

# 3x Your Traffic with SEO: How we Grew and You Can Too

Mark Barrera, Sr. Director SEO

## Mark Barrera Sr. Director, SEO

- 15+ Years doing SEO and Digital Marketing
- Agency and brand side experience
- Hundreds of millions of organic visits
- Founding Chairman of the State of Search Conference and frequent industry speaker.







#### **SEO Audit**

The first thing that we did at was an in depth SEO

Audit that addressed the following:

- Technical / Site Structure
- Links / PR
- Content

#### Ways to get there:

- In-house team
- Consultant
- Agency



#### **SEO Education**

#### Make SEO part of company DNA

Build relationships and perform trainings with all teams especially Product, Engineering, Marketing and Content teams.

Enable all teams to be able to easily use and explore all data. Google Data Studio FTW!

We're not an agency but we work with our clients to help them do SEO better. Knowledge is power.



#### **Keyword Research**

- We assembled a "Keyword Library" that houses all original keyword research, to allow us to store all keywords that match our audience.
- Make specific plans for how you will target each keyword.
- Connect this data with Google Search Console via API
  - Allows you to see where you are strong and weak.
- Identify the modifiers that have the most volume via phrase frequency analysis

| Category =                  | Search<br>Volume = | # of<br>Keywords = |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Business Intelligence (BI)  | 214,230            | 32,985             |
| Email Marketing             | 197,240            | 31,806             |
| Content Management          | 130,260            | 20,806             |
| HR Management               | 93,510             | 19,622             |
| Marketing Automation        | 55,080             | 8,234              |
| Infrastructure-as-a-Service | 65,590             | 6,637              |

#### **Ecommerce**

| # of times word | $\overline{z}$ | # of times Phrase      | = |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------------|---|
| 4997 ecommerce  |                | 463 ecommerce website  |   |
| 487 website     |                | 243 for ecommerce      |   |
| 418 best        |                | 212 best ecommerce     |   |
| 353 for         |                | 125 how to             |   |
| 245 in          |                | 121 ecommerce platform |   |
| 198 free        |                | 121 ecommerce business |   |
| 201 to          |                | 89 an ecommerce        |   |
| 167 business    |                | 85 ecommerce sites     |   |
| 159 how         |                | 83 ecommerce site      |   |
| 151 design      |                | 72 free ecommerce      |   |
| 149 wordpress   |                | 66 ecommerce websites  |   |
| 134 platform    |                | 63 ecommerce web       |   |



# **Data Deep Dive**

 SEMRush / Ahrefs to pull competitive benchmarks (keywords, traffic by page type, etc)

| Yield per Page | TrustRadius | G2  | Gartner |
|----------------|-------------|-----|---------|
| Total          | 10          | 31  | 6       |
| Blog           | 57          | 628 |         |
| Categories     | 363         | 207 | 126     |
| Products       | 49          | 32  | 3       |
| Comparisons    | 17          | 2   | 4       |

- Yield per category / page
- CTR Curve
- Keyword Modifiers
- Keyword Rankings
- Content Analysis

| KW Modifier = | Keywords % of query TrustRadius | Traffic % of query TrustRadius | Keywords % of query G2 | Traffic % of query G2 = |
|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| tool          | 1.73%                           | 2.51%                          | 0.71%                  | 0.26%                   |
| best          | 1.71%                           | 1.51%                          | 1.54%                  | 1.13%                   |
| top           | 0.95%                           | 1.42%                          | 0.64%                  | 0.44%                   |
| compare       | 0.62%                           | 0.92%                          | 0.21%                  | 0.17%                   |
| list          | 0.44%                           | 0.92%                          | 0.22%                  | 0.07%                   |
| enterprise    | 0.39%                           | 0.81%                          | 0.16%                  | 0.13%                   |
| company       | 0.38%                           | 0.79%                          | 0.45%                  | 0.27%                   |
| vendor        | 0.27%                           | 0.73%                          | 0.09%                  | 0.11%                   |
| review        | 0.83%                           | 0.60%                          | 0.47%                  | 0.19%                   |
| open source   | 0.52%                           | 0.41%                          | 0.23%                  | 0.04%                   |
| what          | 0.65%                           | 0.24%                          | 0.49%                  | 0.07%                   |



# **CTR Curve Analysis**

We prioritized efforts by going after the page types that have the highest traffic potential based on CTR in Google for that page type.

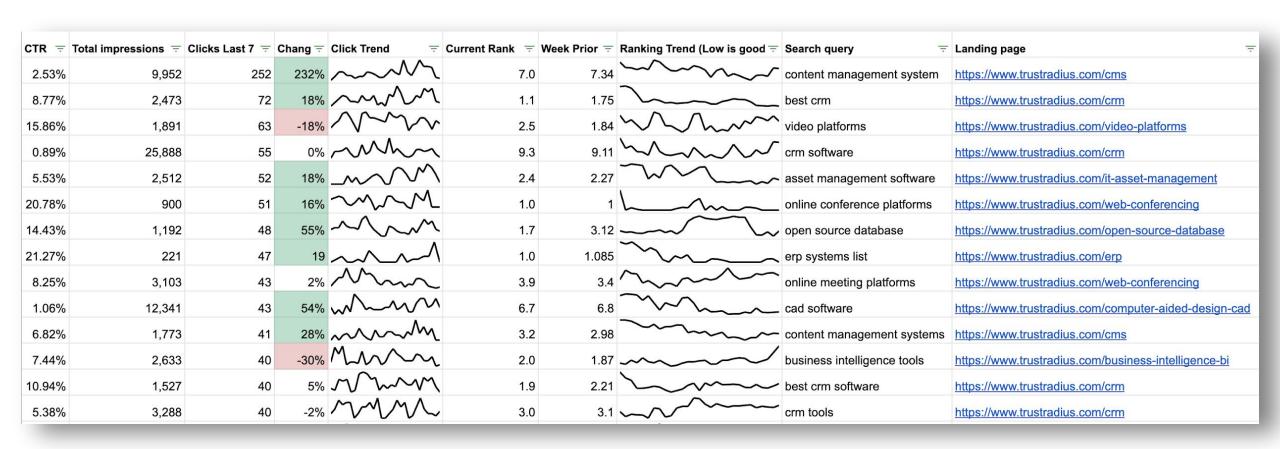
Large search volumes can often yield much less traffic than lower volume terms due to the differences in CTR curves.

50% CTR for our comparisons vs 19% for our product pages.

A two position increase for a keyword typically yields double the traffic.

| February   |       |             |        |
|------------|-------|-------------|--------|
| Products   |       |             |        |
| Position   | CTR   | Impressions | Clicks |
| 1          | 18.64 | 39486       | 7362   |
| 2          | 12.66 | 61363       | 7769   |
| 3          | 4.91  | 112145      | 5510   |
| 4          | 4.82  | 84626       | 4078   |
| 5          | 2.45  | 103550      | 2539   |
| 6          | 0.42  | 723559      | 3016   |
| 7          | 0.63  | 366646      | 2296   |
| 8          | 0.42  | 473455      | 1999   |
| 9          | 0.1   | 2062346     | 2108   |
| 10         | 0.33  | 445631      | 1461   |
| Comparison |       |             |        |
| Position   | CTR   | Impressions | Clicks |
| 1          | 49.58 | 28011       | 13888  |
| 2          | 38.63 | 40487       | 15641  |
| 3          | 26    | 41899       | 10892  |
| 4          | 17.94 | 42219       | 7574   |
| 5          | 11.75 | 44870       | 5271   |
| 6          | 8.44  | 44397       | 3747   |
| 7          | 3.44  | 79379       | 2730   |
| 8          | 2.96  | 77572       | 2294   |
| 9          | 1.68  | 115650      | 1945   |
| 10         | 1.61  | 92562       | 1491   |

# Reporting on Keyword Rankings



3rd Party keyword tracking is great but is only a portion of the data. GSC data extracted via API should be core to your reporting and analysis. Stop letting the 1k results in GSC be your source of truth!



#### **Focus on High Quality Content**

- We focus on high quality, long form user reviews and utilize that content strategically across our site
- We refuse to shortcut quality to drive quantity
- Develop a "Highest Quality" Mindset
  - Is your content better than any other content on the topic?
  - Are you in-depth, informative and providing a clear path to action for the user to satisfy their needs?
- Focus on users but don't forget that Google isn't human.

#### **Make Sure Content is Relevant**

#### Blogging as part of the keyword growth strategy

- Map content across the entire buying journey
- We decided to avoid 'vanity' content that would only drive up our traffic vs relevance

We've outlined our process for creating high quality blogs that map to the user journey here:

**Go.Trustradi.us/Blog-Content** 

| -  | Traffic | Ŧ     |
|--|---------|-------|
| learn.g2.com/how-to-delete-instagram-account     |         | 55869 |
| learn.g2.com/how-much-is-a-book-of-stamps        |         | 43376 |
| learn.g2.com/snapchat-score                      |         | 25682 |
| learn.g2.com/how-to-delete-a-youtube-video       |         | 21257 |
| learn.g2.com/change-gmail-password               |         | 19694 |
| learn.g2.com/how-to-unblock-someone-on-instagram |         | 19640 |
| learn.g2.com/how-much-does-a-passport-cost       |         | 18211 |
| learn.g2.com/how-much-do-youtubers-make          |         | 17838 |
| learn.g2.com/how-much-is-netflix                 |         | 14750 |
| learn.g2.com/how-to-change-snapchat-username     |         | 14605 |
| learn.g2.com/how-to-download-instagram-videos    |         | 14314 |
| learn.g2.com/how-to-change-twitter-handle        |         | 13881 |
| learn.g2.com/how-to-take-a-screenshot-on-windows |         | 13786 |
| learn.g2.com/how-to-change-your-youtube-name     |         | 13113 |

| Yield per Page | TrustRadius | G2  |
|----------------|-------------|-----|
| Total          | 10          | 31  |
| Blog           | 57          | 628 |
| Categories     | 363         | 207 |
| Products       | 49          | 32  |
| Comparisons    | 17          | 2   |

# **Product Comparisons**

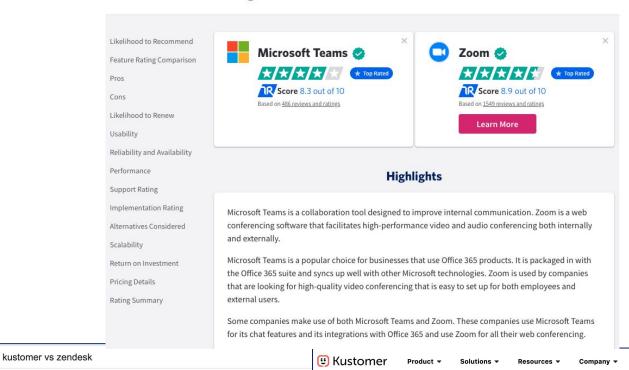
Added custom content to make these page more comprehensive and informative and structured. This led to big growth in featured snippets.

Main content on page is driven by user reviews specific to the products being compared, allowing these pages to be fresh with keyword rich, informative content.

One third of our traffic comes from these pages and they have our best CTR from search

What users are saying about

#### **Microsoft Teams 5 Zoom**







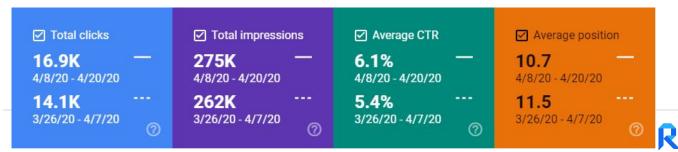
ssociate Project Manager hindLove

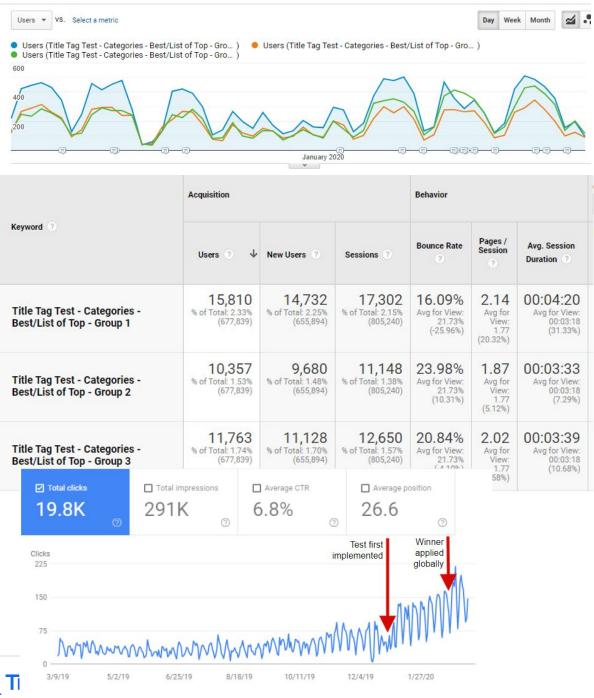
# **Title Tag Testing**

#### Go.TrustRadius.com/TitleTagTest

- See how we can affect our CTR in the search results
- We picked our pages, created segments in GA to track those.
- Rolled test to the three audiences control, test and second test.

Focus on traffic and user engagement metrics





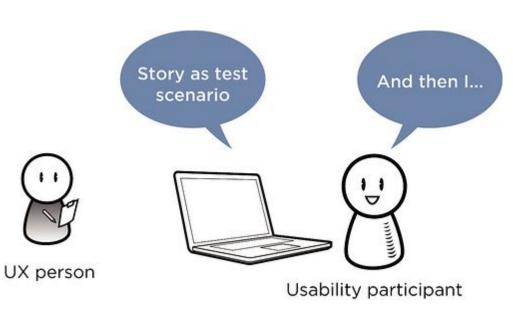
## **Content Testing**

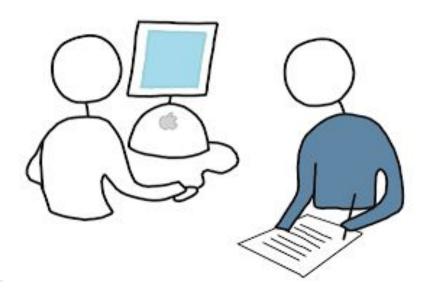
- Update old content
- Add new content
- Restructure content
- Focus on specific keywords
- Results can be real time or close to it in many cases.



### **User Testing**

- If you aren't working to satisfy your users, someone else is.
- The more that you can satisfy your site visitors, the more you will win via SEO
- We perform 'lab' usability testing as well as tests across our site audience via A/B and multivariate tests.
- Embrace the scientific method for tests.
- Always have a test running

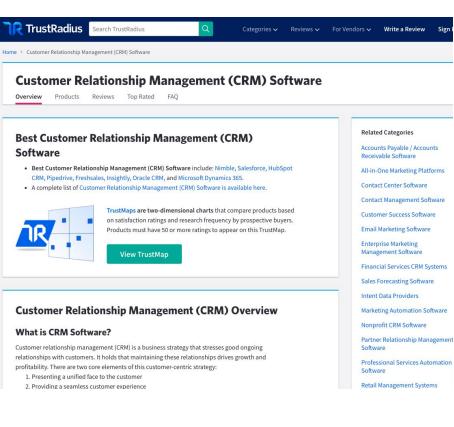


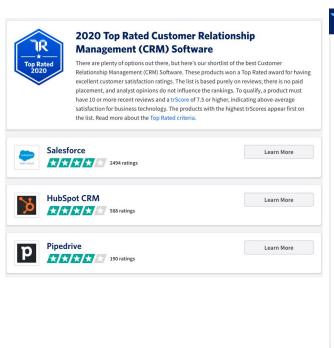


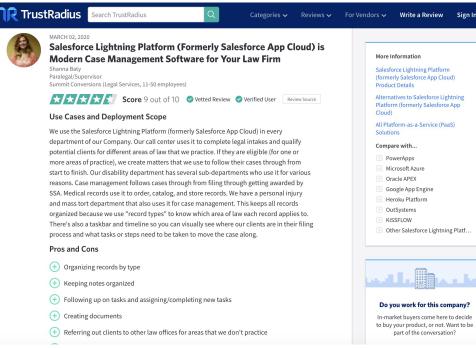


#### **Have a Clear Path for Users**

#### **Category > Product > Reviews / Comparisons**





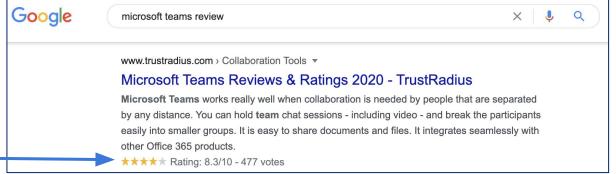




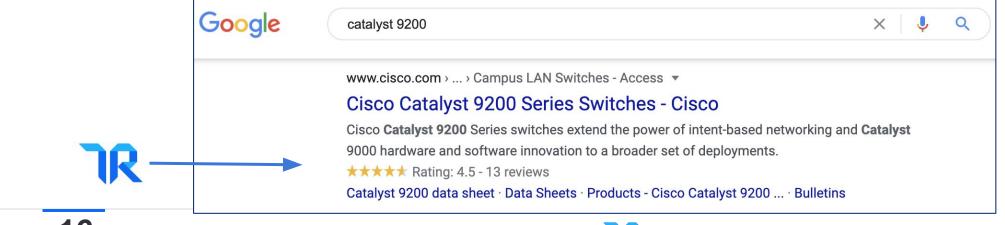
# **Technical - Ratings Schema**

#### **Ratings Stars:**

• We added this to more of our Product page in an efforts to drive up CTR and visibility in the search results.



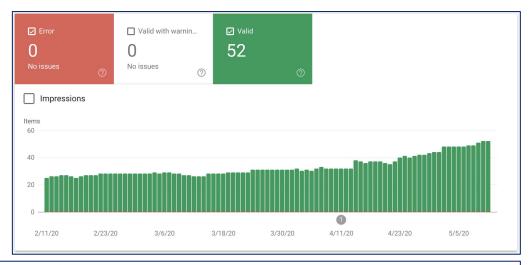
# You can get these stars too by using a third party review service like TrustRadius

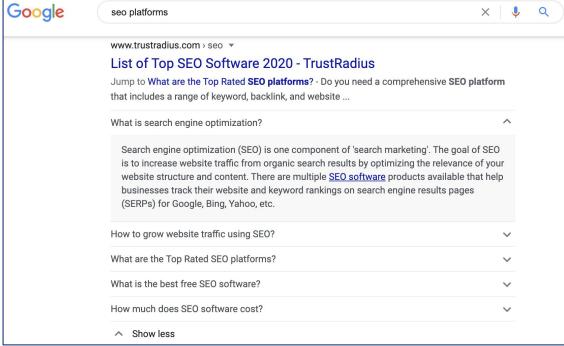


# **Technical - FAQs**

We were the first and still one of the only sites in our competitive set that utilize FAQ structured data to capture more real estate as well as better answer more user queries.

We also marked these up using anchored jump links providing the "Jump to" link shown in the results as well. So we have gone from one link to click on, to multiple links to better serve users.







# **Quality Indexation**

Indexation of pages is a big signal of quality from Google. Do you have more pages indexed that you have driving traffic?

Make sure all of the pages that you want to be indexed are in a sitemap. Then you can see what % of those are indexed by looking in Google Search Console.

Our goal is 90%+ indexation





# **Digital PR**

- Promotion of your content very important to your success in ranking well.
- Links still correlate highly to success for highly competitive keywords.
- Value also comes via entity mentions in relevant content (Brand mentions that aren't linked)

Two pieces of data driven content drove 500+ links for us this past quarter. Forbes, Business Insider, eMarketer, US Chamber of Commerce and others covered our data **but only because we made them aware of it**.

#### **Leveraging Other Sites**

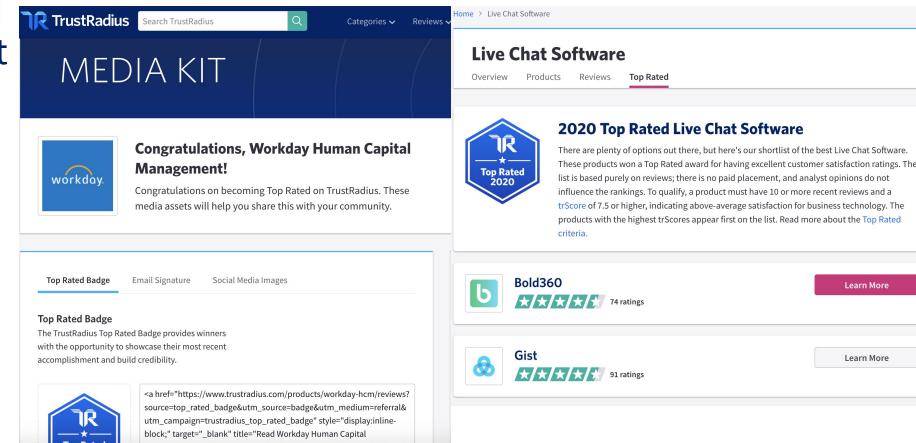
#### Do others rank well for the terms that matter to you?

- Listings on review sites
  - Who ranks well and are you well positioned to get traffic from those sites or can you be?
  - TrustRadius ranks for hundreds of thousands of keywords that can drive back to you
- Press / Publications / Blogs
  - Be where your audience is
  - Develop relationships
  - Provide valuable content assets

Are competitors mentioned but you aren't? Ask "why" to start the convo and introduce your value prop.

#### **Link Assets**

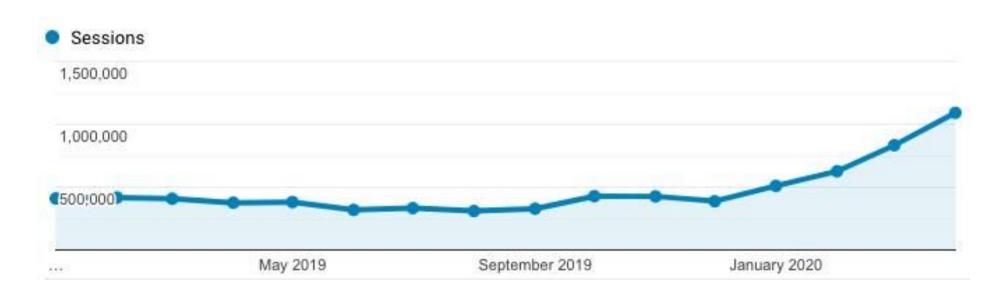
Tools, awards and other non-content marketing based approaches can yield big wins.





#### Success

#### From ~300k sessions to 1.1 Million Next up - 2 Million



# **Audience Poll**

# **Q&A**



**Mark Barrera**Sr. Director, SEO

- @mark\_barrera
- markbarrera

#### **Upcoming Webinar**

Supercharge Marketing & Brand Performance with Social Proof

Featuring:



go.trustradi.us/supercharge

