

SEO Testing Winning in Search in 2025 & Beyond

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Hi, I'm Ryan!



Marketing Manager @ SEOTesting Over a Decade in SEO & Digital Marketing International Conference Speaker Obsessed with The Big Bang Theory (Sorry Not Sorry)



We'll Cover:

- 1) Why should we be **regularly** be conducting SEO tests?
- 2) What types of SEO tests can we run on our sites?
- 3) How can we run successful SEO tests that drive growth?
- 4) Questions... Maybe?

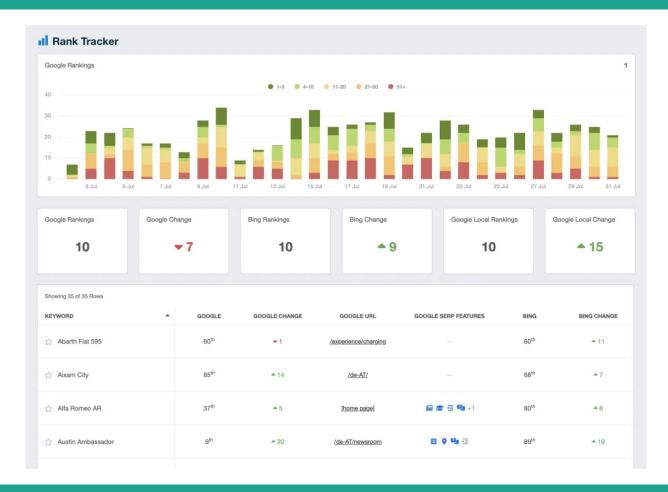
Why Listen?

- I literally work for an <u>SEO testing tool</u>!;)
- I've run hundreds of SEO tests across different sites/niches/etc.
- I work closely with other SEOs to understand what works.
- I regularly speak & write about SEO testing topics.

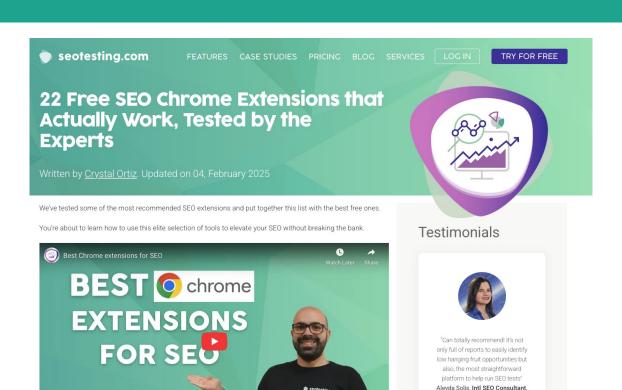


Who Is This?









SEOTesting

The SEOTesting Google Chrome extension was built to help with your day-to-day tasks and on-page SEO.

Speaker & Author.

TRY FOR FREE

→ seo workflow and	task management		2	200	2	N/A	64	+62	0	14 → 1	▲ 13
+ da pa checker ex	rension	Branded	1	1.1K	68	1.99	55	-64	0	2 → 7	▼5
+ keyword cannibal	ization checker		1	150	11	N/A	49	+37	0	4 → 1	▲ 3
+ keyword cannibal	ization tool		2	350	33	N/A	48	+34	0	4 → 2	^ 2

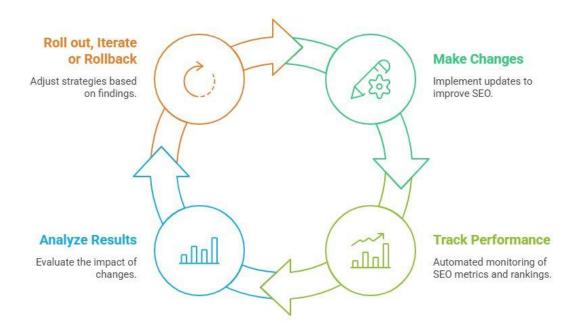
Free Bulk DA PA Checker

The <u>free DA PA Checker extension</u> is a fantastic way to bulk check your website's DA and PA. Easily check Domain Authority (DA) and Page Authority (PA) for up to 10 domains at once. Quick SEO insights from your browser.

☐ + seotesting	I Branded	3	200	8 0.84	189	0	1
☐ + da pa checker extension	I Branded		800	70 1.99	118	0	2
☐ + seo chrome extensions		1	300	26 2.52	118	0	1



SEO Testing Cycle

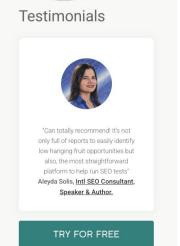






RegEx filters in Google Search Console give SEOs powerful ways to analyze data. This feature helps you create custom filters to uncover valuable insights. Both from query and URL data. Basic filtering options limit what you can discover. With RegEx, you can match complex patterns across thousands of search terms at once. This guide shows you how to use RegEx filters to improve your SEO strategy. With practical examples anyone can follow.





Pre-Test Period

- Average Page Clicks Per Day = 7.57
- Average Site Clicks Per Day = 349.26
- Average Page Impressions Per Day = 252.14
- Average Page Position = 25.06
- Average Click-Through Rate = 3%

Work Done

- 1) Removed "Fluff" Wording
- 2) Used Headings to Target Additional Search Queries
- 3) Generally Improved Article's "Readability"
- 4) Updated Title & Meta Description

Reading Scores

Pre-Test

- 2,484 Words
- 179 Sentences
- 131 Paragraphs
- Grade 9 Readability
- Reading Time of 09:56

Post-Test

- 1,232 Words
- 155 Sentences
- 114 Paragraphs
- Grade 6 Readability
- Reading Time of 04:55

Post-Test Period

- Average Page Clicks Per Day = 14.4
- Average Site Clicks Per Day = 328.4
- Average Page Impressions Per Day = 326.24
- Average Page Position = 13.55
- Average Click-Through Rate = 4.42%

The Results

	Before	After	Change
Clicks Per Day	7.57	• 14.4	90.25 %
Site Clicks Per Day ②	349.26	328.4	-5.97 %
Impressions Per Day	252.14	• 326.24	29.39 %
Average Position	25.06	• 13.55	
Click Through Rate	3 %	• 4.42 %	
Queries Per Day	27	• 30	

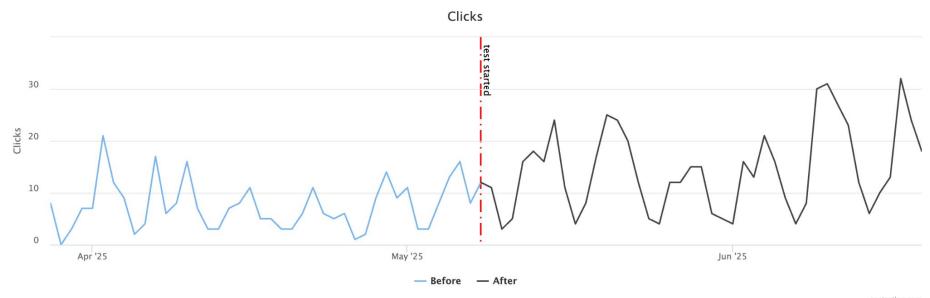
Clicks Per Day Nearly Doubled

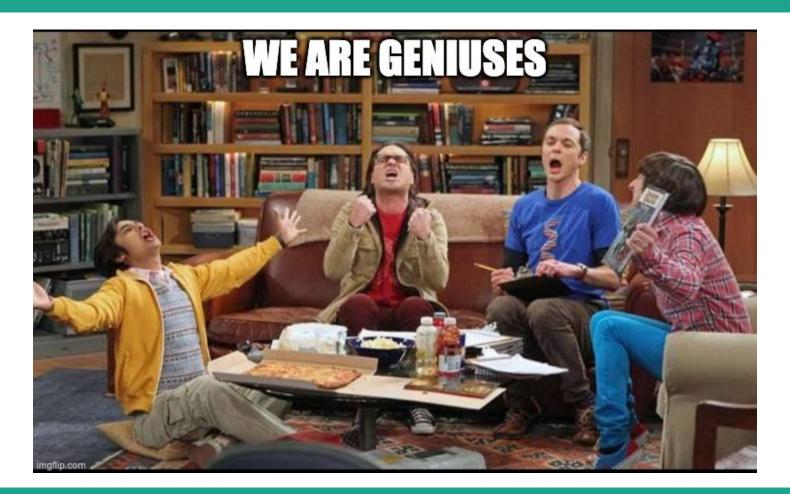
Site Clicks Went Down

Impressions Up 30%

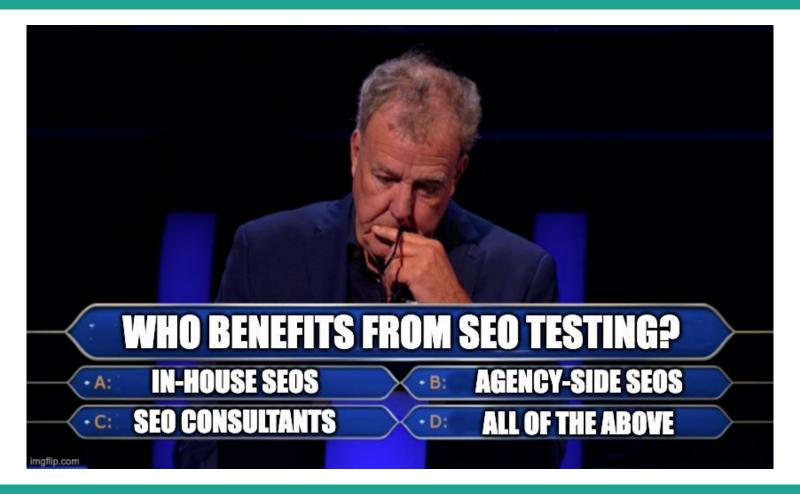
CTR Up to 4.42%

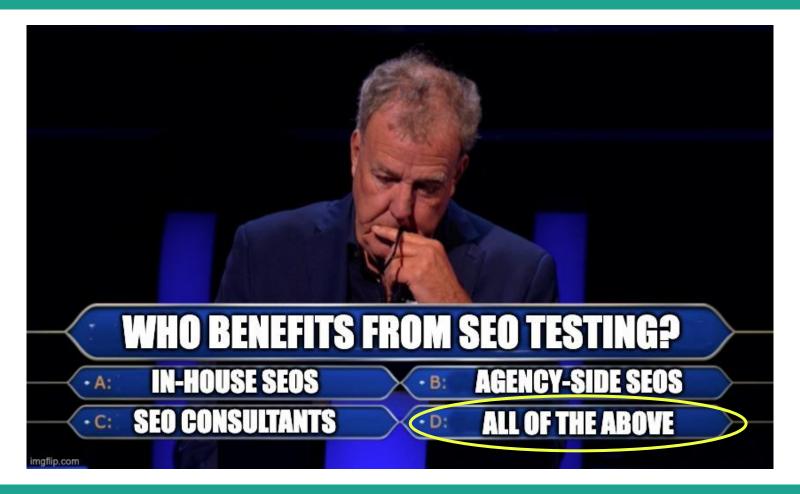
The Results



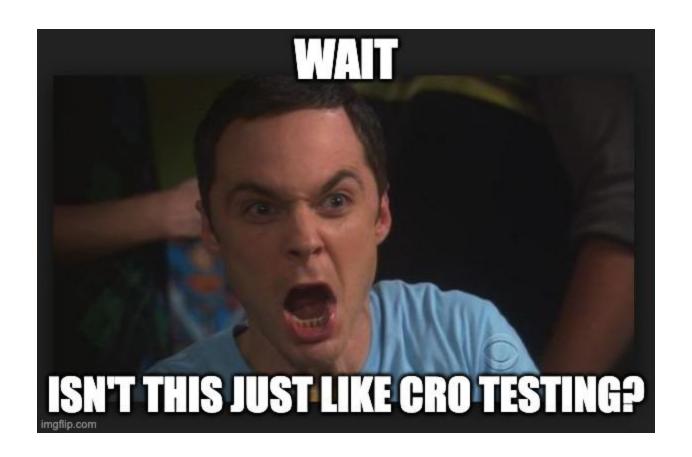


Who Benefits?









SEO Testing ≠ CRO

You're going to hear "A/B testing" and "split testing" thrown around a lot in this presentation...

This DOESN'T mean A/B testing in the traditional sense! We're not testing two versions of the same page!

Sad Times :(

[Sunset September 2023] Google Optimize

Google Optimize and Optimize 360 are no longer available as of September 30, 2023. Any experiments and personalizations still active on that date have ended.

Different Q's

SEO Testing	CRO Testing
What happens if we improve page speed?	What color should this CTA be?
Do we need to do more content refreshes?	Which wording is better for this button?
Is backlink acquisition worth it?	Do we add this CTA here, or there?
How does this get us more traffic?	How does this get us more conversions?

Different Metrics

SEO Testing	CRO Testing
Clicks	Click-Throughs
Impressions	Sign-Ups
Click-Through Rate	'Thing' Downloads
Average Position	Sales

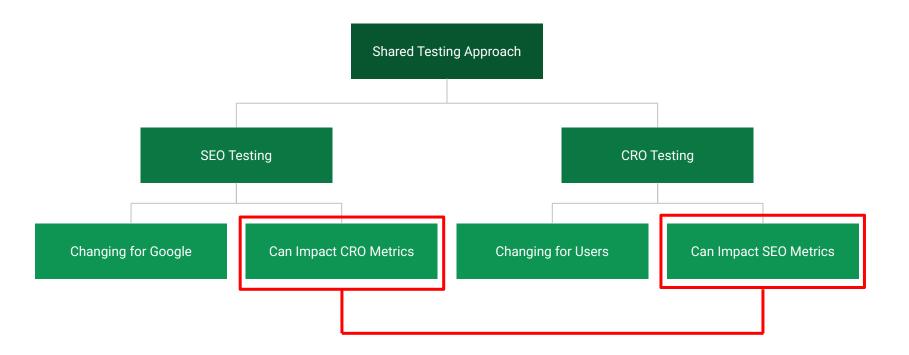
Different Tools

SEO Testing	CRO Testing
SEOTesting;)	WVO
SearchPilot	Hotjar
seoClarity	Optimizely
SplitSignal (Semrush Enterprise)	Etc

Different Method

SEO Testing	CRO Testing
Pre-Post Tests (Time-Based Tests)	Live A/B Tests
Split Tests	
Multivariate Tests	

Overlap?



Some "SEO" changes on a website will have a "CRO" impact such as more revenue, more sign-ups, etc.

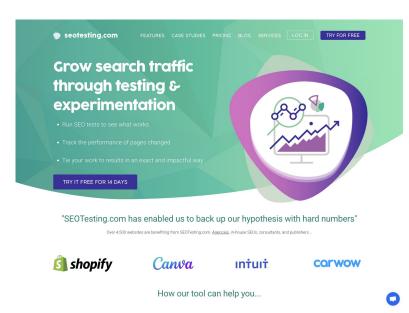
Some "CRO" changes on a website will have an "SEO" impact such as more traffic, better rankings, etc.

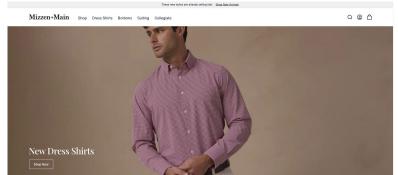
Why Run SEO Tests?

The Four Goals

- Figure out what works.
- 2) Show the impact of SEO.
- 3) Remove time wasted on things that won't move the needle.
- 4) Stop SEO disasters.

Find What Works









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An SEO strategy for one site will not work (or, at least, won't work to the same extent) for another website.

New Content



Content Refreshes

"SEOTesting.com has enabled us to back up our hypothesis with hard numbers"

Over 4,500 websites are benefiting from SEOTesting.com. Agencies, in-house SEOs, consultants, and publishers.



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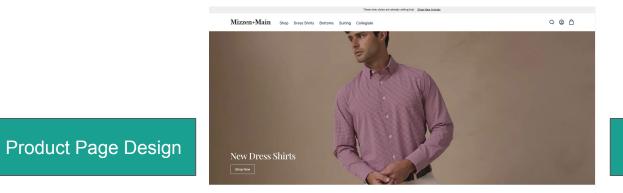
How our tool can help you...



Content Distribution

Backlink Acquisition

Technical SEO



Structured Data





★ 🖪

Page Load Times

Test Type	Test Description	Test Status	Test Result
Time-Based Test	Content Refresh	Complete	+20% Organic Traffic
Time-Based Test	Backlink Acquisition	Complete	+50% Organic Traffic
Split Test	Schema Implementation	Complete	-10% Organic Traffic
Split Test	Improve Page Speed	Complete	+59% Organic Traffic



Show Impact



- SEO takes time to implement and start bringing results.
- SEO "wins" are often hidden from key stakeholders within a business.
- SEOs need to constantly prove value with stakeholders and clients!









Clients

Managers

Founders

Other Teams

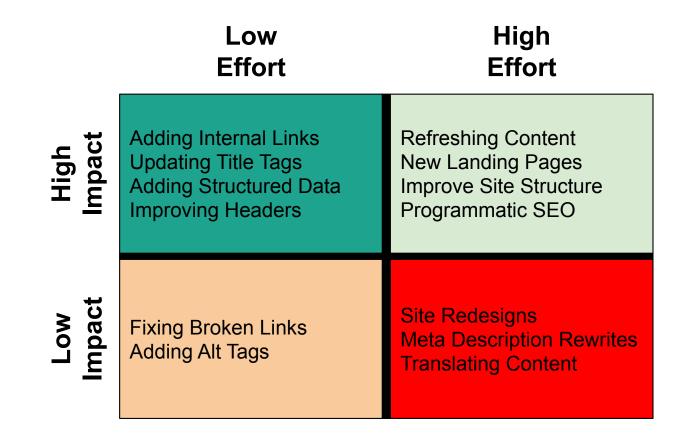


What Key Stakeholders Care About	What They Don't Care About	
Business Results	Organic Traffic	
Leads or Sales Impacts	Impressions	
Return on Investment	Click-Through Rate	
Overall Traffic Growth	On-Page Metrics (with Exceptions)	

Save Time

- 1) Stop guessing, completely.
- Only spend time focusing on the things that drive results.
- 3) Avoid wasting time on "weak" ideas. To an extent, anyway.

<u>Low-Impact</u>	<u>High-Impact</u>	
Creating New Content	Backlink Acquisition	
Improving Page Speed	Content Refreshes	
Optimizing Meta Descriptions	Adding Structured Data Where Applicable	
Image Optimization	Improving Internal Linking & Site Structure	



No Disasters

- 1) Big changes going live without prior testing.
- 2) Development teams pushing changes without communicating.
- 3) Nobody checks the impact of changes before traffic tanks.

What an SEO Disaster Looks Like

- Important pages drop off the SERPs.
- Rankings collapse.
- Traffic tanks overnight.
- Leads and sales dry up.

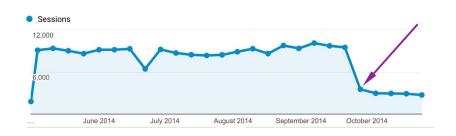
SEO Testing as a Safety Net





Roll Out to Wider Site

SEO Test Complete



Revert Back

Build Trust Through Safe Testing

Who	What They Worry About	How Testing Builds Trust
SEO Managers	Traffic drops from untested changes.	Testing shows what's safe to roll out.
Developers	Code changes breaking SEO.	Tests confirm changes won't hurt rankings.
Content Teams	New copy hurting performance.	Testing proves if updates help or hurt.
Marketing Leaders	Wasting time or budget on SEO.	Data shows which work drives the best results.
Executives / Founders	Risk to leads and revenue.	Testing reduces risk and shows business impact.

Types of SEO Tests

Three Test Types

- 1) Time-Based Tests (Pre-Post Tests)
- 2) Split Tests (A/B Tests)
- 3) Multivariate Tests

Time-Based Tests

Pre-Test

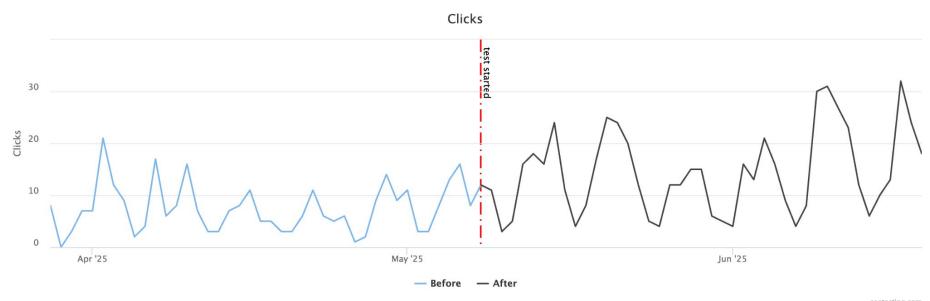


TIME

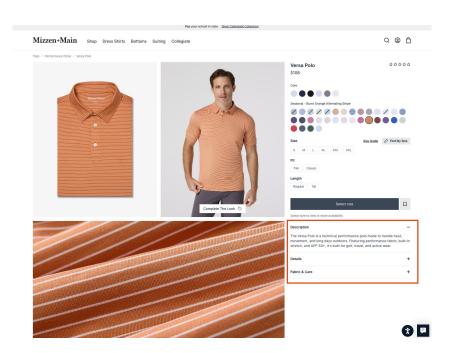
Post-Test

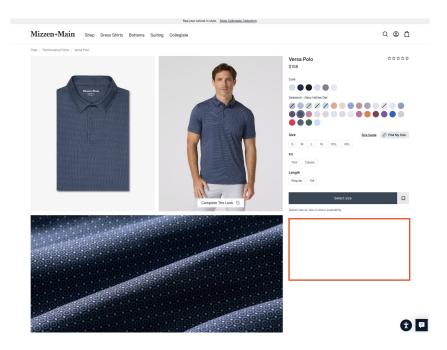


Results

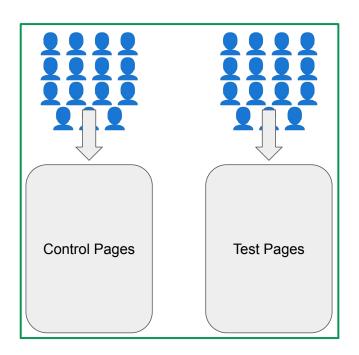


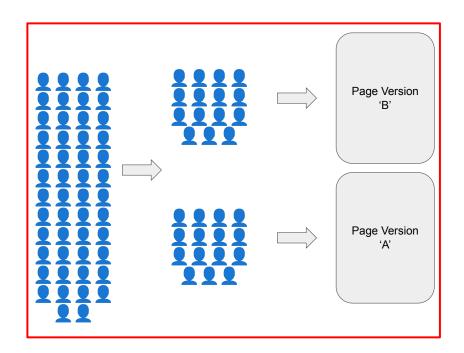
Split Tests



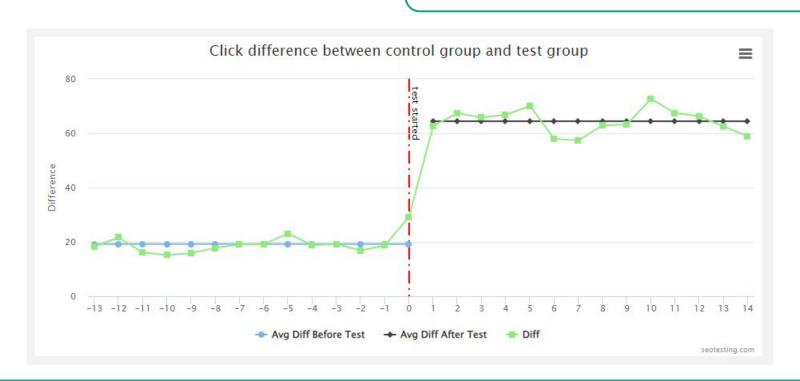


Split Tests

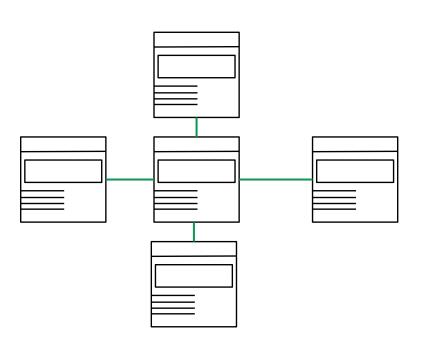




Results



Multivariate Tests



One 'control' group, and multiple test groups, each with one single change to identify the change with the biggest impact.

Results

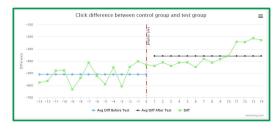
Test Group A



Test Group C



Test Group B



Test Group D



How to Run SEO Tests

Five Steps

- 1) Form Your Hypothesis
- 2) Select Your Test Page/s
- 3) Make Your Change
- 4) Monitor Over Time
- 5) Next Steps (Rollout, Rollback, Iterate)

Hypothesis

Your hypothesis should be statement-based, including something you can change, and something that you can measure to determine whether you were correct or not.

Hypothesis

Bad Hypothesis:

What will happen if we do a content refresh on this topic hub? Will organic traffic go up, or will it go down?

Hypothesis

Good Hypothesis:

This page's current CTR (1.2%) is less than the expected for SERP Position 4. We will rewrite our page's title tag to better match search intent and bring it below 60 characters. This will increase this page's CTR for our target keyword.

Selecting Pages

Performance-Based Questions:

- 1) Which pages get the most impressions but low clicks?
- 2) Which pages have high exit rates?
- 3) Which pages have dropped in traffic recently?
- 4) Which pages have stagnated in rankings?
- 5) Which pages rank on Page 2 or Page 3 for target keywords?

Optimization Opportunity Questions

- 1) Do any pages lack internal links pointing to them?
- 2) Do some pages include outdated or "thin" content?
- 3) Are some pages missing structured data we could add?
- 4) Are any title tags too long, or missing important keywords?
- 5) Do similar pages perform very differently?

Testing Value Questions

- 1) Can I isolate this page from others for a test?
- 2) Will changes on this page affect site performance?
- 3) Is this page part of a large group I can test across?
- 4) Can I measure the test results easily?
- 5) Is this page important for conversions/leads?

The key is to find a combination of those prior questions to find good candidate pages for SEO tests!

An Example:

- 1) Has this page dropped in traffic recently? YES V
- 2) Is there any thin/outdated content on this page? YES
- 3) Can I isolate this page as part of a test? YES V

Making Changes

- **Step 1)** Make the change to the test page/s.
- **Step 2)** Note the start date of the test.
- Step 3) Inform ANYONE that could impact your test data.

Monitoring

Metrics to Track (SEO):

- Clicks
- Click-Through Rate
- Impressions
- Average Position
- On-Page Metrics

Monitoring

Metrics to Track (Business):

- Revenue
- Conversion Rate
- Leads
- Sign-Ups
- Downloads

Next Steps

- ▼ Test Worked → Roll Out Sitewide
- X Test Failed → Revert & Learn
- Unclear → Try a New Variation





Problem

We realised that 20% of our blog content was out of date. This cost us \$26,000 to create. Now it's not generating any ROI! 2

Solution

We propose spending \$5,000 and refreshing half of that content to see if generates meaningful ROI.

3

Test

We refreshed 50% of the outdated content, leaving the other 50% unchanged as a control group.



Results

The refreshed content skyrocketed and generated an additional 55,000 clicks and \$14,000 in organic revenue!

Tools

Free Tools

- 1) Google Search Console
- 2) Google Analytics
- Matomo (Server)
- 4) Any Other Free Analytics Software

Remember: Takes time, and you'll need to pair this with Google Sheets, Microsoft Excel, etc.

Paid Tools

- 1) SEOTesting
- 2) seoClarity
- 3) SearchPilot
- 4) SplitSignal in Semrush Enterprise

Resources

Go Here

- 1) SEOTesting's Blog (https://seotesting.com/blog/)
- SEOTesting's SEO Test Ideas (https://seotesting.com/blog/seo-testing-guide/)
- 3) Giulia Panozzo's SEO Testing Workshop (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzTwC77WW5g)
- 4) Adam Gent's SEO Case Study Database (Paid \$125) (https://adamgent.gumroad.com/l/seo-case-studies-database)

Any Questions? Hit Me Up!

Thank You!



Connect With Me!



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https://seotesting.com/partner/extended-trial (45) Days Free Trial of SEOTesting)