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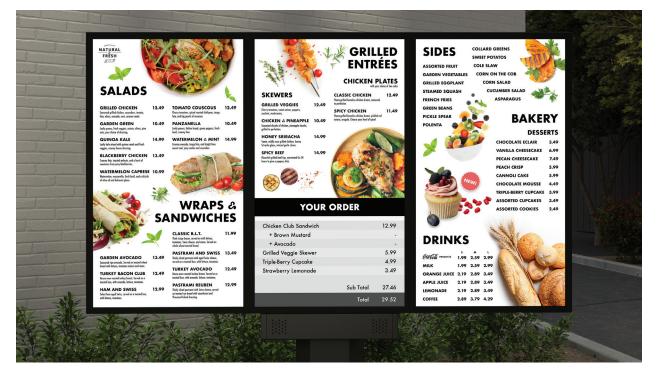
Implementation Guide for Outdoor Digital Signage in Drive-Thru Businesses

Planning, Installing, Configuring, Managing, and Maintaining

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Introduction

Outdoor digital signage has become essential for enhancing customer experience, streamlining operations, and boosting sales in drive-thru businesses. This guide provides a comprehensive overview of the high-level steps involved in planning, installing, configuring, managing, and maintaining outdoor digital signage. By following these steps, businesses can ensure their digital signage systems' successful implementation and longevity.



Planning

Assessment of Needs

The first step in implementing outdoor digital signage is to assess the specific needs of your drive-thru business. Consider the following factors:

- **Content Requirements:** Determine the type of content you want to display, such as menus, promotions, and advertisements.
- **Update Frequency:** Determine how often you need to change the content on the screen.
- **Budget:** Establish a budget for the project, including hardware, software, installation, and ongoing maintenance costs.

Site Evaluation

Conduct a thorough evaluation of the drive-thru site to identify the best locations for digital signage. Consider factors such as visibility, accessibility, sunlight exposure, and potential obstructions. Ensure that the chosen locations comply with local regulations and zoning requirements. Ensure you can provide electricity and network connectivity to the spot you select.

Technology Selection

Select the appropriate technology for your outdoor digital signage. This includes choosing the right displays, media players, and content management systems (CMS).

Consider the following:

- **Display Type:** Select weatherproof and durable displays with high brightness and resolution to ensure visibility in various lighting conditions.
- **Media Players:** Choose reliable media players that can support high-definition content and seamless playback. Consider smart screen technologies where the media player is built into the display, reducing the amount of equipment that needs to be protected, secured, and maintained.
- **CMS:** Select a cloud-based, user-friendly CMS that allows easy scheduling, updating, and monitoring of content.

Installation

Site Preparation

Before installation, prepare the drive-thru site by ensuring proper power supply and network connectivity. Site preparation may involve trenching for cables, installing power outlets, and setting up wireless or wired network connections.

Display Mounting

Mount the displays at the pre-determined locations. Ensure the mounts are secure and can withstand outdoor conditions, including wind, rain, and temperature fluctuations. Use vandal-resistant enclosures to protect the displays from potential damage.

Connection and Integration

Connect the displays to the media players and integrate them with the CMS. Ensure that all connections are weatherproof and secure. Test the connections to ensure that there is seamless communication between the displays, media players, and CMS.

Configuration

Content Creation

Create engaging and relevant content for your digital signage, including menu boards, promotional messages, videos, and animations. Ensure the content is visually appealing and easy to read from a distance.

Content Scheduling

Use the CMS to schedule the content for display. Consider peak hours, special promotions, and seasonal changes. Ensure that the content is regularly updated to keep it fresh and relevant.



System Configuration

Configure the digital signage system to ensure optimal performance. This includes setting display brightness, volume, and playback. You should also configure the system to switch between different content automatically based on a schedule.

Management

Monitoring and Control

Monitor the digital signage system regularly to ensure that it is functioning correctly. Use remote monitoring tools to check the status of the displays, media players, and network connections. Implement failover solutions to ensure continuous operation in case of technical issues.

Content Management

Continuously manage the content displayed on the digital signage. Update the content regularly to reflect new promotions, menu items, and seasonal changes. Use analytics tools to measure the effectiveness of the content and make data-driven decisions for future updates.

Training and Support

Provide staff training on how to use the CMS and manage the digital signage system. Ensure that a dedicated support team is available to address any technical issues that may arise.

Maintenance

Routine Maintenance

Perform routine maintenance to ensure the longevity and optimal performance of the digital signage system. Maintenance includes cleaning the displays, checking the mounts and enclosures, and inspecting the connections.

Software Updates

Update the software and firmware of the media players when directed by the manufacturer to ensure compatibility and security. Choosing a cloud-based CMS will simplify software maintenance. Implement a schedule for software updates and ensure that they are tested before deployment.

Hardware Replacement

Plan for the eventual replacement of hardware components, such as displays and media players. Keep spare parts on hand to minimize downtime in case of hardware failures.

Conclusion

Implementing outdoor digital signage in a drive-thru business requires careful planning, installation, configuration, management, and maintenance. Following this high-level implementation guide, companies can enhance their drive-thru operations, improve customer experience, and increase sales. With the right technology and a dedicated team, outdoor digital signage can become an asset to any drive-thru business.

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