

# From the Ground Up:

Building a Content Strategy for a Niche Industry







#### **TODAY WE'RE GOING TO WALK THROUGH:**

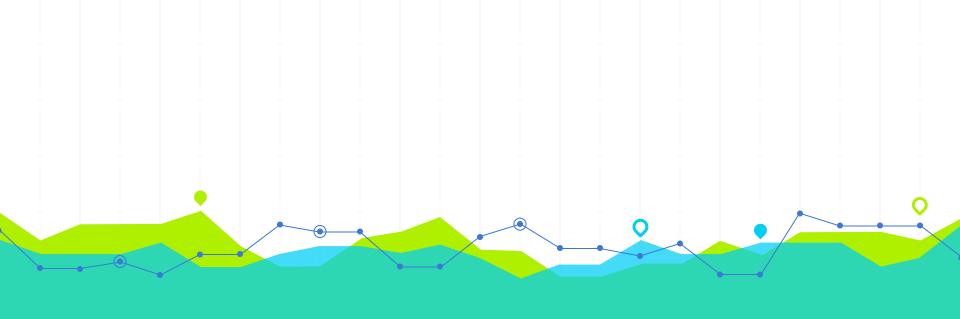
- Define content strategy
- Challenges
- Process
- What Google cares about
- Tool recommendations
- Actions you can take now

#### **TAKEAWAYS**

- Where to start
- What to focus on
- Actions to take now



than just a blog post...



### **Defining Content Strategy**

66

"Content" is a single word loaded with different connotations and meanings that depend on its context.

- MarketMuse

# Four Core Elements of Content



#### Information

What is the actual content of your message?



#### **Information**

What are the actual contents of your message?



#### **Context**

What is the content supposed to help you and the reader accomplish?



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What are the actual contents of your message?



#### **Context**

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#### Medium

What channel are you publishing the content on?





#### **Information**

What are the actual contents of your message?



#### **Context**

What is the content supposed to help you and the reader accomplish?



#### Medium

What channel are you publishing the content on?



#### **Form**

Is the content text, graphic, audio, video, etc.?



#### **CONTENT STRATEGY IS...**

an ongoing process
of translating business objectives and goals
into a plan
that uses content as a primary means of
achieving those goals

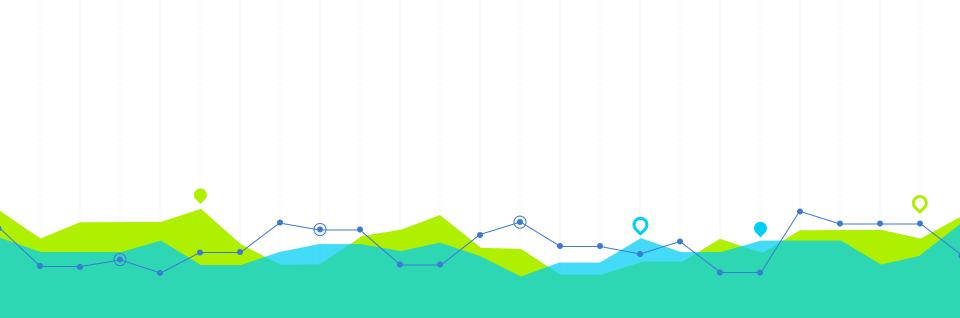


# THERE IS NO ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL APPROACH

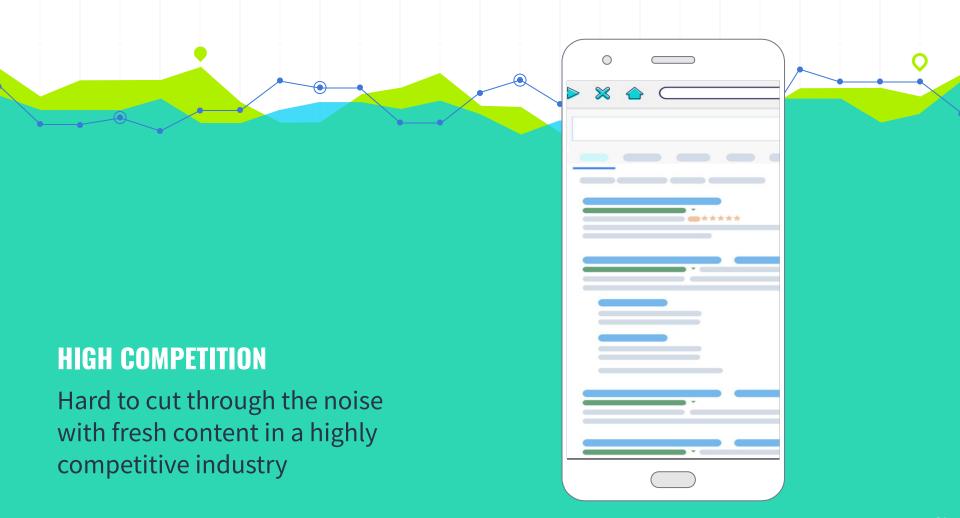








## **Challenges Ahead**

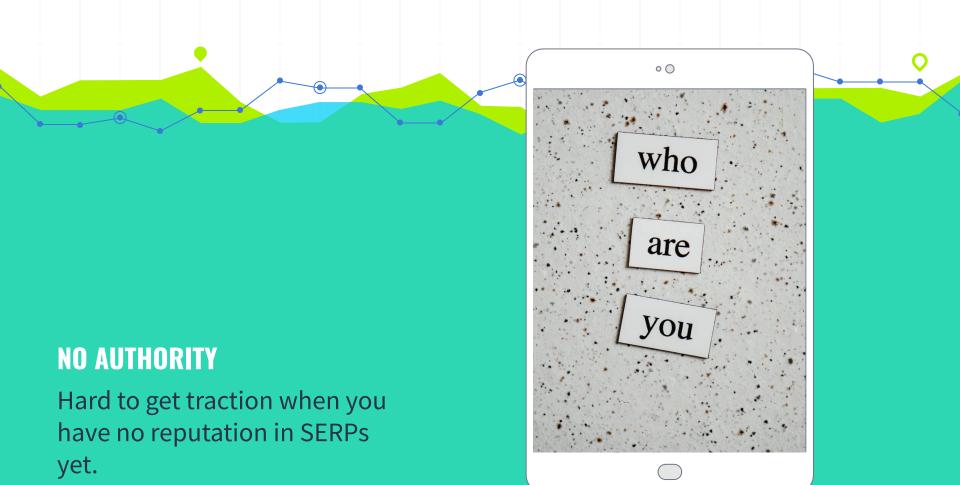


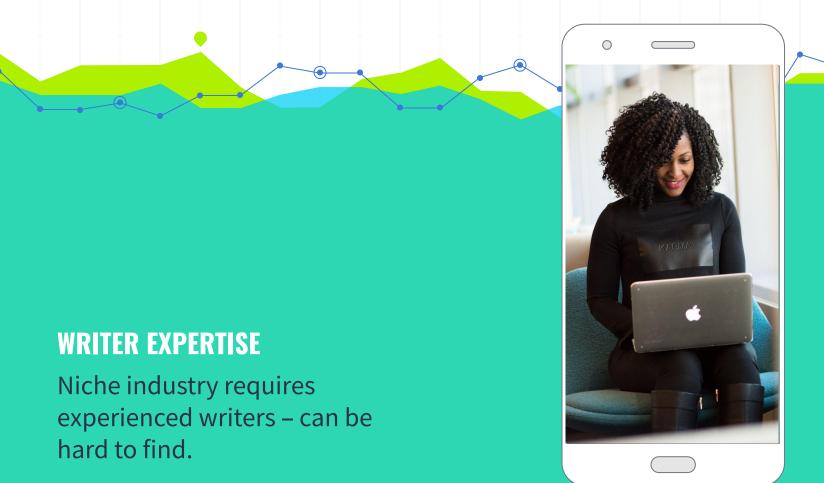


#### **NO COMPETITION**

What works in this industry? If there's no existing content to judge, it can be hard to know.









#### **LOW BUDGET**

Hard to make waves when you can't afford to promote good content.



#### **Topic Opportunities**

The world is your oyster

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#### **Create the SERP Landscape**

If you're the only player, you determine the playing field

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#### **Easier to Target Your Audience**

Specific personas in niche industries

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#### **Testing and Results**

Test without restrictions and see results faster







#### No data in tools

Semrush, Ahrefs, Content Harmony, etc. all lacked data around seed queries

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#### No historical info

No Search Console history to kickstart content strategy

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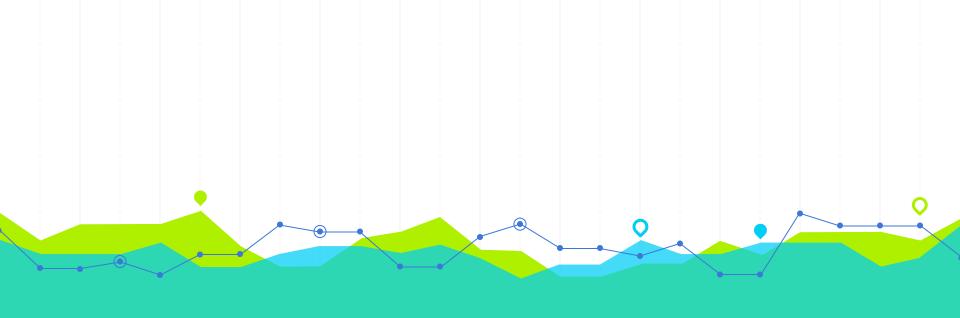
No Search Console history to kickstart content strategy

#### Lack of quality content

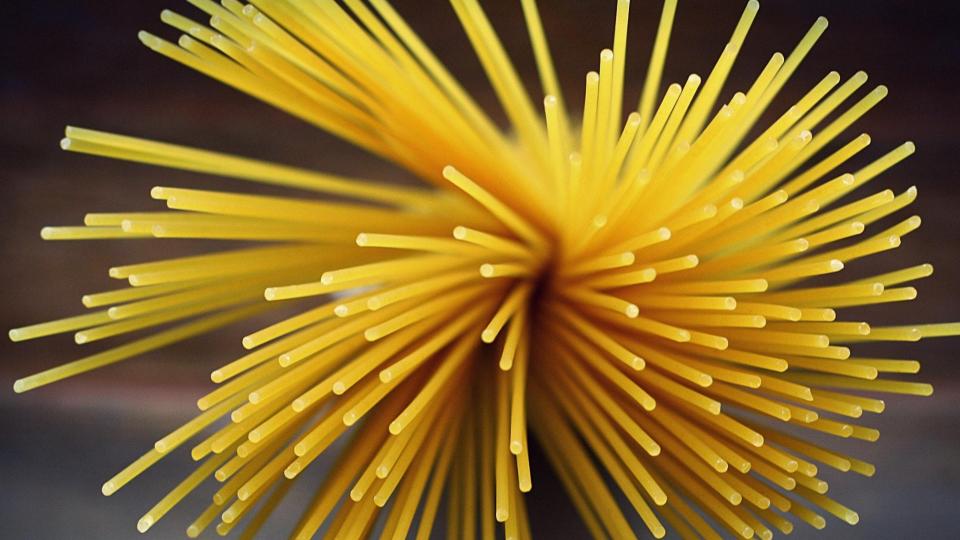
Most top competitors aren't creating valuable content



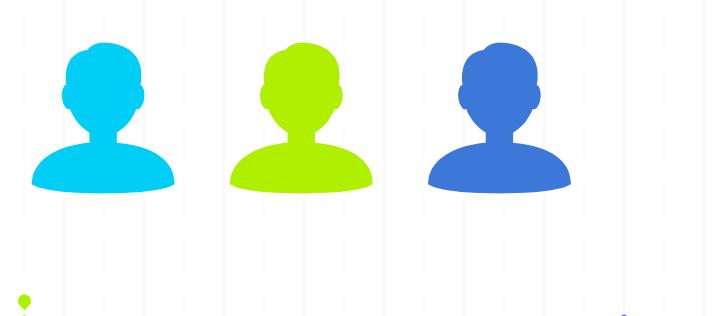




# **Laying the Foundation**



# **WRITERS NEEDED: IN-HOUSE VS CONTRACTORS**



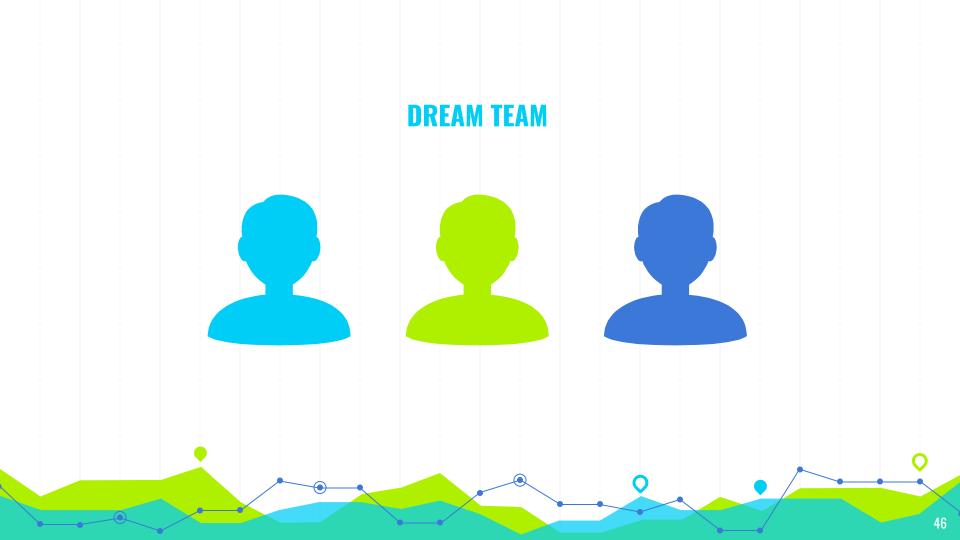


- Cost
- Stability

- Cost
- Stability
- Consistency

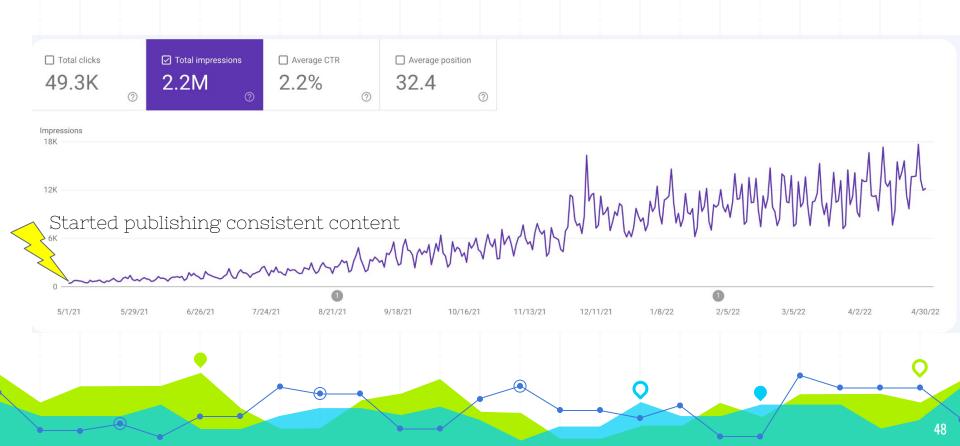
- Cost
- Stability
- Consistency
- Experience

- Cost
- Stability
- Consistency
- Experience
- Focus

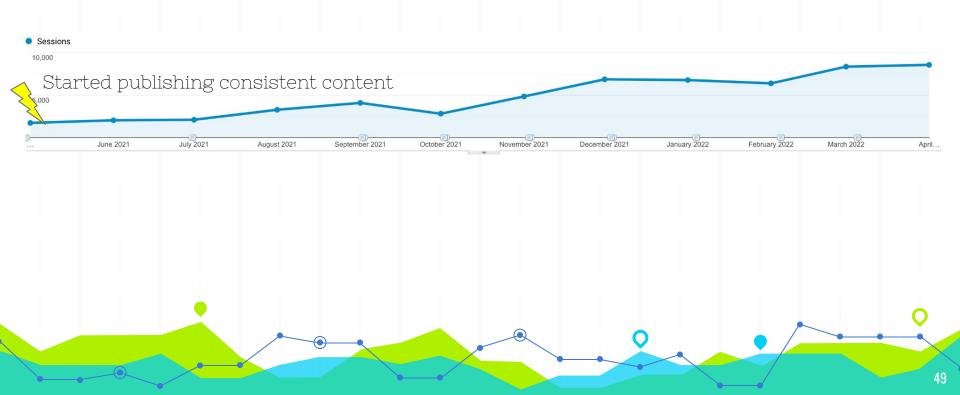




# **Increase brand awareness**

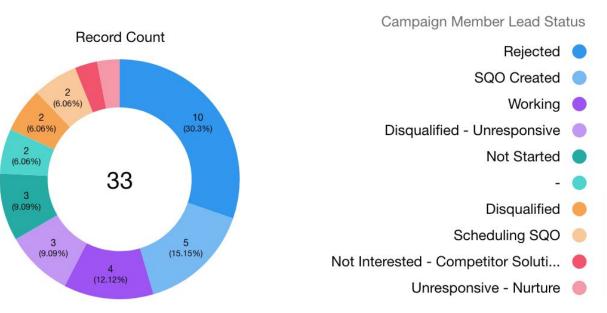


# **Increase organic traffic**



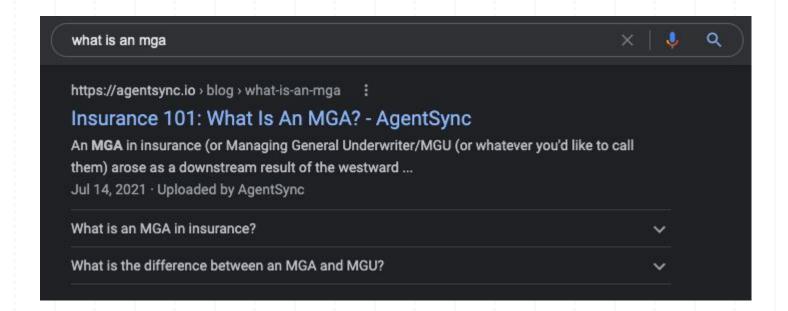
# **Contribute to sales pipeline**

Blog Engagement by Lead Status



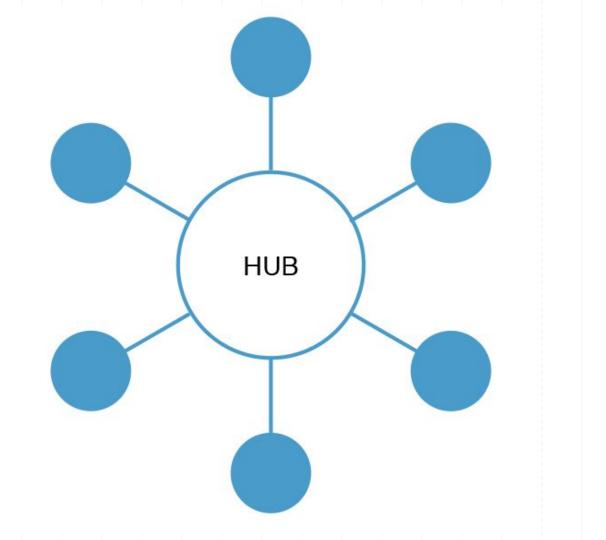
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# **Be industry thought leaders**









# **Content Structure**



# KNOWLEDGE BASE

## Knowledge Base

Insurance licensing and compliance Knowledge Base



The Knowledge Base is your go-to resource for all things insurance licensing and compliance. Home to how-tos, best practices, and insurance 101s, the Knowledge Base supports insurance MGAs, Carriers and Agencies through the complexities of producer compliance management and distribution growth.

Insurance Continuing Education (CE)

Insurance 101
LEARN MORE >

History of Insurance Regulation

Distribution Growth LEARN MORE > Producer Recruiting

Producer Onboarding

Producer Contracting

Producer Licensing

Producer Appointment Submission LEARN MORE >

Producer Compliance Maintenance LEARN MORE > Producer Offboarding

Compliance Reporting and Data

AGENTSYNC KNOWLEDGE BASE

#### Insurance 101

Fundamentals of the Insurance Industry



#### Industry Knowledge - the Challenges

Whether you're an insurance noob or an industry wonk looking to refresh your knowledge base, getting definitive answers about even the fundamentals of the insurance industry can be a hurdle. Who do you trust? Where do you turn?

Endless scrolling online is no match for the tested experience of those who have broader – or deeper – knowledge gleaned from years of working in multiple levels and segments of the insurance industry. From blogs with hot-takes about how the industry should or might function to expensive "consultants" who have spent more time in public speaking than they did working in insurance, there are a lot of potential points of confusion or error.

#### Filling the Gaps: Understanding Insurance Basics

What are the basic organizational structures operating in insurance? How do they work to get a product from its conception to the end client? What are the major players in the regulation of the industry, and why does it seem so complicated to stay in compliance?

- The Insurance 101 series is here to help answer the questions you may not have even thought to ask.
   Through blogs and articles written by industry insiders and validated by seasoned insurance veterans, learn about:
- The Insurance Distribution Channel Overview: Once a product has been developed, learn about the basic organizations that may be part of the sales funnel that actually puts coverage in place for the and concurrent.
- Regulating the Distribution Channel (and AgentSync's Supports): While many jurisdictions have control
  over insurers, MGAs, and agencies, tech solutions can make complying with the myriad regulations less
- Agent License Renewals: The numerous variations in state regulations make license renewals a beast, but this primer on what to look for can help simplify the process.
- MGAs and MGUs: What is a managing general agent (MGA), what is a managing general underwriter (MGU), and what is the difference between the two?
- Insurance Agents vs. Insurance Brokers vs. Insurance Producers: What you call an insurance
  professional matters, and learning the nuances between each term can help you more clearly
  understand and communicate in an industry that often relies on subtlety.

#### Insurance 101 FAQs

01 What is the insurance industry?

The insurance industry is made up of businesses that are responsible for developing contracts that insure against risk, as well as the network of businesses, professionals, nonprofits, watchdags, regulatory bodies, technologies, and various subsidiary systems that support that core business.

02 What is insurance?

Insurance is ultimately a contract against risk that an insurer, also known as a carrier, sells to a pool of people for a premium — a series of regular payments — that is collected to pay out in the event that the risk is realized for any single member of the pool in a given timeframe.

#### RELATED CONTENT

Reducing Risk: How the Internet of Things Is Changing

How to Change an Agency Tax ID

When Can I Write Business After Getting My Agency License?

How 3D Modeling and Digital Twins can Reduce Riskanbsp;

Insurance Professional Standards: Suitability, Best Interest, and Fiduciary

How States Regulate or Limit MGA Non-Commission Fees: A

Insurance 101: Everything You Wanted to Know About HIPAA But Were Afraid to Ask

Insurance 101: What is an Insurance Agency?

Carrier and Agency Duties Under the DOL Fiduciary Rule

Insurance 101: Agency-Level

# BLOG



Here you'll find all the latest blog posts from AgentSync.



#### **FILTERS**

Topics - Categories - Company Types - States -

### Partners in Producer Compliance: AgentSync and Varicent Formalize Compliance Checks in Commission Payouts

May 18, 2022

By partnering with Varicent, we've taken it to the next level for insurance carriers who don't want to sacrifice their compliance responsibilities while still...

READ MORE >

### Doing Nothing Costs More Than You Think!

May 16, 2022

It's tempting to think the only cost you face is the one for adopting a new technology solution. But what seems like a good...

READ MORE >

# How Structured Data Can Benefit the Insurance Industry

May 13, 2022

The insurance industry has long run largely on what's known as unstructured data; a combination of paper files and

# Reducing Risk: How the Internet of Things Is Changing Insurance

May 12, 2022

At home, the IoT looks like the ability to turn off and on lights with your voice or have your thermostat adjust itself based.

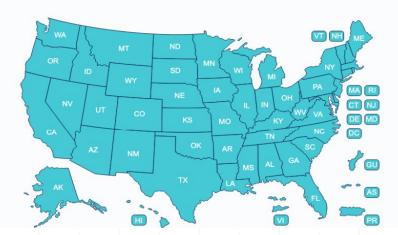
# STATE RESOURCES

### **State Resources**





Insurance is mostly regulated on a state-by-state basis, with each state and U.S. territory determining their own legal standards and procedures. Here you can find state-specific information such as department of insurance contacts; read FAQs about licensing, carrier appointments, and Just-In-Time requirements; and stay up to date with relevant articles and blogs.



#### AGENTSYNC STATE RESOURCES

#### Minnesota Insurance Licensing and Compliance Resources

#### State License Division Information

#### Consumer & External Affairs

Attn: Licensing

Minnesota Department of Commerce 85 7th Place East, Suite 600 Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101 Phone: (651) 539-1600

Website: https://mn.gov/commerce/industries/insurance/

Non Resident Licensing Information: Insurance Licensing

#### Minnesota

- For Carriers in ✓ Drastically reduce time to sell.
- ✓ Automatically Sync active agent records with NIPR
- ✓ Reduce time to activate Agents with seamless onboarding experience

#### For Agencies in Minnesota

- ✓ Import the agent record from the NIPR PDB (Producer Database) in real time
- Daily change updates synced directly with NIPR
- ✓ Daily change updates synced directly with NIPR

#### For MGAs/MGUs in Minnesota

- ✓ Let technology help manage your distribution channel with contracting, licensing, appointments, & compliance solutions.
- ✓ Basic setup completed in days, not
- ✓ Submit appointments in a few clicks



#### **FAQs**

#### O1 How Do I Get an Insurance License in Minnesota?

Depending on what type of insurance agent you want to be or what types of policies you need to sell, you will need to choose what type or types of insurance licenses you need to get. After you've determined which licenses you need, you must now take your insurance pre-license education courses. The next step after completing all of your pre-license coursework or self-study is to take the insurance exam. You will take one exam for each line of insurance you wish to carry, Life, Health, & Accident (LH&A) and Property & Casualty (P&C) lines are combined exams in Minnesota, so you only have to take two tests if you wish to attain all of these lines of authority.

Minnesota requires that all insurance license applications provide fingerprints prior to licensing. Giving your fingerprints will initiate a background check. If you have any prior misdemeanors or felonies, this may affect the outcome of your licensing efforts.

After you have completed your exams and fingerprinting, the next step is to apply for your license. If you have more than one line of authority that you have passed the exam for, be sure to apply for all of those lines. Once you have submitted your application and passed your exams, your license application will be reviewed by the state. Your background check will also be reviewed.

For more information, call the Minnesota Department of Insurance at (651) 539-1600 or email the department.

# **LET'S RECAP**



### In-House vs. Contractors

Determine of in-house or contract writers are best for your use case.



### **Set Goals**

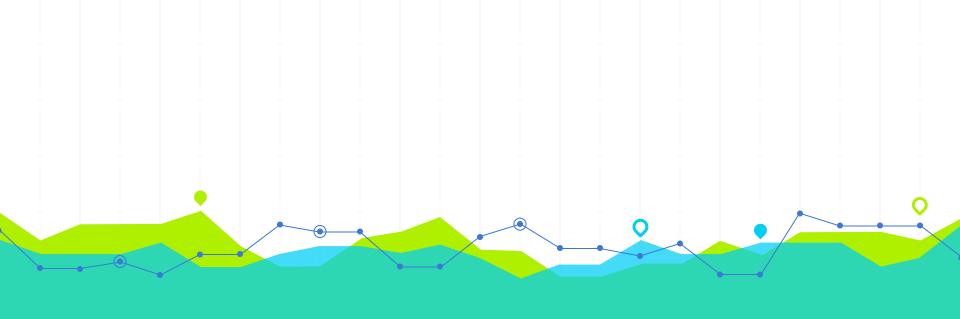
Set realistic goals based on broader business goals and resources available to achieve them.



### Make a Plan

Create a content strategy and set targets to execute it. Remember the plan can change.





# **Method to the Madness**

# **CONTENT OPTIMIZATION**



# Structure

How is the content structured

# **CONTENT OPTIMIZATION**



# **Structure**

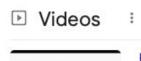
How is the content structured



# Video

Video allows people to engage with our content in another way





34 presview

Five Ways Insurance Distribution Licensing Software Makes ...

YouTube · AgentSync Jan 19, 2022



Three Ways Insurance Distribution Licensing Software Makes ...

YouTube · AgentSync 1 month ago

Feedback



View all

https://www.youtube.com > watch

### Five Ways Insurance Distribution Licensing ... - YouTube



Five Ways Insurance Distribution Licensing Software Makes Life Easier for Insurance Carriers ... Think adopting new #insurtech i...

YouTube · AgentSync · Jan 19, 2022

# **CONTENT OPTIMIZATION**



## Structure

How is the content structured



## Video

Video allows people to engage with our content in another way



# **Authority**

Who is writing the content

# **CONTENT OPTIMIZATION**



### **Structure**

How is the content structured



## Video

Video allows people to engage with our content in another way



# **Authority**

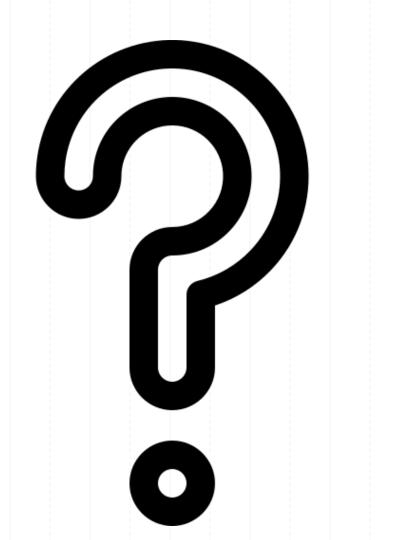
Who is writing the content



# **Schema**

Schema helps Google better understand what the content is about

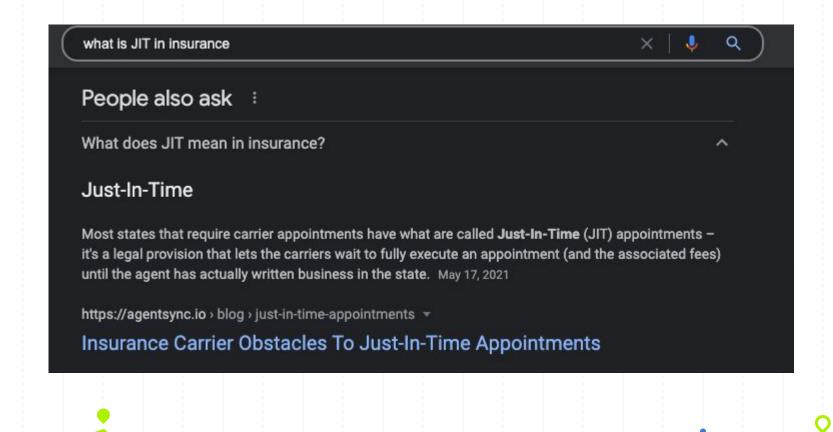




# Impressions for URLS with FAQs in the SERP







### what is JIT in insurance







Q All

News

Images

Shopping

Videos

: More

Tools

About 2,110,000 results (0.39 seconds)

Last Updated: March 10th, 2022. Most states that require carrier appointments have what are called Just-In-Time (JIT) appointments – it's a legal provision that lets the carriers wait to fully execute an appointment (and the associated fees) until the agent has actually written business in the state. May 17, 2021

https://agentsync.io > blog > just-in-time-appointments > 3...

Insurance Carrier Obstacles To Just-In-Time Appointments



About featured snippets . 

Feedback

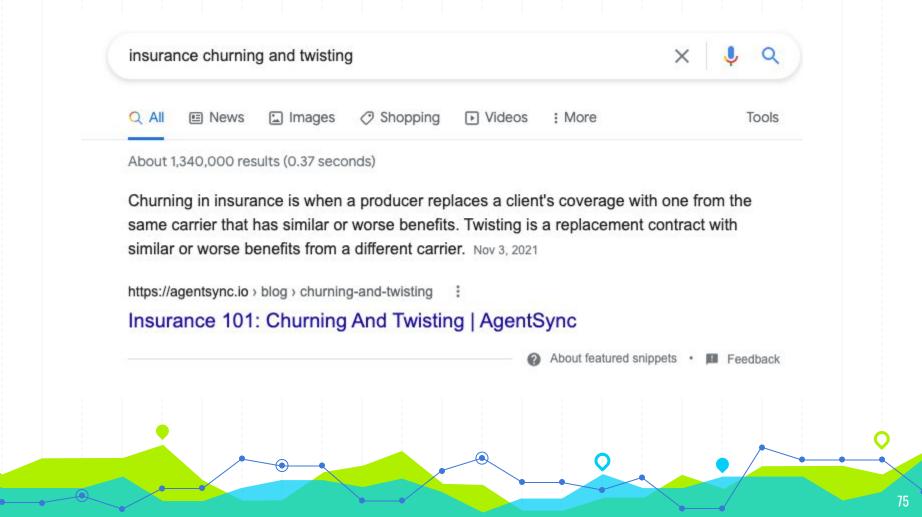


https://agentsync.io > blog > taking-advantage-of-just-i...

### Taking Advantage Of Just-In-Time Carrier Appointments

May 18, 2021 - States that allow for JIT appointments instead allow carriers to wait to appoint agents until an agent is actively writing business.





what is an insurance producer







https://agentsync.io > blog > individual-producers > ins...

### Insurance Agent Vs Insurance Broker Vs Insurance Producer

May 26, 2021 — The term "insurance producer" is broad, encompassing both insurance agents (who act on behalf of carriers) and insurance brokers (who act on ...

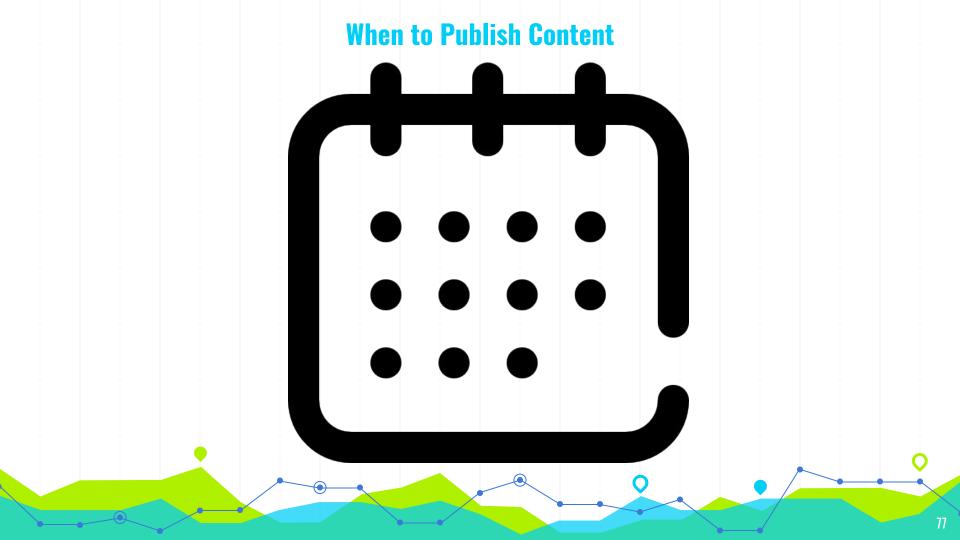
What is an Insurance Agent?

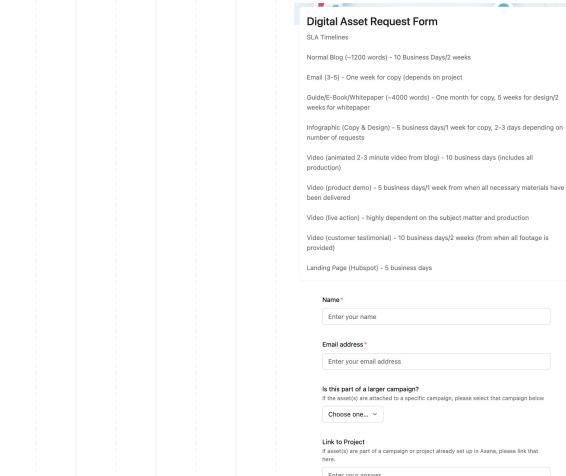
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What is an Insurance Producer?





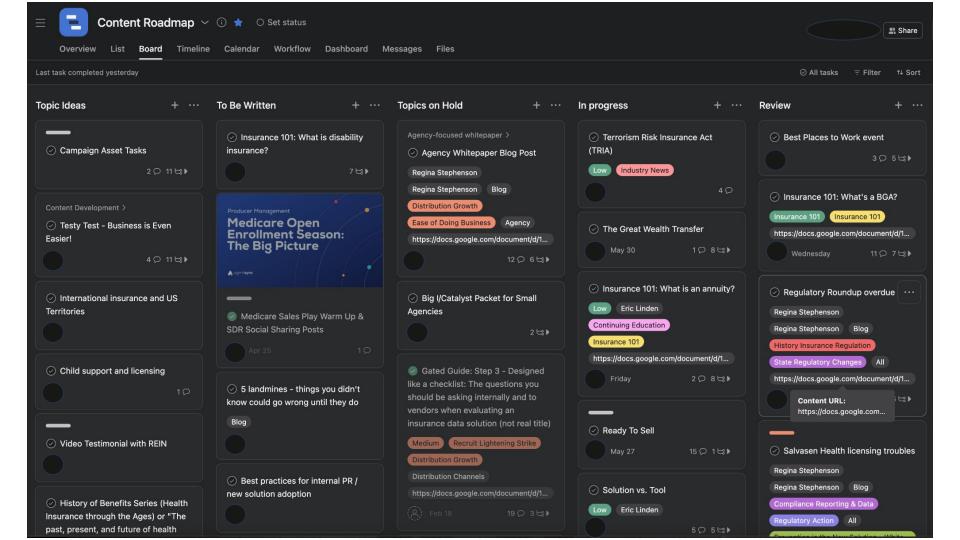


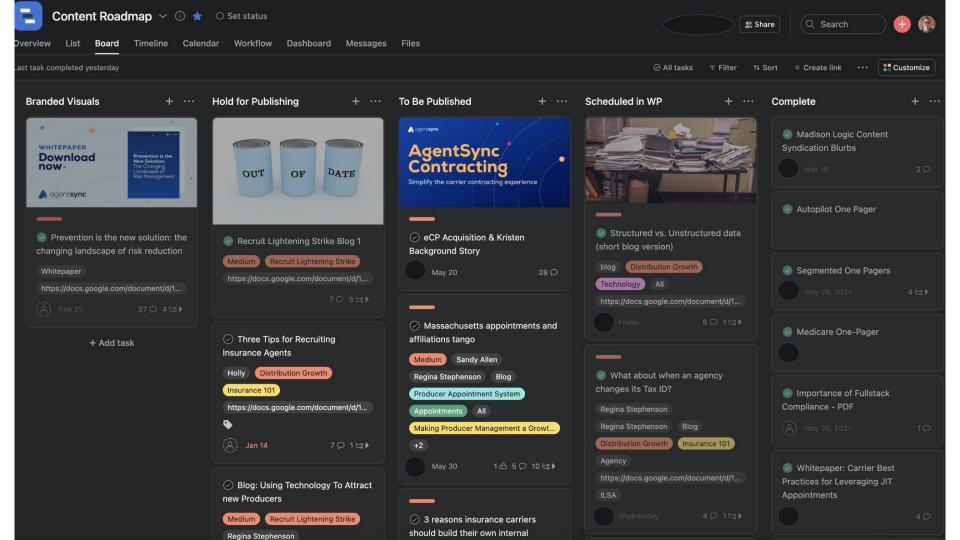


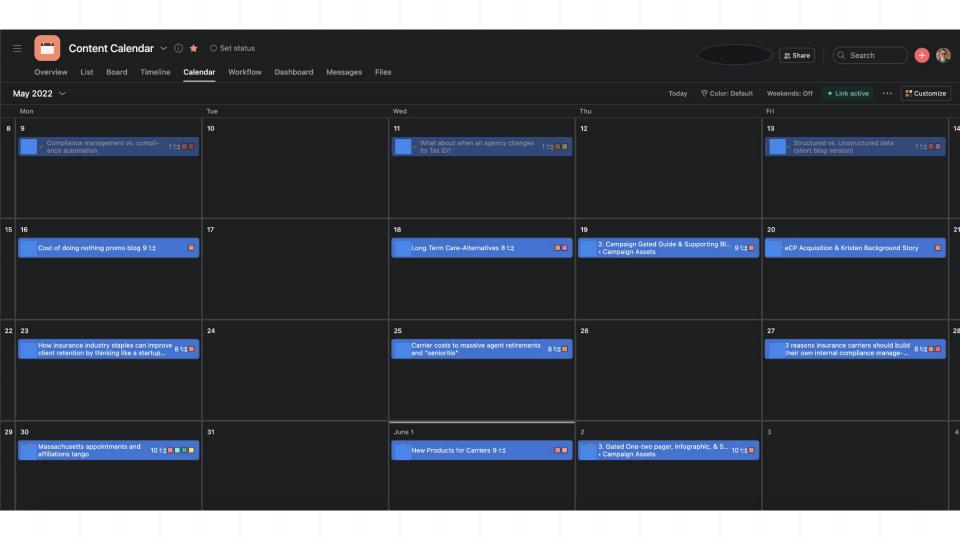
Video (animated 2-3 minute video from blog) - 10 business days (includes all Video (product demo) - 5 business days/1 week from when all necessary materials have Video (live action) - highly dependent on the subject matter and production Video (customer testimonial) - 10 business days/2 weeks (from when all footage is If the asset(s) are attached to a specific campaign, please select that campaign below If asset(s) are part of a campaign or project already set up in Asana, please link that Enter your answer Asset Type(s)\* Please select which assets are included in this request. Please refer to the SLAs at the top of this form before choosing your due date. \*If other - please specify below in the description.

### Insurance 101: What is an annuity? Friday Due date ■ Content Roadmap In progress ∨ Dependencies Add dependencies Low ○ Campaign A Writer Continuing Education Insurance 101 A Account Type https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PCMOuNn5YD19Zcz2ki9sHHOqxec7\_8YU9Bqx-A Content URL rtEtSo/edit#

⊘ Insurance 101: What is an annuity?	ப	0	Ľ	Q
Subtasks				
			Th	nurs
⊗ Review				
<ul><li>⊙ Final QC</li></ul>				
Social Post     ■ Control Post     ■ Contr				
Schedule/Publish on website				
⊘ Review				









### Weekly Content Syncs



### Monthly Topic Brainstorms



### Quarterly Topic Planning



### Gated Content



WHITEPAPER

# Prevention is the New Solution: The Changing Landscape of Risk Management

### Long-form = Leads

Theme: **Demand Gen** 

Gated Resource: Content Team

Blog Post to Support Resource: Content Team



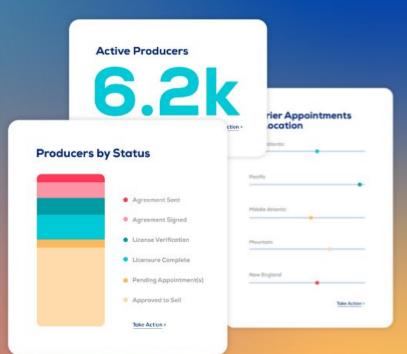
### Paid Search Ads LinkedIn Ads **Email Blasts**



1998 called. It wants its insurance technology back.

Modernize producer management to power growth

Get the guide >





### **Content Syndication**



### Organic Social



### Newsletter





### Insurance Trends, Tips, and News

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Thanks for reading AgentSync's Thought Leadership newsletter. It has the insights and articles that will update you on the most important insurance industry trends.



Fullstack Compliance: 360-Degree View of Compliance Is Vital for Insurance Carriers and MGAs

Keeping up with insurance laws and regulations and ensuring full compilance with them in a challenge for every member of the insurance distribution channel. Of all the bothaution state in the insurance compliance world, producer ticeming is near the too.

Read More --

### Managing Broker Relationships for Carriers and MGAs/MGUs

The sales role is the lifeblood of immrance, and with a complex pipeline of agencies, agents, brokers, etc., carriers and MGAs can understandably be confused by how to manage these varied relationships.





MGA/MGU Fundamentals Survey

MGA FUNDAMENTALS SURVEY

MGAs don't always get a lot of love, and we at AgentSync are trying to change that. The last year was one of mind-expanding conversations with state commissioners' offices all over the country, talking about carrier appointments, MGA and MGU regulations, and who needs to follow which sets of rules.

Will you take our quick survey?







Why We Built AgentSync on the Salesforce Platform

Read More -

AgentSync 5 Selesforce. CTO and co-founder Jenn Wright share why we chose to build on the Salesforce platform – and how it helps our customers transform their processes.

An Insurtech :: An Interview with Jenn Knight

CTO and Co-founder and CTO Jenn Knight sat, re why we with insurtech benner for a candid, force 40-minute conversation about leading sour AgentSyric, an insurtech unicorn in

Caroraco.

AGENTSYNC FEATURE SPOTLIGHT

California's department of insurance has been busy this month! Starting March 25, 2022, agents and entities must answer two more required background questions to apply for or renew their California producer license. We recommend applying for and renewing licenses in AgentSync prior to the 25th so you have as much time as possible to answer these questions before their license's expiration date.

Did you know that AgentSync Manage includes a selfservice agent portal? Our portal creates massive efficiencies for carriers, MGAs, and agencies, and vastly improves the agent experience, enabling them to begin selling in minutes, not days.

Insurance AI and Innovative Techyl SA 2022

We'll be speaking and exhibiting at Insurance AI & Innovative Tech USA, April 26-27 in Chicago, IL.

REGULATORY UPDATE

Looking for the latest insurance regulatory updates? Check out our most recent Regulatory Roundup post.

Read More -

Forwarded this email? You can subscribe yourself below.

Subscribe New



### **LET'S RECAP**



### PM Tools are Your Friend

No matter what project management tool you choose, using one can make all the aspects of building and managing a content program much smoother.



### **More Than Just Words**

It takes more than just words to make content engaging. Add video, infographics and FAQs to help boost engagement and SERP visibility.



### **Process is Life**

Having a process in place that covers every step from content requests to approvals makes everything easier.



### Silos are Bad

Meet regularly with other teams/stakeholders to make sure everyone is working towards the same goals.

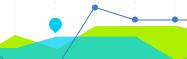


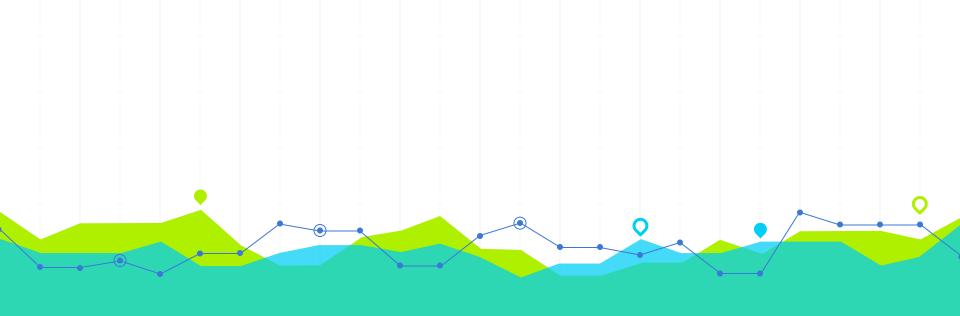
### More Than Just Blogs

A sound content strategy should also include content for demand gen support, long form content and content distribution.





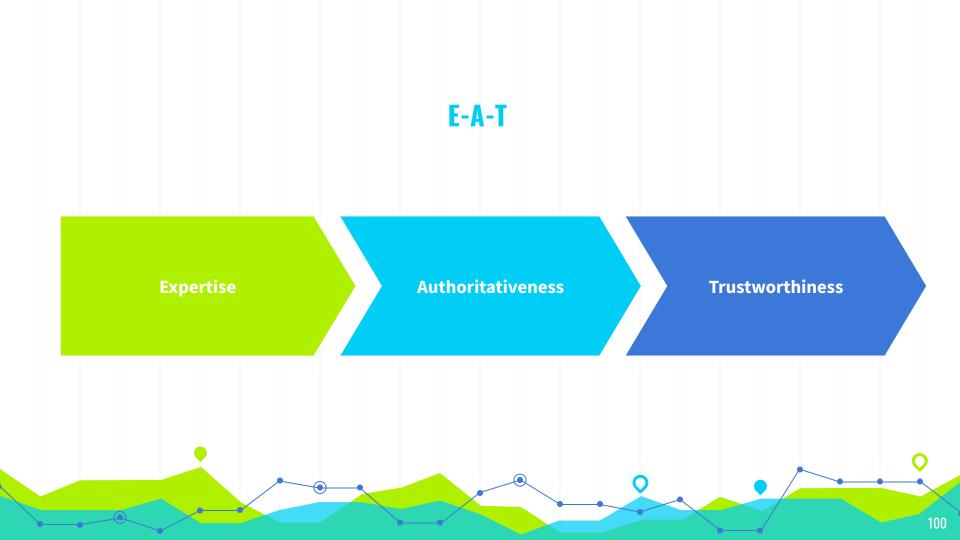




### **What Google Wants**

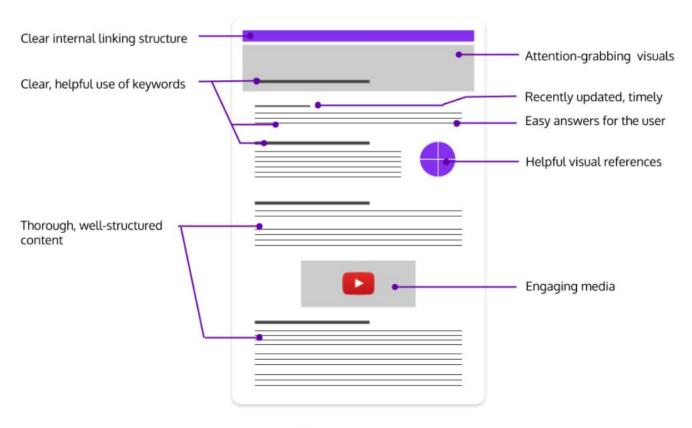


### E-A-T



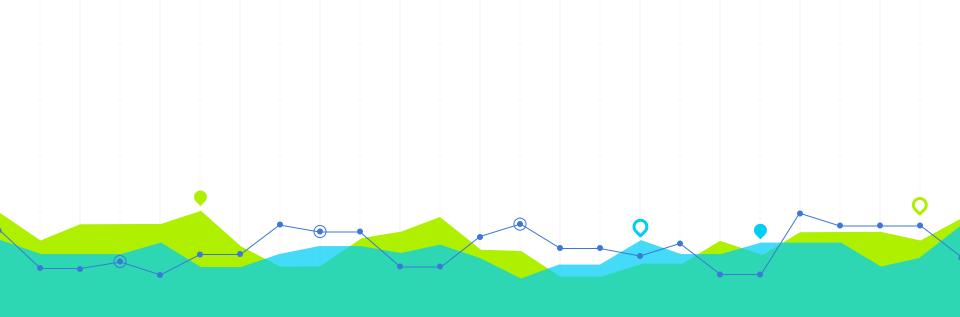
### Structure

### **Anatomy of Engaging Content**





### Relevant Topics



## Tools 6

## altiefs



Scre@mingfrog



## Google Search Console











✓ Middle of Funnel

49

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Funnel Keywords

REFINE

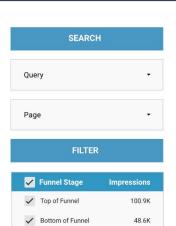
Questions

### Search Explorer

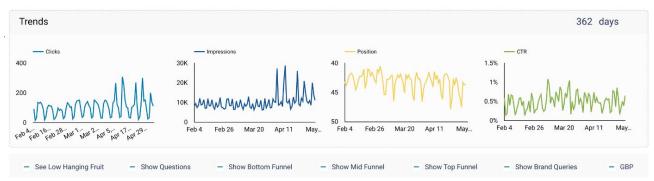
Property

Feb 4, 2022 - May 4, 2022









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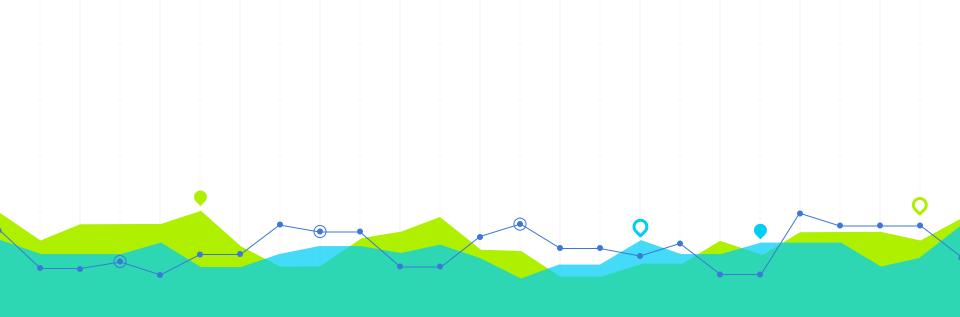
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Query	Page	Position	CTR	Clicks	Impressions 🔻
errors & omissions insurance	$\underline{https://agentsync.io/blog/insurance-101/errors-and-omissions-insurance-what-you-need-to-know}$	8.5	0%	0	11.1K
mga insurance	https://agentsync.io/blog/insurance-101/what-is-an-mga	7.78	0.51%	53	11K
e & o insurance	$\frac{https://agentsync.io/blog/insurance-101/errors-and-omissions-insurance-what-you-need-to-know}{know}$	7.93	0.01%	1	10K
e&o insurance	$\underline{\text{https://agentsync.io/blog/insurance-101/errors-and-omissions-insurance-what-you-need-to-know}}$	16.87	0%	0	9.7K
mga insurance	https://agentsync.io/blog/insurance-101/insurance-101-what-is-an-mga	7.96	0.36%	43	8.3K
agentsync	https://agentsync.io/	1.03	35.49%	3.1K	8.1K
errors and omissions insurance	$\label{loginsurance-101/errors-and-omissions-insurance-what-you-need-to-know} hat you-need-to-know.$	52.52	0.02%	5	7.5K
agentsync	https://agentsync.io/careers	1.11	4.29%	275	7K



### RankMath

# zapier

€	{-} Schema Markup Generator (JSON-LD)			
Г	Which Schema org markup would you like to create?  © FAQ Page		Use this Schema.org structured data generator to create JSON-LD markups, including all of the required item properties and more. Click on the Google icon to test your markup with the Structured Data Testing Tool and/or the Rich Results Test.	
H				
ı	Question #1  Answer			<pre></pre>
1	+ ADD QUESTION			
	Schema.org's references: • FAQPage	Google's documentation:  • FAQ Page		



### **Lessons Learned**



## Don't be scared to test



## - Asking for help is okay



### - Use SMEs to your advantage

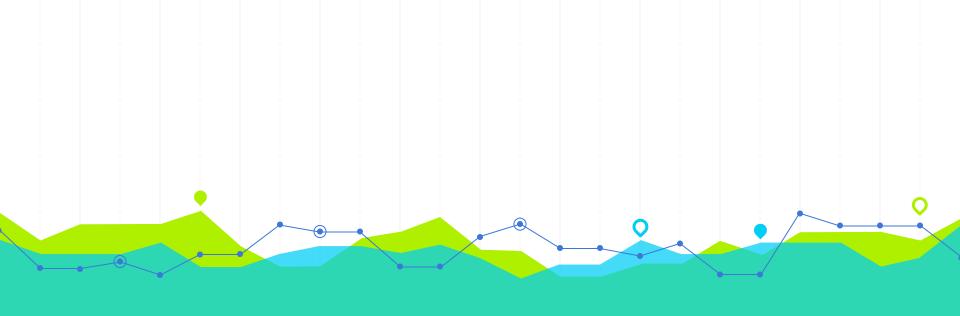




# Don't give up



### Use data to iterate



### **Take Action Now**





#### Talk to SMEs

If you're struggling to get ideas for content, rely on the experts in your company



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#### **FAQ Content**

What questions are people asking in the SERPS?



#### **Information**

What are the actual contents of your message?



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What questions are people asking in the SERPS?



#### **Long Form Content**

Create a piece of long form content that can be used to drive demand





#### **Information**

What are the actual contents of your message?



#### **FAQ Context**

What is the content supposed to help you and the reader accomplish?



#### **Long Form Content**

Create a piece of long form content that can be used to drive demand



#### **Videos**

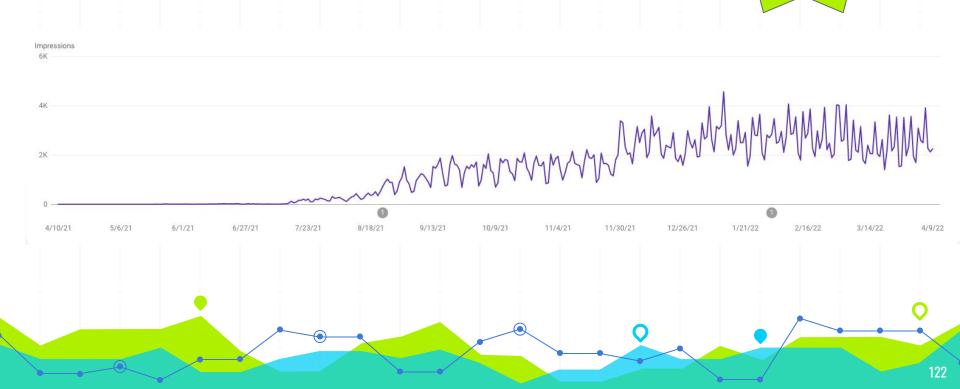
Create videos that can be added to content





#### Impressions for URLS with FAQs in the SERP





# NEW USERS YOY





# THANKS!

### Any questions?

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