

# Entrepreneurship.Com

# How To Create a Winning Dot-Com Business Plan

TIM BURNS

**TIM BURNS** is an author, speaker and business consultant. A graduate of Tulane University, Mr. Burns is a qualified attorney and chartered public accountant, specializing in the areas of taxation, strategic business planning and estate planning. He is the author of *The Complete Guide to Owning and Promoting a Successful Bed & Breakfast* and *Break the Curve – The Entrepreneur's Blueprint for Small Business Success*. Mr. Burns also hosts a weekly cable television program on legal and business issues.

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#### **MAIN IDEA**

The days of preparing highly detailed, 100-page business plans are over. In the new economy, change is happening constantly. Therefore, a more flexible type of business plan is required which is concise, flexible enough to permit modifications to be made on the fly and focused on one key point – how profitability will be achieved. This is the essence of "The e-Plan".

Ane\_plan's format is simple and direct. In just 10 PowerPoint slides, an executive summary and as much narrative as required, the e-Plan conceptualizes the business strategy and model. It encapsulates what the business proposes to do. As circumstances change or new opportunities arise, e-Plans can be adapted quickly and simply.

Thus, for an entrepreneur, a good e-Plan:

- Helps you clarify your own thinking about precisely what your vision is and what you need to do in order to bring that vision into existence.
- Allows you to explain your business plan to potential investors quickly, concisely and clearly.
- Is an excellent tool for talking to potential employees or business partners. It avoids ambiguity, communicates ideas
  effectively and acts as an excellent discussion leader.
- Allows you to spend more time doing and less time talking about what you're going to do.
- Inspires confidence.

In sum total, the e-Plan is a new generation business plan, optimized for the demands of the Internet business era.

An e-Plan is a business plan for the Internet business era. It combines the vision, the business opportunity and proposed solution together in a concise, easy-to-present and quick-to-change format.

In short, an e-Plan is a compass to business success rather than a detailed road map.

An e-Plan consists of an executive summary and roughly 10 PowerPoint slides, accompanied by as much narrative as considered appropriate:



With a well thought out e-Plan in place, you're now well positioned to do three key things:

- 1. Attract the start-up funding you require.
- 2. Develop an exit strategy for yourself.
- 3. Execute the plan, creating something of value.

In essence, once you've planned your work, it's then time to get out and work your plan.

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