

M LOCAL BUSINESS MARKETING

The Marketing Guide for Local Business Owners

October 2023

10 Holiday Marketing Tips for Local Businesses

*7 Key
Cybersecurity
Steps for
Your Local
Business*

**Infographic:
2023 Holiday
Planning Guide**

*The Complete Guide to
Inclusive Marketing:
10 Tips for Creating
Campaigns That
Celebrate Diversity*

*How to
Build a
Small
Business
Email List
People
Actually
Want to
Be On*

*The Importance of
Having a Strong
Online Presence for
Your Local Business*

FREE!

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Greetings!

What's one of the scariest things about October? It means that the busy holiday season is upon us! You'll start seeing holiday decor and items in the major chains, and believe it or not, consumers are already planning and making purchases. As a local business owner, you need to start planning your holiday marketing strategy.

Take a few minutes to review this month's infographic to see how consumers plan and shop for the holidays. Shopping is projected to start very early this year so be prepared and plan ahead!

This month's articles and infographic cover many topics that we hope will be relevant to your business, including Holiday Marketing, Cybersecurity, Inclusive Marketing and more.

If you find the magazine helpful, and know other local business owners that could benefit from receiving our magazine each month, please do us (and them) a favor by forwarding a copy to them.

Have a topic that you'd like to see us cover? We welcome any suggestions, comments or questions you might have.

To Your Success This Upcoming Holiday Season!

Alyssa Engle
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A Little About Us

Local Business Marketing Magazine is proudly provided by LMS Solutions, Inc.



LMS Solutions was developed to give businesses of all sizes the ability to leverage the same cutting-edge marketing platforms that the Fortune 500 organizations use, at extremely affordable rates.

We offer an extensive catalog of cutting-edge Local Online, Mobile, Social, Pay-Per-Click, Video, Web and Direct Marketing Media Programs. Whether you're a small business, medium business, or non-profit organization, our programs can help you find greater success.

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Marketing Calendar

Plan your marketing messages around these upcoming holidays and proclamations.

October

Adopt A Dog Month
Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Bullying Prevention Month
Fall Car Care Month
Dental Hygiene Month
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Emotional Wellness Month
National Pasta Month

Oct 9th - Columbus Day (U.S.)
Oct 31st - Halloween

1st - International Coffee Day
1st - Homemade Cookies Day
3rd - World Architecture Day
4th - Cinnamon Roll Day
4th - Golf Lovers Day
4th - Taco Day
4th - Vodka Day
4th - World Animal Day
5th - World Teachers' Day
6th - Noodle Day

7th - World Smile Day
9th - Beer & Pizza Day
10th - Indigenous Peoples' Day
10th - World Mental Health Day
12th - World Arthritis Day
13th - M&M Day
14th - Dessert Day
14th - World Egg Day
15th - Global Handwashing Day
16th - Boss' Day
17th - Pasta Day
18th - Chocolate Cupcake Day
19th - Medical Assistants Day
21st - Apple Day
21st - Back to the Future Day
22nd - Make A Difference Day
22nd - Nut Day
26th - Pumpkin Day
27th - Navy Day
28th - Chocolate Day
29th - Cat Day
30th - Candy Corn Day

November

COPD Awareness Month
American Diabetes Month
Veterans & Military Families Month
Adopt A Senior Pet Month
National Adoption Awareness Month
Native American Heritage Month
Epilepsy Awareness Month
Alzheimer's Disease Month
Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

November 7 - Election Day
November 11 - Veteran's Day
November 23 - Thanksgiving
November 24 - Black Friday
November 25 - Small Business Saturday

1st - World Vegan Day
1st - Author's Day
1st - Cinnamon Day
1st - Day of the Dead
2nd - Stress Awareness Day

2nd - All Souls' Day
2nd - International Stout Day
4th - Candy Day
5th - American Football Day
5th - Daylight Saving Time Ends
6th - Nachos Day
10th - Marine Corps Birthday
11th - Sundae Day
13th - World Kindness Day
14th - Pickle Day
14th - World Diabetes Day
15th - Recycling Day
16th - Fast Food Day
17th - Hiking Day
18th - Apple Cider Day
18th - Mickey Mouse's Birthday
18th - National Adoption Day
19th - Women's Entrepreneurship Day
26th - Cake Day
28th - French Toast Day
30th - International Computer Security Day



10 Holiday Marketing Tips for Local Businesses

In the brisk air of the holiday season, consumers eagerly dust off their wallets, primed for gift-giving, feasting, and festivities. But how can local businesses get in on the yuletide cheer? It's not just the big-box retailers that can make a killing during the holidays. With the right strategies in place, we can transform this season into a retail wonderland for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Are you ready to deck the halls with boughs of revenue?

Why is Holiday Marketing Crucial?

Why should we even focus on holiday marketing? Simply put, consumer spending skyrockets during this time. Picture the holidays as a grand feast, and your business as one of many dishes on the table. Would you like to be the turkey everyone reaches for, or the forgotten bowl of cranberry sauce? Our aim is to ensure you're not just another side dish.

1. Build Holiday-Themed Social Media Campaigns

Let's not beat around the berry bush. Social media is the modern marketplace. Transform your social media platforms with festive graphics, and daily posts that count down to big holiday sales. This not only piques interest but creates a sense of urgency among your customers. Have you ever waited until the last minute to snatch up a deal? Exactly, we've all been there.

2. Leverage Email Marketing

If social media is the

marketplace, then email is your personalized storefront. Create holiday-themed newsletters with exclusive discounts for your email subscribers. Ever heard the saying, "The early bird catches the worm"? Well, in this case, the early marketer catches the customer.

3. Holiday Specials and Bundles

Who doesn't love a good deal, especially during the holiday season? Offer special holiday packages that are only available for a limited time. Why settle for selling one item when you can bundle it with others? It's like offering a full-course meal instead of just an appetizer.

4. Update Your Website with a Festive Flair

Your website should feel like walking into a holiday party. Update your banners, product images, and even the color scheme to match the



holiday spirit. You're not just selling products; you're selling an experience. Ever walked into a room and felt the ambiance change your mood? That's what we're going for.

5. Community Events and Sponsorships

We cannot stress this enough: engage with your local community. Sponsor local events, offer special in-store activities, or even organize a holiday charity drive. It's not just about commerce; it's about community. Ever felt like you belong somewhere? That's the sentiment to create among local patrons.

6. Limited-Time Offers

This is a classic but effective strategy. Implementing "flash sales" or "24-hour discounts" creates a sense of urgency

and boosts sales. Ever watched a clock ticking down and felt your pulse race? Yeah, we're tapping into that adrenaline.

7. Customer Reviews and Testimonials

Utilize positive reviews by featuring them in your marketing materials. Got a glowing review from a customer who loved their holiday purchase last year? Showcase it! A positive review can act like a word-of-mouth recommendation, a gold standard in any marketing playbook.

8. Use Geo-Targeted Ads

Technology is your friend. Use geo-targeting features to direct your advertisements to local consumers. Why cast a wide net when you're fishing in a small pond?

9. Gift Cards and Loyalty Programs

It's the gift that keeps on giving. Offer holiday-themed gift cards and special loyalty program points during the holiday season. This not only boosts your sales but

ensures customers keep coming back.

10. Track and Analyze

After all is said and done, the proof is in the Christmas pudding. Monitor the metrics of your holiday campaigns. What worked? What didn't? This will help you tailor future strategies. After all, who sets sail without a compass?

We understand that the holiday season can feel like a sprint, but with the right preparation, it can be a victory lap for your business.

From social media campaigns to community engagement, each strategy is a piece of the larger holiday puzzle. As we relish the holiday spirit, let's also capture the spirit of enterprise. Remember, the holiday season is not just a time for giving; it's a time for thriving.

FAQs:

How early should I start my holiday marketing campaigns?

At least two months in advance for optimal

engagement and planning.

Is it worth investing in holiday-themed website changes?

Absolutely, it enhances customer experience and gets them in the buying mood.

Do geo-targeted ads really make a difference?

Yes, they help you focus your resources on a more guaranteed customer base.

How can I track the success of my holiday marketing strategies?

Use analytics tools to monitor metrics like customer engagement, click-through rates, and overall sales.

Should I prioritize online marketing over in-store promotions?

A balanced approach is best. Online gets them in the door, in-store experience keeps them coming back.

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7 Key Cybersecurity Steps for Your Local Business

In the era of digital transformation, even a charming local business isn't immune from the complexities and dangers of the online world. Think of your local business as a bustling marketplace in the heart of a medieval town. While you welcome merchants and travelers (your customers), you also need to be wary of bandits and thieves (hackers and cybercriminals).

So, how do you keep your marketplace bustling yet secure? Let's journey together through seven indispensable steps for cybersecurity that your local business

absolutely cannot afford to overlook.

1. A Comprehensive Risk Assessment: Mapping the Terrain

Before venturing into the wilderness, wouldn't you first want a map that shows you where quicksand pits and dangerous cliffs are located? Similarly, the first move in cybersecurity is performing a comprehensive risk assessment.

We aim to spotlight vulnerabilities in the system, ranging from outdated software to weak passwords. It's the reconnaissance mission that lays the groundwork for every security measure to follow.

2. Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA): The Guard at the Gate

Imagine needing multiple keys to open a treasure chest. That's the essence of Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA). It requires you to provide two or more verification methods—a combination of something you know (password), something you have (a mobile device), and possibly

something you are (biometrics). It's like having a guard who asks for a password and a secret handshake; significantly harder to bypass.

3. Employee Training: The Citizens' Militia

Who's better suited to protect the marketplace than those who spend the most time there? Employee training turns your staff from potential security liabilities into your most valuable guardians.

We should impart them with the skills to identify phishing emails, avoid dubious downloads, and maintain strong unique passwords. A well-prepared team is your first line of defense, or in our analogy, a well-drilled citizens' militia.

4. Regular Software Updates: Sharpening Your Swords

If your swords are dull, your archers lack arrows, and your walls are crumbling, how can you expect to defend yourself effectively? Translating this to cybersecurity, outdated software is a glaring weakness. Regular updates

act like a blacksmith that keeps your armory in top shape, patching up vulnerabilities and improving functionality.

5. Data Encryption: Secret Codes and Ciphers

Would you shout your secrets across the marketplace for everyone to hear? We hope not. Encrypting your data translates your valuable information into a code, accessible only with a specific key. It ensures that even if your data gets into the wrong hands, it remains an indecipherable mess, as confusing to hackers as a coded message is to an enemy spy.

6. Utilizing Firewalls: The Town Wall

Firewalls are akin to the high walls and watchtowers that surround your medieval town. They scrutinize incoming and outgoing



traffic based on a set of predetermined rules, blocking or allowing data packets much like a city gate permits or denies entry.

It's not just a barrier but a selective filter that distinguishes between friend and foe.

7. Backing Up Data: The Hidden Treasury

Every good marketplace has a secret vault where the most precious commodities are stored for emergencies. In your cybersecurity landscape, this secret vault is a secure, regularly updated backup of your critical data. Should you suffer an attack and lose valuable data, this backup is your safety net, ensuring you can rebuild with minimal disruption.

Intrusion Detection Systems: The Night's Watch

Yes, we promised seven steps, but consider this a bonus. Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) serve as your watchmen who patrol the walls day and night. They alert you to any abnormal or suspicious activities in your network. It's akin to a hawk circling overhead,

CYBER INSURANCE



keenly watching for any irregular movements on the ground.

Cybersecurity Insurance: The Alliance with a Neighboring Kingdom

Another honorary mention, cybersecurity insurance acts as your safety net or your alliance with a neighboring kingdom. In the unfortunate event that you do suffer a cyberattack, this insurance can help you recover without devastating financial losses. It's not a substitute for good security, but it is a strong support net to have.

From Reactive to Proactive: The Evolving Battle

Cybersecurity is not a one-time setup but an ongoing strategy. In our medieval analogy, the marketplace continuously evolves, as do the strategies to plunder it. Staying ahead

requires a proactive rather than a reactive approach to security. Keep abreast of the latest cybersecurity trends and adapt your strategies accordingly.

Scale as You Grow: The Expanding Marketplace

As your business grows, your cybersecurity measures should scale proportionately. The larger the marketplace, the more gateways there are for potential bandits.

Regularly reevaluate your security measures to ensure they meet your growing needs.

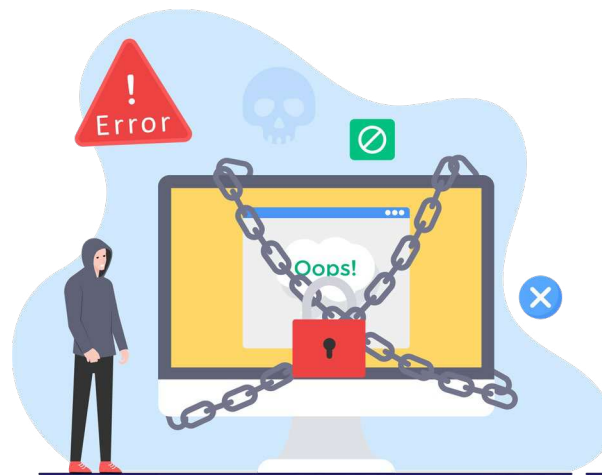
Cost vs. Value: The Price of Security

There's a cost associated with cybersecurity, but the value it provides far outweighs it. The loss from a single cyber attack can be devastating, both financially and reputationally. In contrast, investing in good

cybersecurity measures is akin to hiring a capable militia; it costs, but the peace of mind and safety are priceless.

Community Collaboration: Neighboring Marketplaces

Don't operate in isolation. Collaborate with other local businesses to share information about potential threats and effective defense measures. Together, you form a stronger line of defense against common enemies. It's as if several



neighboring towns banded together to fend off a marauding army.

A Flourishing and Secure Marketplace

So there we have it—a bustling, thriving marketplace that isn't just open for business but is also well-guarded against

nefarious activities. From employee training and regular software updates to more technical aspects like firewalls and encryption, each element contributes to a stronger, more secure digital environment.

Your local business doesn't have to be a fortress, but in the wild west that is today's digital landscape, it certainly pays to have strong walls. Remember, a well-protected business is a prosperous business. How secure is your marketplace?

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Effective research methods include:

- Surveys gathering demographic data, opinions, and preferences directly from customers.
- Focus groups with a wide range of participants to determine their needs and uncover diverse perspectives.
- Data analysis of market size and growth trends across different demographic segments.
- Social listening within community forums and influencer content targeting diverse audiences.

Understanding your customers will help you create relevant, thoughtful messages that connect.

Tip 2: Portray Authentic Diversity

Once you understand your diverse audiences, ensure your marketing portrayals reflect real people - not stereotypes.

Feature models, images, and stories that authentically showcase

diversity across age, race, gender, abilities, geography, family configurations and more.

Go beyond surface-level traits to represent true diversity of perspectives and lived experiences.

When featuring underrepresented groups:

- Involve them directly in campaign development and content creation.
- Compensate them fairly for their time and contributions.
- Depict them positively and accurately. Avoid tropes and assumptions.
- Feature them in everyday contexts, not just diversity-focused campaigns.

Diverse representation should extend across:

- Visual content - photos, videos, and illustrations.
- Written content - stories, testimonials, and quotes.
- Paid media - TV, digital, billboards, and posters.
- Owned platforms - website, social, and email.

Authenticity is key. Use marketing to showcase real people - not stereotypes.

Tip 3: Develop Relatable Content

In addition to diverse visuals, make your actual content relatable and representative of your audiences. When creating blogs, articles, videos, and other assets:

- Involve contributors from different backgrounds during creation.
- Cover topics and issues relevant to marginalized communities specifically.
- Adapt messaging appropriately for different cultural contexts.
- Directly address diverse needs and viewpoints.
- Link to content creators from underrepresented groups to provide helpful resources.

Additionally, use social media and your own platforms to give overlooked groups a voice - share real customer content.



Have “sensitivity readers” review your copy to identify potentially insensitive phrases you may have overlooked. Be open to their feedback so you can continually improve your communication.

When interviewing people for stories:

- Ask thoughtful questions to go deeper than surface traits. Avoid assumptions.
- Fairly compensate sources from marginalized groups for their time.
- Let individuals share experiences in their own words.
- Get consent before discussing sensitive topics.

Continuously gather insights from marginalized consumers on content they find useful. Let diverse perspectives directly inform your content strategy.

Tip 4: Use Inclusive Language

Language matters when connecting with diverse

audiences. Avoid broad generalizations and assumptions based on gender, race, age, abilities, or other characteristics. Don’t rely on stereotypes.

Specifically consider:

- Pronouns - include gender neutral options like “they/them”.
- Descriptors - steer clear of ableist, sexist, or racist terms.
- Comparisons - don’t contrast groups as “normal” vs. “other”.
- Addressing users - use inclusive greetings like “friends”, “folks”, and “everyone”.
- Imagery - be thoughtful with metaphors and analogies.
- Localization - adapt terminology appropriately for regions.

Tip 5: Make Your Marketing Accessible

An important component of inclusive marketing is accessibility - making sure marketing materials can be accessed by those with disabilities.

Follow guidelines for accessible design:

- Add alt text descriptions for visuals.
- Use captions and transcripts for audio/video.
- Ensure text has sufficient color contrast.
- Make sure text can be zoomed and resized.
- Structure content using header tags for screen readers.
- Accommodate screen readers and keyboard navigation.

For physical marketing materials:

- Provide braille or large print options.
- Choose venues with wheelchair access, ramps, and elevators.

Conduct user testing with people with disabilities to uncover potential barriers. Making your marketing accessible reaches more customers and it's simply the right thing to do.

Tip 6: Align Values in Campaigns

Avoid empty diversity rhetoric. Instead, identify specific values that genuinely align with your brand purpose and resonate across diverse groups. For example, if sustainability is a core value, showcase people of different backgrounds coming together for environmental causes. Or if innovation is central to your brand, highlight innovations from marginalized communities rather than relying on stereotypical representations of "innovators".

When taking a stand on social issues, ensure

they directly impact your customers and business operations. Avoid performative "virtue signaling" - actions should follow words. Back causes with investments in your own inclusive culture. Promote solidarity when speaking out on issues affecting marginalized groups.

Genuine customer relationships come from shared human values and experiences. Identify these heartfelt connections rather than blindly following trends.

Tip 7: Amplify Overlooked Voices

Look for opportunities in your marketing to give marginalized groups a platform.

On social media, share user-generated content from diverse customers rather than just pushing your own content. Partner with influencers from underrepresented groups and compensate them fairly. Interview marginalized communities for blog and video content - let them tell their stories directly.

Participate meaningfully in hashtags and conversations that uplift minority voices. Don't just jump in for attention. Consider sponsoring events or awards that provide visibility for overlooked groups.

Your marketing reach can powerfully amplify voices underrepresented in mainstream media. Use it responsibly.

Tip 8: Involve Diverse Perspectives

When creating marketing campaigns, make inclusivity a priority at every step:

- Collaborate with creators from diverse backgrounds. Compensate them fairly for contributing.
- Consult diversity experts on best practices.
- Have members of marginalized groups review your content to identify potential issues.
- Get feedback from diverse consumers during brainstorming sessions.
- Build ongoing partnerships with

creators from underrepresented groups. Compensate them for continual guidance.

Evaluate your marketing processes - do you integrate diversity throughout? If you find gaps where marginalized voices are lacking, fill them through strategic hiring and partnerships.

Tip 9: Commit to Internal Inclusion

Inclusive marketing should be coupled with an inclusive organizational culture.

- Audit your own workforce diversity and identify gaps, particularly in leadership roles. Set concrete goals to improve representation at all levels.
- Examine your hiring practices. Remove bias from job descriptions and requirements.
- Train and empower recruiters to actively seek out candidates from underrepresented groups. Develop diverse talent pipelines through internships and

mentorships as well.

- Foster an inclusive culture where all employees feel welcomed, valued, and heard. Solicit input directly from marginalized team members and act on their experiences.
- Address issues like pay equity proactively. Compensate employees fairly based on merit and eliminate discriminatory practices.

While not always visible to external audiences, championing an inclusive company culture helps to ensure your marketing resonates across diverse groups.

Tip 10: Continue Improving Inclusivity

See inclusion as an ongoing effort, not a one-time initiative. Take small, gradual steps to build inclusivity into your



marketing over time.

- Define specific goals and metrics to enhance diversity in your marketing. Track progress regularly. For instance, monitor click-through rates on emails and ads across various demographic audience segments. Comparing engagement across groups can reveal gaps indicating issues with inclusive messaging or accessibility.
- Stay up to date on cultural trends, conversations, and events relevant to marginalized communities. Refine your brand's messaging appropriately.



- Research audience diversity and perspectives.
- Portray authentic diversity through visuals and language.
- Develop relatable content that connects.
- Use inclusive language free from bias.
- Make marketing accessible for all abilities.
- Align campaigns to shared values.
- Amplify marginalized voices across platforms.

- Expand the diversity of your collaborators, partners, and teams. Identify where marginalized voices are absent and address those gaps.
- Get direct feedback from underrepresented customers. Listen empathetically. Adjust communications so that everyone feels represented in your brand's journey.
- Regularly educate your staff on how to create more inclusive messaging and campaigns.

With regular evaluation and commitment to change, your marketing will gradually become more inclusive.

Start Your Inclusive Marketing Journey

Creating truly inclusive marketing is an ongoing process, but if you care about reaching diverse audiences, it's worth it.

Hopefully these tips provide a helpful starting point.

To summarize the key points:

- Involve diverse collaborators throughout.
- Foster an inclusive company culture.
- Continuously track and refine your efforts.

By following these suggestions, you can make your brand's marketing more inclusive and connect with a broader audience. Crucially, stick with it. In the long run, your perseverance is going to pay off with deeper customer relationships.

The Importance of Having a Strong Online Presence for Your Local Business



In an age dominated by the endless scrolling of social media feeds and the incessant clicking of e-commerce sites, one may ask: how important is it for a local business to establish a strong online presence? Well, imagine the internet as a bustling metropolis and your online presence as your real estate within that city.

Would you choose a dimly lit alley or a prime, sunlit avenue to set up shop? With the right approach, we can help your local business move from the outskirts to the heart of this digital city.

The Digital Age: Where Commerce Meets the Keyboard

First, let's get some perspective. In a world increasingly governed by online transactions, resisting the digital wave is akin to swimming against the tide—it's exhausting and gets you nowhere. Just as a well-placed brick-and-mortar store was vital in the pre-internet era, having a robust online platform is crucial now. How many times have you heard someone say, "I found this place online?" Exactly, too many to count.

Creating a User-Friendly Website: Your Digital Storefront

Picture this: a website so clunky and confusing, navigating it feels like walking through a labyrinth. Would you stay? Neither would we. Your website is the digital face of your business, and it should be as welcoming as a warm,

inviting storefront. A user-friendly interface and an attractive design can convert passing clicks into committed customers.

Social Media: The Word-of-Mouth of the 21st Century

Still wondering if social media is worth your time? Think of it as the modern-day water cooler where people gather to discuss their latest finds. Platforms like Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook allow businesses to engage directly with their consumer base, something traditional advertising channels never offered. Ever shared a great post and ended up becoming an unpaid brand ambassador? Well, that's the viral effect we're aiming for.

Search Engine Optimization (SEO): No Longer an Option but a Necessity

Let's face it; no one goes to the second page of Google search results unless they're desperate. And we don't want your business to be a last resort.

Investing in SEO ensures your enterprise ranks higher in search queries, essentially acting as a

digital billboard. Imagine being front and center in a consumer's quest for a local business. Feels good, doesn't it?

Online Reviews: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

In today's digital landscape, online reviews hold a similar weight to personal recommendations. One might say, a five-star review is the 21st-century thumbs-up. Negative reviews, while inevitable, also serve a purpose. They offer constructive criticism and present an opportunity to showcase excellent customer service. Ever turned a frown upside down? That's the power of a well-handled negative review.

E-commerce: The New Frontier of Local Business

If we liken the internet to a sprawling digital metropolis, then e-commerce is its booming bazaar. Offering your products online opens doors to markets you never thought possible. Why limit your customer base to locals when you can have a global reach? If your

products are as good as you say, why not let the world be your stage?

Digital Marketing: More Bang for Your Buck

Billboards and TV ads, while effective, are costly and don't offer guaranteed engagement. Digital marketing strategies, however, can be tailored to your target audience, ensuring more efficient use of resources. Why shout in a crowded room when you can have a direct conversation?

Data Analytics: Knowledge is Power

The online landscape is more than just a marketing platform; it's a treasure trove of data. With proper analytics tools, we can gain insights into consumer behavior, preferences, and even future trends. Ever felt like you could read someone's mind? With analytics, it's almost like we can.

The Community Aspect: Building Relationships Beyond Transactions

People love to support businesses they feel

connected to. Social media provides an avenue to not just advertise but engage.

Run polls, share behind-the-scenes content, or celebrate milestones with your online community. Businesses are no longer faceless entities; they are personalities consumers can connect with.

In conclusion, we cannot stress enough the pivotal role that a robust online presence plays in the modern business landscape. It's your virtual storefront, your digital billboard, and your public persona, all rolled into one.

As we navigate the intricate avenues of the internet, let's make sure your local business isn't just another building but a landmark in the digital city.

FAQs:

Is it expensive to establish an online presence for a local business?

While costs can vary, many affordable options exist for creating websites and running social media campaigns.

Do I need to be tech-savvy to manage an online presence?

Basic tech skills are helpful, but various user-friendly platforms and professional services can assist you.

How important is SEO for a local business?

Extremely. Good SEO practices improve your visibility and can place you ahead of competitors in search engine results.

Can negative reviews harm my online presence?

If not properly managed, yes. However, transparently addressing negative feedback can improve your reputation.

Should I consider e-commerce even if my local business is small?

Absolutely. E-commerce can extend your reach far beyond local confines, opening doors to larger markets.

As we round off, let's reiterate: the digital landscape is not a mere trend; it's the future. Are you ready to claim your prime real estate in the digital metropolis?

MARKETING SHOULDN'T BE SCARY!



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How to Build a Small Business Email List People Actually Want to Be On

If your small business isn't leveraging email marketing, you're missing out on huge marketing potential. Building a list of engaged subscribers who want to hear from you allows for personalized, conversion-focused communication. It can have a major impact on your business.

But simply amassing a huge list through intrusive tactics won't cut it. Generic giveaways or overly aggressive popups

may snag more email subscriptions, but those subscribers likely won't convert or engage deeply since they didn't opt-in out of true interest in your business.

The key is focusing on quality over quantity - nurturing an audience that enjoys your emails. It requires more effort upfront, but the payoff of loyal, invested subscribers is massive.

Here are 10 proven ways

to attract and retain high-value subscribers.

Develop Compelling Lead Magnets

Lead magnets refer to free content offers like eBooks, toolkits, or webinars that people trade their email to access. Rather than giving everything away openly, you "gate" it behind a signup.

The key is creating lead magnets tailored specifically to your

audience - like a market trends report or insider tips relevant to their work. Avoid generic eBooks anyone can get elsewhere. Ensure your gated assets provide unique value that gets subscribers excited to sign up.

Invest time honing useful lead magnets that save customers time or money - topically relevant resources designed professionally perform best. Promote giveaways prominently across your website and social channels to drive signups.

Promote Giveaways and Contests

Giveaways build buzz and encourage people to share details like their email. But like lead magnets, generic prizes don't work well - tailor them to your audience. Give away gift cards to popular local restaurants or specialized equipment your customers use.

Promote contests across all marketing channels - website banners, email outreach, and social media. Create fun themes around holidays or industry happenings your audience cares about. Use eye-catching graphics and

copy to attract entrants. Paid ads will expand your contest reach, and referral bonuses can incentivize existing contacts to spread the word. The more you promote through multiple channels in a targeted way aligned with your audience, the more contest entries you'll get.

Optimize Website Popups

While annoying if overdone, popups can work well when used thoughtfully. Only display them once visitors have spent time engaging with your content. This shows greater existing interest before asking for a signup.

Offer an exclusive lead magnet not found elsewhere on your site, like special content or savings. Use testing to optimize timing and placement for higher conversion rates. Balance clear value and careful timing to make popups feel helpful, not intrusive.

Remove Subscriber Tracking Tags

Here's a clever tactic most overlook - when exporting your email list, remove tags or other identifiers of how subscribers

found you originally. This prevents sending hyper-personalized messages focused only on how they found you. The email feels more like a standard newsletter than a personalized sales pitch.

While personalization is usually beneficial, this technique makes communication seem less promotional - it helps build more general audience engagement across the board. You can still personalize effectively without subscriber origin data by segmenting based on broader profiles and interests, tracking ongoing engagement patterns, and surveying for preferences.

Curate Relevant Third-Party Content

Build goodwill by curating articles, videos, podcasts and other content created by industry leaders your audience would enjoy. Present it in a newsletter that they need to subscribe to in order to access.

You become a trusted content hub for topics subscribers already care about, instead of just pushing your own messaging and offers. In turn, providing this value

as a content curator earns their attention for relevant offers included alongside curated pieces.

Gate Content Behind Email Signup

Have premium content like specialized eBooks or video courses available only to email subscribers. For example, lock certain website sections or content upgrades behind a signup gate.

Since accessing the exclusive content requires their email, you gain insights on subscriber interests to inform follow-up communication. Just ensure the gated assets provide real value so prospects will be willing to exchange their email to unlock them.

Run Retargeting Ad Campaigns

Use retargeting ads to reconnect with past website visitors as they browse elsewhere online. The familiarity of seeing your brand again draws them back to your site.

Upon returning, use on-site promotions and email signup forms to convert

them into subscribers. Past visitors who've shown interest make great candidates when you can effectively re-engage them.

Strategically Leverage Social Media

Promote lead magnets and contests on social channels. Use built-in lead generation features like Facebook's Lead Ads that request emails right in the ad unit.

Ask followers across networks to join your list for first access to new content and insider updates. Repurpose popular social posts in email newsletters to increase their exposure.

Offer Email-Only Discounts

Provide promotional savings like 20 percent off or early access to sales exclusively for your email subscribers. Special offers just for being on your list incentivize signups.

It also builds loyalty with current subscribers who feel rewarded for opening your emails. Exclusive discounts make every

message more worthwhile and engaging.

Continually Test and Optimize

Never get complacent with just one tactic. Try different approaches, tracking growth rates and engagement. Then double down on what converts best.

Test email placement, copy, content offers, and more. Send different lead magnets to different segments to identify favorites. Regular testing and optimization is key for list growth.

Small Business Email List Growth: Playing the Long Game

While there are many potential tactics for building an email list, avoid broad one-size-fits-all strategies. Take the time to tailor a subscriber growth plan specific to your brand and target audience.

With consistent optimization, you'll build a list of loyal subscribers who genuinely look forward to your email messages.



FUN FACTS

October is the tenth month in the Gregorian calendar, received its name from the Latin numeral octo meaning “eight”, because in the original Roman calendar it was the eighth month.

October Milestones:

- October 1st 1971 - Walt Disney World opened near Orlando, Florida.
- October 4th 1957 - The USSR launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite to orbit the Earth
- October 5th, 1962 - The Beatles' first single, Love Me Do backed with P.S. I Love You, is released in the United Kingdom
- October 10th, 1971 - Sold, dismantled and moved to the United States, London Bridge reopened in Lake Havasu City, Arizona
- October 14th 1926 - Winnie the Pooh, by A. A. Milne, was first published.
- October 22nd 1966 – The Supremes become the first all-female music group to attain a No. 1 selling album: The Supremes A'Go-Go
- October 30th 1938 – Orson Welles broadcast his radio play of H. G. Wells's The War of the Worlds

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2023 Holiday Planning Guide

When Consumers Start Their Holiday Shopping



Before
September



September



October



November
before Black
Friday



On Black
Friday / Cyber
Monday



After
Black
Friday

Top Online Destinations for Holiday Shopping

95% Amazon 68% Retailer Website 65% Walmart
35% Google 62% Target

56%

of consumers plan to
do most of their holiday
shopping **online**



33%

of consumers plan to
do most of their holiday
shopping **in-person**

Top Factors Influencing Consumer Gift Purchases This Holiday Season

83%

Price/Discounts

76%

Product Reviews

65%

Shipping Costs

61%

Brand Familiarity

60%

Recommendations

60%

Trust in
the Brand

59%

Shipping
Speed

52%

Refund &
Returns Policy

A man with glasses and a beard, wearing a dark blue shirt, and a woman with dark hair, wearing a red shirt and a white apron, are smiling at the camera. They are standing behind a wooden counter in what appears to be a cafe or bakery. On the counter, there are several pastries, including a croissant and muffins, and a tablet computer is propped up on the right. In the background, there are shelves with various items, including mugs and containers.

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