

## Inactive Email Subscribers Best Practices for Re-engagement



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#### **Today's Presenters**

#### **David Fowler**

@oregonlimey Chief Privacy & Deliverability Officer Act-On Software

#### Craig Swerdloff

@swerd CEO LeadSpend







## Email is the heart of your online identity....and its the gateway to your digital experience...

#### Today's Agenda



- Deliverability basics
- Email reputation and you
- Inactive email subscribers what you can do
- Wrap up and Q&A

#### What is Deliverability?

- Delivered vs. Deliverability
  - Delivered number of messages that did NOT bounce
  - # Delivered # Messages Sent # Bounces
- IPR (Inbox Placement Rate) Proportion of messages that make it straight into the inbox
- Getting filtered or blocked by the receivers REDUCES your conversions
- Ignoring deliverability issues will make them worse
- Great deliverability is your foundation to better ROI

EEC Definition of Delivered "...'accepted number' of messages that make it directly into a recipient's inbox..."



#### Key Point – great deliverability is your foundation to better ROI

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#### **Email Reputation**



- The issues that affect YOUR sending reputation:
  - Authentication adoption
  - Email volume
  - Complaint and hard bounce rates
  - Spam trap metrics
  - Blacklist inclusion and management
  - First and third party content
  - Domain reputation
  - Consumer engagement (inactive subscribers)



## Email CPR: How to Define, Identify, and Resuscitate Inactive Subscribers

## **Today's Agenda**

- Why inactive subscribers matter
- How to define "inactive" subscribers
- Strategies for keeping subscribers engaged
- Reactivation strategies and termination
- Bonus: A framework for defining "inactive" subscribers for your company



#### How ISPs Look at it





## Why Care About Inactive Subscribers?

#### Deliverability

- Inactive subscribers hurt engagement rates
- Low engagement rates hurt Inbox Placement Rate
- Over time, ISPs reclaim accounts
- Recycle them or convert them into spam traps



## Why are Inactive Subscribers Important?

 Median ROI for customer emails was \$28.50 per dollar spent

 Compared to mean customer acquisition cost of \$55.24

Source: eMarketer "Email Marketing Benchmarks: Key Data, Trends and Metrics" (2013





#### **Calculating the Opportunity Cost of Inactives**

	Actives	Inactives
# of Subscribers	30,000	90,000
Avg. Revenue Per Email		
Delivered	\$0.10	
5 x Week X 52 Weeks = 260 Emails		
Potential Lost Revenue		\$2.34M



#### **Defining Inactive Subscribers**



#### **How Active are Your Email Subscribers?**

# **Q:** What is an inactive or un-engaged subscriber?

A: Subscribers who no longer read your email, but haven't yet taken action to stop receiving it. *This can mean something different for each sender.* 

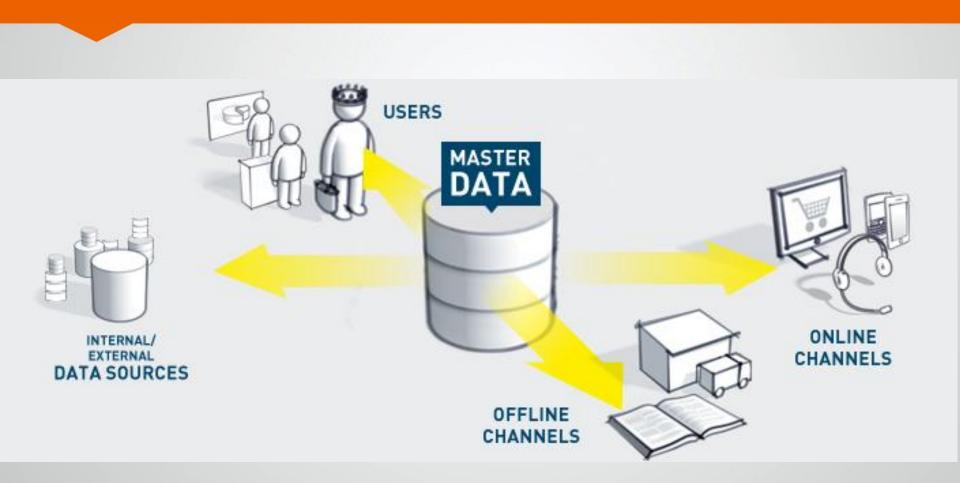


#### **The ISPs' Perspective**



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## **A Broader Perspective**





## **Defining an Inactive/Unengaged User**

#### Before removing an inactive subscriber check if:

No Opens/Clicks (90-365 days) No Purchases (in ~6 months) Inbox Placement Rate (sender reputation) struggling

- If all three criteria are true, then start to eliminate
- Remove inactives that have been unresponsive the longest first



#### Why Do People Become Inactive?





## **Engaged Subscribers**



#### **Retail subscribers**

Opened/clicked in the last 3 months



#### **Inactive Subscribers**



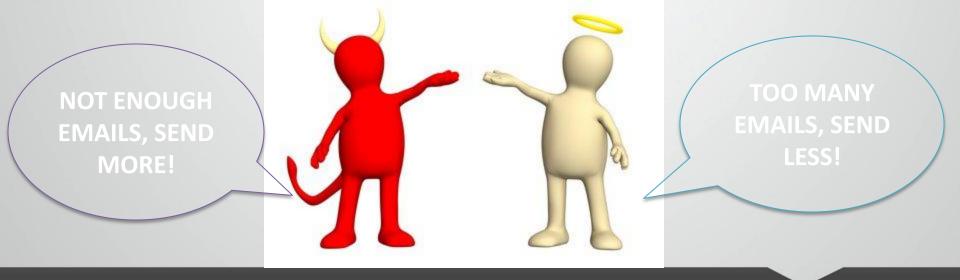
Source: MarketingSherpa report

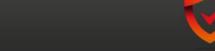


## Why Did Subscribers Go Inactive?

#### Frequency of Mailing

- · You email too often, and they've become used to deleting your mail
- You mail too infrequently, and are not engaging!
- Communication: find out how often they want to hear from you
  - » Preferences and surveys
- Some individuals were never active in the first place





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### **The Mobility Factor**



Source: MarketingSherpa 2013 Email Marketing Benchmark Report





#### **The Mobility Factor**





#### Average user base Emails on a mobile device



#### **The Mobility Factor**





#### Consumers

Delete emails on mobile if it doesn't look good



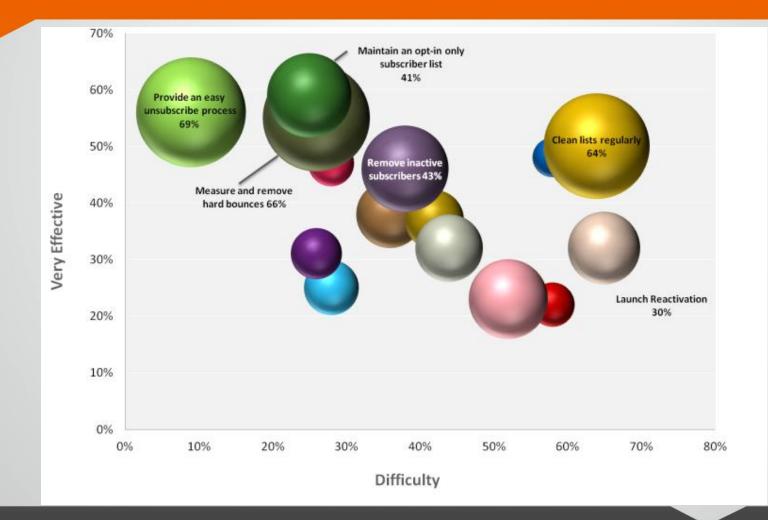
## **Avoiding Future Inactive Subscribers**

#### Find the cause(s):

- Source
- Permission
- Welcome program
- Messaging



## Maintaining a Healthy List



Source: MarketingSherpa Email Marketing Benchmark Report 2012

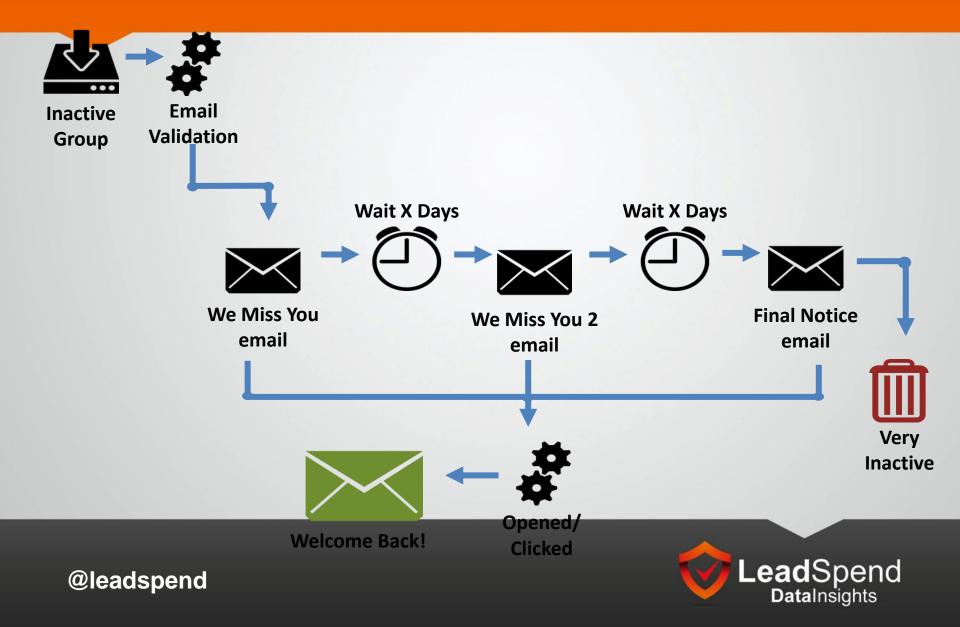


## **Reactivation Campaigns**

- AKA: Win-back/Re-engagement/Re-activation
  - All mean essentially the same thing: we want you back!
  - Represent one of the highest ROI opportunities in marketing
    - Low cost, potentially high reward
- Average Reactivation rate for most marketers: 1-2%
- Potential Reactivation rate for High Performers: 10%+



## Winback Program: Overview



## **Re-Engagement Tactics: Apply Learnings**

- Integrate engaged group into core cadence
- Measure creative performance, optimize accordingly
- Integrate triggered re-engagement email at 6-month mark



## **Engaging Subject Lines**

- We miss you and we want you to see what's new
  - Appeals without forcing you to offer incentives for their inactivity.
- We have a confession...and an offer you won't want to miss
  - Apologize for not reaching out to them in a while, give special attention.
  - Limited time incentives.
- We hate spam, too. Let us know if you want to stay on our list.
  - People don't want to go through the trouble of unsubscribing, so being blunt can be effective.
  - Straightforward, and gets to the point.
  - Let them know that if they do not opt-in by a certain date, they will be removed.
  - Keep your word! Actually remove them if you do not receive an answer.



## **Re-Engage With Special Offers**

#### **Option 1: Re-Engagement Test – With a special offer**

Week 1: We miss you – come back with this special offer!
Week 2: Confirm your email and receive 15% off your next purchase!
Week 3: It's not too late – confirm your email to receive 15% off your next purchase
Week 4: Farewell from Company XX, we'll miss you...



## **Re-Engage Without a Special Offer**

#### **Option 2: Traditional – no special offers**

- Week 1: We miss you confirm your subscription
- Week 2: Confirm your email to continue to receive our best deals!
- Week 3: It's not too late confirm your email today
- Week 4: Farewell from Company XX, we'll miss you...

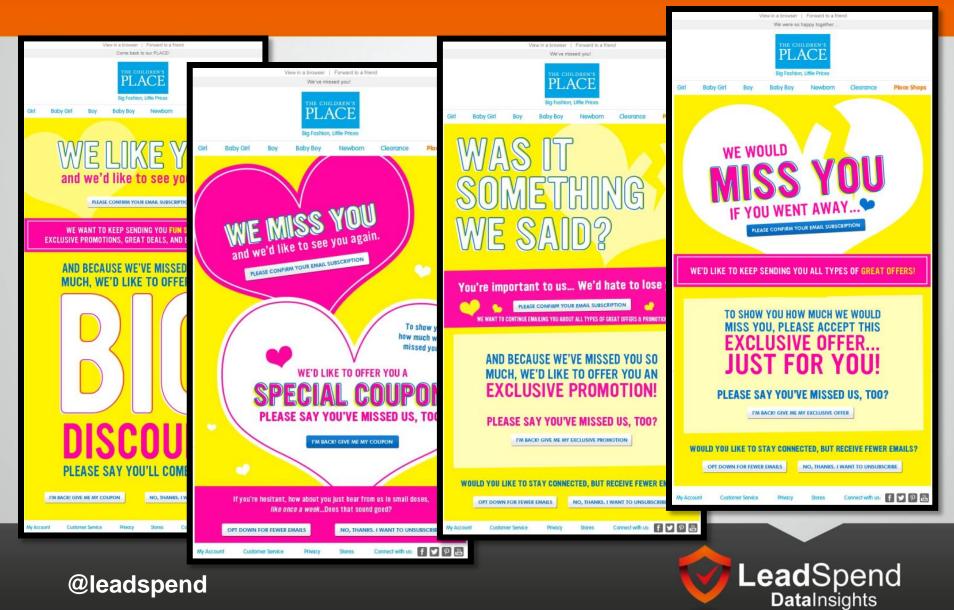


## **Repermissioning Creative**

Click to keep receiving emails.	
STAPLES	FAST and FREE SHIPPING on all orders over \$20.   Weekly Ad >
Click to keep receiving emails.   View on mobile	a device or browser
STAPLES	FAST and FREE SHIPPING on all orders over \$45.   Weekly Ad >
<u>Unsubscribe</u> from our email program. You o	can always come back.
	oved from our email list firm your subscription now!
You need to take action or this will be t • Exclusive coupons • Product deals • Special events • Product launches	the last email we send you. Don't miss out on:
Please click to continue receivin	ng exclusive offers on all the supplies you need.
INK & TONER   PAPER   OFFICE SUPPLIES   TI	ECHNOLOGY   CLEANING   BREAKROOM   FURNITURE   COPY & PRINT   HOT DEALS
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INK & TONER   PAPER   OFFICE SUP	Redeem online       Print in-store coupon         6206-4204-4180-3920         How to redeem         PPLIES   TECHNOLOGY   CLEANING   BREAKROOM   FURNITURE   COPY & PRINT   HOT DEALS



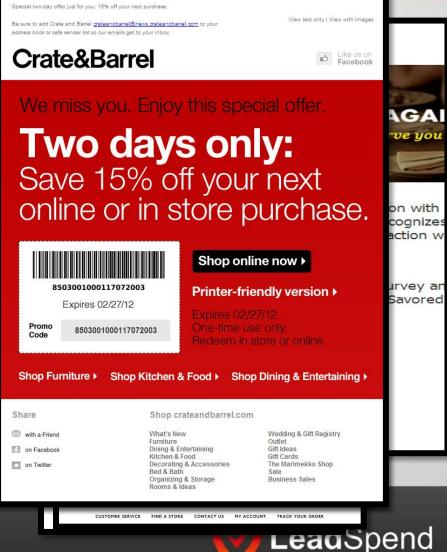
## **Example: Four-Part Email Series**



## **Best-in-Class Re-Engagement Tactics**

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- ✓ We miss you
- ✓ Aggressive offer



**Data**Insights



#### **Banner Reconfirmation to Utilize Winning Creative**

- Using current promotional emails, add a banner on the top
- Subject: We Miss You, Please Confirm Your
   Email Subscription to The Children's Place!





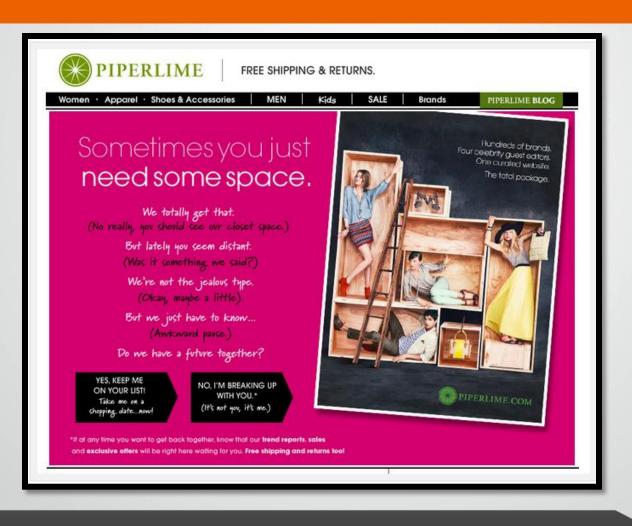
#### **Redbox: Four-Part Series to Inactives**

- Highlight benefits users will miss
- Uses same creative but different subject for each touch
- Touch 1: Don't Miss Out on Redbox Offers!
- **Touch 2**: Don't let any great deals slip by! Confirm your email!
- Touch 3: Confirm your email Don't lose out on great deals!
- Touch 4: We Want You Back Confirm Your Subscription Now!





## When All Else Fails, Ask Permission



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## **Options Outside of Email**

Do you have other information on your users?





#### **The Last Resort: Breaking-Up**



I WOULD SAY "ITS NOT YOU, ITS ME" EXCEPT ITS YOU



## BONUS!



#### **Special Offer for Act-On Customers**









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#### Ready to Learn More?



Interested in a demo Call +1 (877) 530-1555 Email <u>sales@act-on.com</u> Web <u>www.act-on.com</u>

