BRIGHTEDGE

GUIDE TO SEO – HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR SITE'S ORGANIC VISIBILITY

4 PILLARS OF SEO

		GOAL	HOW BRIGHTEDGE HELPS
1	EXISTING CONTENT OPTIMIZATION OPPORTUNITIES	Add or update keywords to help optimize the content already published on your site	Content Research (Data Cube) & On-Page Recommendations
2	NEW CONTENT CREATION OPPORTUNITIES	Identify and target your audience, create new content, and drive more visitors to your site	Content Research (Data Cube & Instant)
3	TECHNICAL OPPORTUNITIES	Make your site search engine friendly so it's easily found and tells search engines what you offer	Site Audit (Content IQ & Instant)
4	ESTABLISH SITE AUTHORITY	Build trust with search engines and be considered authoritative	Backlinks & Autopilot*

THERE ARE 3 KEY FACTORS TO SEO

They work together to maximize your organic search visibility.

STRUCTURE

Ensure that search engines can crawl and index all your pages.

AUTHORITY

Links from other sites to your site show Google that your site is a trusted source of information

CONTENT

Provide relevant content driven by customers, data, and market insights.

Higher Search Engine Rankings

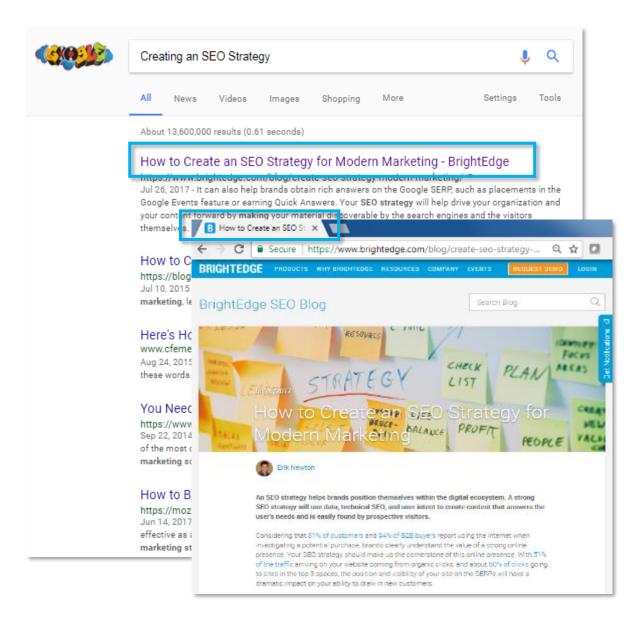
- 1. CONTENT (RELEVANCE, CONTENT DEPTH, CONTENT QUALITY)
- STRUCTURE/TECHNICAL SEO (FAST PAGE SPEED, UX, NO BROKEN LINKS, NO DUPLICATE PAGES/CONTENT, CORE WEB VITALS)
- PAGE AUTHORITY (BACKLINKS)

EXISTING CONTENT OPTIMISATION





ON-PAGE OPTIMIZATION: TITLE TAGS



Why is it important?

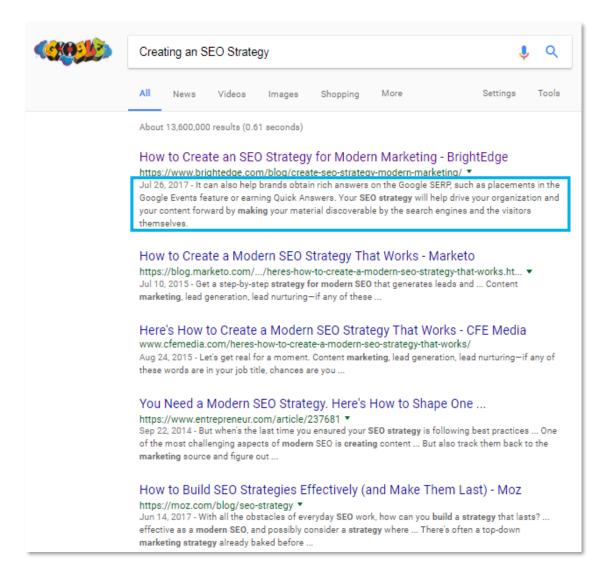
Title is the <u>most important</u> on-page ranking factor and is the main text that describes an online document.

What it looks like in the source code:

<title>How to Create an SEO Strategy for Modern Marketing</title>

- Use rich keyword phrases that best describe the web page
- Make them unique for each page and use a strong CTA (Call to Action) based on buyer intent
- Try to keep them around 55-65 characters long

ON-PAGE OPTIMIZATION: META DESCRIPTION



What is it?

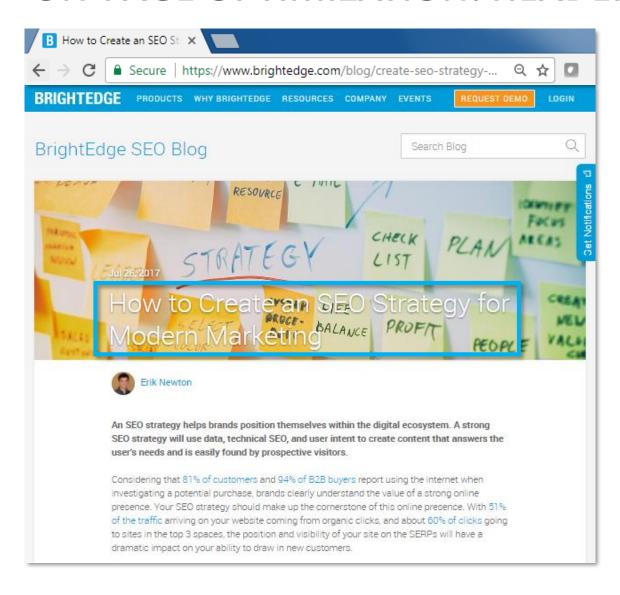
A description of what your web page is about. It will also show up as the page summary on the SERP.

Why is it important?

An engaging and descriptive meta description will attract more clicks when your pages shows up in search results. Think of it as a mini ad.

- Include strong call-to-actions
- Make sure keyword is included early in the first line
- Make them unique for each page
- Try to keep them around 120-150 characters long

ON-PAGE OPTIMIZATION: HEADER TAGS



What is it?

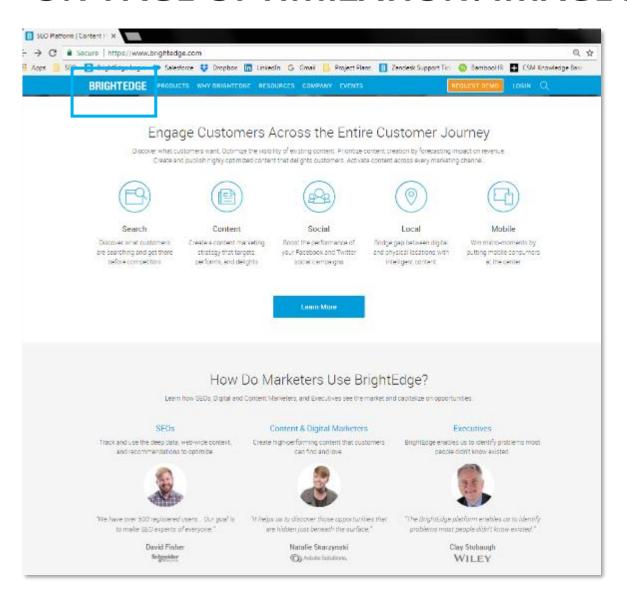
On-page HTML tags are located within the body copy that identify the most important text on the page. The H1 is the headline of the page. There are 6 header tags, ranging from H1 (the most important) to H6 (least important).

What it looks like in the source code:

<h1 class="entry-title">How to Create an SEO Strategy for Modern Marketing</h1>

- Use H1 only once per page
- Make sure the H1 is keyword rich and unique
- You can use H2 and H3 tags multiple times, but keep them unique from page to page
- Keep header tags in order

ON-PAGE OPTIMIZATION: IMAGE ALT TAGS



What is it?

An image tag tells the web page to display an image. Image alt tags include an alt attribute with text describing the image. The search engines read the text in the alt attribute to help them understand what the image is about, and that helps them understand what the page is about.

What it looks like:

- Use your primary keyword in the alt attribute
- Don't stuff the alt attribute with keywords

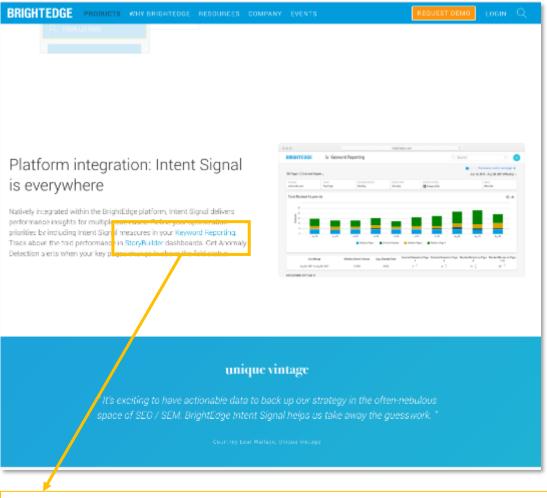
SEARCH ENGINES READ, THEY DON'T SEE



```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<!--[if IEMobile 7]><html class="iem7" lang="en" dir="ltr"><![endif]-->
<!--[if lte IE 6]><html class="lt-ie9 lt-ie8 lt-ie7" lang="en" dir="ltr"><![endif]-->
<!-- if (IE 7)&(!IEMobile)|><html class="lt-ie9 lt-ie8" lang="en" dir="ltr"><![endif]-->
<!--[if IE 8]><html class="lt-ie9" lang="en" dir="ltr"><![endif]-->
<!--[if (gte IE 9)|(gt IEMobile 7)]><!--><html lang="en" dir="ltr" prefix="og: http://ogp.me/ns#
article: http://ogp.me/ns/article# book: http://ogp.me/ns/book# profile:
http://ogp.me/ns/profile# video: http://
                                                 /video# product: http://ogp.me/ns/product#
                                                    :: http://purl.org/dc/terms/ foaf:
content: http://purl
http://xmlns.com/f/
                                                      0/01/rdf-schema# sioc:
http://rdfs.org/s
                                                                /XMLSchema#"><!--<![endif]-->
http://www.w3
                           Best page for
<head>
 Kmeta
                            query "XYZ"
clink rel
href="https
                                                                    theme/fartcon.ico?=v2"
type="image/vnd.
link href="https
<meta name="genera
                                                         cure/login"
link rel="canonica"
<meta property="fb:app id" content="234415089909115"</p>
<meta property="og:site name" content="BrightEdge" />
<meta property="og:type" content="article" />
<meta property="og:url" content="https://www.brightedge.com/secura</pre>
<meta property="og:title" content="Secure Login" />
 <title>Secure Login | BrightEdge</title>
```

Search Engine Bot

INTERNAL LINKS



What is it?

Internal links are links that go from one page on a domain to a different page on the same domain. They are commonly used in main navigation within a site.

Internal links are often useful for several reasons:

- To allow users navigate a website
- To help establish information hierarchy for the given website
- To help spread link equity across a website
- To use as a "soft conversion" CTA for top-of-the-funnel content

Keyword Reporting

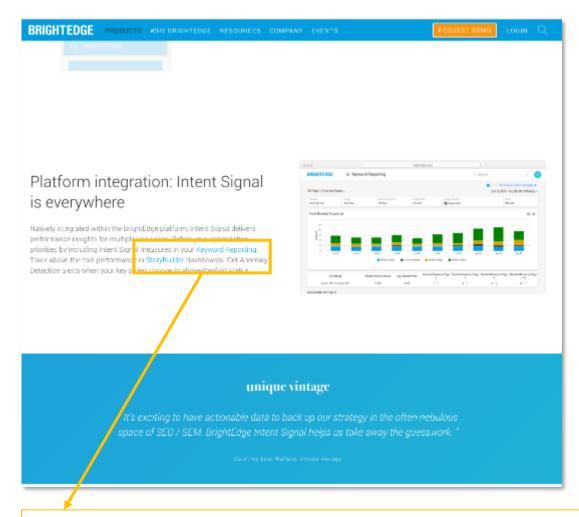








ANCHOR TEXT



Keyword Reporting

What is it?

Anchor text is the visible text on a page that can be clicked on and links to another page. In the example to the left, the login page has is an internal link to another section on the BrightEdge site. The anchor text that can be seen, "Content Performance".

What it looks like:

The anchor text comes after the link in the source code.

Keyword Reporting

AVOID POOR QUALITY & DUPLICATE CONTENT



February 23rd, 2011

The **Google Panda update** targeted sites with:

- Bad, shallow, or poor content
- Significant duplicate content
- Scraped content from other sites
- Machine-generated content
- Doorway sites

The site-wide penalty concept was introduced.

Post-Panda world thoughts:

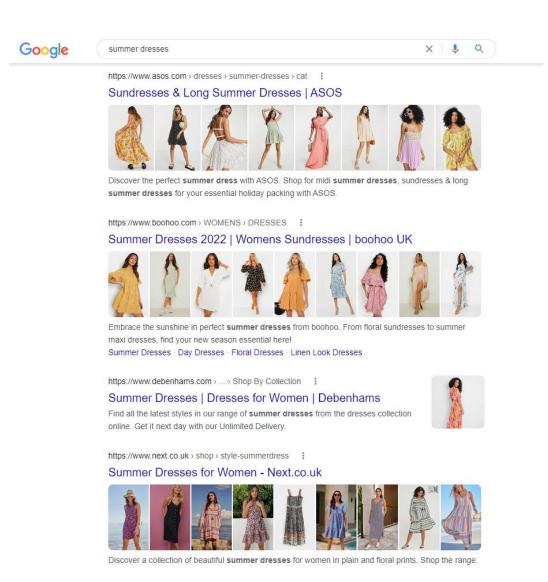
- Keep a watchful eye on how and how many pages you are creating on your site (follow best practices)
- Question your existing content strategies to ensure they do not violate these rules
- Be proactive if you notice bad or duplicative content on your site

CONTENT WRITERS SEO CHECKLIST

Identify primary keyword for contentUse Data Cube to research opportunities
Is the keyword term incorporated within the Title Tag?Title Tag [keyword Brand]
Is the Title Tag within the recommended character limit?[Roughly 60 including spaces]
 Is the keyword term included within the Meta Description? Meta Descriptions are not indexed but drive CTR. Include unique value proposition and copy - keep within 140-165 characters.
Is the keyword term incorporated in the H1 Tag?
Is the keyword term strategically used within the body copy?No more than 10 times on standard page
Are internal links included within the body copy?
 Do links include optimized anchor text? Anchor text should use primary keyword term of page it's linking to
Does alt image copy include keyword term for any images on the page?

BUT... OTHER FACTORS WILL STILL IMPACT CONTENT RANKINGS

- In Hyper competitive environments especially eCommerce there may still be other factors that will influence content performance
- Everyone on page 1 is likely to have meta data optimized and good usage of semantic keywords on their page
- Product availability and depth, reviews, blogs/inspiration content, page speed, technical debt or backlink profile
- These aspects can take longer for a customer to develop depending on their resources
- Thinking outside of the box for keywords to target and continued long term improvements are key



NEW CONTENT
IDENTIFICATION AND
CREATION





CONTENT CREATION PROCESS



Google doesn't want to see a stagnant website – new content should be regularly created and comes in many forms!

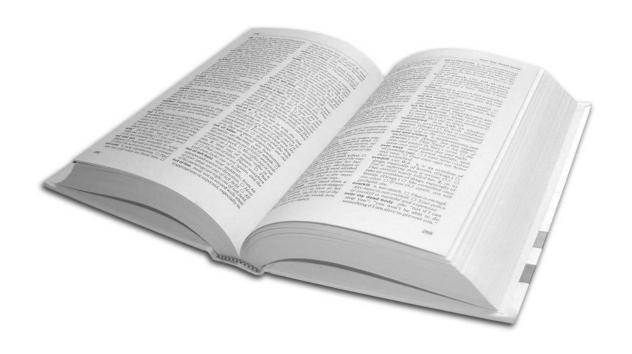
CREATING ENGAGING CONTENT WITH SEO IN MIND

- Prioritize profitable topics Identify the 1-3 keywords or keyword phrases that relate to your topic
- 2. Tune content to your audience Write for people first, then the search engines second. Balance informative content for the human reader with keyword placement
- 3. Ensure Page is optimized properly intentionally structure your piece with your priority keywords within the on-page tags
- 4. Keep readers clicking Ensure you have interlinking from your content to other related topics within your site
- 5. Keep published content optimized Track content performance and optimize accordingly



Keyword research: What and Why

- Keywords are still the way that people find content on Google
- Keyword research gives you insight into demand for content and products
- It enables you to target your content properly, providing you with data to make decisions



Define a Target for Each Page

Primary Keyword

The primary keyword is the focus or purpose of the page. It should be unique only to this page.

Secondary Keyword

The secondary keyword is closely related to the primary keyword and can be found within the copy including sub-headlines and the body text.

Supporting Keywords

Google-friendly writing is dependent on demonstrating a balance between keywords and everyday language. This means that your content should be written in such a way that it flows naturally. Keywords should naturally come up in your content so that you don't have to stuff your content at the last minute. One way to do this is by identifying semantically related keywords to your primary keyword target.

KEYWORD RESEARCH FACTORS



RELEVANCE

- Is your content and website addressing a need for this keyword?
- Would a user expect to land on your site after searching for this keyword?



SEARCH VOLUME

High search volume indicates
higher potential visits, but may
also indicate higher ambiguity
(for example "holidays" vs
"luxury holidays in Maldives")



USER INTENT

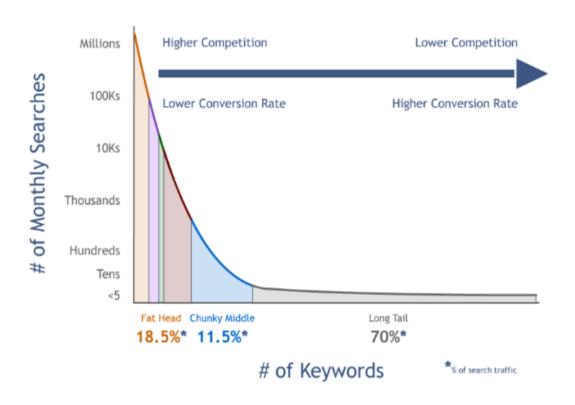
Is the user looking to purchase, learn, or be entertained?



LONG TAIL VS HEAD TERMS

- Long tail terms offer lower search volume, but higher relevance; head terms offer higher potential visits, but lower relevance
- Head terms: High competition
- Long tail: Low competition

HEAD & TORSO KEYWORDS

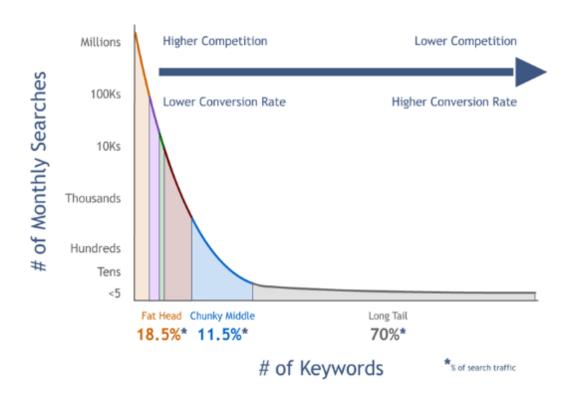


Head & Torso Terms:

- Typically 1-3 words in length
- Topically more general in nature
- Individually receive large volumes of traffic
- Examples: Yellow Dresses, Kitchen Cabinets, Online Degrees

- Optimize elements on your page like Page Title, H1, URLs, and internal linking with head and torso terms
- Focus your back-linking efforts on these type of terms to get the most bang for the buck... but choose wisely on keywords to go after by considering how competitive the keyword is
- Track these terms using BrightEdge and use ranking information to optimize for terms that rank between 11-30 to see quick wins
- Look in your web analytics platform for revenue data for your keywords to help choose which keywords to focus your efforts on

LONG-TAIL KEYWORDS



Long Tail Terms:

- Three+ words in length
- Tend to be much more specific
- Receive smaller volumes of traffic
- **Examples:** Yellow BCBG Ruffle Dresses, Cherry Wood Thomasville Kitchen Cabinets

- Focus on generating really good content that contains longer variations of head and torso terms
- Use competitor keyword information from BrightEdge to understand what specific topics you should include either within existing content or new content
- Given the amount of traffic that one long tail keyword provides, you do not need to focus on backlinking for long tail terms, unless you know a certain keyword is really driving a lot of revenue

ANATOMY OF A PAGE – basic on page optimization

Title and Description

- Include main keyword at start of title, if possible. Common practice is to include a | "pipe", and a variation/brand term
- Meta description is not a ranking factor, but can be used to influence CTR. Should be appealing to users

Images

The image's "alt attribute" can be optimized, include the head termand variations in additional images

URL

- ☐ If you can change, include the head target keyword as near to the start of URL as possible
- ☐ Use "-" as a word separator

The "Perfectly" Optimized Page (for the example keyword phrase "chocolate donuts")

Meta Description: Mary's Bakery's chocolate donuts are possibly the most delicious, perfectly formed, flawlessly chocolately donuts ever made.

Page Title: Chocolate Donuts | Mary's Bakery

H1 Headline: Chocolate Donuts from Mary's Bakery

Photo of Donuts (with Alt Attribute): Chocolate Donuts

chocolate-donuts.jpg

chocolate donuts

chocolate donuts

donuts

chocolate donuts

URL: http://marysbakery.com/chocolate-donuts

Header elements

- Include main keyword in <h1>
- Include variations in <h2> to <h6>

Body text

- Include the keyword, but be natural
- Avoid keyword over-stuffing
- Include semantic variations (more details later)

ANATOMY OF A PAGE -

Advanced

Content format fits the user intent

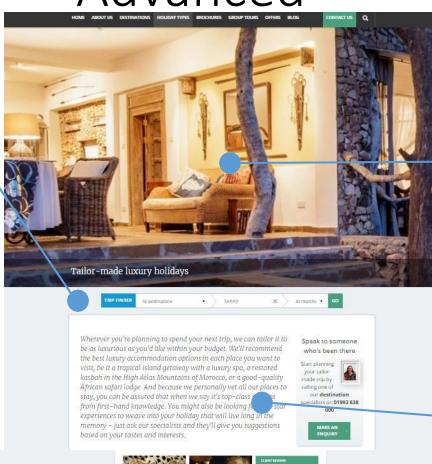
Users searching for "holidays in Maldives" probably don't want a whitepaper

Social sharing

- Sharing, **if relevant**, is encouraged throughout copy
- Sharing is made easy, and features relevant social networks

Trust signals

☐ Content is trust-worthy, and can prove it



Uniquely valuable and relevant

- Page offers everything the user needs to know about the topic
- ☐ Talks about related niches and topics in a relevant way (semantic SEO)

Fantastic UX

- ☐ Content is broken into logical, bite-sized sections
- ☐ Clear layout and navigation
- ☐ High quality visuals
- Easy to use and enjoy

KEY THINGS TO INCLUDE WHEN BUILDING NEW CONTENT

Helpful web content brief template when creating each piece of content



SUMMARY

- Googles tells us in many ways that Content is King when it comes to SEO optimization via its guidelines and algorithm updates.
- When building new content, keyword research is imperative, but it needs to be part of a wider content strategy, taking into consideration user intent
- Search engines do not see the same content the end user will see so we must make it as clear as possible to Google what the content is about while also balancing the content for the human reader
- New content creation and existing content optimization are both ongoing and iterative cycles, that need to be closely monitored in order to measure the success



Technical SEO





HOW DO SEARCH ENGINES WORK?

Step 1:

Crawl Links and Web Sites

Step 2:

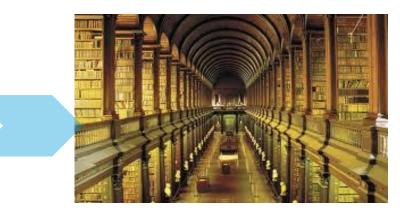
Index and Cache Web Pages

Step 3:

Apply Ranking Algorithm







Search engine bots crawl through the World Wide Web to find new websites based on the text on the website or links to websites

As bots find pages on the web, they decide whether or not they want to include that web page within their index based on their own set of criteria

Once a search engine has built up its index, it will rank the pages according to the relevancy to the search keyword and serve up the best results on SERP

1. Help Search Engines find your page – crawling and indexing

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Definitions

- **Crawl** Search engines are nothing more than sophisticated computer programs. These programs follow links on websites to learn about the site's theme, to identify the type(s) of content living on the site, and to discover sites that are both linking to the site, and to which the site is linking.
- Index Google puts all accumulated information into an index, much like an old-school rolodex. This
 information can be quickly pulled and delivered in search results when someone is searching for a
 relevant topic

How Crawling & Indexing Impact Rank

- Some technical site components can impede the ability of a search engine crawler/spider/bot to discover all site content
- A crawler is taking much more into consideration than just page topic. It is also documenting key user
 experience elements like speed and ease of interaction. Your site will be delivered above or below content
 from competing websites based on many important components.

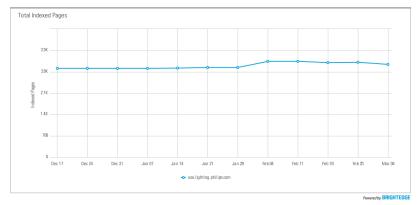
Crawlability and indexing

IF SEARCH ENGINES CANNOT 'SEE' YOUR WEBSITE, IT CANNOT RANK

Elements that prevent Google from seeing pages on a site

- Nofollow
 - Engines, I created this link but don't influence the ranking of the target site
 - Or...although I stayed at a B&B, it doesn't mean I only like B&B's, I prefer a good hotel
- Noindex
 - Bots, please don't index this page. I don't want it to rank

How can we monitor this in Brightedge



Site Report >> Report - Total Indexed Pages



Site Audit

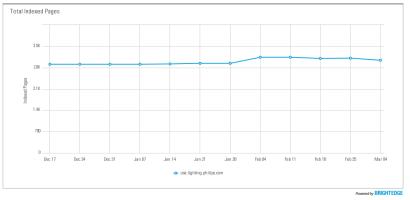
Crawlability and indexing

IF SEARCH ENGINES CANNOT 'SEE' YOUR WEBSITE, IT CANNOT RANK

Elements that prevent Google from seeing pages on a site

- 4xx errors
 - Caused by the client (e.g. a dead page exists because of a change a URL)
- 3xx errors
 - Refers to redirects, think of delivering mail to your house
 - **Moved Permanently 301**
 - **Moved Temporarily 302**
- Redirect chains
 - Postwoman goes to old house, they post it back, then postman goes to neighbor...

How can we monitor this in Brightedge



Site Report >> Report - Total Indexed Pages



Site Audit

1. Help Search Engines find your page – crawling and indexing

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Other Technical Components That Impact how easy it is for search engines to crawl a site

- Page Load Time
- Mobile-Friendliness
- Safe Browsing
- HTTPS Security
- No Intrusive Interstitials
- SEO Tags
- Appropriate SURL Structure
- Clean Sitemap
- Server Response Codes
- Custom & Unique Content on Custom & Unique URL Strings
- Strong Internally Linking to 200 Pages
- What do visitors experience if the link doesn't work, or product is out-of-stock?

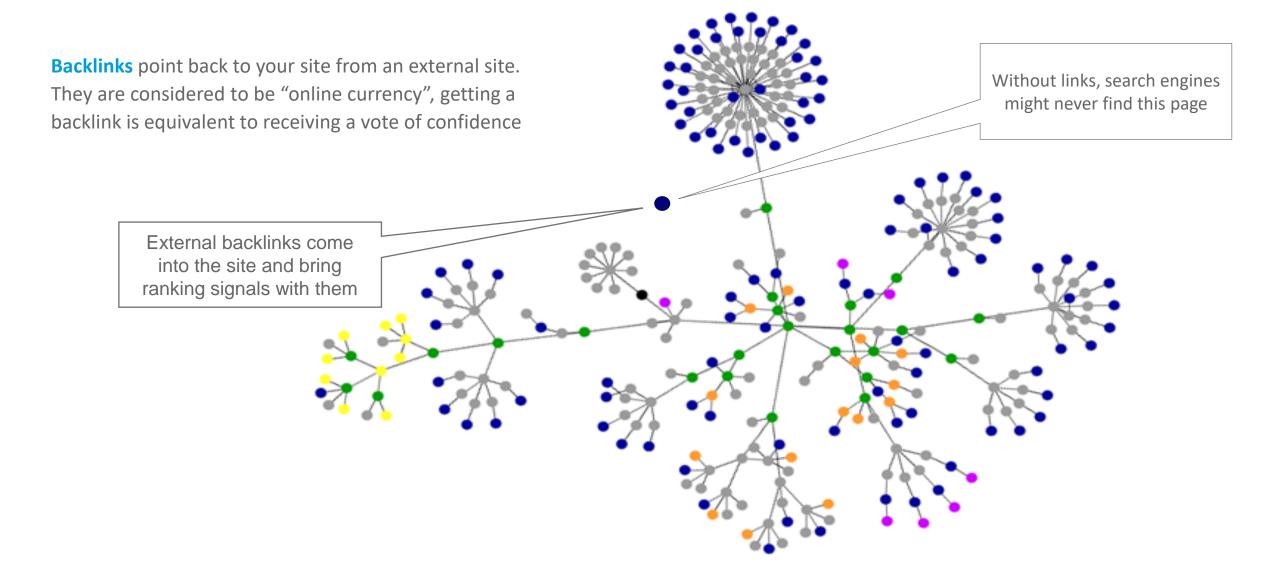
A lot of these factors may not be controlled by SEO teams, but it is important to be aware that these do impact SEO

PAGE AUTHORITY & BACKLINKS





What are Backlinks?



How do I create a backlinking strategy?

Three key rules:



Understand your current backlinking profile



Be as natural as possible



Use White Hat methods





Track and Expand Backlinks

Monitor your backlink profile and accumulate backlinks from quality sites



1. Analyze active backlinks and historical activity

- See a detailed list of referral links to your site, date added, anchor text, and presence of nofollow tags (where applicable)
- 40
- 2. Compare trends vs tracked competitors
- See the number of Active Backlinks by tracked site over time



- 3. Discover opportunities for new backlinks
- Dig into referral links to competitor sites which you don't have

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USING BRIGHTEDGE TO IMPROVE YOUR RANKING FACTORS

Introducing the 4 key pillars to SEO at BE

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3	TECHNICAL OPPORTUNITIES	Make your site search engine friendly so it's easily found and tells search engines what you offer	Site Audit (Content IQ)
4	ESTABLISH SITE AUTHORITY	Build trust with search engines and be considered authoritative	Backlinks, Social Engagement

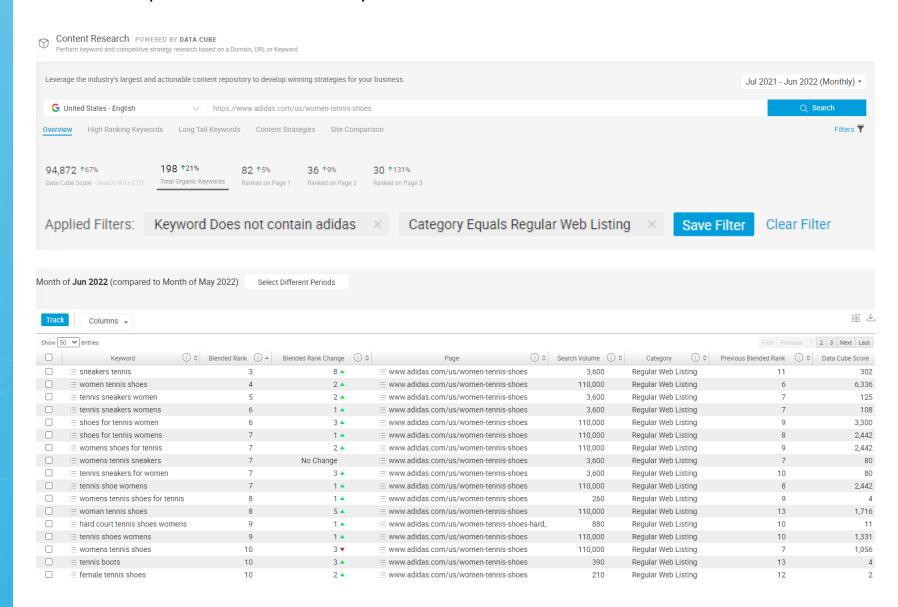
Keywords

- Track keywords that are relevant to the content on your page
- Think about what your customers would type if they wanted to find the content on your page
- Think about user intent i.e. using their search term, does it seem like they would want to purchase something? Do they want to read an article or blog to find out more? Do they want to compare products?
- Think about/research what Google is prioritizing as the top 10 results for this keyword
- ➤ By simply Googling the keyword that you would like to target, identify who is CURRENTLY ranking in the top 10 i.e. who does Google think has the most relevant content?
- Do the top 10 ranking pages match the page that you have? If so, you can be confident that your page can also appear in the top 10.
- ➤ If the top 10 ranking pages are DIFFERENT to your page, that means Google is prioritizing different types of pages than yours, in this case it would be worthwhile re-defining or choosing a different keyword to target

Keyword Research in BrightEdge

- 1. Enter the page you want to optimize, in the DataCube search bar
- 2. View all the keywords which are CURRENTLY ranking for that page
- 3. Apply filters eg (non branded i.e. keyword does not contain adidas) to refine the list
- 4. Does the keyword and the intent behind that keyword match the content that is on your page?
- 5. Think again about keyword relevance, the intent behind that keyword, search volumes, and your realistic chances of appearing in the top 3 or top 10 results on Google

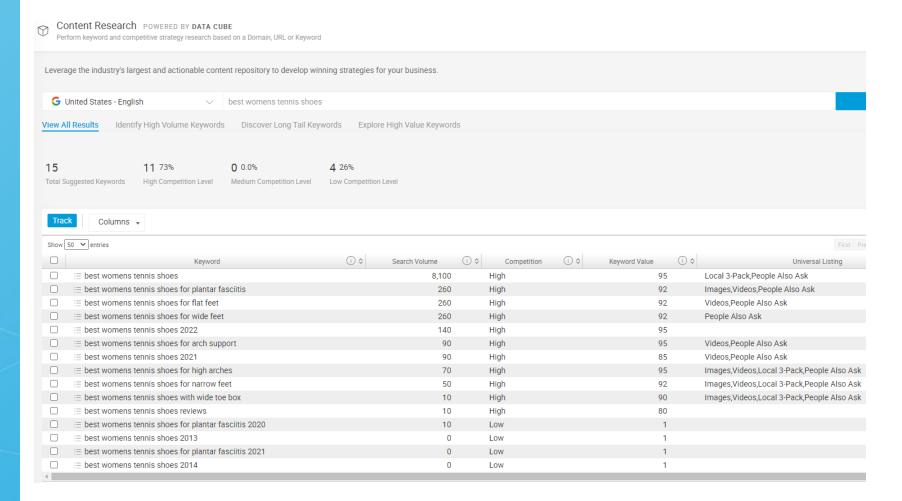
DataCube (Research > DataCube)



Keyword Research in BrightEdge

- 1. If your page currently isn't ranking for many keywords, or if you think there are better keywords that you can target, you can simply complete a search for that keyword using the DataCube
- 2. Type in the keyword that you want and see what else people are searching into Google along with it's search volumes
- 3. If there are keywords that you like, go ahead and track the keyword (by clicking on the box and hitting track)

DataCube (Research > DataCube)



Tracking Keywords in BrightEdge

- 1. Tracking keywords into relevant keywords groups is the most important step in BrightEdge
- 2. Tracking keywords allows us to receive weekly recommendations, competitor insight, trended rank data and ability to report on performance
- 3. Creating keyword groups into relevant themes is just as important
- 4. Create groups based on your menu structure, project specific, based on categories or subcategories
- 5. Once keywords are tracked, assign the relevant Preferred Landing Pages via Keyword Reporting or Settings

Settings > Keyword Groups

Example of a good keyword group structure for e-commerce site (Adidas)

Keyword Group: Women's Shoes | All

Keyword Group: Women's Shoes | Sneakers

Keyword Group: Women's Shoes | Running

Keyword Group: Women's Shoes | Soccer

Keyword Group: Women's Shoes | Gym

Why is this the ideal keyword group structure?

- Moving forward, we can create nice reports and dashboards based on specific categories and subcategories
- We can use BrightEdge to conduct deeper competitor analysis using our Share of Voice tool. This will help us understand the organic landscape and who we are competing with at each subcategory level allowing

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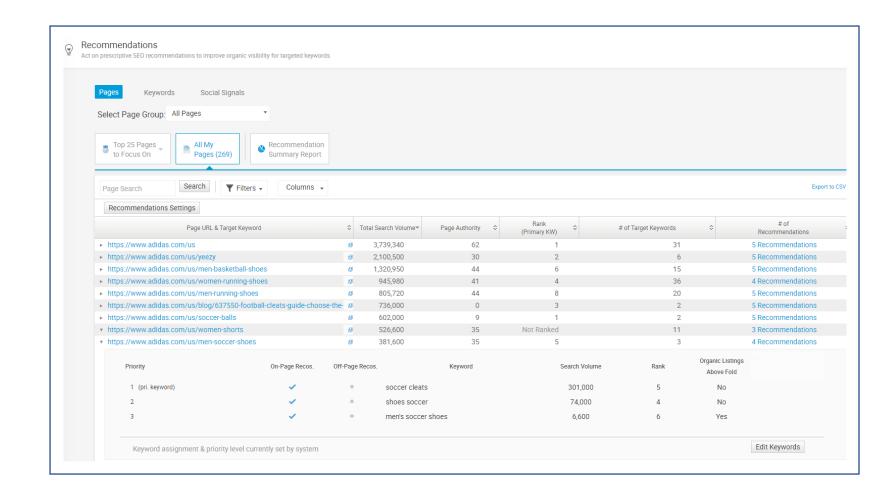
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Recommendations

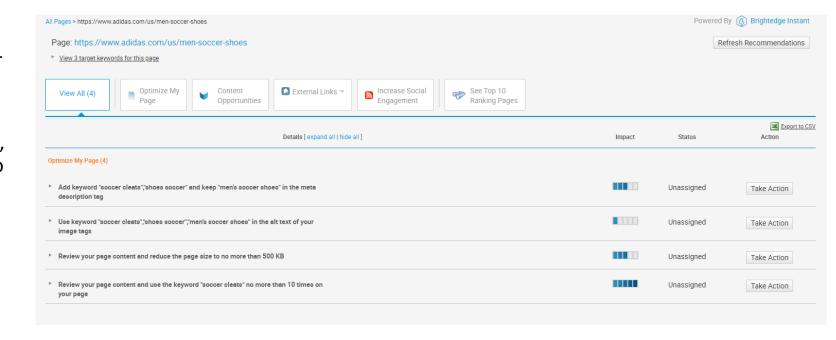
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Content

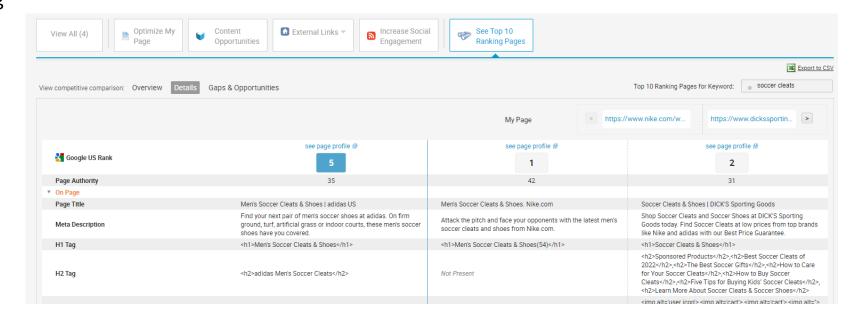
- When looking at recommendations at a page level, the most important step is to ensure we have prioritised the top 1-4 keywords for the URL
- ➤ That is, we are telling the BrightEdge platform, that these are 3 target keywords that I want recommendations for in order to optimize my page
- When selecting the keywords, once again think about relevance based on user intent, search volume, realistic chances of ranking in the top 10 based on which websites Google is currently ranking in the top 10



- Remember, when looking at content, the most important content ranking factors are:
- Is the keyword in your page title?
- Is the keyword (or similar keywords) in your headings? (H1, H2s etc)
- Is the keyword in your alt image tags (remember Google can't "see" your images, it reads the code in the alt text image tag so it can help understand what the image is)
- Do you have the keyword mentioned multiple times throughout the content in the body of the page? Do you have semantically related keywords (synonyms) related to your target keyword? Do you have enough depth in your content when compared to the top ranking pages?



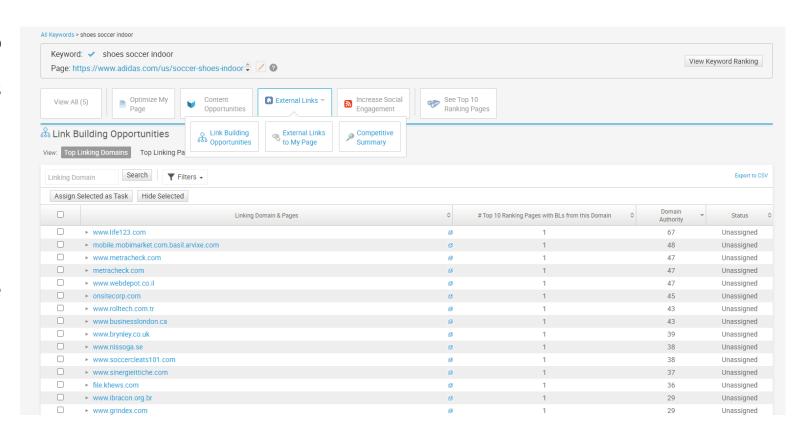
- Look at "see top 10 ranking pages"
- What are the top 10 ranking pages doing for their content?
- Compare your content to the top 10 ranking pages
- Firstly, who is Google showcasing in the top 10? Are the pages in the top 10 similar to yours? EG if you're trying to rank for a category or product page, is Google showing category and product pages in the top 10? If you're trying to rank for a blog page, is Google showing blog or article pages in the top 10? If so, you're on the right track you have a chance to also appear in the top 10. If not, perhaps it's worthwhile targeting another keyword as Google isn't prioritizing your type of page for that selected keyword.



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Backlinks

- ➢ If your content is solid compared to the top 10, lets see other recommendations from Google's other 2 ranking factors − backlinks and technical SEO.
- Enable "off page recommendations" for that keyword (ideally the primary keyword)
- This takes us to BACKLINKS instead of content
- Go to External Links and "link building opportunities" to identify websites that are currently driving external backlinks to your competitors
- Do the top 10 ranking pages simply have more backlinks than us from other highly credible pages?

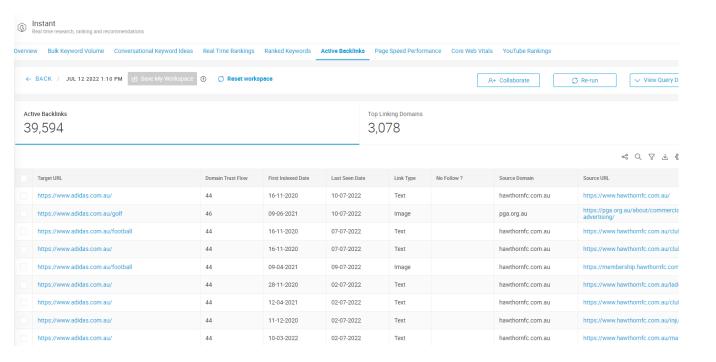


DEEP DIVE INTO PAGE AUTHORITY/BACKLINKS

- Using BrightEdge Instant > Active Backlinks
- Plug in the top 3 or top 10 ranking pages into Active Backlinks
- Do these websites have a lot of external backlinks?
- Remember, external backlinks from other websites increase your PAGE AUTHORITY it gives Google the idea that your page is a subject matter expert, because there are so many other websites pointing links to your page
- If the website's that are outranking yours simply have more backlinks pointing to them, especially from other "high authority" sites, then perhaps that is the reason why they are outranking you
- You can also use Research > Backlinks Analysis to get more details around backlinks including active backlinks for you and your top competitors, trends etc
- > See next slide for example on how to use BrightEdge Instant for Backlinks Analysis

Using BrightEdge Instant → Active Backlinks

Enter your or your competitors domains/page that you are trying to outrank. This will show you current active backlinks.



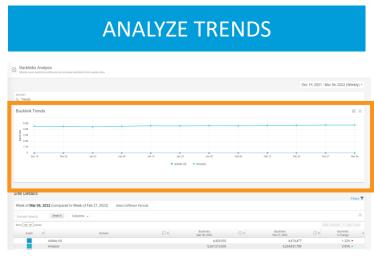
URL citation and trust flows are indicators of the quality of the backlink. This can present an opportunity to target websites to acquire backlinks from

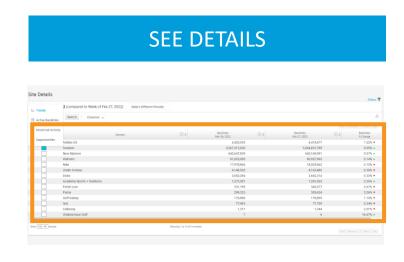
Source URL	URL Citation Flow	URL Trust Flow	Domain Citation Flow
https://www.hawthornfc.com.au/	53	58	43
https://pga.org.au/about/commercial-sponsorship-and-advertising/	40	40	42
https://www.hawthornfc.com.au/club/partners	39	38	43
https://www.hawthornfc.com.au/club/partners	39	38	43
https://membership.hawthornfc.com.au/	38	35	43
https://www.hawthornfc.com.au/ladder	37	35	43
https://www.hawthornfc.com.au/club/board	37	35	43
https://www.hawthornfc.com.au/injury-list	37	35	43
https://www.hawthornfc.com.au/matches/matchdayhub	37	35	43
https://www.hawthornfc.com.au/matches/team-lineups	37	35	43
https://www.hawthornfc.com.au/bunjilbagora	37	35	43
https://www.hawthornfc.com.au/privacy	37	35	43



Backlink Analysis: How it works and how to use







Configure report by:

- Date (weekly, monthly, quarterly, + date range)
- Report (Trends, Active Backlinks, Historical Activity, Opportunities)

See results by:

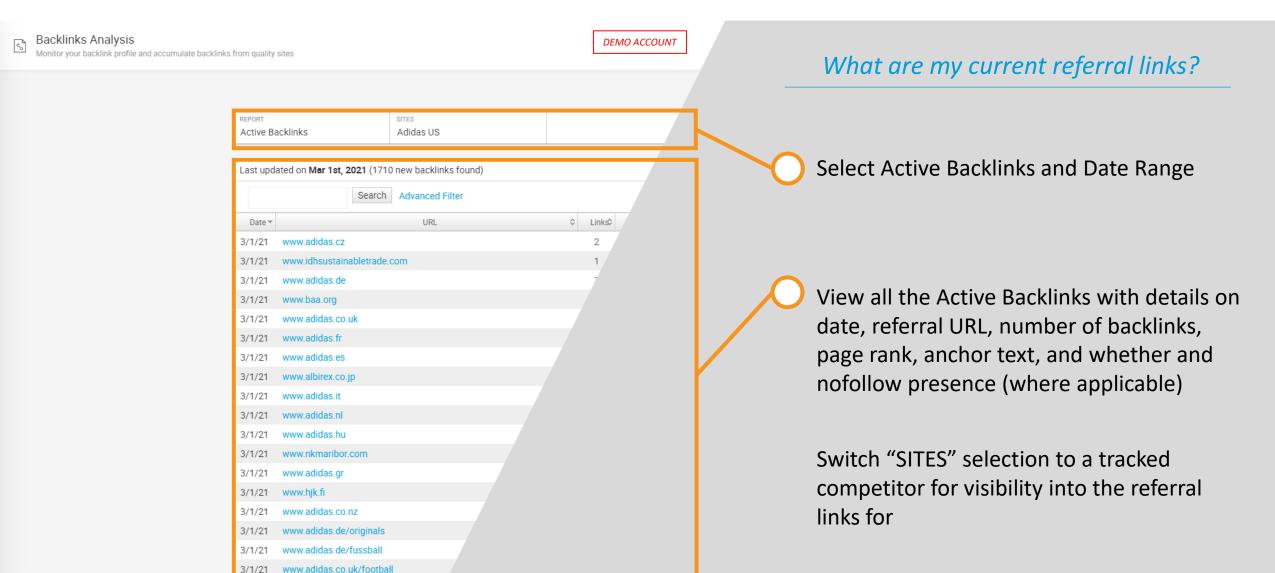
- Trended report if choosing the "Trends" report type
- Option to "Add to Dashboard" or "Download"

See results by:

- Detailed view based on report type
- Option to "Download"/ "Export to CSV"



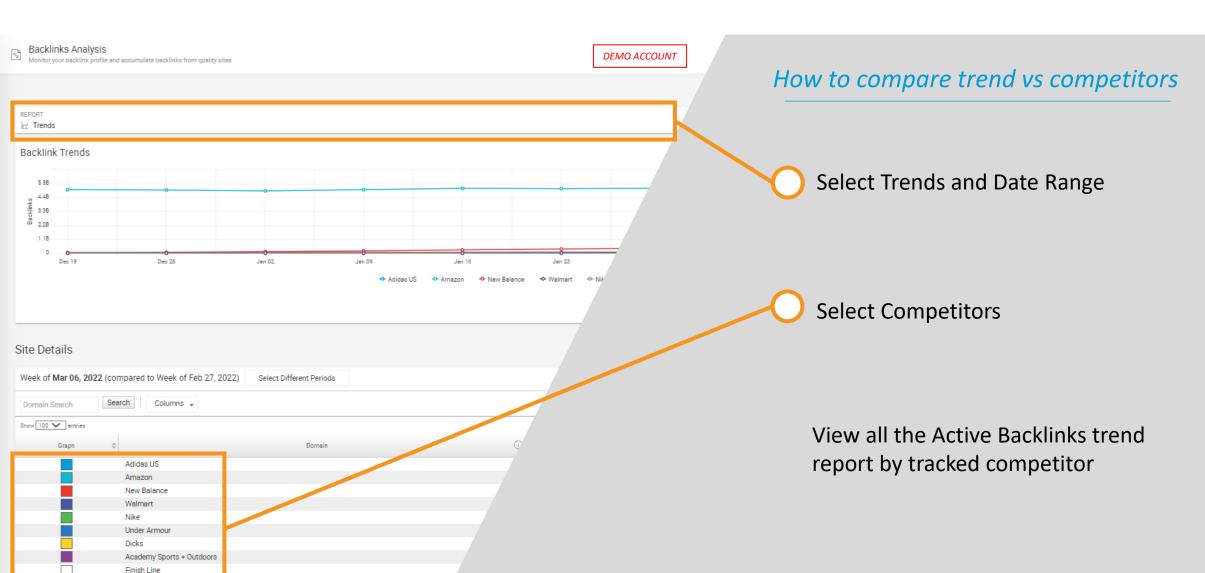
Backlink Analysis: use case – Analyze Active Backlinks





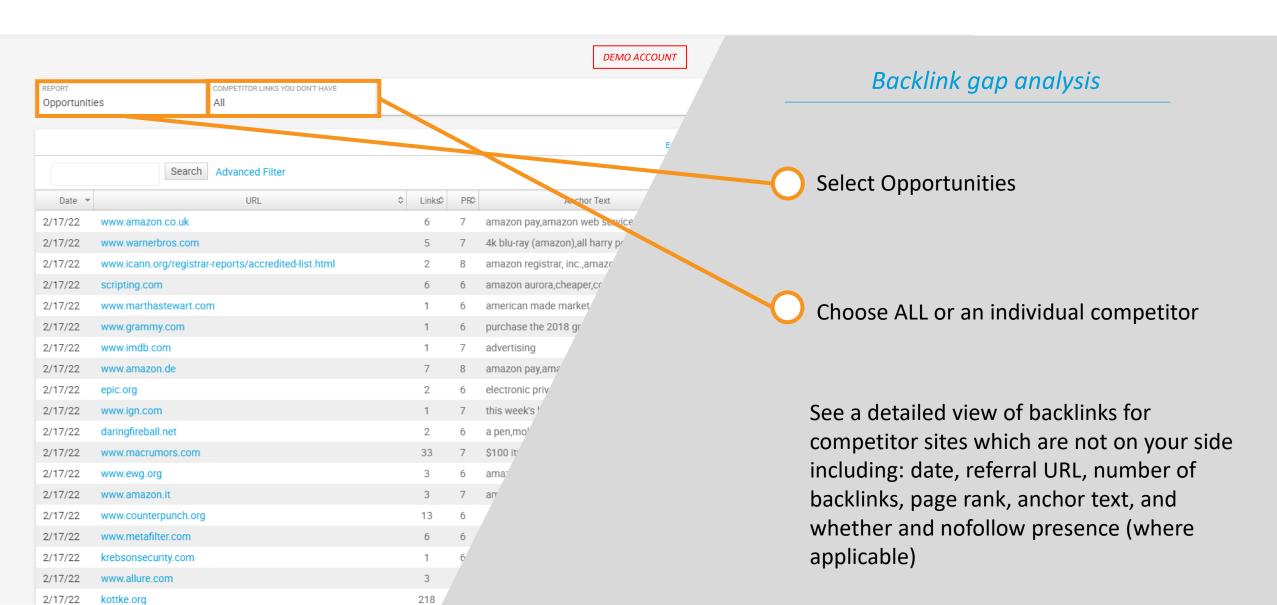
Golf Galaxy

Backlink Analysis: use case – competitor trend report



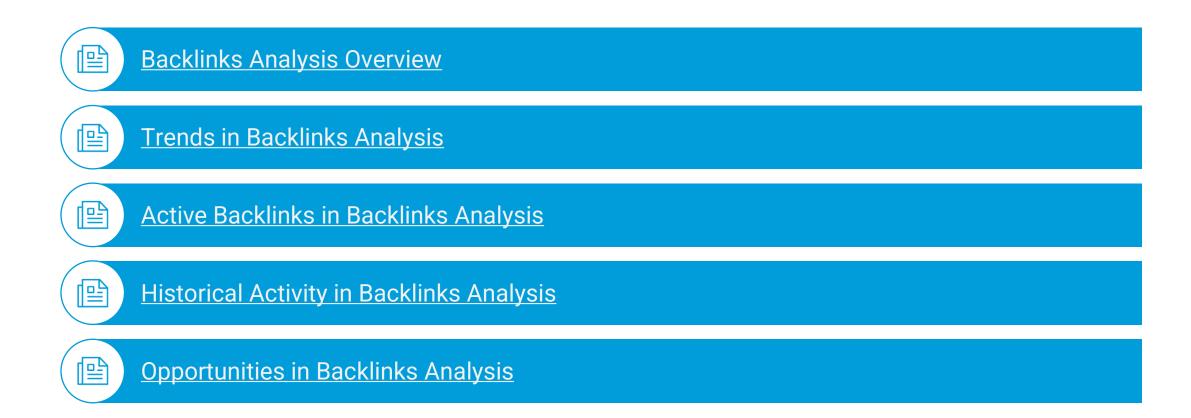


Backlink Analysis: use case – new backlink opportunities





Backlinks Analysis: Additional Information to get you started



TIPS FOR INCREASING YOUR PAGE AUTHORITY

- Acquiring backlinks may seem difficult. How can I get other websites to point backlinks to my page?
- > Best practices backlinks from other high authority pages are more powerful. Types of high authority pages include:
- Government websites eg www.example.gov.au
- Education websites eg www.exampleuni.edu.au
- Newspaper/media websites eg <u>www.exampleherald.com.au</u>
- Industry aggregators/comparison website eg <u>www.comparexamples.com.au</u>
- Blog sites, magazine sites, online publications etc eg <u>www.bestexamples.com.au</u>

TIPS FOR INCREASING YOUR PAGE AUTHORITY

- TIPS, QUICK WINS AND CHEAT CODES FOR ACQUIRING BACKLINKS.
- Do you have any partner, affiliate, parent or child websites that you can quickly acquire backlinks from?
- Do you have any suppliers or clients that you can acquire backlinks from?
- Are there any other websites that you have a relationship with, that would provide a backlink to your page?
- ➤ Remember, when acquiring backlinks try to get the backlink to drive to the specific page which you want to improve your rank for, not just to the home page
- > Try to get the backlink using "anchor text" instead of a "click here to find out more"
- EG: If you're trying to optimize for the keyword "running shoes", try to have the word "running shoes" hyperlinked to your page about running shoes. This re-inforces to the Google algorithm, that your page is about running shoes, because the word "running shoes" has been hyperlinked, from the industry blog site "www.bestrunningshoes.com.au"

BRIGHTEDGE

Technical SEO

TECHNICAL SEO

- You've looked at your content, and you can see that your content is great when compared to the top 10 ranking pages
- You've then looked at backlinks, and you've noticed that the top 10 ranking pages don't have that many backlinks, or infact, you have more backlinks from other high quality websites
- The last remaining ranking factor is Technical SEO
- > Is the page being indexed by Google (has Google discovered your page in the first place)
- Are there any broken links on your page?
- Can the Google Crawler easily discover your page? i.e. is your page easily discoverable using the main menu navigation on your site? Are there other pages on your site that are INTERNALLY (different from external) linking to your page?
- Is there duplicate or similar content on your website which could be competing with your page for the same keyword? IF so, do you have canonical tags in place which tell Google which is the best page that you want to rank on it's search engine? Or can you differentiate the two pages so that they are targeting different keywords?
- DOES THE PAGE LOAD FAST?

Using Site Audit to Identify Technical Errors

- Go to action > site audit > run crawl
- Crawls can be configured by clicking on the settings gear
- You can run the crawl based on your domain and the crawler will crawl all pages it finds based on your website structure, or you can run a sitemap crawl
- You can run a crawl based on a specific section of your website if you want to drill down into an area, or you can exclude certain pages from being crawled (eg checkout pages)
- You can also set configure the severity of the errors according to what's important to you

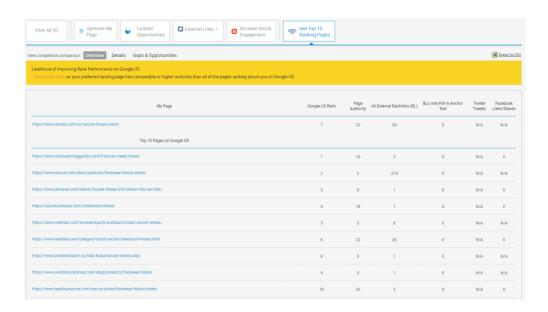
Errors	Trigger	Severity		On or Off?	
Missing or Empty Page Title	1119901	Severe	*		
Page Title too short or too long	25 - 70	Moderate	+	Yes	*
Duplicate page title		Severe	+	Yes	+
Dopinate page and		007010		100	
Missing H1 tags		Severe	+	Yes	+
Missing H2 tags		Moderate	+	по	+
Maximum H1 tags	2	Moderate	*	Yes	*
Maximum H2 tags	5	Moderate	*	no	+
•			*		+
Missing or Empty Meta Description tag		Moderate	+	Yes	+
Duplicate Meta Description Tag		Moderate	*	Yes	*
			*		v
4xx Errors		Severe	*	Yes	*
5xx Errors		Severe	*	Yes	*
3xx Redirects		Minor	*	Yes	
Slow Response Time	5	Moderate	*	Yes	*
Too Many Redirects	3	Moderate	*	Yes	*
			*		-
Page URL is too long		Moderate	*	no	*
Invalid Canonical URL		Minor	*	Yes	
			*		*
Poor text to code ratio		Moderate	*	no	*
Image tags without alt attribute		Minor	*	Yes	+
Page Size too large	300kb	Minor	*	Yes	+
Canonical URL not in sitemap		Minor	¥	Yes	
Duplicate page Content		Severe	*	Yes	*
			*		*
No index		N/A		Yes	*
No Follow		N/A	_	Yes	*
Disallowed by Robots.txt		N/A	+	Yes	*
			*		+
Too few inbound internal links	5	Moderate	*	Yes	*
Too many outbound internal links	250	Minor	*	no	*

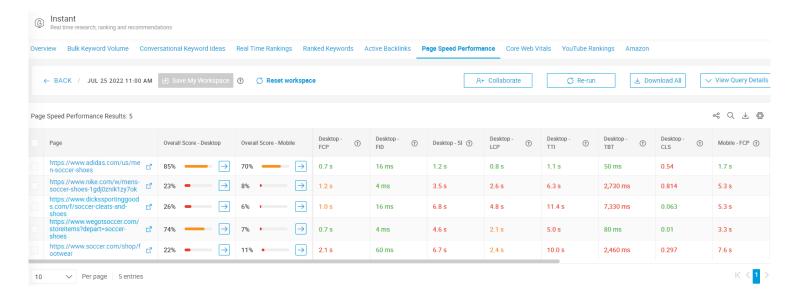
PAGE SPEED PERFORMANCE

- Using the top 10 ranking pages for the keyword that you're targeting, do they all have faster page speed loading times than yours?
- ➤ Using BrightEdge Instant, simply plug in all top 10 ranking pages for a particular keyword that you're trying to optimize for, including your own, to measure your page speed against theirs from a desktop and mobile perspective
- > Do the top 10 ranking pages have better page speed scores than yours, use BrightEdge speed recommendations to help improve your page speed
- Perhaps your images are too large, you can use AutoPilot (image optmisation) to reduce the size of your images or your can use your own image compression tool
- > Is there any unnecessary or unused coding on your site that is slowing down page speed?
- > Do you have any large videos or any other files that are potentially slowing down page speed?
- See next slide for examples on page speed workflow

PAGE SPEED PERFORMANCE

- Identify who the top 10 ranking pages are for the keyword you want to optimize for (you can see this in action > recommendations > see top 10 ranking pages)
- Use Research > Instant > Page Speed Performance
- Copy and paste your URL vs the competitor URLs that are outranking you into page speed performance (you can export from the top 10 ranking list to csv, then quickly copy/paste into page speed performance)
- Is their page speed better than yours? If so, we have to look at page speed recommendations in order to optimize our load times
- If your page speed is better than your competitors – it means we need to revisit our content and backlink strategy





SUMMARY

- There are dozens of ranking factors that the Google algorithm looks at when deciding who to rank in the top page of it's search engine. By being aware of the key factors like content, technical SEO and backlinks and having the data to paint a clear picture of you and your competitors performance, you can go a long way in improving your organic presence.
- > The above deck mentions content, backlinks and Technical SEO you do not have to necessarily optimize the site in that order.
- For example, you can look at Technical SEO first by running a site crawl to quickly see if there are any technical blockers in the way, before deciding to write/optimize content and acquire backlinks.
- Most companies have large websites, don't get too overwhelmed and try to fix everything at once start with small projects based on a specific page or pages of the site.
- Work your way along recommendations and optimisations as long as you are keeping track of what you're doing (by tracking keywords, creating reports and dashboards along the way), you will be able to see the impact of your work
- > SEO is a long term process and seeing positive improvements can take months. Some optimisations may lead to quick wins (especially if your site is already quite authoritative), while some may take 6 months or more. Be patient, and remember that if you're performance isn't great at the moment (i.e. you're not ranking on page 1 for a keyword), making optimisations is better than leaving the website stagnant.
- Work with your CSM and the wider team to ensure you are set up for success in BrightEdge by tracking the correct keywords into well structured keyword groups, that you have integrated Google Analytics and Google Search Console, creating relevant dashboards and reports and continue to work you way across your key focus areas.