# NEWSLETTER 101

M Ricky Sutton



# LET'S KICK OFF

• The Future Media newsletter

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# LET'S KICK OFF

- The Future Media newsletter
- Launched 20 months ago

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# LET'S KICK OFF

- The Future Media newsletter
- Launched 20 months ago
- Focus on Big Tech/Big Media
- 2.5k Substack | 15k LinkedIn
- C-suites in 78 countries
- Gross revenue \$700k/year







O1 THE SECRETS

102 THE NUMBERS

03. THE MONEY

04 MY EXPERIENCE



# THE SKINNY

### THE SECRETS

- Get started. It begins with one
- Be consistent. Three times a week
- Pick a topic and niche is good
- Be authentic it's full body contact
- Ask for paid subs from day one
- Build partnerships and guest post
- Don't rely on sub revenue only
- Al makes podcasts simple
- Socials FAIL to extend reach



Stealing kids' data 'routine and an open secret' at Instagram: November 2023

## **ABOUT SUBSTACK**

- Substack's 26<sup>th</sup> in the world
- Five million paying subs
- 140 million monthly subs
- 10 authors make \$40m/year
- 41k active newsletters
- 87% are in English
- Half are paid
- 82% have <10k subs
- Only 212 have more
- Four have 1m+



Prepare for chaos once Google is broken up, antitrust trial judge warns: May 2024 2023

# THE NUMBERS

- 30% publish weekly
- 22% publish monthly
- 19% three times a week
- 16% are bi-weekly
- Just 5% are daily
- 95% have one author
- Only 1% have three
- Average is 2,500 subs



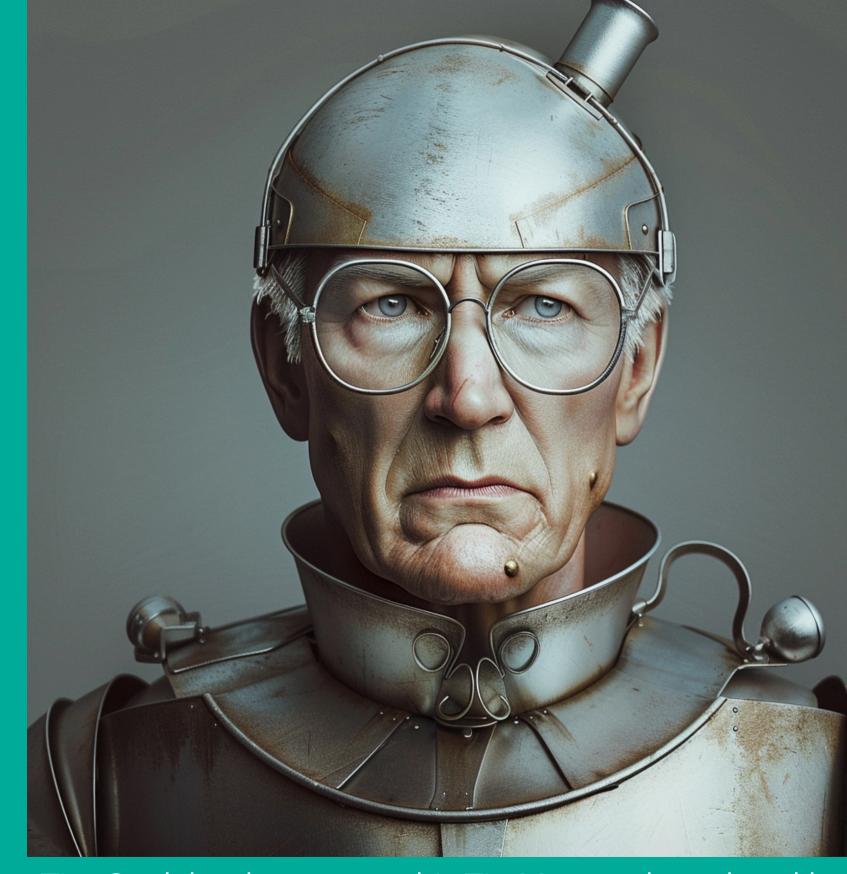
Apple shapeshifts and use privacy creds as "an elastic shield for profits" - DoJ: August 2024

## **HOW MUCH?**

- Average monthly sub is US\$10
- Average annual sub is \$96
- Average founder sub is \$310

#### Where do they come from?

- Most upgrade from free
- Then word of mouth
- Then Substack Notes
- Then LinkedIn, search, and gifts



Tim Cook has become tech's Tin Man, and paralysed by change: March 2024

# WHAT SUBS PAY FOR

- 1. US politics
- 2. Technology
- 3. Business
- 4. Finance
- 5. News
- 6. Health and wellbeing
- 7. Faith and spirituality
- 8. Culture

In 2024: 140m subs, 2.3m posts





Inside the Google patent designed to end publishing - and what to do about it: December 2023

#### FUTURE MEDIA SO FAR

- Launched July 2023 (620 days)
- Posted 292 times. 876k words
- 1,000+ firms news, tech, ads
- 80% are C-suite, reach 4b
- 30% US, 30% EU, 30% AsiaPac
- 79 countries, 42 US states
- 130 sign-ups Substack/week
- 125 from LinkedIn/week
- 2,500 paid subs, \$165-a-year



Wanted: US sues Google for deleting millions of mails to hide evidence: January 2025

# MY PRICING FWIW:)

#### **MONTHLY**

- Access to all posts
- Access to the catalogue

\$17

#### **ANNUAL**

- Access to all posts
- Access to the catalogue
- Five gift subs for friends
- 20 per cent cheaper

\$165

#### **FOUNDER**

- Access to all posts
- Access to the catalogue
- Five gift subs for friends
- Free hour-long consult

\$480



# WHAT READERS SAY

You're the flamethrower we need...
Your insights are invaluable to me...
Cracking read, best thing in media...
What you do is so so so important...
Now I get why Google is evil...
Best (inside) information. Fearless...
Apple's using Google! Like, WTF?!
Insightful and powerful...
You've inspired me to do a Substack...
It's like you write just for me:)



Wonka or w\*nker: US court will rule whether Amazon's wonderful or a price-fixing monopolist: November 2023

### **INCOME SOURCES**

- Free subs/trials +152% YOY
- Paid subs: 4% (+232% YOY)
- Syndication: 3% (flat)
- Sponsorship: 35% (flat)
- Podcasts: 15% (just starting)
- Speaking: 14% (flat)
- Consulting: 29% (flat)



As kids continue to die, who will ultimately pay for Zuckerberg's AI vision?: October 2024

# WHAT'S NEXT

- Scotch and Watch podcast
- Courses
- CEO meet-ups

And I might just launch a whole new media company.

Or buy one. I just got offered one for a dollar...



Scotch and Watch: A podcast on the collision of Big Tech and Big Media - oh, and the future of the world...

# **THANK YOU**

Subscribe today and I'll give you all 30% off



