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# Personal Branding and Social Media

Fred Strolle



## Fred Strolle - Bio and Experience

BS Industrial Management – Villanova MBA Marketing – Temple



- 37 years experience:

Sales, Marketing Specialist, Financial Manager, Planning Manager, Business Development Manager, Procurement Manager, E-Business Manager, and finally, 9 years as Communications Manager for DuPont Engineering

Currently – Marketing and Communications Consultant (primarily social media)

# Purpose of Today's Presentation

What is branding?

What is personal branding?

What is personal branding on social media?

What mistakes could impact my branding?

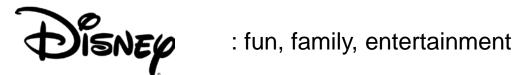
My social media sites as examples

## So what is branding?

Not a "logo" or "signature" – encompasses much more!

*Idea or image* created through what customers see, hear, read, experience, and think about a company, products or services.





An expectation about the company, services or products.

A differentiator helping the product or organization can attain their business objectives.

## How does Personal Branding apply to me?

#### The same concept applies to people!

You've had it all along!

"He's so caring."

"She's dependable."

You've used it all along!

Interpersonal Relationships
Job Interviews
Performance reviews



But have you consciously managed it all along??

#### So what is a "Personal Brand"?

A personal brand is the total experience of someone having a relationship with who you are and what you represent as an individual.

**Essential for advancement** of your career and development.

Should *represent the value* you are able to consistently deliver.

Should define what makes you remarkable.

But... in today's world most people are going to interact with your personal Brand digitally! Social media, email, texts, virtual conferences... Your interactions online are more important than ever!

## A branding example: I need to find more clients

#### 1. Have a business objective and use the correct "tool" to do it.

Business Objective: I want to secure communications work assisting technical professionals and need to use social media.

Facebook? Too social, just my friends, not applicable.

**Twitter?** Oriented towards people with similar interests sharing news and information. Can find other communicators there and possible employers, but too hit-or-miss for this objective.

**Linked in?** A social media site for professionals to find one another. We'll start here.

## A branding example: I need to find more clients

2. Put as much clarity as possible into how your brand is described, so that you can build a specific brand experience to match it.

*Make an inventory of your skills.* Good writer, varied business experiences, understanding of basic marketing and communications concepts and tools.

What are your customers' needs? Effective communications with executives and business people, developing and crafting business plans, marketing communications expertise.

**Focus on what differentiates.** Very experienced helping technical professionals - engineers, scientists – and technical leadership communicate across all communications media.

## A branding example: I need to find more clients

So instead of being an unbranded 'communications professional' commodity, we can now communicate a vibrant personal branding:

Fred Strolle: An experienced business communications professional specializing in servicing technical professionals and engineers who need help effectively communicating with nontechnical customers and executives.

Experienced.

Speaks the language of business.

Comfortable working with engineers and technical people.

Notice how the brand definition makes me 'remarkable' and defines my value?

## The real work: managing our personal brand!

Stay consistent with your branding and use the power of social media to interact.

Participate in appropriate "Linked in" discussion groups
Post applicable links and articles that reinforce your branding
Connect with friends and colleagues that can help you
Interact with them

#### Apply your personal branding to all digital and interpersonal interactions.

**Email** 

Meetings

Conferences

**Appearance** 

**Behavior** 

In our Fred Strolle case I would continually reinforce my "Experienced. Speaks the language of business. Is comfortable working with engineers and tech people." branding in my posts, comments, links, and interactions.

## Managing your personal brand: consistent professionalism

Maintain a professional, current photo and a complete profile on Linkedln.

Maintain a professionally personal posture on Facebook and other social media. *Professional discretion is realizing that just because you can post or even "like" something, does not mean that you should.* (Think recent election.)

Everything we do online creates a digital footprint. Assume full responsibility for everything you say and do online.

Never post anything, anytime, anywhere that you would not be comfortable with anyone seeing. (Your mother, your neighbors, your boss...)



## Managing your personal brand: consistent professionalism

Understand corporate and business confidentiality!

Avoid politics!

Be careful what you post! Just because it is on the internet doesn't make it the truth. You can destroy your personal brand so easily!

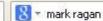
Remember that everything leaves a digital footprint – email, social media posts, voice mail, texts, etc.

Avoid using social media irresponsibly without thinking through your intentions and objectives.

Instead of worrying about privacy – manage it proactively.









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The two owners of Amy's Baking Company Bakery Boutique & Bistro took over the restaurant's Facebook page last night to fight unruly commenters, and man, was it embarrassing.

posted on May 14, 2013 at 10:15am EDT



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This is the Facebook page for Amy's Baking Company Bakery Boutique & Bistro, a restaurant in Scottsdale, Arizona.





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## Before we go, a quick look at using social media

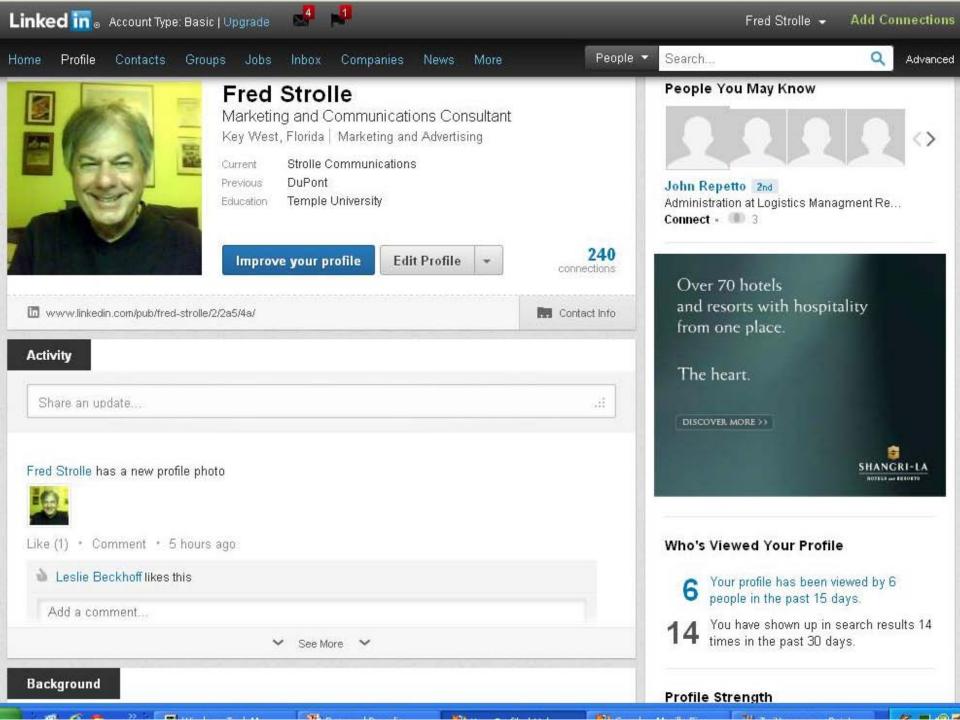
Business communicators know that managing communications is like managing a tool box. Different "tools" do different jobs:

Brochures
Webpages
TV ads
Press Releases
Direct Mail
Search engine optimization

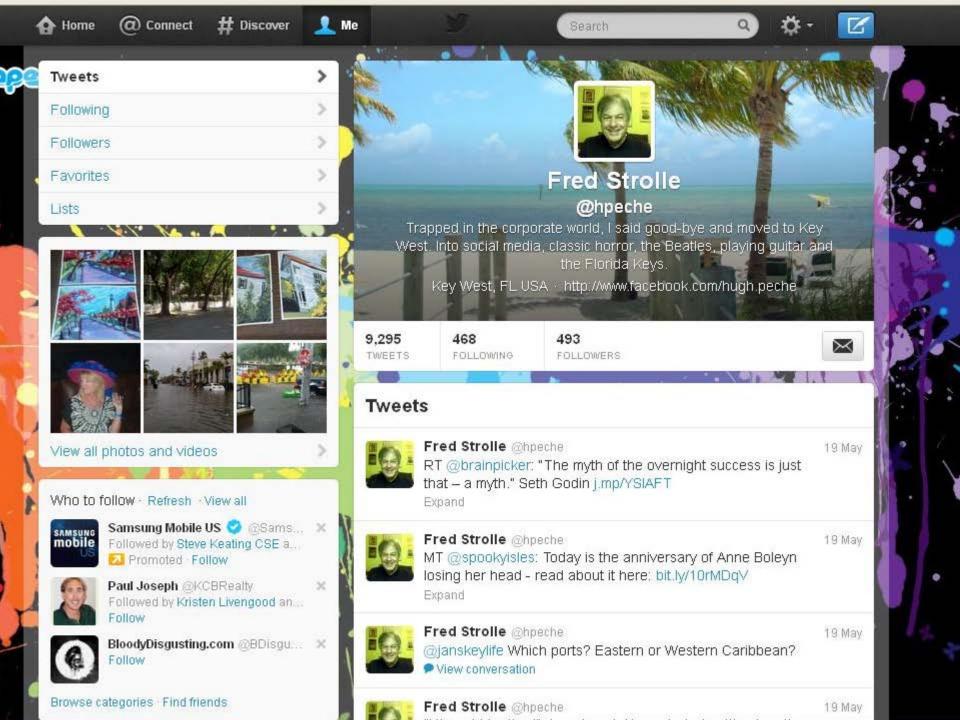


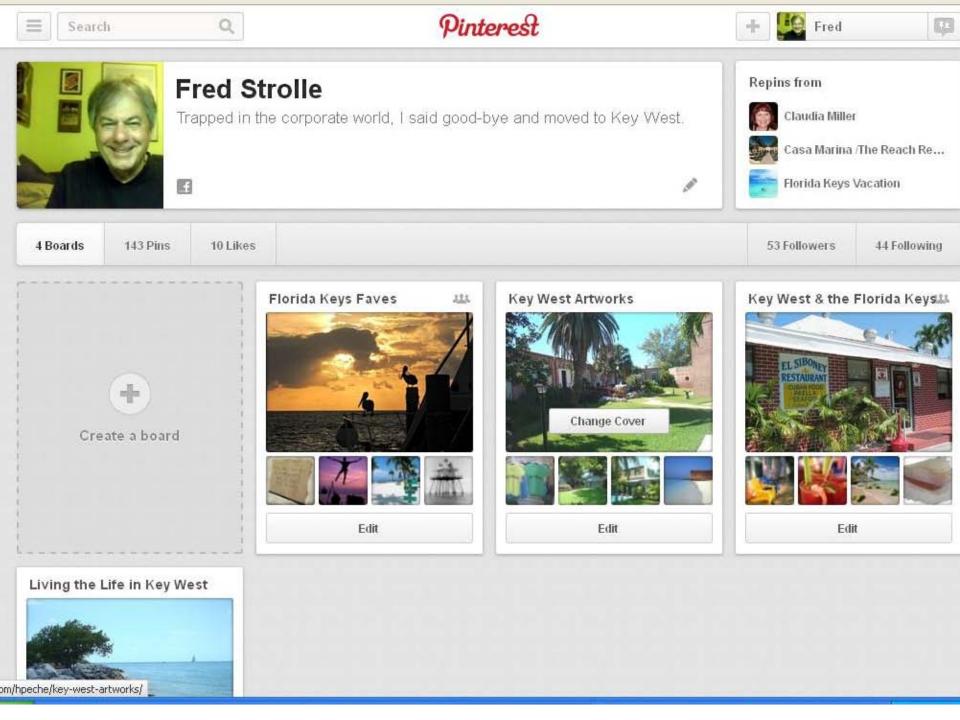
Social media is the same! While you need to establish professional consistency, the various apps and vehicles are designed to allow you to interact differently.

There's a purpose to every vehicle! Yet all can reinforce or negatively Impact your personal brand.









#### Let's Summarize

We live in a digital age. Knowing how to develop a personal brand and manage it is critical to success – whether it is business or personal.

Managing your personal brand will involve consistency across all of the channels of communication you use – both digitally and interpersonally.

Social media can be a great enabler to help you meet your objectives, but if mismanaged can destroy or negatively impact your brand.

Different social media tools are designed to accomplish different strategies, yet all should be managed to reinforce and maintain your personal branding.

#### Resources and more info?

The Brand Called You – Tom Peters, *Fast Company* August 1997 Personal Branding 101 – Lisa Quast, *forbes.com* April 2013 Personal Branding and Social Business - Bret L. Simmons, brentlsimmons.com May 2013

Personal Branding Is A Leadership Requirement, Not a Self-Promotion Campaign – Glenn Llopis, forbes.com April 2013

Mashable.com

Mark Ragan

Seth Godin

#### **Questions or Comments?**

Feel free to contact me: Fred Strolle

fstrolle@comcast.net

## ... And how do I manage my Personal Brand?

The goal is to differentiate yourself in the market so you can attain your objectives – landing a job, a position, customers, etc.

Do some strategizing:

What are your aspirations?

What can you learn from others?

What do you want people to associate with you?

How do people currently see you?

Create a game plan – social media, appearance, behavior

How will you use social media to build your brand?

How will you manage your brand to make sure everything is in synch?