Today’s Topics:

• Best Practices For Websites
• Mobile Accessibility
• Search Engine Optimization (SEO) Basics
Best Practices For Websites

Navigation
Simple
Mouse Over effect
Down States
Menu Sequence
Be Cautious of Drop Down Menus
By All Means Avoid Flash Navigation
If You Must Split, Make It Logical
Page Bottom Text Links
Site Map?
Best Practices For Websites

Page Content
Home Page – Short & Sweet Introduction
Contact Us – Days/Hours – HTML Form
Map if Brick & Mortar
Stories (Success, Unusual-Unique, Creative)
About Us – Compelling & Positive – Team’s Applicable Education, Experience, Certifications
Product Search Capability
Include ‘Call-To-Action’ Statements
All Too Often Mistake Is Total Inward Focus
Be Focused On Satisfying a Customer ‘Need’
Typically Grade 8 Reading Level
Best Practices For Websites

Design
Appropriate to Visitor (Purpose & Quantity)
Design Should Not Be A Distraction
Avoid Light Font On Dark Background
Use A Sans Serif Typeface
Be Cautious of Automatic Video or Sound Consistent!
Phone Number In Header or Footer!
Flash – Animation
Printable Pages
Best Practices For Websites

Image Use
Enhances Content
Appropriately Sized
PageSpeed (*SEO Factor*)
http://www.websiteoptimization.com/services/analyze/

Consistent Simple Borders
Consistent Placements
Small Font Description Below Images
Image Alt & Title Attributes (*SEO Factor*)
Mobile Accessibility

Like it or not, mobile is more than here to stay. Some predict 4 years to eclipse Desktop! A traditional Desktop Website just won’t do. No longer an ‘Option’ – *Especially* for a Brick & Mortar business

Two Solutions:
RWD – Responsive Web Design
Mobile First
Desktop Website:
Clean & Simple:
Another Clean & Simple:
Straight Forward:
Another Desktop: volunteer
Search Engine Optimization

For the far majority of websites to achieve better visibility in Search Engine Result Pages (SERP), implementing the basics is the key to success.

We will approach SEO today with 3 topics:

» Keyword Research
» Effective Keyword Use
» Link Building
• **Keyword Research**

• The Foundation of a SEO campaign is accurate Keyword Research!

• Identify Keywords that match your products & services

• Speak the Visitor’s language

• Select multiple-word phrases

• Use simple terms – no internal vocabulary
• **Keyword Research continued**

• Many tools available – Many @ no cost

• Google’s AdWords Keyword Tool
  adwords.google.com/select/KeywordToolExternal

• Keyword Discovery by Trellian
  keyworddiscovery.com/search.html

• Some others:
  Google Autocomplete & Related Searches

  Nice Definition-glossary: http://metaglossary.com
• **Keyword Research continued**

• People always ask about the numbers
  - My response is always the same

• Don’t get caught up in what they mean

• Instead use them as a ranking system only

• Specify unique keywords per page
• **Keyword Research** *continued*

• Reverse Engineer your competitors

• Examine Title Tags, Keyword Tags, & Content

• BUT – *verify* for quality search numbers

• Keyword Research *continued*

• Geo-Targeting

• If location is important to your visitor it is VITAL to your website

• Select appropriate Geographic phrases

• Think like a searcher – *no one spells out Pennsylvania*
• Navigation Links

• Best are keyword-rich text-based
  Can make it look like a button by using a background image
• Only the first link encountered to a page counts
• If image based add keyword-rich Alt attributes
• Page Title Tags - #3

• Great first place to begin using Keywords
• Strong element in rankings (#3)
• *Some development tools hinder creation*
• Every page MUST have a unique Title tag
• View your Title tags in Google with:
  site:www.yourdomain.com
• Page Title Tags  *continued*

• *Most important use is in SERPs*

• Persuades Click-Through

• Also visible in top of browsers or tab, when page printed, and default bookmark/favorite entry
• Page Title Tags  *continued*

• No more than 70 characters
• Best practices are product/service first followed by company name
• Target keywords highly relevant to the page
• This is a summary of the page content
• Be compelling
• Nice length check tool:  
  http://www.seomofo.com/snippet-optimizer.html
• Page Title Tags  *continued*

Searched for: **396 stroker**

• Good example: **396 SBC Stroker - Base Engine | BluePrint Engines**

• Not so good: **Blueprint Engines Small Block Chevy 396ci Stroker/485HP ...**
• **Content – Factor #2**

• Emphasize keywords in your content

• But above all else focus your content on **Visitors**

• Keep Keywords in sequence

• Strive to meet the need someone has come to your website with
• **Content continued**

• No magic number but 150+ good

• Think about a newspaper article

• Incorporate Headings & Sub-Headings
  <H1> thru <H6> tagged text

• **Read it out loud**

• Ask someone ‘outside’ to read it

• Keywords above the fold
• **Content continued**

• Do not repeat keywords so often it appears ‘sickening sweet’ to your visitor

• Remember a page is read at most once and typically is simply scanned by a visitor

• Worth repeating – focus on the problem, question, need someone has that brought them to your website.
• Images

• Use Keywords in image:
  – File Names Example:
    Time_Machine_Small.jpg *not* TMSmall.jpg
  – Alt & Title Attributes
• **Images continued**

• Small visible description below images:

*Easy Keyword repetition*
• **Link Profile - #1**

• #1 Factor is SEO Rankings

• But – *not silver bullet*

• Quality is good but the best benefit comes from quality, authoritative, **relevant** inbound links

• Absolutely the hardest thing to do in SEO
• **Links continued**

• Great way to locate new links is to reverse engineering a competitor.

• In Google search box enter:
  
  www.xyz.com –site:www.xyz.com

• Nice simple tool – use ‘Link Analysis Report’
  
  www.seotoolset.com/tools/free_tools.html

• Another tool:
  
  www.monitorbacklinks.com/seo-tools/free-backlink-checker
• **Links continued**

• Try to locate Directories or Industry focused websites based on your Keywords. Search for things like:
  
  “submit a website” “keywords”
  “suggest a website” “keywords”
  “add a link” “keywords”

• Often low value links but remember someone may follow this link to YOU!
• **Links Outbound**

• Only link to relevant websites
• Consider adding the ‘rel=nofollow’ attribute
• Be VERY cautious of outbound links on your Home page and your most important keyword focused pages
• Remember – you are voting for them thus hurting yourself
• Conclusion

• If you would like a copy of today’s presentation along with additional resources, go to: PennTAP.psu.edu
   From the ‘Services’ menu select ‘Advanced IT’
   In the ‘Presentation Resources’ area you will find:
   **SEO Resources** and **Web-Presentation 2014-09-17**

Along with SEO assistance, the PennTAP Advanced IT team can provide you a comprehensive website assessment and other broadband-related assistance.
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