Parallax Communications Content first.



# Content Tactics: Putting Your Strategy Into Action

### Pamela Kostur Parallax Communications

STC Summit 2012, Rosemont IL

# Critiquing content

### I spend a lot of time looking at content

👡 l do it for work

And, because I can't help it

### It's not hard to find confusing content, or content that's just weird







© Parallax Communications 2012

Content first.

#### Ingredients

#### Dark Chocolate and Salted Caramel Ganache

- 1 cup sugar (250 ml)
- 2 tablespoons water (30 ml)
- 1/2 cup butter (125 ml)
- 1 cup 35 % cream (250 ml)
- 1 cup good quality dark chocolate, chopped (250 ml)

#### Directions

#### Dark Chocolate and Salted Caramel Ganache

 In a saucepan, melt the sugar with the water on low heat until it becomes a caramel color liquid, approximately 6 to 8 minutes. Add the butter and stir until it's all incorporated. Add the cream and stir until it becomes a thick and rich caramel. Add the chocolate and stir until it's melted and incorporated in the caramel. Remove from heat. Let cool and reserve in an airtight container.



Where's

the salt?

Self serve options Digital Voice

Website

Contact us 👻

#### Home + Support + Home phone + Calling features

#### How to use Three-Way Calling on my Bell Home phone

#### What is Three-Way Calling?

Three-Way Calling lets you talk with two people in two different locations, at the same time, or talk privately with one party while the other holds. Three-Way Calling is available on a pay-per-use basis (charges apply).

#### Using Three-Way Calling

- Put the first person on hold by pressing the Link or Flash button (check your phone manual if not labelled on your dial pad). Press \*71 or dial 1171. Listen for three short beeps followed by regular dial tone.
- Dial the number of the second person. When they answer, press the Link/Flash button again to connect all three parties. (You may need to press the button on the receiver, depending on what type of phone you have.)
- If the number of the third party is busy or does not answer, or if you dial the wrong number, press the Link or Flash button twice to return to the original call.

### Potential to reuse content

20

#### PDF available on website

#### **Three-Way Calling**

Talk to two people in two different locations at the same time.

Three-Way Calling service lets you arrange special events, chat with friends or family. Talk with two people in two different locations, across town or across the country; at the same time or consult privately with one party while the other holds.

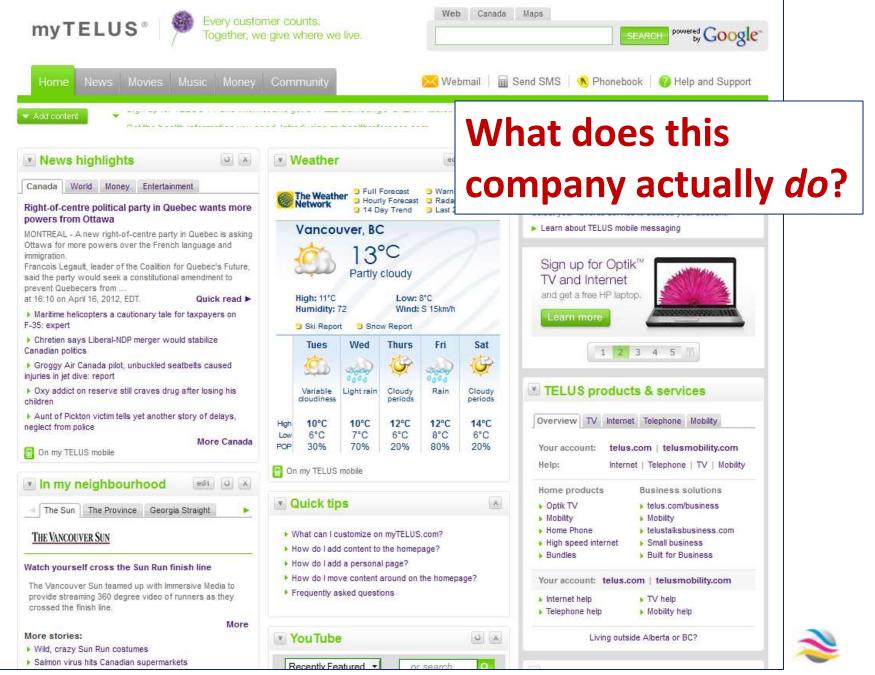
#### How to use Three-Way Calling<sup>III</sup> service:

- While on a call (or after placing the first call) put the party on hold briefly by pressing the Link or Flash button. Listen for three short beeps followed by regular dial tone. Press \*71.
- Dial the number of the second party you wish to call. When the third person answers you can either briefly press the Link or Flash button to connect all three parties immediately or consult privately and press the Link or Flash button when finished to return to the original call.
- If the number of the third party is busy or does not answer, or if you dial the wrong number, press the Link or Flash button twice to return to the original call.

#### Hints & Tips

- Either of the called parties can hang up at any time without interrupting the call. The party establishing the three-way call cannot hang up without terminating the call.
- Visual Call Waiting and Call Waiting services will not work when you establish a Three-Way Calling call. The caller will hear a busy signal or be routed to Call Answer service if the called party subscribes to Call Answer service.
- Three-Way Calling calls made to long distance numbers are also subject to applicable long distance charges.
- When Three-Way Calling service is used on a Pay-Per-Use basis, charges apply when calls are answered in person or by answering devices (95¢ per use up to a monthly maximum of \$8.00).





© Parallax Communications 2012

Content first.

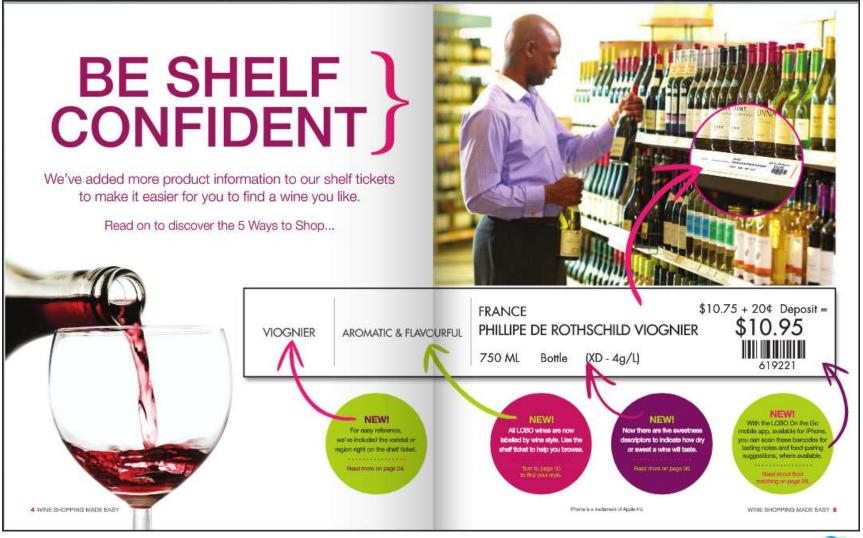
# Can you distinguish among these business solution categories?

Business solutions

- telus.com/business
- Mobility
- telustalksbusiness.com
- Small business
- Built for Business



### This is really good!





© Parallax Communications 2012

Content first.

# Good content doesn't **just happen**. You need to **plan** for it.



# Your plan must consider...

### What content?

- For which initiatives and projects?
- For whom?
- What do you want them to know/do?
- Now can the content help the users, and your organization?



# Document your plan

- Include answers to your questions
- Summarize audiences and objectives
- Outline what content goes where
- State exactly what you will need from whom, and when
  - 👡 Resources

👡 Time

- Provide timelines for what you need and for what you'll deliver
- Write it in terms everybody understands



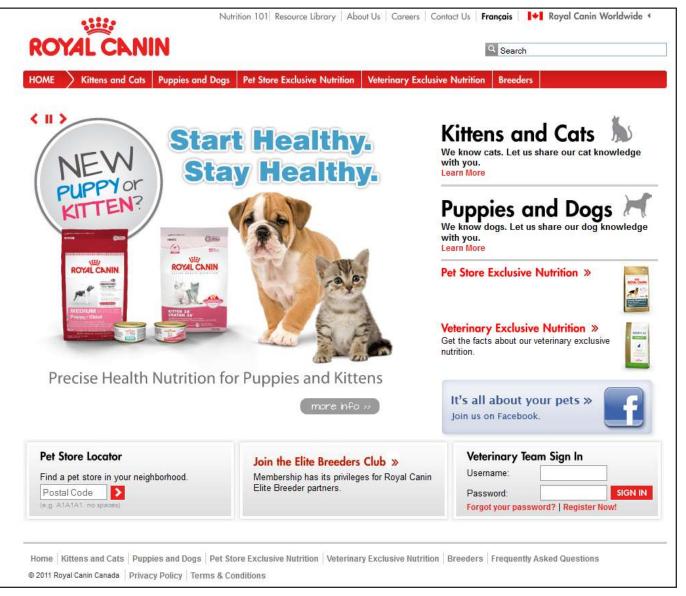
### From plan...

Note: The content plan focuses on what content belongs where, but does not list all the navigational elements, or describe how the pages will "behave," e.g., where all the links reside and how they work. These elements will be outlined in the site map and wire frame.

Section	Type of content	Rationale
Home page	<ul> <li>Rotating innovation messages (similar to the US site)</li> <li>Feature stories, changed monthly/weekly (could link to stories in PetFirst, e.g., read more about [item] in this month's PetFirst)</li> <li>Interactive forms:         <ul> <li>retailer search</li> <li>breeder search</li> <li>PetFirst subscription</li> </ul> </li> <li>Logins for:         <ul> <li>Vets</li> <li>Breeders</li> </ul> </li> <li>Navigation to all areas of the site, including the ability to go right to the dog or cat section</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Supports all users</li> <li>Accommodates breeders and vets who want to go right to log in</li> <li>Accommodates retail consumers whose sole purpose in visiting is to find a retailer</li> <li>Encourages a dialog with Royal Canin</li> <li>Doesn't come across as "corporate"; focuses or consumer first instead of company first (as opposed to web sites that feature the corporation upfront)</li> </ul>



### To product...





© Parallax Communications 2012

Content first.

# Writing guidelines critical

- Don't forget about specifying how the content should be structured and written
- Writing guidelines spell out how to write a piece of content
- Writing guidelines help to make content usable and reusable



#### **Content Type: Testimonial**

Testimonials are quotes from customers who have good things to say about the product and how it has helped their pet. Their purpose is to show potential customers what existing customers have to say about a product, and to reinforce Royal Canin's innovative approach. They are informal and friendly in tone.

#### Sections

Testimonials contain the following sections. Items in red mandatory.

- **Title**: The title of a testimonial is a quote that sums up the content of the testimonial. It is positive and exclamatory. The title is selected from the testimonial content.
- Quote: Brief statement (about 50 to 100 words) that illustrates the benefit of the product to the pet it was purchased for.
- Image: A photo/graphic related to the testimonial. It must be in keeping with Royal Canin's policy of non anthropomorphic images.
- Name: The name (first name) and location (city, province) of the person who submitted the testimonial.
- **Date**: The date the article is published/posted to the web. (Not for printed version, but required as metadata.)
- **Expiry date**: The date the article should be archived/refreshed. (Not for printed version, but required as metadata.)



#### **Content Type: FAQ**

FAQs are used to answer frequently asked/anticipated questions, grouped into categories. FAQs are intended to help customers get quick answers to questions that other customers have already asked, the assumption being that if several customers ask the same/similar questions, other customers will also want to know. Answers to FAQs are generally short (three to five lines) and can also include links to additional resources/information.

Information contained in a FAQ should also reside elsewhere on the site. Users may not go to the FAQ and if the information is only in the FAQ, users could miss valuable information.

#### Sections

The FAQ content type contains the following sections. Items in red are mandatory:

- Title: The FAQ category (e.g., Ingredients, Feeding Guidelines )
- **Question**: The question (e.g., Why is my cat gaining weight eating the amount indicated in the feeding guidelines?)
- Answer: The answer to the question and may include links to related resources information. The answer must also appear elsewhere on the site. The related content on the site could be tagged (using metadata) for inclusion in the FAQ so the same content is pulled into the answer, eliminating the need to rewrite it, or copy and paste it.
- Image: This is a graphic related to the question/answer. Can appear wherever required in the FAQ structure.
- Learn more: Link to ask a further question if this didn't answer your question.
- Link list: May include links to related resources/information in addition to the links that may be included in the answer.
- **Date**: The date the item is published/posted to the web. (Not for printed version, but required as metadata.)
- **Expiry date**: The date the item should be archived/refreshed. (Not for printed version, but required as metadata.)



# Implement your plan

- It can be as simple as a kick-off meeting or phone call
- Everybody has to know what they're responsible for, and when
- You need to practice persuasion



# Persuasion is all about relationships



# Sell your plan

- Create a connection
- 🥆 Be authentic
- 🥆 Be honest
- 🥆 Be reciprocal

Excellent book. I highly recommend it!

Dickinson, Arlene. Persuasion. HarperCollins, 2011.



# Content initiatives must be...

- Understandable and relevant to business executives
- Connected to business outcomes
  - $\sim$  Introduction of new products and services
  - Improved customer loyalty and satisfaction
  - Increased gross margins
  - Increased market share



Demonstrate how **content initiatives** contribute favorably to these outcomes



# Timing is everything!



### What's going on in your organization?

- Are they downsizing?
- Launching new products?
- Going through a financial crisis?

### Lots to **consider**. Do your **research**.



## Consider your organization's maturity\*

- 🥆 Winging it
- 🥆 Figuring it out
- 🔨 Competent
- 🔨 Disciplined
- 🥆 Fully aligned

\*Based on JoAnn Hackos' **excellent** work on the **process maturity model**. Check it out here: The Center for Information-Development Management, *Best Practices*, Volume 6, Number 4, August 2004, www.infomanagementcenter.com/pdfs/Hackos\_IPMM\_04\_update.pdf



 $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$  Parallax Communications 2012

# If you're winging it...

- Authoring is "on the fly"
- Quality of writing varies
- No editorial standards or peer reviews
- Technology selected without a content plan
- Very little collaboration



# If you're figuring it out...

- Simple content structures, but not enforced
- Some content reuse, but not managed
- Some collaboration, but not formal
- Some resistance to change
- Some quality assurance, but not standardized



# If you're competent...

- Document structures implemented
- Writing guidelines in place
- Management advocates quality content
- Content reuse in place, and managed
- Planning and quality assurance are part of every project, from inception to delivery
- Metrics become part of your vocabulary



# If you're disciplined...

- Document structures enforced
- Content reuse goes beyond writing group
- Technology is leveraged to support ongoing developments with content
- Management is fully supportive of the group and aware of the value they provide
- The group works together cohesively



# If you're fully aligned...

- Content is fully aligned with the business needs and users' requirements
- Content strategy is documented and revisited iteratively
- Content is valued throughout the company
- Content reflects positively on all aspects of the business
- Members of the writing team are active advocates of quality



# How do you know you're successful?



# There is **no foolproof way** to measure content effectiveness



# Here are some tips

- > Don't worry about exact numbers
- Know what you want to measure
- Identify the content's function
- Describe the content's characteristics
- Assign values to content functions & characteristics



# Then, you're set to measure

- Measure in different ways
- Establish a baseline
- Measure regularly
- 🔨 Watch your budget
- Get your peers to help you



data synchronization, changing conflict synchronization tool of the BlackBerry®	r during organizer data synchronization are resolved by turning off wireless resolution options, and synchronizing organizer data using the Desktop Software. For more information about managing conflicts that occur see the Help in the BlackBerry Desktop Software.
Did this help you? Yes No Um, no	Manage data synchronization conflicts         You can change how conflicts that occur during organizer data synchronization are resolved by turning off wireless synchronization tool of the BlackBerry © Desktop Software. For more information about managing conflicts that occur during organizer data synchronization, see the Help in the BlackBerry Desktop Software.         Next topic: Calendar options       Previous topic: About synchronization conflicts         Previous topic: About synchronization conflicts       Thank you for your feedback!         Please tell us more. « Hide       While we will not respond to your comments directly, we will use the information you provide to improve our support resources.       You want me to tell you more? 2000 characters worth?         Legal Notice:       2000         By posting, uploading, inputting, providing or submitting any information to this site, you consent to Read More »       Send



# From plan to process

- Being successful requires processes to support your strategy
  - Content creation
  - Review and approval
  - Translation/localization
  - Delivery/publishing
  - Maintenance/retirement



# Tactics for planning a strategy

- Understand that your content has value
- Assess your content
- Do everything in your power to maximize its value
- Understand that no matter how hard you try, your content may fall short
- Understand that a project is never just a project



# Tactics for moving beyond strategy

- Ask the right questions
  - $\sim$  At the right time
- Pose them to the right people
  - $\sim$  In the right way
- Connect content initiatives to business
   outcomes
- Measure your efforts
- Put processes in place to help you succeed



# Content. Users.

# Strategy

# Context. Tactics.



# Join the **discussion** on LinkedIn.





# Pamela Kostur

pkostur@parallax.ca

@Pamela\_Kostur

647.889.1459

parallax.ca

