
Content Marketing is About Trust, Not Just Reach



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Viral videos or hashtag campaigns won't convert customers unless they build trust and confidence with their audience.

Bill Gates coined the phrase “content is king” in 1996, when he said, “One of the exciting things about the Internet is that anyone with a PC and a modem can publish whatever content they can create. It allows material to be duplicated at low cost, no matter the size of the audience.”

Marketers have taken note of this opportunity. Demand Metric claims that dollar-for-dollar, content marketing generates around three times as many leads as traditional marketing. And for good reason too. Digital content has a multitude of measurable uses that marketers can leverage. Content on the digital web can be created for specific demographics, allowing high-quality and direct engagement with audiences. An analysis by the Aberdeen Group, done in the same year, also shows that conversion rates for content marketing are typically 6-7 times higher than traditional marketing!

Aside from actual conversions, content marketing can help brands to generate demand from customers. Demand Metric states that 3 out of 5 people are motivated to seek out a particular product or service after reading about it online. Content marketing has even more intrinsic value than it seems, taking into consideration the fact that the traditional media is starting to fall in effectiveness. Now, more than 8 in 10 people skip TV adverts, while nearly half ignore direct mailers.

Content must spread, but...

Marketers acknowledge content as a powerful marketing tool, but for most of them, their focus is wrong. Over 90 percent of marketers incorporate content as part of their strategy, but as statistics have proven, most content marketing efforts go to waste. In fact, a [study by Sirius Decisions](#) has shown that approximately [60-70 percent of B2B content production goes to waste](#). Quantity means nothing without quality, and content means nothing if it doesn't generate value downstream. Content needs to be relevant and exciting in order to inspire people to take action. Content needs to spread.

But [with Facebook's falling organic reach, posts typically reach only 2-5](#) percent of fans. And with more noise than ever on most platforms, it is essential to create content that can generate both buzz and demand. Viral is good, but does it always turn into a purchase decision? That is less clear.

A viral but largely ineffective campaign was Evian's "roller babies" video, a visually striking video of babies expertly manoeuvring on roller skates, which naturally got a lot of views and went viral to the tune of over 77 million YouTube views.



The video had a lot of message virality, but that did not translate to sales success. Jonah Berger, a professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania stated that despite the viral success of the video, Evian went on to lose market share and sales dropped by 25 percent in the U.S. during the same time.

So take a good long look at your content strategy: does the content focus on the audience's wants and needs? Or does it focus only on the brand?

Message virality and effectiveness: Why you need both

There are many ways to create potentially contagious content, but that doesn't mean it is going to be effective in generating profit or results for your brand. There are two key things to every successful piece of contagious content: Message Effectiveness and Message Virality.

Message effectiveness refers to the extent to which the elements of message content help a brand achieve specific goals set before the campaign launch. The effectiveness of content depends on many factors, such as brand name placement, call to action, and explaining of product benefits (although not all are necessary at the same time). It may be tempting to create a funny or highly shocking piece of content, but it will not serve any purpose to a brand if the brand's values are not imbued into the core message.

Message virality refers to the potential of a piece of content to go viral and catch attention among the online audience as well as media outlets. There are many ways to achieve this, using humour, shock, awe, or sorrow to grab onto the audience's interest.

Organisations need to have this dual goal in mind when creating content. But a lot of content out there focuses only on message virality.

Take the social media campaign by the New York City Police Department earlier this year. NYPD wanted to create a viral campaign where citizens would share positive photos of themselves with their police officers, using the hashtag #myNYPD.

And they succeeded in getting it viral, but for all the wrong reasons.

Although the campaign started off on a positive note, **it soon turned very sour**. Citizens took advantage of the hashtag to share photos of police abuse, transforming what was supposed to be a feel-good publicity campaign into a myriad of trolling tweets, photos, and comments:





timeforrealchange @josefa_r · Apr 23

NYPD sharing a few nice words with a peaceful American.

#MyNYPD pic.twitter.com/FJlqJ3E0qY

↩ Reply ↻ Retweet ★ Favorite

Flag media



Copwatch @Copwatch · Apr 23

#myNYPD helping a young man get up and get dressed in the morning pic.twitter.com/FPicTGtM1X

Reply Retweet Favorite

Flag media

Clearly, this campaign either did not have clear goals besides virality, nor did it anticipate how the elements of the message would impact viewers' experience and reaction. In particular, market research prior to the campaign would have uncovered a particular situation: a priori negative attitudes toward the police, calling for a much more cautious social media campaign.

The role of trust

When it comes to purchasing for the first time, audiences are naturally apprehensive. They don't know you. They don't trust you. So you have to

gain their trust.

Last year, a horrible haze from forest fires in Indonesia filled nearby Singapore's skies, striking fear into the hearts of citizens to the point where people started to avoid going outdoors altogether.

Citizens flocked to the internet to find respiratory masks to block out toxic air particles. But there were many kinds of masks, many of which were not effective haze protection. The only official mask effective at filtering out haze particles is the N95 mask, produced by 3M.

Opportunists, both local and overseas, saw and recognised a business opportunity in the sudden interest in purchasing N95 masks. Soon enough, a lot of fake versions turned up and citizens, none the wiser, snatched them up like hot cakes on a cold windy day.

What 3M did on their social media front, however, was not to immediately push the product in the faces of citizens. 3M took an educational route, choosing instead to first establish trust with their audience.



It has brought to our attention that there are vendors/sellers on sites such as Qoo10 or Alibaba.com selling fake N95 masks.

Here are some tips on differentiating the real N95 masks from the fake ones:

1. N95 masks are NOT surgical masks.
2. The 8210 model is NOT manufactured in China. Only South Korea and Singapore produce this model.
3. The N95 mask is also NOT suitable for children as the size is too big for them. Currently, there are no suitable N95 masks in the market for children. As such, in the event of haze, children are advised to stay indoors.

Please buy the authentic N95 masks from local trusted retail outlets such as Cold Storage, Giant, Unity, Guardian, Watsons etc. — with Bugis Bugis.

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE:

Fake Masks vs. Real N95 Masks

N95 "SURGICAL MASK"



HELLO KITTY "BABY KIDS N95"



"KIDS N95 MASK"



FAKE
VS.
REAL



Like · Comment · Share

24

20 people like this.

Top Comments -

Write a comment...

Jigmei Chunzen Where to find those with respirator?
Unlike · Reply · 1 · March 30 at 3:57am

3M Singapore Hey Jigmei, are you referring to where can you buy the legit N95 respirators?

Like · March 30 at 10:58am

When the audience was aware of the situation, 3M moved on to the second step of interaction with the public.



The audience reacted positively, eager for a method to identify a real mask, only to find out...



Through the posting of informative facts about the masks that citizens wanted to know, 3M slowly built their position as an authority on the subject.

Many of 3M's posts were highly shared due to the relevance and time-worthiness of the content. The post above reached over 25,000 people and got around 80 shares for its value to the citizens.

They then introduced their masks to the masses. 3M posted content on the various kinds of masks available in the market, and why theirs was the best (and only) one to use during this period. By this time, the public was sufficiently convinced that 3M was the brand to go to.

Dermablend: Getting relevant attention

Another example, Dermablend, an international cosmetics brand, came up with a very interesting concept to market their tattoo concealer in Singapore, Asia's leading cosmetics consumer in terms of expenditure per woman. They created a video to demonstrate the product by covering up the tattoos of the world's most tattooed man.

With 5.7 million views in 10 days, it also successfully showcased the benefits of the brand's products in a creative and easy-to-understand way. The content had a high shock value, but worked on a basic premise: Dermablend's tattoo concealer is very effective.

Aside from going viral, the video brought in a 473 percent increase in e-commerce traffic in the first two weeks, resulting in an increase of over 100 percent in product sales.

So...how do I create contagious content?

Of course, there is no "perfect" recipe for creating contagious content. In fact, creating contagious content, in itself, should not be a driving force behind any content strategy. The one key KPI for any campaign should always be a brand's objectives, be it an increase in brand awareness, an increase in leads, or profit.

Message effectiveness and message virality must both be present in any piece of content for it to spread.



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