

Marketing through Online Contests

We have had some fun at my office recently, creating a video that will help to generate a feel and personality that represents our company. Mainly, it shows that we can let our hair down (or put some on) and just have some fun. We did this by putting together a rap video in the imitation of a rap song out there called "Thrift Shop." The reasoning for this video is two-fold: Making it helped to create fun in our company, and it shows you how you can have fun by using contesting in your company's marketing strategy.

Want Big Bucks? Think Elegant Organization

What is it about Facebook, LinkedIn, and Amazon that we can't stay away from them? What makes them so valuable? Well the answer is elegant organization. Let me give you a little background to explain what this means.



Follow the Big Trends or the Small Ones?

I have talked to a lot of people about the big trend of mobile, the growth in this area, how it is changing the way we do business, and how if we don't want to be left behind, we need to adapt. Some of this has a longer time horizon and some of it needs to be thought about in the short-term.



Riding the Wave or Being Knocked Over?

Have you thought about how fast things change and how really different things have become with how you work and live? Think about the companies that you use every day that didn't even exist ten years ago. Think about how you use your [smartphone](#) today and access [Facebook](#). How different, both good and bad, was your life back then?

Consider all this from a business perspective. What new companies have appeared or disappeared because of a new innovative idea? Things move so rapidly! A company can go from zero to hero in a flash, but one can also go from kingpin to trash bin in the blink of an eye.

Our Instincts Are Social

As discussed in the [X-Factor Blog](#), I attended and spoke at the [Nerve Conference](#) in Atlanta just over a week ago and had a great time! We listened to some interesting speakers and had a



fun spending time with our E0 friends and meeting some young aspiring entrepreneurs. The breakout went well! The X-Factor

content leads to such powerful discussions and opens us up to the possibilities of creating breakthrough opportunities for our businesses.

The Mobile Future is Right Before Our Eyes!

Last week, I traveled to Dallas, TX for a guys' weekend with my son Tony, his close friend Steven, and my brother Mark. While there, we also attended the Bills vs. Cowboys football game. Having grown up in Rochester, NY, I am a Bills fan, which is often difficult to endure. That weekend was no exception. Even after a great start to the season, the Bills lost 44 to 7. Other than that, we had a great time, and the Cowboys' stadium is off the charts!

You seem to open your eyes more to what is around you when you're in a new environment, so being a bit more observant, I watched the nonstop mobile usage around me. These observations made me want to share some recent research that has been released. Based on the research and my own thoughts, mobile devices are becoming a powerful force in our lives.

A Connection Worthwhile

Did you ever wonder how a website that does nothing but allow you to display your life to all your friends and family and is free to use, could be worth around [\\$11 Billion](#)?? [Facebook](#) is. This valuation comes from the power of connecting...not just people, but things. When connectivity is increased, value goes up exponentially.

This could best be understood with the explanation of the “fax effect”. The first fax machine that was made cost exorbitant amounts of money during research and development, and was worth relatively nothing.

What’s the Pattern Here?

Have you ever noticed how things work in cycles with observable patterns? As someone whose strength is observing and seeing patterns, I find it helpful to know that these patterns exist and to see if this awareness generates some form of opportunity. This may be because I have that entrepreneurial instinct that draws out this intrigue, but whatever the case, they seem to pop up everywhere.