

From content to community: Why the future of media is user-centered, demand-driven, and interest-based

Alan Soon & Rishad Patel Splice Media



Rishad Patel

Rishad has designed product and brand for clients like MIT, The Straits Times, Mid Day, ETH, Dentsu, Ogilvy, and NTU, on projects for the web, mobile, radio, advertising, newsrooms, newspapers, magazines, and podcasting.

Alan Soon

Alan is obsessed about newsroom operations, digital transformation and building the new business of media. Alan was Yahoo's Managing Editor for India and Southeast Asia. He's also been a producer and reporter at CNBC, Bloomberg and Kyodo News.



We're a media startup based in Singapore. We want to help drive the transformation of media in Asia.

We work with the global media ecosystem to help you build a viable media business.

How do you define media?

Media is anything that uses content to grab your attention.

Content that informs, educates, entertains, and helps you make decisions

But sorry friends, you're really not in the media business.

A modern media business is one that connects intention + attention.

A modern media business helps people solve problems and make decisions every day.

Polling booths
Investments
Schools
Jobs
Supermarkets
Travel

Healthcare
Business
Relationships
Parenting
Fitness
Housing

Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2022

More information at digitalnewsreport.org/2022

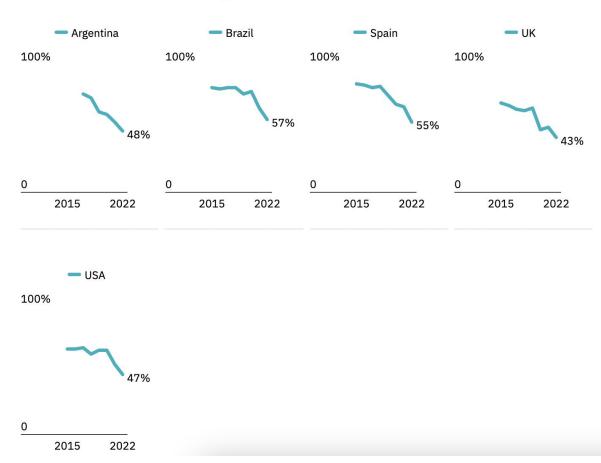






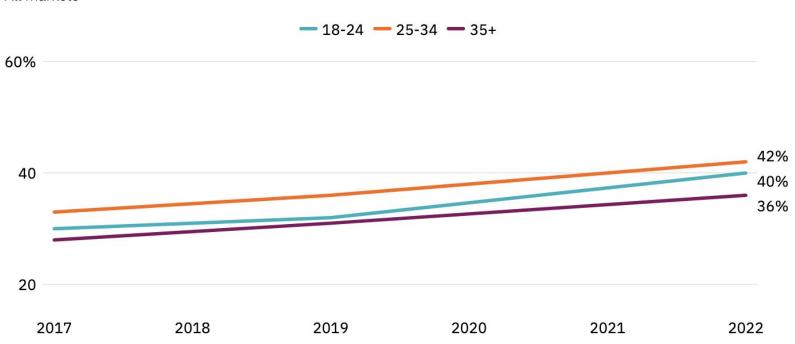
Proportion who are very or extremely interested in news (2015-2022)

Selected countries with largest falls



Proportion who sometimes or often actively avoid news – by age 2017–2022





Q1di_2017. Do you find yourself actively trying to avoid news these days? *Base:* 18–24/25–34/35+ in all markets from 2017–22: 2017 = 7991/12,711/51,103, 2019 = 8272/13,361/54,116, 2022 = 11,304/16,862/65,266. Note: 36 markets in 2017, 38 markets in 2019, 46 markets in 2022.

"I actively avoid news about politics as it frustrates me. It makes me feel small and no matter what my views it won't make any difference at all to what goes on in the country or world, so there is no point listening to it."

- Female, 22, UK

The point of journalism isn't about making more content.



"More misinformation."

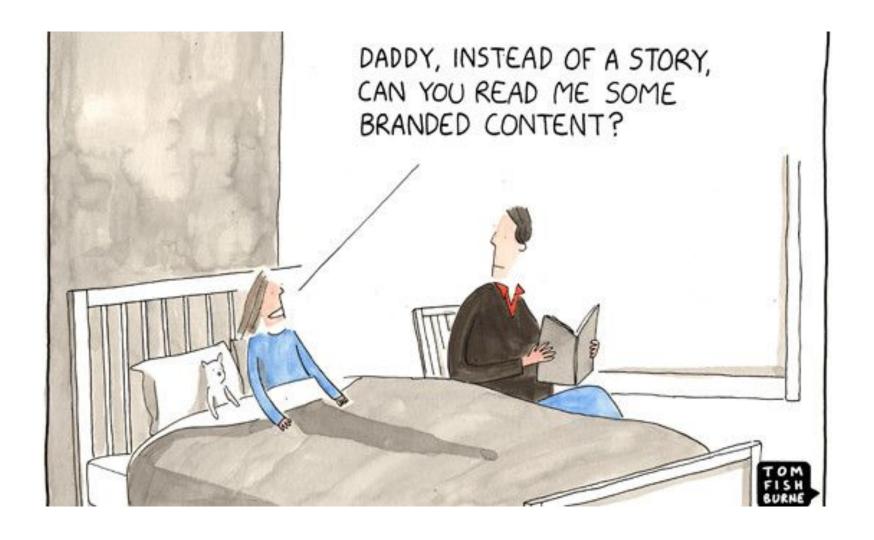
It's also not about trust.

You can't build trust without first being relevant. Or useful.

The media business model is broken transformed.









For the past decade, we've been desperately trying to force-fit old media concepts into new, digital formats.





@marketoonist.com

The promise of the internet is the opposite.

It offers publishers, journalists, creators, influencers, academics, and institutions the opportunity to reach specific, niche, engaged communities.



"We are coming at last to the end of the Gutenberg Age."

-Jeff Jarvis

Tow-Knight Center for Entrepreneurial Journalism

The future of media is user-centered, demand-driven, and interest-based.

Here are some uncomfortable questions.

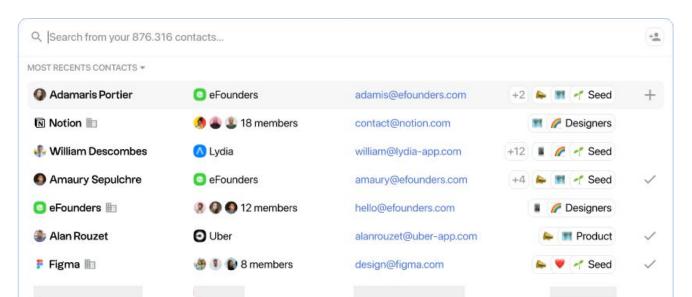
How many people can you name in your audience?

1? 10? None?

When did you last meet with someone who reads your newsletter?

Last week? Last year? Never?

In 2022, your secret weapon isn't your CMS. It's your CRM.



To be discovered, everything you do must be targeted and specific. And it must serve a need.

And that's how you build a viable media business in 2022.

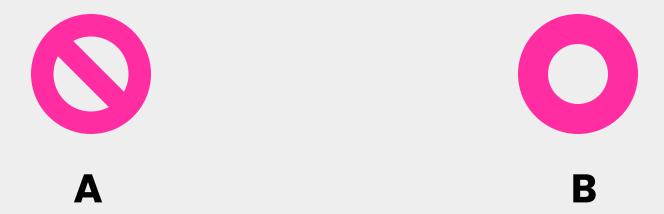
Why do you exist? What problem are you solving that nobody else is?

What problem are you solving?

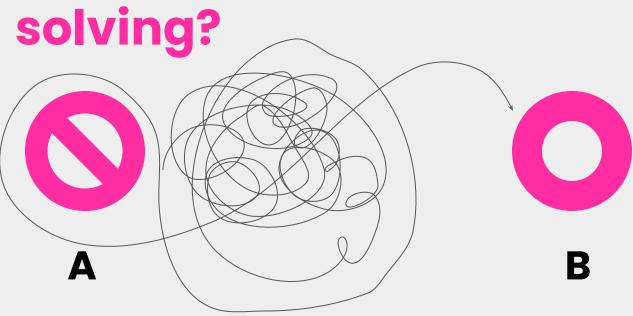


A

What problem are you solving?



What problem are you solving?



Define yourself by the need you serve, not by the number of articles, videos, podcasts you produce.

Where's the best place to find need and utility?

Where's the best place to find need and utility? Community.

Facebook targeting Partial list

Countries, Country/Region, City, Zip/Postal Code Everyone in this location People recently in this location People Traveling to this location From 13 years old to 65+

Language Gender Relationship Interested In Men Interested In Women Interested In Men and Women

Relationship Status

Single

In a relationship Married Engaged Complicated Open Relationship Domestic Partnership

Separated Divorced Widow Education In High School High School Grade In college

Some College College Grade Associate Degree Professional Degree Master Degree Doctorate Degree Field of Study Schools Undergrad Years

Work
Employer
Job Title
Financial
Income
Net Worth
Liquid Asset
Total Value
Industries
Administrative

Architecture and Engineering Art, Entertainment, and Mediac Business and Financial Operations Cleaning and Maintenance Community and Social Services Computer and Mathematics Construction and Extraction Education and Library

Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Food Preparation and Services Government Employees

Healthcare and Medical IT and Technical Installation and Repair

Legal

Life, Physical and Social Science

Management
Military
Nurses
Personal Care
Production
Protective Service

Retail Sales

Temporary and Seasonal

Transportation and Moving Veterans Office Type Home Office Small Business Small Office Home Home Type Apartment

Condo Multi-Family Home

Single

Square Footage
Year Home Built
Home Value
Property Size
Home Ownership
First-Time Home buver

Home Owners Renters

Household Composition Family Based Hose Hold

Grandparents

Housemate-based Households

New Parents
New Teen Drivers
Veteran In Home
Working Women
Young & Hip

Young Adult in Home Ethnic Affinity African American Asian American

Asian European Hispanic Generation Baby Boomers Generation X Millennials Parents All Parents

New Parents
Parent With Toddlers
Parents with preschoolers

Parents with easy school-age children

Parents with Preteens
Parents with Teenagers
Parents with Adult Children

Moms

Big City Moms Corporate Moms Fit Mom

Green Moms

Moms of Grade School Kids Moms of High School Kids Moms of PreSchool Kids

New Mom Soccer Moms Stay-at-home Moms

Trendy MomsLife Events

Anniversary with in 30 Days Away From Family Away from Home Town Long Distance Relationship

New Job

New Relationship

Newly Engaged (3 Month, 6 Months, 1 Year)

Recently Moved Upcoming Birthday Facebook targeting Each of these audiences is a potential media startup

Moms **Big City Moms Corporate Moms** Fit Mom **Green Moms Moms of Grade School Kids Moms of High School Kids Moms of PreSchool Kids New Mom Soccer Moms** Stay-at-home Moms **Trendy Moms**

Financial Operations intenance ial Services atics New Parents
New Teen Drivers
Veteran In Home
Working Women
Young & Hip
Young Adult in Home
Ethnic Affinity
African American
Asian
Asian
European

Asian
European
Hispanic
Generation
Baby Boomers
Generation X

Generation X Millennials Parents

All Parents
New Agrents
Parent With Toddle

Parents with preschoolers

Parents with asy school-age children

Parents with Teen gers

Prients with Adult

Big City Moms Corporate Moms

Fit Mom

Green Moms

Moms of Grade School Kids Moms of High School Kids

Moms of PreSchool Kids New Mom Soccer Moms

Stay-at-home Moms
Trendy Moms

Livents

Anniver any with in 30 Days

Away From Family Away from Home Town Long Distance Relationship

New Job

New Relationship

Newly Engaged (3 Month, 6 Months, 1 Year)
Recently Moved

Recently Moved
Upcoming Birthday

Art, E

ased Households

Craigslist Each of these categories is a potential media startup



craigslist

create a posting my account

search craigslist

event calendar

event calendar					
T	W	T	F	S	S
15	16	17	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	27
29	30	1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11
	T 15 22 29	T W 15 16 22 23 29 30	T W T 15 16 17 22 23 24 29 30 1	T W T F 15 16 17 18 22 23 24 25 29 30 1 2	T W T F S 15 16 17 18 19 22 23 24 25 26 29 30 1 2 3 6 7 8 9 10

craigslist app new

help, fag, abuse, legal avoid scams & fraud personal safety tips terms of use privacy policy new

about craigslist craigslist open source craigslist blog best-of-craigslist "craigslist joe" craig newmark philanthropies

SF bay area sfc sby eby pen nby scz

community

activities

childcare

classes

events

general

groups

local news

automotive

cell/mobile

computer

creative

financial

health/well

household

apple

atheist

autos

beauty

bikes

celebs

comp

diet

cosmos

divorce

dying

feedbk

eco

film

fixit

food

farm+garden

cvcle

event

beauty

artists

lost+found

connections

rants & raves

labor/move

musicians

missed

pets

politics

rideshare

volunteers

legal

lessons

marine

real estate

sm biz ads

travel/vac

write/ed/tran

philos

photo

politics

psych

recover

religion

science

spirit

sports

super

travel

vegan

words

writing

electronics

tax

rofo

skilled trade

pet

discussion forums

frugal

gaming

garden

haiku

history

housing

help

jobs

iokes

legal

manners

marriage

money

music

open

parent

pets

services



vacation rentals



housing





apts / housing housing swap housing wanted office / commercial parking / storage real estate for sale rooms / shared rooms wanted sublets / temporary

for sale

antiques	farm+garden		
appliances	free		
arts+crafts	furniture		
atv/utv/sno	garage sale		
auto parts	general		
aviation	heavy equip		
baby+kid	household		
barter	jewelry		
beauty+hlth	materials		
bike parts	motorcycle parts		
bikes	motorcycles		
boat parts	music instr		
boats	photo+video		
books	rvs+camp		
business	sporting		
cars+trucks	tickets		
cds/dvd/vhs	tools		
cell phones	toys+games		
clothes+acc	trailers		
collectibles	video gaming		
computer parts	wanted		
computers	wheels+tires		

iobs accounting+finance admin / office arch / engineering art / media / design biotech / science business / mgmt customer service education etc / misc food / bev / hosp general labor government human resources legal / paralegal manufacturing marketing / pr / ad medical / health nonprofit sector real estate retail / wholesale sales / biz dev salon / spa / fitness visalia-tulare security yuba-sutter skilled trade / craft software / ga / dba us states systems / network technical support cl worldwide transport

writing / editing gigs

tv / film / video

web / info design

omputer	event	
reative	labor	
rew	talent	
omestic	writing	

resumes

english nearby cl bakersfield

chico fresno gold country hanford humboldt inland empire klamath falls las vegas los angeles medford mendocino co merced modesto monterey orange co palm springs redding reno roseburg sacramento san luis obispo santa barbara santa maria siskivou co stockton susanville ventura

us cities

canada

Craigslist Fach of these categorie a pot

> apts / housing housing swap housing wanted office / commercial parking / storage real estate for sale rooms / shared rooms wanted sublets / temporary vacation rentals

SF bay area sfc sby eby pen nby scz

COmmunit

activities artists childcare classes events general

groups

al news

craigslist

create a posting

my account

rch craigslist

lost+found missed connections musicians pets politics

services

legal

lessons

marine

al estate

illed trade

biz ads

vel/vac

te/ed/tran

foru ns

photo

politics

psych

recover

religion

science

spirit

sports

super

travel

vegan

words

writing

computers

electronics

tax

rofo

housing

iobs

iokes

legal

dvina

feedbk

eco

fixit

food

manners

marriage

money

music

open

parent

labor/move

rants & rave rideshare volunteers

housing

apts / housing housing swap housing wanted office / commercial parking / storage real estate for sale rooms / shared rooms wanted sublets / temporary

vacation rentals

for ale

antiques farm+garden appliances arts+craft furniture atv/utv/no garage sale auto arts general ation heavy equip aby+kid household barter iewelry beauty+hlth materials bike parts motorcycle parts bikes motorcycles boat parts music instr photo+video boats books rvs+camp business sporting tickets cars+trucks cds/dvd/vhs tools cell phones tovs+games clothes+acc trailers collectibles video gaming computer parts wanted

wheels+tires

iobs accounting+finance

admin / office arch / engineering art / media / design biotech / science business / mamt customer service education etc / misc food / bev / hosp general labor government human resources legal / paralegal manufacturing marketing / pr / ad medical / health nonprofit sector real estate siskiyou co stockton retail / wholesale sales / biz dev salon / spa / fitness security skilled trade / craft software / ga / dba systems / network technical support transport

gigs

ty / film / video

web / info design

writing / editing

event computer creative labor crew talent domestic writing

resumes

chico fresno gold country hanford humboldt inland empire klamath falls las vegas los angeles medford mendocino co merced modesto monterey orange co palm springs redding reno rosebura sacramento san luis obispo santa harhara santa maria

english

nearby cl

bakersfield

susanville ventura visalia-tulare yuba-sutter us cities

us states canada

cl worldwide

Reddit's fastest growing communities

Each of these subreddits is a potential media startup

1r/pics
2 r/IAmA
3 r/NintendoSwitch
4 r/AskReddit
5 r/worldnews
6 r/HumansBeingBros
7 r/soccer
8 r/pcmasterrace
9 r/fivenightsatfreddys
10 r/Music
11 r/ABoringDystopia
12 r/Art
13 r/MaliciousCompliance
14 r/PS4
15 r/mildlyinteresting
16 r/theydidthemath
17 r/Damnthatsinteresting
18 r/rareinsults
19 r/tifu
20 r/MurderedByWords
21 r/powerwashingporn
22 r/coolguides
23 r/AskUK 24 r/sadcringe
25 r/h3h3productions 26 r/OutOfTheLoop
27 r/MMA
28 r/educationalgifs
29 r/halo
30 r/tooktoomuch
31 r/CatastrophicFailure
32 r/RoastMe
33 r/Eldenring
34 r/marvelstudios
35 r/discordapp
36 r/iamatotalpieceofshit
37 r/ChoosingBeggars
38 r/niceguys

39 r/tennis

10 r/AbruptChase

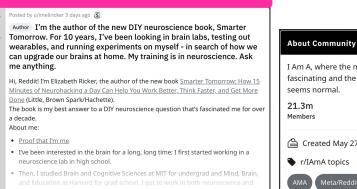
80 r/explainlikeimfive 81 r/OnePunchMan 82 r/Shitty_Car_Mods 83 r/freefolk 84 r/confession 85 r/nintendo 86 r/OldSchoolCool 87 r/loseit 88 r/forza 89 r/FellowKids 90 r/politics 91 r/forbiddensnacks 92 r/TheLastAirbender 93 r/Battlefield 94 r/blunderyears 95 r/PeopleFuckingDying 96 r/news 97 r/fo76 98 r/awfuleverything 99 r/Metroid 100 r/PrequelMemes

Reddit's fastest growing communities Each of these subreddits is a potential media startup



40 r/AbruptChaos 80 r/explainlikeimfive 41 r/askscience 81 r/OnePunchMan 42 r/vexilloloav 82 r/Shitty Car Mods 13 r/Botchedsurgeries 83 r/freefolk 44 ry SetPaperUSA 84 r/confession 45 r/quityouns 41shit 85 r/nintendo r/smashbros 86 r/OldSchoolCool 47 r/besumentaries 87 r/loseit 48 r/Elders alls 88 r/forza 89 SellowKids 49 r/facepalm 90 r/politic 50 r/europe 51 r/blackmaaicfuckery 91 r/forbiddensno

r/IAmA



59 Comments Share Save ...



The nichest of the niche? TikTok.



Questions?
Need a break?
(No, we're not done yet.)

Shared values Shared interests Shared stories Shared output Shared economics Shared rituals Shared belonging

The Community Funnel



Source: The Community Quadrant, A. Atherton (2022)

The Splice community funnel

Help your user discover your community

Welcome them in

Introduce yourself — but more importantly, introduce them to each other Seed conversation and help them get value from each other

Keep them coming back

Empower them as co-hosts in the community

Who is this for?



China In Eurasia

In recent years, it has become impossible to tell the biggest stories shaping Eurasia without considering China's resurgent influence in local business, politics, security, and culture.

Subscribe to this dispatch in which regional expert Reid Standish builds on the reporting from RFE/RL's journalists across Eurasia to give you insights into Beijing's ambitions and challenges. The newsletter is sent on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

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What is the user's intent here?



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What problem is this newsletter solving for your user?



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All you have to do is ask.



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Journalism is a process that allows you to publish to an audience.

Journalism is a process that allows you to publish to an

Journalism is a process that allows you to collaborate with a community.

You're not here to build a community. You're here to serve one with your journalism.

Content + Community + Commerce = An amazing way to build a media company in 2022

So how do we think about what communities want?

So how do we think about what communities want?

How can we build content and products that meet those needs?

So how do we think about what communities want?

How can we build content and products that meet those needs?

And how do we build something that's valuable enough to pay for?

Netflix did not kill Blockbuster.

It was the ridiculous late fees.

Uber/Gojek/Grab did not kill the taxi business.

It was limited access and fare controls.

Apple did not kill the music industry.

We no longer wanted to buy full-length albums.

Amazon did not kill other retailers.

It was poor customer service and limited inventories.

Airbnb isn't killing the hotel industry.

People wanted different experiences and prices.

Technology itself is not the disruptor.

Technology itself is not the disruptor.

The biggest threat to the media business is failing to give people what they want.

So how do you build a viable media product?

By giving people what they want.

By asking people what they want.

By listening.

By acting.

Ask. Listen. Act.

Listen. Act. Ask.	Listen. Act. Ask.	Ask.	Listen. Act. Ask.	Listen. Act. Ask.
Ask.	Ask.	Ask.	Ask.	Ask.
Listen. Act.		Listen. Act.		Listen. Act.
Ask. Listen. Act.		Listen.		



"No caffè latte? And you call yourselves a bookstore?"



You're lucky. You're journalists living in the Golden Age of media.

1. You have everything you need to create, publish, and amplify content on your phone. 2. All the tools you need to get started are practically free. 3. You have

practically free. 3. You have more access to knowledge and networks than ever before. 4. There is a media startup opportunity for every single interest out there. 5. You can hire and

there. 5. You can hire and work with thousands of product, data, and editorial professionals around the world. 6. You can learn practically anything you need to learn on YouTube. 7.

Platforms are all in: you can

world. 6. You can learn practically anything you need to learn on YouTube. 7.

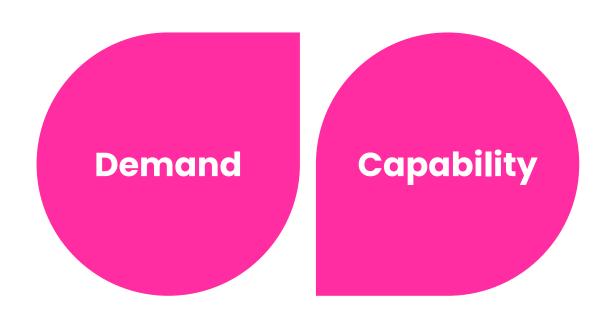
You can create, publish, distribute, monetise on every major platform out there.

Remember, you're not in the media business. You're in the business of helping people solve problems and live better lives.

Talking to your users isn't the job of a person or department. It's the mindset that builds a viable business.



What problems currently exist?
What do people need?



What problems currently exist? What do people need?

What is the solution?
Can you build it?



Capability

Feasibility

What problems currently exist?
What do people need?

What is the solution?
Can you build it?

Can you make money?
Is it a sustainable business?

"If you're not an entrepreneur in journalism these days, you should get out of journalism."

-Kara Swisher, Recode

Everything competes for your attention on the phone. It's all the same to your brain.

So everything you do needs to stand out.

Articles Social posts Social stories Short video Long video **Documentary Photographs** Illustrations Podcasts Live audio rooms Newsletters Events **Messages Databases Reports Presentations Commenting Training Memes Games**

It's time to redefine how you think about competition.

Hint: It's not the newsroom down

the street.

Tesla.

A car company? Or an energy company?





YouTube. A video platform? Or an advertising company? Or an education network?

Want more Splice?



- 1. Go to <u>splicemedia.com</u>.
- 2. Sign up for our <u>newsletters</u>.
- 3. Read and share our <u>reporting</u>.
- 4. Listen to our <u>School of Splice podcasts</u>.
- 5. Join our <u>Telegram group</u>.
- 6. Come to Splice Beta 2022.

Email Rishad

Email Alan