Northbay Marketing Meetup #2: SEO



Today's Agenda

- 1. **How Google works** intro to Hummingbird algorithm and its evolution.
- 2. **Key ranking factors** and how Google is using AIML to improve search
- New challenges / opportunities How Google SERPs are changing.
- 4. Why "good unique content" has to die, die, die!
- 5. **Discussion -** Please chime in, let's make this interactive.

Google Quick Facts

Google processes over **two trillion** searches in a single year, up from only one billion a year in 1999.

One Billion in 1999: 1,000,000,000

Two Trillion in 2018: 2,000,000,000,000

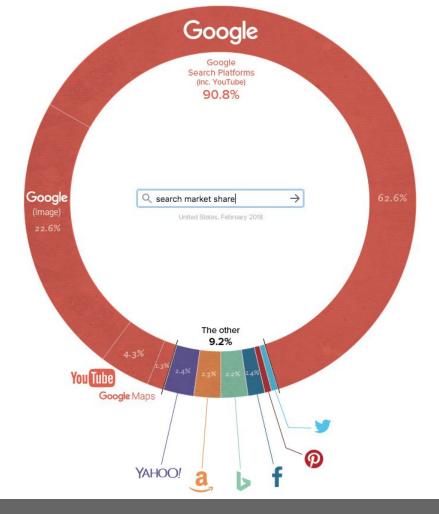
That's over 4 billion searches per day.

15% of searches have never been seen before.



What is the #2 search engine behind Google?





What is Google's job?

"Google's mission is to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful"



How does Google's algorithm work?



Google indexes 1 trillion pages

Est. 30 trillion pages exist today

Understand content

Understand content quality / authority

Understand searcher's intent

Constantly improve

And it needs to give you ranked results in under 1 second.





Google changes its algorithm 600-700 x per year.

Panda: Content spam

Penguin: Link spam

Hummingbird: Searcher intent

Pigeon: Location

Mobilegeddon: Moblie

Rankbrain: AIML

- #3 Ranking Factor

Intent and Meaning

Possum: Hyper-local results

Fred: Penalize low-quality

content, ad-heavy sites

<u>Infographic</u>

Google Ranking Signals

Google's algorithm might have up to 10,000 variations or sub-signals - Search Engine Land

- 1. Off Page
- 2. On Page
- 3. Rank Brain

Google's 200 Ranking Factors - From Brian Dean at Backlinko



Off Page SEO

Everything away from your site.

***Inbound Links ---> Page Rank

- High Quality External Guest Posting
- Social Publishing and Promotion of Content
- Image and Video Sharing
- 3rd Party Social Sharing
- Forum Discussions

PageRank

Search quality is not only a function of indexing everything - it's sorting out the "junk" results.

Developed in 1997 by Google co-founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page as part of a project at Stanford.

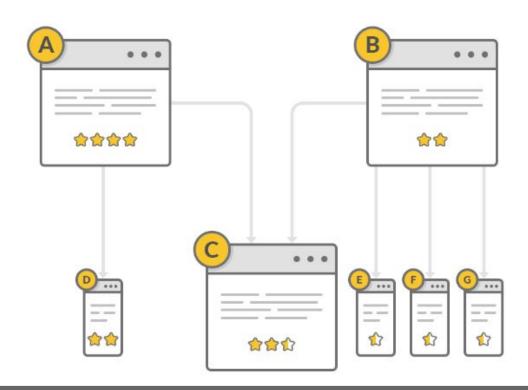
Based on how authority of scientific papers is determined.

PR is a mathematical formula that judges the "value of a page" based on a logrithmic value of 1-10 based on inbound link value.

Google stopped reporting PR publicly in 2016 - but it's still the #1 factor.

How PageRank Works (A Simplified View)

PageRank is divided equally between the total number of links on a page.



Passing Link Equity

Not all links are equal.

Position on a page.
Domain Authority
Page Authority





On Page SEO Elements - Everything on your site.

CONTENT ELEMENTS

URL

Meta Title and Description (Google search result)
Headlines - H1, H2, H3, H4
Paragraph Text
Image Alt Tags
Internal and External Links

WEBSITE PERFORMANCE

Site Speed Mobile Responsiveness AMP - Accelerated Mobile Pages Cross Browser Compatibility

USER EXPERIENCE SIGNALS

Bounce Rate (Pogo Sticking)
Time on Site
Return to Site
Click Through Rate

CONTENT - QUALITATIVE

Content Freshness
Content Quality and Depth
Use of LSI Keywords - Synonyms
Multimedia Content
Social Sharing Capabilities





Google announced RankBrain toward the end of 2015.

RankBrain is the #3 ranking signal after on and off page elements.

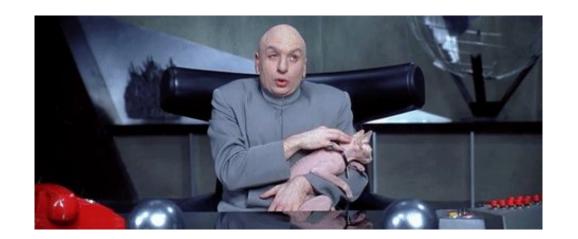
RankBrain uses AIML - artificial intelligence and machine learning - to improve search results.

RankBrain is always learning and improving.



RankBrain learns meaning of words and understands connections between words.

So, Google is able to return results and answers, even if your search term is not included.





Why Google

Products

Solutions

Pricing

Security

Documentation

Customers

Partners

Support

V. >

Conso



Al & Machine Learning Products

Contact sales

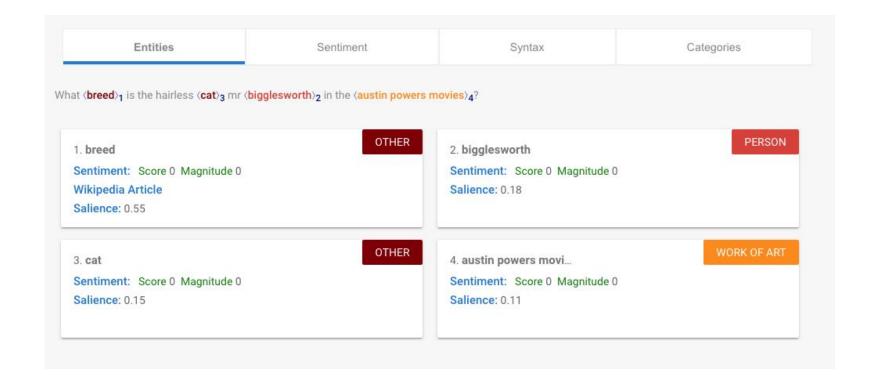
Try free

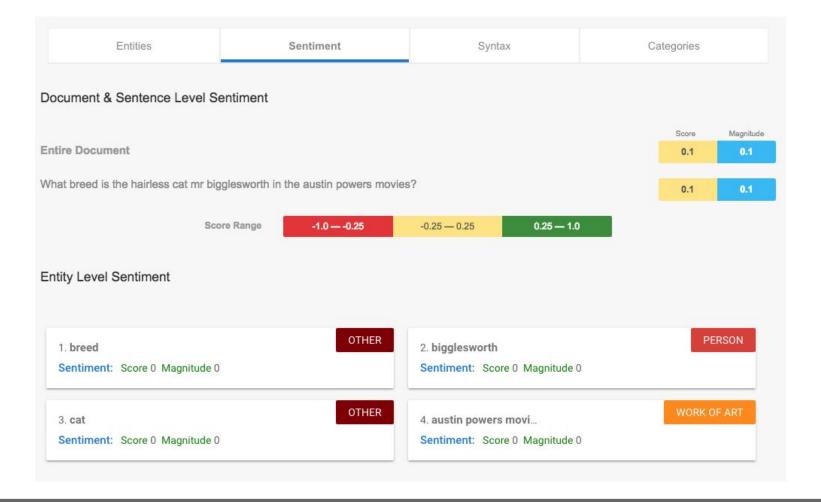
Try the API

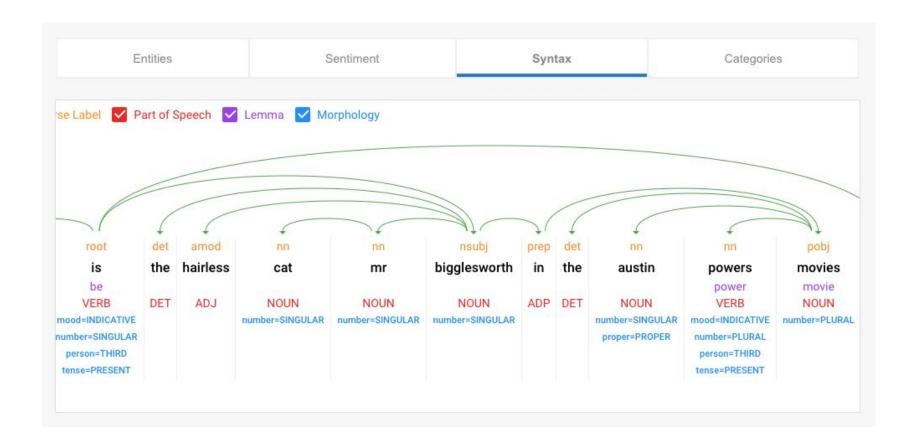
What breed is the hairless cat mr bigglesworth in the austin powers movies?

ANALYZE

See supported languages







Content Category	
/Adult	/Hobbies & Leisure
/Arts & Entertainment	/Hobbies & Leisure/Clubs & Organizations
/Arts & Entertainment/Celebrities & Entertainment News	/Hobbies & Leisure/Clubs & Organizations/Youth Organizations & Resources
Arts & Entertainment/Comics & Animation	/Hobbies & Leisure/Crafts
/Arts & Entertainment/Comics & Animation/Anime & Manga	/Hobbies & Leisure/Crafts/Fiber & Textile Arts
/Arts & Entertainment/Comics & Animation/Cartoons	/Hobbies & Leisure/Merit Prizes & Contests
/Arts & Entertainment/Comics & Animation/Comics	/Hobbies & Leisure/Outdoors
/Arts & Entertainment/Entertainment Industry	/Hobbies & Leisure/Outdoors/Fishing
/Arts & Entertainment/Entertainment Industry/Film & TV Industry	/Hobbies & Leisure/Outdoors/Hiking & Camping
/Arts & Entertainment/Entertainment Industry/Recording Industry	/Hobbies & Leisure/Paintball



Not only is RankBrain understanding words....

It learns searcher intent. What does the searcher really want?

And it also understands user experience signals.



RankBrain also modifies results based on your situation:

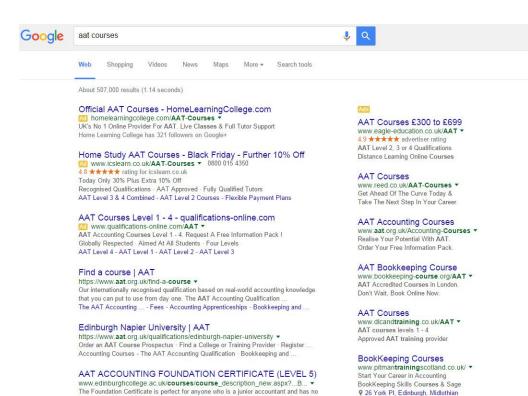
- Browsing history
- Location / Hyper Location
- Device type



Challenges and Opportunities...

SERP Features

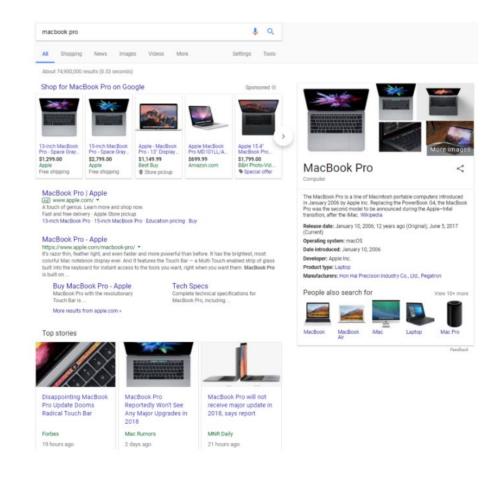
Do you remember when search used to look like this?



SERP Features

This is what search looks like today.

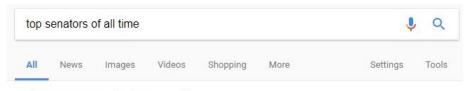
Guide to Google SERP Features



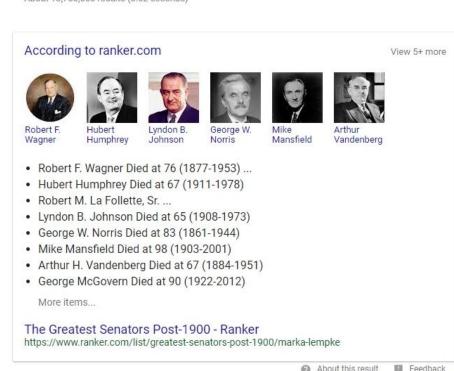
Direct Answer Box



Bulleted Lists



About 10,700,000 results (0.62 seconds)



Numbered Lists

vegan burger recipe

| Videos | Images | Shopping | News | More | Settings | Tools |

About 3,160,000 results (0.54 seconds)

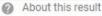
What You'll Need

- 1. 1 tablespoon canola oil (or vegetable oil)
- 2. 1 small onion (white or yellow, diced)
- 3. 1 clove garlic (minced)
- 4. 3 green onions (diced)
- 5. 1/2 teaspoon cumin.
- 6. 3/4 cup mushrooms (fresh, diced small)
- 7. 1 15 oz. can pinto beans.
- 8. 1 teaspoon parsley.

More items...



Mushroom Veggie Burger Recipe (Vegan and Gluten-Free) - The Spruce https://www.thespruce.com/vegan-mushroom-bean-burger-recipe-3378623





Feedback

Knowledge Graph





Paris

City in Tennessee

Paris is a city in Henry County, Tennessee, 86 miles northwest of Nashville, on a fork of the West Sandy River and the Tennessee River. As of the 2010 census, the city had a total population of 10,156. It is the county se

Weather: 18°F (-8°C), Wind NW at 4 mph (6 km/h), 61% Humidity

Hotels: 3-star averaging \$97. View hotels

Zip code: 38242

Population: 10,192 (2016) Local time: Wednesday 4:38 PM

Points of interest



Eiffel Tower Park

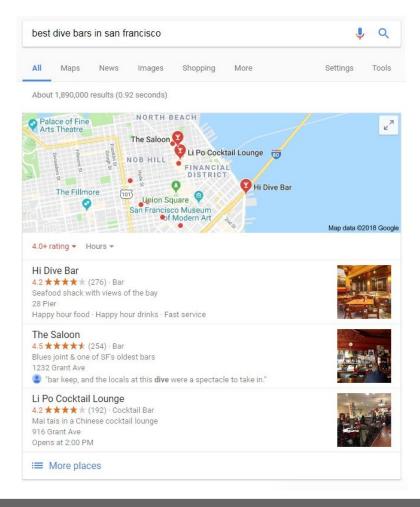


Paris Henry County H...

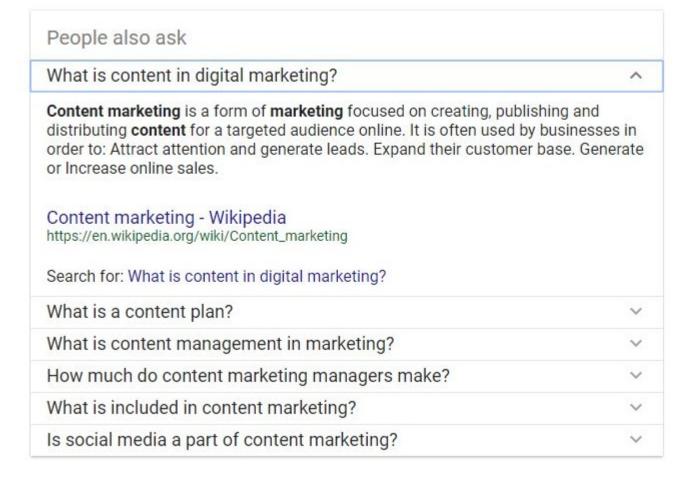


Paris Winery

Local



People Also Ask



News Boxes

Top stories



Bitcoin sinks below \$10,000 and is now 50% off all-time high as cryptocurrency sell-off...

CNBC.com

9 hours ago



Bitcoin tests important price level after dramatic plunge

CNBC.com

2 hours ago



Don't Expect the Crypto-Futures Revolution to Stop at Bitcoin

Bloomberg

19 mins ago



More for bitcoin

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- TopBottom

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Now let's talk content.

The Buyer's Journey 10X Content They Ask, You Answer

Create buyer-centric content.

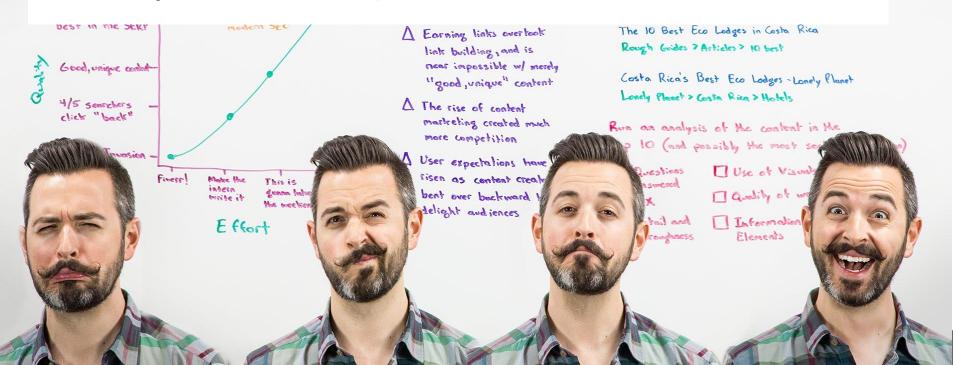


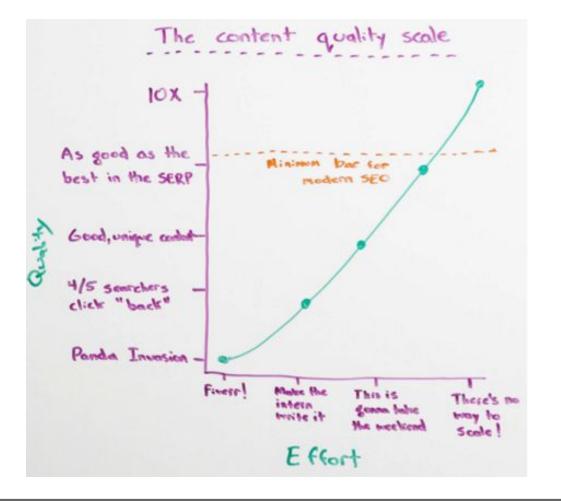
Why "Good, Unique Content" Needs to Die (and what should replace it)

The content quality scale

How do we create "10x" Content?

Why "Good unique content" needs to die!





Video Content



Infographic Content





- Launch date: March 8, 2017
- . Hazards: Thin, affiliate-heavy or ad-centered
 - Now It works: The latest of Google's confirmed undates, Frot targets websites that violate Google's webmaster guidelines. The majority of affected sites are blogs with low-quality posts that appear to be created mostly for the purpose of generating ad revenue.

Skyscraper Content

- 1. Find proven, linkable assets
- 2. Make something even better
 - a. Longer
 - b. More up to date
 - c. Better designed
 - d. More thorough
- 3. Reach out to the right people
 - a. Get links
 - b. Find promoters

BRIAN DEAN FOUNDER OF BACKLINKO back!inko DISCUSSES THE SKYSCRAPER LINK BUILDING *METHODOLOGY*

Pillar Content









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There are a lot of moving parts in a successful public relations program – research, planning, writing, relationship building, pitching, analyzing, and reporting. We wrote this article to shed light on the process and to serve as a guide to building a successful PR program.

The State of PR

Trying to get media coverage for a company, product or event is more challenging than ever. First, the Internet has spawned hundreds of thousands of media outlets-from a biogger with a large following to major news publications. Second. the competition to reach these writers and iournalists is fierce.

This makes PR in the digital age much like marketing in the digital age. When it comes to marketing, you know that if you have a product that solves a real problem, there are people out there looking for it. The challenge is to find them or to help them find you. The same is true with PR-If you have a genuine news story, there is a writer out there that wants to know about it because their readers want to know about it. The challenge is to find the journalists and to help them find you.

- How Digital Marketing Has Changed PR
- · Mastering the Media Pitch: Top Journalists Tell you How to get their Attention
- · How to Choose a PR Agency

Press Release Best Practices

The press release, the most common deliverable companies use to distribute news to journalists, faces more competition these days, not only from other press releases, but from social posts, blogs, direct enail, print and digital ads, and more. While any company can put a press release on a wire service and see it goobled up and requirated by hundreds of media outletts, what we all want is real coverage by real journalists that give companies brands authority and credibility. These articles will help you score big with your next release.

- · How to Write an Effective Press Release
- · How to Write the Perfect Cover Letter
- The Ultimate Press Release Template
- . 5 Reasons Not to Issue a Press Release
- How to Write Pitches Journalists Love (Download)
- . How to Score Big With Your Next Press Release
- . Choose Your News Wisely Understanding When Your News Isn't News
- 5 Reasons Your News Doesn't Get Picked Up
- . 7 Best Practices to Get Your PR Covered and Not Buried

How to Develop Strong Media Lists

Media lists, whether built with media database platforms (Cision, Meltwater, Muck Rack) or home grown, are your gateway to the influencers you want to reach. Building and managing multiple lists for multiple target audiences involves a good deal of sleuthing, with or without a software platform. Here are some tips on how to build lists that you can use for one or more announcement or for entire campaigns.

- · What is a Media Database?
- · How to Build a Media List with Meltwater
- · 8 Best Free Resources for Building a PR Contact List
- · PR Databases The PR Agency's Secret Weapon
- Journalist Finder Get Contact Info for 25 Media Contacts Free

FREE JOURNALIST FINDER

et the Contact Information for 25 Journalists Who Care About Your News

PR Database Reviews

Public relations is all about getting press coverage for your company and product, and managing press relationships when good news and bad news happens. With the proliferation of media outlets, knowing who is writing about your industry or business can be extremely challenging. Media database platforms (Cision, Meltwater, Muck Rack) have been created to help. These are platforms that include a database of multiple types of "influencers"-journalists, bloggers, analysts, columnists and more and the "beats" or markets that they cover. Learn more from the articles below.

- · PR Databases Quick Review: Cision, Meltwater, and MuckRack
- · Meltwater Review: First Look at The New Meltwater Platform
- Meltwater Review: Reaching Beyond Writers to Influencers
- · Cision Review: One Stop Shop for PR
- · MuckRack Review: Harness Social Media for PR
- . 50 Questions you Should Ask Before Buying PR Software (Download)
- . Pick Our Brain: Schedule a 30 Minute Exploratory Call Where You Can Ask Us Anything

Wire Distribution Service Reviews

Press release wire services have traditionally been the go-to-channel for widespread press release distribution to search engines, top publications, and national newsrooms. The largest service providers for wire releases include PRWeb, PRNewswire, BusinessWire, and MarketWired. Do you need a wire service for your PR program? Depends. Learn more from these articles.

- · Wire Services: When to Use or Not Use Them
- Looking for the Best PR Wire Service? Consider this.
- · Which PR Wire Service is Right For You
- · Search for the Best Press Release Wire Service

Social Media's Role In PR

Social media is the communication vehicle of choice for many big brands, celebrities, and politicians, and journalists use it too. Used right, social media can be a great way to reach both journalists and your target audiences for marketing. These articles offer some guidance.

- · How Social Media is Becoming PR's Most Valuable Asset
- . Twitter Meets Muck Rack PR Pros and Journalists Trip the Light Fantastic
- . How to Pick the Social Publishing Platform for PR

Finding Editorial Calendar Opportunities

Editorial calendars are the guides publications issue to help you know what they want articles about. Other tools like HARO and Muck Rack have features that let journalists pitch PR pros for sources. Learn more from these articles.

- Editorial Calendars: How to Be a PR SuperHARO
- HARO Review

Media Monitoring

· How to Set Up Google Alerts to Monitor Coverage

Tracking Media Relations With a (Free) CRM

One way to build your own media database is to use your CRM platform for manage and monitor media coverage. HubSpot is what we use. Learn more here.

- · Get the HubSpot CRM Free Here
- · Find Out More About HubSpot Schedule a Free Tour

Trade Show Guides

Typically you have two goals at a trade show-to get new leads and to create buzz around your company or brand. Done right, even small companies can generate plenty of chatter at shows as large as CES, the granddaddy of them all ISe eu raticle on that tools and more.

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Podcast Content



They Ask, You Answer

What do want to know before you buy?

(Lessons from a pool guy.)



They Ask, You Answer

Your prospects are going to ask these questions. Are you going to answer them, or will they go to your competitor or yelp?

Don't be scared to answer the "scary" questions:

How much does it cost? Example
Who are your competitors? Who else should I consider? Example
What do the reviews say? Are there negative reviews? Example
What are the problems with this product?
How does your product stack up against your competitor's product?

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Key Takeaways

- 1. Allign your content with the buyer's journey help people solve problems and make decisions at every stage of the journey.
- Invest in developing content that is 10x better than the best results in the SERPs - video, audio, pillar, skyscraper, infographics.
- Create an amazing user experience on your site.
- Learn and practice basic technical on- and off- page SEO (at a minimum)
- 5. Write for humans, not search engines!

Resources

SEO TRAINING

Moz Guide to SEO SEM Rush Academy

SEO SOFTWARE

Moz SerpStat SEM Rush Ahrefs



KEYWORD RESEARCH

Google Trends
Answer the Public

GOOGLE ALGORITHM UPDATES

Panguin Tool
Moz's Google Algorithm Tracker

GOOGLE RANKING FACTORS

Search Engine Journal

Backlinko SEM Rush

Ahrefs Page Rank Explained

Guide to Google SERP Featuresjh

Questions?

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