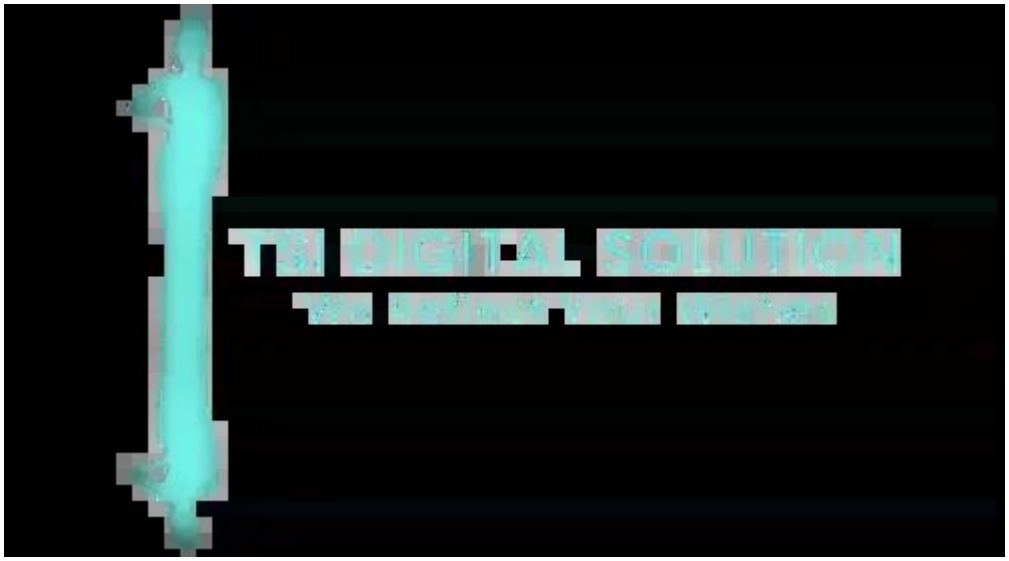
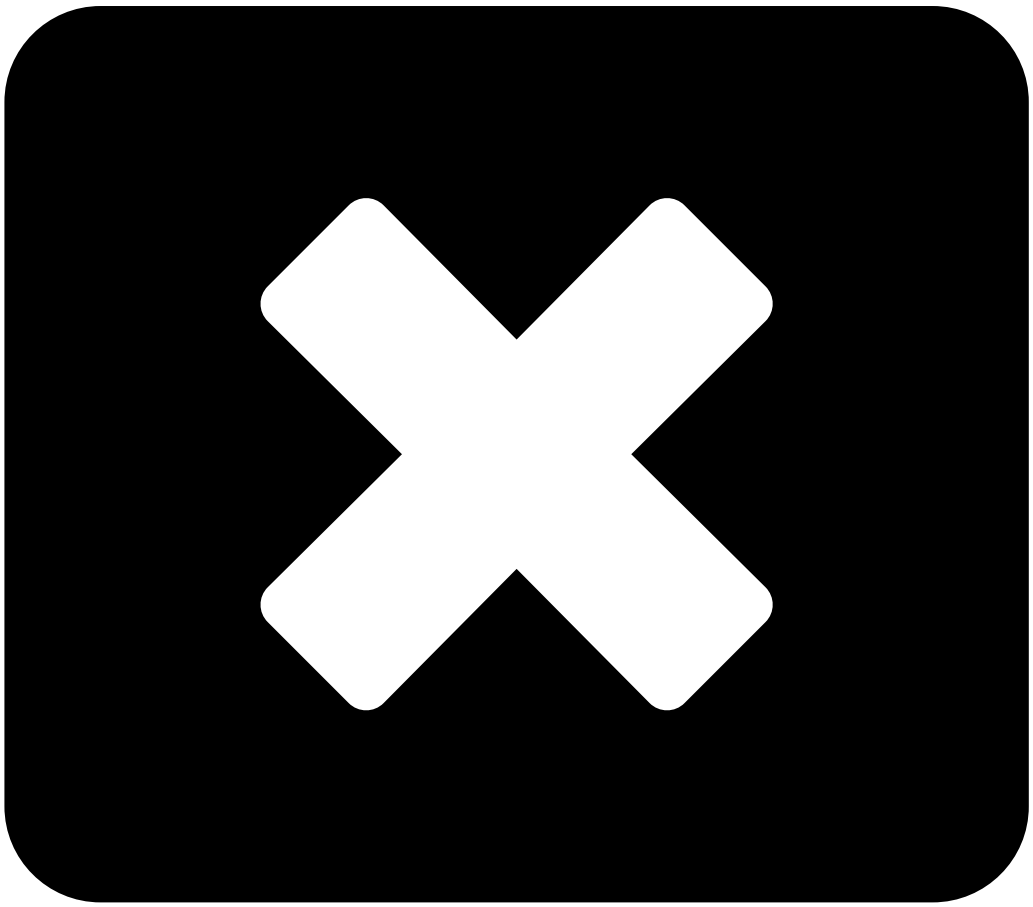
Vacation Rental by Owner: How to Boost Bookings Beyond OTAs in 2026

Category: Websites Blog
February 19, 2026





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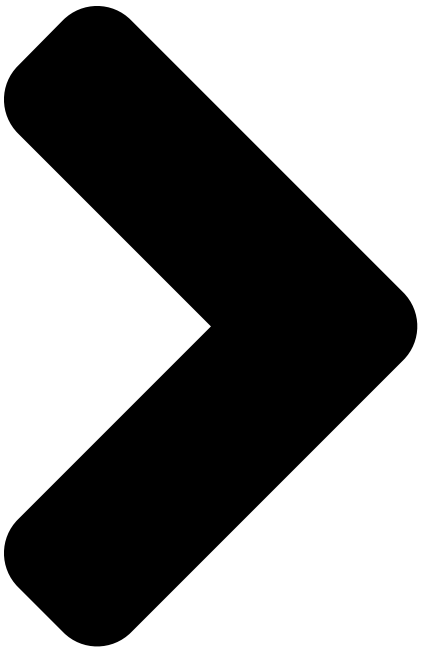

About us

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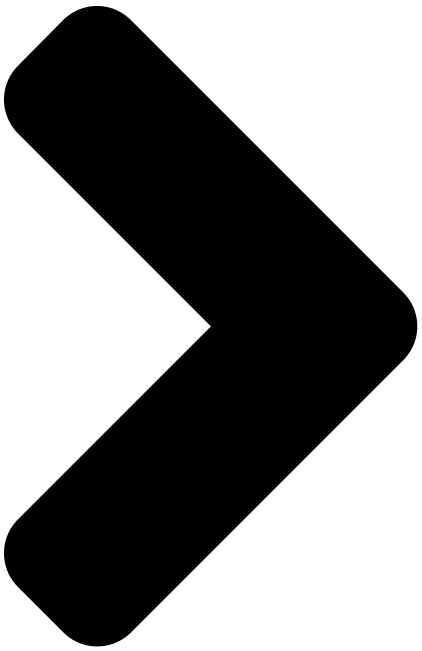


Courses University TSI

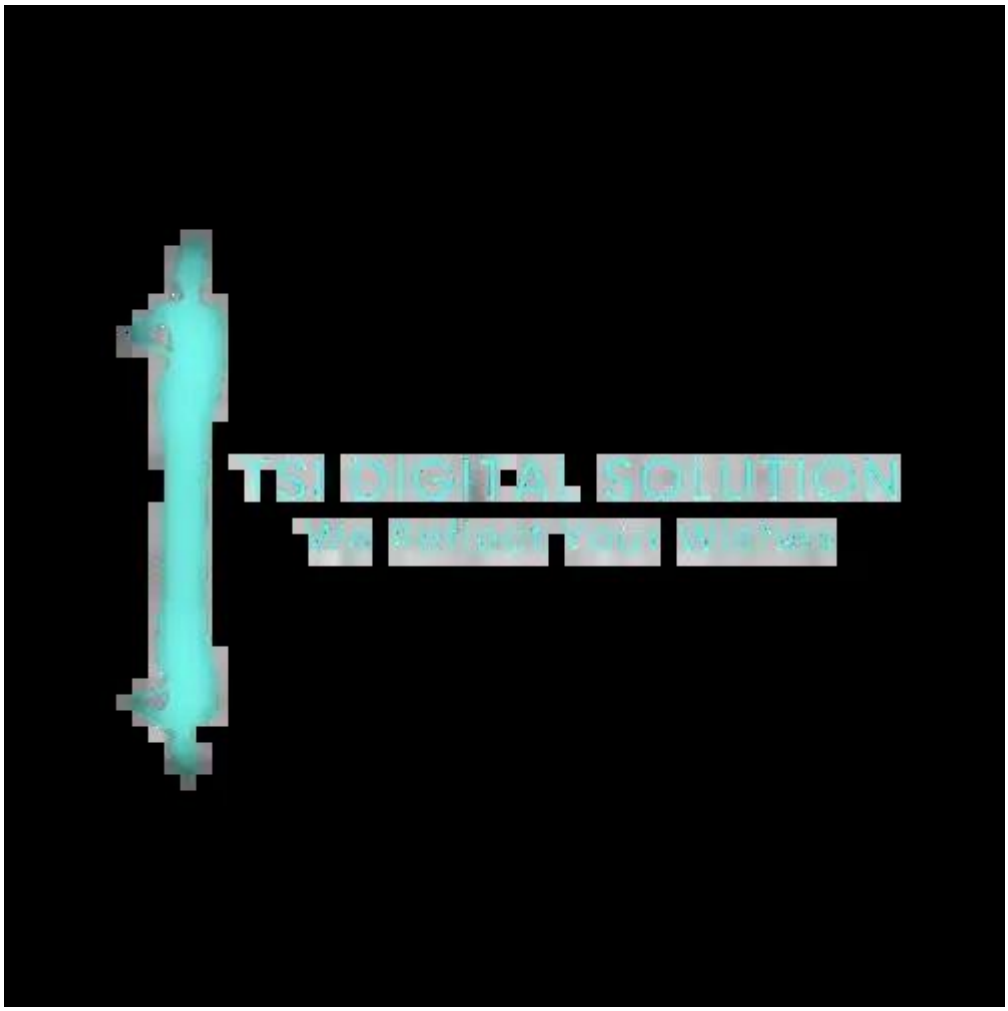
Login Team TSI Digital Solution

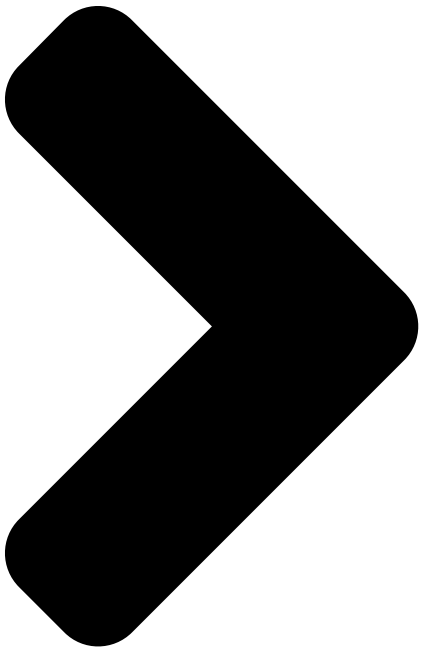
OUR PARTNERS

PREMIUM
SOLUTIONS

Reach out

What we have realized





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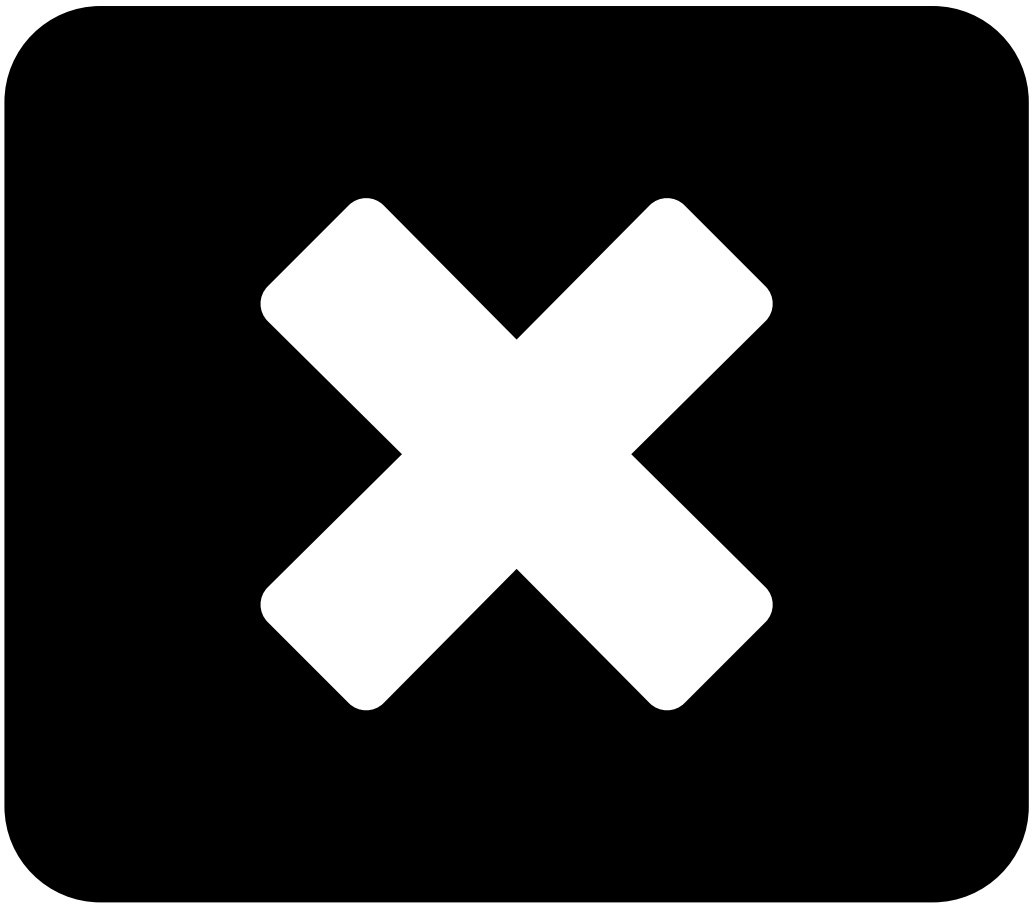

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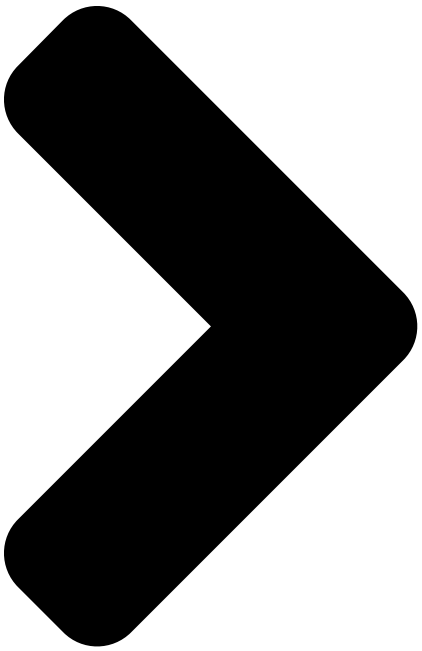

Services

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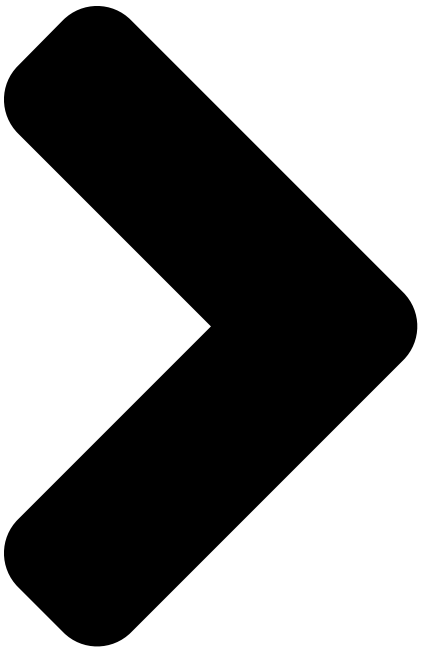
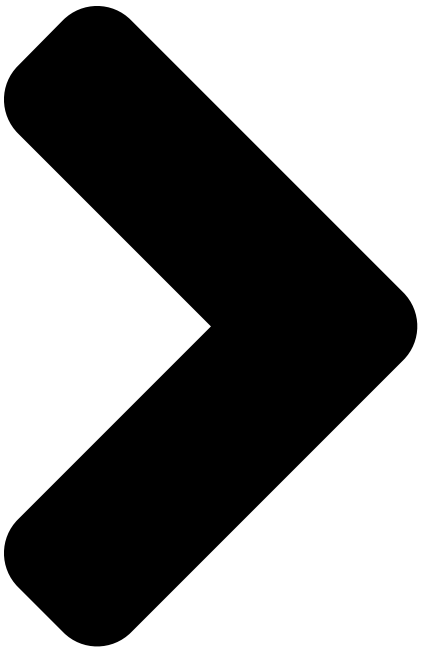
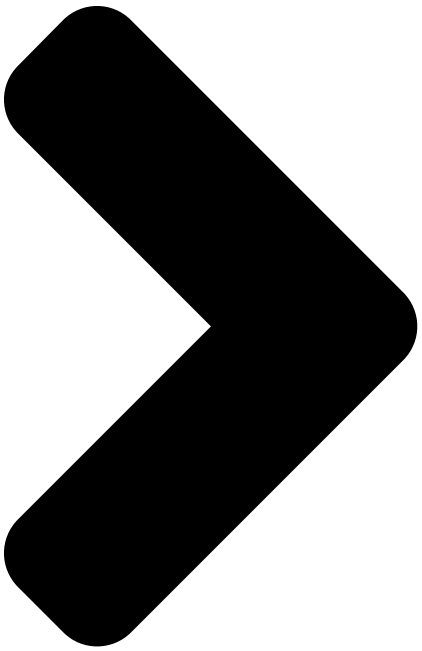


Web Design & Development



- Hosting



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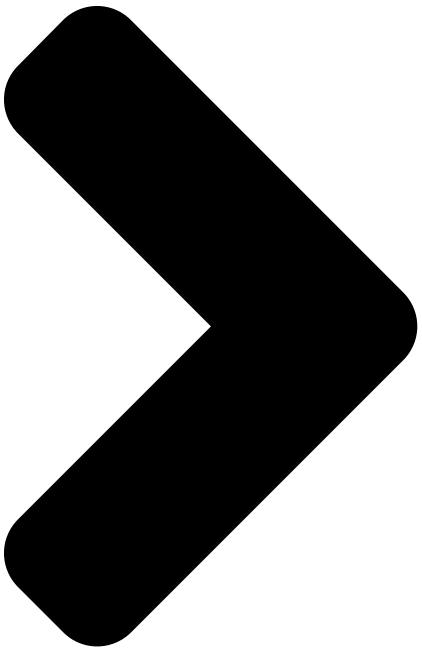
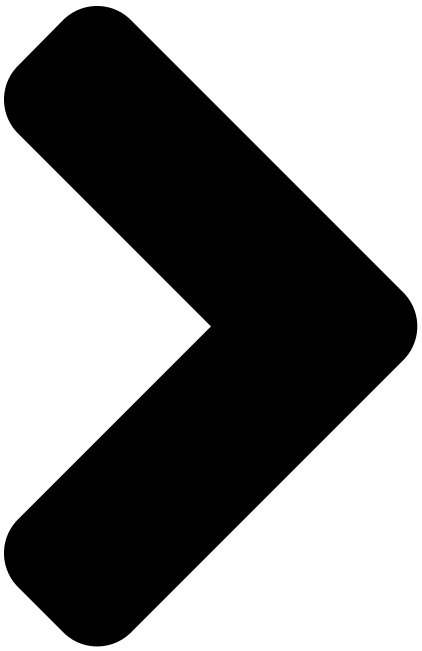
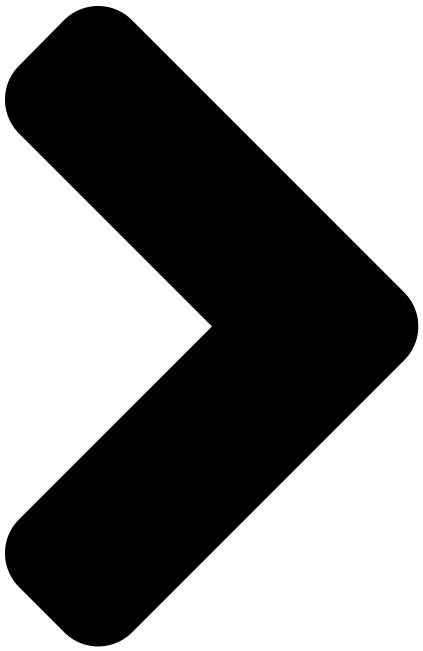


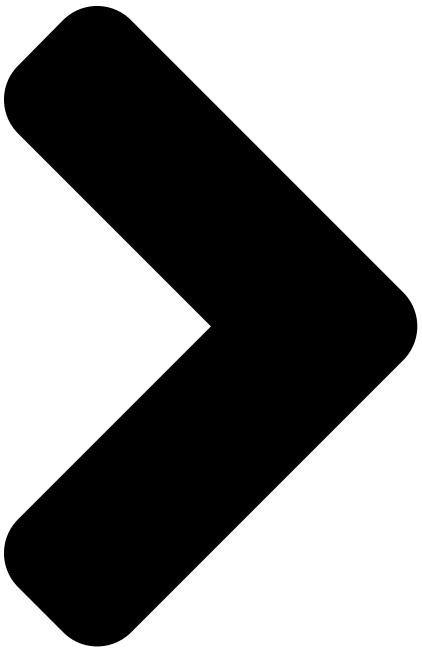
App Design & Development



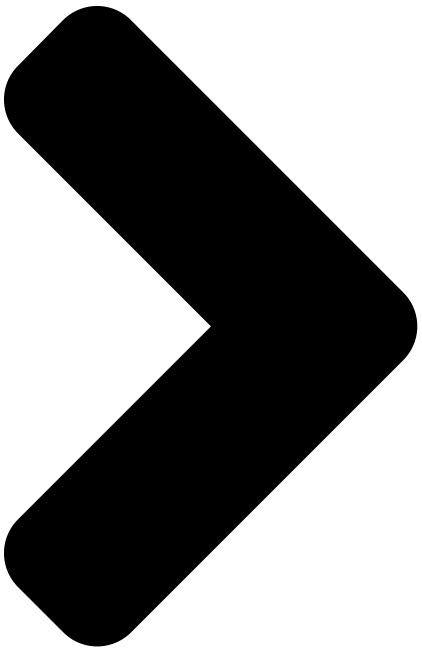
AI Agents



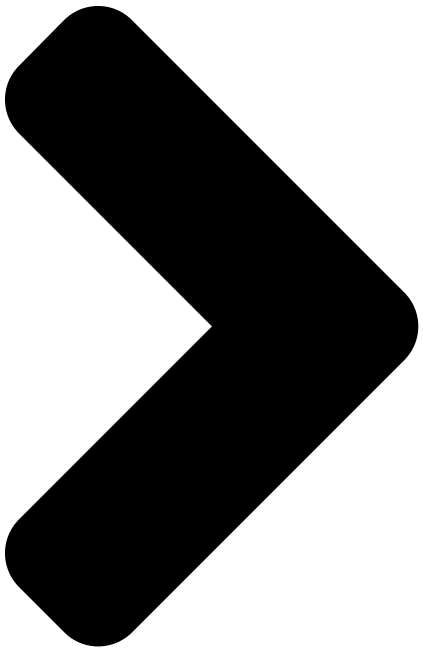
e-Commerce



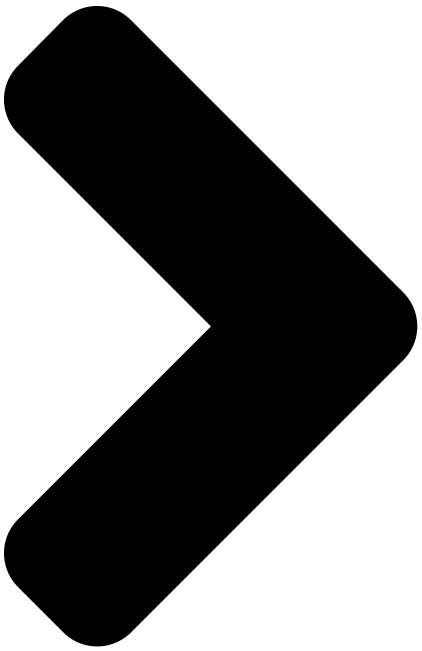
Branding



Social Media & Content Creation



- Graphic Design



- Copywriting & Translations

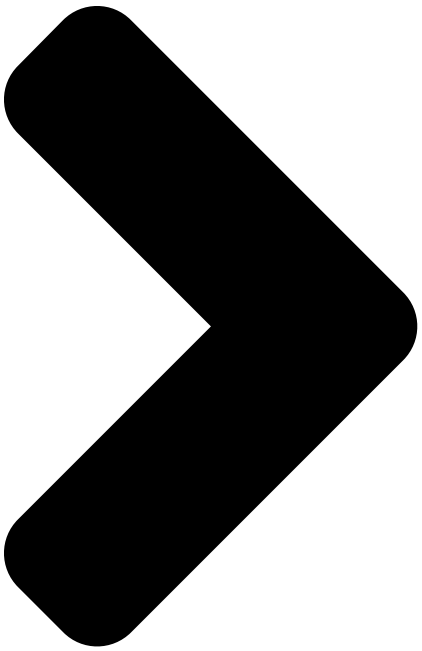
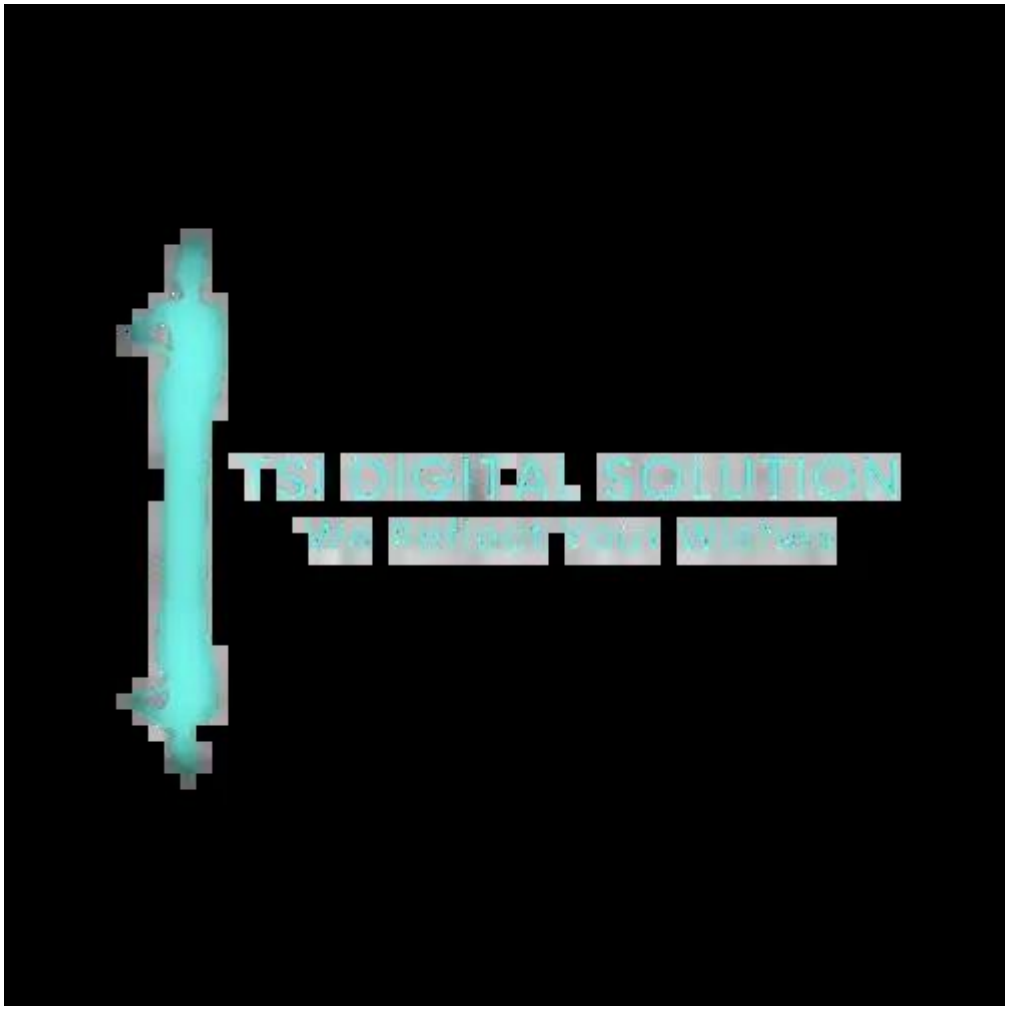


Photo- & Videography

Calculate the price online yourself

The way we work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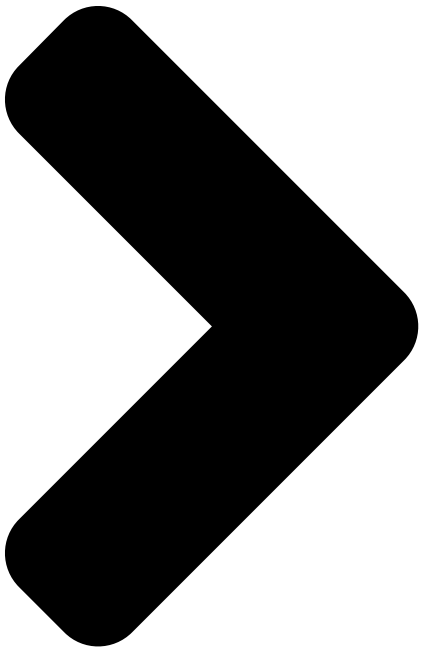

See More

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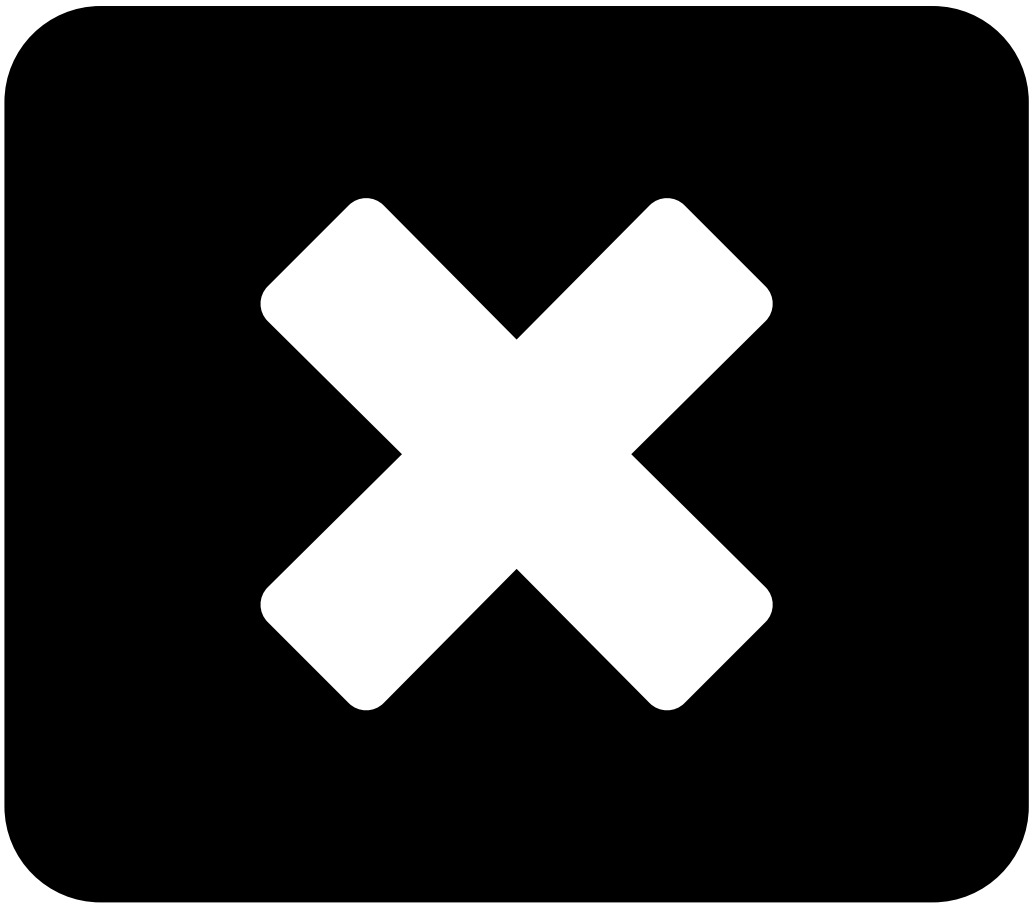

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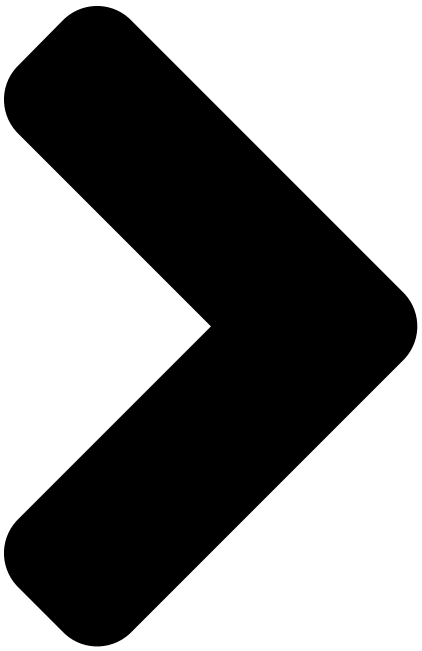
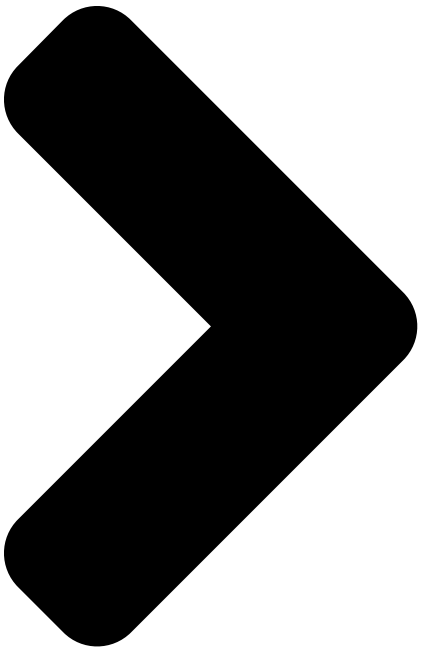


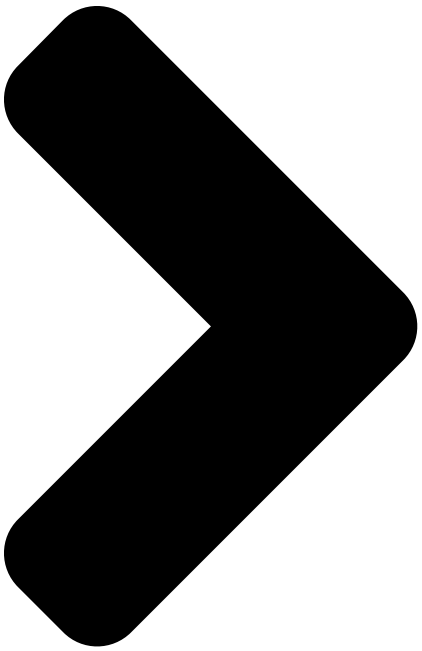
Realized projects

Calculate an estimate of your project costs directly online

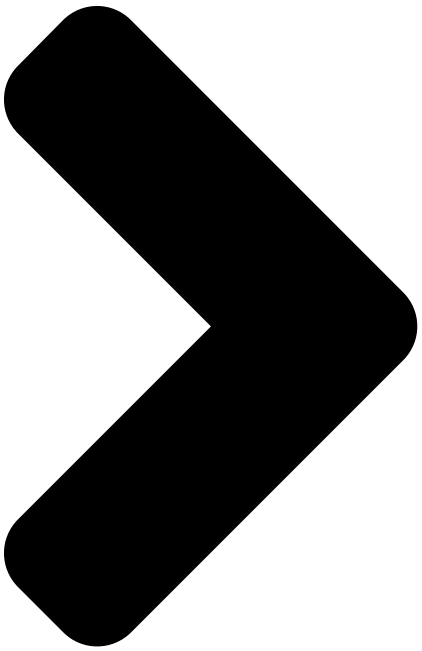
-



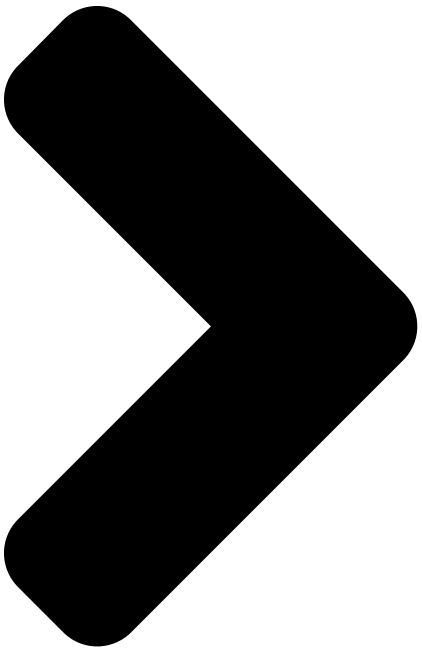
Overview quotations



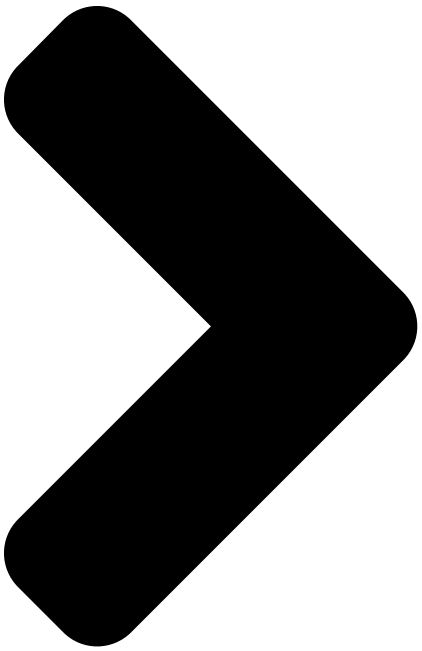
- Cost calculation for my website



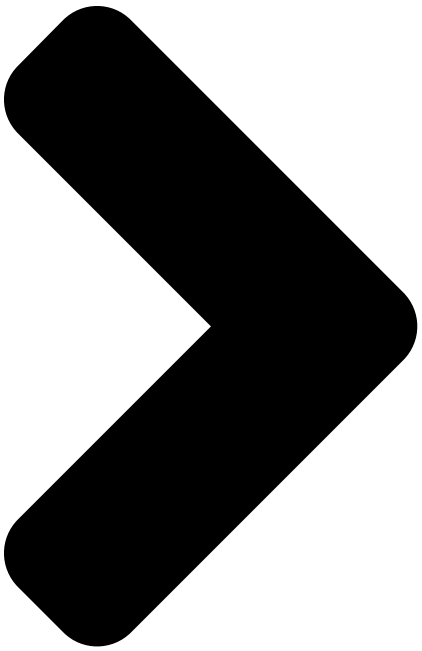
- Cost calculation: SEO/Ads/MGB/Speedup/Technical



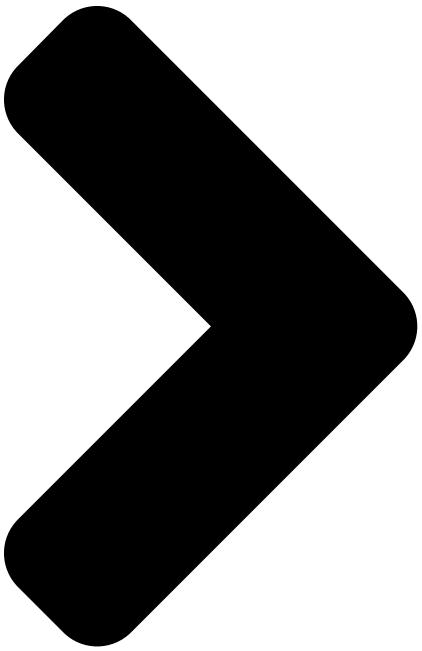
Contact us for a personal App or AI Agent



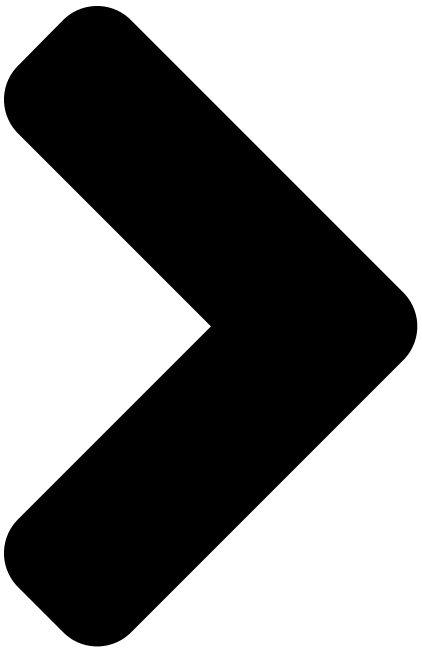
Cost calculation for an e-commerce shop



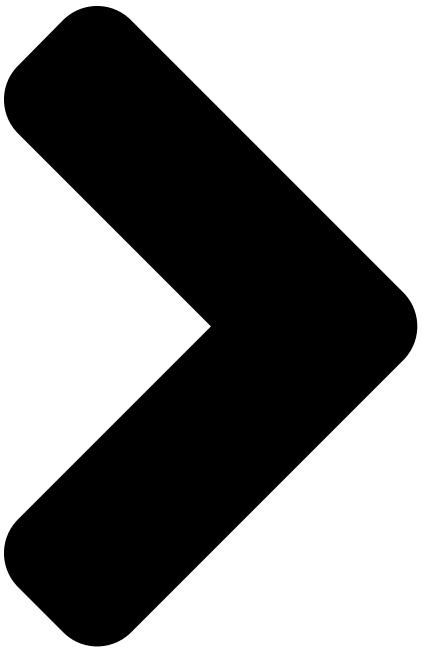
- Contact us for branding



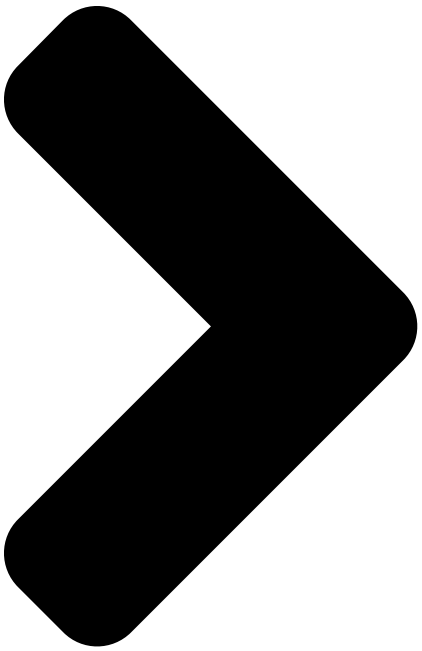
Cost calculation for Social Media Management



- Cost calculation for Graphic Design



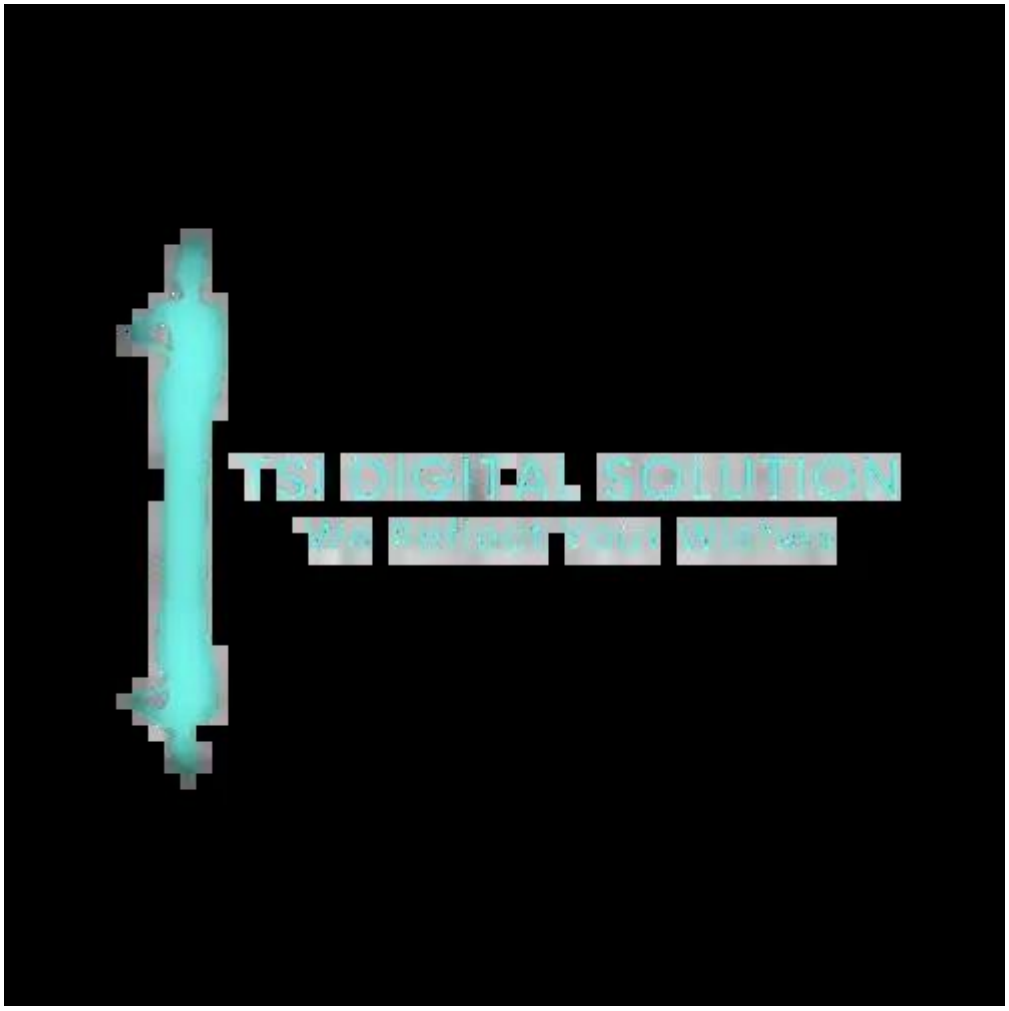
Cost calculation for Copywriting & Translations



Cost calculation for Photo- & Videography

Get a detailled quote

Interesting stuff to read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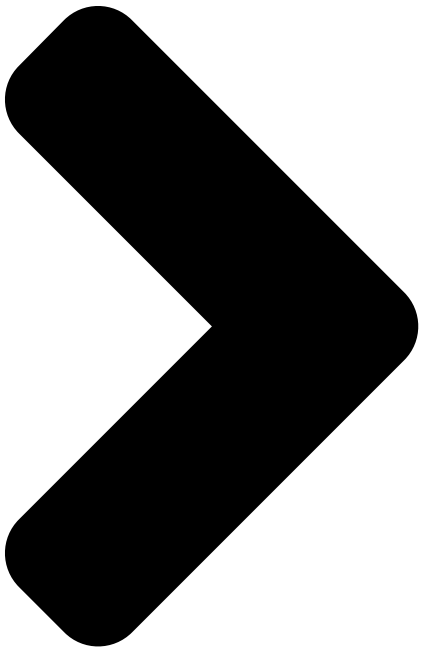

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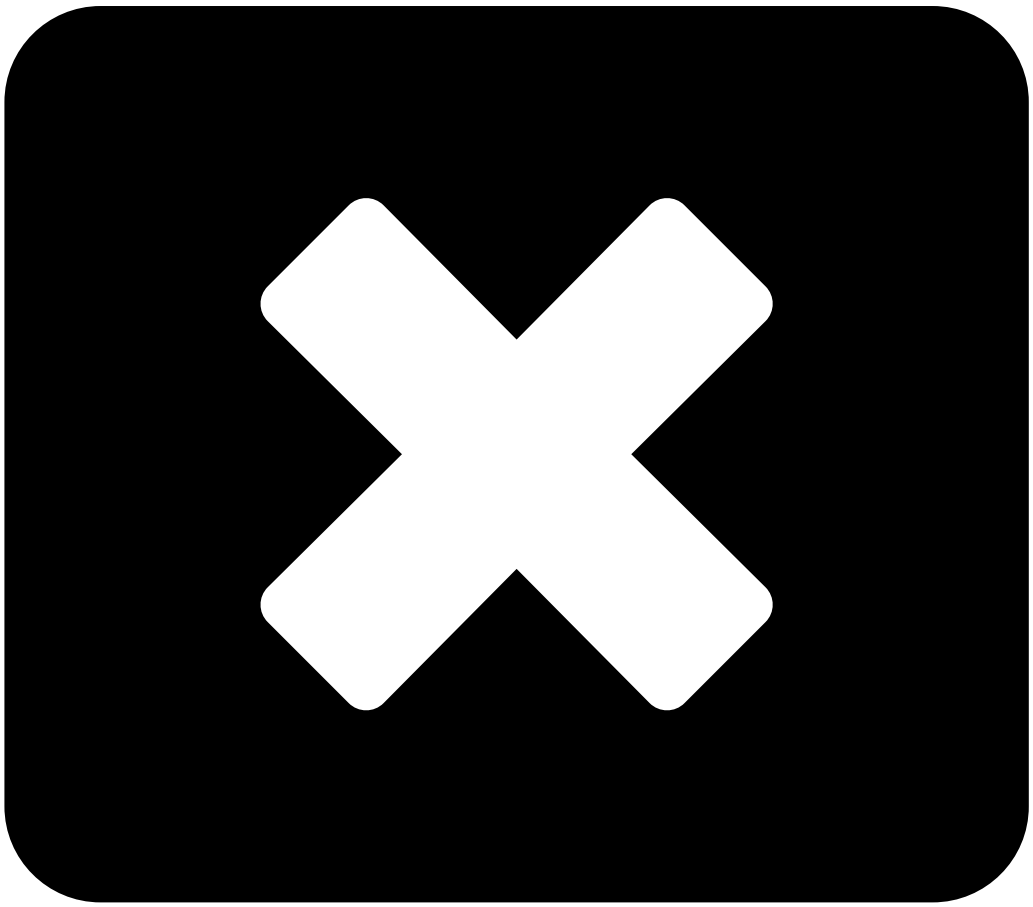

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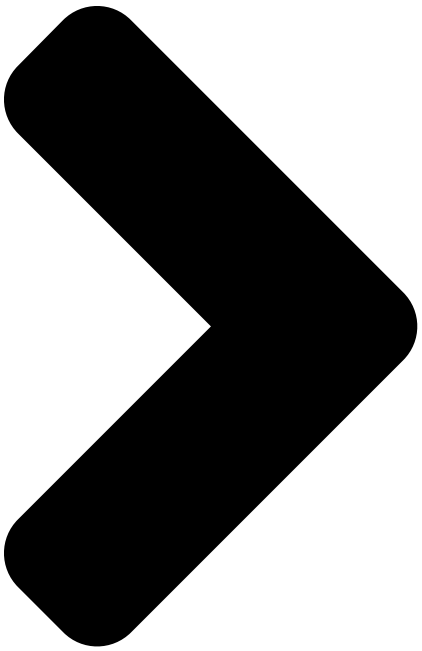

Blogs

Some random weekly posted topics

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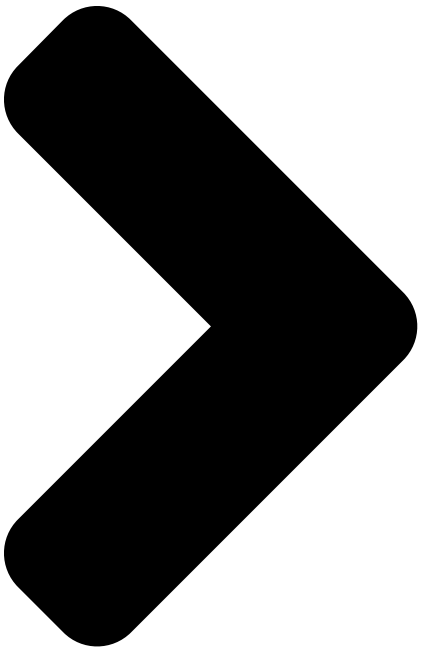
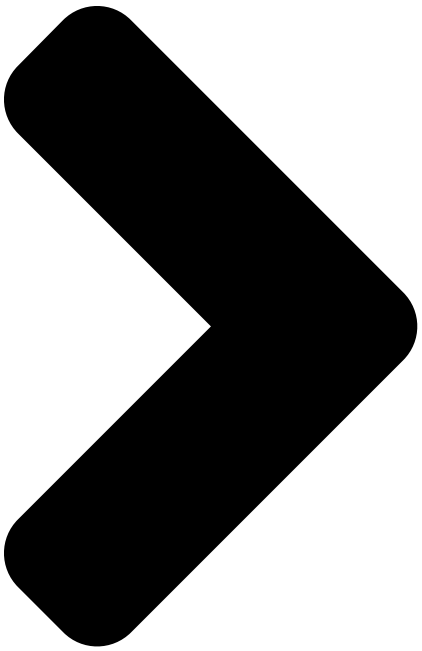
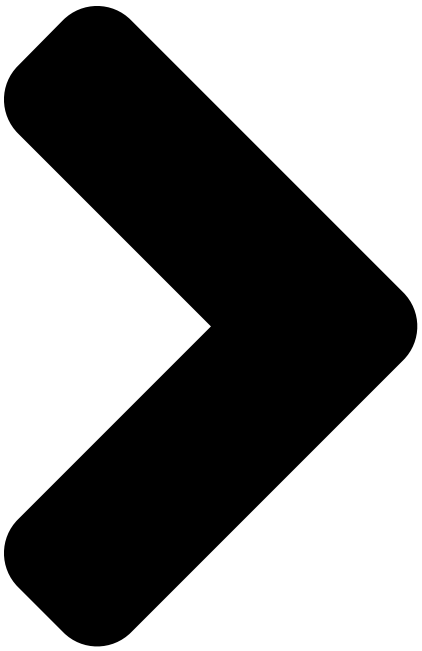


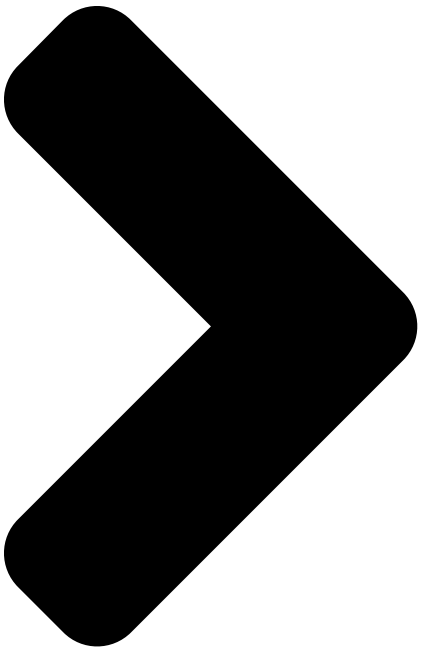
- Cheap Website vs. High Performance



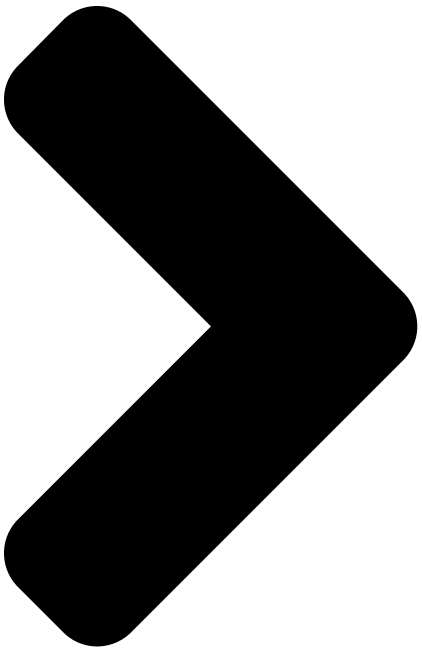
- What Is an AI Agent?



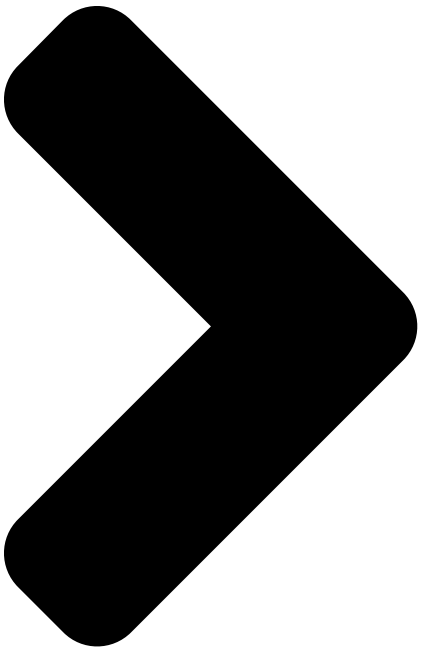
- Client Communication in Digital Marketing



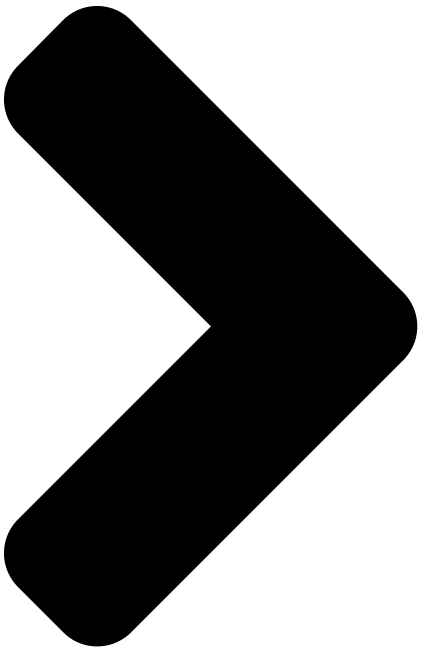
Human Made Websites vs AI Websites



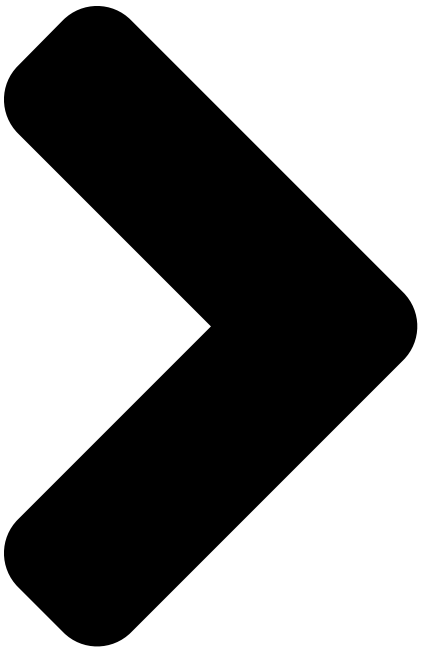
Your Digital Marketing Ecosystem Explained



Mastering Answer Engine Optimization (AEO)



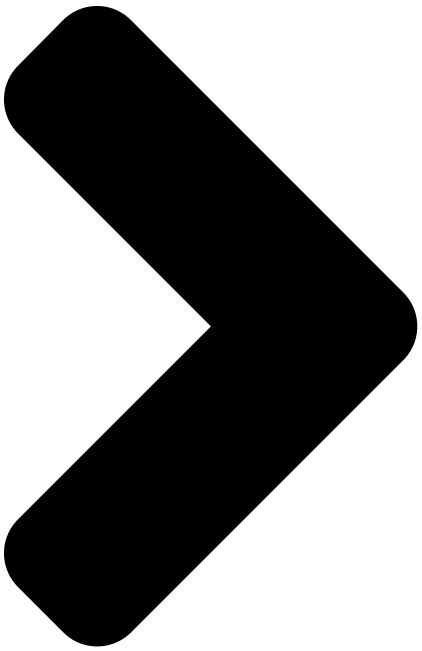
- Beware the Template Trap



NWOW: Results Matter, Not Presence

GSAP

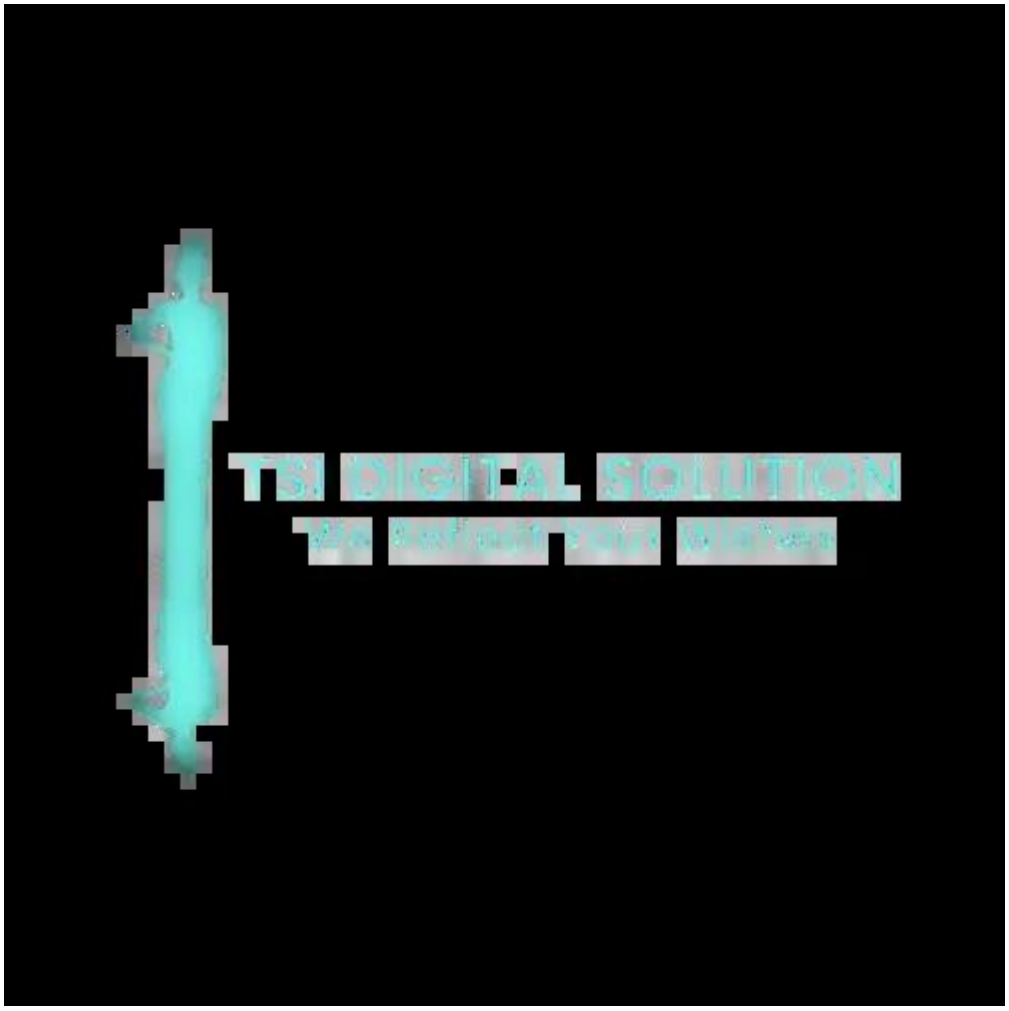
-



Demo site GSAP animation

Just ask, we are here for you

Who we are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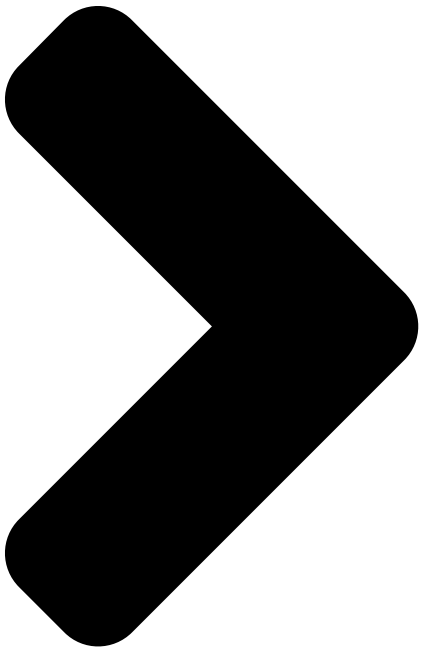

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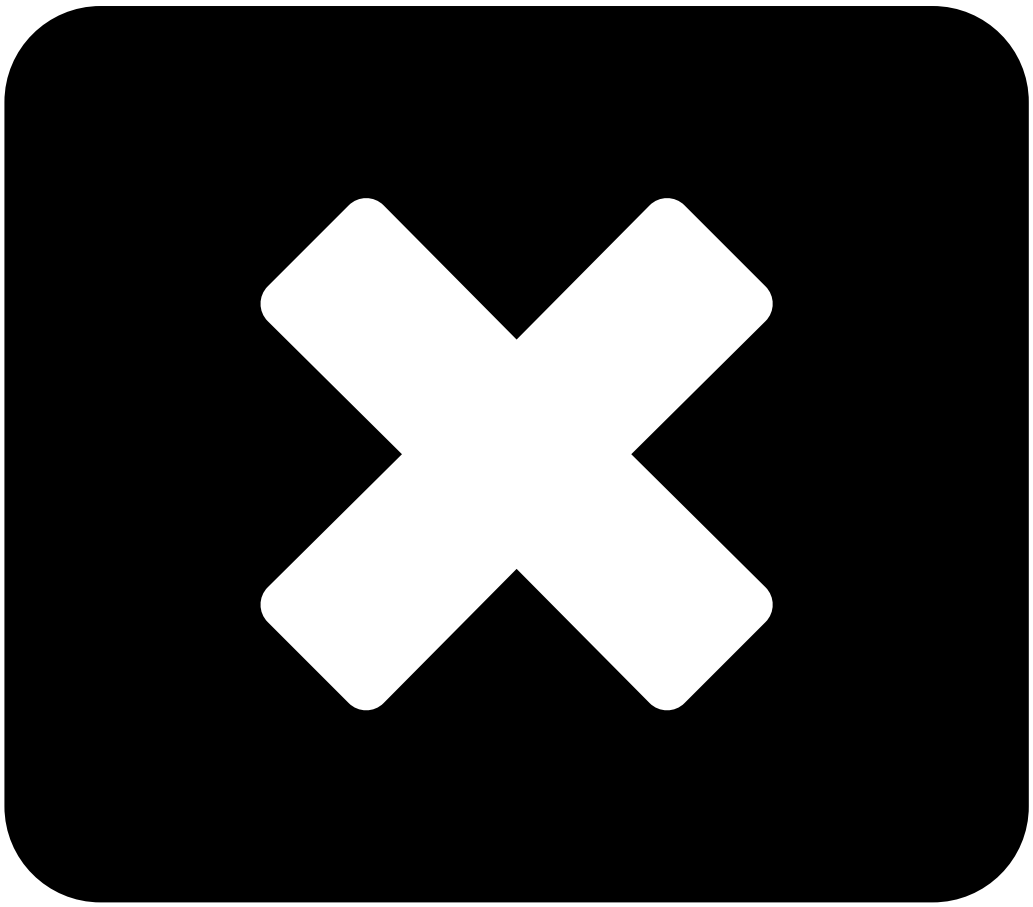

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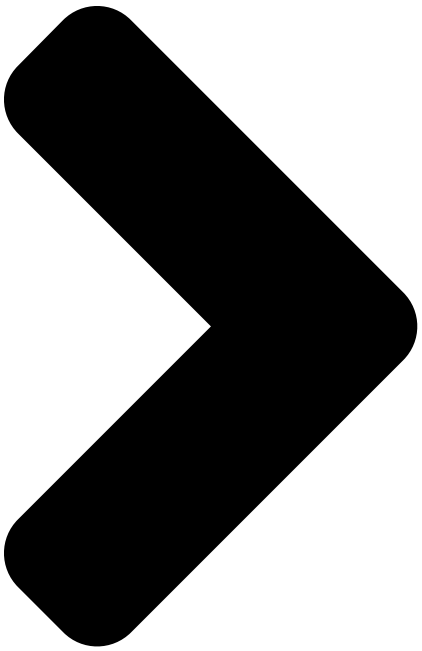
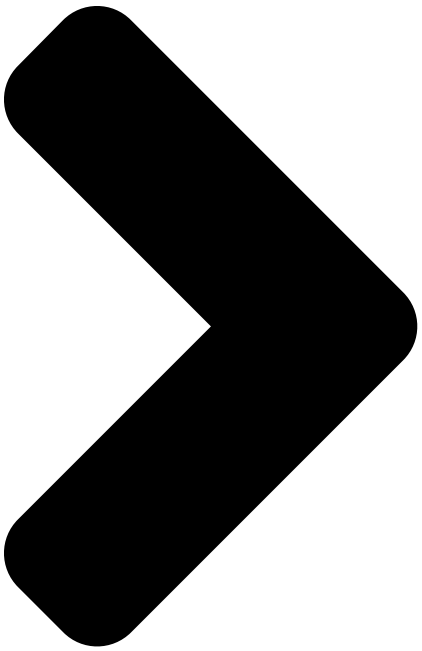


Contact us



Affiliate program

Download for free

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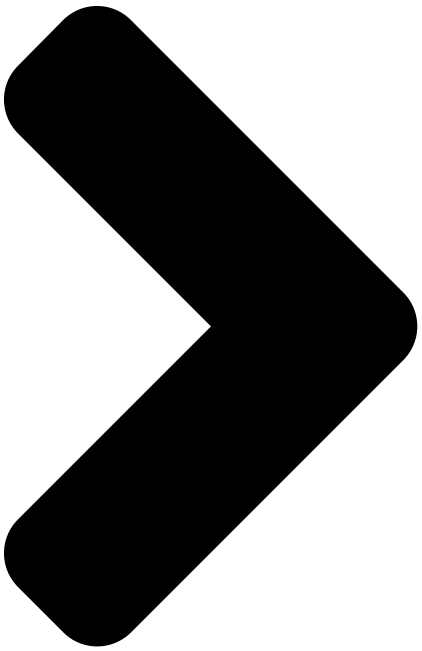
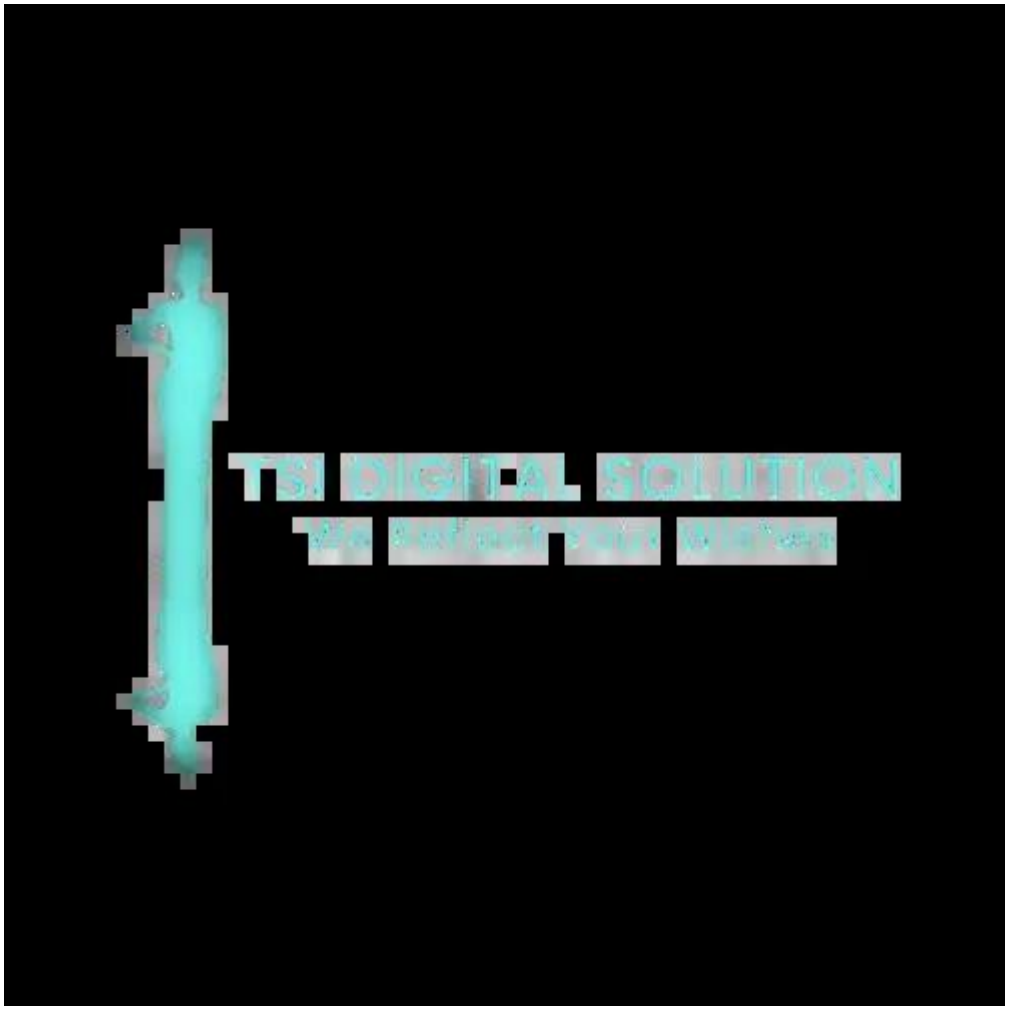


TSI Spam Blocker

Get a detailed quote

Interesting stuff to read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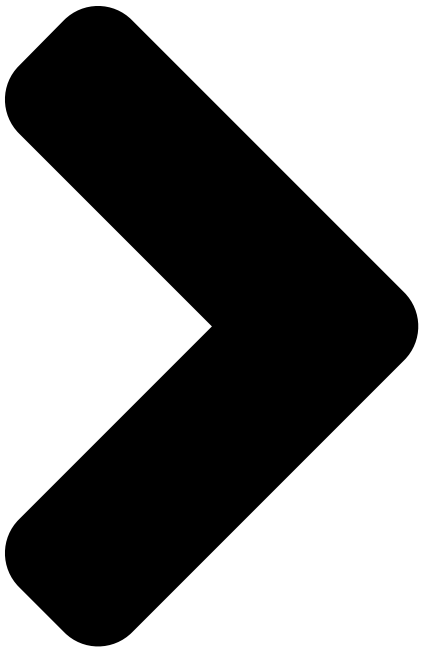

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Vacation Rental by Owner

Get An Online Quote

The OTA Dependence Trap

How to Boost Bookings Beyond OTAs in 2026

In 2026, more property owners are realizing that relying solely on Airbnb, Booking.com, or Agoda limits both revenue and control. A vacation rental by

owner website gives you the power to manage bookings, communicate directly with guests, and keep more of your hard-earned income. Beyond reducing commission fees, it allows owners to build loyalty, showcase their brand, and offer personalized experiences that marketplaces simply cannot match. With travelers increasingly searching for direct booking options, having your own platform is no longer just an advantage, it’s a business necessity.

The OTA Dependence Trap: Why It Matters in 2026

Most property owners still rely heavily on OTAs like Airbnb, Booking.com, and Agoda. These platforms deliver millions of travelers instantly but take a large commission, often 15–30% per booking. Direct channels, however, are gaining traction. In 2025, direct bookings accounted for roughly **26% of reservations but 38% of revenue**, showing that guests who book through property owner websites often stay longer and pay higher average daily rates.

This shift signals an opportunity for vacation rental by owner websites to reduce dependency on OTAs while keeping more revenue and building loyal guests.

What a Vacation Rental by Owner Website Is and How It Works

A vacation rental by owner website is your direct channel where guests can view availability, book securely, and pay without intermediaries. Core elements include:

- **Branded Website**: SEO-optimized pages tailored for your property and location.
- **Booking Engine**: Real-time availability, pricing, and secure payment processing.
- **Channel Manager**: Synchronizes calendars across OTAs to prevent double bookings.
- **Automated Guest Communication**: Emails, confirmations, and follow-ups without manual effort.

Direct bookings avoid OTA commissions, which drastically improves net revenue per stay.

Advantages of Vacation Rental by Owner Websites

Better Revenue and Margins

Direct bookings let owners bypass 15–30% OTA fees, keeping more profit per reservation. Recent trends show that while direct bookings may be fewer in number, they deliver higher overall revenue per guest.

Guest Data Ownership

With a vacation rental by owner website, you control guest emails, preferences, and history. This enables personalized promotions, loyalty programs, and repeat bookings.

Brand Loyalty

Direct channels allow property owners to create an experience aligned with their brand, which fosters repeat business and guest referrals.

The Trade-Offs

Direct bookings require effort and investment:

- **Marketing Investment**: SEO, Google Ads, social campaigns, and content creation are required to attract traffic.
- **Conversion Takes Time**: Many owners see meaningful bookings after several months of consistent optimization.
- **Operational Responsibility**: Guest support, payment disputes, and cancellations fall on the owner, unlike OTA-managed reservations.

Still, surveys indicate **40% of travelers plan to book directly in 2026**, showing increasing interest in vacation rental by owner websites.

Best Practices for Vacation Rental by Owner Websites

Creating a high-performing vacation rental by owner website requires more than just a booking button. Success depends on **strategic SEO, seamless user experience, and intelligent marketing**.

SEO and Conversion Optimization

Your website must be discoverable by potential guests searching for vacation rentals online. Incorporating the key phrase vacation rental by owner across property descriptions, meta titles, headings, and alt text is critical. High-quality images, detailed amenities lists, and local content increase trust and engagement, which in turn improves search rankings and conversion rates.

Calendar Management and Integration

Direct bookings are only effective if double-bookings are avoided. Integrating a booking engine with a channel manager ensures real-time synchronization with all OTA calendars. This not only reduces errors and cancellations but also gives guests confidence that your availability is accurate, building credibility for your brand.

Incentives and Guest Engagement

Offering incentives, such as flexible cancellation policies, small discounts, or welcome gifts, encourages guests to book directly. Collecting emails during booking allows owners to automate post-stay follow-ups, build loyalty programs, and promote repeat stays. Personalized communication fosters long-term relationships and reinforces your brand as a trusted vacation rental provider.

Dynamic Pricing and Competitiveness

Direct booking websites must remain competitive with OTAs on pricing and availability. Implementing dynamic pricing that adjusts to seasonality, local demand, and occupancy levels ensures that your listings are both attractive to guests and profitable for you. Combining competitive pricing with superior service and personalized offers creates a strong value proposition for direct bookings.

Future Trends for Vacation Rental by Owner Websites

The landscape for vacation rental by owner websites is evolving rapidly. Understanding upcoming trends helps property owners **stay ahead of competition and maximize profitability**.

Shift Towards Search Engines and AI Discovery

Travelers increasingly start their search on search engines or AI-assisted platforms rather than directly on OTAs. Optimizing your website for SEO and incorporating structured data ensures that your property can be discovered in these new channels. Direct channels that integrate with AI tools or chatbots may capture a larger share of bookings in the coming years.

Growing Emphasis on Personalization and Loyalty

Guests are seeking personalized experiences, tailored offers, and loyalty incentives. A vacation rental by owner website allows you to gather guest preferences, customize recommendations, and reward repeat bookings. This focus on personalization will continue to differentiate direct channels from OTAs, which often standardize guest interactions.

Seamless Technology Integration

Future-proof direct booking websites will integrate **booking engines, payment**

gateways, channel managers, and marketing automation seamlessly. As APIs and third-party integrations become more robust, technical barriers for small property owners will continue to decline. This allows owners to focus on service, branding, and guest experience rather than manual operations.

Hybrid Distribution Model Dominance

While OTAs will continue to provide discovery and initial traffic, a hybrid approach, leveraging OTAs for reach and direct websites for higher-margin bookings, will become the standard. Successful owners will manage both channels efficiently, directing guests to their own platforms whenever possible to maximize revenue and maintain control over the guest relationship.

Conclusion

Vacation rental by owner websites offer more than just an alternative to OTAs, they are a **strategic tool for growth**. They increase profit margins, enable direct guest relationships, and reduce dependency on third-party platforms. For 2026 and beyond, owners who invest in a direct channel while maintaining OTA listings will be best positioned to maximize revenue and loyalty.

Tip

Getting started with TSI Digital Solution

Starterskit

- Complete WordPress Website 5 pages
- Included Business Email
- Complimentary Hosting for the First Year
- Complimentary Domain Name for the First Year
- Free logo
- Setup 3 Social Media Accounts (FB, IG & TikTok)

Get My Direct Booking Website

Innovative solutions by TSI Digital Solution

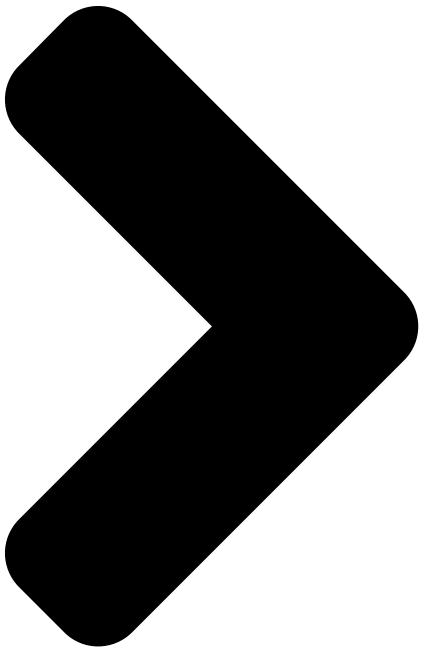
Lease your website

- Lease your brandnew website
- Included Business Email
- Complimentary Hosting for the First Year
- Complimentary Domain Name for the First Year
- Lease options: 6, 12 or 24 months
- Launch Your Online Presence Today – No Upfront Investment

Start Increasing Direct Bookings

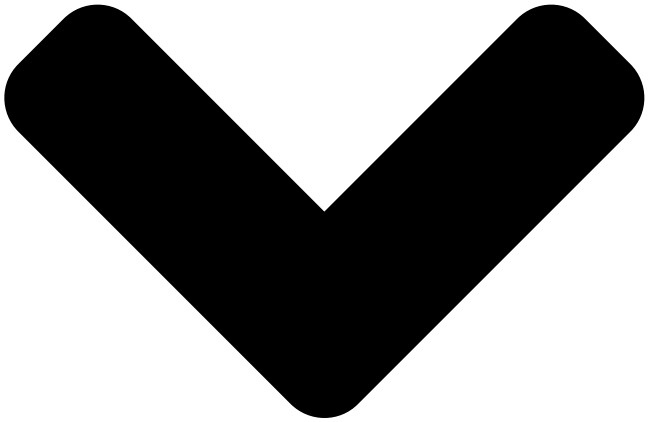
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

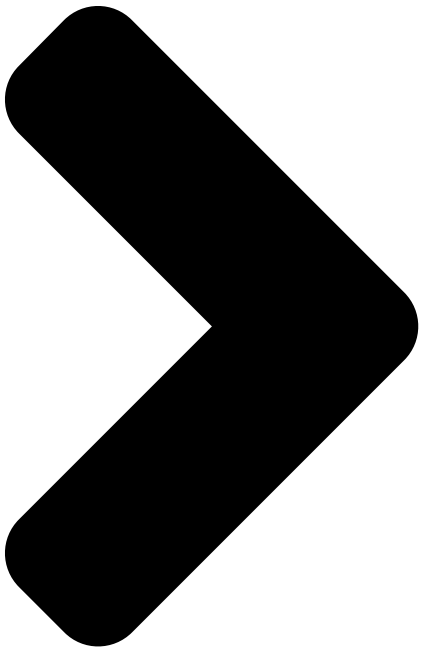
How much can I save with vacation rental by owner bookings?



Direct bookings avoid OTA fees (15–30%), leaving significantly more revenue per stay.

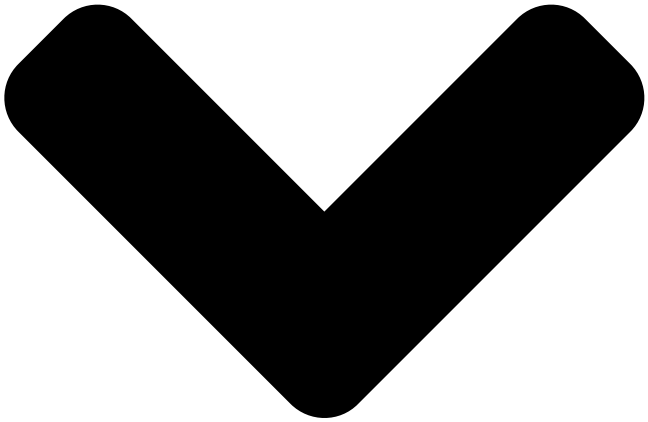
Will guests find my property without OTAs?

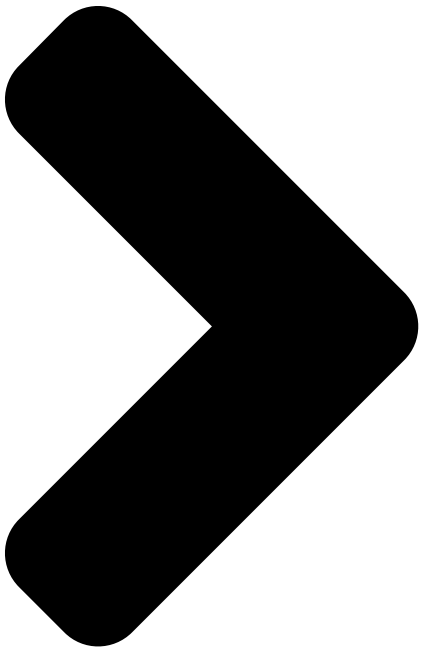




Absolutely! There’s a shift toward chatbot searches, and combined with SEO, advertising, and social media marketing, this drives traffic and creates repeat visitors.

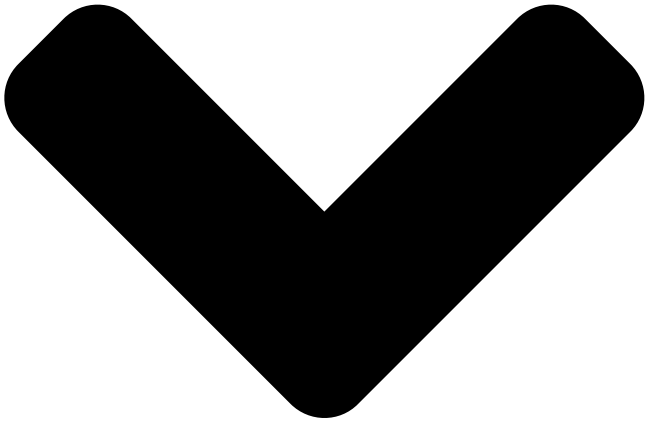
Do I need a booking engine?

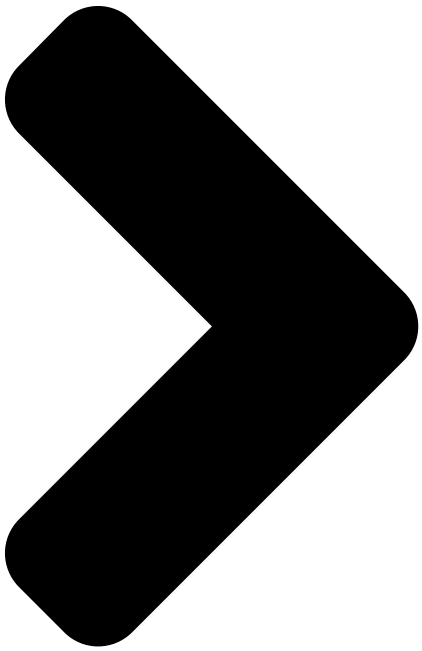




Yes. A fast, reliable booking engine is crucial for real-time availability, secure payment processing, and avoiding double bookings. At **TSI Digital Solution**, we provide fully integrated booking systems tailored for vacation rental by owner websites. Our solutions sync seamlessly with OTAs, automate confirmations, and include payment gateway integration, so owners can focus on managing their properties while maximizing direct bookings.

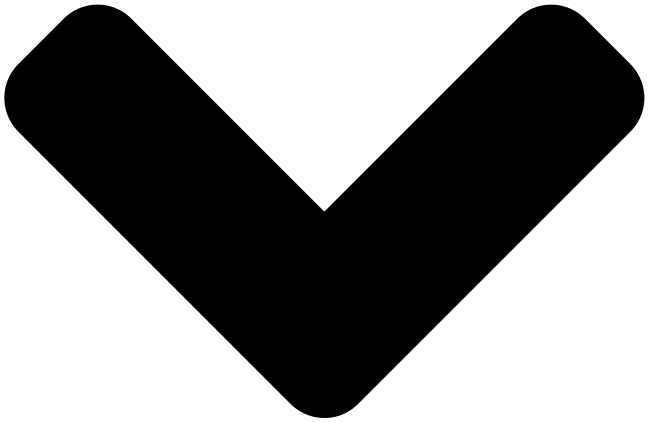
How long until direct bookings are meaningful?

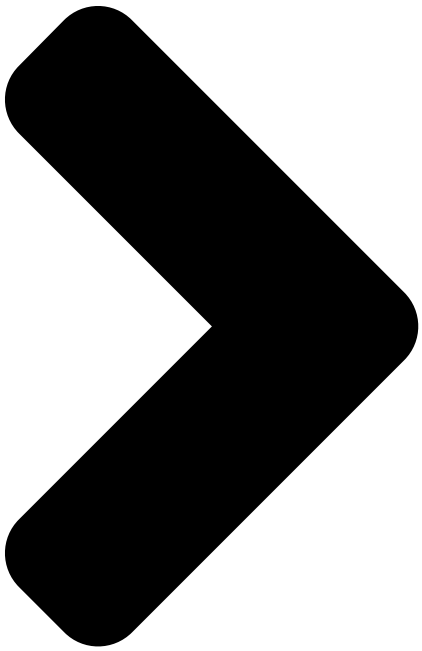




Owners often see traction in 3-6 months, depending on marketing investment and property location.

Can vacation rental by owner websites replace OTAs?





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Reach Out to Us

Ready to launch or optimize your vacation rental by owner website?

Contact TSI Digital Solution today for a free evaluation and a roadmap to boost direct bookings.

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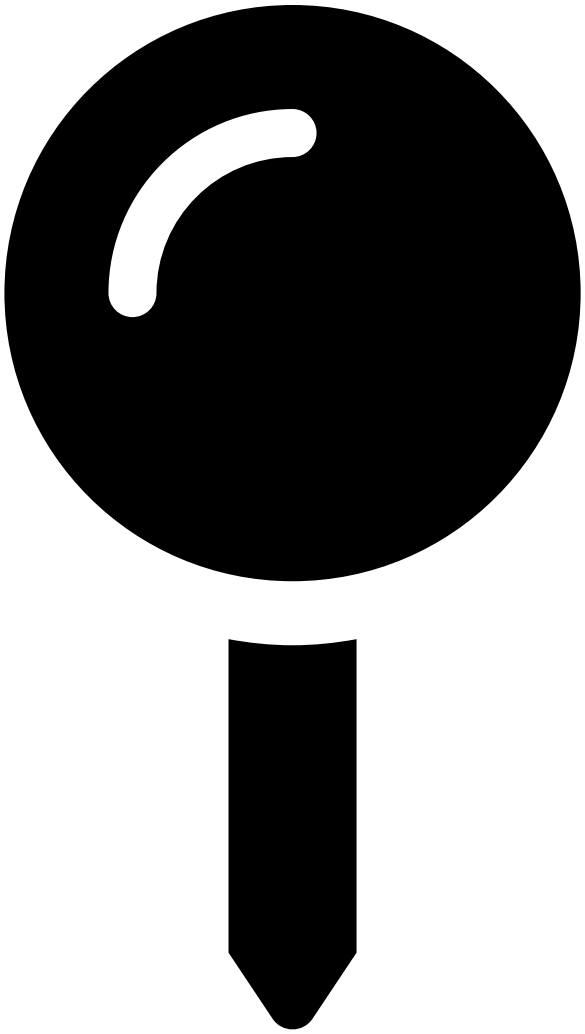

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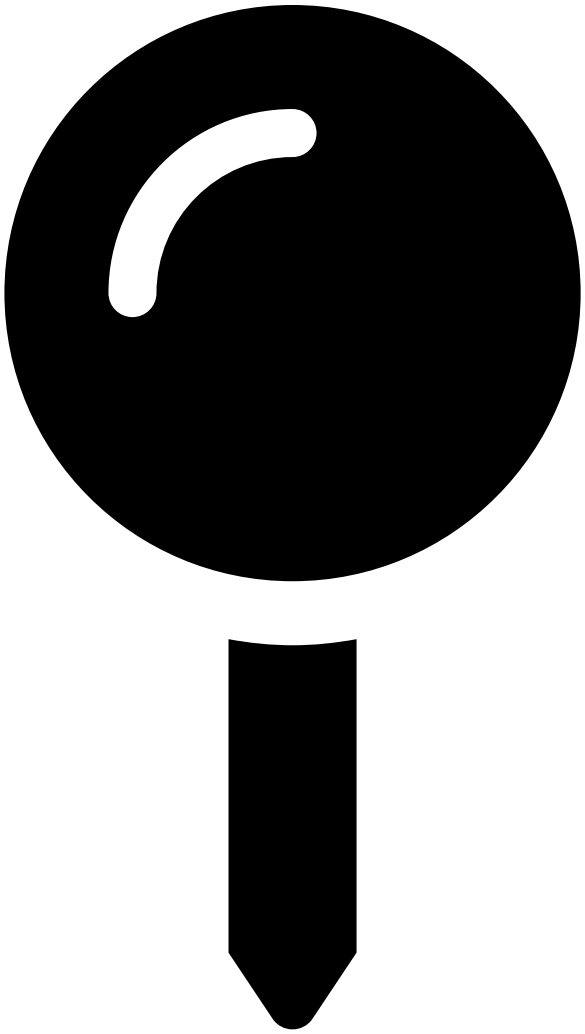

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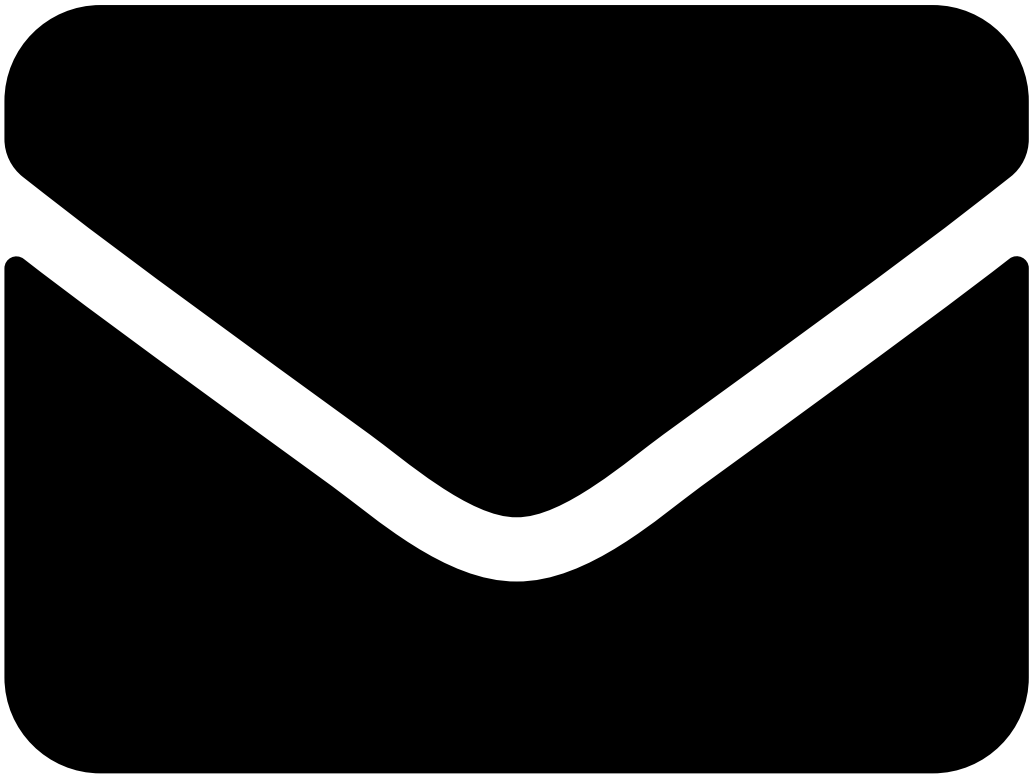

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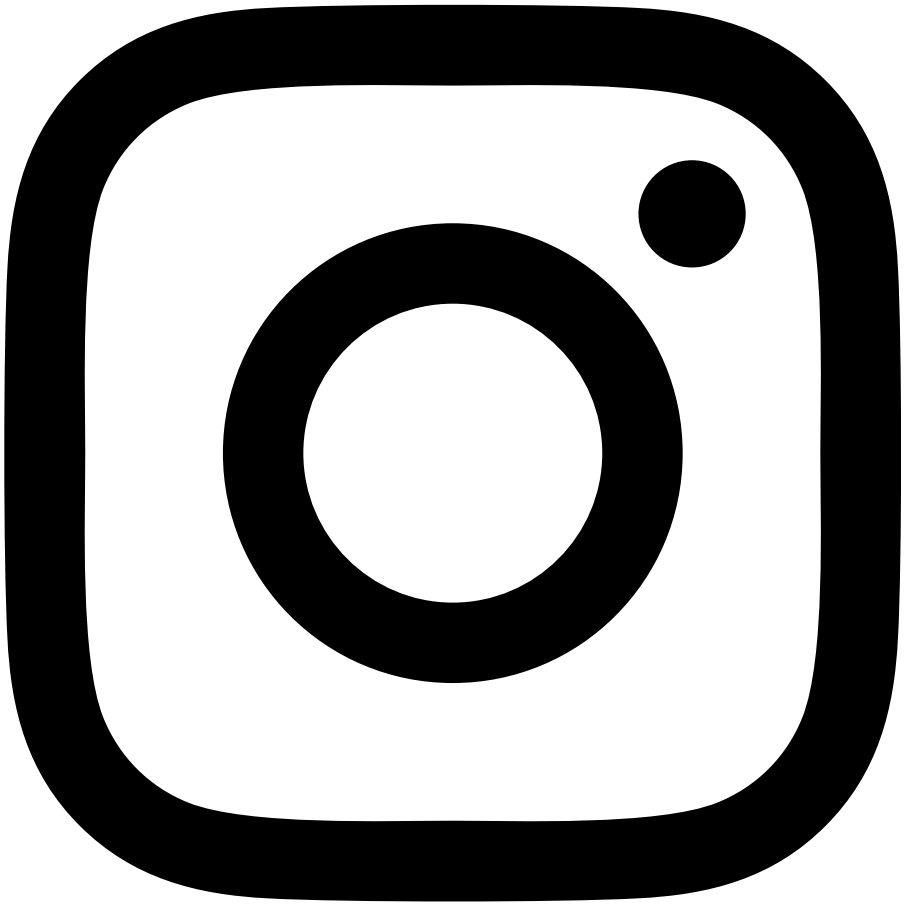

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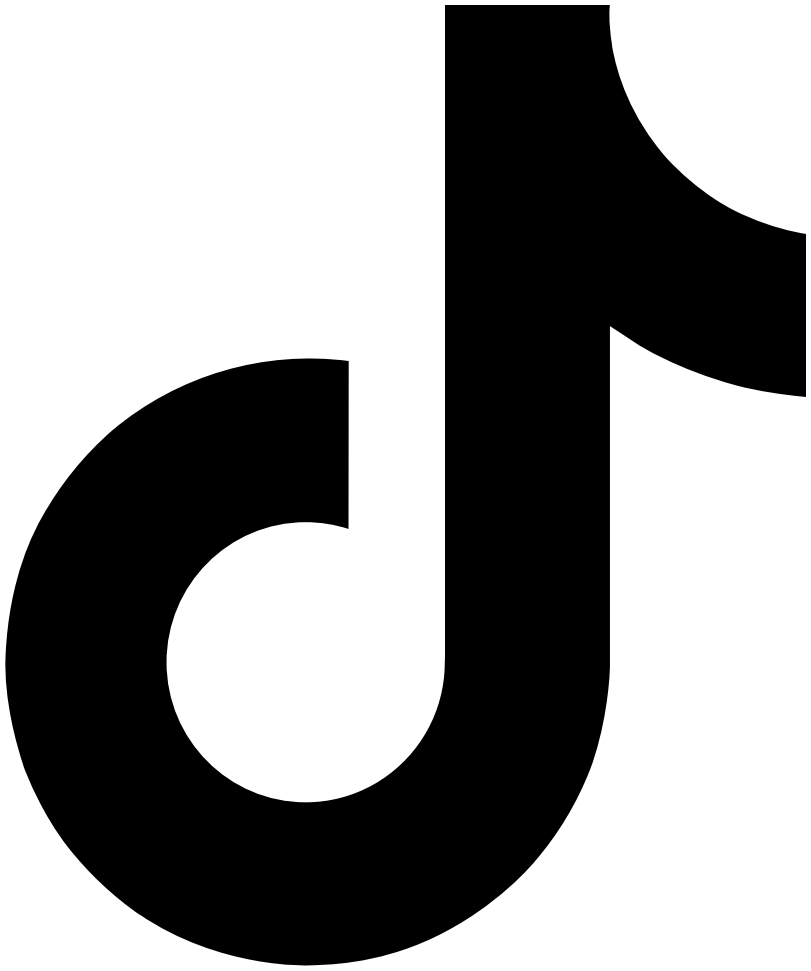

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