

THE BUSINESS CASE FOR A BRAND MANAGEMENT PLATFORM



Get value from brand management software

If you invest in your brand, you increase the value of your company.

A bold statement but one which is inherently true.

In this white paper, we explore how brand management software can help brands integrate and implement their brand and communications, and ultimately grow their company value.

Brand value building through effective marketing and brand management

Coca-Cola charges a 112% premium over own-brand equivalents. This premium is possible based on the emotional response Coke generates in the consumer's mind, created through the company's clear, consistent marketing and branding activity. In fact, almost 50% or \$73 billion of Coca-Cola's overall company value is currently attributed to their brand equity.

Over the past 25 years there has been a massive shift towards company value being generated from intangibles. In the early eighties, the tangible assets (buildings, machinery, stock, etc.) of the top 500 US companies accounted for over 75% of total company value. Today they account for only 20%, meaning 80% of the value of the Fortune 500 is now made up of intangibles!

As brand value is a key intangible, this is a crucial insight - from both an investment and operational perspective:

- For brand owners, the focus on creating and sustaining brand messaging and marketing becomes a much smarter investment.
- For agencies comes the opportunity to showcase to clients how important it is to get the right partner that can focus on the quality and communication of the brand.

Here at Brandworkz, we believe that branding and good marketing management is one of the key drivers of sustainable differentiation, sales and ultimately brand value.

Brand building is all about managing the customer experience. Whether that is through your products, packaging, price, advertising communications, website, email marketing or sales personnel. Each time a customer interacts with your brand, that experience defines who you are, how you operate, and how you're different from your competitors and the messages and imagery in these interactions have to be managed consistently.

With good branding, potential customers are more aware of any advantage you have over your competitors. With control through brand management technology, your global message and clear communication will be consistent, even when local markets or third parties create materials.

ANY DAMN
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DAVID OGILVY



Marketing and branding is increasing in complexity

Our client JLL saved more than 10% of their stock photography budget by centralising the procurement process and making the images available in their brand management system. In addition they have seen clearer communication and strengthened brand consistency as the images are now curated by the global brand director.

Managing brands is becoming harder. There are increasing channels to communicate in and, through globalisation, more markets and languages to compete in. The result is an exponentially expanding number of marketing assets, such as logos, images, brand guidelines, positioning documents and marketing materials to manage.

The proliferation of marketing channels is great for creating engagement with customers but causes headaches for brand managers trying to manage brand assets, protect their brands and ensure a unified message.

This can often lead to marketing production and management issues. Disjointed file management and manual processes for searching and distributing marketing materials lead to ad-hoc, inefficient processes.

A large percentage of global businesses today still store their digital assets on an FTP server, or worse, on individual hard drives, hugely reducing efficiency and meaning the opportunity for error is increased.

In fact, according to research by Gleanster, the average marketer without brand management technology will spend 35% of their time searching for assets.

Local markets creating their own 'home grown', less effective materials hurts revenue and can cause bottlenecks if only one or two people have the brand knowledge to advise others or approve work. This is bad for business.

For example, it is not unusual for companies to re-commission and reorder up to 10% of their images and assets which already exist because they cannot locate them or don't know of their existence. Millions of dollars each year can be saved in employee productivity and asset reuse if a brand management system is used.

In most cases the cost benefits of improving marketing productivity are enough to justify the investment in a brand management platform. Adding searchable access to digital content could save yet more.

Why use a brand management platform?

Red Bull's success is partly owed to their tightly managed brand and image, something that would be very hard to do without an online brand management system. Having a strong brand attracts investment and consumer interest, which in turn translates into sales and increased company valuation.

An online brand management platform makes the brand, its assets, and everything associated with communicating it's meaning available to those responsible for building that brand. It is equally important for communications and marketing departments to understand how to express a brand and its messages as it is for every employee, supplier and external agency employed. A brand management system offers simple yet powerful tools to help brands communicate seamlessly, whoever is doing it.

Internally, a new manager can make decisions quicker if she is taught and experiences the fundamental brand values and what they strive to achieve.

Externally, a marketing agency is empowered to produce better campaigns which truly further the product and

company in the right way when it's crystal clear what the main differentiators are and the agency has easy access to all the right visual assets such as strategic positioning information, guidelines, logos, images and artworks.

A brand management system enables all parties to access the right brand materials at the right time and produce marketing communications consistent with the brand to maximize impact in the market.

By integrating the tools for greater brand consistency and efficient processes, significant ROI in marketing budgets can be achieved. Putting all your digital assets in a hosted brand management system and implementing Workflows and Web-to-Print technologies is the first and most important step in creating sustainable and cost effective brand management processes.

A good online brand management toolkit should enable you to:

Our client, \$100m outdoor clothing company Icebreaker, has seen an 80% take up of their brand management system by all users with 25,000 downloads a month. (The equivalent of two people's jobs at around \$100,000 per year.) Ad hoc artwork requests from retailers have decreased ten-fold. And consistency has increased as marketing materials and in-store POS for each new season's collection are now available for immediate download by retail outlets.

01 Explain and justify your 'reason for being'

In a brand management platform your positioning documents, strategic communications documents, explanation of your 'Big Idea' are all available at the touch of a button to those who are making strategic business decisions or producing communications materials. The notion of a company having a Big Idea - a story behind why it exists and how this matters - is becoming increasingly important. Consumers don't just want products: They want to connect on an emotional and ethical level. People always look for ways to belong, and brands are increasingly important in playing this role.

02 Ensure messaging and assets are communicated clearly and correctly

A brand management platform makes your visual guidelines and tools accessible online; including key messaging points used in all the various output produced every day by sales, marketing, PR, corporate communications and other departments. This also includes logos, images, videos, templates, etc. - typically referred to as DAM: Digital Asset Management. A good brand toolkit will ensure that brand assets can be automatically delivered in all the formats relevant to the need of the user. When everyone is using the same system and material all communication reinforces the same core points.

03 Create on-brand material at no or low cost

Recently, innovative technologies like Dynamic Templating and Web-to-Print functionality allows employees, affiliates and licensees to customise and localise on-brand marketing collateral easily and effectively. These tools, supported by automated tutorials, best practices and Approval Workflow functionality, empowers you to save thousands of man-hours and can reduce on-brand asset creation costs by up to 80% overnight.

Return on investment

With Brandworkz, clients see ROI in three areas:

- Strategic improvements and revenue growth
- Cost reduction
- Cost avoidance

01 Strategic improvements and revenue growth

Clients see increased revenue through better marketing efficiency and higher employee productivity because marketing teams no longer spend so much of their time on manual admin tasks, such as asset searching and distribution, and are able to focus on strategic tasks. Understanding of brand guidelines and access to on-brand assets results in more consistent, on-brand verbal and visual messages.

Sharing of successful marketing materials or campaigns in Brandworkz means higher re-use of assets, less creation of local materials from scratch and less duplication of work. Overall our clients have seen reduced time to market by accelerating sales and partner enablement with toolkits, how-to videos and templates, and through faster creation and approval of marketing artwork.

02 Cost Reduction

Brandworkz has created a Return on Investment (ROI) calculator which predicts the savings you could see using the system. Broken down into specific core activities, you will see how much you could save on your brand management costs using Brandworkz.

Whether these tasks are searching and distributing brand assets, updating brand guidelines or localising marketing artworks, variable fields in the ROI calculator allow the user to input their own information to receive as accurate an indication of savings as possible. As a guide, the figure in year one is typically five to ten times your investment in Brandworkz. **To try the ROI calculator for yourself, please contact: neil.monahan@brandworkz.com**

Return on investment

Dr. Martens' customers understand what the brand stands for and buy into it because brand management is one of Dr. Martens' many strengths and has resulted in it becoming one of the world's most loved and iconic British brands. Why? Because the brand is the same every time its customers interact with it, wherever that is. Messaging, imagery, identity, brand values - they are consistent wherever and whenever you see the brand; nothing is left to chance. Everything is controlled by Dr. Martens' brand management team and their brand agency partners.

03 Cost avoidance, security and compliance
Brandworkz avoids the risks and costs associated with lack of brand asset control. Many businesses find themselves inadvertently using assets past their license expiry date because they cannot be disabled. In addition, a brand management system minimises the risk of losing assets if your agency or printer goes down (e.g. liquidation or fire).

With Brandworkz there is less risk of leaking of sensitive and restricted assets because our granular permission-based system and security features restrict which users see what materials.

You will see a decrease in the purchasing of near-identical assets or images and a reduction in artworks which exist already being re-created by local markets. Print spends can be brought down by using a structured and centralised briefings, workflows and approval system and this also avoids costly production re-runs due to oversights in marketing material creation.

LONG-TERM BRAND EQUITY
AND GROWTH DEPENDS ON
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ELEMENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE
BRANDING STRATEGY.

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A brand management platform is a key factor in building successful and high-value brands.

By achieving brand consistency and creating and maintaining a brand-driven company, you see significant savings in time and budgets and generate additional company value. While doubling your company value through branding and marketing like Coca Cola may take a few years, putting a solid foundation and a brand management platform in place will help you towards the first 20% in months, not decades.

Request a demo today at www.brandworkz.com

About Brandworkz

Brand marketing today is more complex than ever. Customers will encounter your business in many different ways. Online. On mobile. Face-to-face. And while every touchpoint is an opportunity to increase the power of your brand, many marketers struggle to deliver the outstanding brand consistency they need to grow their brands over time.

Assets are created in hundreds of different flavours by multiple different teams and keeping control of your marketing ecosystem can seem like herding cats. This inevitably leads to mistakes and to brand experiences that fall short of the mark.

We can help.

Brandworkz is a brand management platform that makes doing the right thing, the fastest, easiest thing. Simply, you get a more consistent, more effective brand in less time for less effort.

With Brandworkz, only brand compliant content is available in the platform. People login with password permissions to self-serve. Finding it is lightning-fast and ultra-easy, enabling your users to save time and quickly take advantage of brand building opportunities. Brand guidance is built into the core, so everyone knows exactly what to do. And intuitive connectivity with your other marketing platforms means you can even automate key processes, strengthening consistency and minimising brand dilution.

The result is a more desirable brand for your customers, fewer operational headaches for you and a more effective brand for the business.

Brandworkz. Accelerate your Return on Brand.