

### **The Top Resource Guide from Virtual Pioneer**

#### **Table of Contents**

Introduction	2
Top Tools to Get Started.	
Set-Up Tools	
Content Creation	
Marketing	27
Other	

### Introduction

Ben Murray here, and thanks for subscribing and downloading your free report.

Now, there are hundreds of tools out there that will help you get your message across online, but for this short report I have decided to give you a list of some that will more than enough to get your site and business up and running online. Most of these tools will be focused for small to medium sized businesses and in fact if you are just starting out, you won't even need half of these resources to succeed.

This report is divided into five main sections. First, the 'Top Tools to Get Started' section outlines my favorite, essential tools and resources you need to get your site up quickly and get results fast. After these, the resources are divided up into three categories: 'Set-Up' (or tools needed to set up your site and business), 'Content Creation' (or tools used to produce your content and message), 'Marketing' (or tools used to help you market your message), and finally an 'Other' category for those items that didn't fit.

As you will find, many of these tools are free or very affordable. Have a question or want to add an amazing tool or resource here? Feel free to email our team at <a href="mailto:virtualpioneer88@gmail.com">virtualpioneer88@gmail.com</a>



Thanks for taking the time to read our report. To your online marketing success-Ben Murray

### **Top Tools to Get Started**

### BlueHost http://bluehost.com



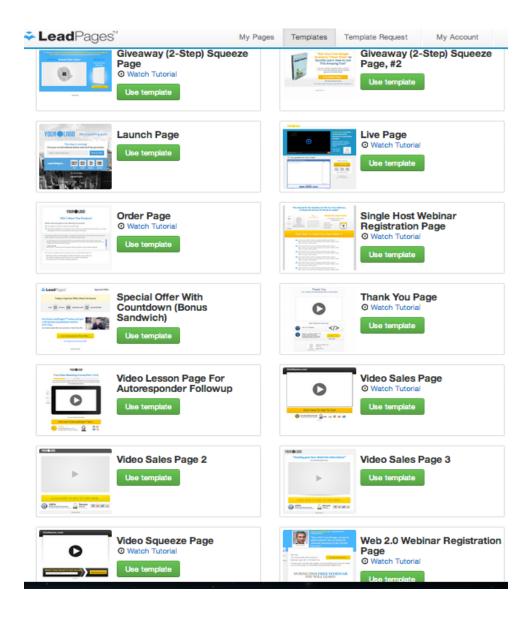
First, you need a place to host your site and a domain name where you can share your ideas and story from. Bluehost.com is one of the most reliable and affordable places to start starting around \$3.95 a month. It also comes with a free domain name with registration and a great admin panel that includes features like one click Wordpress installation.

Visit <a href="http://bluehost.com">http://bluehost.com</a> to signup and learn more.

#### **LeadPages**

### http://leadpages.net

Leadpages is a fast growing business that allows you to create 'lead pages' or opt-in pages to attain potential customer data such as their email by integrating your autoresponder. This will allow you to re-market to them in the future. Lead pages isn't just for regular opt-in pages, but can be used for launch pages, webinar opt-ins, 404 redirect pages and much more from inside their membership and to purchase from the marketplace.

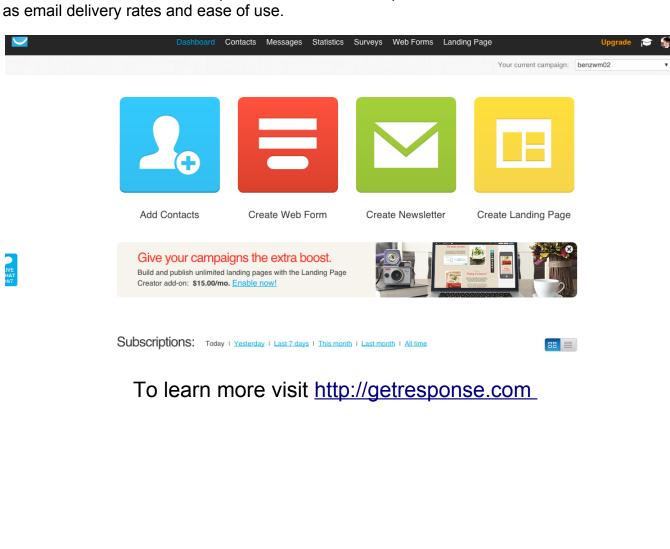


Visit <a href="http://leadpages.net">http://leadpages.net</a> to learn more.

#### **Get Response**

#### http://getresponse.com

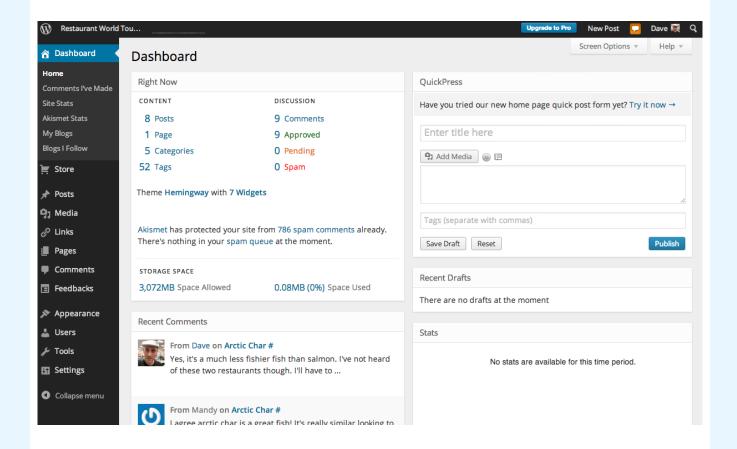
Email marketing has the highest ROI on average more than any other type of marketing medium or strategy today. It's essential if you want to have success online that you get an affordable but reliable auto-responder service. Get Response is one of, if not the best as far as email delivery rates and ease of use.



#### **Wordpress**

### http://wordpress.org

I still recommend the self-hosted version of Wordpress.org to create your site. This is the best blogging platform hands down with tons of plugins to optimize your site without having to be a tech guru. (This is different from the hosted <a href="http://wordpress.com">http://wordpress.com</a> which provides with you free hosting already.) If you really want to scale your business, you need to be in full control of your content management which the self-hosted Wordpress allows you to do.

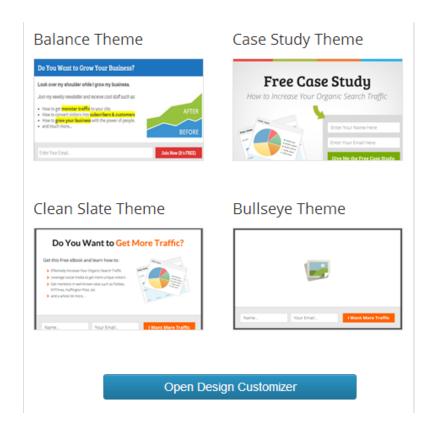


To lean more about Wordpress visit <a href="http://wordpress.org">http://wordpress.org</a>

### **Opt-in Monster**

#### http://optinmonster.com

Opt-in Monster allows you to create optin-forms that can pop-up when the a visitor lands on your page and exits your page along with a number of great features like light boxes and timers. Pop-ups can be annoying, but the truth is they work on entry and exit. Opt-in monster is a great alternative to something like Unbounce with is far more expensive.



To learn more visit <a href="http://optinmonster.com">http://optinmonster.com</a>

### **Set-Up Tools**

#### **Go Daddy**

#### http://godaddy.com

Go Daddy is a great place to purchase domains and store them. They offer many additional services such as hosting. This is one of the more secure places to host or store your domain.

Visit <a href="http://godaddy.com">http://godaddy.com</a> to learn more.

## BlueHost (listed again) <a href="http://bluehost.com">http://bluehost.com</a>

First, you need a place to host your site and a domain name where you can share your ideas and story from. Bluehost.com is one of the most reliable and affordable places to start. It also comes with a free domain name with registration and a great admin panel that includes features like one click Wordpress installation.

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Visit <a href="http://wordpress.net">http://wordpress.net</a> to learn more.

### ThemeForest <a href="http://themeforest.net">http://themeforest.net</a>

Once you install Wordpress, you need to choose a theme to install which will be the design of your website. Themeforest.net has one of, if not the largest selection of great wordpress templates to choose from. These themes are installed by independent designers who pay this business a fee each time they sell a copy of their theme.

Visit <a href="http://themeforest.net">http://themeforest.net</a> to learn more.

### StudioPress <a href="http://studiopress.com">http://studiopress.com</a>

Studio Press is another great resource for Wordpress themes. Unlike Themeforest, these theme designs all come from designers chosen by Studio Press and include a variety of excellent designs.

Visit <a href="http://studiopress.com">http://studiopress.com</a> to learn more.

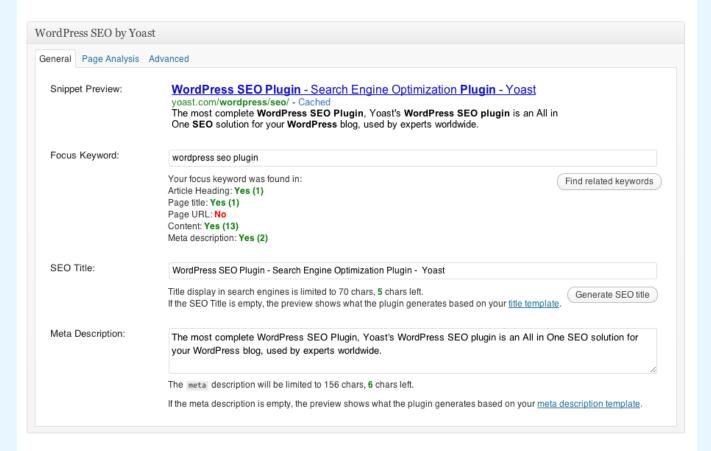
## Flare Plugin <a href="http://filament.io/flare">http://filament.io/flare</a>

Flare is a wordpress plugin which means it will enhance your wordpress site. Flare will allow you to install custom social share buttons that float next to your blog posts allowing users to share your content more.

To learn more, visit <a href="http://filament.io/flare">http://filament.io/flare</a>

### Yoast SEO Plugin <a href="https://yoast.com/wordpress/plugins/seo">https://yoast.com/wordpress/plugins/seo</a>

This allows for inbound SEO optimization of your pages to help them rank better in Google. Just search your Wordpress plugins section and click to install.



To learn more visit <a href="https://yoast.com/wordpress/plugins/seo">https://yoast.com/wordpress/plugins/seo</a>

### Discus http://discus.com

This is one of the best blog commenting plugins. It's important to have a great commenting system that allow users to get to know you and learn about your content you worked hard to create and share.

To learn more visit <a href="http://discus.com">http://discus.com</a>

#### **W3 Total Cache Plugin**

(Available via Wordpress search)

Another essential Wordpress plugin that allows your site to load faster.

To learn more about this plugin search your Wordpress inside plugins.

#### **Akismet Plugin**

(Available via Wordpress search)

This helps fight spam for your blog. An essential tool inside wordpress due to the amount of internet blogging spam today.

To learn more search your Wordpress inside plugins.

#### **Google Site Maps Plugin**

(Available via Wordpress search)

This sends a site map to Google for your site. This helps your pages get indexed and rank inside the Google search engine. Just search for this inside your Wordpress.

To learn more search your Wordpress inside plugins.

# LeadPages (mentioned above) <a href="http://leadpages.net">http://leadpages.net</a>

Leadpages is a fast growing business that allows you to create 'lead pages' or opt-in pages to attain potential customer data such as their email by integrating your autoresponder. This will allow you to remarket to them in the future. Lead pages isn't just for regular opt-in pages, but can be used for launch pages, webinar opt-ins, 404 redirect pages and much more from inside their membership and to purchase from the lead pages marketplace.

Visit http://leadpages.net to learn more.

#### **Optimizepress 2.0**

#### http://optimizepress.com

This is a Wordpress theme and plugin that allows you to create great looking squeeze pages, landing pages, webinar registration pages, and membership sites. Easy and quick to use. Similar to LeadPages only this is a wordpress plugin and has a different interface.



To learn more visit <a href="http://optimizepress.com">http://optimizepress.com</a>

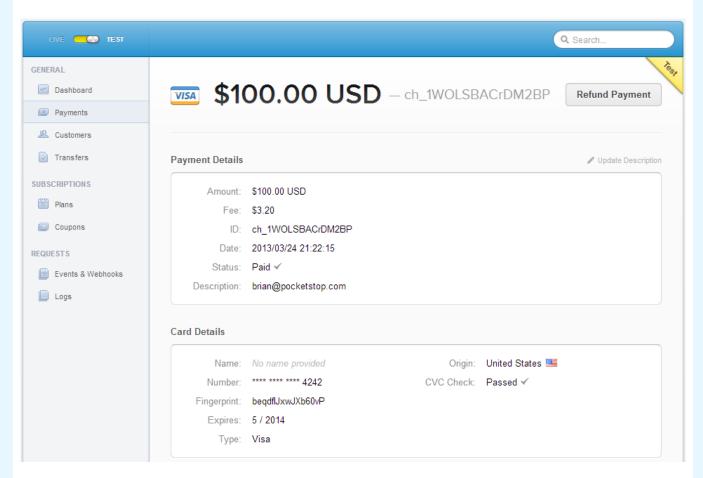
## Paypal http://paypal.com

Paypal is still one of the easiest and best ways to start accepting payments and donations for your site. This can integrate with many third party payment providers to allow for more advanced options.

To learn more visit <a href="http://paypal.com">http://paypal.com</a>

## Stripe <a href="http://stripe.com">http://stripe.com</a>

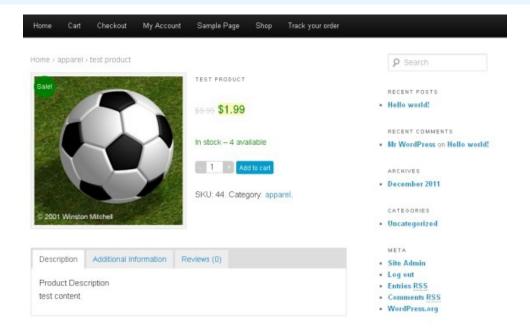
Stripe allows you to completely customize checkout pages. This is how you get the est looking and highest converting checkout pages.



To learn more visit <a href="http://stripe.com">http://stripe.com</a>

## WooThemes Http://woothemes.com/woocommerce

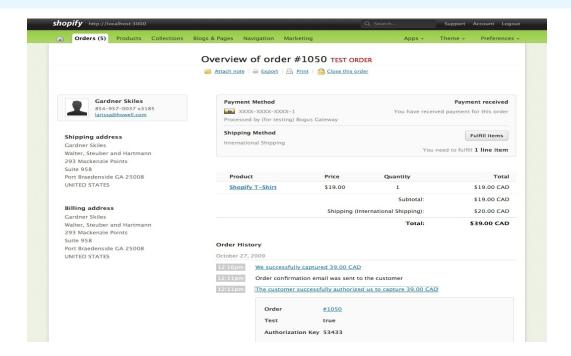
If you are interested in starting your own online store, this free plugin can help Set custom products to sell individually on Wordpress and purchase whatever integrations you need from the WooThemes site. Doesn't require you to need WooThemes.



To learn more visit <a href="http://woothemes.com">http://woothemes.com</a>

# **Shopify**<a href="http://shopify.com">http://shopify.com</a>

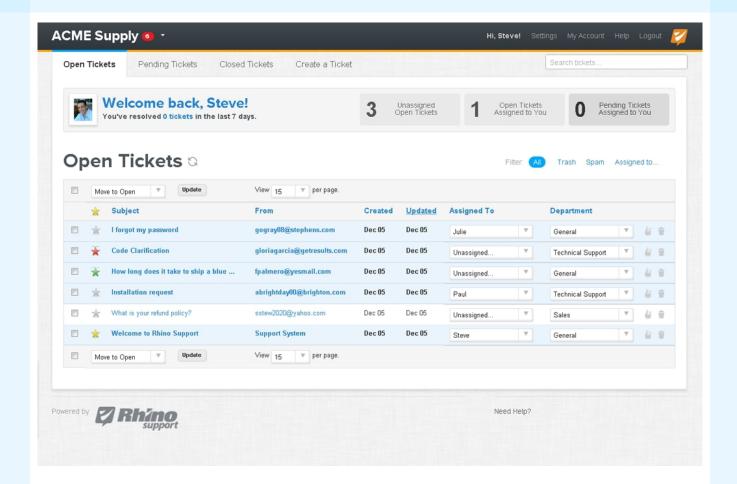
This is another great, affordable solution to help you set up your own online store.



To learn more visit <a href="http://shopify.com">http://shopify.com</a>

# Rhino Support <a href="http://rhinosupport.com">http://rhinosupport.com</a>

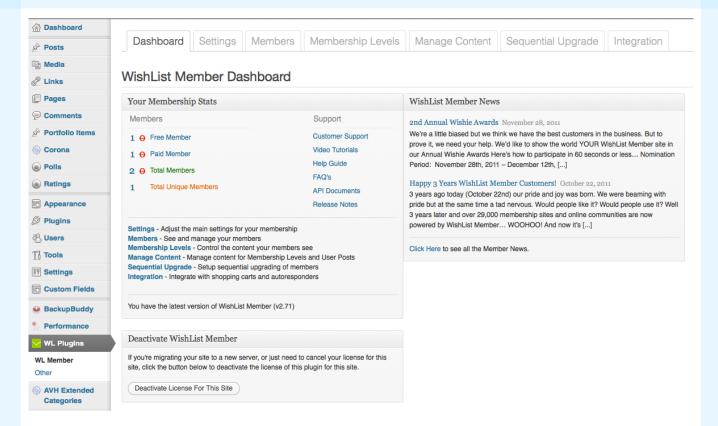
Set up customer service and all users to open tickets with Rhino Support. Much like the popular support system ZenDesk but not as expensive.



To learn more visit <a href="http://rhinosupport.com">http://rhinosupport.com</a>

# Wishlist Membership <a href="http://member.wishlistproducts.com">http://member.wishlistproducts.com</a>

This Wordpress plugin can turn any site into a secure and advanced membership home for your sites. One of, if not the best membership plugins, it is easy to use, and very affordable compared to other membership site generation software and plugins. Integrates with many CRM services and payment processors.



To learn more visit <a href="http://member.wishlistproducts.com">http://member.wishlistproducts.com</a>

### Harvest <a href="http://harvest.com">http://harvest.com</a>

This is a cloud based invoicing system. This can be accessed by you or team members in your business. This allows clients and other businesses pay instantly by credit card and collect money. Very important if you are in the consulting niche.

To learn more, visit <a href="http://harvest.com">http://harvest.com</a>

### **Content Creation**

# Photoshop <a href="http://adobe.com/photoshop">http://adobe.com/photoshop</a>

Although the learning curve may be a little high at first, after some practice you will be able to easily edit photos and designs yourself. You don't have to be a skilled graphic designer to save a lot of time and money with this tool.

To learn more, visit http://adobe.com/photoshop

### Gimp http://gimp.org

This is a free alternative to photoshop, although not as good. If you can't afford Photoshop this is a great alternative.

To learn more visit <a href="http://gimp.org">http://gimp.org</a>

#### Skitch

http://skitch.com

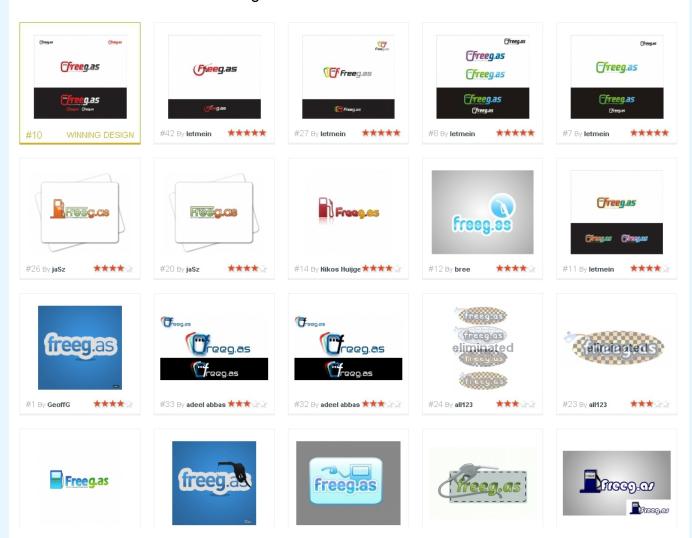
This free tool allows you to take screen shots on your computer and edit them quickly.

To learn more, visit <a href="http://skitch.com">http://skitch.com</a>

### 99 Designs

### http://99designs.com

99Designs can be an excellent service to crowd source any graphic design or website design. Need a website design update? Just post your project and choose the designs you like best from freelancers who submit designs.



To learn more, visit <a href="http://99designs.com">http://99designs.com</a>

# Camtasia Studio <a href="http://techsmith.net/camtasia">http://techsmith.net/camtasia</a>

Available for Mac and PC, this downloadable desktop program allows you to capture your screen as well as edit and export video. Very easy to use and great for tutorial videos.



To learn more, visit <a href="http://techsmith.net/camtasia">http://techsmith.net/camtasia</a>

## PowToon <a href="http://powtoon.com">http://powtoon.com</a>

PowToon is a free resource to create 'explainer' style videos for your content. If you're interested in using it on a regular basis with more features there is a pro version which is paid.



To learn more, visit <a href="http://powtoon.com">http://powtoon.com</a>

# Wistia Http://wistia.com

One of the best services for hosting your videos. If you want more in-depth analytics than just YouTube such as 'heat maps' to see how far your videos are being played, check it out.



To learn more, visit <a href="http://wisita.com">http://wisita.com</a>

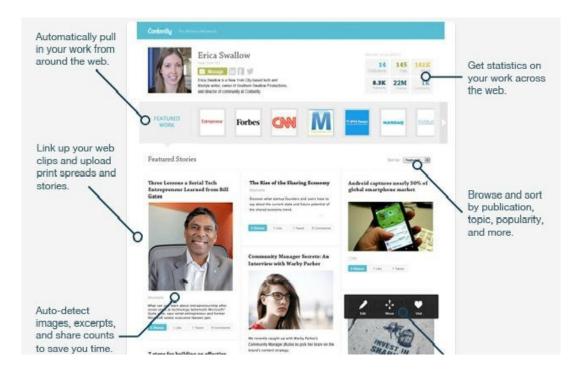
# Scrivener <a href="http://scrivener.com">http://scrivener.com</a>

This is a powerful word processor designed specifically for those who do a lot of writing. This can be used to organize blog posts, books, sales copy, and more.

To learn more, visit <a href="http://scrivener.com">http://scrivener.com</a>

## Contently <a href="http://contently.com">http://contently.com</a>

Contently offers quality writers to companies needing outsourced content written for their site or blog.



To learn more, visit <a href="http://contently.com">http://contently.com</a>

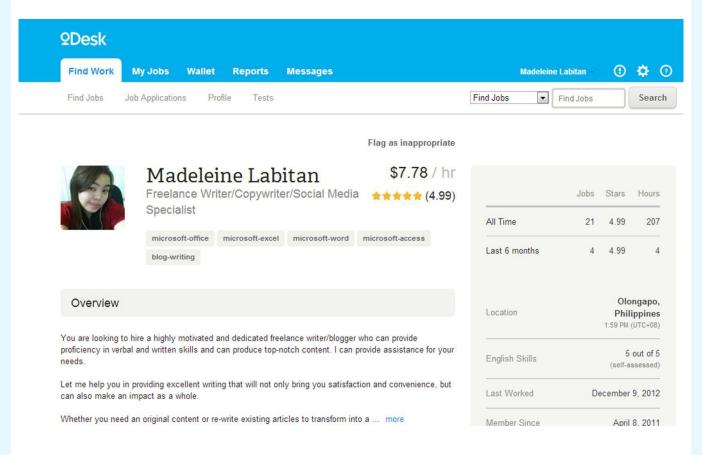
#### eLance http://elance.com

Outsourcing sites like Elance are becoming increasing filled with quality workers from all parts of the world. You can get a variety of projects completed quickly by posting a job and interviewing and hiring a freelancer to do it.

To learn more, visit <a href="http://eLance.com">http://eLance.com</a>

### Odesk http://odesk.com

Just like eLance this is a freelancing site to outsource tasks needed. Those looking for more quality software development and technical tasks are better to start at oDesk.



To learn more, visit <a href="http://odesk.com">http://odesk.com</a>

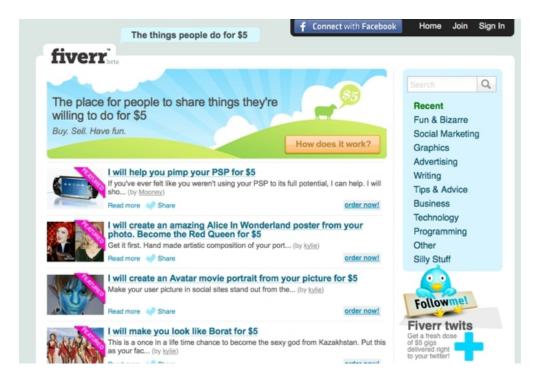
### Freelancer <a href="http://freelancer.com">http://freelancer.com</a>

Another outsourcing site which is an alternative to eLance and oDesk. If you're looking for a fast response to small tasks this is often a better alternative.

To learn more, visit <a href="http://freelancer.com">http://freelancer.com</a>

## Fiverr http://fiverr.com

Just about everything under the sun for only \$5. Often these jobs have 24 hour turn around time. However, be aware of the quality you are going to get for only paying \$5 for a job.



To learn more, visit <a href="http://fiverr.com">http://fiverr.com</a>

### Blubrry http://blubrry.com

A service that allows you to embed your podcast on your blog or site.

To learn more, visit <a href="http://blubrry.com">http://blubrry.com</a>

### Libsyn http://libsyn.com

Podcasting is becoming a more popular way to get your message our online, but first you have to have somewhere to host it. Libsyn is one of the best podcasting hosting services providing services to those just started out or more experienced.

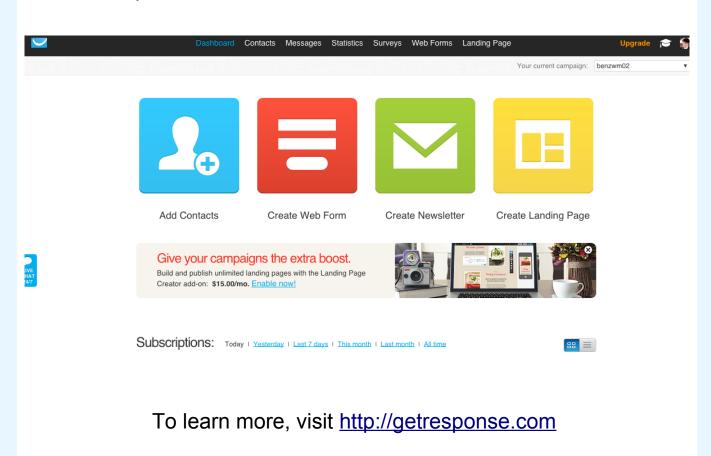
To learn more, visit <a href="http://libsyn.com">http://libsyn.com</a>

### Marketing

#### **Get Response**

#### http://getresponse.com

Email marketing has the highest ROI on average more than any other type of marketing medium or strategy today. It's essential if you want to have success online that you get an affordable but reliable auto-responder service. Get Response is one of, if not the best as far as email delivery rates and ease of use.



### Mail Chimp <a href="http://mailchip.com">http://mailchip.com</a>

If you're not ready to invest in a service like GetResponse, then sign up with Mail Chimp for free and pay as you start getting more subscribers.

To learn more, visit <a href="http://mailchimp.com">http://mailchimp.com</a>

### Infusionsoft <a href="http://infusionsoft.com">http://infusionsoft.com</a>

This is a more robust CRM tool that allows you to keep track of contacts, appointments, tasks, automate lead capture, email follow-up ,and ecommerce tools built in to set up payments and bill with the software itself.

To learn more, visit <a href="http://influsionsoft.com">http://influsionsoft.com</a>

#### **Google Analytics**

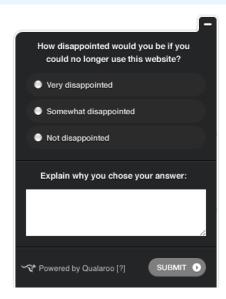
http://google.com/analytics

Since it is 100% free to install, there is no reason not to have Google Analytics on your site. Measure much more than just hits to your website with the latest Google Analytics. You can track goals, set up funnels, and more.

To learn more, visit <a href="http://google.com/analytics">http://google.com/analytics</a>

#### Qualaroo http://qualaroo.com

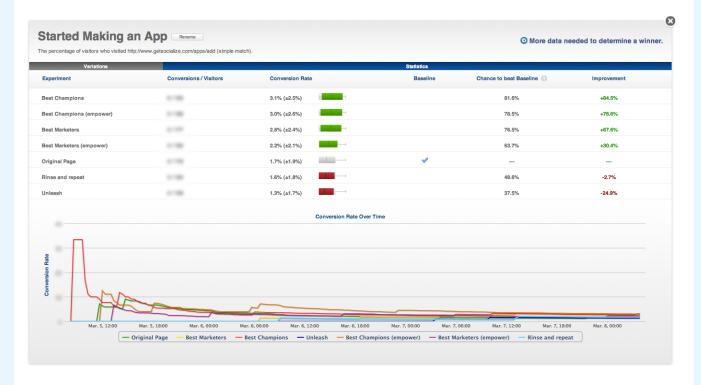
Qualaroo is an analytics service that takes a different approach than Google Analytics does. In this case, you can create quick survey boxes to find out exactly what your customers are thinking and want. This goes way beyond just regular surveys to your list.



To learn more, visit <a href="http://qualaroo.com">http://qualaroo.com</a>

# Optimizely <a href="http://optimizely.com">http://optimizely.com</a>

Google Analytics already allows split testing, but if you need to take it even further with a more advanced solution, then sigh up for Optimizely.



#### To learn more, visit <a href="http://optimizely.com">http://optimizely.com</a>

### Hootsuite Http://hootsuite.com

HootSuite allows you to manage multiple social networks, schedule tweets, offers analytics, and more. One of the best tools and free to get started for social media management. This is 100% free to sign up and upgrade to pro for more advanced features.



To learn more, visit <a href="http://hootsuite.com">http://hootsuite.com</a>

### Buffer <a href="http://bufferapp.com">http://bufferapp.com</a>

Buffer is another social media scheduling tool just like HootSuite. You can add tweets to your free Buffer account whenever you want and spread them out during the day according to a schedule you determine. If you're interested in more robust platform for business Buffer has several options to choose from which will require a monthly payment.

To learn more, visit <a href="http://bufferapp.com"><u>Http://bufferapp.com</u></a>

#### **Opt-in Monster**

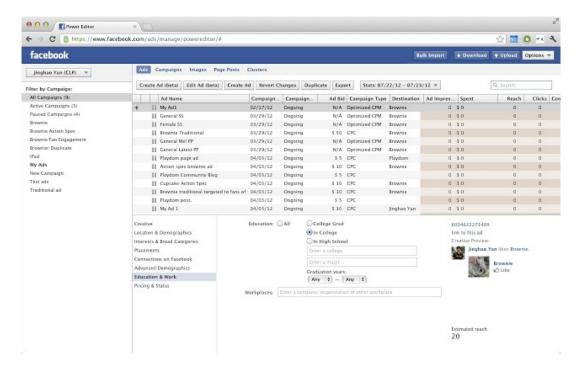
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To learn more visit <a href="http://optinmonster.com">http://optinmonster.com</a>

#### **Facebook Power Editor Extension**

The top tool provided by Facebook for optimizing your Facebook advertising campaigns. Power editor can only be accessed with the Chrome browser and helps take your Facebook advertising campaigns to a whole new level with advanced targeting and optimization features.



To learn more, visit <a href="https://www.facebook.com/help/162528860609436/">https://www.facebook.com/help/162528860609436/</a>

### Google Webmaster Tools and Adwords Tools http://google.com/webmasters

Google provides a set of free tools to check keyword research and monitor your sites health which helps determine how it will work. Just register for Webmaster tools and as well as set up an Adwords account and check the Keyword Planner tool for ideas and monthly search volume.

To learn more, visit <a href="http://google.com/webmasters/">http://google.com/webmasters/</a> and <a href="http://google.com/adwords">http://google.com/adwords</a>

### MOZ http://moz.com

MOZ Pro Subscription includes excellent tools including MOZ Analytics and Open Site Explorer which provides comprehensive SEO data and monitoring. One of the leaders in SEO tools and optimization help.



#### To learn more, visit <a href="http://moz.com">http://moz.com</a>

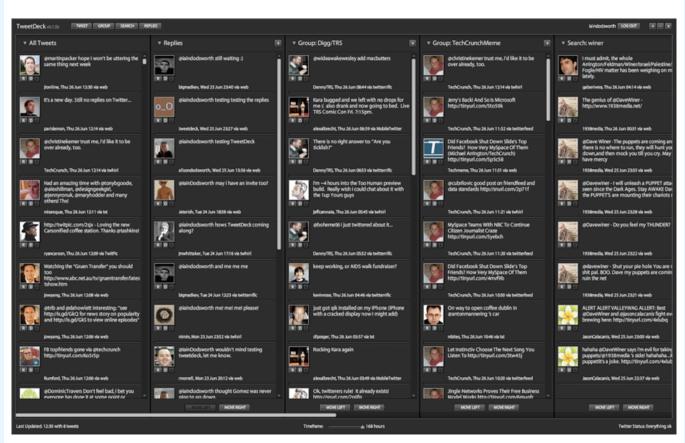
### SEO Quake Toolbar <a href="http://seoquake.com">http://seoquake.com</a>

This free download works with Firefox and Chrome and allows you to analyze SEO information for sites on the fly such as inbound links, page rank, and others.

To learn more, visit <a href="http://seoquake.com">http://seoquake.com</a>

# TweetDeck <a href="http://tweetdeck.com">http://tweetdeck.com</a>

This allows you to monitor direct messages, mentions, and tweets. It allows you to organize followers into columns so you can quickly see what's happening with any specific group.



#### To learn more, visit <a href="http://tweetdeck.com">http://tweetdeck.com</a>

# HARO <a href="http://helpareporterout.com">http://helpareporterout.com</a>

Help a Reporter Out allows journalists with requests to find experts with stories to share. Get started for only 20 bucks a month. Some users have gotten millions of dollars worth of publicity for essentially free.

To learn more, visit <a href="http://helpareporterout.com">http://helpareporterout.com</a>

### **Other**

# Evernote <a href="http://evernote.com">http://evernote.com</a>

One of the best tools for organizing data and taking notes. It integrates with just about everything, digitalizes physical notes and backs them up, and serves as an excellent life management/productivity tool to keep you organized in you business.

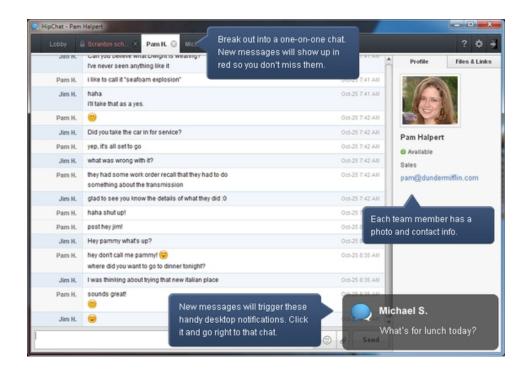


To learn more, visit <a href="http://evernote.com">http://evernote.com</a>

#### **HipChat**

#### http://hipchat.com

A messaging service that allows you to form teams and chat instantly with others about projects. Saves time and hassle of emailing, especially for outsourced and long distance teams.



To learn more, visit <a href="http://evernote.com">http://evernote.com</a>

### Skype http://skype.com

Another messaging service. Great for those who want to do interviews with experts from a distance and are on a tight budget.

To learn more, visit <a href="http://skype.com">http://skype.com</a>

### **Dropbox**

### http://dropbox.com

A free service used by many that allows you to bring photos, docs, and videos anywhere you want and share them easily with others.

To learn more, visit <a href="http://dropbox.com">http://dropbox.com</a>