Always Be Testing Getting Started with Google Website Optimizer

John Quarto-vonTivadar Chief Thinking Officer FutureNow, Inc. johnq@futurenowinc.com

Standing In for John

- John could not make it
- We'll try to answer questions, but...
- We'll defer some questions and get back to you afterwards
- Terminology
 - #define Test Experiment
 Test is many orgs means QA organization

Outline

- Why Test Online What's wrong?
- Types of Online Problems to be tested
- Deciding What to test
- Online Tools for Testing
- Types of GWO Online tests
- Is It Worth It?

Why Test Online?

Is There Even a Problem?

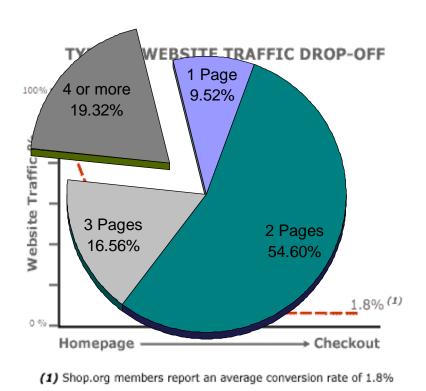
You BET!

Many sorts of web site problems can be fixed with experience...

...and those that cannot, can be fixed with testing.

No Scent = Lost Persuasive Momentum

Studying **drop-off** data indicates that would-be customers visiting a site lose the relevant "scent" of what put them on the trail to your site; without that scent they are unmotivated to go on.



Drop off after:1 page view9.52%2 page views54.60%3 page views16.56%

Based on a sample of 2 million visitors (source: OnStat.com, March 2004)

Page views	Drop-off	Cumulativ e
1 page view	9.52%	9.52%
2 page views	54.60%	64.12%
3 page views	16.56%	80.68%

Data source: OnStat.com, March 2004

Outline

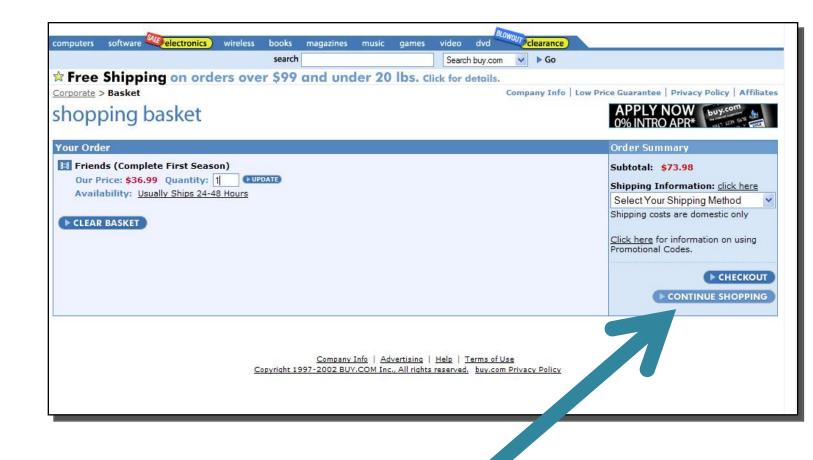
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Common Late-Funnel Problem: Flow From Page to Page

A Friendly

Purchase...

		search		Search VHS	💌 🕨 Go			
Free Shipping o	n orders over	\$99 and u	under 20 lbs	. Click for detail	s.			
me > Videos						Top 25 New	& Upcoming Disney Studio	Specia
op 25 -Up to 35% off	Friends (Com	plete First Se	eason)				Related Product	s
Lord of the Rings		Our Price	: \$36.99				Check the boxes and clip	ck "Buy
Harry Potter	FRIENDS	List Price	\$49.98				Now" to add to your bask	cet.
Moulin Rouge		You Save	\$12.99				Best of Frie	nds
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Justice League	Also Available:						Soundtrack \$13.99	
more	AISO AVAIIADIC.	000					Add	
	Be the first to	eview this vi	deo. Write a re	eview				
Coming Soon			Alter and a second second					
Harry Potter	Check and Managers			The second second second				
Snow Dogs	Description	Write a review	Cast & Crew	Technical Info				
Fast and the Furious	Now with foota	ge you've nev	er seen!					
Winnie the Pooh	Frankrister Ciffe C							
Monsters, Inc.	Features: Gift S	et, 4 Tapes						



....With an Unfriendly Shopping Cart

Common Late-Funnel Problem:

Perception of Time Needed

soný stýle

view account order status product service & support product registration

₩view cart⁷ Items 1 subtotal \$ 649.99 as low as \$17.00/ mo

shopping cart

> Billing & Shipping - Payment

Part 1: Please verify your billing/shipping information and select "Update Order". Part 2: Review the grand total for your order including shipping and applicable taxes. Part 3: Select your payment method below.

Part 1: Verify Billing & Shipping Address

BILLING ADDRESS

If your billing and shipping address are the same, simply verify the "Billing Address" column directly and continue down to review your order.

first name *
last name *
street address *
apt. # / suite #
city or town *
county *
State * Zip *
✓
phone number * ext.
email address *
-
* Indicates required information

SHIPPING ADDRESS

Only if different than Billing Address

If your shipping address is different than your billing address fill in the "Shipping Address" column below, select the "update order" button, and continue down to review your order.

first name *	
last name *	
street address *	
apt. # / suite #	
city or town *	
county *	
State * Zip *	
×	
phone number *ext	
* Indicates required information	
If you have added shipping information, seled	t
"Update Order" below.	



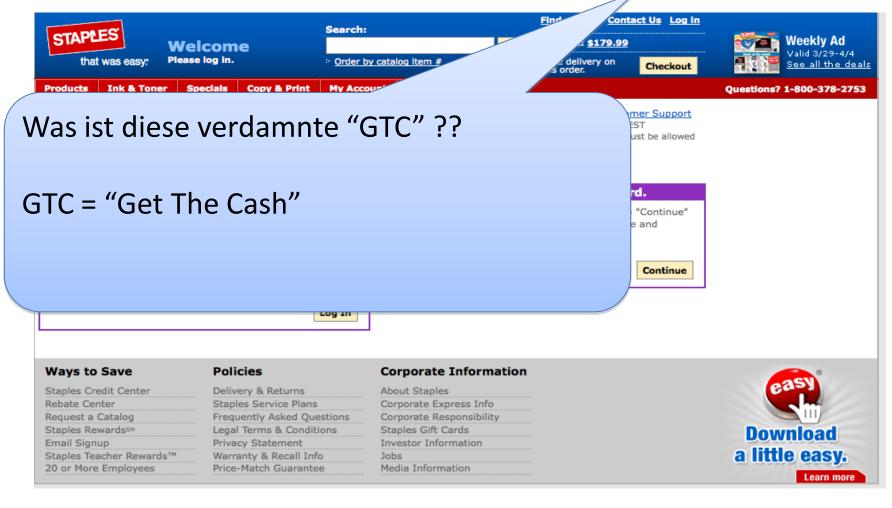
Not That Long – It's All About Perception

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Indicates required information "G elect "Update Order" to make any changes to sur billing information, or to calculate your order tal below including applicable sales tax.	ipdate Order" belov.	
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(update order)	clear shipping form) (update only	mare below
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art 2: Preview Grand Total		
	qty unit price	subtotal
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	ITEMS(6) SUBTOTAL	\$ 649.99
	GRAND TOTAL at low at \$17.00/ Finanting Database	\$ 649.99 \$ 649.99 mark being
art 3: Select Your Payment Method		*
lease select your payment type from the drop	Sony Financial Services Why Pay Cash? 12 Months Same As Cash Learn more about <u>Sony Financing</u>	N
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Common Late-Funnel Problem: Setting Expectations

Order Summa Cart items:	ary:		
Shipping: Sales tax: (NY 8.375%) Total:	\$16.95 \$4.99 \$1.84 \$23.78	Shipping to: change Bryan Eisenberg 2401 East 23rd Street Brooklyn, NY 11235 USA	About how long before I get my package? 4 to 8 business days How did we calculate this? Pre-shipment lead time:
1 hours (HL	ay. \$16.95 e 306731) Pre-shipment I	mary: change each. Lead time: usually 24 ead time: 24 hours. ip in a single package.	usually 24 hours + Delivery transit time: 3 to 7 business days = Estimated total time: 4 to 8 business days
	LIVERY - sh business days	ipped by variety of carriers. to pre-shipment lead time shown in	All items will ship in a single package
Payment info Paid by Credit change payment m Last 4 digits of can 1027, expires 5/200 change credit card	Card ethod d are	Billing info: <u>change</u> Bryan Eisenberg 2401 East 23rd Street Brooklyn, NY 11235 USA	

Common Late-Funnel Problem: CRM instead of GTC



Common Late-Funnel Problem: The Never-ending Checkout

		Search:		Find a store Contact Us Log in	
STAPLES	Velcome		Go	📜 Cart: <u>\$179.99</u>	Weekly Ad Valid 3/29-4/4
that was easy: F	lease log in.	• Order by cat	alog item #	FREE delivery on this order.	See all the deals
Products Ink & Toner	Specials Copy & Prin	t My Account	Customer Service		Questions? 1-800-378-2753
C Secure Ch	eckout Enter Addr	esses Review O	& Pay Order Summary O	Live Customer Support M-F 8A-8P EST *Pop ups must be allowed to use chat	
*Indicates required	information.				
Where would you li	ke your order deliver	ed?			
Deliver to my address					
Deliver to a store near Participating stores can	r me (<u>Learn more</u>) not accept deliveries of select	oversize furniture it	tems.		
Billing Address		D	elivery Address		
Billing address must mate	h credit card.	E	Use Billing Address		
First Name:*		Fi	rst Name:*		
Last Name:*		La	ast Name:*		
Company Name:		Co	ompany Name:		
Address Line 1:*		Ad	ddress Line 1:*		
Address Line 2:		Ad	ddress Line 2:		
City:*		Ci	ity:*		
State:*	Please select	St	tate:*	Please select	
Zip Code:*	00000-0000	Zi	p Code:*	0000-0000	
Phone Number:*	(000)000-0000	Ph	none Number:*	(000)000-0000	
Extension:		Ex	xtension:		
		PI	ease note: Staples.com@ doe	es not ship to P.O. Boxes, APO/FPO,	

Alaska (AK), Hawaii (HI), Puerto Rico (PR), or international addresses.

Thank you, sir! May I have another?

City:*		City:*					
State:*	Please select	State:*	Please select				
Zip Code:*	00000-0000	Zip Code:*	00000-0000				
Phone Number:*	(000)000-0000	Phone Number:*	(000)000-0000				
Extension:		Extension:					
		Please note: Staples.c Alaska (AK), Hawali (H.	because, of course, we only sell to				
Email Address		h	nonest people!				
We require an email addres	s, so that we can communicate with ye		• •				
Email Address:*							
Retype email Address:*							
Yes, I would like to receive emails about special good and concerning offers from Staples.							
Character Verificatio	n						
Image:	тхубу	Can't see it? <u>Reload image.</u>					
Enter Characters:*			Fri. between 8 AM - 8 PM (EST), please oport" link. You can also order by phone at 8-2753).				
Save time next time-	-register now						
Create a staples.com® use	rname and we'll save your information	to make future orders easie	er. Fill out all the fields below.				
Username:		Already have a user name?					
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Yes, 3 FULL Screens of Forms!

Character Verification	on	
Image:	тхуву	Can't see it? <u>Reload image.</u>
Enter Characters:*		Still having problems? Mon Fri. between 8 AM - 8 PM (EST), please use the "Live Customer Support" link. You can also order by phone at 1-800-3STAPLE (1-800-378-2753).
Save time next time	-register now	
Create a staples.com® us	ername and we'll save your informati	on to make future orders easier. Fill out all the fields below.
Username:		Already have a user name?
Password:		Case sensitive, 6-12 characters long, cannot contain spaces or special characters. Retyped password must match.
Retype password:		
Password Reminder:	The city you were born in?	If you forget your password, this information will be used to help you to log in to our site.
Answer to your question:		
Remember me (You	will not be asked to login for future vi	sits)
Staples number:		Enter the Staples Rewards [®] number, customer number or tax exempt number you would like to apply to this order.
This Address is a:	Please select	
Type of Company:	Please select	
Number of employees:	Please select 🔽	
		Continue
Ways to Save	Policies	Corporate Information
Staples Credit Center	Delivery & Returns	About Staples

About Staples

Corporate Express Info

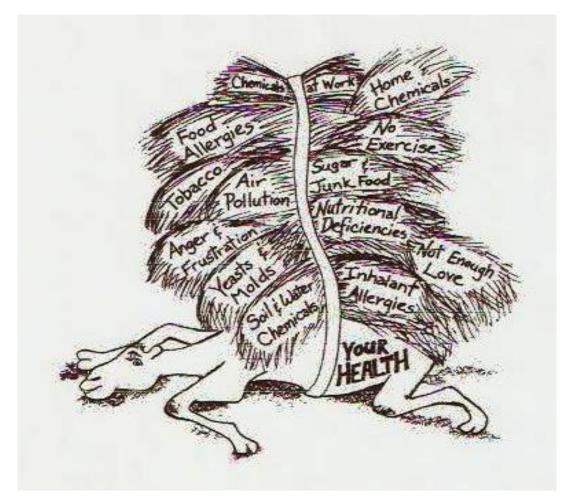
Staples Credit Center

Rebate Center

Delivery & Returns

Staples Service Plans

So Is the Shopping Cart *Really* Where the Problem Is?

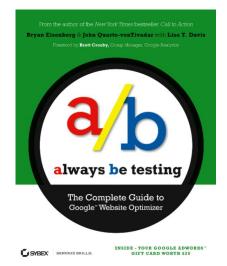


Or Was The Problem Already In Place Long Before Checkout?



Common "Early Funnel" Problem Categories

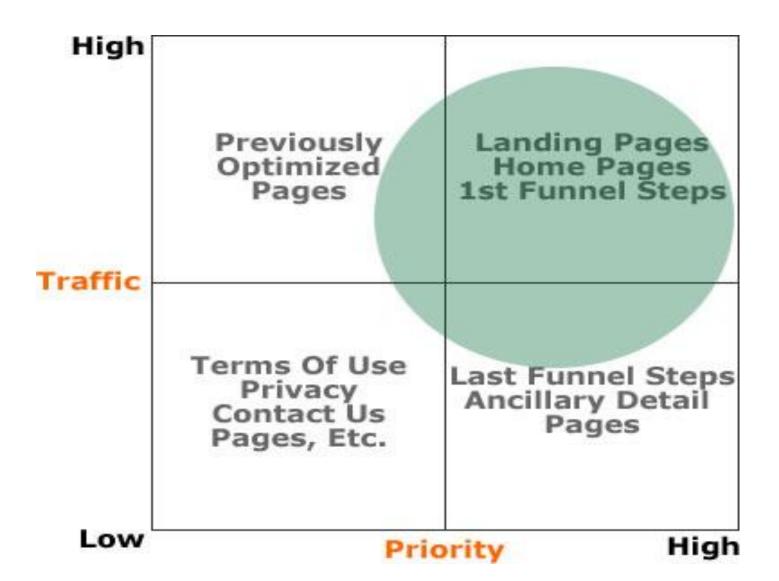
- Relevance/Planning
- Structural
- Momentum
- Communications
- Value



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What to test?



What To Work On... ...if You Have Buy In

- Your Top 5 High Bounce Rate
 Pages
- •Your Top 5 High Exit Rate Pages
- Your Top 5 Lowest Time
 Spent Pages

Your Top 5 key pages (i.e., checkout, cart, registration, top product)



Setting Up Your Test

- 1. Create a Descriptive Name
 - 1. "Call to Action Button Test: Improving Product Pages"
 - 2. Identify if this is site wide test or for a campaign
- 2. Define Your Goal (OEC Overall Evaluation Criterion. Ronny)
 - 1. "I want to increase conversion ... "
 - 2. How will you measure this success or failure? What are the Key Performance Indicators (KPI)?
- 3. How Will You Achieve your Goal?
 - 1. What are the variables?
 - 2. What are the variations?
- 4. Define the Control
 - 1. What is your prediction/hypothesis?
 - 2. What are you basing that on?
- 5. Let the Test Run
- 6. Measure & Analyze!
 - 1. Did we improve or not?
 - 2. What did we learn?
 - 3. What do we do next?

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Online Tools for Testing

 Free or low-cost: Google Website Optimizer (google.com/websiteoptimizer), HiConversion.com

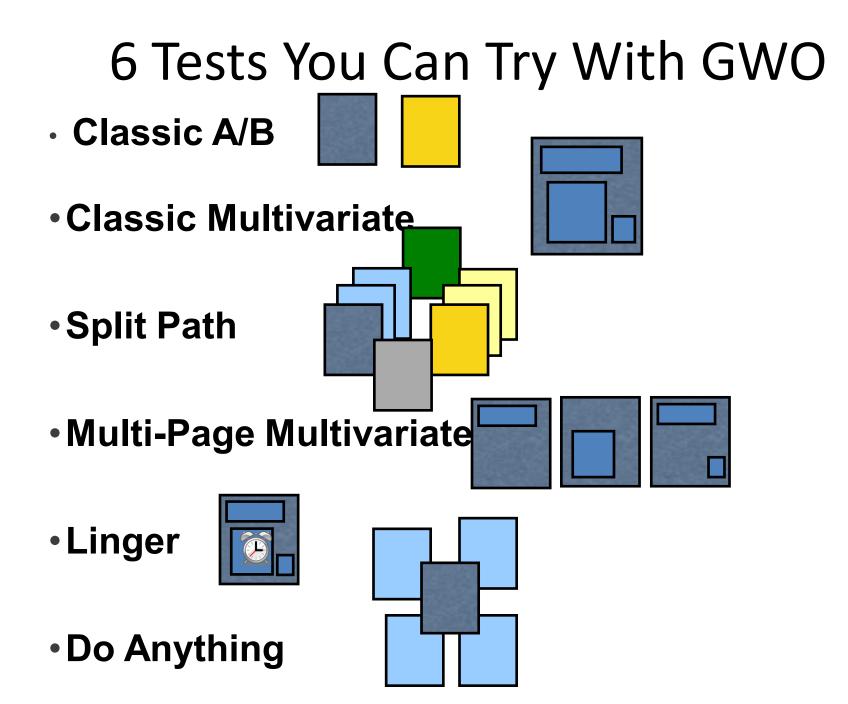
• Commercial: SiteSpect, Omniture Test & Target, etc.

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3 scripts key to GWO

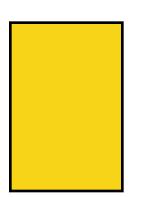
- Control script has visitor been here before?
 If so, show the same combo again
- Tracking script if visitor hasn't been here before, serve up a combination and increment combination count. [Assumes OEC = page conversion]
- Conversion script did the visitor get to the conversion page? If so, increment the successful conversion count, and mark test as complete for this visitor.



Classic A | B

- Find winning single page among various similar pages
- Test conversion on a complete single-page basis
- Optimizer experiences not just pages

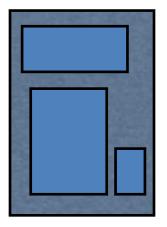




- 1. Add A/B control script to top of test page
- 2. Add tracking script to bottom page
- 3. Add conversion script to bottom of goal page
- 4. Specify variation pages
- 5. Click launch

The Multivariate Section Test

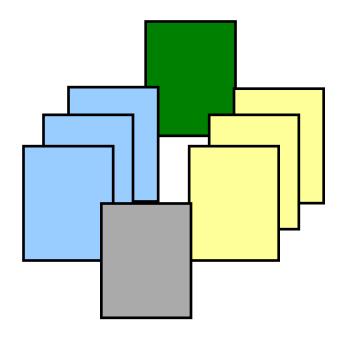
- Find winning Combination of varying sections
- Test conversion success of various combinations of variations



- 1. Add control script to top of test page
- 2. Add section script to each part of a page to be tested
- 3. Create variation of each section
- 4. Add tracking script to bottom page
- Add conversion script to bottom of goal page
- 6. Click launch

The Split Path

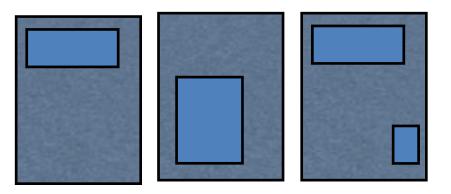
- Find winning series of pages
- Test conversion stories that go beyond page sections
- Optimizer experiences not just pages



- 1. Add A/B control script to top of test page
- 2. Add section script to preliminary call to action pointing to original path
- 3. Create variation of preliminary call to action pointing to alternate path
- 4. Add tracking script to bottom page
- 5. Add conversion script to bottom of goal page
- 6. Click launch

The Multi-Page Multivariate

- Optimize a single path
- Discover cross-page interactions



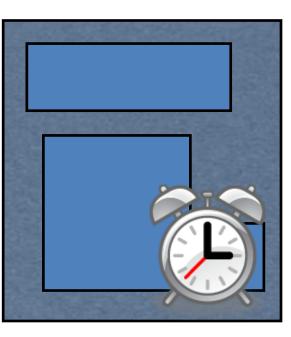
 Add control script to top of all pages

- 2. Add section script to each page's sections
- 3. Add tracking script to bottom of first page
- 4. Add conversion script to bottom of goal page
- Create a "fake" test page containing all sections to bypass validation
- 6. Click launch

The Linger

- Find content that people will actually read
- Only requires one

page

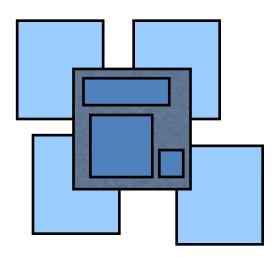


1. Add control script to top of page

- 2. Add section scripts
- 3. Add tracking script to bottom of page
- Add timer conversion script to bottom of page
- 5. Validate a standalone goal page
- 6. Click launch

The Do Anything

- Find content that engages people
- Isn't limited to a "goal"



- 1. Add control script to top of page
- 2. Add section scripts
- 3. Add tracking script to bottom of page
- 4. Add conversion script to all other pages or actions on the test page
- 5. Validate one of your goal pages
- 6. Click launch

Let's focus on the Multivariate Section Test (most useful)

• Example 1: single variable, 3 variations

Do You Agree With This Statement?:

"Bald Is Beautiful"

Do You Agree With This Statement?:

Absolutely! | agree!

"Bald Is Beautiful"

Do You Agree With This Statement?:

Absolutely! | agree!

"Bald Is Beautiful"

Absolutely! | agree!

Testing page sample

ez1_test.htm

<script>

```
function utmx_section(){}function utmx(){}
(function(){var k='1290392721',d=document,l=d.location,c=d.cookie;function f(n){
if(c){var i=c.indexOf(n+'=');if(i>-1){var j=c.indexOf(';',i);return c.substring(i+n.
                                                                                         Section
length+1, j<0?c.length:j)}}var x=f('__utmx'), xx=f('__utmxx'), h=l.hash;</pre>
d.write('<sc'+'ript src="'+
                                                                                         name
'http'+(l.protocol=='https:'?'s://ssl':'://www')+'.google-analytics.com'
+'/siteopt.js?v=1&utmxkey='+k+'&utmx='+(x?x:'')+'&utmxx='+(xx?xx:'')+'&utmxtime='
                                                                                         identified
+new Date().valueOf()+(h?'&utmxhash='+escape(h.substr(1)):'')+
'" type="text/javascript" charset="utf-8"></sc'+'ript>')})();
                                                                                         in page
</script>
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN">
<html>
<head>
   <title>EZ1 test</title>
</head>
<body>
<h2>Do You Agree With This Statement?:</h2>
<script>utmx_section("headcolor")</script>
                                                                                   Original
<h1 style="color: green">"Bald Is Beautiful"</h1>
</noscript>
                                                                                   simple
<a href="ezl_conversion.htm"><button>Absolutely! I agree!</button></a>
                                                                                   page html
</body>
</html>
                                                                                   code
<script>
if(typeof(urchinTracker)!='function')document.write('<sc'+'ript src="'+
'http'+(document.location.protocol=='https:'?'s://ssl':'://www')+
'.google-analytics.com/urchin.js'+'"></sc'+'ript>')
</script>
<script>
_uacct = 'UA-930047-11';
urchinTracker("/1290392721/test");
```

Control script

Tracking

script

Conversion page sample



See this test live http://www.johnquarto.com/GWOtests

Sample Results From GWO

Combinations Page Sections

Analysis for: Aug 21 2006 - Aug 21 2006

View: 📀 Best 23 Combinations 🔿 Worst 23 Combinations 👘 Download: 🗊 🖹 🏝 🖨 Print 🖲 Preview						
Combination	Estimated Conversion Rate Range [?]	Chance to Beat Orig. [?]	Chance to Beat All [?]	Observed Improvement [?]	Conversions / Impressions [?]	
<u>Original</u>	31.2% ± 3.0%	-	0.41%	-	125 / 401	
Combination 11	38.9%±3.1%	99.0%	85.4%	24.9%	160 / 411	
Combination 4	33.6%±3.0%	76.8%	4.12%	7.74%	133 / 396	
Combination 23	33.4%±2.8%	75.9%	2.82%	7.17%	153 / 458	
Combination 16	32.7% ± 2.9%	67.8%	1.56%	4.75%	144 / 441	
Combination 10	32.6% ± 2.9%	67.5%	1.69%	4.67%	139 / 426	
Combination 8	32.4%±2.9% ⊢	64.6%	1.30%	3.90%	137 / 423	
Combination 22	32.0% ± 3.0% ⊢	60.0%	1.03%	2.69%	129 / 403	
Combination 7	31.6%±2.8%	55.1%	0.45%	1.27%	143 / 453	
Combination 14	31.4%±2.8%	52.2%	0.41%	0.57%	137 / 437	
Combination 21	31.1% ± 2.9%	49.1%	0.40%	-0.20%	126 / 405	
Combination 18	30.3% ± 2.8%	39.1%	0.11%	-2.79%	130 / 429	

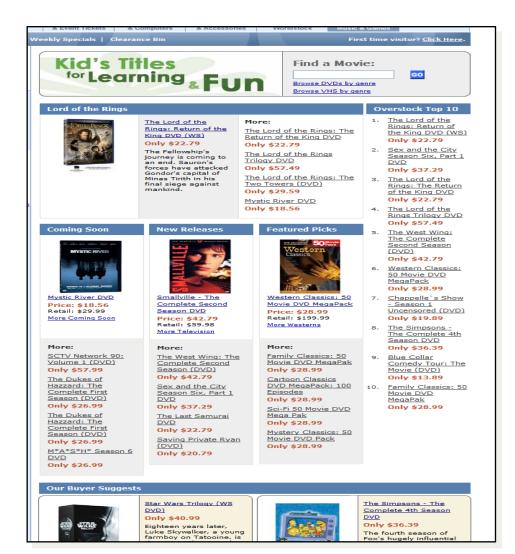
Useful free tool for online testing

- Firefox WebDeveloper toolbar (easy to kill off testing cookie, and see combinations)
- http://chrispederick.com/work/web-developer

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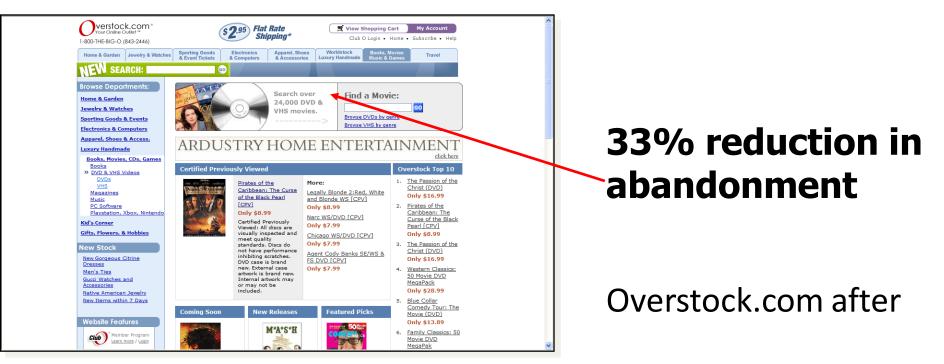
Doubt Testing is Worth It?



Overstock.com

before

\$25M/year (\$68K Daily) Gain



"I asked FutureNow to do a study of our web site...found something we had to fix immediately...and saw an **immediate 5% lift in our sales**."

- Patrick Byrne, CEO of Overstock.com

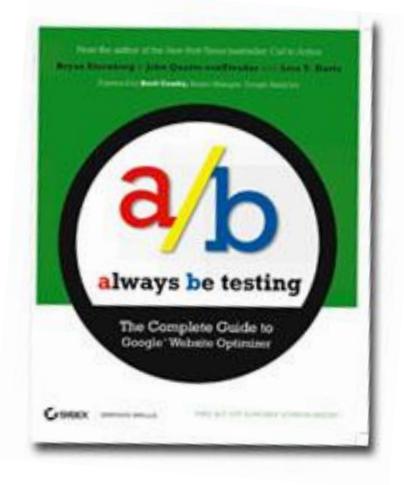
Thank You! I Wish I Were in Paris with You!!

John Quarto-vonTivadar Chief Thinking Officer, FutureNow

johnq@FutureNowInc.com

site: www.FutureNowInc.com blog: www.GrokDotCom.com

Latest Book: "Always Be Testing" available in bookstores everywhere ...and it's an Amazon Best-Seller!



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