## How to get ahead of the competition with inbound marketing

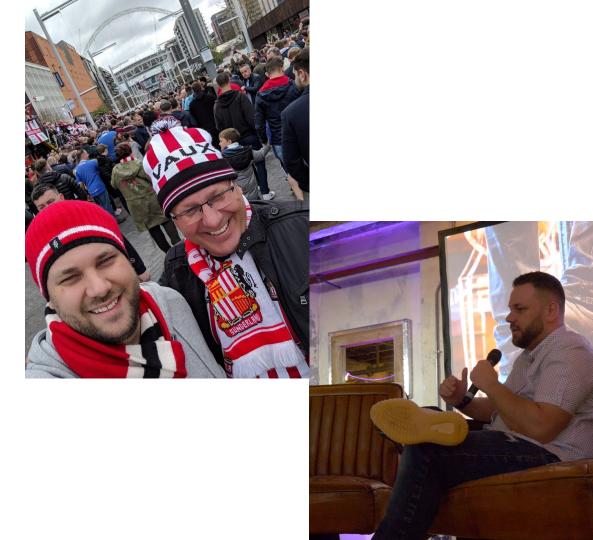
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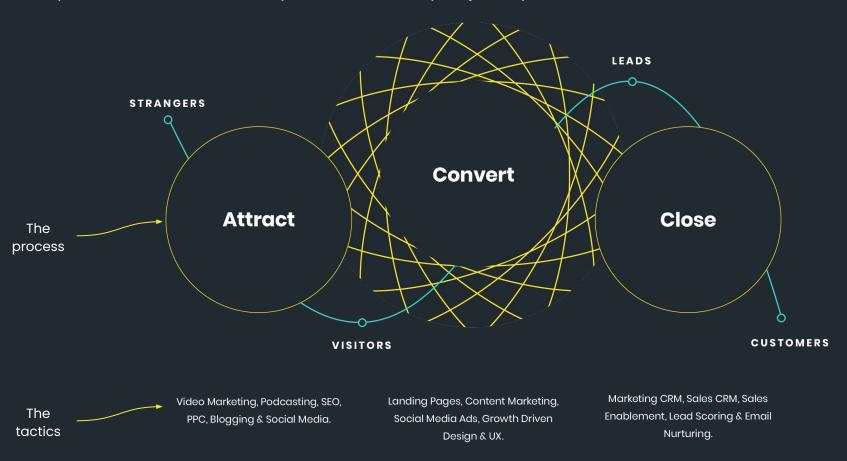
#### About me

- Sunderland fan
- Two children
- Director of Digital 22
- Background in SEO / organic growth
- Rolled out inbound marketing strategies for 81 companies in the last 6 years



#### What is inbound marketing?

A process to market effectively across the full buyer's journey



## How to get ahead of the competition

- 1. Think holistically
- 2. Make it personal
- 3. Be the source of knowledge on a 'topic'

## #1 Think holistically





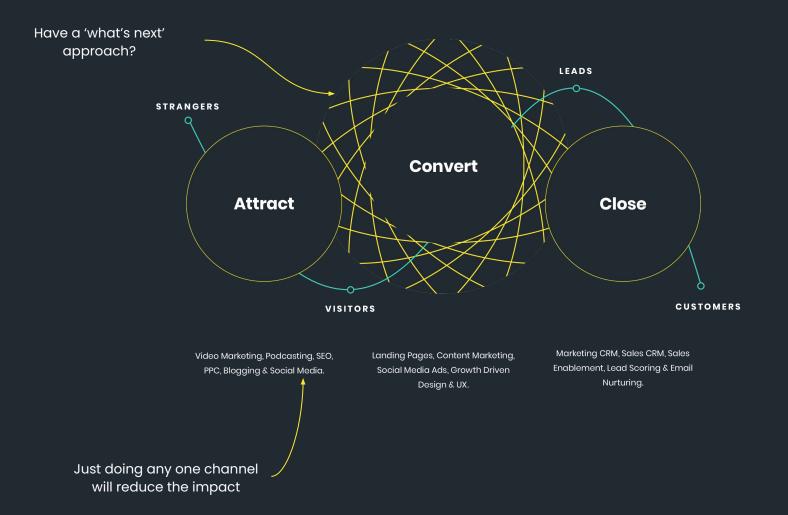


Digital marketing is competitive which means it is essential for businesses to consider the full buyer's journey. 99% of companies go wrong because they purely focus on the 'Decision' phase, expecting every visitor to buy today. The truth is this, the 'Decision' phase is by far the most competitive and only 3% of customers are ever in it. Our game plan and services cover the full buyer's journey which opens a massive marketing opportunity.

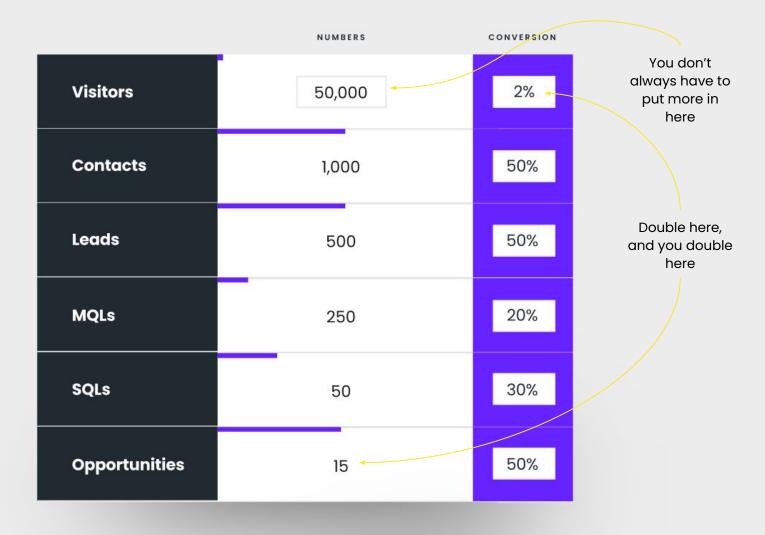
The danger of siloed channel working - expecting them all to drive decision action

## How do we take a holistic view?

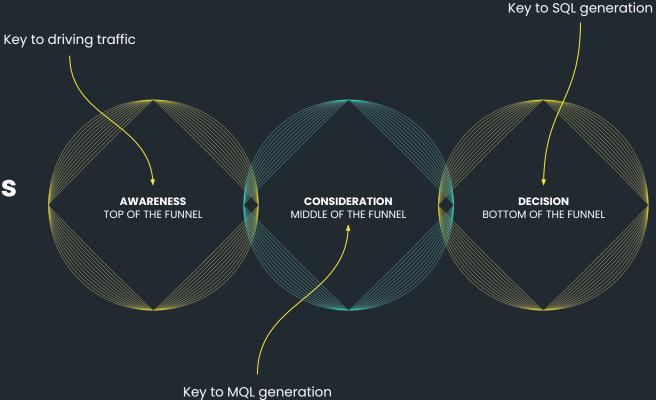




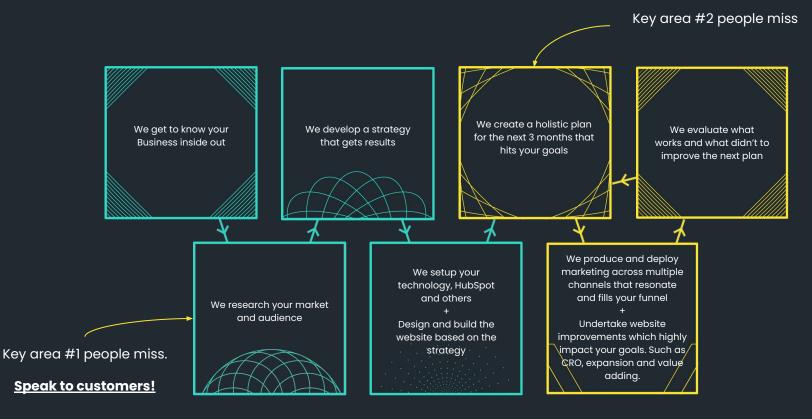
Build a funnel for analysis and expectation



#### The Full Buyer's Journey



Want a strategy that resonates with your audience, marketing that provides them with value, a website which drives optimal results using data and a funnel full of prospects?



## #2 Make it personal







## Be the personality / company people know within your industry = **Trust**

(The most critical element of getting someone to take action on your digital marketing)

One way to build trust... Have a 'video first' approach



Brian Halligan CEO & Co-Founder of HubSpot 

"Start geeking out hard on video opposed to text. Use video everywhere within your business"

Brian Halligan - CEO & Co-founder HubSpot





1. Sales

- 2. Marketing
- 3. Client Service





## **Solution: Re-humanising the sales process**

#### STAND OUT IN THE INBOX ESTABLISH A CONNECTION TO BUILD TRUST



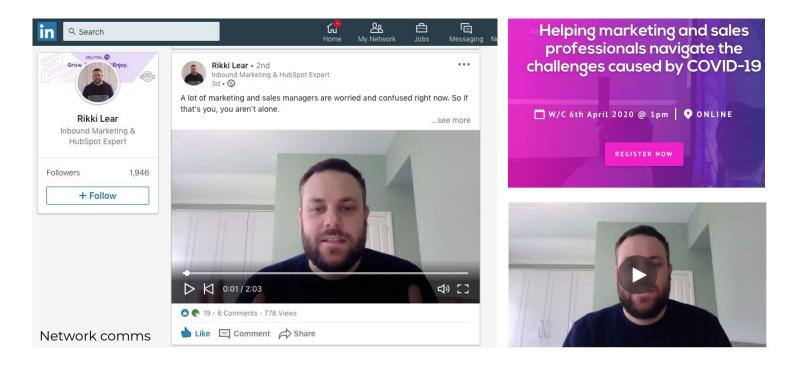
- Avg we had 7 10 touchpoints in the sales process before we met the prospect
- Used personal video to convey authenticity, trust, and boost response rates by 5x
- Putting a face to our name created an instant H2H connection.



## Marketing



#### "I recorded this webinar invite video for you. See you at the Be Brilliant club!"





#### "I recorded this request video for you. We'd love for you to speak at our event!"



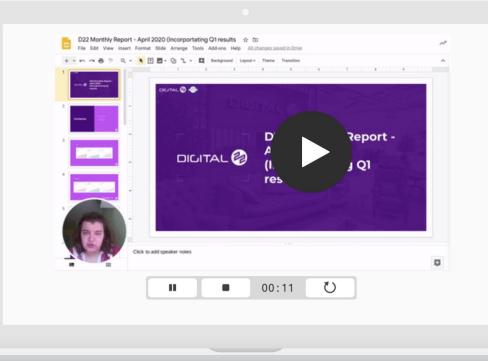


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## **Client Service**



#### "I recorded this report video for you. To show your ROI for the month!"



#### Purpose

Delight the client, highlight improvements and ROI

#### Approach

Show monthly progress, keep it clear simple, highlight next steps and ideas

#### **Use Cases**

Show real time live dashboards and stats

### What happens if you get it right...

The transformation we've seen first hand by fully embracing video





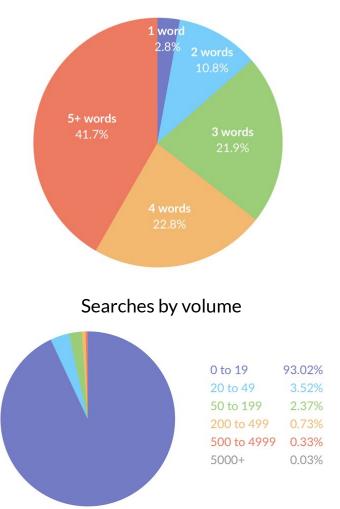
**#3** Be the source of **knowledge** on a 'topic'



#### Searches by keywords

## Search has changed

- Queries are becoming longer and more complex
- We ask much more 'conversational' questions
- We rely on search engines to understand context
- Started with Google Hummingbird in 2013
  - Google started delivering results that understood semantics and intent
  - The first real move from keywords to topics



## So marketers need to adapt

- Will continue in this direction as <u>we</u> force search engines to be more 'human'
- Therefore; how we think about, plan and structure content needs to change...

The Key is to start thinking in terms of **TOPICS** you want to own, not just **KEYWORDS** 

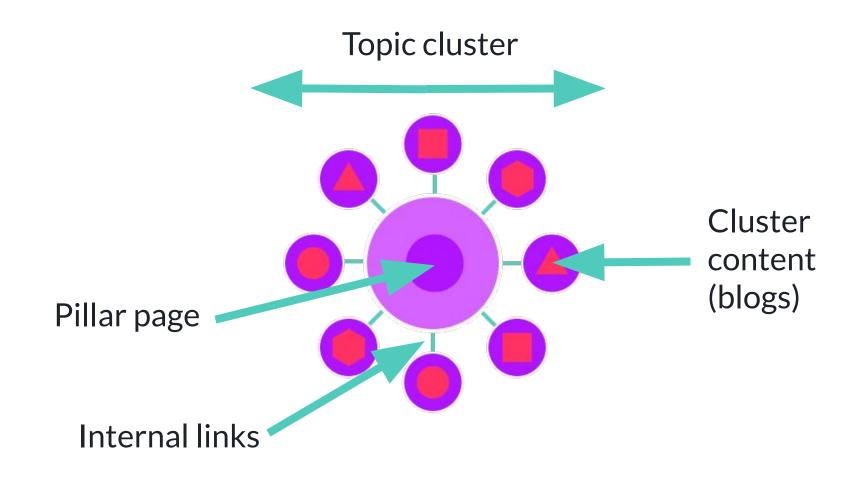
This allows you to own a "Sphere of influence" on the internet.



**Topic Cluster:** A selection of content grouped together to own a topic in search engines...

# **<u>Pillar Page:</u>** The focal point of the Topic Cluster. It broadly answers every question\* on the topic...

\* every question your persona needs answering

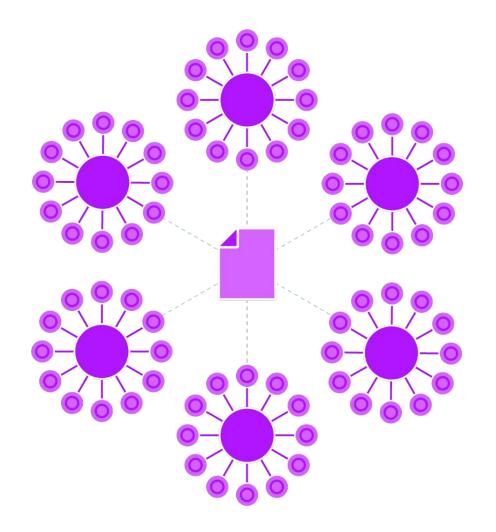


## **Before and after**

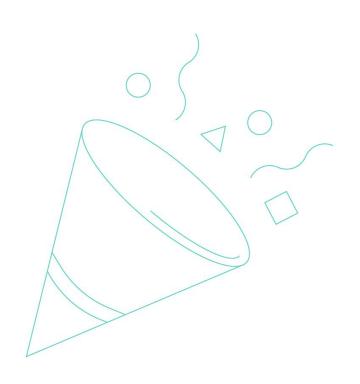




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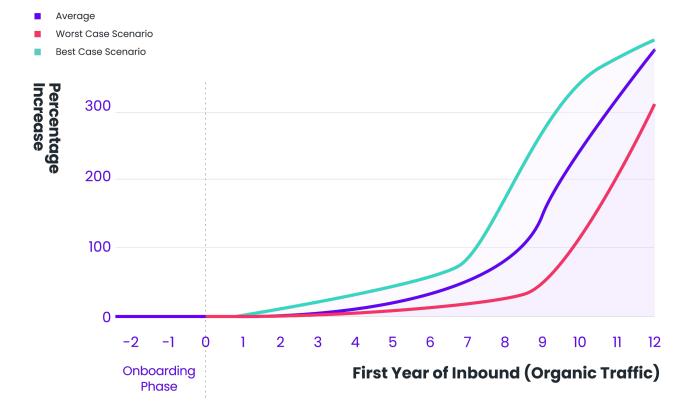
- Help your personas answers their questions
- Improves user metrics / keep people engaged
- Attracts links
- Rank higher / get more organic traffic
- Find gaps in content strategy
- Give your content purpose
- Helps sales great to send to prospects before calls



## What happens if you get it right...



## First year of inbound



## Recap...

- 1. Think holistically
- 2. Make it personal
- 3. Be the source of knowledge on a 'topic'





