



# Introduction



This presentation has three parts...

# Connect, Inform, and Grow

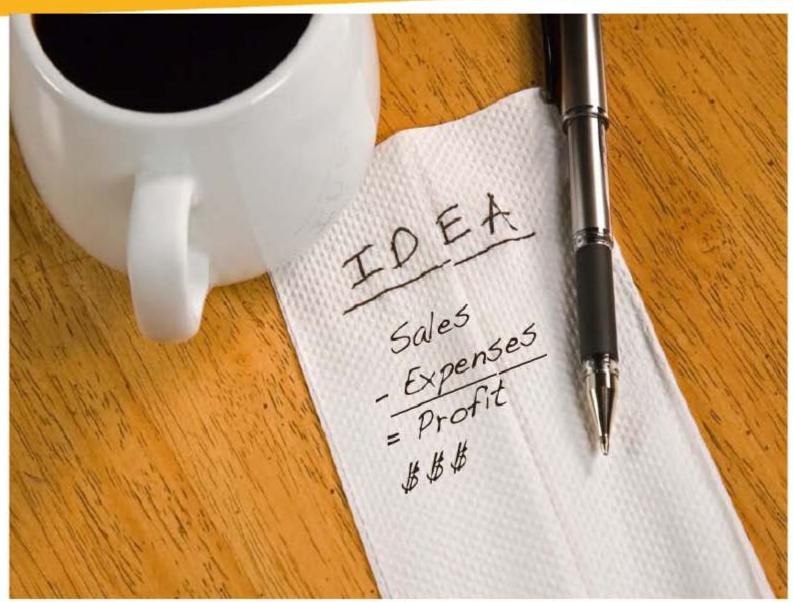
- Connecting to build customer relationships
- Informing people who will buy in to your message
- Growing your business with targeted marketing





# **Turning Ideas Into Profits**





# It Takes Relationships to Build a Business





# **Acquiring Customers**



It Takes Time, Money, Energy & Effort...

On average, it takes 7 touches for a sale to occur.

- Some buy right away
- Others research and try
- Some show interest but don't trust you



# **Converting Leads to Customers**



# **Communications Impact**

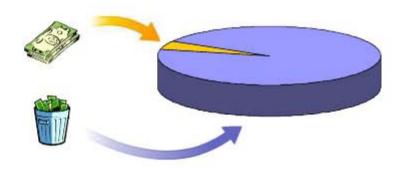
### One-time touch

#### **Immediate Purchaser**

Interested (Buy Later)
Not Now (Maybe Later)
No Interest

#### **Immediate Purchase**

Unlikely to Return



# **Ongoing Interaction**

**Immediate Purchaser** 

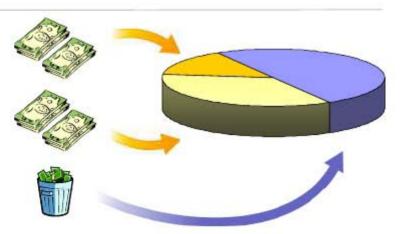
Immediate & Follow-on Purchases

Interested (Buy Later)
Not Now (Maybe Later)

No Interest

**Capture Interests & Communicate** 

Unlikely to Return



# **Keep Customers Coming Back**



# The Value of a Customer

- You've already paid for them
  - It's 6-7 times more expensive to gain a customer than to retain a customer
- They spend more
  - Repeat customers spend 67 percent more
- They are your referral engine
  - After 10 purchases, a customer has already referred up to 7 people <sup>2</sup>

# 

#### Sources:

- 1. Harvard Business Review
- 2. Bain and Company, 2002

# Why Email?



Because almost everyone your business needs to reach reads it:

- 91% of Internet users between the ages of
   18 and 64 send or read email
- An even higher number of users ages 65 or older do the same
- 147 million people across the country use email, most use it every day.



Sources: eMarketer

# Why Email?



# It's Cost-effective: Direct Mail vs. Email

- For the same response,
   direct mail costs 20 TIMES
   as much as email 1
- Email ROI is the highest when compared to other internet marketing mediums <sup>2</sup>



1 Forrester Research, Inc.

2 Direct Marketing Association

# **Email Marketing Is Not...**



Junk email

Unsolicited and unwanted email

SPAM

Email from an unknown sender

**Dub**ious opt-out (if any)

# **Email Marketing Is...**



Delivering professional email communications...

...to an interested audience...

...containing information they find valuable.



#### Black Sheep Adventures Newsletter

The Latest and Greatest News and Offer April 201

#### Hola!

Our season is in full swing in Baja, and we're excited to be returning to Cape Cod, Holland and Death Valley in the coming months.

If you haven't made vacation plans for 2006 and you've been thinking of joining us, now is the time to book if you want to save hundreds. We have just a few days left in our **Spring Cleaning Sale**. Read on for more info on the sale and our other news.

#### In This Issue

- Spring Cleaning Sale Ends in 2 Days
- . Holland in the Spolight
- . Support the AIDS/LifeCycle Fundraising Ride
- · Parting Shot: Family Fun with Black Sheep

#### Holland in the Spolight



Holland is a picturesque land of farms, canals, windmills & castles. Its extensive network of bike paths makes for enjoyable car-free pedaling amongst pastoral and cultural beauty.

Each day you'll have your choice of distance options to bike between distinctively Dutch cultural experiences.

Highlights include a visit to a working windmill, a leisurely

#### Spring Cleaning Sale Ends in 2 Days



April 15th may be tax day, but it's also a deadine for a happier topic - our Spring Cleaning Sale. Save up to \$200 each off the list prices for our six-day adventure tours.

The April 15th deadline is just a few days away, but never fear. All you need to do is call us by Saturday, tell us where you want to go, when you want to go and place your deposit. Your tour can be to any of our destinations and can

# **Using an Email Service Provider**



# Email Service Providers automate best practices

- Provide easy-to-use templates
- Reinforce brand identity
- Email addressed to recipient only
- Manage lists adding new subscribers, handling bouncebacks, removing unsubscribes
- Improves email delivery, tracks results and obeys the law



# **Email Basics Checklist**



# Ask yourself before you begin email marketing...

- Do repeat and referral customers help your business?
- Do you have a plan for delivering multiple communications?
- Is your audience interested in your message?
  Is it valuable to them?
- Can you make your emails look professional and reflect your brand?
- Do you have an Email Service Provider to help manage your strategy?



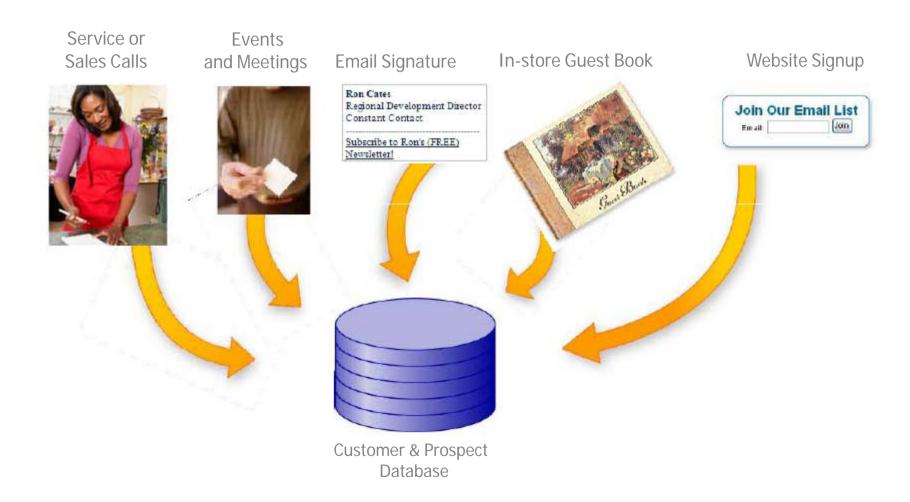




# **Making the Connection**



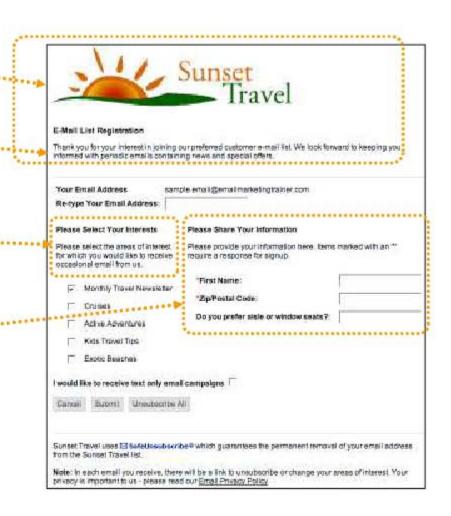
# **Build Your List Where You Connect!**



# **Collecting Information and Permission**



- Include your logo and brand identity.
- Describe your email content and how often you'll be sending
- Ask about your customers' interests to stay relevant
- Ask for additional contact information when necessary



# **Sending a Welcome Email**





# **Confirming Permission**



- Include your hogo and brand identity
- Ask for explicit confirmation
- Include a confirmation link



# Confirm Your Subscription

Response Necessary to Complete Subscription

#### Doar John,

Please confirm your subscription to Sunset Travel by clicking the link below or replying to this email.

#### Confirm Subscription

We ask for your confirmation to protect you from receiving unwanted email. If you do not respond, your email address will NOT be added to this list.

Thank you, Sunset Travel

# **Using a Permission Reminder**



You are receiving this email from Doylestown Bookshop because you subscribed to our Loyal Customer Club. To ensure that you continue to receive emails from us, add doylestownbooks@aol.com to your address book today.

You may unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



You are receiving this email from Doylestown Bookshop because you subscribed to our Loyal Customer Club. To ensure that you continue to receive emails from us, add doylestownbooks@aol.com to your address book today.

You may unsubscribe if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

r for the Doylestown sletter is the monthly and summer will be e festuring tons of

**New Fiction** 

Staff Picks-Updated

May Special Events

Children's Story Time -NEW INFORMATION

OUICK LINKS

·Reserve your copy of the new Harry Potter great new books, including new books by Michael Chabon, Deepak Chopra, and J.R.R. Tolkien

The bookshop will also be host to a great assortment of special events, from our usual First Friday celebration featuring a children's story time and authors Nancy Scott and Karen Tauber, who will be on hand on Friday, May 6th to sign copies of their books to Philadelphia icon Larry Kane, who will be here on May 12th to sign copies of Lennon Revealed. Also in May, we will host another craft event, this time taking a pattern from One Skein Wonders. If you've never been to one of our craft events and are even remotely interested, it's a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon (May 19th).

# **Keeping Your List Current**



- Include your logo and brand identity
- Provide a link so subscribers can update contact info
- Ask for feedback



#### Dear John,

This email is sent quarterly to remind you that you are subscribed to the LIGHTGROUP Email Community. We trust that you are enjoying our emails! Please take a moment to <u>update your profile</u> with any changes to your email address, interests, or other contact information.

Remember that we will not share your information with anyone outside of the LIGHTGROUP.

If you would like to offer suggestions for ways to improve any of our email communications we would value your thoughts and ask that you please take our brief subscription survey.

Thanks again for your subscription. We look forward to an opportunity of assisting you with any future creative media solutions.

# **List Building and Permission Checklist**



# Ask yourself as you build your list...

- Are you collecting contact information at every customer touch point?
- Are you asking for permission as well as contact information?
- Are you clearly describing your email frequency and content?
- Are you sending a welcome email or a confirmation email?
- Are you using permission and subscription reminders to stay current?





# The Basics of Valuable Email Content









# **Content Has to Meet Your Objectives**



"I want to..."

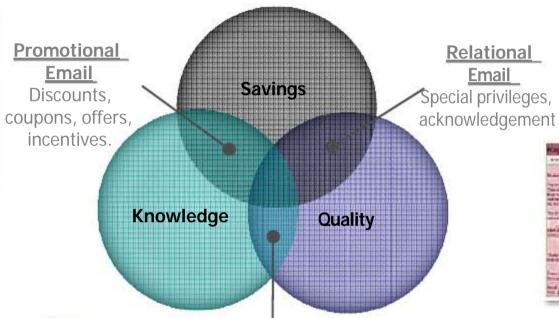
- Promote
  - Motivate purchases
  - Increase event attendance
- Inform
  - Inform potential customers
  - Differentiate my business
- Relate
  - Increase loyalty
  - Encourage more referrals



# **Content Has to Have Value to Your Audience**









# Control of the Contro

Email\_ Advice, research, facts, opinions, tips

<u>Informative</u>

# **Coming Up With Valuable Email Content**



- Share your expertise
- Use facts & testimonials
- Give guidance & directions
- Offer discounts & coupons
- Exclusivity & VIP status
- Hold contests & giveaways\*
- Acknowledge your audience



<sup>\*</sup> Check applicable regulations before deciding to hold a contest or giveaway

# **Keeping Email Content Concise**



# Host large bodies of content...

- On your website
- In a PDF document
- In a longer archived version

# Email only essential information

- Use bullets or summaries
- Link directly to the information
- Give instructions if necessary

#### Colorado Rafting Trip



Our Sunset Travel Adventure Group is gearing up for the second annual river rafting trip. It is scheduled for August 23 - August 27th, starting at the base of Glen Canyon Dam in beautiful Colorado. There are still six

spaces left for anyone interested in joining the group.

Complete packages start at \$399 with flights fro New York and Boston.

Read on...

ck out this Cruise vacation for the kids and for you! This four family includes two babysitters/chaperones to help out with the kids.

# **Determine Appropriate Format**









# Newsletters

- Frequency: Regular i.e. monthly / weekly
- Lots of educational content (typically non-promotional)
- Use bullets, summarize information, be concise

# Promotions / Invitations / Surveys

- Frequency: Depends on your business and sales cycle
- Focus on promotion / limited content
- Use content to invite click-through or other action

# **Announcements**

- Frequency: Event-driven
- Press releases, holiday greetings, thank you cards...
- Use content to build deeper relationships

# **Branding Emails Consistently**



# Use different formats and similar designs...

- Include your logo
- Use consistent colors
- Use meaningful graphics
- Avoid drastic changes





# **Calling Your Audience to Action**

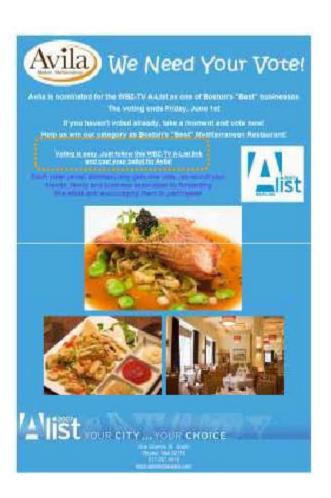


# Calls to Action Include...

- Links to click on
- Information to print out
- Phone numbers to call
- Instructions for reading the email
- Instructions for saving the email

# Describe the Immediate Benefits...

- What's in it for your audience?
- Why should they do it now?



# **Frequency & Delivery Time**



# How often to send

- Create a master schedule
- Include frequency in online sign-up "Monthly Newsletter"
- Keep content concise and relevant to planned frequency

# When to send

- When is your audience most likely to read it?
  - Day of week (Tuesday & Wednesday)
  - Time of day (10am to 3pm)
- Test for timing
  - Divide your list into equal parts
  - Send at different times and compare results

# **Maximum impact with minimum intrusion**



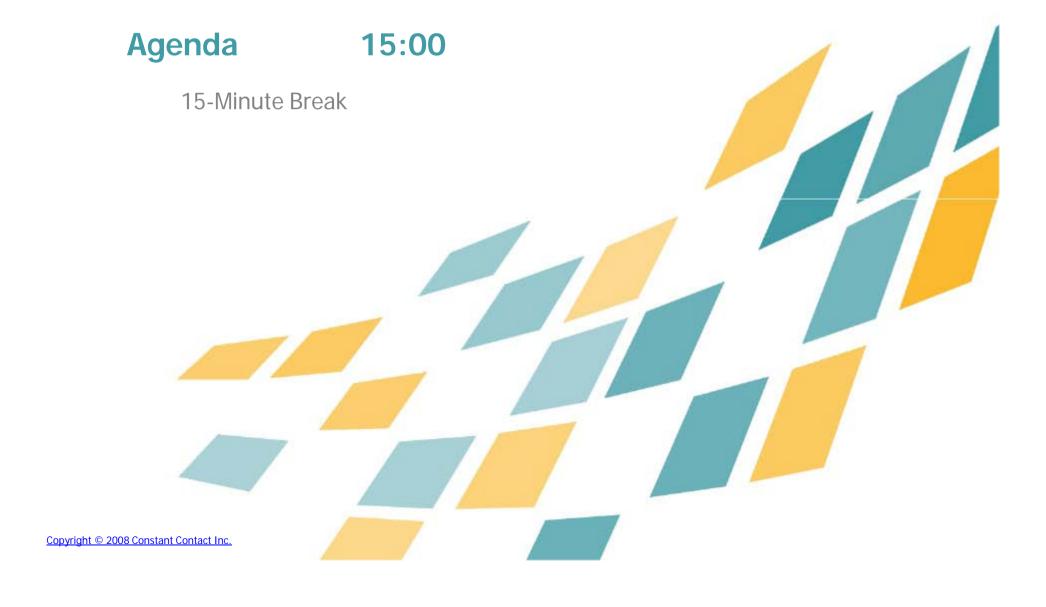
# **Email Content Checklist**



# Ask yourself as you create content...

- Are you trying to promote, inform, or relate?
- What is your audience interested in?
- Is your email format branded and supportive of your message?
- Is your email concise and does it include a strong call to action?
- Does your content match your frequency and timing?



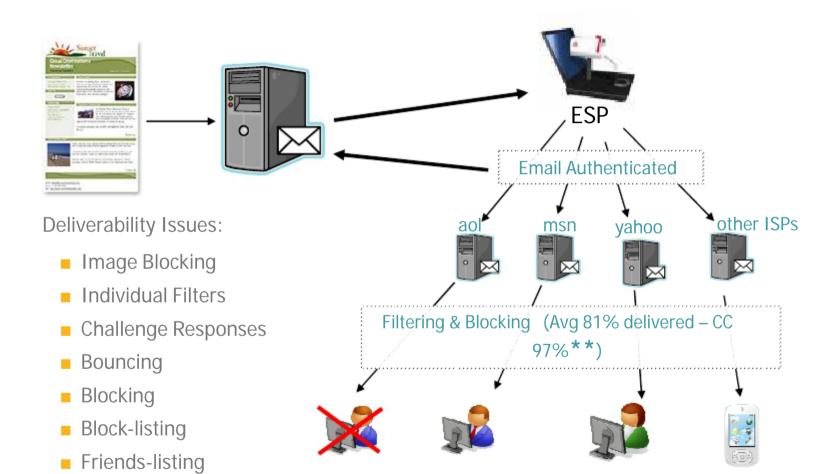






# Is Your Email Fabulous or Filtered?





\*\* Return Path verified

Reputation

Sender Authentication

#### **Image Blocking**



Images must be enabled by most users.

Default setting is manual – unlikely to change.

- Use image descriptions
- Avoid tall top-bar images
- Avoid image-only messages



# Email Filtering, Bouncing, & Blocking



# Filtering

- Sorts email to a folder, i.e. 'junk'
- Based on content or origin

#### Blocking, Bouncing

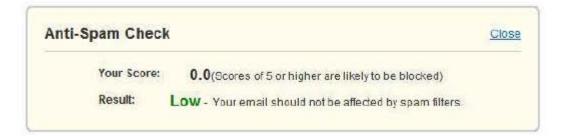
- Returns email to sender
- Based on criteria or condition



# **Scanning Your Emails Before Sending**







#### **Reputation and Authentication**



#### Reputation

- Meet professional standards
- Low number of spam complaints

#### Authentication

- Verifies identity of sender
- No authentication = increased filtering/blocking



#### **Getting Email Opened**



#### The "From" line

- Use a name your audience recognizes
  - Include your organization name or brand
  - Refer to your business in the same way your audience does

Be consistent

60% of consumers say the "from" line most often determines whether they open an email or delete it. Source: DoubleClick



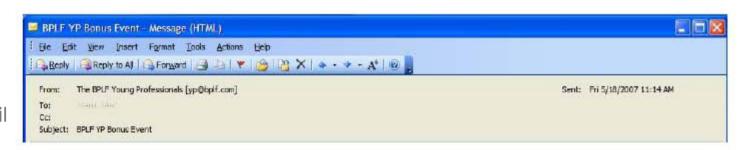
#### **Getting Email Opened**



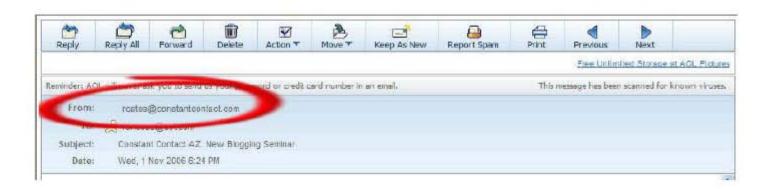
43

#### The "From" line – use a familiar email address

Some email programs display From name + email



Some email programs display only From email

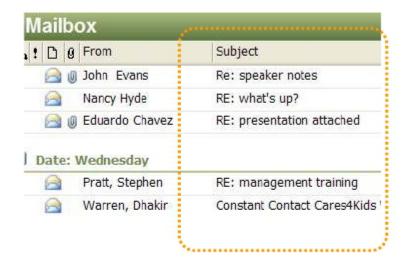


#### **Getting Email Opened**



#### The "Subject" Line

- Keep it short and simple
- 30-40 characters including spaces (5-8 words)
  - Incorporate the immediate benefit of opening the email
- Capitalize and punctuate carefully
- Avoid copying the techniques inherent in spam emails.



Emails with shorter subject lines significantly outperformed emails with longer subject lines.

- MailerMailer (2008)

## Avoiding "Spam-speak"



- 🟏 The words: free, guarantee, spam, credit card etc.
- X ALL CAPITAL LETTERS
- X Excessive punctuation !!!, ???
- **X** Excessive use of "click here"
- 🗶 \$\$, and other symbols
- X No "From:" address
- X Misleading subject lines



# Example: Typical spam "From" and "Subject" lines

Junk E		I WARRANT CO.	50000000
! 🖸 g Fro	m Subject	Received ▼	Size
Da	n Keyes Cash credit / Home credit	5at 9/9/2006 3:1	1 KB
<u>⊠</u> acı	ylate How to be irresistible to the opposite sex 4179-4	5at 9/9/2006 3:0	1 KB
le Lou	rella ????5?4? ??????? ????????	Fri 9/8/2006 10:2	3 KB
☑ And	fres Alexan Hey you!	Fri 9/8/2006 3:08	697 E
☑ Ø ye	ndor. actual ~~~Guaranteed Instant Approval!!	Fri 9/8/2006 3:41	2 KB
≥ bos	sonic Increase sexual satisfactions!!!! 7344	Fri 9/8/2006 1:51	11 K

#### **Email Delivery Checklist**



Ask yourself before you send your message...

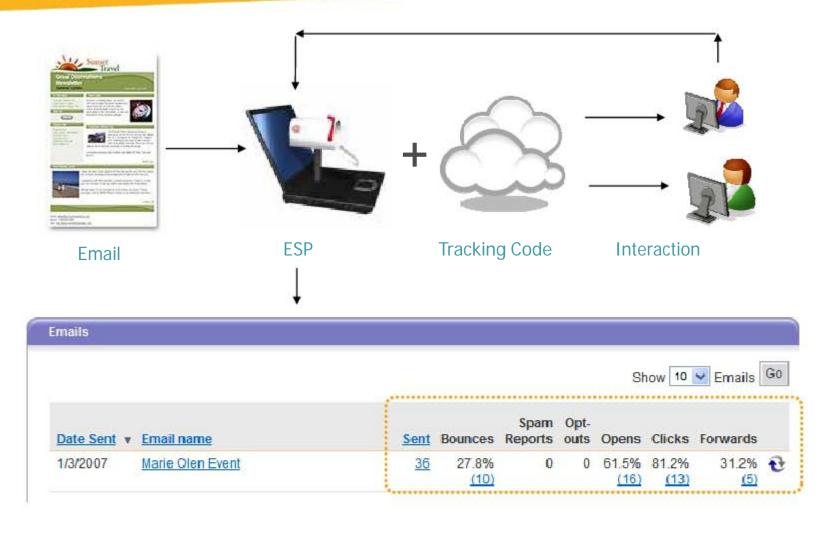
- Are your images working together with text to identify your email?
- Are you avoiding spam-like content in your emails?
- Is your Email Service Provider authenticating your email?
- Is your From line familiar and are you using a familiar email address?
- Does your Subject line include the immediate benefits of your email?





# **How Tracking Works**





## **Understanding Bounced and Blocked Email**



#### "Hard Bounce"

- Permanent condition
  - Email address non-existent
  - Misspelled/no longer in use

#### "Soft Bounce"

- Could be temporary
  - Server was down
  - Mailbox is full
  - Email was blocked



Our Spansars

More About Us.

Additional Services

trip. It is scheduled for August 23 - August 27th, starting at the base of Glen Canyon Dam in beautiful Colorado. There are still six

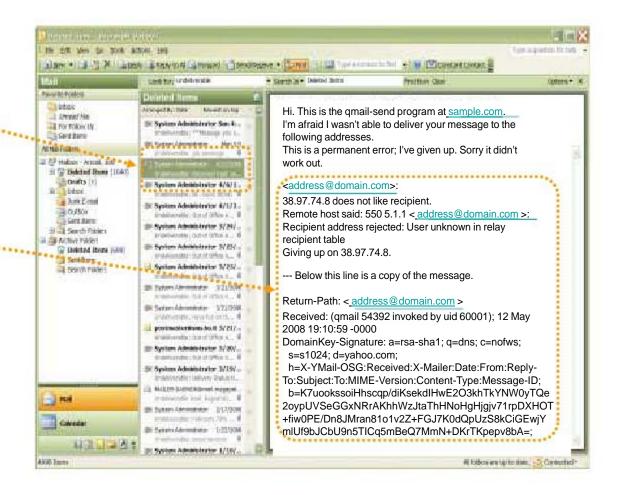
#### **Sorting Through Bounce and Block Code**



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# Bounce Scenario With No Reporting

- Undeliverable email
   is returned to the
   sender's inbox
- Code explains the reason for the bounce

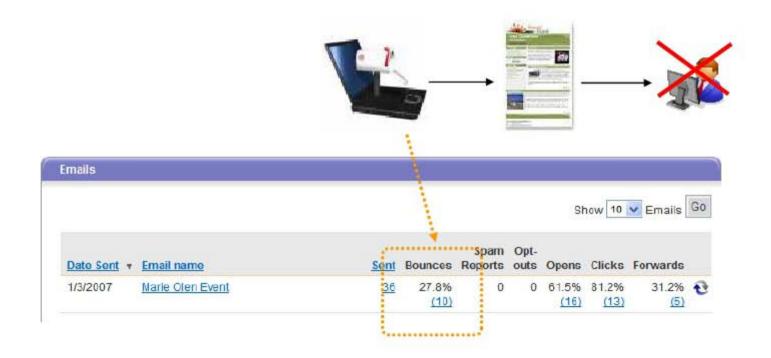


# **Utilizing Bounce and Block Reporting**



#### **Bounce Scenario With Automated Reporting**

- Undeliverable email is returned to the Email Service Provider
- Bounce information fed into one simple report



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#### **Dealing with Bounced & Blocked Email**



#### Non-existent address

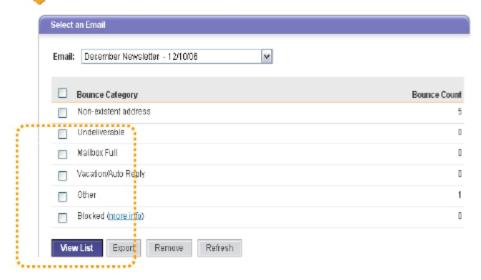
- Check for obvious misspellings
- Try to obtain a new address

#### Undeliverable/mailbox full/ email blocked

- Try re-sending later
- Correct temporary issues
- Obtain a new address if a recurring issue is present

#### Contacts : Manage Bounces

play bounced email addresses (emails that have been returned without delivery), select an email from the list below. For sent less than 90 days ago, you can view, export, refresh or remove bounced email addresses from your list. To remove acts from the bounced categories, check the box(es) next to the category name and click the remove button.



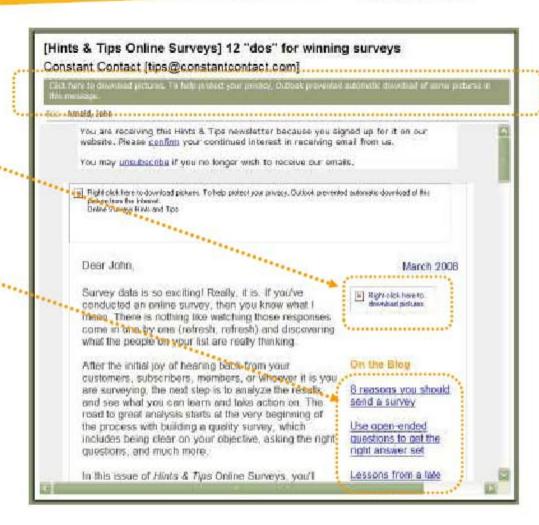
#### **Understanding "Open" Rates**



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Open tracking indicates level of interaction, not delivery...

- An image imbedded in the email was enabled by the recipient
- A link with imbedded tracking code was clicked

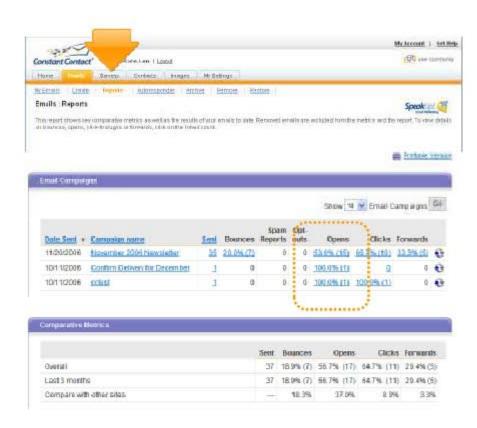


# Analyzing "Open" Rates



#### Use open tracking to spot trends

- Open rates trending down
  - Fewer subscribers are enabling images
  - Fewer subscribers are clicking links
- Steady open rates
  - Assume email is being received
  - Check your ESP's average delivery rate



#### **Understanding Click-Through Rates**



A click-through happens when your subscriber clicks a link to...

- Visit your website
- Download a file
- Take an online survey
- Send you an email

Clicks are tracked by inserting special HTML tracking code in the link



#### Capitalizing on Click-Through



#### Use click tracking to determine...

- Audience interests
  - Clicks tell you what topics were interesting
  - Save clickers in an interest list for targeted follow up
- Goal achievement
  - Use links to drive traffic toward conversion
  - Compare clicks to conversions and improve





#### **Understanding Unsubscribe Requests**



An unsubscribe request happens when your subscriber no longer wants to receive your emails.

- Offer your subscribers permanent list removal
- Best practice is automatic removal with an unsubscribe link

# e-GiftMarketplace.com



SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to jarnold@constantcontact.com by <u>tips@constantcontact.com</u>
Update Profile/Email Address I Instant removal with SafeUnsubscribe™ I Privacy Policy.

game of groquet backward pastime.

#### 3 SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to jarnold@constantcontact.com by tips@constantcontact.com Update Profile/Email Address | Instant removal with SafeUnsubscribe™ | Privacy Policy.

#### **Reducing Unsubscribe Requests**



#### Why do people unsubscribe?

- Over-communication
- Irrelevant content
- Poor targeting

Enable your audience to leave comments when unsubscribing from your list!

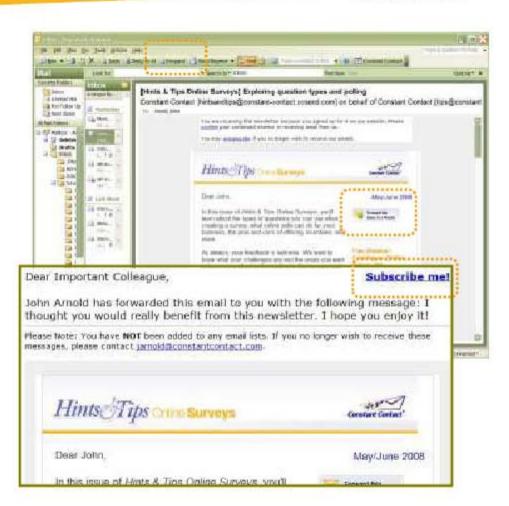


#### **Understanding Email Forwarding**



Providing a forward link in your emails helps to...

- Identify people who forward your emails
- Format your forwarded emails correctly
- Enable the people who receive your forwarded email to join your email list



#### **Encouraging and Rewarding Email Forwards**



#### Use your forward report to...

- Thank people who forward your emails
- Learn about the value of your email content

Help your audience spread the word. Ask them to forward your email



#### **Email Tracking and Response Checklist**



#### Ask yourself after you send...

- Are there any bounced or blocked emails that require attention?
- Is your open rate trending upward or downward?
- Did your audience take action on your email by clicking through or forwarding your email? What were they interested in?
- Did anyone unsubscribe from your list? Did they give you feedback?
- Did you identify any areas for improvement so your next email is more targeted and more effective?

#### What next?



#### Just getting started?

- Start building your list
- Learn how to create an email
- Sign up for a free trial

#### Ready to learn more?

- Attend an in-depth seminar
- Read Email Marketing for Dummies
- Visit the Constant Contact learning center

#### Want to expand your expertise?

- Join Constant Contact's online community
- Get trained in email marketing best practices through Constant Contact University
- Sponsor a non-profit through Cares4Kids.com



ConstantContact.com



#### Thank You!

Please fill out an evaluation and leave it on your seat.

As A Special Gift For Just Being With Us...

# "Grab Your 100% Just Full Featured 30-Day Autoresponder Account!"

"Constant Contact" Gives ALL Our Valuable Visitors A Full

60-Day Account For Free!

Claim your free gift Now!



{Full-Fledged, Nothing-Held Back 60 Day Trial

Account ... No strings... Nothing More To Pay!}