How I made \$2133+ per month Building Video Game Niche Sites

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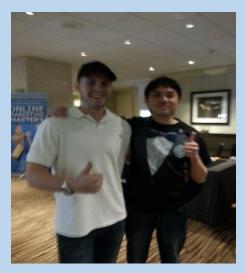
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Introduction: How It All Started...

It is quite funny how I started this journey back in college. I literally had \$124 in my bank account and I was in college trying to hit on girls all day. I had no interest in school back then and all I wanted to do was play video games.

After failing to get any numbers and feeling dejected, I sat down at home and decided to make a video game site after reading millionaire Alex Becker's blog, <u>http://source-wave.com</u>. He was talking about how to rank easily for certain searches on Google. I was intrigued and decided to take action and build a few niche sites.

Prior to reading source-wave, I had struggled with making successful niche sites as I had looked at Pat Flynn's blog. It was tough to find profitable keywords until I came across source-wave. This is why I recommend also checking out his blog. I actually got to meet him in person as he was the one that helped me create my own online money making machine. I am forever grateful to him.



Keep in mind that before we head into the details of the book, this is for people that already have a basic understanding on building niche sites. If you are not familiar with them and need guidance, I highly suggest you check out these blogs to get a good idea:

- Niche Site Guide with Pat Flynn
- Niche Pursuits with Spencer Haws

With that being said, let's get to the meat of the book!

Section 1 – Finding the Best Video Game Keywords

Keyword Research Tools Required

In order to find good video game keywords, I will be using the following tools:

- 1. **Google Keyword Planner** This is used to find out how many people actually search for a certain keyword. This will be the main tool that you will have to use to find some really good long tail keywords.
- 2. Long Tail Pro This is my to-go tool to find really good keywords. This nifty program allows me to find low competition keywords that you can potentially rank for easily and earn money in the long run.
- Market Samurai The alternative keyword research tool to use if you don't like Long Tail Pro as much. You can also use it indefinitely if you use the method here: <u>Free Market Samurai forever~</u>

Keyword Research Methods – Ninja Strategies

I can't stress enough how you have to really focus on keyword research in order to succeed. If you pick low competition keywords, less "links" will be needed. More on that later in section 3.

You will want to focus on a micro niche for the best results. For example:

Dogs -> Dog Breeds -> Pit Bull -> Pit Bull Training

Games -> Moba Games -> League of Legends -> Master Yi Build

This way, they are more focused and are usually less competitive.

To find really good keywords there are a few methods that I like to use. They are:

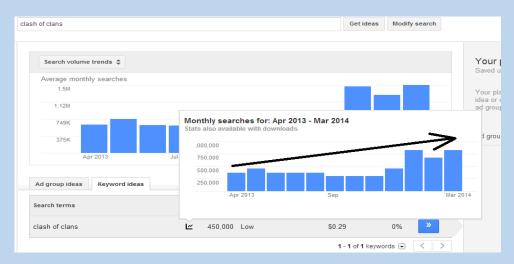
- 1. Ask Google Search
- 2. Top 10/Best XXX Method
- 3. Amazon
- 4. Hubpages/Squidoo for topics
- 5. Authority Gaming Sites

Surprise! Notice how I didn't use Google keyword planner to do my brainstorming. That is because everyone uses it to get keywords. We have to think outside the box. If everyone uses it, we will have to find more effective ways to find the "gem".

Here is the general guideline when it comes to search volume in Google keyword planner:

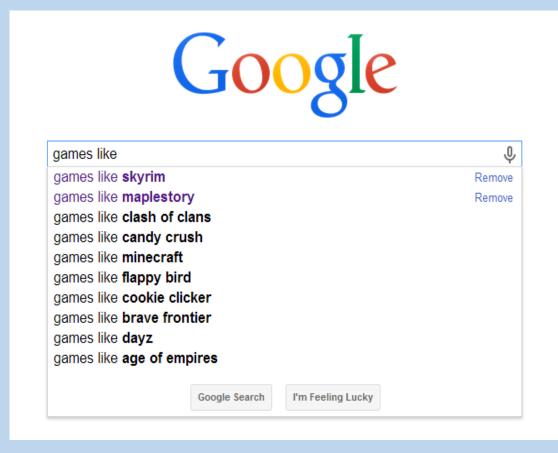
- Minimum 1000 local searches(try at least 5,000)
- Don't worry much about CPC, it varies too much for video game keywords

- Collect at least 5 keywords that total to at least 30,000 local searches monthly
- A rising trend on Google keyword planner (picture below)



Method 1: Ask Google Search

To find a few keywords, go ahead and search something like "Games Like..."



Now you have a few keywords to work with. Now you can go ahead and put them into the Google keyword planner to find out how many people are searching for it. For an example, we are going to use "games like maplestory".

Ad group ideas Keyword ideas			Ľ	▲ Download	Add all (801)
Search terms	Avg. monthly searches ?	Competition ?	Suggested bid	Ad impr. share	Add to plan
games like maplestory	L~ 1,300	Low	-	0%	»
			1 - 1	of 1 keywords 💌	$\langle \rangle$
Keyword (by relevance)	Avg. monthly searches ?	Competition ?	Suggested bid	Ad impr. share	Add to plan
games like wow	L~ 1,900	Low	\$2.23	0%	>>
games like diablo	L~ 1,300	Low	-	0%	>>
game like maplestory	L~ 110	Low	-	0%	>>
online rpg	L~ 3,600	Medium	\$1.02	0%	>>
free mmorpg	22,200	Low	\$0.63	0%	>>
top free mmorpg	ل≃ 2,900	Low	\$0.81	0%	>>

As you can see, it has 1,300 searches in United States/Canada. You will want to target these 2 countries mostly as the <u>cost per click(CPC)</u> on Adsense is much higher than other countries.

The next step would be to plug it into Long Tail Pro's "Competitor Analysis" to see competition.

Long Tail P	1			Keyw	ord Rese	arch C	competitor	Analysis	Rank C	hecke
games like maplestory	/								nalyz	e
SEOmoz Acesss ID: member-e2eeb655a0	SE	Omoz Secret Key:7b20 chang	e Location:	United	States	-	Language:	English		-
URL		Title		Page	Page	Juice	Doma	mozR	Page	Site
1. http://gameslikefinder.com/games-like-n	naple	10 Games Like MapleStory - Ga	mes Finder	18	<u>25</u>	1	25	3.35	3	1
2. http://www.squidoo.com/games-that-are-	like-r	9 Games Like MapleStory – Free	e, Online and No Do	49	6	0	94	4.06	4	10.7
3. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HI0GH	3WW	Games Like Maplestory - YouTu	be	1	0	0	100	0	2	9
4. https://answers.yahoo.com/question/inde	x?qid	What games are like maplestory	that is a mmorpg g	1	<u>0</u>	0	100	0	- no PR	8.4
5. http://www.basilmarket.com/forum/22438-	42/1/	MapleStory Games like Maplesto	ory? - MapleStory Fe	1	<u>0</u>	0	35	0	- no PR	8.5
5. http://calebmelvern.hubpages.com/hub/g	ames	10 Games Like Maplestory - Cal	eb <mark>Melvern - Hub</mark> Pa	30	2	0	88	2.48	0	1.3
7. http://hikapo.hubpages.com/hub/Fun-Gar	mes-l	Fun Games Like Maplestory - M	MORPG Games - H	30	1	0	88	1.69	2	2.4
8. http://mmohuts.com/editorials/top-10-2d-r	mmor	Top 10 Best 2D MMOs / 2D MMO	RPGs - MMOHuts	13	3	1	36	2.26	1	3.1
 http://www.techshout.com/alternatives/20 	12/16	8 Games Like Maplestory - Tech	Shout	1	<u>0</u>	0	51	0	0	10.8
0. http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xnbh7l	_onlir	Online Games Like Maplestory 2	2012 Free Forever -	1	<u>0</u>	0	95	0	3	9.1
X keyword	Avg	. CPC	Local Searche	s			Advertise	r Competi	tion	

In case you are wondering about the metrics, here is a <u>quick tutorial</u> on what it actually means (<u>taken from here</u>):

Understanding Long Tail Pro Competitor Analysis Metrics

URL – This provides you the details of whether the keywords are in the url of the page/post. This metric is great because you can check what type of sites are ranking.

The 2 big things to look for:

- 1. **Title of the Page** If it doesn't contain all the keywords, they aren't targeting it.(There are always exceptions)
- 2. **URL** If the url doesn't contain the keywords, they aren't focusing on their on page optimization.

Signs of Low Competition

- <u>Forum Posts</u> If you see a few forum posts ranking, it is a good sign low competition. Rarely does anyone back links forum posts.
- <u>YouTube videos</u> Seeing YouTube videos ranking is also a sign of low competition. You can outrank them easily with an exact domain match and decent links.
- Low Page Rank (0-2) If the site does not have the exact keywords/missing keywords and a low page rank, it is also a good sign.
- <u>Page Authority (0-30)</u> A low competition keyword consists of sites with page authority of 0-30. An exception is when you come up against Amazon/Ebay or any authority selling sites. They usually have a page authority of 0-1, but Google tends to favor them.
- <u>Page Link Juice</u> The number of inbound links from the site itself. This metric tells you how strong the linking structure is for the site.
- <u>Juice Page Links</u> This accounts for the number of links pointing to the site. A high number means a lot of external sites are linking to the page. Ideally you will want it below 10.
- <u>Domain Authority (0-30)</u> This is the metric tells you how much Google trusts the site. Most authoritative sites like YouTube, Reddit, Amazon, Ebay have 100. This combines well with page authority. You can easily outrank "authority sites" like YouTube or Yahoo Answers with good on page SEO.
- MozRank (0-3) Anywhere lower than 3 is good.
- <u>Site Age</u> This tells you how old the site is. Older sites have more advantage, but it is not the most reliable metric to look at. I have outranked 5 year+ sites.

To sum it up, low competition keywords have:

- Low Page Rank(0-2)
- Low Page Authority(0-35)
- Low Domain Authority(0-30)
- Low MozRank(0-3)
- Many general pages such as Yahoo Answers or YouTube videos
- Low number of Juice Page Links(0-20)

This is just a general guideline. Please do not be afraid to take on more competitive keywords. I will be giving you some examples to so you get a good idea on competition.

Case Study 1: Keyword "Anime Like Code Geass" [Low Competition]

2	Long	Tail	Pro <mark>/</mark>				eyword Researc	- Comp	etitor Analy		Checke
A	nime Like	Code Geas	s							Analy	ze
SE	Omoz Acesss ID:	member-e2eeb65	5a0 SEOmoz Secret Key:7	/b20 char	nge Lo	ocation: Ur	nited States	- Lang	guage: En	glish	-
	URL		Title		Page Au	Page Li	Juice Page Li	Domai	mozRa	Page R	Site Ag
I. h	ttp://my <mark>anime</mark> list	net/forum/?topicid	Anime like Code Geass? - Fo	orums - My/	1	<u>0</u>	0	73	0	- no PR	10.2
4	ttp://www.animel	ike.org/anime-like	Finime Like Code Geass Fin	iding Simila	19	<u>6</u>	1	14	3.24	1	0.6
. h	ttp://answers.yah	oo.com/up estion/ir	Anime like code geass?!?!?!?	? - Yahoo A	0	<u>0</u>	0	100	0	- no PR	8.1
I. h	ttp://answers.yah	oo.compuestion/?	Strategic animes like Death no	ote or Code		<u>0</u>	0	(100)	0	- no PR	8.1
5. h	ttp://www.youtube	e.con/watch?v=xrł	Anime Similar To: Code Geas	ss [HD] 11/	47	3	1	100	2.26	0	8.7
5. h	ttp://www.youtube	e.com/watch?v=XJ	6 Anime Like Code Geass - A	nime Reco	1	<u>0</u>	0	100	0	2	8.7
. h	ttp://hikapo.hubp	ages.com/hub/6-Aı	6 Animes like Code Geass -	Hikapo - Hu	32	4	1	88	2.3	3	2.1
3. h	ttp://www.reddit.c	om/r /Anime sugge	Anime like deathnote that isn't	t code gea	1	0	0	99	0	0	11.4
). h	ttp://www.playdot	a.com/forums/show	No anime that can top Code G	Geass? - Do	1	<u>0</u>	0	57	0	- no PR	6.4
0.h	ttp://www.techsho	out.com/alternative	7 Animes Like Code Geass -	TechShout	1	<u>0</u>	0	53	0	- no PR	10.4
K	keyword	Avg. CPC	Local Searches	Adver	rtiser Comp	. Google T	itle Comp [omains			

<u>AnimeLike.org</u> is my very first niche site. The keyword out ranks most YouTube videos and Yahoo Answers with very little link building (used only a few forum links and blogspot links). This goes to show how good keyword research will allow you to rank using less links.

Although the site doesn't make much (\$8/month from ad.fly), it is on auto pilot. Here is a screen shot I took for February 2014:



I guess this pays for hosting. :P

Case Study 2: "Best Credit Cards" Tough Competition

Now let's take a look at this keyword on Long Tail Pro.

Long T	all P	ro)							
best credit cards	i.							Analy	ze
SEOmoz Acesss ID: membe	r-e2eeb655a0	SEOmoz Secret Key:7b20 ch	ange L	ocation: Ur	ited States	Lang	juage: Eng	lish	
URL	Title		Page Au	Page Li	Juice Page Li	Domai	mozRa	Page R	Site Age
, http://www.nerdwallet.com	/the-be Best Cr	redit Cards of 2013: Reviews, Rewa	rd 71	8122	124	78	5.23	4	4.8
, http://www.dailymarkets.co	om/bes Best Cr	redit Cards For 2014 - Top Credit C	ai 49	3426	22	60	6.11	- no PR	10.6
http://www.dailymarkets.co	om/cre 60 Best	Credit Cards With Reviews - Daily	Vi: 64	14683	1261	60	6.77	4	10.6
, http://www.creditcards.co	m/bes Best Cr	redit Cards by Category - CreditCar	ds 62	10996	9	77	5.79	5	15.9
http://www.creditcards.co	m/top- Top 10 I	Best Credit Card Deals and Offers f	or 70	<u>11063</u>	48	77	5.79	5	15.9
, http://www.creditcards.co	m/ Credit (Cards - Compare Credit Card Offers	e 81	22852	10511	77	6.11	6	15.9
. http://money.usnews.com/	money The 13	Best Credit Cards for 2013 - My Mo	on 55	<u>19</u>	11	94	3.31	4	3.5
, http://www.bankrate.com/t	orm/be: Best Cr	edit Cards - Bankrate.com	46	<u>10</u>	1	94	2.65	3	17.2
http://www.bankrate.com/o	alculat Find the	best credit card for you by Bankra	te 56	32	10	94	5.26	4	17.2
), https://www.creditkarma.c	com/sh/ Best Cr	edit Cards 2013 - Compare Credit (Ca 31	<u>11</u>	0	68	2.66	4	10
keyword Avg	J. CPC	Local Searches Adv	ertiser Comp	. Google T	itle Comp E	omains			

This is something you don't want to rank for. It is too tough and will cost you an arm and a leg to rank.

Method 2: Best/Top XXX Games Method

This method is what created my first \$1000/month site. Here is a screenshot of the monthly earnings.



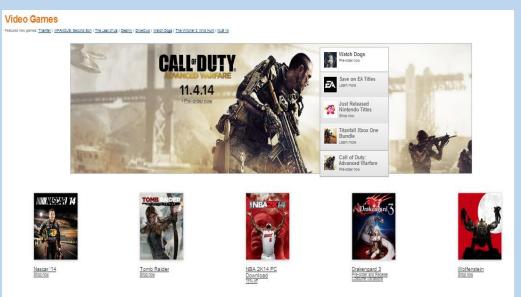
What you want to do is to head over to Google search and type in a certain game genre. For example, if you want to find out what are some top casual games on Facebook, you would go and type "best Facebook games" or "top 10 RPG games".



That will give you a list of games that is very popular to gamers and you can pick each game to find out if there are good keywords you can target. Plug them into the Google Keyword Planner to find potential gems in there!

Method 3: Amazon

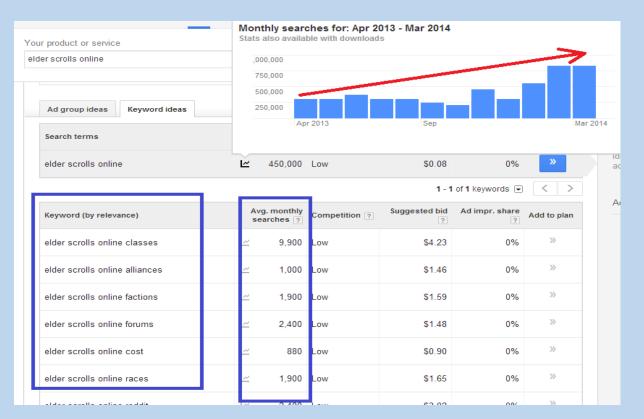
Amazon is a great place to find golden keywords. You don't have to stick to just video game related stuff. You can find all kinds of stuff ranging from electronics to hardware. The key is to head over to "best seller" list. I will be using "best-selling video game" section as <u>reference</u>.



Scroll down the list and start plugging in potential games or electronics where you can find a decent search volume (1000+ local) and upward trend.



I am going to use "Elder Scrolls Online" as an example that I found. Let's plug that into the Google Keyword Planner.



Notice how I just found a bunch of good keywords just by looking at other places like Amazon? This is the better way to do keyword research. Now let's put "elder scrolls online factions" into Long Tail Pro.

1					Keyword R	tesearch	Compe	titor Analys	is Rank	Checke
D	Long Tail Pro									
-		10.110								
е	der scrolls online factions								Analyz	e.
SE	Omoz Acesss ID: member-e2eeb655a0 SE	Omoz Secr	ret Key:7b20 change Lo	ocation:	United States		Langu	age: Eng	lish	-
	URL	Title		Page	Page L	Juice	Domai	mozR	Page	Site A.
1. h	ttp://www.ign.com/wikis/elder-scrolls-online/	Factions -	The Elder Scrolls Online Wiki Gui	¢ 51	<u>21</u>	2	91	4.41	3	15.4
2. h	ttp://elderscrolls.wikia.com/wiki/Factions_(C	Factions (Online) - The Elder Scrolls Wiki	1	<u>0</u>	0	87	0	2	7.4
3. h	ttp:// elderscrollsonline .com/en-uk/game-gui	The Elder	Scrolls Online - Alliances	45	707	152	64	4.59	3	4.8
4. h	ttp://elderscrollsonline.info/factions	Factions i	n Elder Scrolls Online - Elder Scro	23	508	2	30	4.31	1	2
5. h	ttp://www.reddit.com/r/elderscrollsonline/con	All races c	an play in any faction huh? : elde	r 1	0	0	99	0	- no PR	11.8
6. h	ttp://gaming.stackexchange.com/questions/16	the elder s	scrolls online - Alliances (factions)	- 1	0	0	84	0	- no PR	4.4
7. h	ttp://www.esomasteryguides.com/the-elder-s	The Elder	Scrolls Online Races & Factions	15	<u>32</u>	0	19	3.15	- no PR	0.3
8. h	ttp://massively.joystiq.com/2014/02/19/leader	Leaderboa	rd: What's your preferred Elder Scr	58	399	76	89	4.08	- no PR	3.4
9. h	ttp://elderscrollsonlineguide.com/elder-scro	Elder Scr	olls Online Daggerfall Covenant Fa	c 19	62	0	14	4.74	- no PR	0.8
0.h	ttp://elderscrollsonlineguide.com/elder-scro	Factions	Overview - Elder Scrolls Online Gu	ii 19	<u>62</u>	0	14	4.73	- no PR	0.8
x	Keywords (1)		Avg. CPC	Loca	l Searches			Advertiser	Competition	n
×	[elder scrolls online races]		\$1.65	1,900)			Low		
	Domain Authority, Page	Authority,	mozRank, Juice Links, and Links ar	e powered	by www.seom	noz.org			Ехро	ort Results

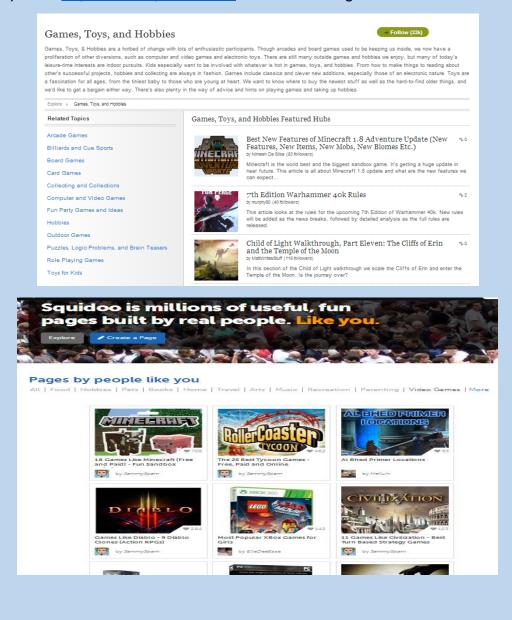
This is much easier to rank for compared to generic terms like "Top RPG Games". You can then compile a list of keywords from this game and make a niche site for it.

- Elder Scrolls Online Guide
- Elder Scrolls Online Faction
- Elder Scrolls Online Races etc.

Method 4: Hubpages/Squidoo

These 2 places are excellent places to find good topics or games that gamers enjoy. Again, it doesn't only work for gaming, it works on other niches as well. Head over to both places and check out their topic page.

- Hubpages: http://hubpages.com/topics/games-toys-and-hobbies/1761
- Squidoo: http://www.squidoo.com/ look at video games tab



If you scroll down the section of both pages, you will see plenty of games other gamers are playing and you can find interesting keywords from their articles. Plug them into the Google Keyword Planner and Long Tail Pro for more ideas! I personally also write on Hubpages and earn enough to buy 200 cheese burgers monthly. :D

export csv (click column header to sort results)				Pa	ge Views				
Edit Title	Score	Comments	1 day	7 days	30 days	Ever	Published	Changed	Featured
125 Hubs	87	490	6,403	49,687	211,159	1,166,034			

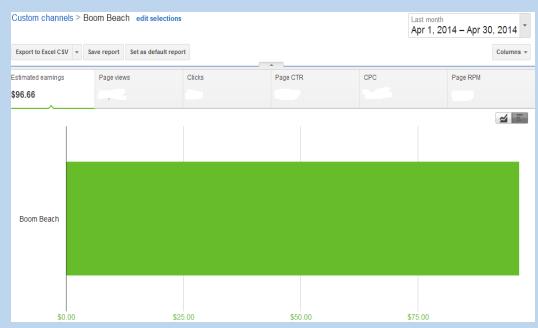
Method 5: Authority Gaming Sites

This is a great method to find up and coming new games. Newer games are also easier to rank and they rank much faster if you use the secret strategy which I will talk about later on in section 4.

These are the places I go to find my next "gem".

- GameFAQs Top 100 Most Wanted FAQS
- Top Grossing Mobile Games
- PC Gamer

"Boom Beach Guide" was one of the niche sites I made that generates roughly \$96 per month using this method.



Always keep a lookout and see what are some new games that generate the buzz. You type the game into Google Keyword Planner to find out.

Section 2: How to Build Your Website

Building your website isn't as complicated as you think it is. If you are not a very technical person, you can always use <u>wordpress</u>. It is my preferred platform of choice by far. You can literally compensate everything you don't know with the use of wordpress plugins.

But before that, you will have to get the set of keywords you chosen to build a site for. I will use my Dragon City Site and AnimeLike.org for example:

1	Dragon City Niche Site	Anime Like Niche Site
2	[dragon city breeding list]	anime like code geass
3	[dragon city breeding]	anime like death note
4	[how to breed soccer dragon in dragon city]	anime like sword art online
5	[how to breed legendary dragon in dragon city]	anime like mirai nikki
6	[how to breed gummy dragon in dragon city]	anime like kiss x sis
7	[dragon city breeding chart]	anime like fairy tail
8	[how to breed armadillo dragon in dragon city]	anime like naruto
9	[dragon city egg]	anime like bleach
10	[dragon city egg guide]	anime like one piece
11	[dragon city eggs list]	anime like fairy tail
12	[dragon city egg chart]	anime like vampire knight
13	[dragon city guide]	anime like attack on titan

Buying Your Domain Name and Hosting

When choosing your domain name, you can either go with an exact match domain name (EMD) or partial match. What I mean is if you want to target dragon city breeding, the domain name would be "dragoncitybreeding.com".

Alternatively, you can also use partial. So, your site would be something like dragonmaster.com.

I do recommend beginners to use partial match domain so that you have less chance of over optimizing the site. However, don't worry so much about the domain name. Just get started and learn along the way. Taking imperfect action is key here.

I usually buy my domain from the major hosts. Here are the ones that I have used that are decent:

- Dreamhost
- <u>GoDaddy</u>
- Arvixe (already has ionCube installed)
- iPage

My Recommendation: I would choose <u>GoDaddy</u> as your host if I had to do it all over again. They have pretty much everything and also has the auction that will come in handy later in section 4.

Buying the domain name will cost you roughly \$10 (\$20 if you get domain privacy). Hosting from GoDaddy is roughly \$8 per month/\$96 per year. Often times, they will do promotion and you can get it for cheaper. I recommend the deluxe package as you can host up to 25 sites. You can always upgrade when you need more.

Once you have your domain name bought and setup, you can build your site and start producing content! Hurray! :D

Wordpress Site Structure

If you are not familiar with wordpress, here is a beginner's guide to help you out: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyJ_LQoCFMQ

I always install the following wordpress plugins to all my gaming sites:

- <u>Google XML Sitemap</u> Allows Google to index your site quickly
- <u>All in one SEO</u> Easy SEO integration
- <u>XCloner</u> Backs up your site

Themes

As for themes, I use WP Zoom "<u>Magazium Theme</u>" (affiliate link). Honestly, if you don't want to spend money, just use basic themes. They won't look as nice, but that has nothing to do with making money. Good keyword research and excellent on page SEO matters much more.

On Page SEO and Customization

Aside from keyword research, on page SEO will determine how well you rank initially. Let's go through the basic setup for your site.

On your main pages, make sure you have the following:

- H1 title must have your chosen keyword
- Your awesome content :D
- Picture that has the main keyword in the alternate text
- Link to a relevant authority site (Wikipedia, gameFAQS etc.)
- Interlinking between pages

I am going to use my dragon city egg site as an example. Let's just say the main keywords I want to rank are:

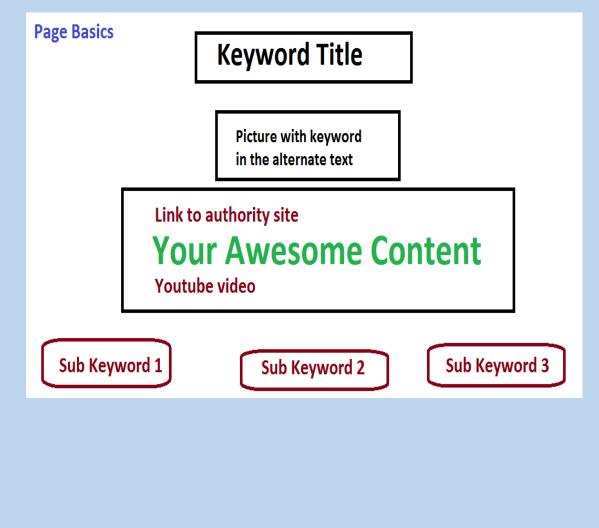
- Dragon city egg
- Dragon city breeding guide
- Dragon city egg guide
- Dragon city food

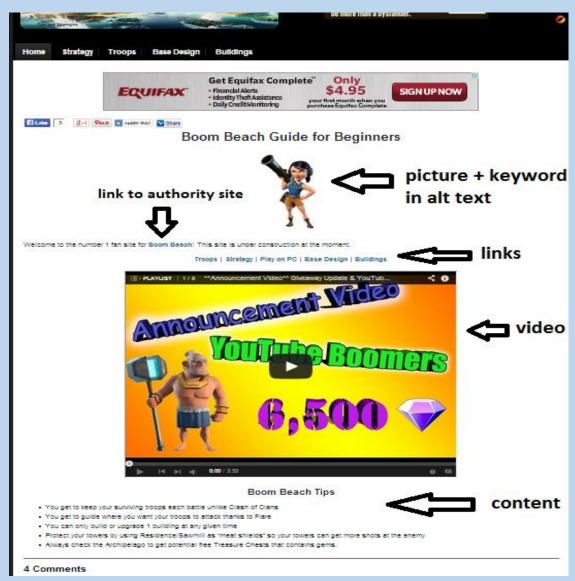
Here is basic linking structure used to link between pages.



Let me explain how the linking structure works. The goal is to make sure when you build an external link to one of your pages, the link juice also flows to the other pages. This way, you do not have to build external links to those pages.

If you need a more visual picture of what you need on your page, look at this diagram below:



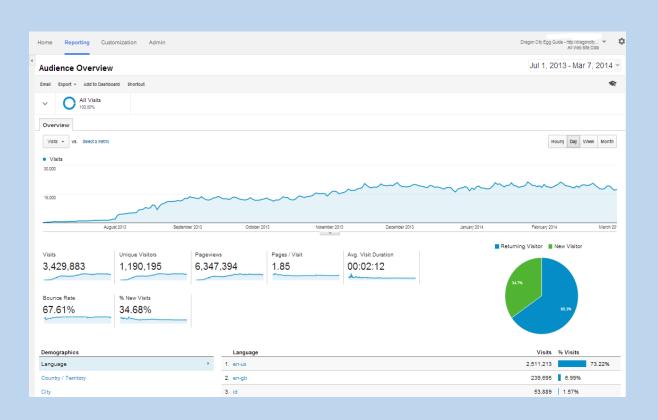


Here is a real site example for on page SEO (boombeachguide.com):

Using this basic on page structure, I was able to rank pages without too many links to a specific page. This is what works for me, so I highly suggest you follow along.

Content is still King (Provide Value)

Don't forget to write or produce awesome content! It is still the most important part of a successful video game/arcade site. This is what that will keep your visitors coming back for more. My best sites have more than 60% return visitors every day. I took a screenshot of dragon city egg dot net to show you.



Section 3: Link Building and Getting Traffic

Now there is the part where you will be focusing your time on once you have completed your content and site setup. I will be giving you both free methods and methods that require money. I personally now only use methods that require money because it ranks much faster and less work is needed.

However, if you are just starting out and have little to no money, I have included free methods. They are not as effective, but it definitely helps. Alternatively, you can also go get a job to pay for the methods that require money. I know that's not what you want to hear, but it is THE way.

Free Methods – Time Consuming and Less Effective

- 1. Web 2.0s
- 2. Writing Sites (Hubpages/Squidoo/Ezine)
- 3. PDF/Bookmarking Sites
- 4. Game Forums/Blogs

Your goal is to leave a link on the places above. I have compiled a big list of sites that you can go drop your link.

Web 2.0/Writing	Bookmarking Sites	Article Directories	PDF Sites
<u>Blogspot</u>	<u>Reddit</u>	Ezine Articles	<u>Slideshare</u>
WordPress	Digg	<u>Go Articles</u>	Docstoc
Tumblr	<u>Bibsonomy</u>		<u>Scribd</u>
Zimbio	<u>Pinterest</u>		<u>Issuu</u>
Weebly	<u>StumbleUpon</u>		
Wikidot	<u>folkd</u>		
Yola	<u>GiveALink</u>		
<u>Blogster</u>	<u>Diigo</u>		
Apsense	<u>Delicious</u>		
<u>Livejournal</u>	<u>CiteYouLike</u>		
<u>Squidoo</u>			

Hubpages		
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For <u>Web 2.0s</u> (Blogger, Wordpress Blog, Tumblr), you just go create an account. You then write a short post and link it to your website. It is very simple.

As for <u>writing sites</u> such as Hubpages, <u>Ezine Articles</u> and Squidoo, you will need to write lengthy articles in order to be accepted. It is very time consuming, but the links coming from these sites are high quality and will definitely give you a boost in rankings.

<u>PDF sites</u> are great as well. Just use a small part of your website's content, save it as a pdf with a link back to your site. Then you upload it to the PDF site and Google will pick that up as a link.

Keep in mind that some of the sites are no follow, so it won't pass as much link juice, but every little bit helps.

Also remember to head to <u>relevant gaming forums or blogs</u> to drop links. Try to provide value there before dropping a link to avoid looking like a spammer. If you have trouble finding some forums, here are some that I leave a link on.

- <u>http://www.gamefaqs.com/boards</u>
- <u>http://www.finalfantasyforums.net/content/</u>

You can also type in "XXX Game Forum/Blog" on Google search and you will find a bunch of them.

Methods That Require Money – The STUFF that PLAIN WORKS!!! \$\$\$

Now this is where you really see the power of link building when you know exactly what works. There are primarily 2 methods that works like charm.

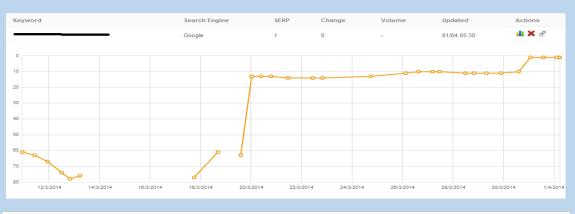
- 1. Blog Networks (PR Links)
- 2. Tiered Link Building

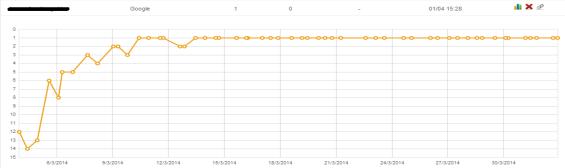
These are the methods that work very well now and I highly doubt it will change in the near future. They are also very safe if you cover your trace, which I will show you here. Both methods are taught by Alex Becker of Source Wave.

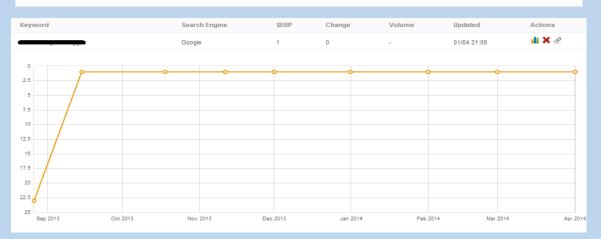
Blog Network – Also Known as Authority Expired Domains or PR Links

Blog networks are basically expired domains that have authoritative links going to it. Most of them have decent page rank (1-6) and good links going to it. The goal is to acquire a lot of them and use them to rank your video game/arcade sites. <u>If you chose</u> <u>your keywords wisely</u>, usually 5-15 of these links are more than enough to get you to the top 3 spot on Google.

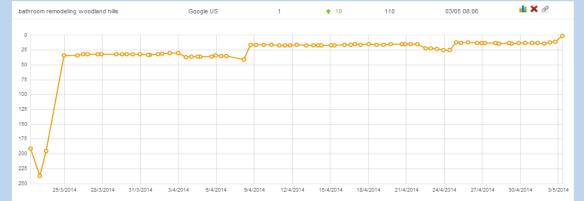
Now these are some of the most powerful links you can get. It literally allows you to rank for anything if you have a huge budget. Let me put some proof here so you can witness the power of it. A lot of my sites rank with 5-15 of these powerful links...













If you would like the super long detailed guide, here you go:

- <u>http://source-wave.com/how-to-build-a-blog-networ/</u>
- http://authoritywebsiteincome.com/ultimate-expired-domain-guide/

My Mini Guide for Building Your Blog Network

Where to find them?

You can get expired domains from GoDaddy auctions. There is a ~\$5USD yearly fee to buy expired domains there. Most expired domains start off at \$10-12USD. For starters, most good PR 0-3 domains cost \$10-\$30 USD will be good enough.

Buying 10 of them will really help you rank well. The good thing is, once you have the domains setup, you can use it to rank 10 or more of your own sites.

However, to find good domains, you will need 3rd party sites that helps you filter out the best expired domains on GoDaddy. Here are the one that I use:

• expireddomains.net

You will also need to learn how to use <u>Majestic SEO</u>, which is used to determine if the domain is good or bad.

Before we get into buying, here are some important metrics you need to know:

- **Page Authority (PA)** A measure of how authoritative the page is (higher is better)
- **Domain Authority (DA)** A measure of how authoritative the domain is (higher is better)
- Page Rank (PR) Google's own algorithm to determine the power of a domain
- Backlinks Links pointing to the site
- Trust Flow (TF) A majestic SEO metric that tells you how "reliable" the link sources are
- Citiation Flow (CF) A majestic SEO metric that tells you how many link sources are pointing to the site

Scouting for Good Domains on ExpiredDomans.net

Make sure to sign up for a free account. After that head over to the other domains tab located on the right side. Then click on <u>GoDaddy expired domains</u> and you will be taken to a list of expired domains.

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Once you get to the list, go ahead and use the filter button (you have to be logged in) and use the following metrics (I will include pictures for easier understanding):

- Page Rank (PR) of 0 to 3 [from Common Filter tab]
- Minimum backlinks of 20 [from Common Filter tab]
- No Fake and Unsure PR's [from Common Filter tab]
- Price of no more than \$40 [from Additional Filter tab]
- Min Moz Domain Authority of 20 [from Adwords & SEO tab]
- Min Moz Page Authority of 20 [from Adwords & SEO tab]
- Min Moz Rank of 3 [from Adwords & SEO tab]

Common Filter Tab

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Adwords & SEO Filter Tab

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Now, once you have applied the following filters, it will weed out a lot of low quality ones and you can proceed to find the good ones. Find one and plug them into the <u>Majestic</u> <u>SEO</u> tool.

Browse through them and find one that fits the following criteria on Majestic SEO. <u>cicada-semi.com</u> will be used as an example.

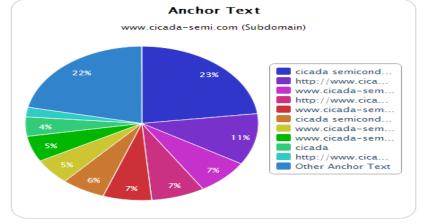
www.cicada-semi.com Subdomain 🗲 Use Fresh Index: O 🏻 🏛 Use Historic Index: O Summary Ref Domains Backlinks New Lost Anchor Text Мар Pages Link Profile Would you like to switch to the entire cicada-semi.com domain? There are 790 external backlinks. CITATION FLOW TRUST FLOW TOPICAL TRUST FLOW HIDE . 18 Science / Technology 14 Computers / Hardware 11 13 Computers / Data Communications 11 15 Business / Electronics and Electrical 18 21 15 Computers / Programming / Languages 11 Recreation 10 14 Society / People 11 Science / Educational Resources 10 Referring External Referring Referring Backlinks Domains IPs Subnets 784 108 97 95 flow In the last 5 years Trust <u>216</u> 1,496 267 204

Trust Flow & Citation Flow bigger 10

Diverse Anchor Text Ratio

See more results on the <u>Anchor Text</u> tab, where you can drill down into each keyword and find the Referring Domains and External Backlinks that use that Keyword.

Anchor Text



The key is to make sure the anchor text is not super optimized. Look for domains that do not have anything that has over 25% of the same anchor text.

The only exception is when the anchor text is the domain name or URL. For example, if the domain name is cicada-semi.com, then it is okay to have 40+% ratio if its anchor text is the following:

- http://www.cicada-semi.com
- www.cicada-semi.com
- cicada-semi

Link Profile must have Good Links

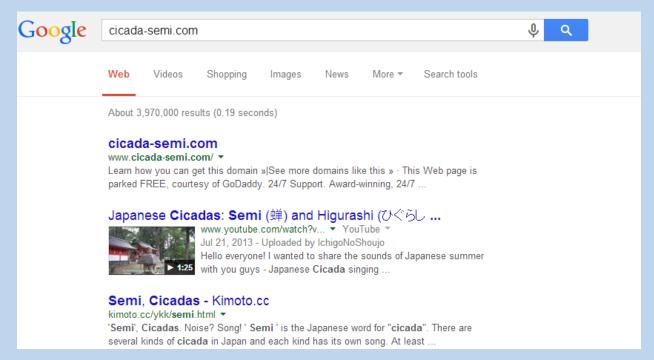
		_						
Site	Explorer Results 🛛 (play video)							
ww	w.cicada-semi.com	Subdor	main 🔻	<u> </u>				
🗲 U:	se Fresh Index: ♥ 🏛 Use Historic Index: ●							
Sumn	nary Ref Domains Backlinks New Lost Ancho	r Tex	xt Map	p Page	es Link P	Profile	14	. 🛨 🗟 🛠
Show	deleted Backlinks: $\ {f \odot}$ Hide deleted Backlinks: $\ {f \odot}$							
							' ≢ ∎	ownload Data
#	URLs		URL Flow Metric		Domain Flow Metric		Link Type	First Indexed Last Seen
		_	Trust Flow	Citation Flow	Trust Flow	Citation Flow		Date Lost
1	Source URL: http://ee.cleversoul.com/hotsheet-ics.html Anchor Text: cicada semiconductor / Target URL: http://www.cicada-semi.com/	0 0	34	26	41	31		< 10 Feb 2014 06 May 2014
2	Source URL: http://www.ibsstore.com/electronic-parts-links.htm Anchor Text: cicada semiconductor Target URL: http://www.cicada-semi.com/	0	17	39	17	39		< 10 Feb 2014 06 May 2014
3	Source URL: <u>http://www.semiresources.com/www/c.html</u> Anchor Text: cicada semiconductor, inc. <i>*</i> Target URL: <u>http://www.cicada-semi.com/</u>	0 0	29	22	29	21		< 10 Feb 2014 06 May 2014
4	Source URL: https://www.iol.unh.edu/qeneral/members/history Anchor Text: cicada semiconductor corp. // Target URL: http://www.cicada-semi.com/	0	28	22	74	55		< 10 Feb 2014 04 May 2014
5	Source URL: <u>http://qanswijk.home.xs4all.nl/chipdir/c/c.htm</u> Anchor Text: www.cicada-semi.com/ <i>?</i>	0	27	19	83	61		< 10 Feb 2014 06 May

As you can see on this domain, it has some good links going to it. Any links with Trust Flow and Citation flow of 20+ is always good. This tells me this domain is good.

Then, you put the domain name into Fake PR Checker to make sure it is valid.

ankchecker	Google PR Checker	All-in-One SEO (Checker Ke	eyword Rank Checker	Reverse IP Address Checker			
Rank Checker Tools	Google Pa	ageRan	k Che	cker				
Google PageRank Checker		0			(c) chromecast			
All-in-One SEO Checker	Everything you love, now on your TV. For \$35.							
Keyword Rank Checker								
Backlink Checker (Beta) Cicada-semi.com Check								
What's My IP Address	Google PageRank			Domain Ago	and WHOIS Datails			
Reverse IP Checker	Domain	PageRank	Validation	Domain Age and WHOIS Details Registrar GODADDY.COM, LLC				
Get PageRank Widget	www.cicada-semi.com	2	Valid	Registered	1996-04-05			
	cicada-semi.com	2	Valid	Expires	2015-04-06			
Advertise Here	Alexa Develo			Domain Age	18 years, 1 months and 8 days			
News and Updates	Alexa Rank			Domain Age	To years, Thionais and o days			
Contact Us	Domain	Alexa Rank						
	http://www.cicada-	N/A	Unknown					
About	semi.com							

The last thing to do is to put the domain on Google search and make sure it shows up on the top 3 results.



Once that is verified, you can go ahead and bid on your domain on GoDaddy. I suggest that you do not go buy any domains over \$30. If you lose a bid, that is fine. Just bid on the ones that are below \$30. When you win a bid, it will still take GoDaddy roughly a week before it shows up on your account. Just be patient.

Tips

 Try and bid on a domain during the last hour. This will increase the chances of you getting it. • Keep in mind that you still have to pay for the domain renewal fee, which comes out to be around \$15. So if you paid \$20 for the domain, your total would come out to be \$35 + tax.

Bad Expired Domains You Must Avoid

Here is the guideline for avoiding bad ones that you shouldn't buy:

Citation Flow is 3 or more times the Trust Flow

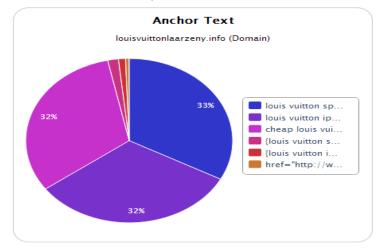
If you see a domain with a Trust Flow of 5 and Citation Flow of 29, then it is likely it has a lot of spammy back links. Just avoid buying it. You will want the Trust Flow and Citation Flow pretty close to each other. Below is a picture of what you should skip right away when you see it.

Site Explorer Resu	IIts 🖻 (play video)										
louisvuittonlaarzen	/.info		Root Domain	Root Domain 🔻 📿							
🗲 Use Fresh Index: 🔍	🏛 Use Historic Inde	x: •									
Summary Ref Doma	ains Backlinks New	Lost Anchor Te	ext Map Pages	Link Profile	🚯 🛨 🗟 🛠						
	Domain Inf	ormation		Link	Profile						
External Backlinks 1,378	Referring Domains 64	Referring IPs 64	Referring Subnets 62	Trust Flow O	Citation Flow 13						
	In the last	5 years									
<u>24,724</u>	<u>1,107</u>	<u>1,051</u>	<u>873</u>								
Homepage Title	N/A			Trust flow							
Educational Ref. Backlin	ks 10			Trus							
Educational Ref. Domair											
Indexed URLs Position in Majestic Milli	5 on This site i	s NOT in the Majestic N	Million.	MAJESTIC SEO	Citation flow						

Over Optimized Anchor Text

Anchor Text

See more results on the <u>Anchor Text</u> tab, where you can drill down into each keyword and find the Referring Domains and External Backlinks that use that Keyword.



As you can see, there are too many Louis Vuitton anchor text. Avoid any domains with "Viagra", "Louis Vuitton Bags" or foreign anchor text to be safe.

Site Explorer Results louisvuittonlaarzeny.info Root Domain 🔹 🐔 Use Fresh Index: 🔍 Summary Ref Domains Backlinks New Lost Anchor Text Map Pages Link Profile Show deleted Backlinks: Hide deleted Backlinks: Download Data URLs URL Flow Metric Oomain Flow Metric # Link First Indexed Type Last Seen Citation Flow Citation Flow Trust Trust Flow Date Lost 26 Apr 2014 05 May Source URL: http://pictomed.com/spip.php?breve19 Anchor Text: cheap louis vuitton bags // Target URL: <u>http://www.louisvuittonlaarzeny.info/</u> 1 0 19 28 22 2014 26 Apr 2014 05 May Source URL: http://pictomed.com/spip.php?breve19 2 Anchor Text: louis vuitton iphone case / Target URL: <u>http://www.louisvuittonlaarzenv.info/</u> 0 19 28 22 2014 26 Apr 2014 Source URL: http://pictomed.com/spip.php?breve19 05 May з Anchor Text: louis vuitton speedy 0 19 28 22 2014 Target URL: http://www.louisvuittonlaarzeny.info/ Source URL: http://www.xyhjdsb.com/new/Shownews.asp?id=18588 31 Mar 2014 Anchor Text: louis vuitton iphone case // Target URL: <u>http://www.louisvuittonlaarzenv.info/</u> 03 Apr 2014 4 1 17 2 21 Deleted 11 Apr 2014 Source URL: http://politikin-zabavnik.rs/pz/content/accurat... 03 Apr 2014 5 Anchor Text: louis vuitton iphone case 0 15 33 50 03 Apr 2014 Target URL: http://www.louisvuittonlaarzeny.info/ Source URL: http://politikin-zabavnik.rs/pz/content/accurat... 03 Apr 2014

Poor Link Profile

The back links to the site has poor authority and should be avoided at all costs. This will hurt your rankings if any of these sites link to your niche site!

Checklist for Buying Expired Domains

- Page Rank should be anywhere from 0 3
- Page Authority and Domain Authority bigger than 20
- Moz Rank bigger than 3
- Citation and Trust Flow bigger than 10
- Citation Flow must not be 3 times or more than Trust Flow
- Diverse anchor text no more than 25% on an individual anchor text besides site name or URL
- Good link profile

Domain Vendors

If you don't want to deal with buying expired domains, head over to <u>TB Solutions</u>. They have domains ready to be bought. The best thing is that you usually get them in 24 hours and you can start using them within 2 days. However, it will be a little costly.

They are my preferred vendor when I want to rank my local clients quickly.

Where to Host Your Expired Domains

You used to be able to host your expired domains on SEO hosting, but it has changed drastically. I recommend that you buy separate individual cheap hosting to get better results. Here is a list of 1 dollar hosting I use for my own private blog network:

- http://hostso.com
- <u>http://linkalone.com</u>
- <u>http://onedollarwebhosting.us</u>
- http://m2host.com
- <u>http://hostripples.com</u>
- <u>http://hostbig.com</u>
- http://hobohost.com
- http://3ix.org
- <u>http://linearwebhosting.com</u>
- <u>http://hosttop.com</u>

You can also use <u>expertwebhost</u> to host all your sites if you have 10 of them all bought at once.

Setting Up the Expired Domain for Linking

This is the finally step. Make sure you install wordpress on your host and use the following plugins:

- Link Juice Keeper
- Google XML Sitemap

Also use a different wordpress theme for each domain so they don't look the same. Write about 150-300 words or use <u>iWriter</u> to have someone write content for you.

My standard expired domain will have the following:

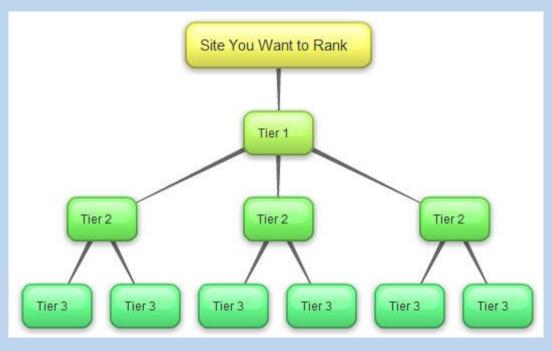
- 1 to 2 links with the anchor text to my niche site
- 1 picture
- 1 YouTube video
- 1 link to an authority gaming site or Wikipedia

That will be more than enough. You can now use your little private blog network to power rank your own gaming sites! Just make sure you add 2-3 links a day and not all at once.

You should be looking to spend roughly \$500 on your own network. You can spend more if you need more.

Tiered Link Building

This is also a very effective method to rank your sites. Here is a brief diagram to give you a good idea of what it is:



Basically, you have the Tier 1 (web 2.0 sites such as Tumblr/Blogspot) linking to your gaming niche site, backed by tier 2 and 3 links. It is a safe way to link as you only have trusted web 2.0s to linking to your site with a layer of protection.

Now, if you want to build something like that, it is going to be very time consuming, so I highly suggest you outsource it to someone else to do it. I personally use this service and they give great results:

- http://www.linkitpro.com/page/aztec-pyramid
- <u>http://www.linkitpro.com/page/giza-pyramid</u>

They are a little pricy, but it is worth the investment. I have only used it once on one of my gaming niche sites. The only reason I used it was because that game was a little more competitive than usual and my private blog network wasn't enough.

Getting Traffic

While you are doing the link building, you can actually go post on relevant gaming blogs and forums to get that initial flow of traffic before your site starts ranking on Google, Yahoo and Bing.

It usually takes 2-3 weeks for your private blog network to take effect. If you ordered the Aztec or Giza pyramid, it also takes the same amount of time as well. Just be patient and you will start seeing results.

One of my sites "Brave Frontier Guide" was able to rank within 2 weeks and got around 3000 visits in 3 weeks' time. Here is a screenshot:



Section 4: Monetization Methods

Once you start getting 200+ visitors daily, you can monetize your gaming sites with the following options:

- **Google Adsense** This is going to be your main monetization method. It pays very well and they do all the customization for you.
- Infolinks A decent ad platform, but doesn't pay as much as adsense.
- **CPM Star** A video game focused ad network.
- **Clickbank** There are some video game/arcade related clickbank products you can use. One of my sites uses this, but it converts at 0.3%.

I personally use Google Adsense 728x90 and 300x250 ad blocks for most of my sites. Dragoncityegg.net uses these 2 settings and does really well. You are more than welcome to switch around and see what works for yours.

Just make sure not to use more than 3 ads per page. That is the maximum allowed for adsense. You also don't want to clutter your site with ads. It will turn your visitors away.

I have also tried the others such as Infolinks and CPM start. However, they don't earn as much as Google Adsense, so I dropped them.

Section 5: Maintaining the Website

Game Updates

Usually, for most games, there will be updates every 2 months. When that happens, you just have to spend a few hours updating the content. I generally spend about 5-8 hours per month maintaining them. The rest is on auto-pilot.

Back Up Frequently

One thing you always want to do is to back up your site data with xCloner (wordpress plugin) every time you make changes. In any case your site breaks down and lose all data, you can put it back up in no time.

Conclusion

Thanks for buying and reading this book. If you ever need any more help, you can always contact me at: lengstocks@yahoo.com or head over to my blog for more bonus stuff: http://onlinefanatic.com and seek for help. I have related gaming content over there.