

Domino's, Social Media, & Leveraging Twitter

Domino's: a Case Study of social media and leveraging Twitter (or not)

I want to write today about Domino's Pizza, an international franchise restaurant and pizza restaurant with delivery. Their website is <https://www.dominos.com/en/> *

The company was founded by Tom Monaghan in 1960 and now has an annual volume of USD 1.8 billion and 220,000 employees worldwide. Previously the company specialized in pizza. Indeed its name was Domino's Pizza, but then it started to also sell pasta, sandwiches, and bread –changing its name in 2012 to just Domino's.

One reason why I have selected this company to write about is that it has a great story of success—mainly due to its capability of leveraging technology. The main strength of Domino's has been its ability to deliver a pizza within 30 minutes after the order was placed. It was counting on its speed to deliver the pizza before that time frame for customer satisfaction. A few years ago they were offering discounts or even free pizza in the event the order was delayed more than 30 minutes—they believed in their slogan, and they stood behind the pledge.

The Mobile App

In a digital world, like the one we live in today, Domino's has captured the importance of technology. As we know, the importance of e-commerce has been growing, and this is also true for food. Domino's created a very advanced app and managed to have 50% of its orders now made via mobile devices—the first of its kind to have that type of success

with mobile app order placement. The company even has a tracking feature that is able to tell you exactly at what point in the process your pizza is. Being a food business, it has quite a broad market. The core target market is the one related to lifestyle. Usually, families in which both parents work full time, commute more than two hours per day. They are starving after a long day at work and have very little time to dedicate to cooking. Capitalizing on the need to have the food ready, Domino's utilized a brilliant marketing strategy by having an app that is able to track a customer's pizza, thus making it easier to be able to order on the way home and find the pizza right on time when arriving. What a lovely feeling to be able to reach home together with a hot, delicious meal ready and waiting.

The company now tries to maintain its reputation by leveraging technology. To do this, it partnered with the creators of Apple's Siri technology to create a voice assistant to order a pizza; the name of the assistant is Dom (get it?). In 2014 Dom was launched, and it was a huge success relative to reaching and engaging audiences and in promoting social media discussions about it.

http://industry.shortyawards.com/nominee/7th_annual/o4H/dom *

Let's consider some Domino's competitors:

Pizza Hut

The company link is <https://order.pizzahut.com/home> *

Pizza Hut, according to Wikipedia, has more than 600,000 stores in just the United States and more than 500,000 around the world. They also sell pizza, pasta, and similar food as Domino's, and of course, they also have a big chunk of the pickup and delivery market.

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Papa John's

The company link is <http://www.papajohns.com/company/> *

It was founded in 1984 by John H. Schnatter. It has \$1.4 billion in annual revenue and 20,000 employees. It's mostly a takeout and delivery business, but in a few locations, it also has some places to sit and eat, but not to the extent of Domino's or Pizza Hut. Papa John's does not serve pasta. They serve pizzas, breadsticks, and wings and thus has fewer options than the first two companies analyzed.

Little Caesar's

The company link is <https://littlecaesars.com/> *

It was founded in 1959 and is the third largest company for pizza delivery after Domino's and Pizza Hut, according to Wikipedia. Also, Little Caesar's was among the first to use a new kind of speed cooking conveyor oven, the "Rotary Air Impingement Oven" as described in [U.S. Patent 5676044](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Caesars) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Caesars) *. Their menu is mostly based on pizzas and breadsticks, and they don't serve pasta and other dishes.

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Domino's has social media. They have:

- Facebook account <https://www.facebook.com/Dominos> *
- Twitter account <https://twitter.com/dominos> *

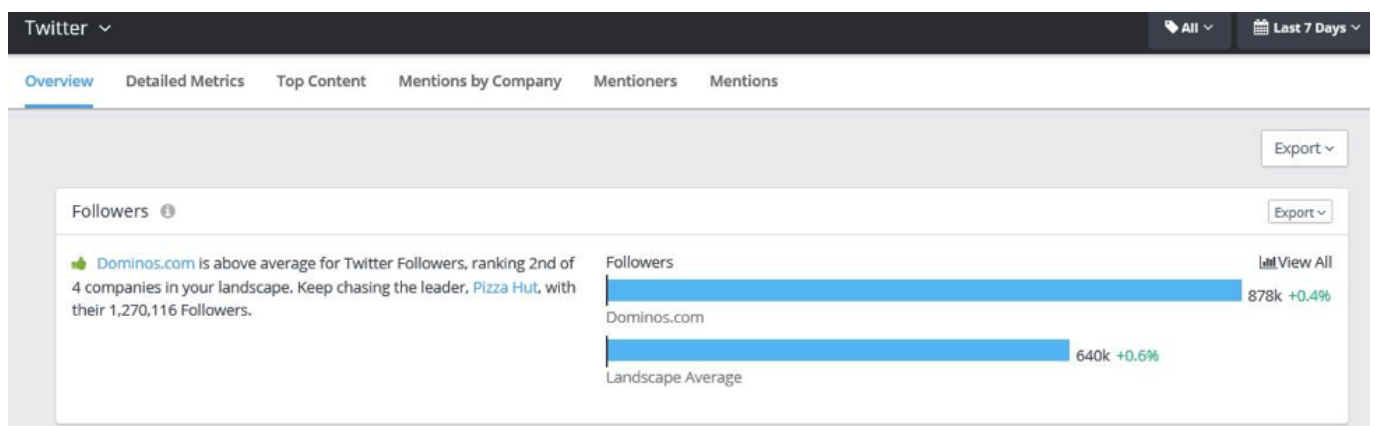
▪ Google plus account
<https://plus.google.com/+dominos/videos> *

Strangely, they do not have a YouTube or an Instagram account.

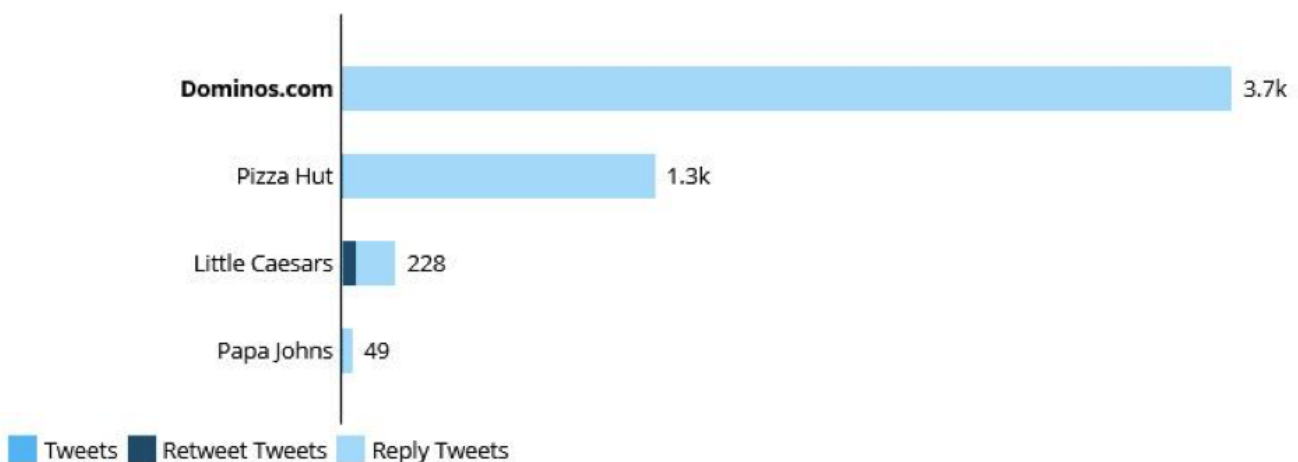
Specific to their Twitter...

I recently monitored their Twitter account for 7 days using Rival IQ.

The Twitter account has 878K followers. In the 7 day period, this increased 0.4% according to our analysis.

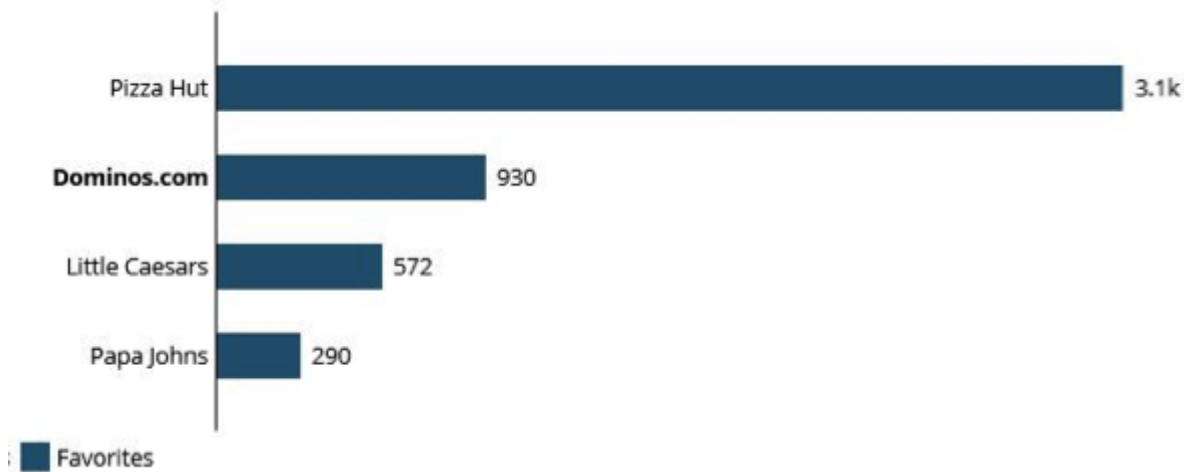


Domino's has many tweets compared to its competitors. As you can see from the graph below, it has almost three times the number of tweets of Pizza Hut.



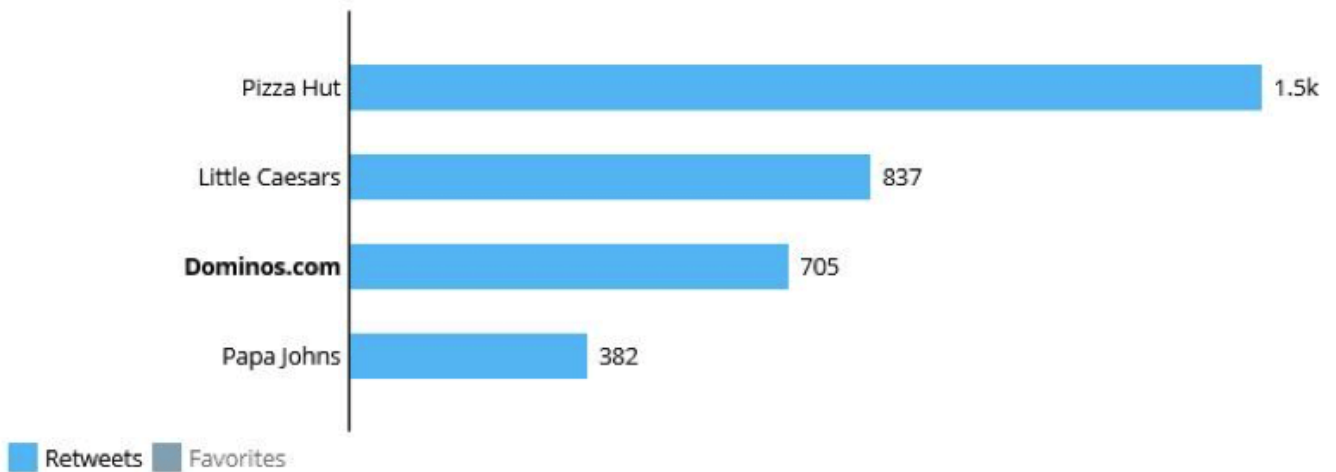
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However, it does not appear to have a lot of engagement. Engagement is much more important than the number of tweets. As you see below, favorites are fewer, as are retweets.

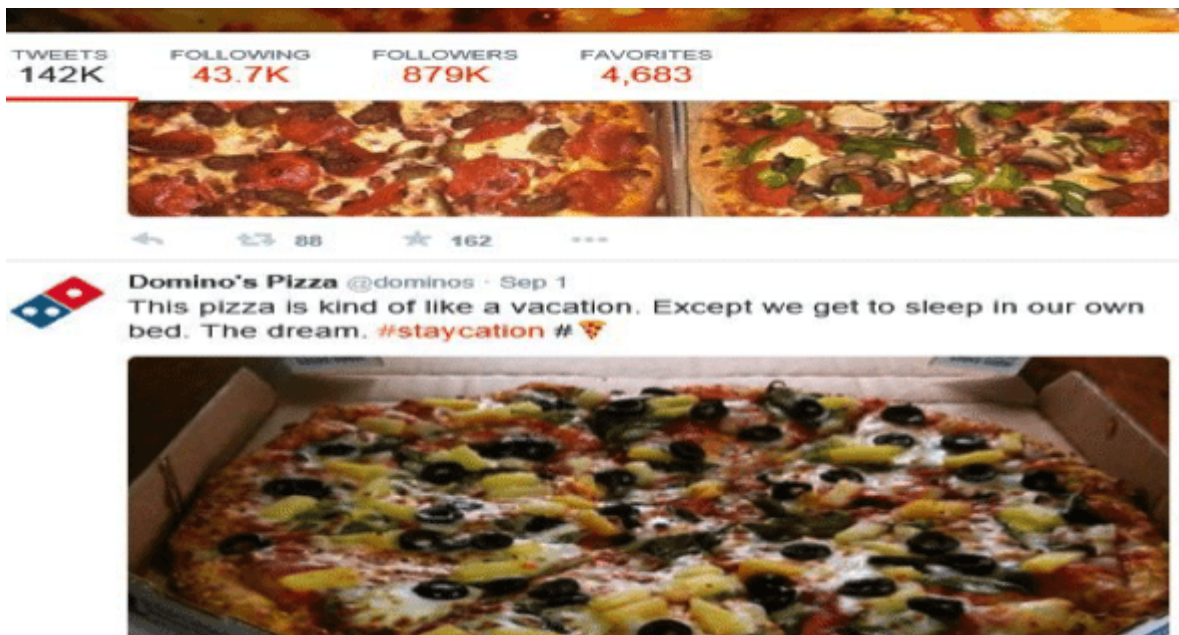


It looks like Domino's has more than eight times the followers of Little Caesar's and three times as many as Papa John's. It is not often mentioned and does not get many retweets as seen in the images below.

It appears that most of the tweets do not get attention. What I noticed is that the more the tweet contains rich communication (picture, audio, and video), the more likely it is to get engagement. So an appealing image of a pizza has a higher chance of getting retweeted. However, if the tweet has poor graphics than it is likely to get the same kind of engagement as that without a graphic. Most of Little Caesar's mentions, despite a smaller base of followers (100K against the 879K of Domino's), did get much engagement during the week due to a #LCPizzaParty campaign launched to bring pizza to Justin Bieber fans, which included pictures and sending tweets about it. This brought a lot of engagement and many retweets and mentions. This proves that even with having a smaller audience, a company can be very successful in engaging with the audience. Perhaps it goes to the old saying regarding quality over quantity.



Domino's has not posted many tweets that are content rich. However, they have started to do so recently—even while I was doing this study. Domino's account is tweeting more pictures than it ever did in the past, as seen in the screenshot below. In this case, they did indeed get more retweets and mentions than before.



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The Analysis:

The data shows that even if the competition's audience is huge, and the number of tweets is even larger—here it was about 4k a week—the tweets themselves are not very engaging and thus do not have a substantial effect. Other competitors with a much smaller audience obtain much more attention from customers—excluding tweets, but those tweets are more engaging. If Domino's would launch a Twitter campaign or involve celebrities like Little Caesar's has done, this could spur more engagement. The LC campaign for Bieber Believer fans was ingenious!

Let's look at the touch points of this brand, (whether it happened during, before and after the purchasing cycle) for Dominos. In particular, it can be:

1. the time in which the delivery will arrive and promised punctuality (a massive brand strength as its target market wants to get a hot pizza to eat right away).
2. Also the ordering experience and how pleasant or how easy the experience of ordering the pizza was can be another touch point.
3. And then there is the product itself and how good the pizza is—how tasty it is.

What it looks like is that one of the more important touch points, delivery, does not perform as it should judging from the social media complaints that Domino's receives. Unfortunately, social media is used to communicate inefficiently by the operations services. Most of the time, all of these negative mentions bring up negative perceptions of the service, even if it is really limited to a few cases. This can always happen, but the way it is depicted on social media skews the perception.

I recommend adding testimonials or launching a campaign to tweet constantly that pizzas arrive on time —accompanied them

with images of satisfied customers or even short videos. Maybe make a public pledge again that should the pizza be late they provide it free of charge or something similar. It needs to be significant, though—to the point that people see it as a real value-added pledge. Often we see that social media can be a magnet for what has gone wrong. This is often the case for reviews—those who are not happy are more likely to complain whereas those who are satisfied are less likely to say so. This is where social media can be compelling. This company, like many others, should institute a program that effectively solicits those other reviews—the more-satisfied-than-not. In this way, I think they can leverage the satisfied customers in ways that communicate well to potential customers.

** External links will open in a new browser window/tab.*

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Gratification Theory

Uses and gratifications theory attempts to explain the uses and functions of the media for individuals, groups, and society in general.

The theoretical foundation of this theory lies in the social origin of need. I use the media with an active approach, and it is tough to spend time watching television, so usually, I search news online through YouTube, Twitter or blogs or typing the topic into Google and look for the various results.

I do sometimes read important international newspapers on my iPad, but then I always try to verify the news from other sources.

I admit it is becoming pretty confusing. Bloggers and YouTube do their best to broadcast news with an opposite point of view of the national press and television reporters. However, both national newspapers and television newsrooms do not broadcast opinions. They can only broadcast substantiated facts.

Sometimes the alternative media can make sense, but there are times when it appears there is a conspiracy of the Lobbies and the government for each topic or item that exists on the earth, from the milk to the toothbrush.

Apparently, the effort of providing contrary information to what the Big channels broadcast is becoming the unique selling point for those small bloggers and YouTube Journalists. And it looks like the success of those independent forms of media is directly proportional to the conspiracy theories they can discover or to the capacity to entirely differ from the original news generated from the known channels.

This attempt as we discussed last week is very valuable and gives excellent potential concerning freedom to this generation, but then other issues surface. If the only way to get noticed is to be entirely different from the original news, we risk that the information will be distorted and twisted just to satisfy their private agenda.

The only way I encourage others in my field to use and interact with media outlets is to send them links from the various sources. Some of my employees are older, and it's difficult to explain and convince them of the importance to communicate through or take advantage of the new media.

Also, I feel there are time restraint factors, and we cannot force other parties that are engaged in business relationships with us to communicate through new mediums, even when is not the most efficient form of communication. Our need for gratification cannot lead us to be abusive and disrespectful towards other people needs. Sometimes a phone call or an email

can do the work without the necessity of getting too fancy about simple communications. People have different needs. I satisfy my cognitive need by participating in online courses, forums, and blogs. My diversion need is gratified on YouTube listening to music or other topics that can distract me.

Personal relationship and Personal integrative needs in my case are not that strong I would guess probably are satisfied using LinkedIn, but I need to admit that my personality and characteristics do not really meet the gratification criteria through social media about that particular need.

The need for recognition and self-esteem is satisfied in my private life, and I am happy I don't feel like interacting with social media, for example through Facebook, to give out personal information.

I will report a sentence I read during my research that connects with the example that Dr.Braddock did in her Lecture of

Facebook is like giving somebody a stage and an audience and that's one way it can bring out and magnify narcissism," (Dr. Elias N. Aboujaoude, a Stanford psychiatrist)

For example, my Facebook page is managed by some of my employees, and I sometimes log in, so I don't miss the ability to analyze the phenomena. I could use it eventually for business purposes, but it's really annoying for me to have my life displayed on it. It seems that I do not belong to myself anymore. The issue here is that I notice not only that Facebook users tend to satisfy their narcissism, but they just engage with profiles that exhibit similar behavior. If I only write about business or other economic topics, people get bored and don't engage, so my Facebook profile is not successful. To attract users, I need to copy their style and their behavior. So I will think about posting pictures of my Ferrari, of my yacht, of all the places I regularly visit

around the world, and all the cool stuff I do. This is the only way to build a consistent number of followers from which I can eventually use for business purposes

An excellent example of the gratification theory comes from the Harlem video. Viewers thought at the onset that the videos were products of individuals for entertainment purposes. In the end, they discovered that the video was the creation of YouTube and Twitter for self-promotion.

George Miller created phenomena when he filmed himself and his friends performing a dance he called the "Harlem Shake" when in fact it was not the Harlem Shake at all. This inspired others from Florida and Australia to make their own versions and post them on YouTube with limited success. Actual record labels and professional disk jockeys took up the gauntlet and made, even more, versions, showed them on YouTube and promoted them with their Twitter accounts.

The use of YouTube and Twitter by corporations to push the "Harlem Shake" videos propel into the viral sphere is a prime example of the Uses and Gratifications PR theory. Corporate executives saw the potential for these mediums to fill specific entertainment needs and thus grow profits exponentially. Everyone bought into the action which made the video the sensation that it became.

"Harlem Shakes" took a different route to fame than other videos. Generally, videos are made by studio professionals, and then students make their own versions and parodies. In this instance, the students made the videos first and then Google investors, Marker Studios and the Mad Decent record label jumped on the bandwagon and reaped the rewards of the "Harlem Shale's" viral success.



Scan Me Reputation Management

This week all our studies were concentrated on online reputation and its effect on every aspect of a career and business, but also its effect on personal lives.

I have not been very active on the Web. I am an investor, and I usually find deals around the world buying shares in companies and installing new management that can produce profits.

For me, the Web is not all that beneficial. People want to make me a permanent resident of one country or another so they can claim I owe taxes to them. I do not need to build a specific reputation to attract business or to try to be presentable for a job application.

I, therefore, do not have an active presence on the Web. There is very little published about me, and I am pleased.

I am present on social media a lot; I usually post some motivational sentences and some information that is helpful as business advice. I use social media to remain in touch with different people or groups, and I usually join business discussions in which my input is highly appreciated.

My companies are on social media, and I do make sure that all

are present on the web and have a friendly interface. Since I started this course, I am continually reminding all of my CEO's of the importance of the internet, the importance of presence and interaction with the users. It's new territory for many of them, and everybody confirms the importance of leveraging such tools. However, few really have the tools and the capacity to implement a serious, effective strategy. This course will give all of us the opportunity to develop a significant advantage in this new age business world.

What I also noticed is that there are many people with my name around the world, from America to South America to Europe.

Usually to search for a person who is not a very famous we need to add either the name of the business or the city.

For example, in my case, I can add Miami next to my name in the search, and many more mentions come up.

Most of the results are for my blog and all my sentences on social media, from Facebook, Slide Share, Twitter, etc.

So as we learned, social media can play a significant role in driving traffic and building a reputation. Social media can be an efficient way to build a reputation and engage with clients and business networks.

People will know who you are, what you do and look into your values and interests. This will help to create an idea about a person. Right or wrong, the first impression counts.

I have a new blog on which I am working, and I post few Real estate notes. The blog is new and has not indeed been launched yet because I want to make more professional graphics.

The blog will be an excellent tool for reputation, and I can apply all the theories learned in this course from SEO optimization and tags words to Google analytics to evaluate traffic.

Honestly, my blog will be only to inspire other people to invest wisely and find the financial freedom I found at very young age. I will also add something about charity. I don't intend to raise funds, but I want to donate money to real people that have a need and leverage social media to spread the news. This may create a trend among friends to help the poorest. This helps reputation but also creates something good for society.

Google Alert will help to keep track of the progress and alert me on my name and how it is mentioned.

I found the notes I took during the Lecture particularly helpful, and I went on socialmention.com and wrote my name.

From it, I could evaluate the ratio of the positive comments, which was quite high 17 to 1, and also the positives of my name on the search engines which was measured with 95%.

The influence on the Web was apparently meager, so from those key performance indicators, I can see what was already known to me: my reputation is exceptional, but I am not really known on the web.

I will be more present on the Web as I learn how to leverage all the tools at which we are learning.