

The Faulkner Organization Increases Qualified Showroom Traffic by 50 Percent with Conversica®



Customer

The Faulkner Organization consists of 23 domestic and import auto franchises across Pennsylvania

Challenge

Increase lead engagement rates

Conversica Solution

Conversica Sales AI Assistant with unlimited bandwidth

Conversica Virtual Persona

Megan

Conversica Assists

- 6,500 leads per month worked by Conversica
- Increased engagement rate from 25 percent to more than 55 percent
- Increased appointment setter's monthly contacts from 150 to 225 leads, resulting in a 50 percent increase in qualified showroom traffic

Founded in 1932 in Harrisburg, PA as a pioneering Oldsmobile dealership, The Faulkner Organization has grown to be one of the state's largest multi-franchise automobile dealerships, featuring 23 leading domestic and import brands. Whether drivers are looking for the flagship American Chevrolets and Buicks, or seeking sporty thrills in Fiat or Maserati imports, the sales teams at Faulkner are committed to putting every customer first.

Driven by high expectations for customer service, Faulkner's Internet Sales department was constantly challenged to keep up with nearly 6,500 Internet leads per month that poured into the franchises from multiple sources, including third-party lead aggregators and Faulkner's own multi-brand website. The Internet Sales department's appointment setters could effectively handle only a maximum of 150 leads each day, and many potential Sales opportunities could have been falling by the wayside. As a result, the company's engagement rate consistently hovered around 25 percent.

"Increasing the quality of our leads was the only way to improve the engagement rate of our Internet Sales teams," says Neil Gandhi, director, digital marketing, at Faulkner "We determined that the best way to do this was to automate the process of qualifying leads as much as possible."

The Conversica Solution

Faulkner launched an initial pilot of Conversica® at its Jenkintown, PA area franchise. It didn't take long for Gandhi to see some very positive results.

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increase in the efficiency of our appointment setters,” Gandhi says. “Also, Megan follows up with each lead, so our Internet Sales team is held accountable for contacting the qualified prospects that Conversica delivers. Before Conversica we had no way to track this.”

To date, Faulkner has rolled out Conversica to almost 90 percent of its franchises with plans to bring one or two more franchises on board each month until the entire organization is using Conversica. The system works to automate the entire process of Sales conversion for thousands of Internet leads each month by:

- Creating automated, two-way email-based communication with leads using a human persona
- Determining the lead’s intent in real-time by interpreting text in the email response
- Alerting the Salesperson to contact qualified leads who indicate intention to buy now
- Following up after the Salesperson’s initial contact to continue to nurture the lead and get additional information or feedback

Nearly 250 salespersons and managers are currently using Conversica at Faulkner. The intuitive dashboard within Conversica also gives Gandhi and other Faulkner managers a wealth of metrics on lead source performance, Salesperson responsiveness, and other information to help them make better business decisions. “Using the metrics from Conversica, we have deeper insight into the types of leads we’re dealing with and we can distribute them to Salespersons with the experience to handle them,” Gandhi says. “Also, our people know that with Conversica in place, the metrics will show if they are working every lead from beginning to end and they stay accountable.”

Conversica Assists

Conversica has helped Faulkner’s Internet sales teams achieve a higher number of what the company calls “volley-based” customer engagements – a volley of communication back and forth between the customer and the application until the customer provides a phone number, email address, or wants to be contacted by a Faulkner Salesperson.

Prior to deploying Conversica, Faulkner’s Internet Salespersons could attain an engagement rate of approximately 25 percent, mainly because they simply did not have the time to contact and qualify each of the nearly 6,500 incoming leads each month. Now, their virtual team member Megan does all of the contacting, engaging and qualifying customers in the important Sales conversion phase of the sales cycle. After a series of two-way email conversations in which Megan confirms the lead’s phone number and schedules the best time to call, Megan notifies the Sales team when a lead is ready to visit the dealership or make a purchase.

As a result, Conversica has delivered the following benefits at Faulkner:

- Increased the engagement rate from 25 percent to more than 55 percent
- Increased the number of leads handled by a single appointment setter from 150 to 225 per month, raising qualified showroom traffic by 50 percent
- Eliminated the operational expense of hiring additional appointment setters and Sales reps to follow up with 6,500 leads each month



55% lead engagement



50% increase in qualified showroom traffic



6,500
leads each month



In addition to saving time in the initial lead qualification process, Megan has been very successful in working with leads that Faulkner had previously considered dead or unresponsive. Because the automated Conversica system is constantly reaching out to contact, qualify, and determine the intent of each lead, Faulkner's Internet Sales teams have more time to pursue promising aged leads that are between 3 and 8 weeks old. As a result, the organization has increased the number of sales from leads that are over two weeks old.

"Conversica provides an automated Sales conversion solution that helps us quickly identify the leads that would have the most potential for engagement or convert to a volley-based lead, as we say," Gandhi says. "At the end of the day, I don't only care if a lead provider gives me 100 leads or 50; it's about the percent of those leads that are qualified. With Conversica, our Internet Sales organization is confident that the sales team is engaging with highly qualified leads with intent every time."

About Conversica

Conversica is a leading provider of Intelligent Virtual Assistants helping organizations attract, acquire and grow customers at scale. Reaching out to over 100 million people on behalf of thousands of companies, the flagship Conversica® Sales AI Assistant helps companies find and secure customers more quickly and efficiently by autonomously contacting, engaging, qualifying and following up with leads via natural, two-way conversations at scale. Conversica Intelligent Virtual Assistants are built on a proven and patented intelligent automation platform integrating natural language understanding (NLU), natural language generation (NLG), autonomous action chains and deep learning capabilities that engage prospects over multiple communication channels and in multiple languages.

[Winning multiple awards](#) for fastest growing company and in the area of most innovative AI companies, Conversica is a portfolio company of Providence Strategic Growth, Kennet Partners and Toba Capital and is headquartered in Foster City, California. To learn more, visit conversica.com and follow the company on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).