# LinkedIn for Business

How Advertisers, Marketers, and Salespeople Get Leads, Sales, and Profits from LinkedIn



### BRIAN CARTER

### Praise for LinkedIn for Business

"It took me years of trial and error to figure out how to truly leverage LinkedIn to drive sales and revenue for my company. If only Brian Carter had written this book in 2007, I could have fastforwarded to success. Fortunately, you can. Buy it. Learn it. Do it. You'll be glad you did."

-Jason Falls, CEO, Social Media Explorer, and author, No Bullshit Social Media

"For business-to-business marketers, a million followers isn't what's cool in social media. A thousand qualified leads, now that's what's cool. Brian Carter explains, convincingly and colorfully, why year-making deals most often trace back to LinkedIn, and he shares what companies need to do to carve off their own chunk of LinkedIn's revenue opportunity."

-Joe Chernov, VP of content marketing, Eloqua

"Managing LinkedIn detached from your overall strategy is as effective as an arm detached from a body. Zombies can survive this way, but you can't. Carter supplies a brilliant LinkedIn survival guide."

-Erik Qualman, international bestselling author and speaker

"If you want to generate leads for your business, then you have to read Brian's new book. It will show you how to best use all the tools that LinkedIn has to offer to grow your business."

-Dan Schawbel, founder, Millennial Branding, and author, Me 2.0

"*LinkedIn for Business* is a book that every B2B marketer should read. It shows how B2B businesses can engage communities effectively, generate leads (not just any leads, better leads), and ignite advocacy."

-Ekaterina Walter, global social innovation strategist, Intel

"One thing is certain: Today's successful sales, advertising, and marketing executives need to acknowledge LinkedIn is more than a modern Rolodex. This book is filled with strategies to generate more leads and sales with LinkedIn. How will social media positively impact your organizational goals? Uncover the answer to this question and more once you read Carter's definitive guide for generating real business on LinkedIn."

-Patrick Dorsey, vice president of marketing, Avectra

"From strategy to tactics, Brian breaks down LinkedIn so you can finally determine how to best leverage the platform for your business. This book will help you clearly develop a robust plan where LinkedIn fits into your strategy. Developing digital plans around this ever-evolving industry is a challenge, and Brian ensures that you are leveraging LinkedIn to meet your marketing and advertising objectives with best practices in mind."

-Brandon Prebynski, digital and social business strategist (@prebynski)

This page intentionally left blank

# LinkedIn for Business

How Advertisers, Marketers, and Salespeople Get Leads, Sales, and Profits from LinkedIn

**BRIAN CARTER** 



800 East 96th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240 USA

### LinkedIn for Business: How Advertisers, Marketers, and Salespeople Get Leads, Sales, and Profits from LinkedIn

Copyright © 2013 by Pearson Education

All rights reserved. No part of this book shall be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher. No patent liability is assumed with respect to the use of the information contained herein. Although every precaution has been taken in the preparation of this book, the publisher and author assume no responsibility for errors or omissions. Nor is any liability assumed for damages resulting from the use of the information contained herein.

ISBN-13: 978-0-7897-4968-0 ISBN-10: 0-7897-4968-8

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data Carter, Brian, 1973-LinkedIn for business : how advertisers, marketers, and salespeople

get leads, sales, and profits from LinkedIn / Brian Carter.

p. cm. Includes index. ISBN 978-0-7897-4968-0 1. LinkedIn (Electronic resource) 2. Business networks. 3. Internet marketing. I. Title. HD69.S8C366 2013 658.800285'53--dc23 2012021628

Printed in the United States of America First Printing: August 2012

### Trademarks

All terms mentioned in this book that are known to be trademarks or service marks have been appropriately capitalized. Que Publishing cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. Use of a term in this book should not be regarded as affecting the validity of any trademark or service mark.

### Warning and Disclaimer

Every effort has been made to make this book as complete and as accurate as possible, but no warranty or fitness is implied. The information provided is on an "as is" basis. The author and the publisher shall have neither liability nor responsibility to any person or entity with respect to any loss or damages arising from the information contained in this book or from the use of programs accompanying it.

### **Bulk Sales**

Que Publishing offers excellent discounts on this book when ordered in quantity for bulk purchases or special sales. For more information, please contact

> U.S. Corporate and Government Sales 1-800-382-3419 corpsales@pearsontechgroup.com

For sales outside of the U.S., please contact International Sales international@pearsoned.com Editor-in-Chief Greg Wiegand

Senior Acquisitions Editor Katherine Bull

**Development Editor** Ginny Bess Munroe

Managing Editor Kristy Hart

**Project Editor** Betsy Harris

**Copy Editor** Bart Reed

**Indexer** Erika Millen

Proofreader Kathy Ruiz

**Technical Editor** Marty Wientraub

**Publishing Coordinators** Romny French Cindy Teeters

Book Designer Anne Jones

Senior Compositor Gloria Schurick

**Que Biz-Tech Editorial Board** Michael Brito Jason Falls

Rebecca Lieb Simon Salt Peter Shankman

## CONTENTS AT A GLANCE

Part I	LinkedIn for Business	
1	Twenty-first Century Sales and Marketing: LinkedIn	
	Meets Marketing, Advertising, and Sales	1
Part II	LinkedIn Marketing	
2	Best Practices: Online Marketing and LinkedIn	19
3	Impressive Employees: LinkedIn Profile Enhancement,	
	Findability, and Thought Leadership	
4	Amazing Brands: Company Pages That Grow Business	65
5	Generating Leads with Content Marketing and LinkedIn Answers, Events, & Groups	77
6	Get It All Done: Your Weekly LinkedIn Marketing Routine	107
Part III	LinkedIn Advertising	
7	Best Practices: Online Advertising and LinkedIn	115
8	Advertising	115
0	Win First with Strategy: Inbound Advertising and Marketing with LinkedIn	135
9	B2B Advertising: How to Create and Optimize	
	LinkedIn Ads	147
10	Advanced Strategies and Tactics for High-Impact	
	LinkedIn Ads	159
Part IV	LinkedIn Sales	
11	Best Practices: Traditional and Modern Sales	175
12	Salespeople and Social Sales	193
13	Social Sales Prospecting and Making Contact	
Part V	Conclusions	
14	How Advertising, Marketing, and Sales Employees	
	Work Together for Extraordinary B2B Results	213
15	The LinkedIn Advantage: Five Organizational	
	Shifts That Support B2B Success	221
16	Social Prospects: The Future of B2B Social Media	229
	Index	241

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### PART I LINKEDIN FOR BUSINESS

1	Twenty-first Century Sales and Marketing: LinkedInMeets Marketing, Advertising, and Sales1
	Networking and Business: Face-to-Face and Online2
	Social Media and Revenue4
	The History of LinkedIn7
	Why LinkedIn Is Relevant to Your Business
	Why LinkedIn Is More Than a Modern Rolodex9
	How Your Advertising, Marketing, and Sales Teams
	Achieve Goals with LinkedIn10
	LinkedIn Marketing Success Stories11
	Joining LinkedIn Was Worth Nearly Half a
	Million Dollars16

### PART II LINKEDIN MARKETING

2	Best Practices: Online Marketing and LinkedIn	19
	The History of Online Marketing and Its Best Practices	20
	Fifteen Internet Marketing Principles That Apply to	
	LinkedIn	24

Summary
Summary3

#### 3 Impressive Employees: LinkedIn Profile Enhancement, Findability, and Thought Leadership 41

Socially Networked Employees Are Influential and Create	
Valuable Audiences	42
How to Create Impressive LinkedIn Employee Profiles	44
Incorporating Facebook and Twitter	51
Adding Apps to Your Profile	52
Growing Initial Connections	52
Making Sure Employee Profiles Are Visible and Findable	53
Shaping LinkedIn Profiles for Employees	57

65

Profile Maintenance	63
Summary	63

### 4 Amazing Brands: Company Pages That Grow Business

Company Page Setup Tips	69
Promoting Your Products and Services	71
Company Page Analytics	72
Summary	76

### 5 Generating Leads with Content Marketing and LinkedIn Answers, Events, & Groups 77

Content Marketing and Thought Leadership78
Leveraging LinkedIn Answers for Inbound Leads80
Participating, Creating, Growing, and Managing LinkedIn Groups
Leveraging LinkedIn Events to Promote Your Company97
Summary104

#### 6 Get It All Done: Your Weekly LinkedIn Marketing Routine

107

One-Time Setup Activities	
Ongoing Marketing Activities	
Scheduling It!	110
Summary	

### PART III LINKEDIN ADVERTISING

#### 

Advertising Approach #2: Direct Marketing and
Profitability119
Advertising Approach #3: A Combination of the
First Two Approaches120
Social Media Advertising121

Online Advertising Best Practices	2
Comparing Google, Facebook, and LinkedIn Ads128	8
Ad Services Through LinkedIn Reps13	1
Summary	3

#### 8 Win First with Strategy: Inbound Advertising and Marketing with LinkedIn

How Does Inbound Marketing Dovetail with	
Advertising?	136
The Sales Funnel: Advertising, Marketing, and Sales	136
Why Is Marketing Automation Important?	138
Strategies for LinkedIn Advertising	140
Advertising Goals and Metrics	144
Summary	146

135

### 9 B2B Advertising: How to Create and Optimize LinkedIn Ads 147

Creating Your First Campaign	148
Targeting Audiences	149
Campaign Options	154
What Kind of Results Should You Expect?	156

#### 10 Advanced Strategies and Tactics for High-Impact LinkedIn Ads 159

Optimize Your Results by Creating Better Ads	160
Get Better Results with Better Targeting	164
Relevance: Know Your Audience	169
How to Get Better Ideas	.171
Supplementing with Facebook and AdWords Ads	174

### PART IV LINKEDIN SALES

11	Best Practices: Traditional and Modern Sales	175
	Sales All-Time Best Practices	176
	Best Practices in Twenty-first Century Sales	184
	How LinkedIn Changes Salesor Doesn't	
12	Salespeople and Social Sales	193
	Less Interruption, More Discovery	194
	What Is "Social Sales"?	195
	What Motivates Salespeople?	197
13	Social Sales Prospecting and Making Contact	201
	Finding New Customers with LinkedIn	202
	The Six Steps of Relationship Building	205
	More Ways to Contact New Prospects	209
	More Real-world Experiences with LinkedIn Social Sa	ales210

### PART V CONCLUSIONS

### 14How Advertising, Marketing, and Sales Employees<br/>Work Together for Extraordinary B2B Results213

The Benefits of Teamwork	214
Seven Topics for Team Collaboration	215
For Advertising People: How to Mesh with Sales and Marketing	215
For Marketing People: How to Mesh with Advertising and Sales	216
For Salespeople: How to Mesh with Marketing and Advertising	218

LinkedIr	1 for	Busi	ness
----------	-------	------	------

15	The LinkedIn Advantage: Five Organizational ShiftsThat Support B2B Success221
	The Internet Changes Quickly and Often
	Adopting New Opportunities at the Right Time222
	How Much Change Are We Talking About?223
	Critical Shifts for Your Organization224
16	Social Prospects: The Future of B2B Social Media 229
	Ride Every Wave of Opportunity
	Online Marketing Trends
	People Trends236
	Summary

Index

241

х

### About the Author

**Brian Carter** is regarded as one of the elite Internet marketing experts in the world. He is the author of the book *The Like Economy* and co-author of *Facebook Marketing (Third Edition)*. He has 13 years of experience, including Google, Twitter, and Facebook marketing, both as a consultant and marketing agency director.

Brian develops strategies and builds search and social media programs for companies of all sizes, including well-known entities such as Universal Studios, The U.S. Army, Hardee's, and Carl's Jr. He has been quoted and profiled by *The Wall Street Journal*, ABC News, Mashable, *Forbes, Information Week, U.S. News & World Report*, and *Entrepreneur Magazine*.

Brian writes for several of the most popular marketing blogs, including Search Engine Journal, AllFacebook, and Mashable (which boasts 20 million monthly readers). He has more than 50,000 online fans—and growing—and his content is viewed over 8 million times a month.

Brian is a professional speaker who delivers entertaining, motivational talks on Internet marketing and social media. He has presented to corporations and associations. Audience members include CEOs, business owners, and expert marketers. His hands-on business experience, cutting-edge insights, and background in improv and stand-up comedy culminate in a speaker and trainer who leaves every audience not only entertained, but armed with powerful strategies and tactics.

He is a regular presenter for top marketing conferences such as SEOmoz, SMX, Pubcon, The AllFacebook Expo, Socialize, The South Carolina Society of Association Executives, and The American Marketing Association.

### Dedication

Often I see authors dedicate their books to the people who've supported them the most through the writing process, and this is no exception. You don't know how hard writing a book is until you've done it. And writing three in a year is like running a marathon a week, both mentally and emotionally. The people near you have to put up with you, so they deserve your gratitude. I've already acknowledged a couple of them, but the people who helped me the most in the process were my wife, Lynda Harvey-Carter, and my acquisitions editor, Katherine Bull. If I could also dedicate this book to the calming influence of the wind in the trees in my backyard, I would do that, too. Our dogs, Brad Pitt and Serotonin, and our cats, Larry and Little B, were of great personal support in the process. My great friends in the improv and comedy community in Charleston, South Carolina, have been an excellent outlet to balance my stress. Am I allowed to dedicate a book to thirty people, four animals, and nature? Let's do that.

### Acknowledgments

I love writing books that teach cutting-edge, repeatable, resulted-oriented marketing systems. This is another such book, and that means it required input and feedback from an army of people who are implementing these ideas on the frontlines, as well as the hard-fought wisdom of other authors and bloggers.

I want to thank Joe Chernov and Elle Woulfe of Eloqua for their infinite generosity explaining their approach to LinkedIn advertising lead generation, lead nurturing, and advanced marketing automation. Joe also connected me with Eloqua's Melissa Madian and Alex Shootman, who answered my questions about "brand armies" and their salespeople's use of LinkedIn.

Super-duper heartfelt gratitude to my editors: Katherine Bull, Romny French, Betsy Harris, Ginny Munroe, Bart Reed, and Marty Weintraub. You guys rock! Oh, yes, and my wife, Lynda Harvey-Carter, who gave invaluable input on everything I wrote before sending it to Pearson!

A third of this book relates LinkedIn to modern sales strategies and processes. Thanks to everyone at Miller-Heiman for your books, whitepapers, and research. This book benefitted from modern sales classics by Jeff Thull, Neil Rackham, Mack Hanan, and Michael Bosworth. Garrison Wynn and Jeff Thacker of Wynn Solutions also contributed unique and powerful perspectives on sales in the Internet lead-generation era.

I held this book to a high standard of referencing, often relying on the outstanding work of organizations such as MarketingProfs, MECLABS, The Content Marketing Institute, LeadFormix, Mashable, Techcrunch, Accenture, SEOmoz, The Bureau of Labor Statistics, ZDNet, eMarketer, comScore, SEER Interactive, Eloqua, Marketo, The Interactive Advertising Bureau, CNET, Marketing Sherpa, The Harvard Business Review, Miller-Heiman, Cisco, and Search Engine Land. One more thing: I know we don't reference Wikipedia, and I always looked for the primary reference beyond it, but I believe the anonymous, hard-working, misunderstood, under-appreciated civilians who edit Wikipedia deserve a shout-out: Thanks!

Thanks to those who generously shared their sales, marketing, and advertising experiences in response to my questions on LinkedIn Answers, including Jason Croyle of MECLABS, Jeff Lee, Han Mo of Teleperformance, Chris Griffin of Salesforce, William Cooper of ChristiaNet, John Scranton of StartUpSelling, Inc., Dave Maskin, Sahar Andrade, Melissa Galt, Justin Miller, Veiko Herne, Pablo Ruiz of InfinixSoft, Julia Stege, Michael Manthey, Babette Ten Haken, Dallas Moore, Nery Leal, Patrick Hollister, James Gingerich of Sybase, Judy Freeman, Sarah Houston, Beth Avery, Robert Madison of Spiral16, Pat McGraw, Russ Hayman, and Jeff Lee of Optimize Sales.

### We Want to Hear from You!

As the reader of this book, *you* are our most important critic and commentator. We value your opinion and want to know what we're doing right, what we could do better, what areas you'd like to see us publish in, and any other words of wisdom you're willing to pass our way.

We welcome your comments. You can email or write to let us know what you did or didn't like about this book—as well as what we can do to make our books better.

*Please note that we cannot help you with technical problems related to the topic of this book.* 

When you write, please be sure to include this book's title and author as well as your name, email address, and phone number. I will carefully review your comments and share them with the author and editors who worked on the book.

Email: feedback@quepublishing.com Mail: Que Publishing ATTN: Reader Feedback 800 East 96th Street Indianapolis, IN 46240 USA

### **Reader Services**

Visit our website and register this book at quepublishing.com/register for convenient access to any updates, downloads, or errata that might be available for this book.

## Twenty-first Century Sales and Marketing: LinkedIn Meets Marketing, Advertising, and Sales

This book describes a marketing system whereby advertisers, marketers, and salespeople can leverage LinkedIn to get more leads and sales for their company. The book is divided into five parts:

- 1. This first section and chapter is an overview and introduction to the book.
- 2. The second section (Chapters 2 through 6) talks about how marketing people can help their companies on LinkedIn. It covers LinkedIn employee profiles, LinkedIn company pages, content marketing, LinkedIn Answers, LinkedIn Events, and LinkedIn Groups, all from the perspective of the marketing department.
- 3. The third section (Chapters 7 through 10) is focused on helping people in an advertising role. We talk about best practices from the last decade of Internet advertising, how to set up LinkedIn ads, and how to get excellent results from them.

- 4. The fourth section (Chapters 11 through 13) is for salespeople. It covers the history of sales, how sales has changed, and what role LinkedIn plays in sales—most specifically, how salespeople can find new prospects and build relationships on LinkedIn.
- 5. The fifth section (Chapters 14 through 16) is for everyone, including advertisers, marketers, salespeople, executives, and managers. It discusses how the three major roles (advertising, marketing, and sales) must work together to go beyond mediocre social media results and the kind of support these teams will require from company leadership.

How have business and marketing changed in the twenty-first century? What has the Internet changed about the sales process? In the rest of this chapter, we'll look at online versus offline sales, and how introverts and extroverts can work together. Then we'll examine the social media revenue and the history of LinkedIn. We close with a few LinkedIn case studies for inspiration.

### **Networking and Business: Face-to-Face and Online**

LinkedIn is an online social network. Online social networks (especially Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn) have become extremely popular and frequently talked about over the last few years. But using LinkedIn to get more business is not fundamentally new, because human beings have been meeting new people and socializing for thousands of years. Social networks have always existed. Business people network to build relationships and generate new opportunities. New friends, partners, and customers come from simply getting to know people on a professional and personal basis.

Historically, much new business has been driven by extroverted salespeople who thrive on social contact, love talking on the phone, and create interaction by talking to clients in person. The cliché, which surely contains some truth, is that sales come from golf outings, Kiwanis meetings, and Chamber of Commerce gatherings. Many purchases involve some sort of social contact, even if it's just the store employee who asks, "Can I help you with something?"

Social networks like LinkedIn and Twitter remove barriers and accelerate the networking process. You can escape the physical boundaries of face-to-face networking and meet people across the globe. You can share white papers, information about your company, pictures, and blog posts instantly without needing to be in the same place or send a letter. These online networks also offer social advertising, with which you can raise awareness about yourself and your company.

Many Internet marketing and social media experts, who do the majority of their work alone with computers, are introverts. I am one. We aren't the type to go out and socialize with new people constantly. While writing this book, I was also reading *The New York Times* bestseller *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking.*<sup>1</sup> It quotes many studies and repeats one of the best definitions of introversion I've heard: Introverts are people who can be intentionally extroverted but need to recharge afterward. Gandhi, Einstein, Rosa Parks, and Van Gogh were introverts. We get our energy from performing solo activities such as computer work that the extroverted salesperson might find tedious and exhausting.

My personal observation is that many of "geeks" like me who speak at Internetoriented conferences do a much higher percentage of our socializing via Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, blogging, email, and Skype. Socializing online can be incredibly enjoyable, because it's a Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi–style "flow" experience.<sup>2</sup> We make an art out of multitasking our content consumption, content creation, and networking. We share business opportunities, give each other online media exposure, and create search engine and social media authority that brings us new business. It's not uncommon for us to email, tweet, Facebook, chat, and work all at the same time, interacting with and influencing hundreds or thousands of people per day.

When we meet our online friends in person at conferences or local gatherings, we solidify our bonds further. Some use acronyms for these "face-to-face" meetings (F2F) and real-life experiences (IRL, in real life). When I first started speaking at conferences, I found the extroversion so anxiety-producing that I would use Twitter to schedule meetings with peers because otherwise I would have hid in my hotel room every second I wasn't speaking!

When you combine introverted social marketers with extroverted salespeople, you can achieve online reach and influence *plus* sales-closing ability (see Figure 1.1). Each operates in his or her strengths and complements the other. Think of it the way you'd put two all-stars on the same sports team: a quarterback throwing to a receiver for a touchdown, or a point guard throwing an alley-oop to a power forward. The combination of these two different skill sets leads to championships for sports teams and competitive dominance for companies.



**Figure 1.1** How business is created with LinkedIn, from advertising to marketing to sales.

This book teaches your team and its role players the following:

- How to improve teamwork among the employees responsible for LinkedIn ads, marketing, and sales
- How to improve and use their skills at advertising, marketing, networking, relationship-building, and sales
- How marketers and salespeople can build relationships that result in more business
- · How to raise awareness of your company to new potential customers
- How to convince those prospects that your company is the best one to solve their problems
- How to leverage relationships to close sales and increase revenue

### **Social Media and Revenue**

Over the last several years, social media has grown from novel curiosity to proven revenue generator. In 2008 and 2009, Dell made over \$6.5 million additional revenue from its Twitter accounts.<sup>3</sup> Zappos was a start-up whose marketing consisted almost entirely of social media (including hundreds of Zappos employee Twitter accounts) and was acquired by Amazon in 2009 for \$928 million.<sup>4</sup> Numerous small- and medium-sized businesses made money on Facebook in 2011.<sup>5</sup>

The business-to-consumer marketer took notice. Marketing budgets began to move toward social media. But what about businesses that sell to other businesses (B2B)? Does social media work for them, too? And are they using it?

In 2011, Accenture completed a study demonstrating the following:

- Although five out of six business-to-business executives thought social media was very important, only 8% would say their company was "heavily leveraging" social media. They had started but weren't at full steam.
- Only 5% of B2B executives reported a strong formal link between their social media activities and their strategic customer initiatives—meaning social media had yet to be integrated with goal planning and tactics. Their social media activities were ad-hoc and not systematized.
- Nearly one-fifth of these executives doubted their company's ability to make the right social media investment decisions.<sup>6</sup>

Most businesses know social media is important and have begun some kind of social media marketing, but they are not using it to its full potential and aren't sure they know the best way to do so.

Increased revenue is almost always the ultimate goal, but many steps need to happen along the way to that goal. If you increase awareness of your company and its solutions, you can get more leads for sales. Better thought-leadership and prospect education can increase how many leads decide to buy (making the sales force's job easier) and how many customers you keep (making customer service's job easier).

Sometimes you can prove that social media efforts create new sales, especially if you have sophisticated tracking in place. Does your sales CRM (customer relationship management software) show if the lead came from LinkedIn, Facebook, or Google? If not, you'll have a tough time proving the true value of your Internet marketing. You sometimes hear from customers that they saw you on one website or another, but memory can be unreliable. We're busy these days, and we consume more advertisements than we even remember. We may not know exactly how we first heard of something or even why we bought it; other times, we're not capable of being honest with ourselves about why we make certain decisions. Good tracking removes some of these obstacles and can give us clear data about which marketing, advertising, and sales campaigns contribute to the final sale.

In situations where tracking is adequate, social marketers often report impressive results. But of course, it depends on how you're doing your social media marketing. Slipshod or inconsistent efforts are unreliable. The best thing to do is to find the companies that have been successful and follow their process. These lessons can come from other LinkedIn marketers, social media marketing with Facebook and Twitter (because of the similarities between them), and even other types of online marketing, including Google, AdWords, and email. In Chapter 2, I cover some of the best practices in social and online marketing that can be applied to LinkedIn marketing. Later in the book, we look at tactics that have been proven successful, specifically on LinkedIn.

Even if you follow best practices, all social media marketing is relatively experimental, with LinkedIn marketing and sales even more so. Our understanding is immature and spread thin across many verticals. Metaphorically speaking, we're at a point in the frontier life where some scouts have barely made it back to safety and others have followed routes that led to riches. Your journey doing advertising, marketing, and sales on LinkedIn will be an adventure and an experiment, but you can ensure that failing tests are quickly recognized and stopped whereas successes are maximized and repeated. The successes will more than make up for the failures.

This is the time. By starting now in social media, you create an advantage for yourself. In the online world, the early adopters gain the lion's share of the spoils. This pattern has repeated itself over the last decade: New technological opportunities create new companies like Netflix and destroy or damage others like Blockbuster. If you're one of the business people who put off creating a website, put off doing Google ads, and put off search engine optimization while your competitors began to eat away at your market share, you know what I mean. Those in business who take a few calculated risks are the ones who win big. Companies that wait are forced to play catch-up in a field of greater competition, more obstacles, and higher prices. The biggest profits are there to be captured now. I realize that often the bigger the company is, the more risk-averse it may be, but I believe the systems and processes taught in this book will help you maximize opportunity while minimizing risk.

Although this book is about LinkedIn, the same lessons can be applied to Facebook, and this pattern won't change in the foreseeable future. Technology moves faster in the twenty-first century, so you don't have a year or two to think about whether you should leverage these social platforms. In fact, they may no longer be a good idea in a couple of years. What if smartphone platforms such as the iPhone and Android release apps that do all this without Facebook and LinkedIn, and people switched to them? Yahoo! has had its peak time and is now, according to sites such as Google Trends and Alexa, half as popular as Facebook.

A number of clients I've worked with find Google AdWords competition and prices to be rising. Some no longer spend money on AdWords, and others have cut back to only the most profitable keywords. Some businesses cannot use AdWords because people aren't aware of their products enough to search for them. A number of companies that use third-party pay-per-click optimization services are doing better than ever with AdWords, but these are companies that have enough money to spend both on agencies and their high-level tools.<sup>7</sup> Search engine optimization also has become more and more competitive. Companies working on their natural search presence constantly improve their content and increase their inbound links, raising their rankings or solidifying their authority. Every day, a company just starting in the natural search game faces more of a challenge.

The marketing mix decision is different for every company, and your mileage will vary with each marketing and advertising channel. If AdWords is a model, then these opportunities become more expensive for years until third-party companies properly calibrate ways to make them more efficient. While those costs are increasing, you should get involved in LinkedIn and figure out how it can benefit your business. LinkedIn will only become more competitive, so the biggest opportunity is now.

### The History of LinkedIn

Here are a few statistics to illustrate the growth of LinkedIn:

- LinkedIn was founded in December 2002 and launched in May 2003 within one month, it had 4,500 members.
- By mid-2011, it had 33.9 million unique visitors, up 63% from 2010.8
- As of December 31, 2011, two professionals were newly signing up to join LinkedIn *per second*.
- As of February 9, 2012, LinkedIn operates the world's largest professional network on the Internet, with more than 150 million members in over 200 countries and territories. It is available in 16 languages.<sup>9</sup>
- There were more than 2 billion people searches on LinkedIn in 2010, and close to double that in 2011.

As you can see in Figure 1.2, which shows what people are searching for in Google, interest in LinkedIn has grown steadily, as has interest in Twitter, while interest in MySpace has plummeted.



**Figure 1.2** As evidenced by Google search data, Twitter has grown to be the most popular of these three social networks, while MySpace's popularity has plummeted.

LinkedIn is widely regarded as the most professional (the least whimsical, least personal, most formal) of the social networks. People don't normally put crazy photos on LinkedIn the way they do on Facebook. They are less likely to report what they're eating than they are on Twitter. LinkedIn is many people's online resume, and recruiters use it extensively to find viable employees. Many business people use LinkedIn Groups and Answers to network, find, and share facts, develop themselves as professionals, show off their expertise, and secure new business. Some people are thinking ahead about their business futures. As of December 31, 2011, students and recent college graduates were the fastest-growing demographic on LinkedIn. This makes sense because we know Generation Y is bigger than the Boomer Generation, and they continue to move into the workforce.

### Why LinkedIn Is Relevant to Your Business

Many marketers believe LinkedIn is a profitable channel. A 2012 poll by MarketingSherpa reported that LinkedIn's effectiveness was supported by 65% of B2B marketers, Twitter's by 53%, and Facebook's by 47%.<sup>10</sup> LinkedIn has executives from all Fortune 500 companies as members. More than 2 million companies have a LinkedIn Company Page.

Who else likes to use LinkedIn? Some interesting answers come from Quantcast, a company that directly measures more than 25 million web audiences around the world. You can use it to check the audience of any website, as shown in Figure 1.3. The following is according to their data:

- Fifty-four percent of LinkedIn members earn more than \$60K per year, and 36% earn more than \$100K annually.
- LinkedIn has 29% more six-figure earners than the average website.
- The 35-to-49-year-old demographic uses LinkedIn, 19% more than the average website.
- Almost one-fourth of LinkedIn visitors come back at least 30 times per month.
- More than half (51%) of LinkedIn users visit at least once per month.<sup>11</sup>



**Figure 1.3** According to Quantcast, LinkedIn users are more affluent and more educated than the average website visitor.

In June 2010, LeadFormix, a marketing automation company that offers lead generation and sales-enablement software to enterprises, published a study called "How Effective Is Social Media For B2B Lead Generation?" Their finding was that, of all the social networking sites, LinkedIn was the most effective for getting leads to B2B company websites.

In 2011, LeadFormix conducted a follow-up study focused just on LinkedIn for B2B marketing. They learned that website visitors from LinkedIn were remarkably good prospects. Many times it was these visitors' first trip to the company website. LinkedIn was raising awareness with new customers and generating leads. Of all the marketing opportunities on LinkedIn, people who came to the site from Groups and Advertising were most likely to fill out a lead form.<sup>12</sup>

If you want for new potential customers to come to your website and become a lead for your sales force, LinkedIn is a great place to find them. What's more, the data in this study suggests that LinkedIn Groups and Advertising are the *most* effective places on LinkedIn to find them, and having a company page and employee profiles gets potential customers to take your company seriously.

### Why LinkedIn Is More Than a Modern Rolodex

If you're not old enough to know what a Rolodex is, it was a rotating file device used to store contact business info. It debuted in 1958 and was insanely popular with business people (back around the time when people were walking uphill both to and from school). If you think LinkedIn is just a modern version of that, you're dead wrong. Here's why:

- LinkedIn contacts stay up to date without your help, especially when people move from one company to another. I've had salespeople tell me that if all LinkedIn did for them was keep track of contacts who are switching companies, that feature alone would make it worth using.
- LinkedIn contains a heck of a lot more information about a person than a Rolodex ever could, often including recent tweets, blog posts, and colleagues who've recommended them. You can use this information to start interesting conversations and get a sales call off on the right footing.
- You can advertise, start groups and communities, and even market your company on LinkedIn—all obviously beyond the capabilities of a rotating file.

LinkedIn is more than a real-time Rolodex or resume; it gives you an entire marketing and advertising system. Plug it into a CRM such as Salesforce.com or ACT! and you've put your sales funnel on steroids.

### How Your Advertising, Marketing, and Sales Teams Achieve Goals with LinkedIn

There are a variety of different goals for LinkedIn users, such as the following:

- Increasing your number of leads
- Increasing your lead quality
- Branding and positioning your company
- Capturing your target audience in a group for marketing or market research purposes

All of these are valid goals, and although you might start with just one or two, you may pursue all of them with LinkedIn over time. Regardless of your goal, you need to define how you'll measure your campaign's success, what quantified target you want to hit, and what strategies and tactics you'll use to get there.

For example, if you want to grow a LinkedIn Group for market research purposes, decide how many people you want in that Group. Have your LinkedIn advertising person do some research with the ad creation tool: How many people can you target on LinkedIn who might become your customers? Let's say there are 50,000. You might aim for getting 5,000 or 10,000 in your Group initially. Your strategy for membership growth may be advertising. This gives you quantified goals and a strategy with which to begin this marketing project. On the other hand, if you're going for a small group of extremely targeted folks—say, Fortune 100 CEOs—your Group may not be so large, but both quality (the right people) and quantity (because you won't get them all as customers) are important.

As you'll read later, most companies on LinkedIn use a combination of strategies and tactics to achieve their marketing goals, including contests, awards, polls, advertising, groups, content marketing, blogging, and integrating other social networking websites. And you'll want to base all of this on the Internet marketing best practices we discuss in Chapter 2.

If you're looking for leads, you'll enjoy the conversation in Part III about how LinkedIn Advertising can empower your lead-collection process. You may also have a marketing automation service in place such as Eloqua, which can help qualify and score your leads before they go to the sales force (having that in place actually means you can go for a larger volume of leads without worrying as much about how qualified they are). You may already have a process for salespeople to give marketing and advertising feedback about how qualified the leads are or aren't. They can give you specifics that might help you improve lead quality in your marketing and advertising. We'll cover this sort of team interaction and feedback in Chapter 14.

### LinkedIn Marketing Success Stories

LinkedIn features a number of case studies on their website, illustrating a variety of strategies attempted and goals achieved. I've pulled out the more exceptional of those successes that are relevant to B2B sales and marketing. I thought it might be inspirational and motivational for you as you begin to digest the information in this book. I summarize and comment on these case studies in the following sections.

### **Cisco WebEx as Online Conferencing Leader**

Cisco WebEx wanted to raise awareness and position themselves as the leader in online conferencing solutions. So, they created a set of awards and used LinkedIn ads to promote submissions. Their awards site generated 500+ entries and 11,500+ votes from 134,000 unique visitors. Half of their traffic was from word of mouth. Over 900 members joined the LinkedIn Group, and their Twitter account grew by 900. They announced the results at a live event that attracted 1,090 registered attendees. All of this led to 125 articles in the press and online news.

LinkedIn ads allowed Cisco to reach targeted business prospects affordably. Social media networks and shareability doubled their traffic, and the media stood up and paid attention. What do I mean about shareability? If you've tried to get press coverage for your company, you know that just putting out a press release won't cut it anymore. Anyone can put out a press release, and many do. You get lost in the noise and usually don't get major media coverage. But unique and innovative campaigns like this stand out and get the attention of journalists. What's more, anytime you do something new, people in social media are more likely to share it with their networks, thus increasing your exposure and traffic.

### Qwest Business Understanding and Influencing IT Decision Makers

Qwest Business wanted to engage IT decision makers in specific geographies to build a community that they could use to do the following:

- · Host technology solution conversations
- Influence decisions
- Increase sales

They created a LinkedIn Group, drove membership with LinkedIn Ads and Partner Messages, and then engaged new members with educationally interactive content. Their membership invitations were opened by 18% of the people they sent them to. They grew a 1,400-member community built from scratch and exceeded their year-end membership goal (1,000 members) by 40%. They also used polls (see Figure 1.4) and discussions to learn more about their audience to increase the effectiveness of their marketing and sales efforts.



**Figure 1.4** *Qwest used polls to gain valuable intelligence about their target audience after quickly growing their new LinkedIn Group.* 

Many businesses have already learned the value of audience "ownership" with email lists and Facebook fan bases. How much more valuable is a group of prospects when it's highly qualified because you targeted the exact job titles, industries, or companies you serve?

### Philips Market Research and Thought Leadership in Lighting and Healthcare

Philips wanted to be seen as an innovative leader in healthcare, lighting, and wellbeing. Their goal was to build credibility and drive discussion (see Figure 1.5) and awareness with key audiences for their two main B2B offerings: health and lighting. They created two LinkedIn Groups (Innovations in Healthcare and Innovations in Light) and grew them to 38,000+ and 27,000+ members, respectively. Over 60% of their members were manager level or above. They drove this membership through display ads, InMail, and word of mouth. Almost 10% of those who received an InMail went on to join the associated Group. What's more, their LinkedIn Groups became the go-to communities for their niches.



**Figure 1.5** A widget showing a sample of discussions in Philips' successful Innovations in Light LinkedIn Group.

## Exact Gets 40% of Invited Accountants to Recommend Their Financial Software

Exact is a company in the Netherlands that supplies software to entrepreneurs. Knowing that accountants are influential advisors in the financial process, and that 85% of the accountants in The Netherlands could be reached via LinkedIn, Exact used a Company Page, Recommendations, and Recommendation Ads to get 40% of their customers to recommend their SAAS product. It garnered 281 product recommendations and 5,924 new followers on their Company Page. Exact has 14 product solutions. It lists each one on its LinkedIn company page, and each one can receive recommendations from LinkedIn users.

You may have noticed that people shift where they spend time online much more frequently than they used to. A LinkedIn Group that didn't exist yesterday could be the hottest place in your niche three months later (as it was for Philips, discussed previously). If there's not a great place for one of your target audiences to discuss things, or if the excitement in a forum has faded or it's an older forum that doesn't have up-to-date social sharing capabilities, you can take advantage of that by filling the gap with your own Group, getting people to it, and trying to own that conversation niche with your Group. 14

### Chevron Unifies and Engages Difficult-to-Reach Energy Leaders

Chevron wanted to bring together all those passionate about energy-related issues into one place. As you might imagine, in the energy industry, as in many verticals, there is controversy. It's an ongoing PR challenge to maintain a positive image for some companies. A social media solution that brings dignity and decorum to conversations that might otherwise be ugly is incredibly valuable from a PR and branding perspective.

So, Chevron created a LinkedIn Group (see Figure 1.6) and then used LinkedIn Ads and Partner Messages to target industry professionals, policy makers, academia, and the media. They reached exactly who they wanted to, exceeded their growth goals by 41%, and doubled membership via unexpected word-of-mouth recommendations. Although they worried about potentially contentious debates, they found the discussions on LinkedIn to be respectful and professional. About 90% of members visit the Group repeatedly, 87% read the discussions, and 92% read Group digest emails.



**Figure 1.6** This Group ad provides a live snapshot of current Group discussions. These ads can mention specific members in each ad viewer's network.

### Vistage Grows Its Business While Reducing Cost Per Lead

Vistage International provides ideas and strategies to business leaders, business owners, and chief executives. The company is looking to grow more members by reaching as many people as possible in highly targeted audiences. Before LinkedIn, they had trouble finding marketing and advertising options that yielded both quality and quantity results. Targeting their audience with LinkedIn Ads, they discovered a way to continuously reach more quality leads at lower costs. In one recent quarter, they increased lead volume by 114% month over month, while cost per lead decreased 26% (see Figure 1.7). The LinkedIn campaign generated 89% more leads than the same campaign on a leading ad network and at less than a third the cost per lead.



**Figure 1.7** Vistage International was pleasantly surprised to find that LinkedIn Ads performed better over time and dramatically outperformed any other ad network for their business leads.

Here are the primary factors that affect profitability in B2B marketing and sales:

- Lead Quality: Are these the right people for your business?
- Lead Quantity: Are you getting enough potential customers to talk to? Can you increase this number without lowering quality?
- **Cost Per Lead:** Can you reduce the cost per lead without lowering lead quality? Usually this is achieved with good audience targeting and exciting or at least appropriate messaging.
- **Closing Ratio:** What percentage of leads turns into sales? If the lead quality is good and sales follow-up is prompt and skilled, this can be maximized.
- **Cost Per Sale:** The cost per lead and closing ratio determine your cost per sale. With your margins, how much can you afford to spend per sale on your sales, marketing, and advertising efforts? Is this cost per sale low enough?

That's the math of profitability. The ways to get more profits are to lower your cost per lead, increase the lead quality, and increase the closing ratio. When you can do two or three of these at the same time, you're a rock star. LinkedIn helped Vistage achieve that.

## Joining LinkedIn Was Worth Nearly Half a Million Dollars

Bill Waterhouse is a Regional Director for Technical Innovation, a company that provides audiovisual products, services, digital signage, streaming media, and video conferencing. I spoke with him in 2011 in preparation to train at an event for the association his company belongs to: Professional Systems Network International. Bill has a sales background and was the first person in the company to use LinkedIn. It paid off almost immediately. Shortly after using his email contact database to grow LinkedIn connections, he was messaged on LinkedIn by someone he'd tried—and failed—to get business with before. They invited his response to a new RFP (request for proposal), which led to a \$450,000 contract. Bill was only considered because he popped up on LinkedIn. One employee simply joining LinkedIn was a half-million-dollar payday for his company.

### Endnotes

- http://www.amazon.com/Quiet-Power-Introverts-World-Talking/ dp/0307352145/
- http://www.amazon.com/Flow-Psychology-Experience-Mihaly-Csikszentmihalyi/dp/0060920432
- http://en.community.dell.com/dell-blogs/direct2dell/b/direct2dell/ archive/2009/12/08/expanding-connections-with-customers-throughsocial-media.aspx
- 4. http://techcrunch.com/2009/07/22/amazon-buys-zappos/
- 5. http://mashable.com/2012/01/12/facebook-make-money/
- 6. http://www.accenture.com/us-en/Pages/insight-making-social-mediapay.aspx
- http://insights.marinsoftware.com/analytics/fresh-insights-frommarins-2011-q4-report/
- Womack, Brian. "LinkedIn Passes MySpace to Become No. 2 U.S. Social Network". Bloomberg. http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-07-08/linkedin-tops-myspace-to-become-second-largest-u-s-socialnetworking-site.html
- 9. http://press.linkedin.com/about. Any other stats not referenced in this section of the book are from this page.

- MarketingSherpa 2012 Search Marketing Benchmark Survey SEO Edition, August 18, 2011. http://www.meclabs.com/training/ publications/benchmark-report/2012-search-marketing-seo-edition/ overview?9641
- 11. http://www.quantcast.com/linkedin.com
- 12. http://www.leadformix.com/Why-Should-You-Use-Linkedin-For-B2B-Generation/

This page intentionally left blank

### Index

### A

AchieveGlobal, 186 ACS Ltd, 212 Ad Age, 141 ad campaigns creating, 148-149 daily budget, 155 expected results, 156-157 lead collection, 155 payment methods, 154-155 "Show My Campaign" options, 155-156 targeting audiences ad variations, 153 call to action, 153-154 characteristics of LinkedIn ads, 151-152 explained, 149-151 LinkedIn Audience Network, 151 ad copy ideas, 173 ad creative brainstorming grid, 165 ad variations, 153

adaptation, empowering, 227-228 Admin Tool Create New Audience option, 75 Promote My Company option, 74 admins, 69 Adobe SocialAnalytics, 162 Advanced Search, 203-204 advantages of LinkedIn, 9 advantages of online social networks, 2-3 advertising, 159, 217. See also social media marketing B2B marketing sales funnel, 136-137 benchmarks, 127 brand awareness, raising, 27 branding, 120-121, 126 comparison of Google, Facebook, and LinkedIn ads conversion rate, 131 cost, 130

overview, 128-129, 147-148 targeting, 129-130 copywriting, 124-125 direct marketing, 119-120 generating advertising ideas ad copy ideas, 173 headline ideas, 172 image ideas, 171-172 overview, 171 segmented landing pages, 173-174 goals and metrics, 26, 126-127, 144-145 industry-specific advertising, 170-171 LinkedIn ad campaigns creating, 148-149 daily budget, 155 expected results, 156-157 lead collection, 155 payment method, 154-155 "Show My Campaign" options, 155-156 targeting audiences, 149-154

media buying for branding purposes, 118-119 message/target fit, 125 premium LinkedIn advertising services, 131 relationship with inbound marketing, 136 shifts in online advertising, 115-118 social media advertising, 121-122 strategies, 215-216 advertising as part of content marketing, 141 amplifying media coverage of company, 141 existing customers versus new customers. 111 increasing awareness of company, 140 knowing your audience, 169-171 optimizing ads, 159 pre-sales persuasion, 143 segmentation, 141-142 targeting, 164-169 supplementing with Facebook and AdWords ads, 174 targeting persona-based advertising, 167-169 targeting LinkedIn Groups, 165-166 *targeting relevant job* titles, 167 targeting strategy, developing, 165 testing, 164-165 testing, 123-124 tracking, 128 AdWords ads overview, 6 supplementing with, 174 affirming, 206 agility, 38 AIDA (Attention-Interest-Desire-Action), 25-26

Amazon, 4, 175, 222 amplifying media coverage of company, 141 analytical salespeople, importance of, 226 analytics, 110 ad optimization, 162-164 company page analytics, 72-75 content marketing and, 224-225 Andrade, Sahar, 188 answering questions, 84-88 Answers. See LinkedIn Answers Apple, 79 apps adding to profiles, 52 Polls app, 52 Projects and Teamspaces app, 52 SlideShare plug-in, 52 Aprimo, 140 asking questions on LinkedIn Answers, 81-82 attention, competition for, 238-239 Attention-Interest-Desire-Action (AIDA), 25-26 audience growing with employees, 42-44 importance of, 36 knowing your audience, 169-171 advertising copy for job titles, 170 *industry-specific* advertising, 170-171 stimulating with messages, 30 targeting ad variations, 153 call to action, 153-154 characteristics of LinkedIn ads, 151-152 explained, 149-151

LinkedIn Audience Network, 151 segmented audiences, 75 understanding, 29-30 Audience Network, 151 automation (marketing), 138-140 Avery, Beth, 211 awareness brand awareness, 27 company awareness, 140

### B

B2B (business-to-business

sales). See also sales email versus social media. 233 marketing sales funnel, 136-137, 195 marketing spend, 235-236 revenue generated by social media marketing, 4-7 B2Bbloggers.com, 62 Baby Boomers, 237 Bacon, Kevin, 202 Barger, Chris, 79 Beale, Andy, 60 benchmarks, 127 best practices online advertising benchmarks, 127 branding, 126 copywriting, 124-125 message/target fit, 125 metrics, 126-127 overview, 122 testing, 123-124 sales all-time best practices, 176-177, 183-184 Miller Heiman case study, 184-186 *practices of top sales* performers, 186-187 twenty-first century best practices, 184-188

social media marketing, 24 AIDA (Attention-*Interest-Desire-Action*) process, 24-26 coherent strategy, 31-32 creating value, 32-33 employee empowerment, 38 generosity, 36 goals and measurements, 26-28 growing audiences, 36 messaging, 30 optimizing tactics based on analytics, 29 relationship building, 35-36 shareable content, 34-35 social media policies, 37-38 strategic thinking, 24-26 testing, 31 understanding target audience, 29-30 web analytics, 28 Bezos, Jeff, 175-176 Bing, 235 Blockbuster, 6 bloggers, finding with LinkedIn Answers, 83 blogs, 61, 109-110 blog post layout, 62 blog post titles, 61-62 RSS feeds, 70 viral blog posts, 63 BlogSearch, 61 Boomers, 237 boring ads, testing targeting against, 164-165 bounce rate metrics, 163-164 brand army, deploying, 227 branding, 118-121, 126 deploying brand army, 227 employee brands, 57 raising brand awareness, 27 Brogan, Chris, 60 BtoB, 141

budget for LinkedIn ad campaigns, 155 building relationships, 35-36, 205-208 business-to-business (B2B) sales. See B2B (business-tobusiness sales) buyer personas, 167-169 buyers buyer personas, 167-169 Coaches, 178 Economic Buyers, 178 pinpointing, 185 reaching, 185 Technical Buyers, 178 User Buyers, 178

### C

call to action, 153-154 campaigns. See ad campaigns Careers tab (company pages), 67-68 case studies Chevron, 14 Cisco WebEx, 11 Exact, 13 Philips, 12 Qwest Business, 11-12 Technical Innovation, 16 Vistage International, 14-15 Chanel, 236 Chevron, 14 ChristiaNet, 181 Cisco Connected World Technology Report, 238 Cisco WebEx, 11 Clark, Brian, 60 closing ratio, 15 Coaches, 178 coherent strategy, 31-32 Colbert, Stephen, 79 collaboration. See team collaboration

collecting leads. See lead collection commenting in groups, 92-94 company blogs, 61 blog post layout, 62 blog post titles, 61-62 RSS feeds, 70 viral blog posts, 63 Company Page Analytics tab, 72-75 company pages, 65-66 admins, 69 analytics, 72-75 Careers tab, 67-68 company blog RSS feeds, 70 company name, 69 getting connections to follow company, 73-75 multiple views, creating, 75 News module, 71 Products tab. 68 promoting products/ services with, 71-72 Services tab, 71-72 specialties, 70 Statistics page, 66 status updates, 72 competition for attention, 238-239 complete profiles, 45-46 complex sales, 177-179 connections finding new customers through, 202 getting connections to follow company, 73-75 growing, 52-53 in relationship building, 207 consultative sales, 179-181 contacting prospects, 209-210 InMail, 210 introductions, 209 Jigsaw, 210 contacts, inviting to join LinkedIn, 52-53

content marketing, 78-80 advertising as part of, 141 creating, 224-225 rise of, 232 ContentMarketingInstitute. com/blog, 62 Contexo Media, 211 contributors, 59 conversion rates for Google, Facebook, and LinkedIn ads 131 cookies, 116 Cooper, William T., 181 CopyBlogger, 60 copywriting, 124-125 corporate blogs. See company blogs corporate pages. See company pages Cosmopolitan, 238 cost per click (CPC), 155 cost per lead, 15 cost per sale, 15 cost per thousand (CPM), 117, 155 costs of Google, Facebook, and LinkedIn ads, 130 CPC (cost per click), 155 CPM (cost per thousand), 117, 155 Create New Audience option, 75 critical shifts for your organization, 224 creating content marketing, 224-225 creating cross-silo feedback loops, 225-226 deploying brand army, 227 empowering adaptation and innovation, 227-228 criticism, encouraging, 226 CRM, 110 cross-silo feedback loops, creating, 225-226

Croyle, Jason, 190, 211-212

Csikszentmihalyi, Mihaly, 3

customers. See also prospects existing customers versus new customers, 144 new customers, finding with LinkedIn, 202-205 Advanced Search. 203-204 connections, 202 LinkedIn Groups and Answers, 203 mapping out target company, 204-205 newsfeed and recommendations, 202 reaching decision makers/stakeholders, 205

### D

daily budget for LinkedIn ad campaigns, 155 Data.com, 210 decision makers, reaching, 205 Dell, 4 demographics of LinkedIn users, 8-9 deploying brand army, 227 desktop computing, shift to mobile devices, 231-232 differentiating yourself, 190 direct marketing, 119-120 discretion, 37 Do Not Call list, 182 Dorland Health, 211

### E

Economic Buyers, 178 effectiveness of LinkedIn marketing, 23 *The Elements of Style* (Strunk and White), 47 eliminating jargon with LinkedIn Answers, 83-84 Eloqua, 43, 140, 162-163, 198 email marketing, 21 email versus social media, 233 embracing new opportunities, 230-231 employees employee brands, 57 empowering, 38 influence of, 42-44 marketing, 58 profiles apps, 52 characteristics of effective profiles, 45 complete profiles, 45-46 connections, growing, 52-53 finding, 53 headlines, 48-49 interactivity with Facebook, incorporating, 51-52 keywords, 53-56 maintaining, 63 profile photos, 47-48 profile summaries. 46-47 recommendations, 49-51 specialties, 48 updating, 109 self-promotion, 58-61 social media policies, 37-38 visibility on social media, 41-42 empowering adaptation and innovation, 227-228 employees, 38 encouraging feedback, 226 evaluating LinkedIn ad metrics, 161 Events creating, 97-100 Event marketing, 109 explained, 78 marketing, 109 overview, 97 promoting, 100-104 before Event, 100-101 during Event, 101 after Event, 101-104

Exact, 13 existing customers versus new customers, 144 experimental nature of social media marketing, 6

expertise, 37

### F

F2F (face-to-face), 3 Facebook ads compared to Google and LinkedIn ads, 128-129, 147-148 conversion rate, 131 cost, 130 targeting, 129-130 expected results, 156-157 supplementing with, 174 Facebook interactivity with LinkedIn, 51-52 Facebook search functionality, 235 feedback cross-silo feedback loops, creating, 225-226 encouraging, 226 FHM, 238 50 Below Sales & Marketing, 189 filtering newsfeed, 202 finding industry influencers with LinkedIn Answers, 83-84 new customers with LinkedIn, 202-205 Advanced Search. 203-204 connections, 202 LinkedIn Groups and Answers, 203 mapping out target company, 204-205 reaching decision makers/stakeholders. 205

profiles, 53 prospects on LinkedIn, 189-190 questions to answer, 84-87 Flickr photo streams, 102 Freeman, Judy, 188 future of social media marketing, 229-230 embracing new opportunities, 230-231 online marketing trends, 231-236 B2B email versus social media, 233 B2B marketing spend, 235-236 rise of content marketing, 232 search versus social, 234-235 shift from desktop to mobile, 231-232 social SEO, 233-234 people trends, 236-239 competition for attention, 238-239 Gen Y and Gen Z, 237 work as state of mind, 236-237

### G

Gen X, 237 General Motors, 79 generating advertising ideas ad copy ideas, 173 headline ideas, 172 overview, 171 segmented landing pages, 173-174 leads. See leads, generating Generation Y, 237 Generation Z, 237 generosity, 36 Genoo, 198 Gingerich, James, 181 Gladwell, Malcolm, 79

goals achieving with LinkedIn, 10 advertising goals, 144-145 setting, 26-28 Godin, Seth, 60, 79 Google ads, 222 compared to Facebook and LinkedIn ads, 128-129, 147-148 conversion rate, 131 cost, 130 targeting, 129-130 expected results, 156-157 supplementing with, 174 Google AdWords, 6 Google Analytics, 21, 162 Google BlogSearch, 61 Google Images, 171-172 Google Plus, 234 Groups building relationships, 92-94 commenting in, 92-94 creating, 95-96 explained, 78 Groups Directory, 91 internal social media marketing groups, 109 joining, 90-91 membership growth, 10 networking beyond your industry, 94-95 ongoing marketing activities, 110 posting in, 92 promoting, 96 targeting, 165-166 Groups Directory, 91 growing audience with employees, 42-44 *importance of, 36* connections, 52-53 growth

of content marketing, 232 of LinkedIn, 7-8 of social media opportunities, 222 guest bloggers, finding with LinkedIn Answers, 83

### Η

Haken, Babette Ten, 180 headlines (ad), 172 headlines (profile), 48-49 history of LinkedIn, 7-8 of sales, 177 of social media marketing, 20 - 24Holland, Anne, 60 Hollister, Patrick K., 176, 181 HootSuite, 236 Hopkins, Claude C., 117 HotWired, 116 Houston, Sarah, 188 "How Effective Is Social Media for B2B Lead Generation?" (LeadFormix), 9

image ideas, 171-172 Imperium, 163 importance of LinkedIn marketing, 23 impressions, 116 inbound marketing, 194-195 B2B marketing sales funnel, 136-137 explained, 135-136 marketing automation, 138-140 relationship with advertising, 136 shift to, 181-184 increasing awareness of company, 140 Indeed.com, 167 industry influencers, finding with LinkedIn Answers, 83-84

industry-specific advertising, 170-171 InfiniGraph, 62, 225, 236 influence of employees, 42-44 infographics, 80 InMail, 210 innovation, empowering, 227-228 inside sales, 177 interdepartmental cooperation. See team collaboration internal social media marketing groups, 109 interruptive marketing, 194-195 introductions, 209 introverts, strengths of, 2-3 inviting contacts to join LinkedIn, 52-53 IRL (in real life), 3 IT Assurance, 190

### J

Jamison, Edward, 189 jargon, eliminating with LinkedIn Answers, 83-84 Jigsaw, 205, 210 job titles advertising copy for, 170 targeting, 167 Jobs, Steve, 79 joining Groups, 90-91

### K

Kawasaki, Guy, 230 key performance indicators (KPIs), 26 Keyword Tool, 54-55, 70 keywords, 53-56 adding to profiles, 56 adding to videos, 102-103 checking effectiveness of, 56 finding questions to answers, 86-87 importance of, 53 researching, 54-55 knowing your audience, 169-171 advertising copy for job titles, 170 industry-specific advertising, 170-171 KPIs (key performance

### L

indicators), 26

landing pages, segmenting, 173-174 layout of blog posts, 62 lead collection, 10 closing ratio, 15 cost per lead, 15 lead quality, 15 lead quantity, 15 leadership, thought leadership, 78-80 LeadFormix, studies on LinkedIn marketing, 9 leads, generating, 77-78 content marketing, 78-80 lead collection from ad campaigns, 155 lead quality issues, 197-198 with LinkedIn Answers answering questions, 84-88 asking questions, 81-82 finding industry influencers, 83-84 overview, 80-81 researching prospects, 82 with LinkedIn Events creating Event pages, 97-100 overview, 97 promoting Events, 100-104 with LinkedIn Groups building relationships, 92-94 creating Groups, 95-96

#### 246

joining Groups, 90-91 networking beyond your industry, 94-95 overview, 89 posting in Groups, 92 promoting Groups, 96 thought leadership, 78-80 Leal, Nery, 190 Lee, Jeff, 212 Lewis, E. St. Elmo, 25 LiesDamnLiesStatistics.com, 62 LinkedIn Answers answering questions, 84-88 asking questions, 81-82 explained, 78 finding industry influencers, 83-84 finding new customers through, 203 overview, 80-81 researching prospects, 82 LinkedIn Audience Network, 151 LinkedIn Events creating, 97-100 Event marketing, 109 explained, 78 overview, 97 promoting, 100-104 before Event, 100-101 during Event, 101 after Event, 101-104 LinkedIn Groups building relationships, 92-94 creating, 95-96 explained, 78 finding new customers through, 203 Groups Directory, 91 joining, 90-91 membership growth, 10 networking beyond your industry, 94-95 ongoing marketing activities, 110 overview, 89 promoting, 96 targeting, 165-166

LinkedIn Signal, 189 listening, 205 lurkers, 59

### Μ

Madian, Melissa, 43 Madison, Robert, 211 maintaining profiles, 63 relationships, 35-36 Manthey, Michael B., 189, 190 mapping out target company, 204-205 marketing. See social media marketing marketing automation, 138-140 Marketo, 140, 162 Maxwell, John, 79 McGraw, Pat, 210-211 measurements. See metrics MECLABS, 190, 211 media buying for branding purposes, 118-119 media coverage, amplifying, 141 messages message/target fit, 125 stimulating target audience with, 30 metrics, 26-28 advertising metrics, 126-127, 144-145 evaluating LinkedIn ad metrics, 161 Miller Heiman, 184-186 Mo, Han, 196 mobile devices, shift to, 231-232 motivation of salespeople, 197-199 multiple views, creating, 75 multitasking, 238-239

### Ν

name of company, entering on company pages, 69 National Association of African Americans in HR. 188 Nestle, 60 Netflix, 6 new customers, finding with LinkedIn, 202-205 Advanced Search, 203-204 connections, 202 LinkedIn Groups and Answers, 203 mapping out target company, 204-205 new customers versus existing customers, 144 newsfeed and recommendations, 202 reaching decision makers/ stakeholders, 205 new opportunities, embracing, 230-231 News module, 71 newsfeed, finding new customers through, 202 The New Strategic Selling, 178 Nielsen, Jakob, 59 90-9-1 theory, 59 offers, 207-208 Old Spice, 171

one-time setup activities, 108 ongoing marketing activities analytics, leads, and CRM, 110 blogging, 109-110 employee profile updates, 109 event marketing, 109 groups, 110 internal social media marketing groups, 109 online advertising. See advertising online marketing trends, 231-236 B2B email versus social media, 233 B2B marketing spend, 235-236 search versus social. 234-235 shift from desktop to mobile, 231-232 social SEO, 233-234 optimization ad optimization ad optimization cycle, 160-161 analytics, 162-164 evaluating LinkedIn ad metrics, 161 tactics based on analytics, 29 outbound marketing, 194-195 outside sales, 177

overselling, 217

### Ρ

pages. See company pages; profiles Panasonic Electronic Components, 181 participators, 59 Pathfinder, 116 payment methods for LinkedIn ad campaigns, 154-155 people trends, 236-239 competition for attention, 238-239 Gen Y and Gen Z, 237 work as state of mind, 236-237 persona-based advertising, 167-169 Philips, 12 photos, profile photos, 47-48 pinpointing buyers, 185

Pinterest, 32-33, 102 poise, 37 policies (social media), 37-38 Polls app, 52 popularity of online social networks. 2 posting in Groups, 92 post-promotion, 101-104 posts (blog) layout, 62 titles, 61-62 viral posts, 63 premium LinkedIn advertising services, 131 pre-promoting events, 100-101 pre-sales persuasion, 143 process, AIDA (Attention-Interest-Desire-Action), 24 - 26products, promoting with company pages, 71-72 Products tab (company pages), 68 Professional Systems Network International, 16 profiles apps, 52 characteristics of effective profiles, 45 complete profiles, 45-46 connections, growing, 52-53 finding, 53 headlines, 48-49 interactivity with Facebook, incorporating, 51-52 keywords, 53-56 adding, 56 checking effectiveness of, 56 importance of, 53 researching, 54-55 maintaining, 63 profile photos, 47-48 profile summaries, 46-47 recommendations, 49-51

specialties, 48 Twitter, incorporating, 51-52 updating, 109 profitability and direct marketing, 119-120 factors affecting profitability, 15 Projects and Teamspaces app, 52 Promote My Company option, 74 promoting Events, 100-104 before Event, 100-101 during Event, 101 after Event, 101-104 Groups, 96 prospects. See also customers contacting, 209-210 InMail, 210 introductions, 209 Jigsaw, 210 finding on LinkedIn, 189-190 researching, 82, 185

### Q

quality of leads, 15, 197-198
quantity of leads, 15
questions (LinkedIn Answers) answering, 84-88 asking, 81-82
Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking, 2-3
Qwest Business, 11-12

### R

Radian6, 225 raising brand awareness, 27 reaching buyers, 185 Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds, 70 recommendations explained, 49-51 filtering newsfeed by, 202 relational salespeople, importance of, 226 relationship building, 35-36 with LinkedIn Groups, 92-94 six steps of online relationship building, 205-208 remote work, 236-237 representatives (LinkedIn), premium advertising services through, 131 researching keywords, 54-55 prospects, 82, 185 respect, 37 revenue of social media marketing, 4-7 RSS feeds for corporate blogs, 70

### S

sales. See also salespeople B2B marketing sales funnel, 195 basic requirements of, 176-177 best practices all-time best practices, 176-177, 183-184 Miller Heiman case study, 184-186 practices of top sales performers, 186-187 twenty-first century best practices, 184-188 brand awareness. raising, 27 combining with social marketing, 3 complex sales, 177-179 consultative sales, 179-181 effect of social media on sales model, 189-190 goals and metrics, 27 history of, 177

inbound versus outbound marketing, 181-184, 194-195 inside sales, 177 lead quality issues, 197-198 outside sales, 177 overview, 193 prospects. See prospects sales funnel, 136-137, 195 Social Sales advantages of LinkedIn, 199, 201-202 explained, 195-196 new customers, finding with LinkedIn. 202-205 real-world experiences, 210-212 relationship building, 205-208 value of social media to, 188-189 Salesforce, 162 Data.com, 210 Radian6, 225 salespeople. See also sales collaborating with advertising and marketing, 218-219 fostering relational and analytical salespeople, 2.2.6 importance of, 175-176 motivation, 197-199 practices of top sales performers, 186-187 Social Sales advantages of LinkedIn, 199, 201-202 explained, 195-196 new customers, finding with LinkedIn. 202-205 real-world experiences, 210-212 relationship building, 205-208 schedules, weekly LinkedIn

marketing schedules, 110-114 Scoble, Robert, 230 search Advanced Search, 203-204 searching profiles, 53 versus social media marketing, 234-235 search engine optimization (SEO), 22 segmentation, 141-142 segmented audiences, targeting, 75 segmented landing pages, 173-174 self-promotion (employee), 58-61 SEO (search engine optimization), 22 services, promoting with company pages, 71-72 Services tab (company pages), 71-72 shareable content, creating, 34-35 shift to inbound marketing, 181-184 Shimek, Steven, 88 Shoemaker, Jeremy, 60 ShoeMoney, 60 Shootman, Alex, 43 "Show My Campaign" options, 155-156 Sigler, Jay, 190 Signal, 189 siloization, 213 Six Degrees of Separation, 202 Skype, 181 SlideShare plug-in, 52 social media advertising, 121-122 social media marketing. See also advertising best practices, 19-20, 24 AIDA (Attention-Interest-Desire-Action) process, 24-26 audiences, growing, 36 coherent strategy, 31-32

creating value, 32-33 employee empowerment, 38 generosity, 36 goals and measurements, 26-28 messaging, 30 relationship building, 35-36 shareable content. creating, 34-35 social media policies, 37-38 strategic thinking, 24-26 tactics, optimizing based on analytics, 29 target audience, understanding, 29-30 testing, 31 web analytics, 28 collaborating with advertising and sales, 216-218 combining with sales, 3 company pages, 65-66 admins, 69 Careers tab, 67-68 company blog RSS feeds, 70 company name, 69 getting connections to follow company, 73-75 multiple views, 75 News module, 71 Products tab, 68 promoting products/ services with, 71-72 Services tab, 71-72 specialties, 70 Statistics page, 66 status updates, 72 content marketing. See content marketing critical shifts for your organization, 224 creating content marketing, 224-225 creating cross-silo feedback loops, 225-226 deploying brand army, 227 empowering adaptation and innovation, 227-228

*fostering relational and* analytical salespeople, 226 effect on sales model. 189-190 employee profiles apps, 52 characteristics of effective profiles, 45 complete profiles, 45-46 connections, growing, 52-53 headlines, 48-49 interactivity with Facebook, incorporating, 51-52 keywords, 53-56 profile photos, 47-48 profile summaries. 46-47 recommendations, 49-51 searching profiles, 53 specialties, 48 by employees, 58 future of, 229-230 embracing new opportunities, 230-231 online marketing trends, 231-236 people trends, 236-239 goals, achieving through LinkedIn, 10 goals and metrics, 26, 161 growth of, 222 history of, 20-24 impact on corporation, 223-224 inbound marketing, 194-195 B2B marketing sales funnel, 136-137 explained, 135-136 marketing automation, 138-140 relationship with advertising, 136 shift to, 181-184 leads. See leads, generating outbound marketing, 194-195 profitability, 15 revenue, 4-7

sales. See sales versus search, 234-235 success stories Chevron, 14 Cisco WebEx, 11 Exact, 13 Philips, 12 Qwest Business, 11-12 Technical Innovation, 16 Vistage International, 14-15 tracking value of, 5-6 value to sales, 188-189 weekly marketing routine one-time setup activities, 108 ongoing activities, 108-110 overview, 107 scheduling, 110-114 when to adopt, 222-223 social media policies, 37-38 Social Sales advantages of LinkedIn, 199, 201-202 explained, 195-196 new customers, finding with LinkedIn, 202-205 Advanced Search. 203-204 connections, 202 LinkedIn Groups and Answers, 203 mapping out target company, 204-205 newsfeed and recommendations, 202 reaching decision makers/stakeholders, 205 prospects, contacting, 209-210 real-world experiences, 210-212 relationship building, 205-208 social SEO, 233-234 SocialAnalytics, 162 SocialMediaB2B.com, 62 Solis, Brian, 60

#### Vistage International

Southwest, 57 specialties listing on company pages, 70 listing on profiles, 48 speed of change, 224 Spiral 16, 211 stakeholders, reaching, 205 Statistics page (company pages), 66 status updates for company pages, 72 Stege, Julia, 179 Stewart, Jon, 79 stimulating target audience with messages, 30 strategic thinking coherent strategy, 31-32 explained, 24-26 success stories Chevron, 14 Cisco WebEx, 11 Exact, 13 Philips, 12 **Owest Business**, 11-12 Technical Innovation, 16 Vistage International, 14 - 15summaries (profile), 46-47 support, 206-207 "A Survey of Sales Effectiveness: Global Research on What Drives Sales Success" (AchieveGlobal), 186 Sybase, 181

### T

tactics, optimizing based on analytics, 29 target audience segmented audiences, 75 stimulating with messages, 30 understanding, 29-30 targeting, 121 audiences ad variations, 153 call to action, 153-154 characteristics of LinkedIn ads, 151-152 explained, 149-151 LinkedIn Audience Network, 151 comparison of Google, Facebook, and LinkedIn ads, 129-130 LinkedIn Groups, 165-166 message/target fit, 125 persona-based advertising, 167-169 relevant job titles, 167 strategy, developing, 165 testing, 164-165 team collaboration, 185-186 advice for advertising professionals, 215-216 advice for marketing professionals, 216-218 advice for salespeople, 218-219 benefits of, 214 importance of, 213-214 LinkedIn topics for interdepartmental collaboration, 215 Technical Buyers, 178 Technical Innovation, 16 Teleperformance (China), 196 testing, 31 ad targeting, 164-165 with advertising, 123-124 theofficialboard.com, 205 thinking strategically, 24-26 thought leadership, 78-80 time management, weekly LinkedIn marketing schedule, 110-114 timeliness of social media opportunities, 222-223

time-on-site metrics, 163-164

titles advertising copy for, 170 of blog posts, 61-62 targeting, 167 tracking, 5-6, 128 trends. *See* future of social media marketing tweets, incorporating into LinkedIn profile, 51-52 Twitter, 51-52, 222

### U

understanding target audience, 29-30 United Health, 189 updating employee profiles, 109 *USA Today*, 238-239 User Buyers, 178 users (LinkedIn), demographics of, 8-9

### V

value creating, 32-33, 190 of social media to sales, 188-189

video adding keywords to, 102-103 event videos, posting to YouTube, 102 video streaming events, 101 views, creating multiple, 75 viral blog posts, 63

visibility of employees on social media, 41-42

Vistage International, 14-15

### W

Wall Street Journal, 238 Walter, Ekaterina, 237 Waterhouse, Bill, 16 web analytics, 28, 162-164 weekly LinkedIn marketing schedule, 110-114 weekly marketing routine one-time setup activities, 108 ongoing marketing activities analytics, leads, and CRM, 110 blogging, 109-110 employee profile updates, 109 event marketing, 109 groups, 110 internal social media marketing groups, 109 overview, 107 weekly LinkedIn marketing schedule, 110-114 Which Test Won, 60 work as state of mind, 236-237 Woulfe, Elle, 162-163 Wynn, Garrison, 216

### X-Y-Z

Yahoo!, 6 YouTube, 222 event videos, posting, 102 keywords, adding to videos, 102-103 Zappos, 4, 222, 227 Ziglar, Zig, 79 Zoho, 162, 198

252