Strategies for Effective Social Media Use





May 22, 2020

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Overview

About Me
Digital Marketing in Brief
Local Profiles
Social Media

- Strategies
- Plan/Calendar Content
- Scheduling
- Frequency
- Engagement

About Me



Jen McFarland, MPA

10+ years graphic design, web design, marketing10+ years project managementCo-created Prosper Portland's Small BusinessDigital Marketing ProgramSpeaker and Trainer



What is digital marketing?

Digital marketing is any form of marketing products or services that involves electronic devices.

Digital marketing can be done both online and offline.

- Neil Patel

And...

The most **human** company wins.

Mark Schaefer, author, Marketing Rebellion



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3 And Then...

PR
Landing pages
Blogs
Paid search
Paid social media
Social media

Email marketing
Customer list
Ecommerce
Website
Photos & videos
Referrals & word-of-mouth

2 Business Builders

1 Strong Foundation



Payments & point-of-sale Business software Email / Productivity software Domain name Name, address & phone Revenues & goals

Digital marketing readiness, planning & budgeting





Social Media

Easy, appealing; and, manage your time among all top channels

Top 4 Local Channels:

- 1. Search Engine Optimization
 - 2. Content
 - 3. Email Marketing
 - 4. Social Media

Don't be distracted

... by the noise telling you to put <u>all</u> your eggs in the social media basket.

Use a balanced approach (website + email marketing + social media)

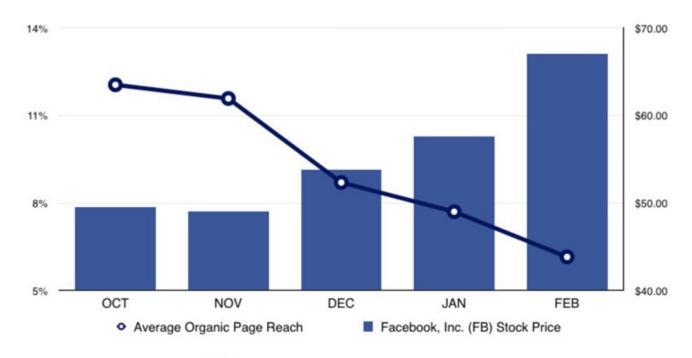
In-person connections and events still outweigh social media





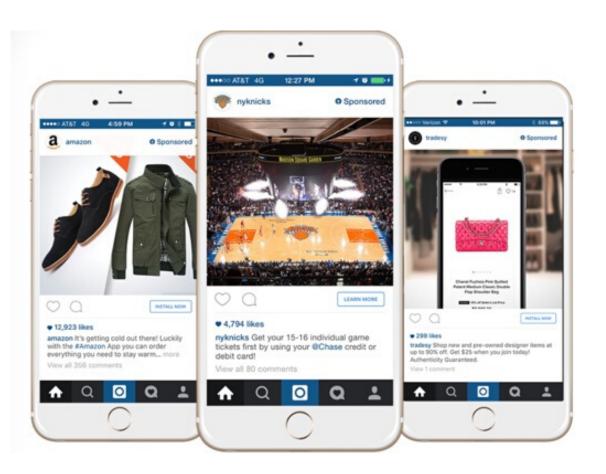
Big tech companies are basically landlords

Landlords Can Raise The Rent At Any Time



https://www.convinceandconvert.com/social-media-tools/this-chart-explains-the-reachpocalypse-and-why-facebook-is-laughing-all-the-way-to-the-bank/





Even the up-and-coming neighborhood may soon be out of reach

Why Social Media is Important

Connects your referrals, word of mouth, and paid advertising

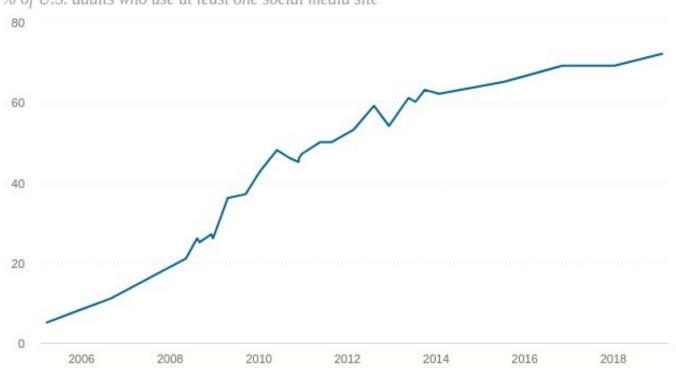
It's a support system, which, when integrated with your overall message, reinforces your other efforts

And...



72% of US Adults Use Social Media

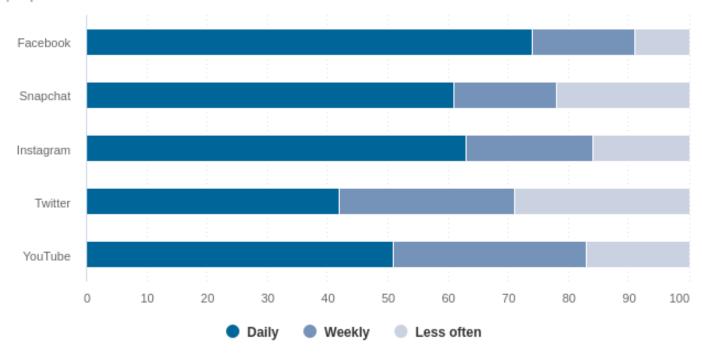




https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/social-media/ (Source: Pew Research, Surveys 2005-2019)

But People Aren't Always Connected

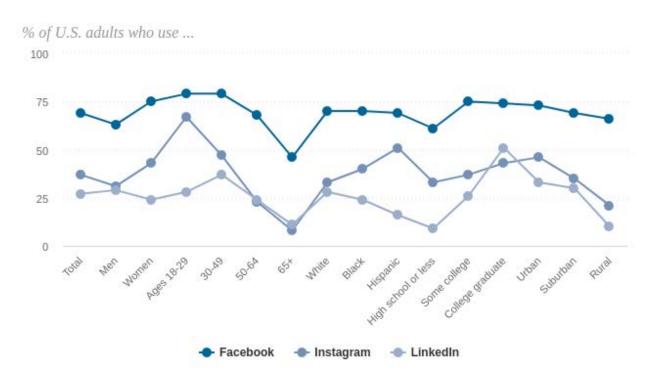
Among the users of each social media site, the % who use that site with the following frequencies



https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/social-media/ (Source: Pew Research, Surveys 2019)

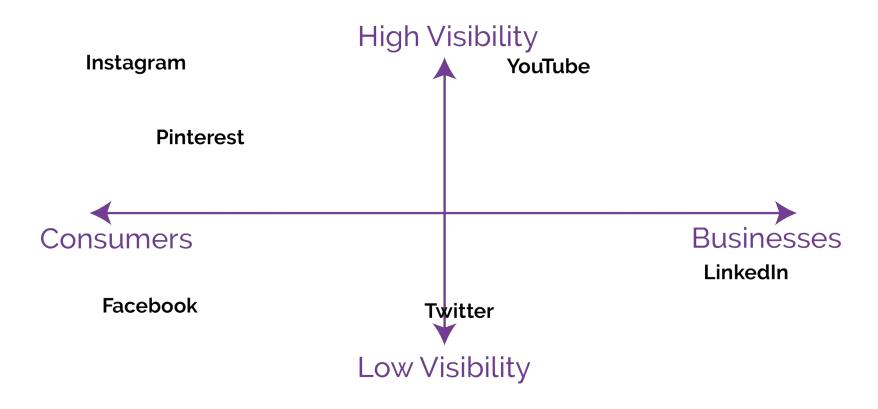
And Not Everyone Uses Social Equally

% of U.S. adults who use each social media platform

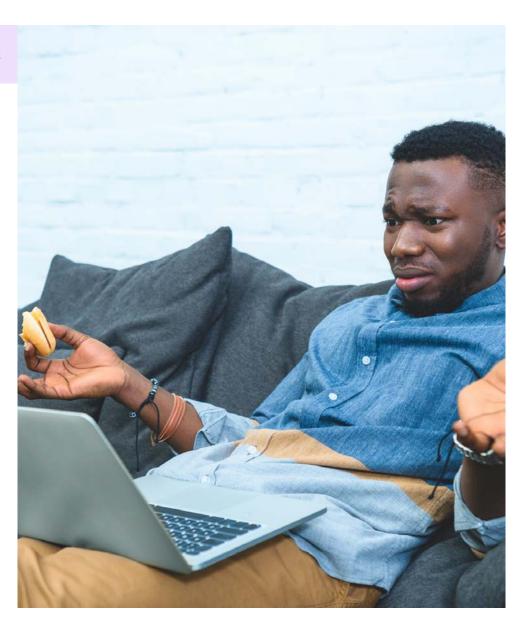


https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/social-media/ (Source: Pew Research, Surveys 2019)

Picking The Best Social Platform(s)



Uh...



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Social Media is easier when...

You know more about who you want to reach and where they like to hang out (hint: be there!)

Ask (and listen) to your colleagues, customers, people you engage with now

Social media is an extension of your other marketing and customer service efforts



High-Level Strategy



Claim profiles on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, and Pinterest

Pick 1-2 active platforms (and send everyone there)

Plan your content

Use tags and hashtags

Schedule posts

Spend no more than 30 min/day engaging and responding

Strategy #1: Claim Profiles

Claim Social Profiles

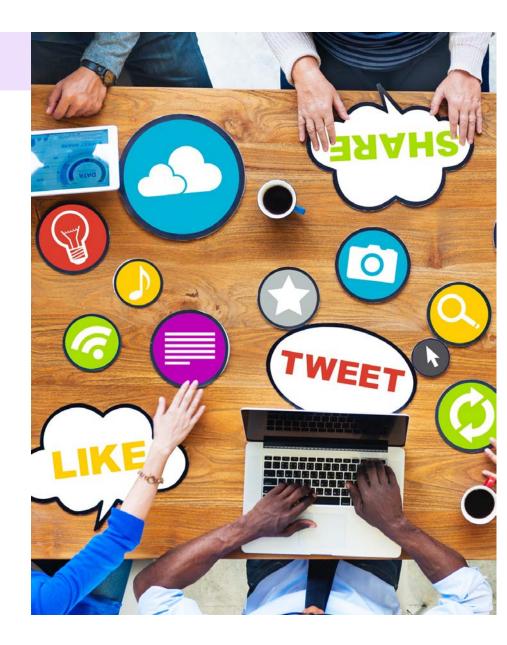
Even the profiles you won't use

Claim your organization's profiles on these top social media platforms:

- Facebook (business page)
- Instagram (business profile)
- LinkedIn (company profile)
- Twitter
- YouTube
- Pinterest (business)

Why this is important

You get to add website URL, contact info, and a message about where they can find you on social.



Your Time is Valuable

Pick 1-2 social media accounts where you will be active (use the statistics we went over earlier to help guide your decision)

Do not overwhelm yourself (or your organization) by actively using more than 2 social media accounts



Strategy # 2: Claim Essential Local Profiles

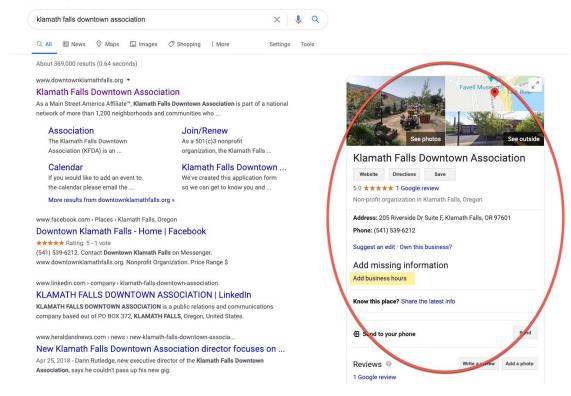
Not "social media" per se, these profiles help to elevate your organization

Google My Business

Modern-day phone book (free) https://www.google.com/business/

Google Maps Searches
Google's Local 3-Pack
Earn Trust
Star Ratings Boost Your Appeal
Increase Traffic
Learn More About Your Organization
Rank Higher in Results
Increase Engagement
Free Google Advertising

(source: ThriveHive, Benefits of a Google My Business Listing)



Spread Word-of-Mouth

Marketing Kit with Google (Free) https://marketingkit.withgoogle.com/

If you have a Google My Business Profile, this free tool helps you spread word-of-mouth with offline collateral.

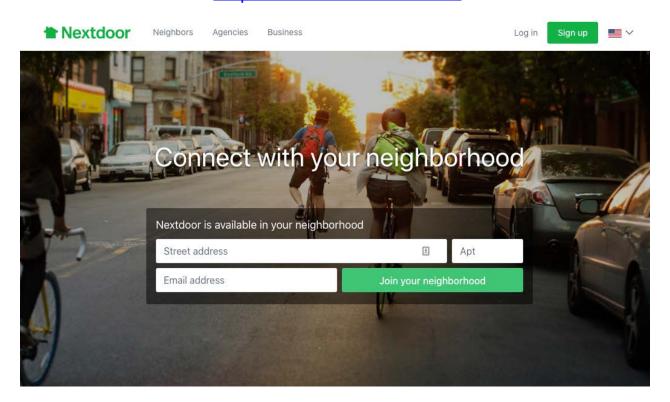






Nextdoor

What are people talking about in my neighborhood? (free) https://nextdoor.com/

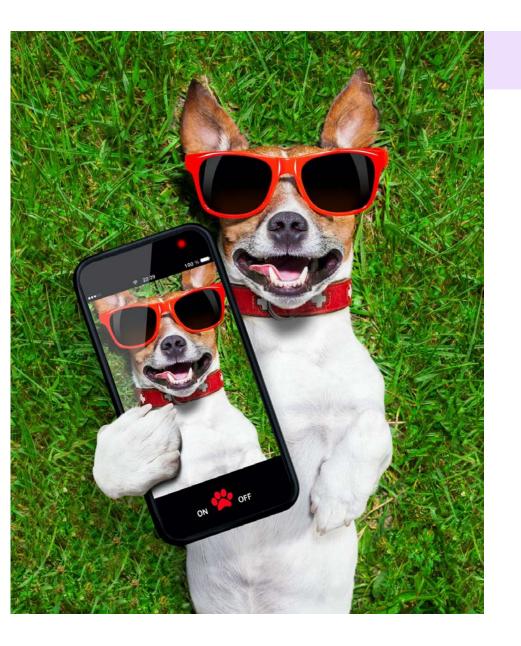


Strategy #3: Plan/Calendar Content

Saves time

Reinforces your overall goals

Gives you something to schedule



Content Types

Mix up your posts (owned and earned) to extend your reach

Owned Media (content you create)

Blog posts, videos, customer stories, testimonials, events, podcasts, retail/ecommerce

Earned Media

Shares, mentions, reposts, reviews

Paid Media (advertising)

Owned Media

Decide what your organization **likes to create** (blog, video, podcast, etc.) and do it over and over

Don't stress yourself out trying to do it all **(consistency > trends)**

Customers can write the content for you (e.g., testimonials)



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Strategy #4: Develop Goals

Make a list of the **most important topics** you want (and need) to share

Businesses and organizations usually have an **annual cycle** — use what you know to plan out your messaging throughout the year

Social media is a great place to answer common questions

You are the expert — don't assume we know what you do





Strategy #5: Content Planning

Now that you have your goals and topics

Calendar it out based on time and timing

How much time does your organization have to plan and post consistently? (Be honest & reasonable.)

Timing: e.g., start posting about events at least a month out (generate excitement by talking about behind-the-scenes info)





Overall Topic for the Month

Social Media Marketing

Week 1 Related Topic

What is SMM

M; Video: what is SMM?
T: SM quote: Neil Patel
W: Favorite posting apps
Th: How to get started
F: Why use hashtags
S: Read Marketing Rebellion
S: Hammock time

Week 3 Related Topic

Planning Content

Week 2 Related Topic

Find Your Platform

Week 4 Related Topic

Engagement

Sample Content Plan

12 broad categories (1/month)
4 subcategories (1/week)

Monday: blog/video intro to topic (high value)

Tuesday: quote related to topic

Wednesday: share a resource (app/recipe)

Thursday: how-to to address questions

Friday: speak to common questions

Saturday: inspirational content

Sunday: wild card (non-biz)

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Social Media Hot Tips

Quality over quantity (you do not have to post every day)

Be consistent (set expectations and stick to it)

Cross-posting is fine (e.g., auto-post from Instagram to Facebook)

Don't be afraid to brag ... but don't make it all about yourself



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Strategy #6: Enhance Your Social Posts

Tagging & Hashtag Basics



Facebook:



Instagram:



Tagging Basics

When you're sharing earned media (not created by your organization) make sure to tag the person, organization, business, etc., you're highlighting.

How to tag someone:

Type @

Followed by the social media handle

Example: @womenconquerbiz would tag my business

Why this is important: You are more likely to get shares and engagement if someone knows they are being highlighted.

Hashtag Basics

Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter all accept hashtags. People can follow specific hashtags (e.g., #Portland) related to specific topics.

This may help your post get found online, but there are no guarantees of being seen, with or without hashtags.

- Twitter: up to 3 hashtags get the most engagement
- Instagram: up to 30 hashtags, but ~9 works best
- Facebook: 1-2 hashtags get the most engagement
- LinkedIn: no more than 5 hashtags



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Strategy #7: Schedule Your Posts

Use your calendar and plug it into your scheduler

Recommended scheduling apps:

Later: https://later.com/

(Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest)

Free Plan: 1 profile/social platform, 30 posts/mo./ social platform Plus Account: \$9/mo. – 100 scheduled posts

Buffer: https://buffer.com/

(Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, Pinterest)

Free Plan: 3 social accounts total, 10 posts/mo.

Pro Account: \$15/mo. – 100 scheduled posts



Social Media Frequency

Varies by Platform **Quality and Consistency Outweighs Frequency**

Facebook:

Suggested: 1x/day Low: 3x/week High: 2x/day

Instagram:

Suggested: 1-2x/day
Low: 1x/day
High: 3x/day

LinkedIn:

Suggested: 1x/day Low: 2x/week High: 1x/day

Twitter:

Suggested: 15x/day Low: 3x/day High: 30x/day



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Strategy #8: Engagement

Respond to comments for 15 minutes in the morning and 15 minutes in the afternoon/evening





Social Media Closing Thoughts

You don't own your followers

Social media platforms are becoming pay-to-play

Social media is not a transactional channel

Social media platforms come-and-go (MySpace, anyone?)

Prioritize your time based on where your customers are







Thank you!

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