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Why are we here?





And users.. Always users...



Assumption for this talk is the site is not doing well or as well as you hoped with Google AND/OR Users

So where do we start?



What's the site's history...?

Get a Site History!



Site history is like a medical history

You are like a doctor, you don't care how much they drank last night you just need them to be honest.

Because things like bad links can kill... a site that is...





Know the history is almost always wrong

History is for **guidance**, not accuracy.

Remember you are the detective.



And the site owners don't always tell you the FULL STORY...



Good technical work relies on good forensic work.



Sample Questions to Ask.

- Has the site ever had a penalty?
- Have they ever bought links?
 - Do they know what link buying is?
- Was the domain new or old?
- What do they think is wrong with their site?
 - Not that they will likely know, but you need to know what they think they know about the issue

Trust, but Verify! Check the story...

Panguin Tool – Check for Potential Algorithm Issues





KEEP in MIND Panda Rollouts cannot be accurately determined after 4th Quarter 2015!

(Rolled into the main algos- still rolling!)





Just because it walks like a duck & talks like a duck.....









It is not. That client has a seasonal business.

Do not assume! **EVER**.

It may walk like a duck & talk like a duck... and not be a duck

Okay so we have the history Now what?



EVERY site analysis starts with a crawl ...





Screteningfrog



A sample of a few helpful reports.

- Content ONLY Word Count
- Canonicals
- Redirect Chains
- AJAX Crawlability
- Response Codes
- Title and Meta Duplicates
- Title and Meta Length
- Twitter Cards
- URL Construction

Let's check it out \rightarrow



Spider: Paused

Average: 19.95 URI/s. Current: 10.00 URI/s.

Completed 83,108 of 236,785 (35.1%) 153,677 remaining

So much you can do... So Use this SERP for more ③

https://www.google.com/search?q=screaming+frog+things&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8

Check Your Core SEO. If the foundations are weak, the rest won't matter.

ON-THE-PAGE FACTORS

These elements are in the direct control of the publisher

CONT	ENT	
Cq	QUALITY	Are pages well written & have substantial quality content?
Cr	RESEARCH	Have you researched the keywords people may use to find your content?
Cw	WORDS	Do pages use words & phrases you hope they'll be found for?
Ce	ENGAGE	Do visitors spend time reading or "bounce" away quickly?
Cf	FRESH	Are pages fresh & about "hot" topics?
Vt	THIN	ls content "thin" or "shallow" & lacking substance?
Va	ADS	Is your content ad-heavy, especially "above the fold?"
HTML		
Ht	TITLES	Do HTML title tags contain keywords relevant to page topics?
Hd	DESCRIPTION	Do meta description tags describe what pages are about?
Hh	HEADERS	Do headlines & subheads use header tags with relevant keywords?
Hs	STRUCTURE	Do pages use structured data to enhance listings?
Vs	STUFFING	Do you excessively use words you want pages to be found for?
Vh	HIDDEN	Do colors or design "hide" words you want pages to be found for?
ARCH	ITECTURE	
Ac	CRAWL	Can search engines easily "crawl" pages on site?
Ad	DUPLICATE	Does site manage duplicate content issues well?
As	SPEED	Does site load quickly?
Au	URLS	Are URLs short & contain meaningful keywords to page topics?

THE PERIODIC TABLE OF SEO SUCCESS FACTORS

Search engine optimization — SEO — seems like alchemy to the uninitiated. But there's a science to it. Below are some important "ranking factors" and best practices that can lead to success with both search engines and searchers.



OFF-THE-PAGE FACTORS

Elements influenced by readers, visitors & other publishers

ds
am- ?
?

SearchEngineLand Periodic Table of SEO SUCCESS FACTORS
If you have reviewed all these factors and your site is still not performing, what next?

What is Technical SEO?

Just Make-Up?



Technical SEO is About Best Practices...

- Servers
- Scripting/Code
- Speed...Speed... and well Speed
- Site Architecture
- Indexability
- Crawability
- Mobile

That are related to Google's Algorithms To name a few...

- Hummingbird
- Panda
- Penguin
- Pigeon
- Pirate
- Page Layout



Technical SEO is about Measuring the Site Foundation Against Google's Guidelines & Their Algorithms

Often Overlooked! Great Way to Make Gains. Simply!



Technical SEO CHECKPOINT Is there a Manual Action (penalty)?

Manual Actions

Google			1 + Share		
Webmaster Tools		🔇 www.	Help 👻		
Site Dashboard	Manual Actions				
Site Messages	Site-wide matches None				
▶ Search Appearance ⑦	- Partial matches Some manual actions apply to speci	ific pages, sections, or links			
▼ Search Traffic	Reason	Affects			
Search Queries Links to Your Site Internal Links Manual Actions	Unnatural links to your site—impacts links Google has detected a pattern of unnatural artificial, deceptiv pointing to pages on this site. Some links may be outside of this incident we are taking targeted action on the unnatural li ranking as a whole. Learn more.	Some incoming links			
▶ Google Index					
▶ Crawl	REQUEST A REVIEW				
Malware					
Additional Tools					
▶ Labs					

Manual Actions.

If yes, is it...

- Partial?
- Or Full Site?

What Manual Actions Are There?

Manual Actions

Here are some common types of manual actions:

- Unnatural links to your site—impacts links
- Hacked site
- User-generated spam
- Spammy freehosts
- Spammy structured markup

- Unnatural links to your site
- Thin content with little or no added value
- Cloaking and/or sneaky redirects

- Unnatural links from your site
- Pure spam
- Hidden text and/or keyword stuffing

https://support.google.com/webmasters/answer/2604824?hl=en

Algorithmic Devaluations

Technically, algorithm changes such as Panda or Penguin are NOT penalties.

Unlike a manual action, you can gain OR lose with Google algorithms.

So what are we looking at?

- Http vs Https
- Robots
- SiteMaps
- Canonicals
- Redirects & 404s
- Architecture
- Navigation
- Code
- Schema Tagging
- Google Analytics Tracking

- Http vs Https
 - Is there mixed status?
 - If the site just moved to https, was it changed it everywhere?
 - Were the pages redirected?
- Robots
- SiteMaps
- Canonicals
- Redirects & 404s
- Architecture
- Navigation
- Code
- Schema Tagging
- Google Analytics Tracking

- Http vs Https
- Robots.txt
 - Is there one?
 - Is it written correctly? (test it)
 - Is it being used when they should be using no-index?
 - Robots.txt blocks the page crawl, but not the URL indexing
 - Is it blocking CSS &/or JS?
 - (can check this also in Search Console)
- SiteMaps
- Canonicals
- Redirects & 404s
- Architecture
- Navigation
- Code
- Schema Tagging
- Google Analytics Tracking

- Http vs Https
- Robots.txt
- SiteMaps
 - Is there one?
 - Is it written correctly? (test it)
 - Check the sitemaps for
 - Limits
 - Types (video, image, page)
 - Index Sitemaps (use them!)
 - TIP Google does not use priority or date modifiers
- Canonicals
- Redirects & 404s
- Architecture
- Navigation
- Code
- Schema Tagging
- Google Analytics Tracking

- Http vs Https
- Robots.txt
- SiteMaps
- Canonicals
 - Are they on the site?
 - Are they written correctly?
 - Do the canonicals follow the rules for writing canonicals?
 - <u>https://support.google.com/webmasters/answer/139066?hl=en</u>
 - <u>http://googlewebmastercentral.blogspot.com/2013/04/5-common-mistakes-with-relcanonical.html</u>
- Redirects & 404s
- Architecture
- Navigation
- Code
- Schema Tagging
- Google Analytics Tracking

- Http vs Https
- Robots.txt
- SiteMaps
- Canonicals
- Redirects & 404s
 - Is the site using 302 or 301?
 - Very important in new site launches
 - TIP Google will convert 302s to 301s over time.
 - GOOGLE says it doesn't matter, but that is not found in practice
 - TIP Google Search Console will only remove links for 3-6 months
 - How many 404s? Are you bleeding links? Should they be 410?
 - 410 causes the page to die faster in the index
- Architecture
- Navigation
- Code
- Schema Tagging
- Google Analytics Tracking

- Http vs Https
- Robots.txt
- SiteMaps
- Canonicals
- Redirects & 404s
- Architecture
 - Is the structure vertical or horizontal?
 - TIP Google prefers wide and flat over deep and tall
 - Are you giving Google a proper content outline?
 - Think 10th grade English Class
 - Are you specific, certain and clear?
 - This helps with topical relevancy
- Navigation
- Code
- Schema Tagging
- Google Analytics Tracking

- Http vs Https
- Robots.txt
- SiteMaps
- Canonicals
- Redirects & 404s
- Architecture
- Navigation
 - Are you using proper navigation?
 - Are you constructing a contextual view of your site?
 - Are you throwing in the kitchen sink? (There are some use cases for this, but not many)
 - Do you have evergreen navigation? IMPORTANT!
 - TIP Users can only process 5-8 piece of information at a time
- Code
- Schema Tagging
- Google Analytics Tracking

- Http vs Https
- Robots.txt
- SiteMaps
- Canonicals
- Redirects & 404s
- Architecture
- Navigation
- Code
 - Valid HTML is not a ranking factor, but things that make up valid HTML are ranking factors.
 - TIPS Make sure your title tag is the first (after head), use absolute not relative URLS, alt text in a link is the same as text, use ul/li for navigation and keep your code light/clean.
- Schema Tagging
- Google Analytics Tracking

- Http vs Https
- Robots.txt
- SiteMaps
- Canonicals
- Redirects & 404s
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- Schema Tagging
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- Robots.txt
- SiteMaps
- Canonicals
- Redirects & 404s
- Architecture
- Navigation
- Schema Tagging
 - Just do it!

Really. Use the Highlighter in GSC!

TIP Any data point can be used in the KG without copyright violation.

- Check Google Search Console for mark-up validity.
- JSON-LD makes this all easier
- Google Analytics Tracking

- Http vs Https
- Robots.txt
- SiteMaps
- Canonicals
- Redirects & 404s
- Architecture
- Navigation
- Schema Tagging
- Google Analytics Tracking
 - Make sure it is implemented correctly, especially UTM parameters
 - Address any errors
 - TIP! You can check your implementation with the Chrome Plug-in GA debugger

What else?

Make sure your site is indexing properly.

What Next?

- Google + Google Operators
 - Number of Pages Indexed
 - site:www.domian.tld (not Site)
 - Find Subdomains
 - site:domain.tld
 but leave of the www or use a
 *.domain.tld
 - Remove from Search "-"
 - site:domain.ltd –subdomain.domain.tld or site:domain.tld -folder

Why?

Multiple **Home Pages** create duplicate content issues for the spider and can be fitered out of the SERPS!

Make sure you have only ONE home address.

TIP This seems common sense, but in audits we run across this a lot more often than you would expect.

------> And their Anomalies

For instance, what is the indexed domain structure? www or non-www (check with site:domain.com vs site:www.domain.com)

Make sure the site redirects the domain from www to non-www or vice versa. ALSO that there are no homepage extensions like default.html or index.aspx

What else?

Speed.... You know fast.... Like really fast...

Two Tests

WebpageTest.org and of course Google Pagespeed Insights DOCUMENTATION

FORUMS

ABOUT

Web Page Performance Test for

whitehouse.gov

From: Phoenix, AZ USA - Chrome - custom 10/8/2015, 11:01:44 AM



	Applicable Objects	Time to First Byte for the page (back-end processing + redirects)
First Byte Time	What is checked	The target time is the time needed for the DNS, socket and SSL negotiations + 100ms. A single letter grade will be deducted for every 100ms beyond the target.
Keep-Alive	Applicable Objects	All objects that are from a domain that serves more than one object for the page (i.e. if only a single object is served from a given domain it will not be checked)
	What is checked	The response header contains a "keep-alive" directive or the same socket was used for more than one object from the given host
GZIP Text	Applicable Objects	All objects with a mime type of "text/*" or "*javascript*"
	What is checked	Transfer-encoding is checked to see if it is gzip. If it is not then the file is compressed and the percentage of compression is the result (so a page that can save 30% of the size of it's text by compressing would yield a 70% test result)
Compress Images	Applicable Objects	JPEG Images
	What is checked	Within 10% of a photoshop quality 50 will pass, up to 50% larger will warn and anything larger than that will fail. The overall score is the percentage of image bytes that can be saved by re-compressing the images.
Use Progressive JPEGs	Applicable Objects	All JPEG Images
	What is checked	Each JPEG image is checked and the resulting score is the percentage of JPEG bytes that were served as progressive images relative to the total JPEG bytes.
Cache Static	Applicable Objects	Any non-html object with a mime type of "text/*", "*javascript*" or "image/*" that does not explicitly have an Expires header of 0 or -1, a cache-control header of "private", "no-store" or "no-cache" or a pragma header of "no-cache"
	What is checked	An "Expires" header is present (and is not 0 or -1) or a "cache-control: max-age" directive is present and set for an hour or greate If the expiration is set for less than 30 days you will get a warning (only applies to max-age currently).
Use A CDN	Applicable Objects	All static non-html content (css, js and images)
	What is checked	Checked to see if it is hosted on a known CDN (CNAME mapped to a known CDN network). 80% of the static resources need to be served from a CDN for the overall page to be considered using a CDN. The current list of known CDN's is here

Tester: WPT-US-02-50.62.76.81 Connectivity: 1500/384 Kbps, 50ms Latency

						Document Complete		Fully Loaded			
Load Time	First Byte	Start Render	Visually Complete	Speed Index	Result (error code)	Time	Requests	Bytes In	Time	Requests	Bytes In
4.655s	0.929s	3.084s	4.000s	3190	0	4.655s	5	353 KB	4.871s	6	353 KB

Waterfall View



customize waterfall + View all Imanes
Request Details											
	Resource	Content Type	Request Start	DNS Lookup	Initial SSL Connection Negotiation		Time to First Byte	Content Download	Bytes Downloaded	Error/Status Code	IP
1	http://whitehouse.gov/	text/html	0.44 s	379 ms	-	-	54 ms	-	0.3 KB	301	-
2	https://www.whitehouse.gov/	text/html	0.956 s	331 ms	13 ms	49 ms	324 ms	127 ms	105.4 KB	200	-
3	https://www.whitehouXdMiU84ekLLxQnc4.css	text/css	1.554 s	-		-	41 ms	410 ms	1.4 KB	200	-
4	https://www.whitehouuNy9Vo8PpzTa6cX4.css	text/css	1.572 s	•			24 ms	429 ms	4.0 KB	200	-
5	https://www.whitehounmm5fFUGxHZcPMWc.css	text/css	1.594 s	-	-	-	226 ms	345 ms	12.1 KB	200	-
6	https://www.whitehouOx4FGwB5NFslhk94.css	text/css	1.61 s		-	-	20 ms	415 ms	0.6 KB	200	-
7	https://www.whitehoukmOSckysxO7f6tuo.css	text/css	1.641 s	-		-	23 ms	397 ms	8.7 KB	200	-
8	https://www.whitehouaBRe0tSoTLHJye5A.css	text/css	1.656 s	•	-	-	26 ms	421 ms	20.3 KB	200	-
9	https://www.whitehouAC38MLLIkjqjQ1X_k.js	application/x-javascript	1.674 s	-	-	-	40 ms	436 ms	38.8 KB	200	-
10	https://www.whitehouEDVNfKu0v8oY9XuOI.js	application/x-javascript	1.694 s	•	-	-	65 ms	402 ms	36.1 KB	200	-
11	https://www.whitehouOh54S1WQzdPUW-yro.js	application/x-javascript	1.726 s	-		-	22 ms	405 ms	5.4 KB	200	-
12	https://www.whitehouQa-2D7zbuDDNv5sA.js	application/x-javascript	1.747 s	0 ms	13 ms	13 ms	22 ms	390 ms	12.3 KB	200	-
13	https://www.whitehouQRcpQRP1DWAbVWN7Ljs	application/x-javascript	1.79 s	2	-	-	21 ms	352 ms	3.2 KB	200	-
14	https://www.whitehou37GknEk9ZcgdLrYN0.js	application/x-javascript	1.804 s	-			21 ms	352 ms	1.5 KB	200	-
15	https://www.whitehoufrp4gWf3_kvziFVJc.js	application/x-javascript	1.832 s	-	•	-	18 ms	329 ms	4.7 KB	200	-
16	https://www.whitehouzFjVLWzboXJJewXOk.js	application/x-javascript	1.843 s	•			108 ms	235 ms	0.8 KB	200	-
17	https://www.whitehou=The%20White%20House	application/javascript	1.864 s		-	-	18 ms	300 ms	5.5 KB	200	-
18	https://www.whitehouvOxSgWO1is-ghBFoU.js	application/x-javascript	1.874 s	•	-	-	22 ms	288 ms	3.3 KB	200	-
19	https://www.whitehouons/wh_logo_seal.png	image/png	1.938 s		-		18 ms	232 ms	23.6 KB	200	-
20	https://www.whitehouhero_aidrefugees.jpg	image/jpeg	1.986 s	-	121	-	19 ms	216 ms	561.1 KB	200	-
94	https://www.uhitabou_magaaftada_tauting	Imagafaaa	0.007.0	-			10 ma	177 mg	03 7 VD	200	1.2



First Byte Time (back-end processing): 6/100

929 ms First Byte Time -3 ms Target First Byte Time

Use persistent connections (keep alive): 100/100

Use gzip compression for transferring compressable responses: N/A

Compress Images: N/A

Use Progressive JPEGs: N/A

Leverage browser caching of static assets: 0/100

FAILED - (No max-age or expires) - http://whitehouse.gov/ FAILED - (No max-age or expires) - https://cloud.typography.com/6570712/721006/css/fonts.css FAILED - (29.6 minutes) - https://platform.twitter.com/widgets.js

Use a CDN for all static assets: N/A

And Google....

You want an 85 min – 90+ is best PageSpeed Insights GH PageSpeed Insights GH http://whitehouse.gov/ http://whitehouse.gov/ Mobile Desktop Mobile Desktop H 41 / 100 Suggestions Summary 39 / 100 Speed Should Fix: Should Fix: Optimize images **Optimize** images Show how to fix Show how to fix Leverage browser caching Eliminate render-blocking JavaScript and CSS in above-the-Show how to fix Show how to fix Eliminate render-blocking JavaScript and CSS in above-the-fold content Prioritize visible content Show how to fix Show how to fix Leverage browser caching Consider Fixing: Show how to fix Enable compression

Remember Page Speed Insights DOES NOT MEASURE speed. It measures the load time of the objects in the DOM

> TIP SCORES of 90 or ABOVE are Best. All sites should be above an 80

*Mobile was determined by Desktop but now will be separate.

Review in Google Analytics in page speed timings, the tests can give you indications of issues Analytics gives you Google's measure of page speed.



Look for anomalies ESPECIALLY if you run ads!

Avg. Page Load Time (sec)	PageSpeed PageSpeed S Suggestions ⑦	core				
592.50	Avg. Page Load Time is the average	70				
592.40	amount of time (in seconds) it takes for pages from the sample set to load, from initiation of the pageview (e.g. click on a	38				
592.2 ⁴	page link) to load completion in the browser. If you see zero (0) as a value or a small increase in November 2011, read the					
589.0 <mark>6</mark>						
584.1	About Site Speed article.	73				
574.19	6 total 🖉	65				
573.29	6 total 🖉	72				
572.54	6 total @	74				
571.29	6 total 🖉	38				
567.19	6 total 🖉	74				

Is there more? Why YES there is!

Let's Review Search Console.

Crawl Stats

Googlebot activity in the last 90 days





Very telling! But can be counterintuitive.

Low

Low

212

20,010,257



Review Analytics Data

Search Analytics

Analyze your performance on Google Search. Filter and compare your results to better understand your user's search patterns. Learn more.

Clicks Impressions I CTR I Position									
Queries No filter	O Pages	O Countri No filter		○ Search Type Web -	O Search Appearance No filter +	○ Dates Last 28 days -			
Total clicks 7,203,366	Total impressions 184,189,273	Avg. CTR 3.91%	Avg. position						



Are you bleeding link juice?

URL Errors

Status: 6/22/16

Desktop (?) Si	martphone ⑦ Feature p	ohone ? News ?			
Server error (?)	Soft 404 (?)	Access denied (?)	Not found ⑦	Not followed ⑦	
30	7	3	808,093	0	
]		
1;200,000					
900,000				~	
600,000					
300,000					

4/18/16 4/23/16 4/27/16 5/1/16 5/9/16 5/13/16 5/17/16 5/21/16 5/25/16 5/29/16 3/29/16 4/10/16 5/5/16 6/2/16 6/6/16 6/10/16 6/18/16 4/2/16 4/6/16 4/14/16 6/14/16 3/27/16 3/31/16 4/8/16 4/12/16 4/16/16 4/20/16 4/25/16 4/29/16 5/3/16 5/7/16 5/11/16 5/15/16 5/19/16 5/23/16 5/27/16 5/31/16 6/4/16 6/8/16 4/4/16 6/12/16 6/16/16 6/20/16

Do you have a parameters issue? Spiders don't like spider traps!

URL Parameters

Help Google crawl your site more efficiently by indicating how we should handle parameters in your URLs. Learn more.

9 Use this feature only if you're sure how parameters work. Incorrectly excluding URLs could result in many pages disappearing from search.

Download this table Add parameter				Show 25 rows - 1-25 of 5	7 < >
Parameter	URLs monitored +	Configured	Effect	Crawl	
page	1,839,991			Let Googlebot decide	Edit / Reset
utm_source	161,836			Let Googlebot decide	Edit / Reset
utm_medium	159,948	-	-	Let Googlebot decide	Edit / Reset
utm_campaign	152,976		-	Let Googlebot decide	Edit / Reset
utm_term	137,420	-	-	Let Googlebot decide	Edit / Reset
utm_content	137,225			Let Googlebot decide	Edit / Reset

Blocked Resources Can Get Your Site Devalued.

Blocked Resources

Rendering without certain resources can impair the indexing of your web pages. Learn more.

Status: 6/21/16

1,652,611 Pages with blocked resources

2,000,000																								
1,500,000																								
1,000,000																								
500,000																								
3/26/16	3/29/16	4/2/16	4/5/16	4/9/16	4/16/16	4/19/16	4/23/16	4/26/16	4/30/16	5/3/16	5/7/16	5/10/16	5/14/16	5/17/16	5/21/16	5/24/16	5/28/16	5/31/16	6/4/16	6/7/16	6/11/16	6/14/16	6/18/16	6/21/16

However in this case these are third party resources blocking their own scripts, so that is not counted against you.

Are your pages being indexed? Have there been changes?

Index Status Showing data from the last year



HTML Improvements

Last updated Jun 23, 2016

Addressing the following may help your site's user experience and performance.

Meta description	Pages
Duplicate meta descriptions	187,159
Long meta descriptions	0
Short meta descriptions	123,259
Title tag	Pages
Missing title tags	0
Duplicate title tags	359,057
Long title tags	0
Short title tags	0
Non-informative title tags	0
Non-indexable content	Pages
We didn't detect any issues with non-indexable content on your site.	

This can indicate issues such as problems with canonical tagging, duplicate content, author issues etc.

We didn't detect any issues with non-indexable content on your site.

Finally, do you have a security issue?

Security Issues

Currently, we haven't detected any security issues with your site's content. If you want to learn more about security issues and how they could affect your site, review our resources for hacked sites.

However, if you see a malware warning in the browser when navigating to your site, it's likely that your site is referencing code or content from another domain that has malware. Read up on cross-site malware and learn how to address it.

And when you identify & fix the issues you get



In this case, 200k avg visits a day

How's that for just make-up?

QUESTIONS



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