# Importance of Content Marketing in the Age of the Customer

By Shamanth Shankar

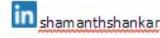
#### ME http://shamanthshankar.com



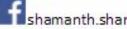
Proud to have been part of Series A rounds at two software product companies, a private manufacturer who went public and a decade of a proven track record at the largest public OFS company.

I continuously learn from challenges I take on, people whom I meet and books that I read. I think like an entrepreneur and follow through with strong discipline in execution.

I work towards making my world bigger by paying attention to small things, "staying hungry & foolish" and by connecting people in their path to success.



shamanthshanka



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### What is the purpose of Marketing

To is educate the Market (prospects & leads) and Customers on

•**Problem Research**: Identifying a problem and recognizing the understanding of the problem

•Solution Research : Guiding in explanation of solutions that meet the voice of the customer

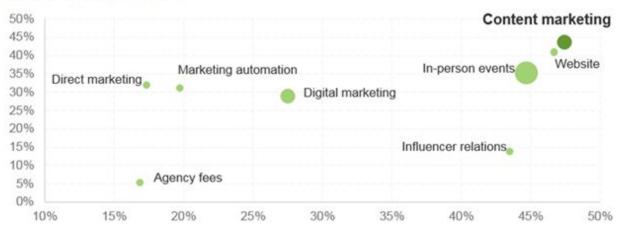
•Solution Selection : Provide clear value proposition and differentiation on why your product is best suited to solve the problem

### **Current State of Consumer Behavior**

- 61% of Consumers feel better with a company that delivers custom content
- People spend more than 50% of their time online looking at content
- 70% of the consumers prefer getting to know a company via articles rather than ads
- 90% of consumers find custom content useful and 78% believe that organizations providing custom content are interested in building good relationships with them

Content marketing is more important than creating an "ideal" marketing mix.

Percent of respondents rating as "very effective at creating demand, leads, pipeline opportunities"



Percent of respondents rating as "very effective at building brand awareness/reach"

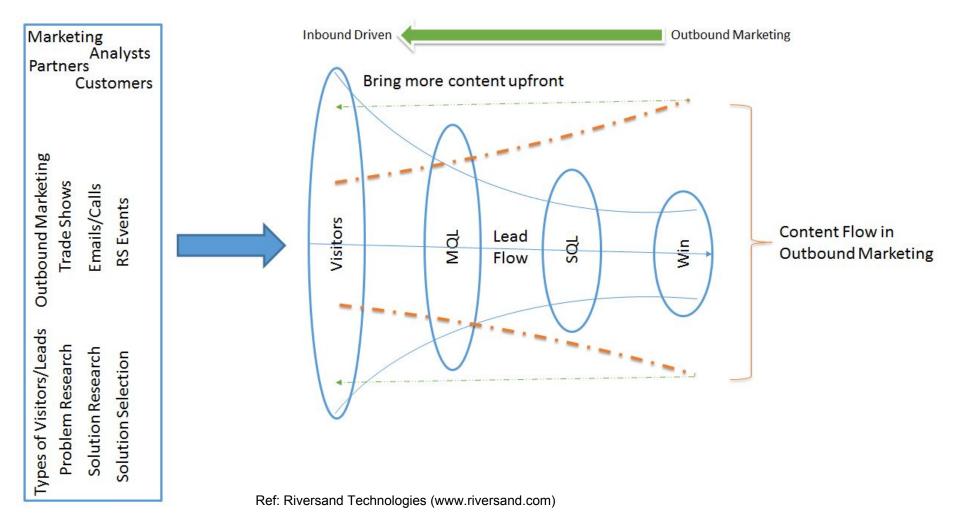
Source: Forrester's Q4 2015 International B2B Marketing Budget And Spending Online Survey

### Marketing is Collaboration across all Functions

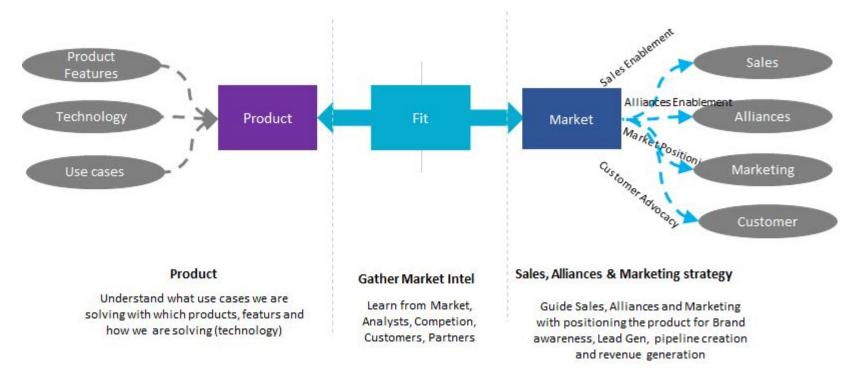
Professional Service	<ul> <li>Implementation</li> <li>Customer Success</li> <li>Cross Sell + Up Sell</li> </ul>		Success Stories	Opportunity Positioning
Product Management	<ul> <li>Product Strategy</li> <li>Engineering</li> <li>Releases + Fixes</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Roadmap</li><li>Technology Partners</li></ul>	Product ⇔ ●Market	
Marketing	<ul> <li>Branding</li> <li>Corporate Marketing</li> <li>Lead Generation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Pipeline Creation</li> <li>Competitive Analysis</li> <li>Analyst Relations</li> </ul>		Product Marketing
Business Development	<ul><li>Partner Success</li><li>Analyst Relations</li></ul>	<ul><li>Sales enablement</li><li>Opportunity Influence</li></ul>		
Sales	<ul> <li>Pipeline Closure</li> <li>Revenue Generation</li> </ul>		Market Positioning	

Ref: Riversand Technologies (www.riversand.com)

Alliance Postioning

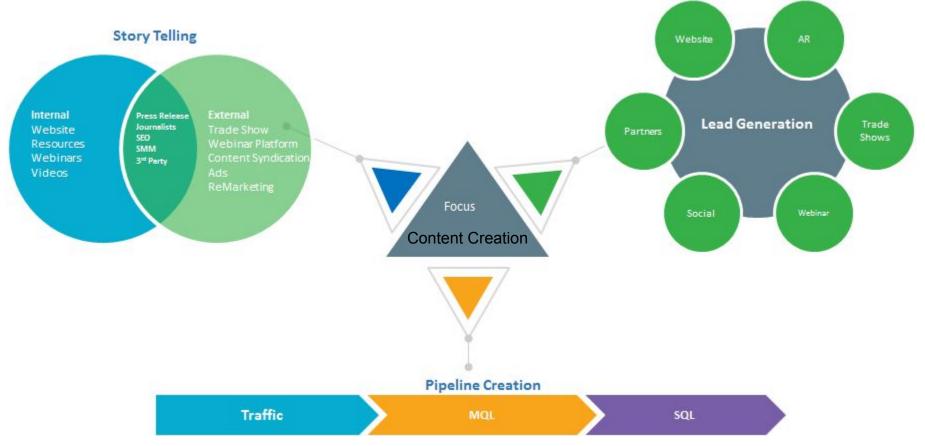


#### to bring **Product <=> Market** fit for Sales, Marketing, Alliances & Customer Success



Ref: Riversand Technologies (www.riversand.com)

### Content Communication, Lead Gen, Pipeline Creation



Ref: Riversand Technologies (www.riversand.com)

#### **Content Creation and Communication**



Articles, Whitepapers, Blogs & Landing page Speaking at Conferences

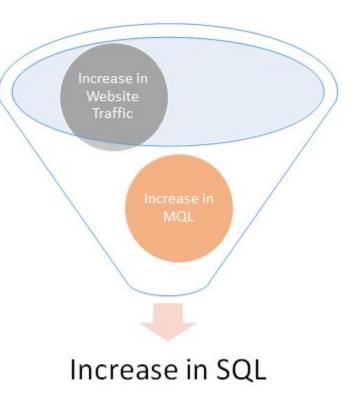
Customer Advocacy

#### Lead Generation

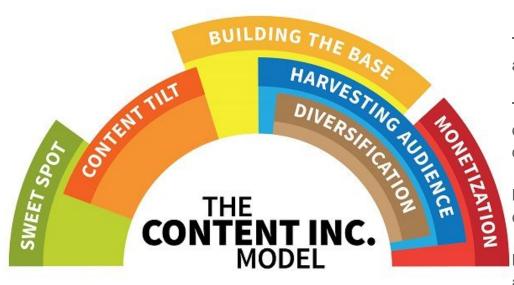


Increased Marketing Engagement

Inbound Lead Generation through Digital interventions – Search, Social, Webinars, ABM, Retargeting



Ref: Riversand Technologies (www.riversand.com)



**The Sweet Spot** - Mixing a Knowledge area or skill with a passion area

**The Content Tilt** - Looking at traditional content niche defined as slightly off-center, to create a true differentiation area

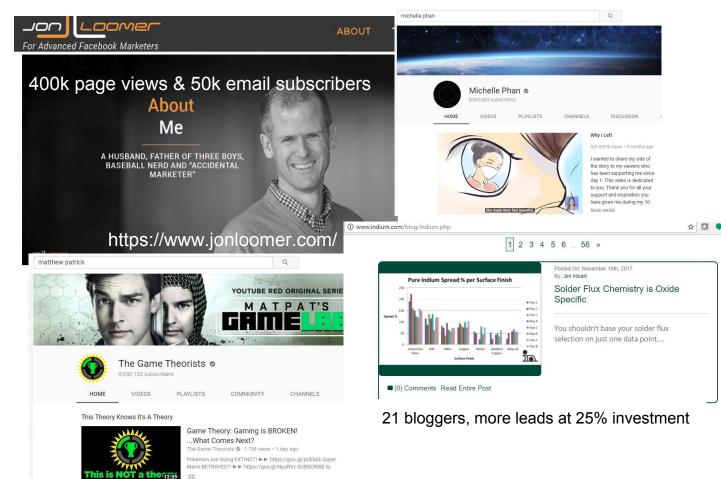
**Building the base** - Consistent publishing in one core channel

**Harvesting Audience** - Converting the publishing activity to the asset of subscribers

**Diversification** - At the proper time, expanding the publishing process to additional channels

**Monetization** - Monetizing the audience through the selection of products or services that will be the source of revenue and profit for the business

### Successful Content Marketers



Ref: The Content Inc: Joe Pulizzi

### Very successful content marketers that I follow

C

Secure https://labs.openviewpartners.com

I'm a partner at Redpoint. I write daily, data-driven blog posts about key questions facing startups. I co-authored the book, Winning with Data. Join more than 20,000 others receiving these blog posts by email. email address Subscribe TOMASZ The Parallel Between Cryptocurrency And **TUNGUZ** Continentals venture capitalist at redpoint pence. Ibreey 🖬 in ☆ 0

OPEINVIE<sup>®</sup> Started in 2009, now has more than 35k+ subscribers

## **OPENVIEW LABS**

Insights, actionable advice & founder interviews aimed at

helping you grow your expansion stage software company.

### Your Content Strategy is Also your Recruiting Strategy

Imagine that the ideal candidate finds an article that you published in an outside publication. As she reads the article, she develops a deeper understanding of your industry niche.

Clicking through to your social media presence, she finds herself immersed in your team's content. Your blog posts, LinkedIn discussions, and tweets come together to create a clear picture of what it's like to work at your company. The candidate feels a sense of connection to your corporate culture and decides to send in her résumé.

### Some books on Content Marketing

CONTENT INC.

Bestselling Author of

EPIC CONTENT MARKETING

HOW ENTREPRENEURS USE CONTENT TO BUILD MASSIVE AUDIENCES AND CREATE RADICALLY SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSES

> JOE PULIZZI Founder and CEO Content Marketing Institute

FOREWORD BY BRIAN CLARK, FOUNDER, COPYELOBEER MEDIA

