

B2B LEAD LIFECYCLE GUIDE

FROM CLICKS
TO CUSTOMERS

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Summary

In today's competitive B2B landscape, understanding your customer is more crucial than ever. This guide is designed to help you not only understand your visitors but also convert them into loyal advocates. By understanding customer behaviors, optimizing marketing funnels, leveraging advanced tools and techniques, and ensuring compliance, businesses can drive growth and build lasting customer relationships.

Understanding Your Customer

Learn to create detailed buyer personas and map the customer journey to enhance your B2B marketing efforts from the initial awareness phase to post-purchase.

Optimizing The Funnel

Explore strategies for each stage of the funnel—awareness, consideration, and decision—to improve lead generation and conversion rates effectively.

Techniques & Tools

Dive into lead scoring, martech stacks, performance analysis, and advanced tracking mechanisms to make datadriven decisions and optimize marketing performance.

Compliance & Best Practices

Ensure privacy compliance and leverage cutting-edge testing methodologies, along with data visualization techniques.

In a nutshell, this white paper is tailored for forward-thinking B2B marketers, UX designers, and anyone passionate about business growth. It equips you to adapt your lead generation strategies to the ever-evolving challenges and opportunities of today's B2B landscape.

Happy hunting!

Understanding Your Customer

It all starts from the customer, not the product!

Creating detailed buyer personas and mapping out the customer journey are crucial strategies to create efficient and targeted campaigns that resonate with your audience:

Buyer persona

provide a comprehensive view of a target audience.

They go beyond demographics, statistics and job titles to capture the real people behind the decision-making process.

Customer Journey

map out the customer's perceptions, needs, and emotions at each touchpoint.

This understanding allows businesses to enhance customer experience and drive long-term loyalty.

B2B Buyer Persona

Many businesses mistakenly create B2B personas using demographic information like B2C companies do. While demographics can provide initial insights, and help identifying with the avatar, they have limited impact on the B2B purchasing decision.

Businesses should focus on:

- The real buyer: Focus on the decision makers or gatekeepers for your product
- Fears and challenges: Understand what is stressing them, how your product can help them and why would they be afraid to buy your product
- Goals and drivers: Analyse what is persona their ambition and how your product can help them reaching their goals
- Organisational priorities: Research how your product fit with the company general direction (f.e. cost efficiency, revenue growth, market expansion) and implementation complexity
- Problems and issues: Learn what systems they have in place and how your product can help their company enough where they will make a switch

Where to research

- 1. Interview your sales and customer success team
- 2. Interview your executive team
- 3. Insights from your database
- 4. Surveys with customers & prospects.
- 5. Focus groups with customers & prospects

Customer persona workshops can easily digress into discussions influenced by dominant opinions, especially with c-level involvement.

To maintain focus and avoid groupthink, keep groups small or conduct separate sessions with different stakeholders.

Operational Guide

Create a cross-functional team with representatives from sales, marketing, customer success, and product development to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the customer.

Set a timeline with specific deadlines for each stage of the process to keep evervone on track.

Define clear responsibilities on who will lead the persona development process, conduct interviews, analyse data, and create the final personas.

Develop a template to ensure consistency in data collection and persona creation.

Example



SARAH

Age Job Title Years of Experience Industry

Team Size

CMO, Head of Marketing Software Tech Company Size 200 employees

35-45

Sarah is an ambitious data-driven visionary with a knack for storytelling and a relentless focus on driving business growth.

She is reponsible for sustainable growth, sales enablement and team development. Sarah is well-versed in martech, and is constantly seeking to stay ahead of the curve in rapidly evolving industry.

Sarah is dedicated to the development of her team, making sure they are happy and well rewarded for hard work.

Role

Authority **Decision Maker** Reports to Marketing VP Budget € 150.000 MQL, CAC, ROI, Revenue, Turnover **Team Size** 20-25 marketeers Communication Email, video calls, industry Channels events

Goals & Drivers

20-25 marketeers

- · Define brand awareness and demand generation strategies
- Increase marketing revenue and reduce CAC
- Develop marketing assets in line with company goals and sales department needs
- Keep up-to-date with industry trends
- · Orchestrate multi-channel campaigns

Common Objections

- Lack of clear ROI
- · Integration challenges
- Data privacy
- Vendor dependency
- · Cost of training

Likes Dislikes

- · Cutting edge tech
- · Being in control
- Great design Dashboards
- Creative solutions
- · Being surprised
- · Cold calls
- Delays Long meetings

Challenges & Pain points

- · Restricted budget
- · SEO skills shortage in her team
- · Access to market intelligence data
- Finding time for her own development
- Balancing team requests with management expectations

How can we help?

- Quantifiable ROI
- · Customer support for seamless integration
- · Time efficiency
- Scalability
- · Integrated training
- Testimonials/social proof

Preferred Content

- Reports
- Videos Podcasts
- Blog articles
- Social Media

Influencers & Validators

- · C-Level, particularly VP and CEO
- · Product Management and Developer Team
- · Sales and Customer Success Team
- Industry analysts
- Key customers and partners

Keywords & Features

- Personalization
- Time efficiency
- · Reporting management

Top of the Funnel

Awareness Stage

In the awareness phase your target group begins to acknowledge their need for a solution and actively seeks for information

Companies at this stage make "impressions" in order to capture the attention of the user and create a first positive and memorable experience of its products or services.

B2B marketing tactics maximize their reach by covering as many topics as possible via:

- Content variety
 - o Blog posts, infographics, educational videos, beginner guides, podcasts
- Targeted advertising
- Social media updates
- SEO optimization
- Influencer marketing

Awareness Main Metrics

Website Traffic	Social Media	Paid Advertising	Content	
Total visitors	Impressions	Click-through Rate	Blog views	
Unique visitors	Click-through Rate	Cost per Click	Signups	
Page views	Engagement	Cost per 1000 impressions	Video views	
Bounce rate	Follower growth	Conversion rate	Downloads	
Session duration	Share of Voice	Return On Advertising Spend	Session duration	

Middle of the Funnel

Consideration Phase

In the consideration phase, potential customers have identified their problem or need and are actively researching and evaluating solutions.

This stage is crucial to:

- **Educate and Inform:** Provide detailed information to help potential customers understand the benefits and unique value of your offerings.
- Build Trust and Authority: Establish your brand as a trusted authority in your industry through thought leadership and valuable insights.
- **Engage and Nurture Leads:** Maintain regular, meaningful interactions to keep your brand top-of-mind as prospects narrow down their options.

B2B Marketing Tactics

In-Depth Content:

- Case Studies: Showcase real-life examples of how your product or service has solved problems for other businesses.
- Whitepapers and Ebooks: Offer comprehensive guides and research reports that provide valuable insights into industry trends and solutions.
- Webinars and Online Workshops: Host live sessions where prospects can learn from experts, ask questions, and interact with your brand.

Email Marketing:

- Nurture Campaigns: Develop a series of targeted emails that provide valuable content, address common pain points.
- Personalized Messaging: Tailor your emails to the specific interests and needs of each lead/segment.

Comparison Guides and Product Demos:

- Comparison Guides: Create detailed comparisons between your offerings and those of competitors, highlighting your unique advantages.
- Product Demos: Offer live or recorded demonstrations to showcase your product's features and benefits in action.

Testimonials and Reviews:

- Customer Testimonials: Share success stories and positive feedback to build credibility and trust.
- **Third-Party Reviews**: Encourage customers to leave reviews on independent platforms to enhance your reputation.

Interactive Tools:

- **ROI Calculators:** Provide tools that help prospects calculate the potential return on investment they can achieve with your product.
- **Assessment Tools**: Offer quizzes or assessments that help prospects evaluate their needs and find the best solutions.

Consideration Main Metrics

Lead Engagement	Website	Lead Quality	
Email open rates	Time on Page	MQL	
Email CTR	Funnel Analysis	Sales Accepted Leads	
Webinar Attendance	Form completion	Lead Scoring	
Content Download	Page views	Conversion Rate	
Rating	Bounce Rate	Time to Offer	

Bottom of the Funnel

Decision Phase

In the decision phase, potential customers have narrowed down their options and are looking for the final pieces of information and assurance to confidently choose your product or service. At this stage, the focus is on demonstrating value, reducing perceived risks, and facilitating a seamless purchase process.

On average, it takes
8 TOUCHPOINTS
to make a sale
(NEIL PATEL)

Key objectives are:

- Provide Proof of Value: Highlight the tangible benefits and ROI of your solution.
- Mitigate Risk: Address any concerns or objections to reassure prospects of their decision, also through social proofs.
- Simplify the Purchase Process: Ensure a smooth and straightforward buying experience.

Interactive Tools:

- **ROI Calculators:** Provide tools that help prospects calculate the potential return on investment they can achieve with your product.
- Assessment Tools: Offer quizzes or assessments that help prospects evaluate their needs and find the best solutions.

B2B Marketing Tactics

Personalized Offers:

- Special Offers: Provide limited-time discounts, bundled packages, or other incentives to encourage a prompt decision.
- Tailored Proposals: Create customized proposals that address the specific needs and goals of the prospect, showcasing how your solution aligns with their business objectives.

Risk Mitigation Strategies:

- Money-Back Guarantees: Offer guarantees or risk-free trial periods to reduce the perceived risk of making a purchase.
- Service Level Agreements: Provide clear SLAs that outline your commitment to quality and service, giving prospects confidence in their investment.

Comprehensive Support

- Dedicated Account Managers: Assign dedicated account managers to guide prospects through the decision-making process.
- **FAQ:** Address common concerns among customers to show transparency and reduce purchasing anxiety while boosting your SEO.

Conversion Main Metrics

Conversion	Sales
Conversion Rate	Average Deal Size
Proposal Acceptance Rate	Sales Cycle Length
Trial to Conversion Rate	Win Rate

Post-Sale

Onboarding and Service Phase

The post-sale phase is critical for ensuring customer satisfaction, fostering loyalty, and encouraging repeat business. A well-structured onboarding process and exceptional customer service are essential to help new customers realize the full value of your product or service and to address any issues that may arise.

Key Objectives:

- Smooth Onboarding: Ensure a seamless transition and integration of your product or service into the customer's operations.
- **Ongoing Support:** Provide continuous support to address any questions or challenges the customer may encounter.
- Value Realization: Help customers achieve their desired outcomes and see the ROI of their investment.

B2B Marketing Tactics

Structured Onboarding Programs:

- Welcome Kits: Include essential resources, such as user guides, FAQs, and contact information for support teams.
- **Onboarding Schedules:** Milestones and timelines to guide the customer through the initial setup and implementation phases.
- Training Sessions: Offer live or recorded training sessions to educate customers on how to effectively use your product or service.

Dedicated Customer Success Team:

- Account Managers: Define primary points of contact ensuring personlized support.
- Regular Check-Ins: Monitor progress, address concerns, and provide guidance to maximizing the value of your product.

Comprehensive Support Channels

- 24/7 Support: Provide around-the-clock support through multiple channels, including phone, email, live chat, and online ticketing systems.
- Knowledge Base: Maintain up-to-date knowledge base with articles, tutorials, and guides to help customers find answers quickly.
- **Community Forums**: Create online community forums where customers can ask questions, share experiences, and learn from each other.

Feedback and Improvement:

- Customer Surveys: Gather feedback on customer satisfaction, product performance, and areas for improvement.
- User Groups: Solicit input on product enhancements and new features.

Proactive Communication:

- Product Updates: Keep customers informed about new features, updates, and improvements through regular newsletters or email announcements.
- Usage Reports: Provide periodic usage reports that highlight how customers are leveraging your product and suggest ways to maximize its benefits.

Value-Added Services:

- Advanced Training: Provide advanced training programs for customers looking to deepen their knowledge and skills.
- Customer Events: Host webinars, workshops, or user conferences to share best practices, success stories, and networking opportunities.

Conversion Main Metrics

Customer Satisfaction	Onboarding Success	Support Efficiency
Customer Satisfaction (CSAT) Score	Time to Value	First Response Time
Customer Effort Score (CES)	Onboarding Completion Rate	Resolution Time
Rating	Training Participation Rate	Support Ticket Volume

Advocacy

Retention and Loyalty

his stage is crucial for sustaining customer satisfaction, encouraging repeat business, and leveraging customers as powerful promoters of your brand. A well-executed advocacy strategy leads to increased lifetime value, valuable referrals, and a stronger brand reputation.

Key Objectives:

- Foster Loyalty: Build long-term relationships that encourage repeat business.
- **Encourage Word-of-Mouth:** Leverage satisfied customers to generate referrals and positive testimonials.
- Build Brand Ambassadors: Turn loyal customers into advocates who actively promote your brand.
- **Gather Valuable Insights:** Use feedback from advocates to improve your product and customer experience.

B2B Marketing Tactics

Regular Value Demonstrations:

- Business Reviews: Conduct regular business reviews with customers to discuss their goals, review progress, and highlight the value your product has delivered.
- Usage Analytics: Provide customers with insights and analytics on how they are using your product, along with recommendations for maximizing its value.

Ongoing Education and Training:

- Advanced Webinars: Host advanced training sessions and webinars that help customers discover new features and advanced use cases.
- Continuous Learning: Maintain a library of updated learning resources, such as tutorials, case studies, and best practices.

Loyalty and Referral:

- Customer Loyalty Programs: Implement programs that reward customers for their continued business and engagement, such as discounts, exclusive content, or early access to new features.
- Referral Incentives: Offer incentives for customers who refer new clients.

Proactive and Personalized Support:

- Health Checks: Perform regular account health checks to identify and address any potential issues before they escalate.
- Dedicated Support Channels: Provide dedicated support channels for high-value customers to ensure their issues are resolved quickly and efficiently.
- Account Managers: Assign dedicated account managers to serve as the primary point of contact for each customer, ensuring personalized attention and support.

Community Building and Co-Creation:

- **Customer Communities:** Create and nurture online communities where customers can share experiences, ask questions, and provide feedback.
- Conferences: Organize events that bring customers together to learn and network.
- Product Feedback Sessions: Involve advocates in product development through feedback sessions and beta testing.
- Customer Advisory Boards: Establish advisory boards composed of key customers who can provide strategic insights and feedback.

Customer Testimonials and Public Recognition:

- Success Stories: Create detailed case studies that highlight customer successes and the impact of your product.
- Video Testimonials: Produce video testimonials featuring enthusiastic customers sharing their positive experiences.
- Awards: Recognize and reward top advocates through awards, public acknowledgments, or special perks.
- Guest Speaking: Invite advocates to speak at events on behalf of your brand.

Advocacy Main Metrics

Satisfaction	Engagement
Net Promoter Score (NPS)	Advocate Engagement
Customer Satisfaction (CSAT) Score	Churn Rate
Referral Rate	

Customer Journey Template

	Awareness	Consideration	Acquisition	Buying Decision	Service	Retention	Loyalty
Cognitive state	A need is recognized. The buyer is exploring solutions to his need and realizes X software can help with it.	Buyer weighs options and compares different solutions based on price, features, ease of implementation.	Buyer registers for one (or multiple) free trials. They receive the activation email and start exploring features and tutorials.	Buyer decides to beome a paying user and onboard three of his team members.	Buyer has an issue with one of the features or the product and needs the help of the support team.	Customer is addressing challenges and problems with product usage. Usage is increased and new features are adopted.	Buyer is happy with the product and is actively promoting it to their peers.
Emotion	Overwhelmed but engaged in solving his need	Actively seeking a solution	Unsure but eager to test different solutions	Engaged and enthusiastic to onboard his team	Frustrated with the friction, anxious	Content with the value offered and eager to solve new challenges	Engaged and happy with using the product
Opportunities	Offer value upfront Map a solution to the buyer's problem Inform and educate	Position solution against competitors Showcase product strengths Establish trust and credibility	Personalize onboarding process Show how easy it is to get started Provide a solution to the need upfront	Case-studies from similar buyers Compare costs and ROI Offer support proactively	Self-service and live chat Offer personalized support, fast Automate responses to common inquiries	Create a feedback loop Communicate new features or updates Nurture and upsell	Involve in product improvements Collaborate on feature prioritisation Encourage word-of- mouth with buyer referral programs
Buyer pain points	Too many conflicting resources online Not solution-aware yet	Difficulty differentiating between products Not sure who to trust Overwhelmed by options	Doesn't have enough time to test software Having to get the rest of the team or shareholders onboard Budget	Lack of onboarding support Costly fees for additional team members Advanced features difficult to understand	Poor customer service Delayed or slow responses Problem too specific	Develops new needs through product usage that aren't met	
Teams	Marketing	Marketing and sales	Marketing, product, and sales	Sales and solution engineering	Support and success	Product, support, and success	Product, support, and success
Metric and KPIs	Engaged traffic Brand awareness Share of voice Lead funnel ratio	Leads Lead funnel ratio	Free trials Conversion rate SQLs	Trial to paid rate Deals closed Revenue Average deal/order size	First contact resolution CSAT Average resolution time	Surveys: CSAT, NPS, etc. Unsubscribe rate Renewals	Word-of-mouth Referred users Reviews

Lead Scoring

Lead scoring is a systematic approach to ranking leads based on their potential value to the business.

Effective lead scoring helps align marketing and sales efforts, ensuring that high-potential leads receive the attention they need to convert into customers, thus optimizing resources and increasing the efficiency of the sales process. For this reason it is crucial that both departments are on the same page, in the definition, management, monitoring and review of the lead scoring model.

Key Components of B2B Lead Scoring

Define the Ideal Customer Profile (ICP)

 Identify the characteristics of your ideal customers, including industry, company size, and key decision-makers. This foundation is crucial for effective lead scoring.

Set Scoring Thresholds

 Establish point thresholds to categorize leads (e.g., cold, warm, hot). This helps sales teams prioritize their outreach efforts effectively.

Integrate Data Sources

 Ensure that all lead data sources, such as CRM systems and marketing automation tools, are integrated for seamless scoring based on real-time lead behavior.

Test and Refine the Model

 Conduct pilot tests with a subset of leads to evaluate the effectiveness of the scoring model. Adjust scoring criteria and thresholds based on feedback and performance data.

Identify and Weight Scoring Criteria

- Fit scoring: List relevant demographic and firmographic attributes such as industry, job title, company size, geographic location and company revenue and assign points accordingly.
- Intent scoring: Identify behavioral factors based on their importance to the conversion process f.e. content downloads, webinar attendance, time spent on site, visit pricing page.
- Negative and degrading scoring: Establish criteria to penalize leads under specific conditions. For example, job titles such as "student," website behavior like career page visits, email unsubscribes, or affiliation with competitor companies can trigger a score reduction. Additionally, a lead's score can be dynamically lowered based on inactivity, such as lack of engagement with email campaigns or website visits after a specified period.

Lead Scoring 2.0

While the method above can provide a solid start into the topic, lead scoring has evolved from simple point-based systems to sophisticated predictive models.

Logistic regression lead scoring utilizes statistical analysis to predict conversion probability based on factors like demographics and interaction history. It assigns scores to leads based on their resemblance to past successful conversions.

Predictive lead scoring takes this a step further by employing machine learning algorithms to analyze a broader range of data, including web browsing behavior, email engagement, and social media interactions. This enhanced approach delivers more accurate predictions of lead conversion potential.

Martech stack

Building an effective B2B marketing tech stack can be a daunting task. With thousands of tools and services available, it is impossible to keep up with the endless possibilities to build the perfect martech stack.

While there's no one-size-fits-all solution for every business, there are a key pieces of technology that every B2B marketer should have in their arsenal.

The Must-Haves in your MarTech Stack

Customer Relationship Management



- CRM Tools: Managing customer interactions, sales pipeline, and customer data.
 Salesforce, HubSpot, Zoho, Monday.com
- Customer Support: Managing customer support interactions and engagement.
 Zendesk, Intercom, Drift

About **150** marketing tools were tracked in 2011. Nowadays the martech stack count more than **14.000** (STATISTA)

Marketing Automation and Execution



- Marketing Automation: Automating email campaigns, lead nurturing, and scoring. | Hubspot Marketing Hub, Adobe Marketo, Braze, Salesforce Pardot
- Email Marketing: Designing, sending, and tracking email campaigns. |
 Mailchimp, Brevo, Drip
- Advertising Platforms: Managing and optimizing paid advertising campaigns.
 Google Ads, LinkedIn Ads, Meta Ads Manager, Adespresso
- Social Media Management: Scheduling posts, managing social media interactions, and analyzing social media performance. | Hootsuite, Buffer, Sprout Social

Content and Experience



- Content Management System (CMS): Creating, managing, and optimizing website content. | WordPress, Drupal, Hubspot CMS Hub
- Content Creation: Al-powered writing and content generation. | Jasper, Copy.ai,
 Synthesia, ChatGPT
- Content Optimization: SEO research, competitor analysis, and website performance optimization. | Ahrefs, Semrush, Lighthouse, Google Trends, Keyword Planner
- Testing: A/B testing and personalizing website content based on user behavior and demographics. | Optimizely, VWO, AB Tasty
- UX Tracking: Recording user behavior and heatmaps for website usability insights. |
 Hotjar, Mouseflow, Bing Webmaster Tool

Analytics and Data



- Consent Management Platform: Ensuring compliance with privacy and data collection regulations | Consentmanager, Cookiesscript, AdOpt
- Analytics: Tracking and analyzing website traffic, user behavior, and campaign performance. Google Analytics, Matomo, Piwik
- Data Enrichment: Enhancing and maintaining the quality of customer data. | Lusha,
 ZoomInfo, Data.com
- Tag Management: Managing and deploying website tracking tags for analytics and marketing tools. | Google Tag Manager, Tealium IQ, TagCommander
- Data Analysis: Data visualization and business intelligence for marketing insights. |
 Tableau, Looker Studio

Your Checklist

Evaluating the Tool

Selecting the right tools and ensuring seamless integration are critical for optimizing marketing efforts and achieving business goals. Here you can find the main points to consider when purchasing a new Martech solution.

3
\square Functionality: Does the tool offer the specific features you need?
\square Ease of use: Is the tool user-friendly for both marketers and non-marketers?
\square Scalability: Can the tool handle your company's growth?
\square Data security: Does the tool comply with data privacy regulations?
☐ Customer support: What level of support is offered?
\square Pricing: Does the pricing model align with your budget and needs?
\square Free trial or demo: Take advantage of free trials or demos to test the tool.
\square Vendor reputation: Research the vendor's track record and customer reviews.
Implementation and Adoption
\square Implementation timeline: How long will it take to implement the tool?
\square Training requirements: Assess the training needed for your team.
\square User adoption: Consider how you will encourage tool adoption.
\square Return on investment (ROI): Calculate the expected ROI based on the tool's benefits and
costs.
Additional Considerations
\square Data ownership: Understand who owns the data generated by the tool.
\square Long-term vision: Align the tool with your company's long-term marketing strategy.
\square Vendor lock-in: Evaluate the potential for vendor lock-in.
☐ Competitor usage: Research if competitors are using similar tools.

Writing for Conversions

Avoid "Happy Talk"

Steer clear of self-congratulatory or overly promotional language.
Communicate benefits and features of your offering in a straightforward manner.

Support Scanning

Leverage clear hierarchical structures, such as headlines, short paragraphs, and bullet points for users to quickly identify the key information.

Avoid Instructions

No one reads instructions, online we click and go back. Your product or service should be intuitive and self-explanatory.

Make it simple. Make it memorable.

Make it inviting to look at.

Leo Burnett

Clarity and Brevity

Conciseness is key. Each sentence should contain only the necessary words, and each paragraph should avoid unnecessary fluff.

Of course, Al

Marketing teams will be able to shift their resources away from general content creation into more strategic and analytical roles.

ONLY 20%

of text on a web page is read by users on average

(RAKESH KUMAR)

Applications of Al include:

- User behaviour analysis
- A/B test optimization
- Targeted and automated content
- Hyper-personalization
- · Predictive analytics
- Reputation management
- Advertising optimization
- Conversational channels

Conversion Centered Design

Conversion Centered Design (CCD) focuses on maximizing the user experience towards a specific goal, such as lead generation. It involves reducing the number of distracting elements, such as unneeded links, text or upgrade options, to create a more targeted user experience.

User-Centered Design (UCD), however, focuses on the entire user journey. It prioritizes clear information architecture and intuitive design, allowing users to navigate freely and discover content that fulfills their needs.

	Conversion-Centered	User-Centered
Goal	Steer users toward a specific action	Encourage exploration and interaction with content
Distractions	Minimized to create a streamlined user path	Allow multiple navigation options and content areas
User Journey	Focused and directed towards conversion	Personalized and exploratory with multiple paths
Application	Landing, product pages	Homepage, category pages

The principles of CCD

Focus on the goal

Get closer than ever to your customers. So close that you tell them what they need well before they realize it themselves.

Steve Jobs

Less is more

Good design, when it's done well, becomes invisible. It's only when it's done poorly that we notice it.

Jared Spool

A well-designed user interface (UI) can increase a website's conversion rate by

UPTO 200%

(BROWN AND HART)

Every \$1 invested in UX design yields a

RETURN OF \$100

(BROWN AND HART)

Understanding Your Visitors

Users Scan, Don't Read

Most users skim through web pages rather than reading every word. They quickly glance over the content, looking for headlines, keywords, and clickable elements that stand out.

Within seconds, users need to understand what the site offers, how it is organized, and why they should stay

Goal-Oriented Interaction

Users interact with elements that align with their goals or trigger specific interests.

Use keywords like FREE, SALE or EXCLUSIVE to capture attention

Painless Clicks

Users are willing to make multiple clicks as long as each click is simple and they feel assured they are making progress toward their goal. Interestingly, the 'Back' button is the most frequently used feature in web browsers (Krug, 43).

Ensure that every click is intuitive

Avoid making users think

If users have to pause to understand the purpose of a button or the meaning of a word, the scanning process slows down, diminishing click-through rates.

E-V-E-R-Y-T-H-I-N-G should be self-explanatory

Navigation Design

Effective navigation is crucial for UX. It informs users about the site's content, guides them on how to use the site, and gives confidence in the people who built it.

However, consistency should be sacrificed in favor of a conversion goal. For example, a navigation menu should not be part of a landing page.

The 7 UX Best Practices

1 CTA is King

Ensure the call-to-action (CTA) is immediately visible without requiring users to scroll. Along the page, the same CTA can be included.

3 Reduce Leaks

Remove all unnecessary links that could divert users from the intended action.

5 Elements of Trust

Include testimonials, badges, reviews, customer logos, or awards to build trust.

7 Be Transparent

Make sure users know who you are by including a privacy page or an "About Us" section also in landing pages.

2 Design is Queen

Utilize high-contrast color combinations (e.g., white vs. black, orange vs. blue) to highlight key elements.

Incorporate directional cues, such as images or lines pointing towards the form or the CTA.

Implement blank space to draw focus to the essential elements.

4 Scarcity and Urgency

Use scarcity (e.g. limited availability) or time urgency (e.g. countdowns) to encourage action. Nontheless, use them responsibly to not jeopardize your image!

6 Progressive Profiling

Collect essential information initially and request additional details later, building a user profile over time.

Ungated Content Strategy

In the pursuit of lead generation, many businesses have traditionally relied on gated content - requiring users to provide their contact information before accessing valuable resources. However, the landscape is shifting, and ungated content is gaining traction as a more effective approach to attract high-quality leads.

Benefits of Ungated Content



You can attract a wider audience and increase the visibility of your brand and offerings.



By freely accessing your resources, users can self-select and showcase genuine interest, generating more qualified leads.



Removing barriers allows users to engage with your content, fostering a more positive and memorable experience.



Providing valuable, unrestricted content positions your brand as a thought and trusted leader in your industry.

Capture Leads with These Sign-Up Techniques

While the content itself may be ungated, there are still opportunities to encourage users to provide their details for accessing the premium full content. Consider these techniques:

- Integrate a short slide deck or video trailer.
- Develop engaging, interactive tools or calculators.
- Trial periods or product demos.
- Freemium model to offer gated additional resources.

Ungated content is downloaded

20 to 50 times

more often than gated content

(DAVID MEERMAN SCOTT)

Start Improving Today - The Don'ts

As you work to optimize your website and conversion funnel, it's essential to understand the common pain points for users:

Hiding Information

Make sure that essential information, such as support phone numbers, shipping rates, or conditions, is clearly displayed and easy to find.

Data Entry Mistakes

When users are forced to reenter data because of a specific format, it can lead to frustration and errors. Use preset dropdown menus and other tools to simplify and standardize data collection and reduce the likelihood of mistakes.

Too Many CTAs

Multiple CTAs can confuse users and make it difficult for them to focus on the primary conversion goal. Use a clear and concise call-to-action to guide users towards the desired action.

Unnecessary Information

Avoid asking users for information that is not needed for the specific conversion goal. This can lead to a higher drop-off rate and a negative user experience.

Excessive Emotions

Too many exclamation points, colors, or animations can be overwhelming and detract from the goal. Use these elements judiciously to create a clean and professional design.

Unwanted Popups

Popups can be annoying and disrupt the user experience. Use them sparingly and only when they provide significant value to the user.

Did you know?

In 2014, Ethan Zuckerman, the man who invented pop-up ads, apologized to the world for unintentionally creating one of the internet's most hated forms of advertising.

Performance Analysis

Data-driven decision making

In today's competitive B2B landscape, performance tracking is not just an option—it's a necessity. Effective tracking enables businesses to make informed, data-driven decisions that can significantly enhance marketing strategies, optimize resource allocation, and ultimately drive growth.



Without data, you're just another person with an opinion.

Edward Deming

Crafting a Measurement Plan

A measurement plan allows you to outline your marketing objectives and track the metrics to measure its success. It forms a foundation for the overall marketing strategy and can help align processes to identify which areas need focus.

Key components are:

- **SMART objectives:** Ensure your goals are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound.
- **Relevant KPIs**: Identify the key metrics that will be used to measure the performance against its benchmark.
- **Triggers**: Determine which events have to occur in order to collect the specific data point.
- **Data collection**: Set frequency, sources and tools that will be used to collect, elaborate and store the relevant data.

Tag Management System

A "tag" is simply a small JavaScript code, sometimes referred to as a pixel, that marketers embed in webpages or mobile apps to collect data. By using a Tag Management System, such as Google Tag Manager, businesses can efficiently manage and deploy various tracking codes without directly altering the website's code. This bring several advantages:

- **Centralized Management**: Consolidates various tracking codes into a single platform, improving website performance.
- **Version Control and Collaboration**: Allows for efficient management of tag versions and collaboration among team members.
- **Data Layer Management**: Creates a structured data layer to collect and pass relevant information to tags, improving data quality.
- **Simplified Implementation and Testing**: Allows marketers to deploy, update and test without requiring developer involvement

Web Tracking

The purpose of web tracking is to provide invaluable insights into user behavior, campaign performance, and overall website effectiveness to identify areas of improvement by making informed decisions on design, content or website functionalities.

Types	Purpose	KPIs	Tools	
Traffic Tracking	Monitor the volume and source of website visitors	Page views, session duration, unique visitors, referral sources, bounce rate	GA4, Adobe Analytics	
Performance Tracking	Measure website speed, uptime, and technical issues	Load time, server response time, uptime, error rates	Google PageSpeed, Lighthouse, Pingdom	
UX Tracking	Analyze user interactions and behavior to improve experience	Heatmap interactions, mouse tracking, scroll depth, conversion funnel	Hotjar, Crazy Egg, FullStory	
SEO Tracking	Evaluate and optimize organic search performance	Organic traffic, keyword rankings, backlinks, click- through rate (CTR)	Ahrefs, SEMrush, Moz	

Ads Tracking

Ad tracking is the process of monitoring the performance of advertising campaigns to measure their effectiveness in driving desired actions.

A critical component of ad tracking is attribution, which determines the credit assigned to various touchpoints along the customer journey. Unlike traditional attribution models that assign credit based on predefined rules, DDA uses machine learning to analyze the impact of each touchpoint based on actual data. Here are the key benefits of DDA:

- Accuracy and Precision: Utilizes real user data and machine learning for precise attribution.
- Holistic View of Customer Journey: Analyzes all interactions across multiple channels and devices
- **Enhanced ROI:** Helps optimize marketing spend by identifying the most effective touchpoints, improving overall campaign performance and return on investment.

Best Practices for Setting Up Google Ads

The purpose of web tracking is to provide invaluable insights into user behavior, campaign performance, and overall website effectiveness to identify areas of improvement by making informed decisions on design, content or website functionalities.

Understanding Ad Pricing:

- Ad Rank Formula: Price = Ad rank of bidder below you / your quality score (LP UX, relevance, expected CTR) + \$0.01.
- Quality Score Benefits: A higher quality score results in a lower cost-per-click (CPC).



Budget and Bid Strategy:

- Higher Initial Budget: Start with a higher budget to collect data quickly, allowing for faster optimization.
- Manual CPC Selection: Choose a bid strategy that allows you to manually select your CPC for better control over your spending.
- Incremental CPC Increases: Start with a low CPC and gradually increase it if you're not receiving enough traffic.
- Research Industry CPC: Check current average CPCs for your industry using resources like WordStream.

Ads Setup:

- Avoid Google Guidance Initially: Focus solely on Google traffic rather than relying on Google Partners.
- Set Precise Location Targeting: Choose targeting based on actual presence in the location or expressed interest in the location to ensure relevant audience reach.
- Create Relevant Ad Groups: Develop separate ad groups for each user intention to maximize ad relevance and quality score.
- Incorporate Ad Extensions: Use ad and sitelink extensions to make your ad more prominent and increase click-through rates (CTR).

Ads Content:

- Select Match Types: Choose from exact, phrase, or broad match types (including misspellings and similar terms) based on your strategy.
- Pin Headlines: Pin essential headlines in the first, second, or third position. Use catchy headlines to attract users.
- Descriptive Numbers: Incorporate numbers in your ad descriptions to grab attention.
- Display URL Path: Use keywords in your display URL path to increase ad relevancy.

Other Types of Tracking

Email Tracking

- Purpose: Monitoring email campaign performance and recipient behavior.
- Metrics: Open rates, click-through rates, bounce rates, unsubscribe rate.

Social Media Tracking

- Purpose: Measuring the impact of social media efforts on website traffic and conversions.
- Metrics: Impressions, engagement rate, click-through rates, referral traffic.

Mobile Tracking

- Purpose: Understanding user behavior on mobile devices and apps.
- Metrics: App downloads, in-app purchases, session duration, Daily/Monthly Active Users, app crashes

Setting up Tracking Mechanisms

UTM Parameters are snippets added to URLs to track traffic sources, mediums, campaigns, and content. They provide valuable insights into website performance.

Example: utm_source=influencerX&utm_medium=affiliate&utm_campaign=summer_sale

Best practices:

- **Standardize:** Create a consistent naming convention for UTM parameters to maintain clarity and organization.
- Avoid Spaces: Use underscores (_) or hyphens (-) instead of spaces (e.g., "spring_sale").
- Central Repository: Maintain a central document or spreadsheet with all UTM parameters for easy reference and consistency.

Tracking Submission Forms

It is crucial for B2B organizations to set up proper tracking for form submissions in order to gain crucial insights into user interactions and optimize their lead generation and conversion strategies effectively.



Set Up a Trigger

Element Visibility Trigger

Use the ID or class of the visualized element after submission (e.g., Thank you message). For WPForms or Contact Form 7, create a trigger based on a form ID variable to distinguish which form was submitted, and potentially a second variable to collect specific information (e.g., the subject's form).

Create a GA4 Event Tag

Google Analytics Event Tag

Create a tag that will be sent to GA4 once the trigger is activated. For WPForms or Contact Form 7, use an auto-event listener for all pages, which will create a data layer that will submit and collect the data.

3 Test Your Setup

Preview mode and debug

Ensure your setup correctly captures form submissions by using the preview mode in Google Tag Manager and by verifying the events in Google Analytics real-time reports.

4 Set Events as Conversions in GA4

Track key events

Mark the form submission events as conversions in GA4 (remember to register the custom parameters in GA4).

Additional considerations:

- Data Layer Structure: Define a clear data layer structure to enhance data collection
 and analysis. This includes variables for form ID, submission time, submitted data (if
 applicable), and other relevant information.
- Additional Tracking Metrics: Depending on your specific goals, consider tracking
 metrics like time spent on the form, number of form fields filled, or form abandonment
 rate.
- **Form Type:** The complexity of tracking may vary depending on the form type (e.g., multi-step forms, pop-ups). It is advised not to set click triggers on the submission button, as users may click on it before adding their data.
- A/B Testing: Use form submission tracking data to test different form variations and optimize conversion rates.

Data-driven decision making

JSON (JavaScript Object Notation) is a lightweight data-interchange format that is easy for humans to read and write and easy for machines to parse and generate. Its flexibility and efficiency make it a powerful tool for capturing and integrating dynamic data across platforms

Benefits:

- **Flexible Data Structure:** JSON allows for the dynamic collection of various data points such as contact information, user behavior, and form submissions without the need for a fixed schema.
- **Interoperability:** JSON's language-independent format facilitates integration with various APIs and systems, enhancing lead data exchange between marketing platforms, CRM systems, and analytics tools.
- **Real-Time Data Collection:** JSON can be used to transmit data in real-time, enabling immediate processing and follow-up on leads.

Use Cases:

- **Form Submissions:** JSON can capture and send data from web forms, collecting user inputs like name, email, and preferences efficiently.
- **Tracking User Interactions:** JSON can track and record user interactions on landing pages, email campaigns, and other touchpoints, providing insights into lead behavior.
- **Integrating Marketing Tools:** JSON can streamline the integration of lead data between tools like Google Tag Manager, CRM systems, and marketing automation platforms.

Data privacy compliance

In an era where data privacy is increasingly under scrutiny, compliance with privacy laws has become paramount for businesses. Adhering to regulations not only ensures legal protection but also builds trust with users. Current trends indicate a growing emphasis on transparency, user control, and ethical data practices. Companies must navigate these requirements carefully to avoid potential legal repercussions and maintain a positive reputation.

Best Practices

- Accessibility to Content:
 - Cookie banners should not prevent users from accessing website content. Avoid greying out or blurring the page when the banner is displayed.

Facebook was fined €60 million by CNIL, the French data protection authority, in 2022 for making it difficult for French users to refuse cookies

User Consent Options:

- Avoid using pre-ticked boxes for additional purposes such as marketing, statistics, or functional cookies.
- Ensure the decline button is as visible as the accept button. Reject options should not be hidden as links while accept options are immediately visible buttons.

Selective Consent Choices:

- Allow users to easily select specific types of cookies rather than offering an all-ornothing choice like "Accept All" or "Reject All".
- The "Accept All" button should not be made more prominent or distinct in appearance compared to other consent options.

Transparency and Clarity:

- Do not misclassify cookies for additional purposes (e.g., marketing tracking) as essential cookies.
- Ensure CMPs do not set cookies labelled as "essential" without user consent.
- Regularly update CMPs to include all tracking tools used on the website and ensure clear information about the identity of data controllers, as required by GDPR.

User Control:

 Always provide users with the option to withdraw or adjust their consent easily at any time.

Testing Methodologies

Establishing a culture of continuous testing is crucial for optimizing lead lifecycle and demand generation strategies. Here are the key methodologies:

A/B or Multivariate Testing

- **Purpose:** Compare two or multiple versions of a webpage, email, or advertisement to determine which performs better.
- Application: Test variations of landing pages, email subject lines, call-to-action buttons, and ad creatives.
- **Example:** Running two or more versions of a landing page with different headlines to see which one generates more leads.

Funnel Analysis

- Purpose: Examine each stage of the lead lifecycle to identify drop-off points and optimize the conversion process.
- Application: Analyze the lead journey from initial contact to final conversion.
- **Example:** Identifying at which stage potential leads drop off in the funnel and optimizing that specific stage.

Usability Testing

- **Purpose:** Evaluate the user experience of landing pages and forms to improve lead generation.
- **Application:** Test the ease of navigation and clarity of information on lead capture forms and landing pages.
- **Example:** Observing users as they interact with a lead capture form to identify any usability issues.

Regression Testing

- **Purpose:** Ensure that recent changes or updates do not negatively impact existing functionality.
- **Application:** Test the stability and functionality of lead generation forms and tracking systems after updates.
- **Example:** Verifying that lead capture forms still work correctly after a website redesign.

Behavioral Testing

- Purpose: Study the behavior of leads to better understand their needs and preferences.
- Application: Analyze how leads interact with your website, content, and communications.
- Example: Using heatmaps and session recordings to see how leads navigate your landing pages.

Keep testing, because what works today won't work tomorrow, but what worked yesterday may work again.

Amrita Sahasrabudhe

Data Visualization

Effective Data Visualization

Data visualization is a powerful tool for answering critical questions, informing business decisions, sparking new ideas, and inspiring action. It transforms raw data into meaningful insights that drive strategy and operational efficiency.

- **Identify What Happened:** Begin by presenting the data clearly. Highlight any surprising trends or outcomes.
- Analyze Why It Happened: Explore potential reasons behind the data patterns.
- Determine Actions: Suggest actionable steps based on the insights gained.
- Assign Responsibility: Clearly outline who should take action and establish deadlines.
- Consider Consequences: Discuss the potential costs or risks of not taking action.

Best Practices

Be Audience Oriented

Effective data visualization must capture and retain the audience's attention. If not optimized for maximum user experience—for example, by sorting bar charts in descending order—user attention can easily drift, leading to a loss of engagement and missed insights.

Clean and Simple Graphs

- Avoid information overload by removing unnecessary elements such as backgrounds, gridlines, and axes.
- Increase bar width to enhance readability.
- Use color strategically—keep a neutral grey scale and use highlight colors to draw attention. Match graph colors with key terms in headlines.

Insightful Titles

Titles should convey the main insight. For example, "Paid and Email Channels Generate Most Conversions" (McKinsey style).

Contextual Information

Always provide context, such as performance targets or benchmarks (e.g., year-over-year comparison, industry standards).

Create Anticipation

Build suspense by initially presenting the obvious, then revealing deeper insights. For instance, a high volume may not correlate with efficiency, prompting further investigation.

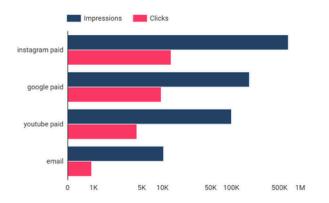
Looker Studio Case Study

A fictional company has collected data from the different marketing channels and looking for insights on their performance.

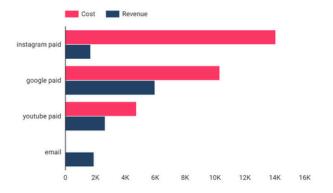
The provided dataset includes:

- Week: The specific week of the data.
- Channel: The marketing channel (email, Instagram paid, YouTube paid, Google paid).
- Impressions: The number of times the ads were shown.
- Clicks: The number of times the ads were clicked.
- Costs: The total cost of the campaign.
- **Orders**: The number of orders generated.
- **Revenue**: The total revenue generated.

Analyze the overall performance



Instragram and Google paid show **best performance** in **impressions** and **clicks**, but..



their high costs negatively affect the generated revenue, showing a negative return on investment.

Key Metrics

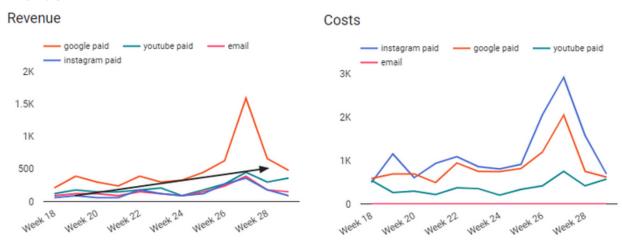
Total Costs Total Revenue Return On Ad Spend
29,156 € 12,180 0.42

Channel	Impressions	Clicks	CTR	Orders	CR	Cost →	Cost per Ord	Revenue	ROAS
instagram paid	672,222	13,462	0.02	112	0.01	14,072	126	1,680	0.12
google paid	182,460	9,670	0.05	282	0.03	10,328	37	5,970	0.58
youtube paid	100,318	4,248	0.04	176	0.04	4,750	27	2,640	0.56
email	10,452	930	0.09	126	0.14	6	0	1,890	315

Insights

- Email campaigns have exceptionally high ROAS, best CTR engagement and conversion rates at lowest costs, indicating very high efficiency.
- YouTube has moderate performance, mainly thanks to its low cost and relatively good CR.
- Google has the highest overall revenue and good CR, but overall performance is compromised by its high costs.
- Instagram has highest number of impressions, but generates highest costs and lowest CTR. CR and revenue.

Trends



Over time, the revenue generated by ads is increasing but the high and fluctuating costs, especially for Instagram and Google, represent the biggest challenge.

Actions

- Email: Continue leveraging the channel as it show high engagement and ROI.
- **Instagram:** Peaks in engagement do not lead to orders or revenue, improve the targeting and content or consider reducing resources on this channel.
- **Google:** Strong focus on optimization to reduce CPC and leverage highest overall revenue. If optimization is not feasible, consider reducing spend on this channel.
- Youtube: Optimize ad creatives (f.e. A/B testing) and targeting to increase conversions.

Future Outlook

Emerging technologies and methodologies in lead lifecycle management and demand generation are significantly transforming the landscape, driven by advancements in Al, machine learning, and automation.

The future outlook for these fields is promising, with several trends and statistics from the past three years underscoring their impact.



Personalization

Al and machine learning are enabling marketers to deliver highly personalized experiences and higher amounts of content to attract more targeted audiences.



Focus on UX

Lead generation forms will become shorter and more user-friendly. There will be a shift towards progressive profiling, where additional information is collected over time.



Account-Based Marketing

More marketing teams are expected to focus on tailoring their messaging and tactics to meet the specific needs of a select group of high-value companies.



Conversational Marketing

Chatbots and interactive tools will become more sophisticated, allowing for real-time lead qualification and personalized conversations.



Better Profiling

Predictive analytics can identify patterns and characteristics of your most valuable customers, enabling the development of predictive and more accurate lead scoring models.



The Power of

The popularity of reels, tutorials, and "best of" videos, combined with algorithm profiling, has made video content a preferred source of consumption for many users and a key strategy for marketers.



Interactive Content

Interactive content such as quizzes, polls, or freemium options will be key in creating qualified leads.



Intent-Based Marketing

This involves identifying users who are actively researching your services.

Marketers will utilize data and analytics to target these users with relevant content throughout all stages of the funnel.



Omnichannel

With more content produced by AI, marketers will focus on leveraging different channels, such as social media, email, and content marketing, to reach leads in a cohesive way.



Data Privacy

As data privacy regulations like GDPR and CCPA become stricter, users will place more attention on how their data is handled and how transparent and compliant companies are.

Major Pain Points

Data Quality

 Poor data quality remains a significant challenge, with nearly 60% of all B2B data becoming outdated within a year. Organizations prioritizing data quality see a 20% increase in marketing ROI and a 15% increase in sales productivity (Crandell).

Complexity and Integration Challenges

 Despite massive investments in martech, many organizations struggle with complex tech stacks and integration issues. About 57% of companies that built their own integrations faced significant challenges, and over 53% invested substantial resources to maintain these integrations (Crandell).

Increased Focus on Privacy Compliance

 Enhanced privacy compliance is becoming a priority due to evolving data protection laws. Marketers need to ensure that lead lifecycle management processes align with these standards, providing transparency and respecting individual preferences regarding data usage (MarinnaDecisions).

Get in Touch

In this whitepaper I leveraged my direct experience in B2B product marketing and the learnings from my recent Marketing Analytics Bootcamp (July 2024).

The goal?

Not only gathering a summary of best practices, but embodying them by adopting a clear, concise "less is more" approach, free of marketing fluff, to fuel your B2B lead generation success.

Get in touch if you liked my work. I am just one click away.



Fabio Sandrin



Key expertise:

- Product Marketing
- Data-driven decision making
- Business and Team Growth

Additional Resources

Here's a curated list of top resources for lead generation, demand generation, and customer lifecycle management.

Books and Audiobooks

"\$100M Leads" by Alex Hormozi

"Lead Generation for Dummies" by Dayna Rothman

"Rethink Lead Generation" by Tom Shapiro

"The Lead Generation Guide" by Gary Das

"Predictable Revenue" by Aaron Ross and Marylou Tyler

"Inbound Marketing" by Brian Halligan and Dharmesh Shah

"The 1-Page Marketing Plan" by Allan Dib

Podcasts

"The Lead Generation Podcast" by Bob Gentle

"Demand Gen Chat" by Chili Piper

"Demand Gen Visionaries" by Qualified

"B2B Growth Show" by Sweet Fish Media

"Marketing Over Coffee" by John Wall and Christopher Penn

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HubSpot Marketing

Neil Patel

Ahrefs

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