

#### 21 SKILLS TO SUPERCHARGE YOUR IN-HOUSE SEO EFFORTS

John Shehata SEMrush Global Marketing Day 2019



VOGUE

**VANITY FAIR** 

WIRED

NEW YORKER

SELF Traveler Teenvogue Pitchfork

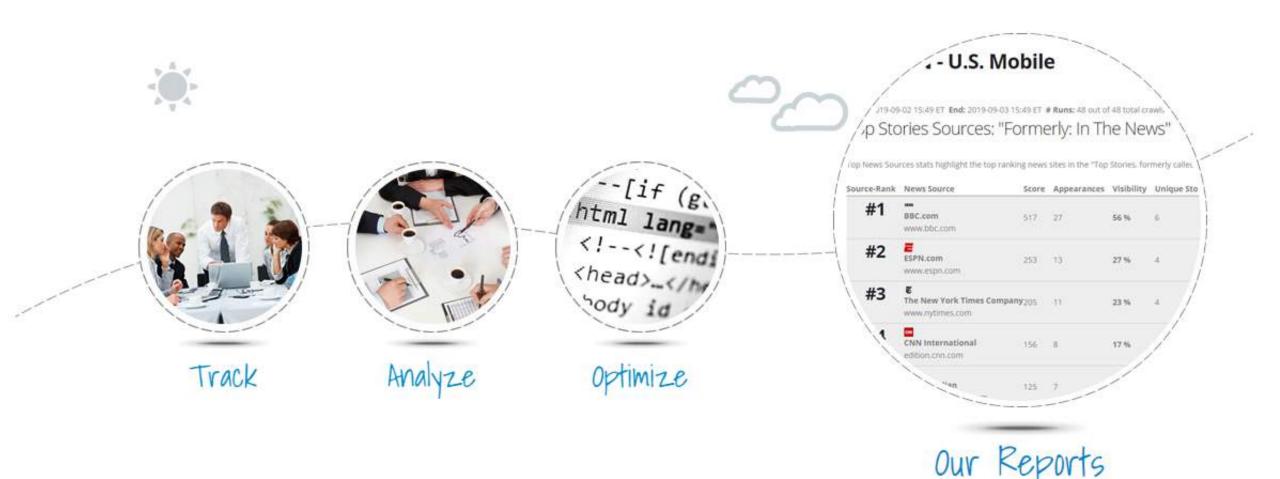
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#### BEST NEWS SEO TOOL OUT THERE!!!

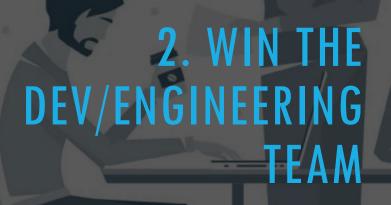
#### NewzDash.com





- Communicate in Person, Emails are not enough
- Identify major stakeholders in you company and meet with them on regular basis

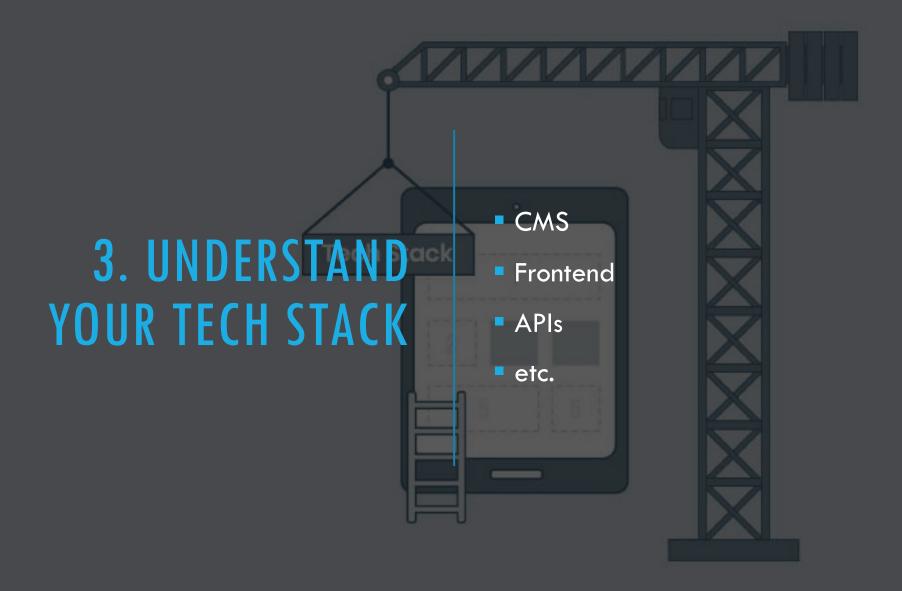


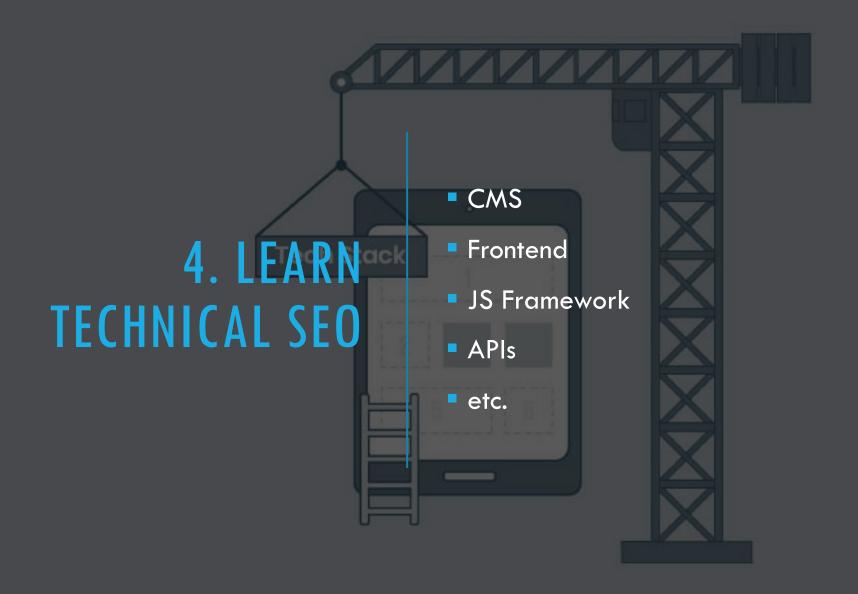


- Great ally or the worst hurdle
  - Push Back when appropriate
  - Your strategy is Dead-On-Arrival without technical resources
- Never say "is it doable?"

NEVER

- Never Tell a Developer "IT IS EASY"
- Dev is marketers' best ally or worst enemy





### 5. SELL YOUR PROJECTS

- Align your Goals with the Company's Goals
- Find a project sponsor

## 6. ESTABLISH QUICK WINS FIRST & FAST

- Don't do any radical changes in the first 3-6 months
- Focus on quick wins
- Start with Solid Winners not Experiments
- Earn a reputation that your recommendations work

# 7. INITIATE BIG PROJECTS NEXT

- Small Projects Justifies Big Projects
- Divide Big Projects into smaller tasks
- Find projects that can include these tasks
- Focus on quick wins



#### 9. DEVELOP ANALYTICAL SKILLS

- Google Sheets / Excel
- Google Analytics / Omniture
- Bl Dashboards
- MySQL
- APIs
- A/B Tests

### 10. ESTABLISH AN SEO PROCESS

Editorial Teams

REPORTING

WEBSITE ANALAYSIS

- Design Teams
- Engineering Teams
- Product/Project Teams

#### Discovery Pre Dev. QA Live Design Meta Date (page **Understand Project** wireframes/desig SEO BPG titles, meta Quick SEO QA Goals and n comps review description, if needed objectives keywords) **Traffic Sources:** 3,6,9 months breadcrumbs SEO friendly URL Baseline Search, Social, placements formats analytics reports reports Internal traffic? Copy Reviews: does the page Top Keywords: what is the search text placement **Content in Feeds** Link Building need interest? intro/closing copy? Location on site: directory, social Canonical tags Ranking Reports subdomain, page, integrations sections, etc.? Social tags / Do we need a H1 heading tags CName? Other tags SEO Do we need a robots.txt landing page recommendation updates if (/blogs/) for all created templates s for label, needed layout and links Content: is it new content, new content analytics replacing existing integration content, removing old content, etc.? Will page content be delivered via secure 5 links to Javascript, AJAX, new content other un-friendly SEO technologies? do we need a Schema separate XML

Implementation

sitemap?

# 11. INTEGRATE INTO THE WORKFLOW

- Integrate into tools used
  - Jira
  - Word Doc
  - Slack
- Integrate into processes
- Kick Offs
- Specs Gathering
- Etc.

### 12. FIND HIDDEN RESOURCES

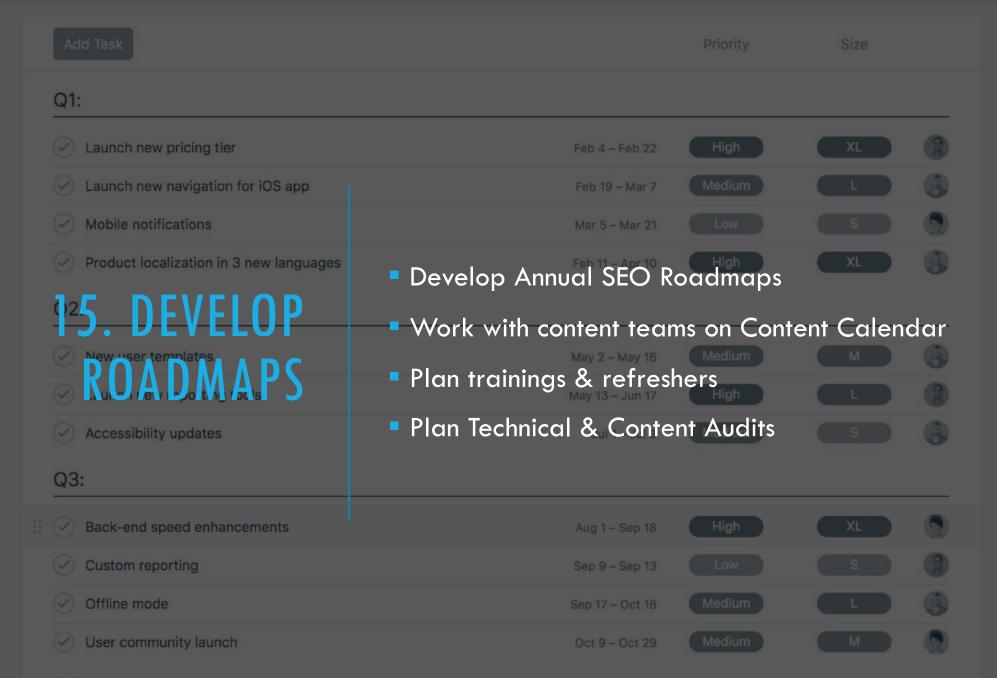
- Sister companies
- Talents in other departments
- Freelance budget
- Etc.

### 13. WORK ON TEAM VISIBILITY

- Bi-Weekly / Monthly / Quarterly Training
- New Hires training/orientation
- Team Wiki & FAQ
- Best Practices Guides
- Monthly Newsletter (industry updates, team updates, major projects and wins)

# 14. DEVELOP CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

- SEO Ambassadors (across sites, global, editorial, IT)
- Badges / Compliance Certificate
- Train the trainer
- Highlight the Champ



### 16. PICK YOUR BATTLES WISELY

- Prioritize your asks/recommendations
- Fight for projects that will move the needle
- Fight against projects that will harm the site
- Learn the art of negotiation and compromise

## 17. WE ARE STRATEGIC PARTNERS

- Tailor your feedback (executives high level vs. granular recommendations)
- We provide recommendations to other teams to implement!!
- Avoid sending keywords and recommendations without understanding the goals and objectives

# 18. STOP WHATEVER DOESN'T ADD VALUE

- Reports that no one reads
- Long Emails
- Long Periodic Meetings
- Less is More!!

### 19. MAKE THEM THE HERO

- Communicate Results to participating teams
- Make others great! Focus on making the other people successful, and you'll earn their trust.
- Make your emphasis on how SEO will make them successful.
- Make a big deal of giving public acknowledgement of their vital contribution.
- Respect the hard work these folks have to do that has nothing to do with your SEO needs



- Voice Search
- Podcasts
- Increased Google Zero Clicks
- Search Engine Push APIs
- Assistant Devices

#### 21. BE A GOOD PERSON

- Be genuine, approachable and humble
- Help others
- Share knowledge
- Always be open to learn something new
- Contribute to the community

