yours or someone else's
- Anticipate what your audience will be looking for, create it and publish it



The Most commonly used social media tools...





5 Ways to Get Started Making Your Small Business Look BIG online



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5 Ways to Use Social Media to Make Your Small Business Look BIG

- 1. Start a Blog positioning you as a thought leader in your industry
- 2. Build a Custom Facebook page: Custom Banner, Landing page and additional lead generation tabs
- 3. Add professionally produced videos demonstrating your expertise and showcasing your product or service, while placing a human face on your own business.
- 4. Create and share eBooks, whitepapers, online newsletter content with your prospects
- 5. Integrate Social Media, Content Marketing, and Search Engine Marketing to dominate search results for your industry keyword.



1. Position yourself as a Trusted Industry Expert

Why blogging is good for your business...

- Blogging is an immediate way to position yourself as an authority for your audience.
- Sharing your industry knowledge builds awareness, trust, and ideal customer relationships
- Build your audience, then provide FREE or trial offers to generate leads for your sales team.
- Use you blog to increase opt-ins for email marketing
- Google LOVES blogs. They provide excellent SEO benefits



55% more website visitors for companies that blog.





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2. Custom Facebook page: Banner, landing page, lead generation

Custom pages design creating a mini-website on your Facebook page

- Professionally designed Page banner for better, consistent branding.
- Custom, professionally designed LIKE landing page
- Build opt-in list, generate leads, run sweepstakes, contests, polls, etc
- Build a Multi-tab microsite right inside Facebook
- Develop an engagement strategy to make the most of your Facebook community.
- Facebook 'likes' distribute brand awareness by providing information towards the news feeds of everybody befriended from your brand fans.



Custom Facebook page example



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CONTRACTOR STREET, STR

Custom Facebook lead generation landing pages



3. Professionally produced videos demonstrating your expertise ...

Video marketing is NOT out of your reach. Showcase your product or service, while placing a human face on your own business.

- Retail sites with video increase conversion by 30% and boost average ticket by 13%. (L2 Specialty Retail Report, September 2010)
- Internet Retailer reports that visitors who view product videos are 85% more likely to buy than visitors who do not. (Internet Retailer, April 2010)
- 75% of internet users say they watch videos on-line on a regular basis.
- 80% of those people say that they are more inclined to watch a video if it's professionally produced.
- Google's "universal search" means online video now helps your business improve your search results





How you can use video marketing

Social Video marketing is exploding. Produce these videos and share them with your communities on website, blog, Facebook and video sharing sites.

- <u>CEO welcome</u> video
- Home Page Video
- Event Promotion Video
- Search Story Video
- <u>Social Media Promo</u> video
- <u>Commercials</u>
- Expert Interviews
- "How to" videos sharing your expertise



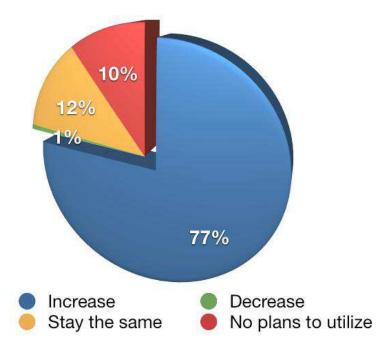


Marketers plan to increase YouTube or video sharing

*Social Media Marketing Report 2011

Marketers indicated that YouTube/video was the top area in which they planned to increase their social media efforts.

A significant 77% of marketers plan on increasing their YouTube and/or video marketing.





4. eBooks, whitepapers, online newsletter content

Create content to provide FREE or trial offers for lead generation

- eBooks How to, guidebooks, tips, training for lead generation or profit
- White papers Thought leader branding. Free or trial offer. Lead generation
- Webinars for lead generation, or profit
- Newsletters Community, brand building, remarketing



Some quick examples



YOUR CLEAR PATH TO RESULTS

5. Dominate search results for your industry keywords

To have a successful Social Media Marketing plan requires an Integrated Strategy. Done, right, a key benefit is the SEO impact of your Social Media Strategy

- Google and Bing now include social signals is its search algorithm.
- SEO your website and blog, Google Places, and Google Maps. Optimize your Facebook page, and other social networks.
- Benefit from real time search in Facebook, Twitter, etc
- Dominate your competition in search results for your industry keywords.



How Social Media benefits SEO

Integrating social media, content marketing and search marketing for better SEO.

- In addition to traditional website search results, now search results include social network updates more prominently on the search results page.
- Google is improving content relevance by measuring the frequency that links and videos have been shared by users' friends.
- The number of connections you have on social networks, will directly impact the number of people you may be able to reach through Google [and Bing] search results. – HubSpot



Ready to level the playing field ?

Pick one or more of these 5 ways to make your small business look BIG and get started.

- 1. <u>Blogging</u> to positioning you as a thought leader in your industry
- 2. Build a <u>Custom Facebook page:</u> banner, landing page and multi-tab site
- 3. Add <u>professionally produced videos</u> demonstrating your expertise and showcasing your product or service, while placing a human face on your own business.
- 4. Create and sharing <u>eBooks</u>, <u>whitepapers</u>, <u>online newsletter</u> content with your prospects
- 5. Integrate Social Media, Content Marketing, and Search Engine Marketing to <u>dominate search results</u> for your industry keyword.



Thank You !



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