# PERSONAL BRAND Workbook

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"Brand yourself as a thought leader, and your reputation will grow automatically." – Forbes



# Introduction to Personal Branding

Let's face it, building a strong personal brand is not just a nice- tohave; it's a necessity. The marketplace is more crowded than ever. There is no such thing as job security. To make matters worse, we're not just competing with other people or companies for jobs or clients—we're also contending with artificial intelligence, automation, and constantly evolving expectations. To stand out, we need to be intentional about how we present ourselves to the world. The good news is that all the forces which are against us, can also be harnessed to help us. Personal branding does require the courage to take ownership and control of how you want to position yourself, and how you want others to see you. Personal branding isn't just about colours and logos and websites, it is about taking control of your future.

> "The best way to predict the future is to create it." – Peter Drucker

Gone are the days of guaranteed job security. Career stability now relies on your ability to consistently market yourself and demonstrate your value. A personal brand is your most powerful offensive strategy. It's how you control the narrative about who you are, what you offer, and why people should choose you over others.

## A Lifelong Asset

The idea of retirement is shifting. Many of us will continue working well past the standard retirement age, whether by choice or necessity. A personal brand is a long-term investment in your professional identity. It's not tied to a single job or employer—it's yours to grow and evolve. This means your personal brand will serve you long after your employable years, helping you create opportunities that align with your expertise and passions. By taking control of your personal brand, you position yourself to thrive in uncertain times, to generate income independently of any organization, no matter what the future holds.

#### What Personal Branding Entails

#### Why Personal Branding Matters

Your personal brand is much more than a trendy buzzword. Think of it as your professional property—something you own, manage, and evolve over time. Just like a physical home, it reflects your personality, values, and style while serving as a tangible asset that creates opportunities. It's a space where you can build credibility, establish trust, and showcase your unique value to the world.

#### The Essence of a Personal Brand

At its core, your personal brand answers three vital questions:

- Who are you?
- What do you stand for?
- Why should people trust you?

Your personal brand is the perception others have of you, shaped by your expertise, communication, and presence. Unlike a fleeting moment, it's a lasting impression that grows and evolves as you do.

"Your personal brand is what people say about you after you leave the room." – Jeff Bezos

#### The Building Blocks of a Personal Brand

Creating and maintaining a personal brand is like designing your dream home. Each element plays a critical role:

1. Foundation – Your Story:

This is the journey that brought you here. It's your experiences, challenges, and growth, all woven together to connect with others authentically.

2. Structure – Your Expertise:

Your knowledge, skills, and accomplishments are what hold everything together.

They provide credibility and demonstrate the value you bring.

3. Design – Your Values and Personality:

The look and feel of your brand come from what you stand for and how you express yourself. These are the elements that make your brand uniquely yours.

4. "Brand" – Your Image:

First impressions matter. Your online presence, personal style, and professional demeanour shape how others perceive you before they get to know you.

#### What Makes a Good Personal Brand?

A good personal brand isn't about being liked by everyone—it's about being authentic, memorable, and true to who you are. In a world full of distractions, taking a clear position on what you believe, what you stand for, and what you offer is the key to standing out. Differentiation doesn't mean being difficult or controversial; it's about embracing your uniqueness and showcasing it in a way that feels both genuine and approachable.

#### Be Controversial But Not Confrontational.

One of the hallmarks of a strong personal brand is clarity. People are drawn to those who have clear values, opinions, and expertise. While it might feel safer to sit on the fence, neutrality rarely makes an impact. Instead, consider what you're passionate about, what drives your decisions, and how you can use that to connect with others. Taking a stand doesn't mean you need to be contrarian for the sake of it. It's about offering a fresh perspective or unique insight. It's okay if not everyone agrees with you—your personal brand isn't about pleasing everyone. It's about resonating deeply with the people who matter most to you, whether that's clients, employers, or collaborators.

Look at issues and be controversial but don't be confrontational, don't pick arguments with other people but view issues from another perspective. The key to success is to remember to be able support any argument that you make with logic and or facts. The goal is not to be controversial for the sake of it, but to position oneself as a reasoned thought leader, not a follower of conventional wisdom. Put another way, be the smart fox, not the dozy sheep.

#### Your Story, Your Style, Your Preferences

Everyone's story is different, and that's what makes personal branding so powerful. Your unique journey—shaped by your experiences, challenges, and achievements sets you apart. But a personal brand goes beyond your story. It also includes your personality and preferences. Think about how your tastes in colour, style, food, places, or even the way you communicate can be part of your brand. These small details might seem trivial, but they add depth to your identity, making you relatable and human. For example, someone might remember you as the creative professional with a bold love for vibrant colours, or the entrepreneur whose down-to-earth style makes everyone feel at ease.

# The Hallmarks of an Effective Personal Brand

An effective personal brand has three core qualities:

1. Authenticity

A good personal brand feels real. It reflects your genuine self, not a curated version of what you think people want to see. Authenticity builds trust, and trust is the foundation of any successful brand.

2. Approachability

People are drawn to brands that feel warm and welcoming. Whether it's the tone of your emails, your online presence, or how you interact in person, your brand should invite connection. Being approachable doesn't mean being overly casual—it means showing empathy, listening, and making others feel valued.

3. Clarity

Your personal brand should communicate who you are and what you stand for without confusion. Whether someone is meeting you for the first time or exploring your online presence, they should have a clear sense of your expertise, values, and personality.

#### **The Emotional Connection**

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Maya Angelou. This sentiment perfectly captures the essence of a great personal brand. Beyond your skills or achievements, it's the emotional connection you create that leaves a lasting impression.

How do people feel after interacting with you? Inspired? Encouraged? Confident? A strong personal brand ensures that these feelings align with the message you want to convey.

#### **Reassurance for Your Branding Journey**

Personal branding can sound daunting at first, but here's the good news: it's not about designing the fanciest logo or writing fantastical stories. It's simply about being yourself—knowing who you are and deciding how you want to show up for others. Don't stress! This is a straightforward process of reflecting on your values, strengths, and style and following a clear set of steps to make sure that's visible for others to see, read, and hear.

#### Standing Out by Being True to You

Differentiating yourself isn't about trying to be radically different for its own sake. It's about showcasing what already makes you unique—your story, your strengths, and your perspective. The best personal brands aren't built on flashy gimmicks or trends. They're built on the confidence to be unapologetically yourself.

When you lean into your unique qualities and represent them authentically, you create a brand that is both effective and lasting. People won't just remember you—they'll want to connect with you, work with you, and recommend you to others.

#### **Your Next Steps**

As you continue to develop your personal brand, think about the qualities that make you distinct and how you can represent them authentically.

What do you want to be known for?

How do you want others to feel when they interact with you?

If someone was asked to describe you in a sentence, what would you like for them to say?

These answers will guide you in creating a brand that is truly your own.



## **Compose Your Story:** The Power Behind Personal Branding

Humans are natural storytellers. Stories have the unique power to connect us, inspire us, and make us memorable. When it comes to personal branding, your story becomes the emotional thread that ties your expertise, values, and purpose together. It's not just a way to share who you are—it's the key to helping others understand why you do what you do.

#### Why Your Story Matters

Your story makes you relatable. It shows that your journey, like everyone else's, has been full of experiences, challenges, and lessons. By sharing it, you reveal your humanity and create connections that go deeper than skills or job titles. Here's why composing your story is essential to personal branding: 1. It Creates Emotional Connection: People remember stories far more than facts or figures. A great story taps into emotion, making your personal brand unforgettable.

2. It Shows Authenticity:

Sharing your journey—whether it includes triumphs, struggles, or turning points—demonstrates that you're real, and not some AI avatar. Authenticity builds trust, and trust is the foundation of strong relationships.

3. It Differentiates You:

Everyone has unique experiences. Your story highlights what makes you different and no one else can compete with you on being you! The biggest issue is that we often undervalue our own experiences, but don't fall into that negative mindset. Your journey is just as valid as the next persons, and your experiences and skills will be relevant to someone who needs your expertise.

#### Elements of a Great Personal Story

Every great story, no matter how simple, has four core elements. When composing your story, consider these components to keep it impactful and engaging:

1. The Protagonist:



This is you! Introduce yourself as the hero of your story. Give context about who you are and where your journey begins.

2. The Situation:

Describe the initial setting or circumstances that define your starting point. What was the challenge, opportunity, or environment you found yourself in?

3. The Tension:

This is the heart of your story. What obstacles, struggles, or pivotal moments did you face? What made this moment meaningful or transformative?

4. The Resolution:

Share the outcome or lesson learned. How did this experience shape who you are today? How does it connect to the work you do or the values you stand for? Examples of Compelling Personal Stories

Here are a few examples to illustrate how powerful personal stories can be: • Jim [Yes...that's me] Leap of Faith: At 17, Jim jumped out of a plane and discovered the thrill of calculated risk-taking. That moment sparked his passion for showing others how bold decisions can lead to extraordinary success, and he now helps businesses generate profits through innovative publicity.

• Steve's Mission: Steve Goranson watched his father—a hardworking business owner —pass away without the wealth he deserved. Determined to help others avoid the same fate, Steve became a business coach with ActionCOACH, empowering entrepreneurs to build sustainable and profitable businesses.

• Dr Shelley James' Lightbulb Moment: After a bicycle accident impaired her vision, Dr Shelley James embarked on a journey to understand the science of light. Her discovery not only helped her recover but inspired her mission to teach professionals about the transformative impact of good lighting.

These stories are memorable because they're real, specific, and tied to each individual's purpose.

[There are numerous books and courses on story telling, and I've had guests like Park Howell on The UnNoticed Entrepreneur podcast, he's the author of Business of Story. I'll add links at the end of this booklet]

## **Crafting Your Own Story**

To compose your story, reflect on the moments that have shaped your journey. Ask yourself:

- What experiences or events led you to where you are today?
- What challenges or turning points have defined your path?
- What lessons or passions drive you to do what you do now?

Your story doesn't need to be dramatic—it just needs to be true. It's not about embellishing facts; it's about presenting them in a way that resonates with others.

#### Why This Exercise Matters

When you take the time to compose your story, you're laying the groundwork for your personal brand. Your story is the "why" behind your brand statement, your values, and your mission. It's what makes your personal brand uniquely yours. Remember, this process isn't about creating a perfectly polished narrative right away. It's about exploring your journey, discovering the moments that matter most, and weaving them together into something meaningful.

Your story will evolve, and you may find you change your story. That's ok as long as you are always telling the truth. You'll probably find that you uncover many moments in your life which changed you and the way that you think about things. You'll start to want to write these down so that you can use them to explain why you take a certain position on issues and decisions.

#### **There Are Professionals To Help**

If you are struggling with this exercise, then rest assured that you are not alone. There are courses and professionals out there who can help. Story telling is a skill which can be learnt, and which takes time. However, it's no more complicated than the stories you tell your family or friends, so don't stress over this part of your personal branding. It's better to be done than perfect; as your tell your story to others you'll get into the groove and the flow will come.





## Personal Profile: Crafting Your Personal Brand Statement

Your personal brand statement is a powerful tool. It's a concise and compelling summary that communicates who you are, what you do, and why you do it. Think of it as your professional headline—the thing people remember when they think of you.

# What is a Personal Brand Statement?

A personal brand statement is a short, impactful sentence or two that encapsulates your unique identity and value. It's not just a job title or a list of skills. Instead, it's a reflection of your purpose, passions, and the difference you make. Here's a simple structure to guide your thinking:

• Who you are: Your professional identity or role.

• What you do: The expertise or value you offer.

• Why you do it: The passion or purpose driving your work.

For example:

• "I'm a graphic designer who helps brands tell their stories through bold, memorable visuals."

• "I'm a business coach dedicated to helping small business owners turn their ideas into thriving enterprises."

Why is a Personal Brand Statement Important?

In today's competitive landscape, clarity and confidence are everything. Your personal brand statement provides both:

1. It Sets You Apart:

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In a world full of similar job titles and skill

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M



Cop Page Having a clear personal brand statement helps you articulate your value in conversations, interviews, or networking events. It gives you a sense of direction and purpose.

4. It Guides Your Decisions:

A well-crafted statement keeps you focused on your goals. It helps you align opportunities, projects, and connections with your core values and mission.

#### How to Approach Crafting Your Statement

Creating a personal brand statement might sound intimidating, but it's simpler than you think. Here are some tips to make it manageable:

• Start with Your Why: Why do you do what you do? What motivates you to show up every day?

• Be Clear, Not Complex: Use straightforward language that anyone can understand. Avoid jargon or buzzwords.

• Focus on Your Audience: Your statement should resonate with the people you want to connect with—whether they're clients, employers, or collaborators.

• Embrace Iteration: Your statement doesn't have to be perfect the first time.

Experiment with different versions until one feels authentic and natural.

#### Why This Exercise Matters

Your personal brand statement isn't just about self-promotion—it's about creating a foundation for meaningful connections. When people know who you are, what you do, and why you do it, they're more likely to trust and remember you.

This exercise will give you clarity and confidence as you move forward in your branding journey. It's the first step toward creating a personal brand that feels authentic and impactful.







Colour is a cornerstone of personal branding. The colours you choose for your brand can evoke emotions, communicate your personality, and make you instantly recognisable. Whether it's for your website, business card, or social media presence, your colour palette plays a significant role in how others perceive you and your brand.

In this lesson, we'll explore why your colour choices matter, how to select a palette that aligns with your brand, and practical tips for creating a balanced, flexible, and impactful visual identity.

#### **Why Your Colour Palette Matters**

Colour is more than decoration—it's a tool for communication. Here's why your colour palette is essential:

1. Relevance to Your Field:

Certain industries are associated with specific colours. For example, blue is common in finance and technology for its association with trust and stability, while green is often linked to health and sustainability. Choosing colours that resonate with your field can create a sense of familiarity and professionalism.

2. Personal Expression:

Your brand should reflect who you are. Incorporating your personal preferences into your palette ensures authenticity, making your brand feel genuine and unique to you. 3. Standing Out:

In a crowded market, colour can set you apart. Opting for a bold or unexpected hue —like fuchsia in accounting or lime green in law—can make your brand instantly recognisable while still maintaining relevance.

#### The Psychology of Colour

Colours have a profound psychological impact. They evoke emotions and influence behaviour, making them a powerful tool in personal branding. Here are some common associations with colours to consider:

• Red: Excitement, passion, and urgency. Red grabs attention and gets the heart racing, making it ideal for brands that want to convey energy or boldness.

• Blue: Trust, stability, and calm. Often used in industries like finance and technology, blue creates a sense of dependability and professionalism.

- Green: Relaxation, growth, and balance. Associated with health, nature, and sustainability, green can be calming and restorative.
- Yellow: Optimism, warmth, and energy. Yellow exudes positivity and creativity, making it great for brands that want to feel cheerful and innovative.
- Purple: Luxury, creativity, and ambition. Often linked to royalty and high-end brands, purple conveys sophistication and imagination.

• Orange: Confidence, enthusiasm, and friendliness. A dynamic and approachable colour, orange is perfect for brands that want to feel bold but inviting.

• Black: Elegance, power, and sophistication. Black is timeless and versatile, often used by luxury brands to convey exclusivity.

• White: Simplicity, purity, and clarity. White creates a clean and modern aesthetic, often paired with other colours for balance.

When choosing your colours, think about the emotions you want to evoke and how they align with your personal and professional identity.

#### **Creating a Balanced Colour Palette**

A well-thought-out colour palette provides flexibility for design while maintaining a cohesive visual identity. Here's how to create one:

#### 1. Choose Three Core Colours:

Primary Colour: This is your signature colour, used most prominently across your brand.

Secondary Colour: A complementary hue that supports and balances your primary colour.

Accent Colour: A contrasting colour that adds energy and highlights key elements. With three core colours, you'll have the versatility to design simple or complex materials, like single-colour business cards or multi-colour brochures, while maintaining consistency.

#### 2. Avoid Over complication:

Too many colours can dilute your visual identity. Stick to three core colours to ensure your brand remains recognisable and easy to associate with you.

# Practical Considerations for Colour Selection

When deciding on your colour palette, keep these tips in mind:

• Look to Your Industry for Inspiration:

Consider the colours commonly used in your field. This can help you decide whether to align with tradition or break the mould.

Check for Uniqueness:

Ensure your chosen palette isn't too similar to competitors in your industry. This helps your brand stand out in a way that's both professional and memorable.

• Consider Versatility:

Think about how your colours will look in various formats, such as digital screens, printed materials, or merchandise. A palette that works across multiple mediums will strengthen your brand's adaptability.

• Explore Trends and Tools:

Resources like the Pantone Colour of the Year and the Coolors app are excellent starting points for inspiration. These tools can help you discover fresh ideas and combinations you might not have considered.

And just in case you were wondering....Peach Fuzz was the Pantone Colour of the Year 2024

The Coolors.co site provides endless options to select colours to create a palette that you like.



#### An Opportunity to Stand Out

In some cases, breaking away from the expected can be a strategic advantage. For example, industries like accounting, law, or finance often lean on conservative hues like navy, grey, or white. By choosing a bold reinterpretation—such as a striking shade of teal or even a vivid colour like fuchsia or lime—you can project creativity and confidence while staying relevant to your profession.

#### **Next Steps: Defining Your Palette**

Take some time to experiment with potential colour combinations that feel authentic to you and relevant to your field. Here's an easy process to follow:

- 1. Browse resources like Pantone and Coolors.com for inspiration.
- 2. Create a shortlist of colour palettes that resonate with you.

3. Test your chosen colours in various applications, such as logos, websites, or print materials, to ensure they work across different formats.

By thoughtfully selecting your colour palette, you'll be taking a key step in defining your personal brand's visual identity—one that resonates with your audience and reflects your unique personality and values.



# Choose Your Fonts: Creating a Typographic Identity

Fonts play a vital role in your personal brand. Just like colours, the fonts you choose communicate personality, style, and professionalism. The right font can make your brand feel approachable, elegant, or bold, while the wrong one can confuse your audience or make your materials look unpolished.

#### **A Brief History of Fonts**

The history of fonts dates back to the invention of writing systems, but it gained prominence with the advent of movable type in the 15th century. Johannes Gutenberg's printing press revolutionized typography with blackletter typefaces, inspired by medieval manuscripts. By the 18th century, Roman serif fonts like Baskerville and Bodoni emerged, combining elegance and readability. The 20th century introduced sans-serif fonts like Helvetica, reflecting modernist simplicity. Today, digital fonts have expanded possibilities, offering countless styles to suit any aesthetic or purpose.

#### **Why Fonts Matter**

Typography is more than just text; it's a visual tool that conveys emotion, tone, and identity. Here's why choosing the right fonts is so important:

1. Conveys Personality:

Fonts can make your brand feel modern, traditional, playful, or sophisticated. A serif font like Times New Roman conveys formality and tradition, while a sans-serif font like Helvetica feels clean and contemporary.

2. Enhances Readability:

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Your audience needs to engage with your content effortlessly. Well-chosen fonts ensure your materials are easy to read, whether they're on a screen, printed page, or business card.

3. Creates Consistency:

Fonts contribute to a cohesive visual identity. Using the same fonts across your website, presentations, and printed materials reinforces your brand and makes you recognisable.

4. Builds Trust:

High-quality typography signals professionalism. Sloppy or inconsistent font choices can undermine your credibility and make your brand appear less polished.

#### Serif vs. Sans-Serif Fonts

One of the first decisions you'll make when choosing a font is whether to use a serif or sans-serif style:

## Serif Fonts:

Serif fonts have small decorative "feet" or lines (serifs) at the ends of the letters. These fonts are often seen as traditional, formal, and authoritative. Examples include Times New Roman, Garamond, and Georgia. Serif fonts are commonly used in printed materials like books, as the serifs guide the reader's eye across the text.

#### Sans-Serif Fonts:

Sans-serif fonts lack the decorative "feet" and have a clean, modern appearance. "Sans" means "without," so sans-serif literally means "without serifs." Examples include Helvetica, Arial, and Open Sans. Sans-serif fonts are often used for digital platforms due to their readability on screens.

#### How to Choose the Right Fonts

Selecting fonts for your personal brand doesn't have to be overwhelming. Here's a simple guide to finding the right ones:

1. Choose Two to Three Fonts:

Primary Font: Used for headings and titles, this font should reflect your brand's personality and be visually impactful.

Secondary Font: A simpler, more versatile font for body text, ensuring readability for longer content.

Accent Font (Optional): A decorative or handwritten font can add flair to your brand but should be used sparingly to avoid clutter.

2. Match Your Brand's Tone:

• Formal and Professional: Serif fonts like Garamond or Georgia convey tradition and reliability.

• Modern and Clean: Sans-serif fonts like Helvetica, Arial, or Open Sans feel sleek and approachable.

• Creative and Unique: Script or display fonts like Pacifico or Lobster can add personality but must be balanced with more neutral fonts for readability.

3. Ensure Readability:

Fonts should be easy to read at different sizes and on various devices. Avoid overly ornate or thin fonts that may be hard to decipher in smaller formats.

4. Check for Uniqueness:

Your font choices can set you apart. Explore unique or less commonly used fonts that align with your brand while ensuring they're professional and functional.

#### Practical Considerations for Font Selection

Fonts are not universal—availability and compatibility can vary. Here's how to ensure your fonts work seamlessly across platforms:

## 1. Font Availability:

Check that the fonts you choose are installed on the platforms you'll use, such as PowerPoint, Canva, or website builders. Some design tools provide a library of fonts, while others may require you to upload or license specific ones. You can buy fonts and upload them to your software and computer, but for now I suggest we run with fonts that are already in your tool bars.

#### 2. Web and Print Compatibility:

Ensure your fonts are available in both web-friendly formats (like Google Fonts) and high-quality print formats to maintain consistency across mediums.

#### **3. Licensing Requirements:**

Some fonts require a license for commercial use. Verify the licensing terms to ensure compliance when using fonts for your brand.

#### 4. Test Before You Commit:

Try your chosen fonts in different contexts—on business cards, presentations, and websites—to confirm they look great in every application.

Tips for Standing Out with Fonts

In certain cases, using a bold or unexpected font can make your brand memorable. For example:

• A creative professional might pair a clean sans-serif font with a playful handwritten font for added personality.

• A consultant in a traditional field might choose a modern serif font to balance professionalism with a fresh, contemporary edge.

#### **Resources for Font Selection**

Here are some tools to help you explore and choose fonts:

- Google Fonts: A free library of web-friendly fonts.
- Adobe Fonts: A premium selection for creative professionals.
- Canva: Offers a wide range of fonts integrated into its design platform.

• Font Pair: Helps you discover complementary font combinations. This is a nice and simple site to use, and I like that it shows the two fonts side by side, which the other sites don't do.

Next Steps: Defining Your Typographic Identity

1. Explore font libraries to identify options that reflect your brand's personality.

2. Test your selected fonts in different applications to ensure they're versatile and readable.

3. Create a simple typographic guide that specifies where and how to use your primary, secondary, and accent fonts.

By thoughtfully choosing and consistently using your fonts, you'll create a polished, professional, and cohesive typographic identity that enhances your personal brand.





# Getting a Professional Headshot: Building Your Visual Portfolio

Your headshot is a crucial element of your personal brand. It's often the first visual impression people have of you, whether they're viewing your LinkedIn profile, website, or business card. A professional photo not only helps you look polished but also builds trust and credibility.

#### Why a Professional Headshot Matters

Your headshot is more than a picture it's part of your personal story. A highquality, professional photo helps you: • Make a Strong First Impression: People form opinions quickly, and a polished headshot conveys professionalism and attention to detail. • Enhance Trust and Credibility: A clear, professional image makes you appear approachable and competent.

• Support Consistency: Using a cohesive headshot across platforms reinforces your personal brand identity.

#### Key Considerations for a Professional Photo

When planning your headshot session, keep these factors in mind to ensure the best results:

#### 1. Dress for Your Brand:



Choose clothing that aligns with your industry and personal brand. If your brand is formal, opt for tailored suits or blouses. For a more casual approach, stick to neat, polished outfits that reflect your style. Avoid overly busy patterns or distracting accessories.

#### 2. Choose Neutral or Subtle Colours:

Solid, neutral tones like navy, grey, or white often work best. These colours are timeless and keep the focus on your face. However, adding a pop of your brand colour can also help tie your photo to your visual identity.

#### 3. Focus on Grooming:

Hair and makeup should be clean and natural. Avoid experimenting with new styles right before the shoot. Men should consider a fresh shave or well-maintained facial hair.

#### 4. Lighting and Background:

Natural lighting or soft professional lighting works best. For the background, opt for something simple and uncluttered. A plain wall, blurred outdoor scene, or neutral gradient are popular choices.

#### 5. Posture and Expression:

Stand or sit with good posture, and aim for a natural, relaxed expression. A genuine smile or approachable look often works better than an overly serious pose.

#### **Selecting the Right Photographer**

A skilled photographer can make all the difference. Here's how to choose one:

#### **1. Review Their Portfolio:**

Look for photographers who specialise in professional headshots. Review their portfolio to ensure their style aligns with your brand.

#### 2. Consider Their Experience:

Choose someone with experience in your industry or working with personal brands. They'll understand how to highlight your best features and create a photo that fits your goals.

#### 3. Check Reviews and Testimonials:

Ask for recommendations or read reviews from previous clients to gauge the photographer's professionalism and reliability.

#### 4. Discuss Your Needs:

Before booking, explain the types of shots you need (formal, casual, etc.) and ensure they can accommodate your requests.

#### **Creating a Versatile Portfolio**

To meet various needs e.g. podcast cover, LinkedIn, media interviews etc, it's important to have a selection of photos in your portfolio. Here's what to include:

#### 1. Formal Headshots:

Ideal for LinkedIn, company websites, and professional bios. These should feature you in business attire, with a clean background and polished expression.

#### 2. Casual Shots:

Perfect for social media, blogs, or personal branding materials where you want to appear more approachable. These can include slightly relaxed poses or outdoor settings.

#### **3. Front-Facing Portraits:**

A classic head-on photo ensures clear eye contact, which conveys confidence and trust.

#### 4. Side Profile or Angled Shots:

Adds variety and can be useful for website banners or creative applications.

#### 5. Full-Body Shots:

Great for presentations, press releases, or feature articles. These should showcase you in a natural pose, with attention to body language.

#### **Next Steps: Preparing for Your Shoot**

1. Research photographers in your area and schedule a consultation to discuss your goals.

2. Plan your wardrobe, grooming, and any props or branding elements you'd like to include.

3. During the shoot, work with your photographer to capture a variety of poses and styles for a versatile portfolio.

4. Review and select photos that align with your personal brand. Keep digital copies organised for easy access.

By investing in a professional headshot and creating a diverse portfolio, you'll ensure you're ready for any branding need—whether it's a new website, a press feature, or an industry event.





## Using AI to Enhance Your Photos: Fast, Affordable, and Professional Results







What if you can't afford a photographer, or you don't have the time right now. My advice is not to wait and instead to use one of the amazing Al-powered tools which are transforming the way we create and enhance images. For personal branding, these platforms offer a fast, cost-effective way to refine and polish your photos, giving them a professional edge without the need for a full photoshoot.

To be clear...a photographer will add massive value because they will help you to relax, they will compose shots which illustrate your personality. Al won't do these, but they will buy you time until you're ready to go with a pro. The good AI platforms are creating professional images of your amateur photographs. They are not recreating who you are or what you look like. We are trying to retain authenticity, but at the same time making our photos acceptable by other people. The reason is very simple; if you don't look good then the other media won't look good. When did you last see a car tv commercial with a car all dirty, kids food stains on the back sheet, and a dent in the front bumper? Or an ice cream ad which has partly melted vanilla staining the clothes of an over eager pensioner struggling to finish before it melts?

Think of yourself as a brand...you need to look the part.

#### Why Use AI for Photo Enhancement?

Al platforms like DreamWave.ai leverage advanced technology to upgrade our photos in ways that were once only possible with professional editing or photography. I ran my photos through several apps before settling on Dreamwave, and when you see my photos you will see the kind of results you can get.



#### Here are some key benefits:

#### 1. Speed:

Al tools can process and enhance your photos in minutes, saving you time compared to traditional editing or arranging a photoshoot.

2. Cost-Effectiveness:

Professional headshots or retouching services can be expensive. Al provides a budget-friendly alternative while delivering impressive results.

#### **3. Polished Yet Authentic:**

Al can subtly refine your photos, improving lighting, backgrounds, and sharpness without drastically altering your appearance. The goal is not to create something inauthentic but to present the best version of yourself.

#### 4. Cosmetic Enhancements:

Al tools can smooth minor imperfections, balance tones, and improve depth of field —features that make your photos look professional and ready for any platform, from job interviews to magazine covers.

#### 5. Consistent Quality:

Al ensures perfectly framed shots, consistent lighting, and an appropriate depth of field every time, solving common photography challenges.

#### What AI Photo Enhancement Can Do

Here are some ways AI platforms like DreamWave.ai can improve your photos:

#### **1. Enhance Lighting:**

Poor lighting can detract from even the best shot. Al can correct shadows, brighten your face, and create a balanced, natural look.

#### 2. Improve Backgrounds:

Al tools can replace cluttered or distracting backgrounds with clean, professional ones, giving your photo a polished appearance.

## **3. Adjust Depth of Field:**

A shallow depth of field focuses attention on you by subtly blurring the background, a hallmark of professional photography that AI can easily replicate.

#### 4. Ensure Proper Framing:

Al helps crop and frame your image correctly, ensuring it's optimised for various uses, like social media profiles, website banners, or press kits.

#### 5. Create Media-Ready Images:

Al-generated photos can be used for high-quality applications, such as website home page, podcast covers, feature articles, or presentations.

## **Maintaining Authenticity with Al**

While AI tools are powerful, it's essential to use them responsibly. The goal isn't to create an image that looks artificial or unrecognisable. Instead, aim for enhancements that reflect your true self while presenting a polished, professional look.

Here are some tips for staying authentic:

• Avoid Radical Alterations:

Choose platforms that enhance your photo without changing your facial features or overall appearance.

• Focus on Professional Touches:

Use AI to fix lighting, sharpness, and framing—not to create an unrealistic version of yourself.

• Test Before Sharing:

Compare the enhanced version to your original photo. If the changes feel too drastic, adjust the settings or try another platform.

#### When to Use Al-Enhanced Photos

Al-enhanced photos are versatile and can be used in various contexts:

- Professional Profiles: LinkedIn, CVs, or company websites.
- Marketing Materials: Personal branding websites, brochures, and social media.
- Media Features: Podcast covers, magazine articles, or guest appearances.
- Pitches and Presentations: To create a polished, confident impression in professional settings.
#### Getting Started with Al Photo Enhancement

#### 1. Choose a Reputable Platform:

Look for tools like DreamWave.ai, which are designed for subtle, professional enhancements.

#### 2. Upload High-Quality Photos:

Start with a good-quality image for the best results. A phone camera image is fine, but take the photo against a plain white wall...just like a passport photo would require. Al can enhance a photo, but it can't fix a poorly taken one entirely.

#### 3. Experiment with Settings:

Many platforms let you customise enhancements. Take the time to explore the options to achieve a look that feels authentic and aligned with your brand.

#### 4. Save Multiple Versions:

Create variations for different uses, such as a formal headshot, casual portrait, or banner-friendly crop.

Using AI to enhance your photos is a smart, efficient way to elevate your personal brand. It's about highlighting your best qualities while ensuring your images are polished, professional, and versatile for any situation.

#### The Acid Test

If someone meets you in person, and they can't recognize you from the photo you posted, then you've probably gone too far down the AI enhancement path. You're great as you are. Don't try to alter your personality; just use the AI to help you get to market quicker and as the best version of yourself, without the time and cost of a photographer.



Your domain name is the address of your website and a critical part of your personal brand. It's how people find you online and often their first impression of your professional presence. Selecting the right domain name is an important decision that requires careful thought.

In this lesson, we'll explore key considerations for choosing a domain name, what to do if your preferred name or .com extension is unavailable, and practical tips to ensure your domain aligns with your personal brand.

#### Why Your Domain Name Matters

Your domain name is more than just an address—it's a reflection of your identity. A well-chosen domain name can:

1. Enhance Memorability:

A simple, clear name makes it easy for people to remember and find your website. 2. Reinforce Your Brand:

Your domain name should align with your personal or professional brand to create consistency across platforms.

3. Convey Professionalism:

A clean and relevant domain name enhances credibility, making you appear polished and trustworthy.

#### How to Choose the Right Domain Name

Here are some key factors to consider when selecting a domain name:

#### 1. Keep It Simple:

• Use words that are easy to spell and pronounce. Avoid overly long or complex names that can confuse your audience.

• For example, instead of "johnsmithprofessionalconsultingservices.com," consider "johnsmithconsulting.com."

#### 2. Use Your Name:

• If you're building a personal brand, using your name (e.g., "janedoe.com") is ideal. It strengthens the connection between you and your website.

#### 3. Reflect Your Brand:

• If your name is unavailable, consider a domain that represents your profession or specialty, such as "janedoedesign.com" or "coachjane.com."

#### 4. Check for Availability Across Platforms:

• Ensure your chosen domain name is also available as a handle on key social media platforms. Consistency across platforms makes it easier for people to find you.

#### What to Do If Your Preferred Name Is Unavailable

If your ideal domain name is already taken, here are some alternatives to consider: 1. Add a Keyword:

• Include a relevant keyword that reflects your work or industry. For example, if "janedoe.com" is taken, try "janedoewriter.com" or "janedoemedia.com."

2. Include Your Location:

• If your work is region-specific, adding a location can differentiate your name. For example, "janedoenyc.com" or "janedoelondon.com."

3. Use a Middle Name or Initial:

• If your full name is unavailable, consider incorporating your middle name or initial, like "jimajames.com", "janejdoe.com" or "janekdoe.com."

#### What If .com Is Unavailable?

The .com extension is the most recognised and trusted, but other options can work effectively if .com is taken.

1. Consider Other Extensions:

• Alternatives like .net, .co, or .me are becoming increasingly popular and can still convey professionalism. For example, "janedoe.co" or "janedoe.me."

2. Use an Industry-Specific Extension:

• Some extensions are tailored to specific industries, such as .design, .coach, or .agency. These can help clarify your work and add a unique touch, like

"janedoe.design" or "janedoe.coach."

3. Be Creative, but Clear:

• If you use a less common extension, ensure the domain is still easy to remember and understand. Avoid extensions that might confuse or mislead your audience.

#### **Practical Tips for Domain Selection**

• Check for Trademarks: Before registering your domain, verify that it doesn't infringe on existing trademarks to avoid legal complications.

• Think Long-Term: Choose a domain that will grow with you and remain relevant as your career evolves.

• Buy Variations: If possible, purchase common variations or misspellings of your domain to protect your brand. For example, if "janedoe.com" is your domain, consider also purchasing "jandoe.com" or "janedo.com."

#### **Next Steps: Registering Your Domain**

1. Use domain search tools like GoDaddy or Namecheap to check availability.

2. Choose a domain that aligns with your brand and is easy for your audience to remember.

3. Register your domain as soon as possible to secure it before someone else does. Your domain name is your digital address and a key element of your personal brand. With thoughtful consideration and a bit of creativity, you can choose a domain that enhances your professional presence and makes a lasting impression.

#### Purchasing Your Domain Name from GoDaddy: A Step-by-Step Guide

Your domain name is your digital address and a crucial part of your personal brand. Purchasing a domain from GoDaddy is a straightforward process, and with its userfriendly interface and competitive pricing, you'll have your domain secured in no time. You can use other domain registrars also, but it is simpler to buy a domain and have the website hosted by the same company.

This will guide you through the process of finding, selecting, and purchasing a domain name using GoDaddy.

#### Step 1: Visit GoDaddy's Website

#### 1. Go to GoDaddy.com.

2. Log in to your account. If you don't have one, click "Sign Up" to create an account using your email address.

#### Step 2: Search for Your Desired Domain Name

1. Use the search bar on the homepage to enter your desired domain name (e.g., YourName.com).

2. Click "Search Domain."

#### **Step 3: Check Availability**

If your desired domain name is available, you'll see a confirmation message.
If it's not available, GoDaddy will suggest alternative names or extensions (e.g., .net, .co, or .me).

#### **Step 4: Select Your Domain Name**

1. Once you've found an available domain, click "Add to Cart."

2. Consider purchasing additional variations of your domain (e.g., YourName.net or misspelled versions) to protect your brand and prevent others from registering similar names.

#### Step 5: Decide on Add-Ons

GoDaddy may offer optional add-ons, such as:

• Domain Privacy Protection: Hides your personal information from public WHOIS databases to protect your privacy.

• Professional Email: An email address associated with your domain (e.g.,

YourName@YourDomain.com) for a more professional appearance.

• Website Builder: You can choose to bundle your domain with GoDaddy's website builder if you're building your site simultaneously.

Tip: Domain Privacy Protection is highly recommended to keep your contact information secure.

#### **Step 6: Choose the Registration Period**

1. Select how long you'd like to register your domain for (e.g., 1 year, 2 years, or longer).

2. Opting for a longer registration period can help secure your domain and reduce the risk of forgetting to renew it.

#### **Step 7: Review Your Cart**

1. Once you've made your selections, click on the cart icon to review your order.

2. Double-check that the domain name, registration period, and any add-ons are correct.

#### Step 8: Apply a Promo Code (If Available)

Before proceeding to payment, check for any available promo codes. GoDaddy often offers discounts on new domain registrations.

#### **Step 9: Complete the Purchase**

- 1. Enter your payment details and billing information.
- 2. Review GoDaddy's terms and conditions, then click "Complete Purchase."

#### Step 10: Confirm Your Domain Ownership

After completing your purchase, you'll receive a confirmation email from GoDaddy.
Log in to your GoDaddy account to verify that your domain is listed in your dashboard.

Final time...it makes sense to opt for 'auto renewal' or you may risk the domain expiring in 12 months if you don't keep an eye on it.

#### **Next Steps**

1. Link Your Domain to Your Website: Once your domain is purchased, you can connect it to your website platform (covered in the next lesson).

2. Set Up a Professional Email (Optional): Create an email address using your domain to enhance your credibility.

3. Renew Regularly: Keep track of your domain's expiration date to ensure you renew it on time and maintain ownership.

By securing your domain name through GoDaddy, you're taking an essential step in establishing your online presence and building your personal brand.



## Setting Up Your Website: Platform Choices and Essential Content

Your website is the cornerstone of your personal brand. It's a place where you have full control to showcase your personality, expertise, and value to the world. Unlike social media platforms, which can change or restrict access to your audience, your website is your own secure space to connect, inform, and engage on your terms.

In this lesson, we'll focus on the importance of building your website, the essential content to include, and how to choose the right platform.



Owning your website is like owning property instead of renting—it's yours to design, customise, and use as you see fit. Here's why it's essential: 1. Control and Stability:

You're not at the mercy of changing algorithms or policies. Your website is a long-term asset you can rely on.

2. Professionalism and Credibility: A well-designed website sets you apart

as a professional, creating a polished and trustworthy impression.

3. Customisation:

You decide the look, feel, and functionality, allowing you to align your website with your personal brand's identity.

4. Central Hub:

Your website acts as a central hub, linking to your social media profiles, portfolio, blog, or other platforms, creating a cohesive digital presence.

#### Choosing the Right Platform

When it comes to building your website, you have two primary options: 1. All-in-One Platforms (e.g., GoDaddy, Wix, Squarespace): These platforms combine domain registration, hosting, and website building into one service. They're user-friendly, require no technical expertise, and are quick to set up. 2. DIY WordPress: This option provides unmatched customisation and scalability but requires more technical knowledge. You'll manage hosting, themes, and plugins separately, giving you full control over your site.

For this course, we recommend using GoDaddy for its simplicity, competitive pricing, and 24/7 customer support, making it ideal for first-time website builders. As you can buy you domain name it makes it all in one. The cost is competitive with other domain name and website builders; the costs also come down if you pay for the domain for a longer period of time than one year.

#### Essential Content for Your Website



Once your platform is set, it's time to focus on the content that will bring your personal brand to life. Here's what every great personal website should include:

#### **1. Your Professional Photo:**

• Include a high-quality, professional headshot. This creates a welcoming first impression and helps visitors connect with you on a personal level.

#### 2. Your Story:

• Dedicate a section to sharing your journey, highlighting the experiences and values that have shaped who you are and what you do. This is where you make an emotional connection with your audience.

#### 3. Your Brand Promise:

• Clearly communicate what you offer and why it matters. This could be a tagline, a mission statement, or a few concise sentences that encapsulate your purpose and value.

#### 4. Contact Information:

• Make it easy for visitors to reach you. Include a contact form, email address, or links to your professional social media profiles.

#### 5. Links to Key Platforms:

• Connect your website to your LinkedIn profile, social media pages, or other professional platforms to create a cohesive online presence.

#### 6. Portfolio or Work Samples:

• Showcase your expertise with a selection of projects, testimonials, or case studies that demonstrate your skills and impact. If you have professional references from clients, employers or anyone else. add those in too.

#### 7. Optional Blog or Resource Section:

• If you enjoy writing or have valuable insights to share, consider including a blog or resource page. This can help establish your expertise and keep your website fresh with regular updates.

#### **Next Steps for Your Website**

1. Choose your platform and template based on your goals and technical comfort level.

2. Begin drafting the content outlined above, focusing on clarity, authenticity, and alignment with your personal brand.

3. Ensure the design reflects your colour palette, fonts, and overall branding for a cohesive look and feel.

4. Publish and regularly update your website to keep it relevant and engaging for your audience.

With your website set up and filled with meaningful content, you'll have a central hub that represents your personal brand in a professional, authentic, and impactful way.

#### Setting Up Your Website in GoDaddy: A Step-by-Step Guide

GoDaddy offers a simple and efficient way to create a professional website, making it an excellent choice for beginners and those seeking a streamlined setup process. In this lesson, we'll guide you through the steps to set up your website in GoDaddy, from selecting a domain to customising your site design.

#### **Step 1: Log In or Create an Account**

1. Go to GoDaddy.com.

2. If you already have an account, log in. If not, click "Sign Up" to create an account using your email address.

#### **Step 2: Purchase a Domain**

1. In the search bar on the homepage, enter your desired domain name.

2. Review the available options. If your preferred name is unavailable, try variations as discussed in the previous lesson.

3. Once you've found the right domain, click "Add to Cart" and proceed to checkout.

#### **Step 3: Choose a Website Builder Plan**

1. After purchasing your domain, GoDaddy will guide you to select a website builder plan.

2. Compare the available options based on your needs:

• Basic Plan: Ideal for simple personal branding sites.

• Standard or Premium Plans: Suitable for more features, like advanced analytics or SEO tools.

# 3. Select your plan and complete the purchase.

#### **Step 4: Connect Your Domain**

1. Go to your GoDaddy dashboard and select the domain you purchased.

2. Follow the prompts to link your domain to the website builder. GoDaddy simplifies this process with integrated tools.

#### Step 5: Choose a Template

1. Once your domain is connected, GoDaddy's website builder will prompt you to choose a template.

2. Browse the available designs and pick one that aligns with your personal brand. Consider templates with clear navigation and options for showcasing your content, such as portfolios or "About Me" sections.

#### **Step 6: Customise Your Website Design**

1. Edit Colours and Fonts: Use your personal brand's colour palette and fonts for consistency.

Add Your Logo (Optional): If you have a logo, upload it to reinforce your branding.
Adjust Layouts: Modify the layout of pages to suit your content needs. GoDaddy offers drag-and-drop functionality for easy customisation.

#### **Step 7: Add Content to Your Website**

1. Home Page:

• Include a professional headshot and a brief introduction or tagline.

2. About Page:

• Share your story and brand promise. Use this space to connect emotionally with visitors.

- 3. Portfolio or Work Samples:
- Highlight your expertise by showcasing projects, case studies, or testimonials.
- 4. Contact Page:
- Add a contact form, email address, or links to your social media profiles.
- 5. Blog (Optional):
- If you plan to write regular content, create a blog section.

#### Step 8: Link to Your Social Media Accounts

1. Go to your website's editor in GoDaddy and navigate to the "Social" or "Links" section of your template.

2. Add icons for your social media platforms (e.g., LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Linktr.ee).

3. Input the URLs for your social media profiles to link them to the corresponding icons.

4. Test the links to ensure they direct visitors to the correct accounts.

Tip: Make sure your social media profiles are aligned with your personal brand complete, professional, and up to date.

#### **Step 9: Optimise for Mobile and SEO**

1. Mobile-Friendly Design:

• Preview your site on mobile devices to ensure it looks good on all screen sizes. Adjust as needed.

2. SEO Settings:

• Meta Descriptions: A meta description is a short summary of a webpage that appears below its title in search engine results. It tells search engines and visitors what your page is about, helping to improve your visibility and encourage clicks.

• Example: For an About page, your meta description could be: "Learn more about [Your Name], a [profession] dedicated to [your mission or expertise]. Visit our site to discover how we can help."

• Add meta descriptions for key pages (Home, About, Portfolio, etc.) using the SEO tools provided by GoDaddy. Keep them concise, around 150–160 characters, and include relevant keywords to improve your ranking.

#### **Step 10: Review and Test Your Website**

- 1. Click "Preview" to see how your website will appear to visitors.
- 2. Test all links, forms, and navigation to ensure everything works properly.

#### **Step 11: Publish Your Website**

- 1. When you're satisfied with your website, click "Publish."
- 2. GoDaddy will make your site live, and it will be accessible at your domain name.

#### Next Steps: Maintaining Your Website

- 1. Regular Updates:
- Keep your content fresh by updating your portfolio, blog, or news sections regularly.
- 2. Monitor Analytics:
- Use GoDaddy's built-in analytics to track visitors and website performance.
- 3. Renew Your Domain and Plan:
- Ensure your domain and website plan are renewed on time to avoid interruptions.
- Or simply opt for the auto renew for peace of mind.

By following these steps, you'll have a professional website that showcases your personal brand and helps you connect with your audience. GoDaddy's intuitive tools and support make the process easy, even for first-time users.



Congratulations on reaching the end of your personal branding journey in this workbook! By taking the time to reflect, define, and build your personal brand, you've laid the foundation for a professional identity that is uniquely yours.

#### Have You Completed Each Step?

Before you close this workbook, take a moment to ensure you've completed each of the following steps:



1. Your Story:

Have you written a compelling narrative that highlights your journey, values, and what makes you unique?

2. Your Brand Promise:

Does your brand statement clearly communicate who you are, what you do, and why you do it?

- 3. Your Visual Identity:
  - Have you chosen a cohesive colour palette and typography that reflect your brand?
  - Do you have professional photos or headshots ready to showcase your brand?
- 4. Your Online Presence:
  - Have you secured a domain name and begun setting up your website?
  - Have you linked your social media accounts and ensured consistency across platforms?
- 5. Your Toolkit:

Have you organised all your branding elements—your story, colours, fonts, and images—in one place for easy reference?

If there's a section you've missed or feel unsure about, don't worry! Branding is a journey, and this workbook is here for you to revisit and refine as needed.

#### We're Here to Support You

If you've encountered challenges or have questions along the way, we're here to help. Building a personal brand can feel overwhelming at times, but you don't have to do it alone.

Reach out to us anytime for guidance or feedback. Whether you need assistance refining your story, polishing your visuals, or setting up your website, our team is ready to support you every step of the way.

#### **Your Next Steps**

Now that you've completed the workbook, it's time to take action:

- **1.** Begin sharing your personal brand with the world through your website, social media, and professional networks.
- 2. Update your materials regularly to reflect your growth and evolving goals.
- 3. Stay confident and authentic—your unique story and value are what set you apart.

#### **Thank You for Investing in Yourself**

You've taken an important step by completing this workbook, and we're excited to see where your personal brand takes you. Remember, this is just the beginning—your personal brand is a powerful tool that will grow with you throughout your career. Stay focused, stay true to yourself, and don't hesitate to lean on us for support whenever you need it. We're rooting for your success! Let's build something incredible together.

Would you like any further tweaks or adjustments? Let me know!

Jim James

The UnNoticed Entrepreneur

Email: jim@theunnoticed.cc



## About The Unnoticed Entrepreneur

# THE NOT OF A CONTRACT OF A CON

The Unnoticed Entrepreneur exists to empower business owners and professionals to take control of their visibility and share their value with the world. Through our podcast, courses, books, and coaching, we provide practical strategies and tools to help entrepreneurs build strong personal brands, communicate effectively, and stand out in their industries.

Whether you're looking to refine your message, connect with your audience, or create a lasting impact, The Unnoticed Entrepreneur is here to guide you every step of the way. Our mission is simple: to ensure no entrepreneur's story goes untold or unnoticed.

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