

## The Invitations I accept.

I recently started this discussion on a number of LinkedIn groups

**Help me to solve my No.1 LinkedIn mystery. Why on earth do people link with others they don't know? I link to help and introduce my network to others and ask them to introduce me to their network. How can you do either with strangers? I'm bemused!**

Well over 400 people have commented some turning into friendly albeit heated 'discussions'. So with the help of many peoples' views I now share my thoughts on the subject.

1. If I have met someone and I have no reason not to accept their invitation, then I will do so willingly. I sometimes meet someone who I don't take to so tend to ignore their invitation. Unless something dramatic happens I cannot think of a good reason to ever accept
2. Anyone I have ever met in my past who asks to connect will be welcomed
3. If I have had delegates listen to me from conferences or training seminars who invite me in then I accept their invitation. That group is the majority of my connections who have experienced my 'service'. I feel if I ask them to introduce me to one of their contacts they will generally be willing to broker the introduction.
4. At the end of the day 'Every man has his price'! If I get an invitation from someone I have yet to meet but they are a VIP or a serious future prospect I think it would be un-business like to refuse.
5. If I am about to meet someone or had a phone call then I will either invite them or accept them.
6. Because of what I do I meet literally thousands of people and sometimes I get asked to link from people I may have met previously. I don't accept or ignore I press the small 'down arrow' button against the Accept button and send them a message asking why they want to connect. If they say they had been in my audience x years previously then I will connect. If they say they want to discuss a new business relationship, again I will accept.

Anyone else who invites me and I'm sure I don't know them I press either the Ignore button and then sometimes the "I don't know this person" or "Report as Spam" buttons. If these people are reported 10 times for the first or 5 for the second I am reliably informed their profile is deleted from LinkedIn.