"Next Best" SEO

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What You Will Get Today

- Fresh perspective on lead generation
- Looking at your website and websites mentioning your business in a brand new way
- POSSIBLE → reduce SOME of your SEO and marketing expense
- POSSIBLE → quicker way to get you to get exposure in new cities or regions
- POSSIBLE → get more results from social media or local press coverage efforts

"BIG PICTURE"

- Local/Regional business owners first and foremost want brand-new customers/clients
- They want the phone to ring with someone new rather than implement systems to "mine" new prospects from existing customers
- Why?
 - Businesses don't want to "offend" their current base
 - May not have a good database
 - They think it is easier to track brand new customers

Online Methods To Get Your Phone To Ring

- Search engines: Google, Yahoo!, Bing, AOL, Ask, Etc.
- "Mainstream" social media: Facebook, Twitter, Google +
- "Niche" social media: LinkedIn, industry blogs, etc.
- Paid advertising: monthly banner ads + pay-per-click
- Classified ad sites and coupon/promotion sites
- Press releases: by themselves or publicity generated
- Apps (tough to do for local businesses)
- Multimedia sites: YouTube, Pinterest, BlogTalkRadio.com
- Industry/Niche sites: Trade association, industry publication
- Review sites: Yelp, AngiesList, etc.

Your Goal



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Today's Focus

- Search engines
- Why:
 - Hyper targeted. People won't type in something related to your business "willy nilly" :-)
 - One of the few ways to reach everyone in a "fragmented" trust environment (e.g. Collin County)
 - You do not have to do pay per click advertising, although that is viable
 - Has the POSSIBILITY of a great ROI
 - # 1 rank still has SOME "built in" trust

New Perspective On Lead Generation

- Having <u>your website</u> rank # 1 in the search engines is great, but is it the only way to get more leads through the search engines?
- Your goals in the search engines:
 - More top exposure for phrases entered by people looking for a solution to a problem (or similar)
 - Having as many "testimonials" (social proof) as possible which promote your business nicely
 - Easy ways for people to see what they need in order to convince themselves to contact you

You Have More Than You Realize

- Some of the online "assets" most local businesses have:
 - Their main website (home page + other pages)
 - Facebook and Twitter pages
 - LinkedIn page (personal + company)
 - YouTube videos
 - Mentions in the local press
 - Local directories (e.g. Chamber of Commerce)
 - Self-published press releases
 - Yellow Pages and other directory listings
 - Niche-specific directory listings (associations, etc.)
 - Mentions on local forums (e.g. Frisco-Online.com)

What The "SEO Companies" Who Call Won't Tell You...

- When you receive unsolicited phone calls for "SEO" what you won't be told is:
 - There is no way to "guarantee" # 1 rankings for your website
 - If they will use a combination of techniques which get rewarded in the short-term plus longer-term "white hat" SEO techniques
 - And... they want the most \$\$ from you → so why will they promote a lesser-expensive alternative??

The Big Secret...



Any Or All Of These Can Rank # 1



Assumptions For YOUR Website To Rank # 1 In The Search Engines

- That you, or someone trustworthy, has done legitimate "keyword research"
 - No reason to rank # 1 for phrases which no one will enter into the engines with any sort of consistency
- Your website already meets the parameters for what is deemed "authoritative" in the engines
- Your phone number or e-mail is easy for the visitor to find, especially someone who is discovering you (or your business) for the first time

Ranking # 1 For A Phrase No One Enters = "Best Bullfighter In Alaska"





The Goals Of Search Engines

- Remember that each of the major search engines is PUBLICLY-TRADED!!!
 - Google = GOOG (NASDAQ)
 - Yahoo = YHOO (NASDAQ)
 - Bing = part of Microsoft → MSFT (NASDAQ)
 - America Online = AOL (NYSE)
 - Facebook = FB (NASDAQ)
 - LinkedIn = LNKD (NASDAQ)

How Do The Search Engines Make Money Everyday?

- They want you to trust THEIR engine over any other search engine or social media property
- They want you to use any/all of their premium services
- They want to sell their data to advertisers who trust their network
- Most of all.... they want you to click the paid ads located throughout their networks! They receive \$\$ from EACH paid ad click!!

Like A Taxi Cab "Meter Drop"

- Search engines get paid a certain \$ amount whether or not you actually end up giving money to the advertiser
- Just like a taxi cab, they make a MINIMUM AMOUNT regardless of how far you go





How Do The Search Engines Increase THEIR Profits?

- By giving their users their best attempt to return the "best" results possible
- To prevent you and others from switching your loyalty to another search engine...
- ... and clicking THEIR ads!

How Do They Accomplish This?

- They want to return the most "authoritative" results possible for ANY type of search you enter
- ** Weird "stat": nearly 50% of the queries (searches) made through any particular search engine are entered that way the FIRST TIME
 - Spelling, capitalization, punctuation, word order, etc.
- This means that their algorithm has to be pretty robust!

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So... What Does This Have To Do With MY Website?



BIG PICTURE Of Your Website

- It is your "24/7" salesperson
- It is a major part of your "pull" (rather than "push") marketing
- Goal is, ultimately, to help you get more prospective customers/clients to contact you
 - Sub-pages are designed to inform current and prospective clients so that they trust you to fulfill a product, service and/or piece of information

Your Website May Not Be Authoritative Enough

- Sadly, your website may not be "authoritative" enough in the search engines to rank # 1 for phrases which are entered consistently
- Your website (home page + other pages) may not be ready to rank # 1 in the DIGITAL WORLD
 - Even though you may already be authoritative in the physical world!

How Is This Possible? What Is My Website Violating?

- User-friendly elements: page load speed, confusing to find "call to action", etc.
- No visible privacy policy, disclaimer, terms of service, etc.
- On-page SEO: no <title>, no <meta>, no mention of the proper keywords, etc.
- Not "mobile friendly"
- Not shared socially
- No "authoritative" links pointing to your site's pages
- Search engines can't read content in certain frames, images in Flash, etc.
- Many other website-structure "violations" which kill "authority"



What Can I Do About It?

- A few strategies:
 - Spend the time & money to overhaul your site from a technical perspective
 - Spend the time & money to overhaul your site from a content perspective
 - Do the proper keyword research
 - Spend lots of money on generating "authority" links to give your website equal (or more) authority as compared to those already on the first page
 - Or....

"Next Best" SEO

- What is "next best" SEO:
 - Ranking those web properties which ALREADY have authority AND mention your website/phone #
 - Getting multiple web properties which favorably (or are neutral) to rank on the search engines so that you have MORE than 1 spot on the first page
 - This is what is meant by "search engine domination"
 - Gives people helpful information and "pre-frames" them BEFORE coming to your website or calling

Why Would I Choose This Strategy?

- Possibilities include:
 - Speed: takes advantages of favorable/neutral web properties which ALREADY have "authority"
 - Cost: doesn't take as much capital to achieve the same results
 - Conversion rate: ranking something not on your website, but "frames" you in a positive manner, can serve as a "virtual testimonial" on the search engines
 - Longevity: if your other web properties can rank well, and quickly, for phrases people enter consistently then you know that they have some likelihood of staying on the first page without being "leap frogged"

Possible To Leap Frog Your Competition On The Engines



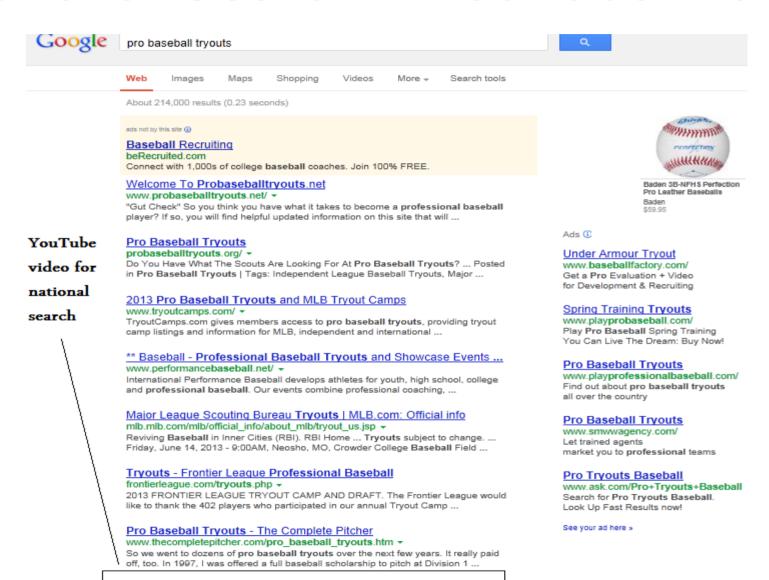
To Reiterate:

- Goal is to have SOMETHING favorably mentioning your company & phone number rank for any of these type of searches:
 - High volume/consistent searches each month (e.g. "pizza McKinney TX")
 - Problem/solution phrases ("broken water heater McKinney TX")
 - Indicative of high-dollar searches, even if they are typically low-volume searches ("entity formation McKinney TX")

Questions At This Point

- Is Matt's "Next Best" SEO:
 - Working today? Yes → examples to come shortly
 - Worthwhile? Yes → can generate leads
- Example screen shots:
 - Taken May 11, 2013
 - On "clean browser" → never searched for that phrase on that browser previously
 - NOT logged into Google, so the most "pure" result
 - Some cross-over to Yahoo & Bing

National Search – YouTube Video



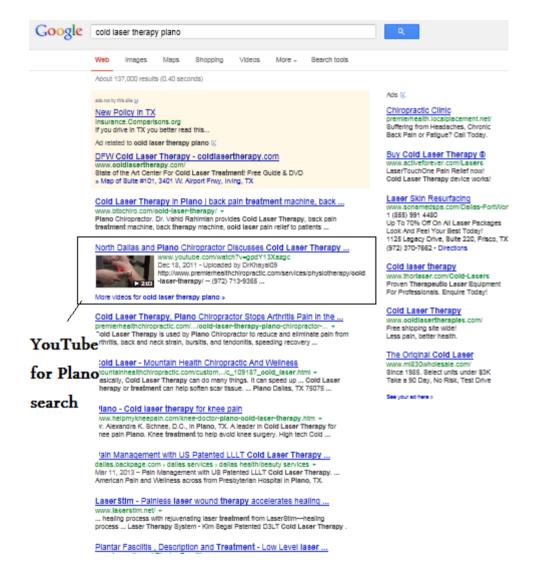
Resources To Get Notified Of Independent Professional Baseball ...

www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRxMbtlrP2A
Oct 21, 2012 - Uplosded by IndependentBaseball

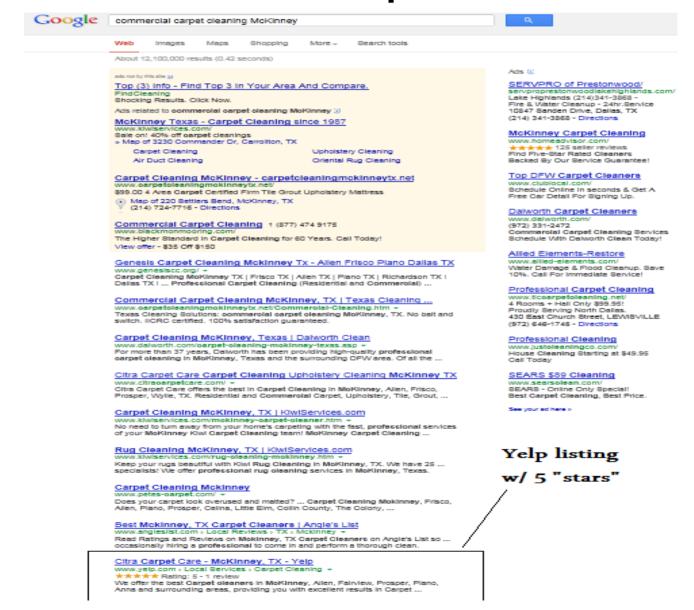
receive audio interviews which were recorded

You will be notified of upcoming pro baseball tryouts and also

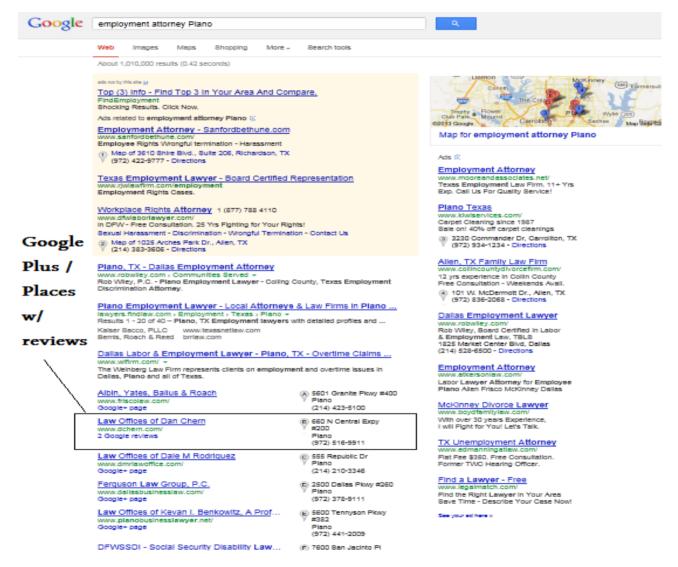
Plano Search - YouTube



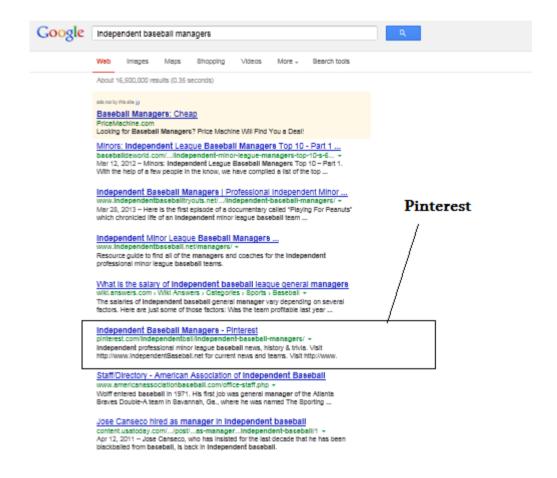
McKinney "Commercial" Search - Yelp



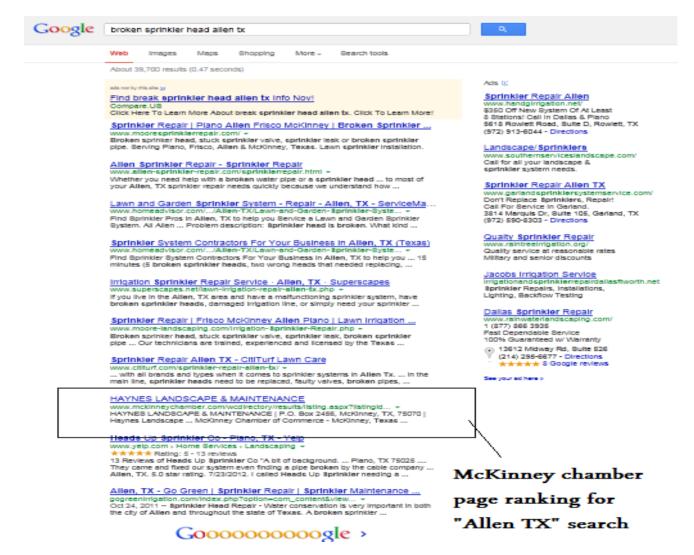
Plano Search – Google Places/+



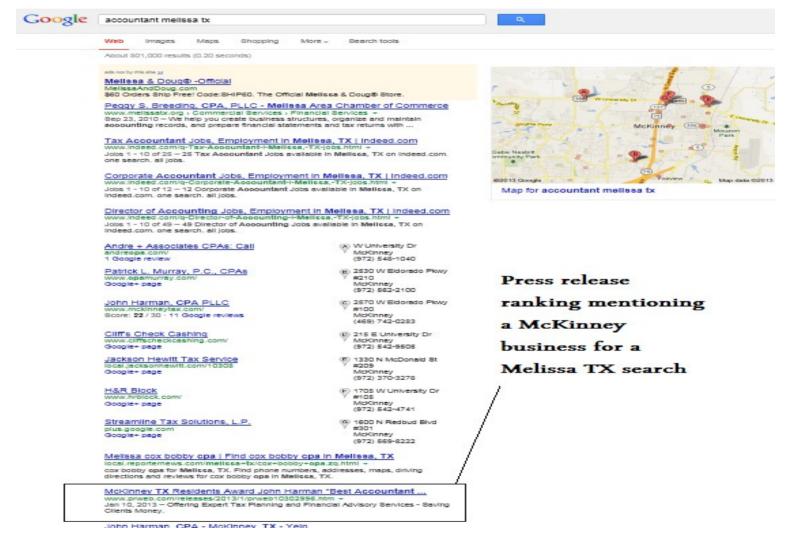
National Search - Pinterest



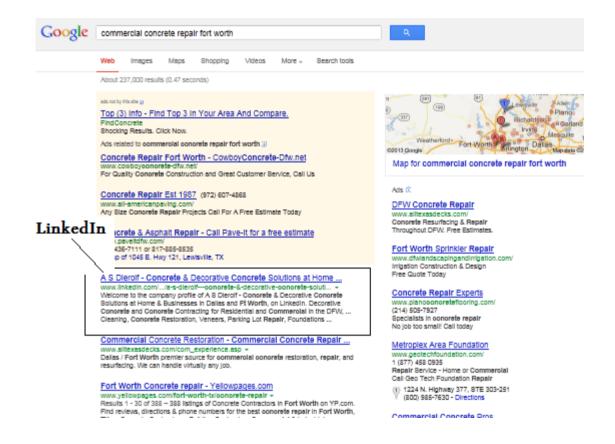
Allen TX Search – McKinney Chamber Directory Page Ranking!



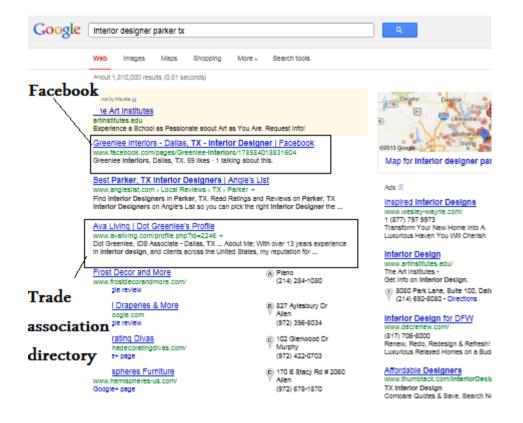
Melissa TX Search – National Press Release Ranking



"Commercial" Fort Worth Search - LinkedIn



Small Town Search – Facebook + Industry Association



How Is This Done?

- Use of "value added" content
 - Usually helpful, unique articles of 500+ words
 - 1 or 2 helpful YouTube videos
 - 3 to 5 relevant images to which you own the rights to use → yes, "stock photos" can work here!
- Placement of the value-added content on web properties which the search engines ALREADY trust

What Are These Properties?

- Properties where you can get a quality link in return for posting unique, helpful, value-added content
- You can get listed on "neutral" directories such as trade association, local Chamber, etc. which sometimes allow links OTHER than to your website (e.g. Facebook or Twitter page)

Types Of Value-Added Properties

- Web 2.0: Squidoo, Blog.com, etc.
- Article Directories: GoArticles, Ezinearticles, etc.
- Private blog network: make sure that these REALLY are properly-structured
 - If so, the value is significant

"Tiered Links"

- To boost the web properties, these properties sometimes need a "boost" to get exposure in the search engines
- Think of the links to your website in the form of a pyramid, with multiple "tiers"
- Ideally, the tiers are ALSO built on properties which the search engines trust
- Lowest "tier" can focus on quantity of links over quality

 to a degree but use only if needed... and never directly to your website

Tiered Link Structure

Your
site

"Next Best" properties

Boosting your "next best" properties with

Web 2.0, article directory, relevant blog/forum pages, etc.

Quantity links: social bookmarks, blog comments, wikis, etc.

Ideal "White Hat" Scenario

What the search engines and mainstream SEO forums tell any local business must/should take place:

- You have optimized, quality, unique, helpful, value-added content
- You have an audience willing to share your content with THEIR friends and colleagues
- You CONSISTENTLY can get your content on highauthority websites which permit the inclusion of your keywords in the text + the text of the link to your site
- Your content is mobile-optimized, loads quickly and is deemed wonderful by all :-)

"Reality"

- Your content is not as good as you may think :-(
- The intent of the communication is not received by the reader/viewer
- No one shares your content even if it is good
- Doesn't load properly on most people's computers or mobile devices
- You can't get your content on authority sites, even if you know where to go to post it
- Your audience doesn't trust the site on which your content appears

Arrrgggghhh...!



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- Determine what is recently, or in the near future, "newsworthy" about your business
- Write a 3rd person press release
- Optimize the release for the keywords you want
- Distribute the press release via an online distribution (syndication) service
- If possible, include images/videos inside the release
- Add your LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, etc. if permitted
- *Build links pointing to where the press release shows up*

- Determine which web properties you have which mention you, your company, your website and/or your phone number
 - Ideally these properties are "favorable", but they can be neutral like a trade association directory
- Create a few helpful, value-added 500+ word articles where you can add images/videos
 - "3 tips to do X", "5 Things To Avoid About Y", etc.
 - The more unique and value-added the better

Unique Versions

- Search engines reward unique content
- If you want your content on multiple pages, each of which has at least some authority in the estimation of the search engines, then get your article properly "spun"
 - Grammatically unique versions, saying the same thing
 - Each is at least 70% unique from every other version
 - Must be "spun" at the sentence-level, not word-level
 - Each version must be readable and understandable

How To Distribute These "Unique" Articles

- SEO software: must use proxies, etc.
 - Contact a good SEO firm for more on this
- Manually: VERY time consuming. Must create multiple accounts, format everything right, etc.
- Pay a virtual assistant: be sure to train them properly

Link Text

- Basic: you will be posting content on Web 2.0 properties and article directories
 - Each points to one of your "Next Best" properties
 - Mix up the keywords used in the text of the link (aka "anchor text")
 - Keep your desired phrase as the text in no more than 15% of the links you create, maybe even less
 - Otherwise you risk an "over optimization" penalty
 - This is the "too good to be true" portion of the algorithm → most SEO firms will hurt you here!!

- Get "High Authority" Links:
 - From great, relevant websites even if you pay for them
 - Ones which are giving your competition the majority of the reason why they are ranking above you
 - You buy sites which have "authority"
- Regarding the latter, you can buy expired domains which have the "authority" already built-in
- Use to build links to your "next best" properties
- Contact a good SEO firm about this
- Allows you to control your links and get a needed boost

- Post content on sites people visit everyday
- Give them incentives to interact with you
- Discounts, coupons, specials, etc.
- Where:
 - Classified ad sites, coupon sites, your page on trade association sites
 - Your Facebook page, your Twitter page, your Google + page
 - Relevant industry/local online forums and blogs

Other Questions To Ask ANY "SEO" Firm Calling You

- How are the links to my site structured?
- Are you promoting my other web properties with links?
- Do I have control over my links?
- Do I get on-page SEO and off-page SEO?
- Do you write the helpful articles? If so, are they spun in a unique manner at the sentence level and 70% (or more) unique?
- Do I get login and password info to my articles?
- Is there an incentive system (e.g. lead generation, etc.)?
- Is my desired keyword no more than 15% of the anchor text?

Thank You!

Please send your questions to Matt at:

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