

**Website eMarketing Checklist  
by eBusiness Connections**

**60 Items**



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## **What is Internet Marketing?**

Internet marketing is the component of marketing that deals with the planning, pricing, promotion, and distribution of your products and services online. Good Internet marketing strategies clearly communicate a firm's unique selling proposition, or the unique collection of benefits that creates value for its customers.

Everything you do to promote your business online is Internet marketing. For example, Internet marketing strategies include (but are not limited to) website design and content, search engine optimization, directory submissions, reciprocal linking strategies, online advertising, and email marketing.

## **Three Steps to Success**

Successful marketing on the Internet is not just about advertising your website in Google or buying banner ads on other websites. Without a quality product or service and a well developed website, a banner ad, for example, would do you little good.

To succeed online, you must develop a comprehensive plan that includes the following:

1. A solid business model and great products or services
2. An effectively designed website with sales as an objective
3. An online marketing strategy that suits your audience and fits your budget

**Before You Begin**

**Describe Your Business.**   
This provides background information on your company. Key questions include how and why was the organization started?; who are the players on your management team?; what products and services do you provide?; and what solutions, benefits and features do you offer?

**Identify Your Buyers.**   
Who are they? What activities do they do online? Identifying your audience and their needs enables you to determine how best you can reach them online, thereby getting the most for your marketing dollar.

**Market Research.**   
This analyzes the industry in which are Questions include: how large is your industry your industry growing or contracting and leading competitors in your industry?

**Prepare Your Budget.**   
How much should you spend and, more importantly, how much do you have to spend? The amount you budget towards Internet marketing will depend on how integral the Internet is to your business success. Prioritize your needs based on your budget, projecting into the future and growing your plan as your revenues grow.

**Finalize Your Internet Marketing Plan.**   
Your completed Internet marketing strategy should address:

- What Internet marketing techniques you will use?
- How you will implement each technique?
- What kinds of resources you will require?
- How long you anticipate testing each technique?
- What you hope to achieve?
- How you will mitigate problems that may arise?
- How you will evaluate your progress and measure success?

**Your Ability to Support and Maintain Your Plan.**   
Consider only implementing strategies you can handle. It is possible to do more damage than good to your business if you implement techniques for which you do not have the business processes or budget in place to support.



## **Page & Site Construction**

### **Keyword in URL**

Put your keywords in order, with the first being the most important. Use keyword resources to research and target the best ones for your business. Avoid keyword dilution.

### **Keyword in domain name**

Use the same keywords that you use on your page and filenames for your domain name. Use hyphens to separate them.

### **Keyword in title tag**

The best position is close to the beginning of the Title tag. Limit the length to between 10 and 60 characters, and do not use special characters.

### **Keyword in description meta tag**

Maximum length is 200 characters. Google no longer relies upon this tag, but frequently uses it.

### **Keyword density in body text**

Keywords *should* make up approximately 5 - 20% all keywords. More than 20% of the total words will be considered spamming.

### **Keyword in H1, H2 and H3**

Keywords *should* be placed within the first 3 heading tags in the content of the page.

### **Keyword prominence**

Google will expect to see the most important keywords at the top of the page. The rational being that the information of importance is what is talked of first.

### **Keyword in alt text**

Although it is tempting to fill alt text with keywords the purpose of the alt tag is to describe the graphic. This is a usability issue and although indexed by the search engines it may also be counter productive to the success of your website with humans.

### **File Size**

Absolutely do not exceed 100K page size. Small files are preferred. This is also a usability issue as a smaller file size translates into faster page download speeds and therefore renders the site more useable.

### **Site Size**

Google likes big sites. The larger sites are presumed to be better funded, better organized, better constructed, and therefore better sites.

**Hyphens in URL**

The preferred method for indicating a space is a hyphen. Spaces in file names, folder names and domain names (all making up the URL/URI) are not permitted although %20 can be used. One or two hyphens are excellent for separating keywords. Four or more hyphens are bad as the page is suspect as spam and therefore demotion is probable.

**Freshness of Pages**

This is a Google patent and concerns the changes to page content over time. Google sees newer content as better content especially if the site 'theme' is news, retail or auction.

**Text NOT presented in graphic form only**

A huge negative effect on your rankings is to have No ACTUAL body text on the page. Text represented graphically is invisible to search engines and will result in a decline in the effectiveness of other optimization efforts.

**Text Links**

Search engines cannot read links on javascript buttons, javascript drop-down menus, image maps or Flash. This will, undoubtedly, change, but part of your job is to make things as easy as possible for the search engine robots that are examining your site. It's not up to them to figure your site out. It's up to you. So ALL the site must be connected by text links, if you care at all about being found in the search engines. This can be done by having a text-linked sitemap. Another tactic is to have your navigation repeated at the bottom of the page through simple text links.

## ***Search Engine Submission***

### **Site listed in DMOZ Directory**

This is a huge boost as it is said that Google's directory comes straight from the DMOZ directory. The DMOZ is commonly known as the Open Directory Project (<http://dmoz.org/>) and it has strict guidelines as to who is listed. Submission info can be found here: <http://dmoz.org/add.html>

### **Site listed in LookSmart Directory \***

A further surprise is the benefit of listing your site in the LookSmart directory (<http://search.looksmart.com/>) although this may be expensive. There has been no conclusive causation between the expense of advertising on LookSmart and the success of rankings on Google. Advertiser info can be found here: <http://aboutus.looksmart.com/p/aboutus/advertise/>

### **ROR SiteMap**

ROR (Resources of a Resource) is a rapidly growing independant XML format for describing any object of your content in a generic fashion, so any search engine can better understand that content. RORweb.com is the official ROR website.

ROR was created before Goolge Sitemaps, as a way to describe website information for the search engines. ROR is much more than Google Sitemaps, it does not only help describe your sitemap, but also products, services, feeds, articles, reviews, archives, and much more bjects. Also, ROR Sitemaps are automatically readable by all search engines, including Google.

<http://www.rorweb.com/rormap.htm>

### **Pages Submitted to Google**

Please enter your full URL, including the <http://> prefix. For example: <http://www.google.com/>. You may also add comments or keywords that describe the content of your page. These are used only for our information and do not affect how your page is indexed or used by Google.

<http://www.google.ca/addurl/?continue=/addurl>

### **Google SiteMap Created**

Google Sitemaps is an easy way for you to submit all your URLs to the Google index and get detailed reports about the visibility of your pages on Google. With Google Sitemaps you can automatically keep us informed of all your web pages, and when you make changes to these pages to help improve your coverage in the Google crawl.

<http://www.google.com/webmasters/sitemaps>

### **Create a Google Account**

To create a Google Account, go to

**<http://www.google.com/accounts/NewAccount>**, enter your current email address and choose a password. Once you've finished registering, you'll receive a verification email. Clicking the link in that email will complete the account creation process.

### **Submit Your Google Sitemap**

These steps describe how to add a Sitemap that contains URLs for non-mobile content (this includes most web sites).

1. Upload your Sitemap to your site in the highest level directory you want search engines to crawl, generally the root. If you list URLs in your Sitemap that are at a higher level than your Sitemap location, Google will be unable to include those URLs as part of the Sitemap submission.
2. Sign into Google Sitemaps with your Google Account.  
**<https://www.google.com/webmasters/sitemaps>**
3. Click the Add tab. Note that if you haven't added anything to your account, the Add page opens when you log in.
4. Choose the General Web Sitemap option and click Next.
5. Type the URL to your Sitemap location in the provided field. Make sure you include the entire URL, such as **<http://www.example.com/sitemap.xml>**.
6. Click Add Web Sitemap.

Google ensures the URL is reachable and displays the Site Overview page. This page lists the sites you've added to your account. When you add a Sitemap, we add the corresponding site to your account. From the Site Overview page, you can see the number of Sitemaps you've added for each site and if any of them have errors.

### **Google Adwords**

Reach people when they are actively looking for information about your products and services online, and send targeted visitors directly to what you are offering. With AdWords cost-per-click pricing, it's easy to control costs—and you only pay when people click on your ad.

**<https://adwords.google.com/select/>**

### **Google AdSense**

Earn more revenue from your website, while providing visitors with a more rewarding online experience. Google AdSense™ automatically delivers text and image ads that are precisely targeted to your site and your site content—ads so well-matched, in fact, that your readers will actually find them useful.

**<https://www.google.com/adsense/>**

**Yahoo Submit – Free Option**

The goal of Yahoo! Search is to discover and index all of the content available on the web to provide the best possible search experience to users. The Yahoo! Search index, which contains several billion web pages, is more than 99% populated through the free crawl process.

<http://submit.search.yahoo.com/free/request>

**Yahoo Submit – Paid Option**

Yahoo! also offers several ways for content providers to submit web pages and content directly to the Yahoo! Search index and the Yahoo! Directory

<http://searchmarketing.yahoo.com/srchsb/sse.php?mkt=us>

**Site listed in Yahoo Directory**

Surprisingly, this is also a big boost to being found on Google. You can get listed by paying \$299 each year. Submission info can be found here:

<https://ecom.yahoo.com/dir/submit/intro/>

**MSN Submit**

Submit every page of your site to the MSN Search

<http://beta.search.msn.com/docs/submit.aspx>

**Add Me – Free Submission**

Your site will be submitted to the following search engines: focusLook, Burf, Subjex, Alexa, Scrub The Web, Google, LookSeek, Jayde, InfoTiger, NerdWorld, Aeiwi, Walhello, LifeTips, ExactSeek, and EntireWeb

<http://tools.addme.com/servlet/s0new>

**Lycos InSite**

Smart search marketing from Lycos. **This is a paid service.** Grow your business immediately with highly targeted traffic, along with versatile campaign management and optimization tools. Drive low-cost, high quality search traffic to your website. Optimize your search campaigns at leading engines (Lycos, HotBot, Google, and others) and make the most of your search engine marketing investment.

<http://insite.lycos.com/>

**Microsoft bCentral's Submit It!**

Search Engine Submission, Keyword Research, Optimization Analysis, Rank Checking, & Link Popularity all in one easy to use system. **This is a paid service** Submit It! is a serious tool that enables you to understand and manage the entire search engine optimization process, so you can achieve lasting results.

<http://www.submit-it.com/>

**Scrub the Web**

You may submit only one URL per email address per day. An email confirmation will be sent to the email address you enter. If this confirmation email is not deliverable the submission will be denied. Your email address will not be used for any other purpose other than this confirmation email

<http://www.scrubtheweb.com/addurl.html>

**Offline Support**

Never underestimate the value of using low-cost, offline marketing techniques to encourage people to visit your website. Ensure your website address is clearly listed on all of your marketing materials – that is, your business card, brochure, published articles, print advertisements, sandwich boards, your vehicle (if you use it for business), and so on.

- Email Signature**  
The email signature is the message that can automatically appear at the bottom of every email you send.
- URL on Business Cards**
- URL on Promotional & Print Advertising**
- URL on Storefront and Building Signage**
- URL on Vehicles**
- URL on Company Logo**  
If appropriate

## **Other Methods**

### **Email Marketing**

Permission-based email marketing can be a low-cost and very effective component of your web marketing strategy. It can help to build a relationship between your business and target market, and can drive traffic back to your website. Email marketing can consist of direct email blasts and sales letters, personalized auto-responders, and/or email newsletters.

### **Viral Marketing**

Viral marketing and viral advertising refer to marketing techniques that seek to exploit pre-existing social networks to produce exponential increases in brand awareness, through viral processes similar to the spread of an epidemic. It is word-of-mouth delivered and enhanced online; it harnesses the network effect of the Internet and can be very useful in reaching a large number of people rapidly.

### **Banner Ads**

Graphical banner advertisements, pop-ups and text based ads are online ads that are placed on third-party websites that link back to your website. The ads are designed to encourage users to click through to your site to learn more and, ultimately, to buy. These ads can be set up for a fee – pay-per-click, pay-per-lead, pay-per-sale – or they can be part of a reciprocal ad exchange with an online “partner,” where you place your partner’s ad on your website in exchange for your partner doing the same.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Party Publishing**

Another, often overlooked, but cost-saving method of marketing your business online is by publishing editorials in third-party e-zines, e-newsletters and on information-based websites. Just as editorials in offline media can help position you as an expert in your field and drive readers to your website, providing articles written (or ghost-written) by you to targeted online media can also drive traffic to your website, often with no out-of-pocket expense. Just remember to include a short biography that outlines what you do and a link to your website at the bottom of each article you publish.

### **Affiliate/Referral Programs**

Affiliate programs, also known as referral programs or partnership programs, involve the use of affiliates to help market a website's products and services in return for a payment for each sale, lead, action, or visitor generated. Amazon.com has created one of the most sophisticated and successful affiliate programs on the Internet – a program that has no doubt contributed to their high level of brand recognition online, and the significant traffic and resulting revenue their site generates.

**Blogging**

A blog or weblog is simply a web page that scrolls chronologically like a journal and contains links to other websites of interest. Blogs, as creative online journals, have been used by technical specialists for a number of years, but business blogs, or b-blogs are just now making inroads into the mainstream.

As an alternative, low-cost (or even free) means of electronic communication, blogs can make up a significant part of your overall marketing strategy. Although b-blogs carry an inherent marketing focus not found in creative weblogs, their casual structure provides the opportunity to connect with readers on a more immediate and personal level than traditional websites and newsletters allow.

**Promote Your Site in Mailing Lists and News Groups**

The Internet offers thousands of very targeted mailing lists and news groups made up of people with very specialized interests. Use Google Groups ([www.groups.google.com](http://www.groups.google.com)) to find appropriate sources. Don't bother with news groups constituted of pure "spam". Instead, find groups where a dialog is taking place. Don't use aggressive marketing and overtly plug your product or service, even if you see others doing so. Rather, add to the discussion in a helpful way and let the "signature" at the end of your email message do your marketing for you. People will gradually get to know and trust you, visit your site, and do business with you.

**Announce a Contest**

People like getting something free. If you publicize a contest or draw available on your site, you'll often generate more traffic than normal.

**Ask Visitors to Bookmark Your Website**

A simple yet effective promotion technique is to request your visitors to bookmark your site. The more your site is bookmarked, the greater the chances of repeat visits.

**Develop a "Free" Service**

Offer free information and tools on your site that can be used by your online visitors. It's one thing to say, "Come to our site and learn about our business." It's quite another to say, "Use the free kitchen remodeling calculator available exclusively on our site." Make sure that your free service is closely related to what you are selling so the visitors you attract will be good prospects for your business. Give visitors multiple opportunities and links to cross over to the sales part of your site.

**Register Your Website in an eMarketplace.**

e-Marketplaces are online exchanges where many buyers and sellers from all over the world meet to share information, compare prices, and do business in a specific industry or sector. Many e-marketplaces provide free online business directories in which companies offering a product or service may register. Register your website in geographic directories. Geographic directories spotlight companies in a specific geographic area, say, a city, county, state. Locally focused, these directories are an excellent way to spread the word on your organization, especially among customers in your area.

**List Your Products on Froogle**

Froogle is on the Google home page. Millions of people come to Google each day, and many are actively looking for the products you're selling. You can list your products on Froogle for free. Unlike other online shopping sites, Froogle costs nothing. There's no spending account to set up and maintain. No cost-per-click. No cost, period. You control your product information. Simply upload a new product feed at any time to ensure we're displaying the most accurate descriptions and promotions for your products. All you need to access the Froogle Merchant Center is a Google Account. Your Google Account also lets you access Gmail, Google Groups, Google Answers, and other services. You can upload a feed containing addresses, phone numbers, and hours for your physical stores. We'll display this information along with your business listings on Google Local.

<https://www.google.com/froogle/merchants/welcome>

**Sell Your Products on eBay**

With 180 million registered users worldwide, trading in more than 50,000 categories, eBay is one of the safest marketplaces in the world. Open an eBay Store and easily reach the millions of buyers who shop on eBay each day! Starting at just C\$15.95 / month , an eBay Store is the most cost-effective way to build your business online. Join the thousands of sellers who have already made eBay Stores the most popular storefront solution on the web.

<http://pages.ebay.ca/storefronts/seller-landing.html>

**Customer Incentives**

Provide gift certificates, contests, points and product referral services.