

PPC for B2B:

How to Use Paid Media to Boost Your Inbound Marketing Funnel



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TEAM

We provide B2B tech clients with the strategy, technology and operations they need to launch and scale their online marketing & sales activities.

Marketing Envy's founders, together with a team of over 20 experienced marketers and automation specialists have trail-blazed marketing successes for oodles of tech companies and start-ups in Israel, USA, UK, Ireland and Australia.



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MARKETING ENVY 3

PORTFOLIO CLIENTS INCLUDE





























































HOW TO USE PAID MEDIA TO BOOST YOUR INBOUND MARKETING FUNNEL

HOW TO USE PAID MEDIA TO BOOST YOUR INBOUND MARKETING FUNNEL

The popularity of inbound marketing is off the charts. In fact, when HubSpot surveyed over 3,400 marketers for their "State of Marketing 2020" report, between 70% -74% reported they actively invest in inbound marketing and 24% plan on increasing content marketing budgets this year. While there's no doubt that the popularity of inbound marketing is well deserved, we find that too many companies are skeptical about the investment in PPC.

Many still believe that PPC is synonymous with the "old outbound" marketing, when disruptive banners would jump out at us and interrupt our experience. Well, that could still be the case, but only when PPC and inbound marketing strategies are poorly integrated. An effective inbound campaign requires you to study your audience's needs and create relevant content for each stage of the buyer journey. Supplementing what you know about your audience with PPC will amplify your inbound efforts.

THINK ABOUT:



Inbound

Organic leads, supercritical long term foundation layer, patience is your salvation.



PPC

Paid leads, budget flexibility, quicker or more attributable ROI.

HOW TO USE PAID MEDIA TO BOOST YOUR INBOUND MARKETING FUNNEL

PPC WILL ALSO HELP YOU TO:

- Target the right people
- Engage prospects on every channel while building relationships
- Significantly scale up your inbound efforts fast!

THIS EBOOK IS IDEALLY FOR B2B TECH MARKETERS WHO:

- Have some experience (even minimal) with PPC platforms
- Have been wanting to try out PPC, but don't know where to start
- Need to explain to the boss how PPC will help get those qualified leads
- Need to reach lead growth in a defined period of time e.g. next quarter!

We created this eBook to help you better understand what your PPC options are, how it should be integrated with inbound marketing, when you should be doing what and how to calculate a meaningful ROI from your activities. Enjoy:)

CHAPTER 1: AWARENESS STAGE

According to HubSpot, "at this point, a buyer is trying to solve a problem, get an answer, or meet a need. They're looking for top-level educational content to help direct them to a solution."

HubSpot points out that these prospects' "value as a lead is low because there's no guarantee that they'll buy from you," but if you provide valuable content, there's a chance they'll stick around, allow you to build trust, and ultimately down the road, buy your product.

WHAT KIND OF CONTENT SHOULD I PROMOTE?

This isn't the time to be talking about your product. Earn their trust by **providing content that helps them understand the true challenge they're facing** and later figure out the best solution for them.

Many companies will try to promote content offers but we found it's more beneficial to focus on reach rather than conversions at this point.

SUITABLE TYPES OF CONTENT

- Informative blogs
- Infographics
- Videos
- Non-gated TOF eBooks
- Industry questionnaires

WHICH KPIS SHOULD I TARGET & TRACK?

For blog posts

- **Click through rates (CTR)**. You want as many people as possible reading your content.
- Time on site/no. of pages
 How long did people stay on your site, how many pages did they read?

For videos

 Number of views. Here, too, you want as many eyeballs on your content as possible, but it will usually be done on the platform itself and not on your website.

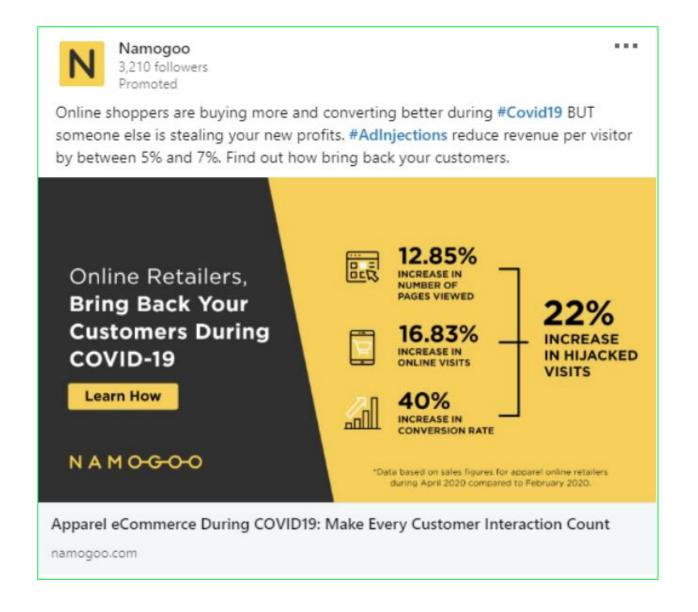
WHICH CHANNELS SHOULD I USE?

After working with countless B2B tech companies, our favorite channels to promote awareness stage blog posts and videos are:

- LinkedIn
- YouTube
- Facebook / Instagram

PROMOTE YOUR BLOGS ON LINKEDIN AND FACEBOOK

Blog posts are easier to create than videos, so start with that. Your number one KPI here is the number of people who click through and read your blog post. Start with an integrated content plan that includes as much varied content as possible, such as videos, blog and ebooks/whitepapers etc.



PROMOTE YOUR VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK

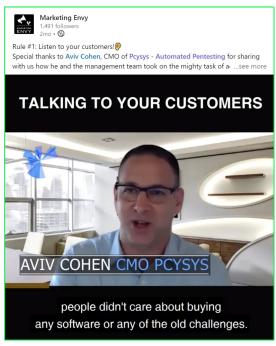
On both platforms, begin by targeting your personas' interests (we have more info about this towards the end of this ebook).

 Focus on how many people viewed your video and not the number of clicks. Since the goal is awareness, more viewers = more exposure.



Get the best results when you upload your video directly to the Facebook/LinkedIn native video platform as opposed to through YouTube. If you do, it will automatically play as the user scrolls past it.





Most people will watch the first 5-10 seconds of your video so make sure to emphasize your message at the beginning of the video.

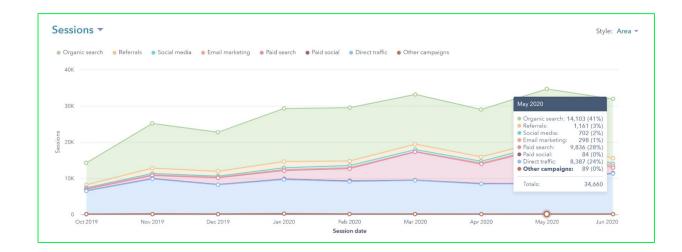
HOW TO MEASURE AWARENESS ROI OVER TIME

- Compare traffic to your website before and after your campaign.
 - Are you seeing more returning visitors to your site?
 - Look at organic traffic volume to your site over time, is it rising?
- Analyze brand recognition. Are more people searching your brand name on Google or mentioning you (hopefully, in a positive way) on social media?
- Are more people signing up for your blog or following you on social channels? Yes, likes, follows etc.



HOW TO MEASURE AWARENESS ROI OVER TIME

- If you're introducing a new type of solution, do you see an increase in Google searches and social media mentions related to your innovation?
- Track how many people search for the solution you offer, or the challenge you solve. Notice love from other companies. Are you getting more mentions and links from other websites than you did before your campaign?
- Track how many people move on to the next stage of your funnel, where they seriously consider what you have to offer, and start converting into leads and customers.



CHAPTER 2: CONSIDERATION STAGE

CHAPTER 2: CONSIDERATION STAGE

According to HubSpot, this is when prospects have "clearly defined the goal or challenge and have committed to addressing it. They evaluate the different approaches or methods available to pursue the goal or solve their challenge". At this stage, they will begin to connect between their challenge and your solution.

WHAT KINDS OF CONTENT SHOULD I PROMOTE?

"Remember that prospects at this stage may not yet trust you, so don't put on your sales hat just yet. Instead, **consideration content is a great opportunity to make sure it's easy for your visitor to browse all the information that might help them differentiate you from your competitors,"**Moz advises.

SUITABLE TYPES OF CONTENT

- eBooks
- Guides
- Whitepapers
- Webinars

WHICH KPIs SHOULD I TARGET & TRACK?

At this point, it's best to focus on Cost Per Lead (CPL), and especially cost per Marketing Qualified Lead (MQL or SQL in some cases).

Although most leads will be useless to you when you first start the campaign, the more you practice and learn how they convert further down the funnel, the easier it will be to identify valuable MQLs, convert more prospects and get a higher return on your investment.



Strive to reach a conversion rate of 25%-30% from leads to MQLs.

WHICH CHANNELS SHOULD I USE?

For this stage, continue with LinkedIn and Facebook (mainly for site visitors but depending on what your business does), but replace YouTube with Google Search Ads. Google Search Ads will allow you to show your ads to people who are actively looking for relevant products and solutions that you offer.

PROMOTE YOUR CONSIDERATION STAGE CONTENT ON LINKEDIN

- Create separate campaigns based on job titles and groups that prospects belong to, the skills they listed on their profiles, alongside the industries and their professional seniority.
- Use Account Based Marketing (ABM)
 Upload a list of companies you're targeting and create dedicated campaigns for the relevant roles within these companies.



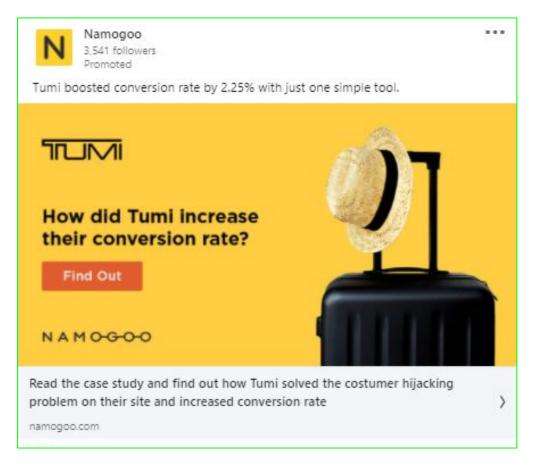
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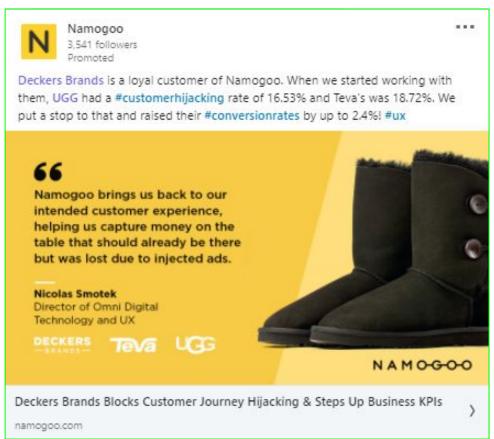
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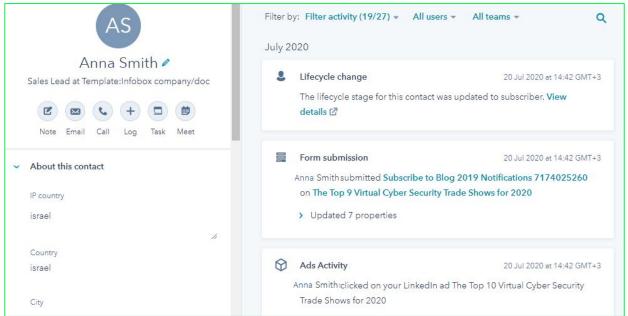
PROMOTE YOUR CONSIDERATION STAGE CONTENT ON LINKEDIN





PROMOTE YOUR CONSIDERATION STAGE CONTENT ON LINKEDIN

- You can also now retarget on LinkedIn, targeting people who
 have viewed your videos or started filling out a form, in
 addition to those who have visited your website.
- For example Anna has filled in a form. Her status is changed to subscriber and she can now be retargeted.



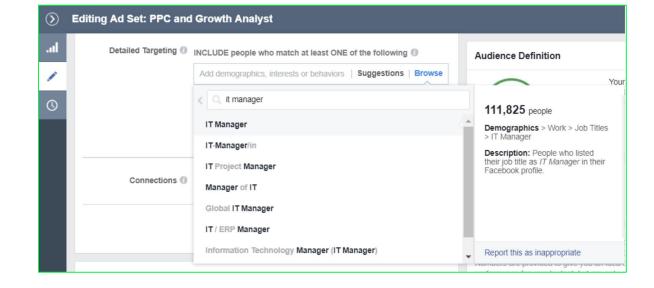
- In each campaign, promote 3-5 different content pieces, as LinkedIn limits the amount of exposure each content piece receives.
- Use LinkedIn's lead gen ads to encourage people to sign up directly from within the ad. This is a much simpler process all around and might reduce lead quality, but the drop in price is likely to result in cheaper qualified leads overall, so it's definitely worth a try.



Test LinkedIn's lead gen ads, where you can encourage people to convert without leaving the platform.

PROMOTE YOUR CONSIDERATION STAGE CONTENT ALSO ON FACEBOOK

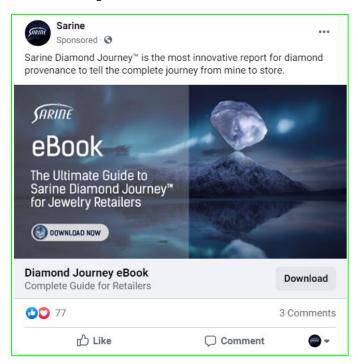
- Target prospects based on relevant interests and job titles.
- Create targeting audiences based on your existing MQL contacts as well as look-alike audiences. Then narrow it down further with interests. For example, you can target high potential leads with content that will drive them down the funnel into qualified leads. Next step is to then take these qualified leads and create a look-a-like audience of them in Facebook to generate even more high quality leads.



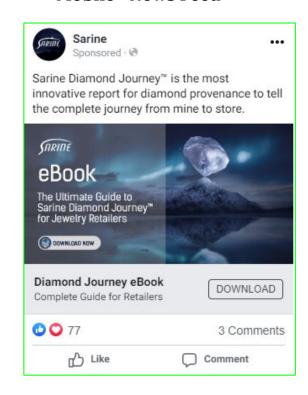
PROMOTE YOUR CONSIDERATION STAGE CONTENT ALSO ON FACEBOOK

 We recommend testing 3 different ad creatives. Test sponsored ads on Facebook's news feed on mobile vs. desktop. Also try Instagram and the audience network for extra reach.

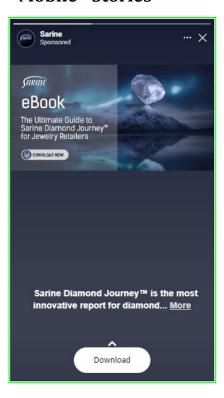
Desktop - News Feed



Mobile - News Feed



Mobile - Stories

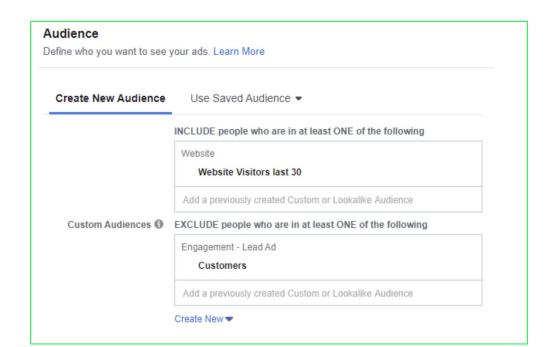


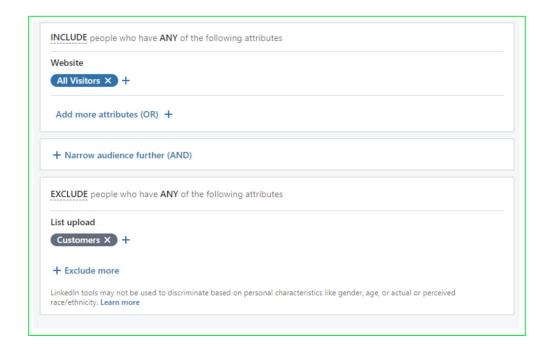
CHAPTER 2: CONSIDERATION STAGE

PROMOTE YOUR CONSIDERATION STAGE CONTENT ALSO ON FACEBOOK

- Targeting Mobile and Desktop newsfeed placements to collect data for later optimization according to placement performance.
- **Remarketing** targeting people who have already shown interest in your offer, but then walked away. For example, people who have signed up to your email list, but haven't opened your emails recently.

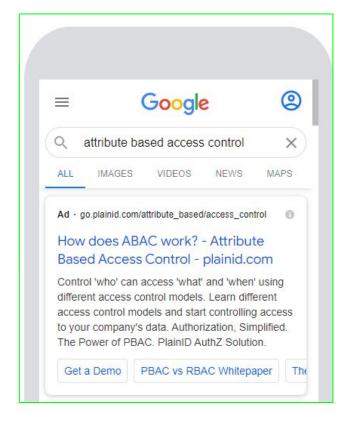
Note: Facebook and LinkedIn offer remarketing options that allow you to exclude people who have already converted. For example, you can skip people who have already requested a demo, signed up for a free trial or who are already paying customers.

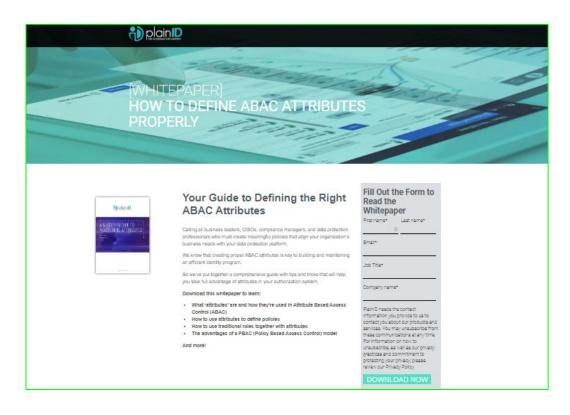




PROMOTE YOUR CONSIDERATION STAGE CONTENT ON GOOGLE ADS

- Before running your Google Ads campaign, use Google's ad preview tool to see what content appears for related search results. Are they more informational (like Wikipedia) or more commercial (like vendor websites)? This will help you plan your content and ad copy accordingly.
- Use questions as ad copy, suggesting that the answers await inside your whitepaper or other gated content.





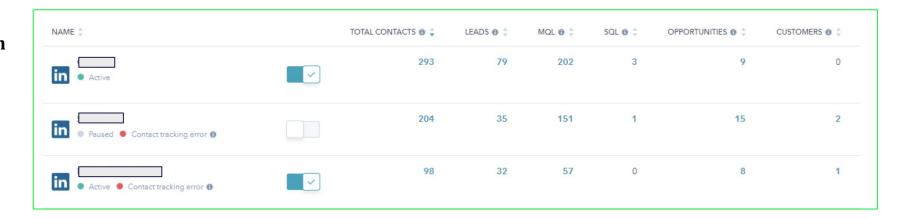
Example: What are the security challenges for virtualized containers? Download the whitepaper to learn more.

When setting up your campaign to promote gated content like whitepapers, it's best to include "general", information intent keywords rather than "product specific". According to WordStream, this means your ads will show up in "searches performed to answer questions or learn something." For example, "Top new (and updated) features in PPC for B2B."

HOW TO MEASURE ROI OF CONSIDERATION STAGE CAMPAIGN OVER TIME

The best way to measure the effectiveness of your consideration campaign is to see how many contacts achieved MQL status.

And ultimately, overtime, how many converted to Sales Qualified or even to Opportunity.



CHAPTER 3: DECISION STAGE

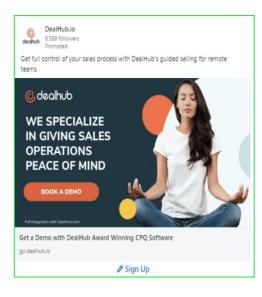
According to Target Marketing, "now you're getting to the point where offers and follow-ups start making a whole lot more sense. You've interested your prospect, and now it's time to nurture that interest with rich content that answers very specific questions... with a specific offer for a service."

WHAT TYPE OF CONTENT SHOULD I PROMOTE?

Now is the time for your content to answer the question "Why should I buy yours, and why now?"

To answer without being too salesy, we recommend promoting bottom funnel content:

- Case studies
- Product comparisons
- Demos and free trials





WHICH KPIs SHOULD I TARGET & TRACK?

This is the time to track both:

- Sales qualified leads (SQL*)
- Opportunities opened

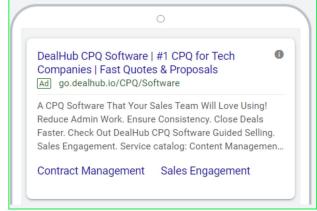
*SQLs are contacts who your sales team have accepted as worthy of a direct sales follow up.

WHICH CHANNELS SHOULD I USE?

We're going to stick to Google Ads, Facebook and LinkedIn during this stage as well.

PROMOTE YOUR DECISION-DRIVING CONTENT ON GOOGLE ADS

Focus on commercial intent based keywords, like "buy cybersecurity software" or "top 10 providers." Keywords without clear intent will not drive leads so save those for awareness or consideration stage.



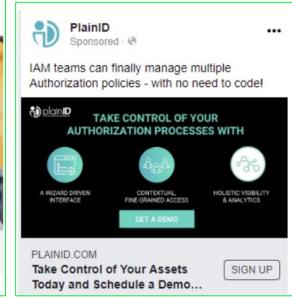


Use remarketing for search; show demo and free trial ads to people who have already been on your site and are not searching for relevant terms. Since they already know you, you can use much broader keywords that aren't necessarily intent based.

PROMOTE YOUR DECISION-DRIVING CONTENT ON FACEBOOK AND LINKEDIN

- Remarket to people who have signed up to receive your eBook or whitepaper in the consideration stage
- Create an audience based on your MQL contacts and build look-alike audiences on Facebook and LinkedIn based on interests, job titles and ages
- Remember to exclude your SQL list, and test 2 different ad creatives, at least





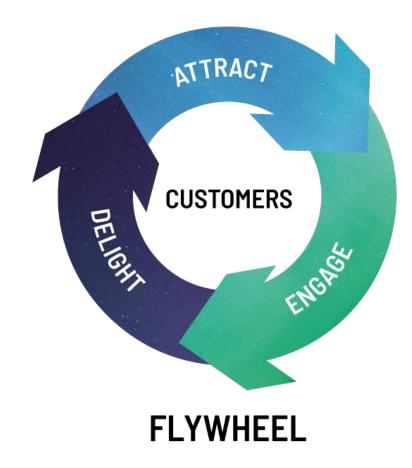


Use Linkedin's Website Demographics to segment your remarketing audience per vertical, seniority and more...

HOW TO MEASURE DECISION STAGE ROI OVER TIME

Similar to the consideration stage, ROI will be measured by the amount and quality of conversions, including:

- The number of demo requests or free trial sign ups, as well as how many of them convert into SQLs, opportunities and sales
- The number of direct sales you make
- Demo cancellation rate
- Lifetime value, upsells and advocacy



CHAPTER 4: DELIGHT!

CHAPTER 4: DELIGHT!

Delighted customers **turn into your brand promoters, if they are happy with their experience, then they share their delight and contentment with others** (<u>square2marketing</u>). As Marketing91 says so succinctly a "Positive review = profitability" (<u>marketing91</u>). What we are looking for at this stage is transforming a paying customer into a brand evangelist!

WHAT TYPE OF CONTENT SHOULD I PROMOTE?

This is the time to focus on content that encourages interaction and feedback.

You can use surveys to improve your offering, tutorials for customer success, webinars and landing pages to explain to customers what's in it for them to give you a warm referral.

- Surveys
- Tutorials
- Referral program

WHICH KPIS SHOULD I TARGET & TRACK?

- **Shares on social platforms**
- Referrals

WHICH CHANNELS **SHOULD I USE?**

At this stage, we recommend using only social channels as the goal is engagement and reach.

Drive your clients and advocates to your offered referral program on LinkedIn and Facebook, and promote shareable content as infographics, awards and PR mentions you've received.

HOW TO MEASURE DELIGHT (EVANGELISM) STAGE ROI OVER TIME

There are many ways you can measure evangelism ROI over time, including:

- Your average customer LTV (lifetime value)
- Your average upsell rate
- The percentage of customers that agree to participate in customer case studies
- The percentage of customers who refer additional customers
- Customers cheering for you online, for example, high email open rates, a rich flow of thank you tweets, 5 star reviews on industry websites etc



TIPS TO HELP YOUR PPC **CAMPAIGNS SUCCEED**

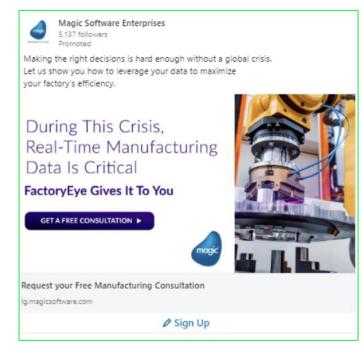
Are you ready to start integrating PPC into your inbound marketing strategy, but not sure how to reach and convert the perfect prospective customers? Read on.

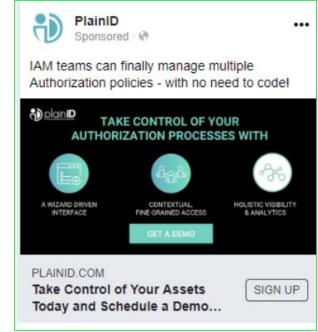


HOW TO FIND YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE

HOW TO FIND YOUR IDEAL CUSTOMER ON LINKEDIN

- Target based on your persona's job title
- Target related groups
- Target related skills
- Upload a list of companies you'd like to target
- If you're targeting the C-suite, target according to job title in order to reach people with significant experience in the field
- Retarget people if they have watched your video or started to fill out a form, but didn't finish



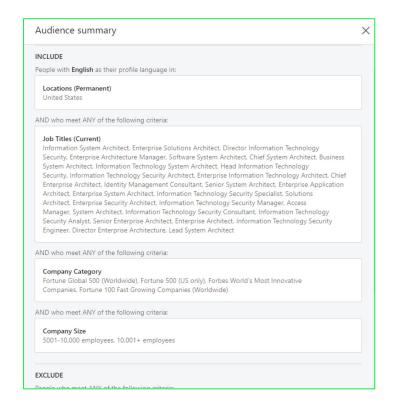


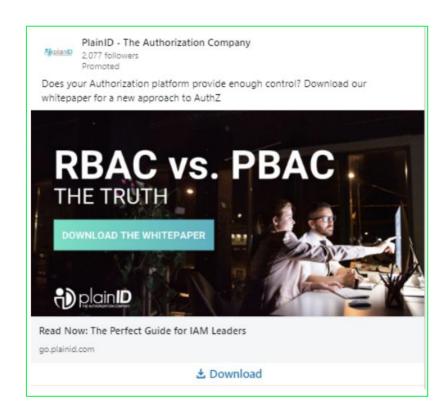
HOW TO FIND YOUR IDEAL CUSTOMER ON LINKEDIN

LinkedIn limits the exposure each blog post gets. To overcome that, promote more than one post at a time.

Allow people to follow your company page through the ad. Unlike other platforms, LinkedIn still shows organic content to your followers, so enjoy this while it lasts!







HOW TO FIND YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE ON FACEBOOK

- **Create a lookalike list** based on your website visitors and email list (only choose the qualified leads).
- Narrow down your look-alikes by interests based on your persona. You can try targeting by job title or field of study, but too many people don't update their current position or company on Facebook. Targeting by interest will be done based on their Facebook interactions with people and brands, so that's usually best.
- Narrow your audience by age and gender. For example, if you're targeting the C-suite, chances are most people you're targeting are at least 35 years old.
- If your look-alike audience is still too big, try to narrow it down geographically to areas where your ideal customer is most likely to live. For example, if your prospect is more likely to live in the suburbs, you can exclude the big cities in the area.
- Always exclude people who've already visited your site and converted into leads.



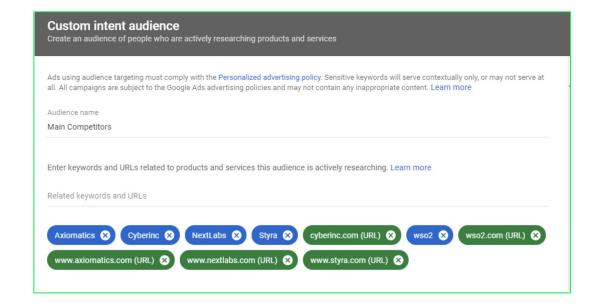


If you don't have data to create look-alike lists (say, you haven't had many visitors to your website yet), you can target people who've joined relevant Facebook groups or followed top industry Facebook pages.

HOW TO FIND YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE ON YOUTUBE

Use a 'Custom intent audience' (an audience of people who are actively researching products and services). You can target people in two ways:

- Competitors Use your competitors' names and how people are searching for them on Google search. You can add their URL and if the audience is too large, you can add specific pages or keywords that are more relevant to your product (e.g. Marketing Envy inbound,
 - https://marketingenvy.com/services/inbound-tech-marketing/
)
- Core keywords Use a select group of keywords, just like on Google search. You can then target people who are looking for your product/service and show them your content on Youtube.
- Retargeting Retarget people who have visited your site or interacted with your content.

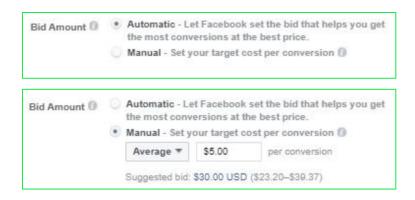




ADVANCED TARGETING ON SOCIAL MEDIA PAID CHANNELS AND OTHER TIPS TO HELP YOUR PPC

1 BIDDING

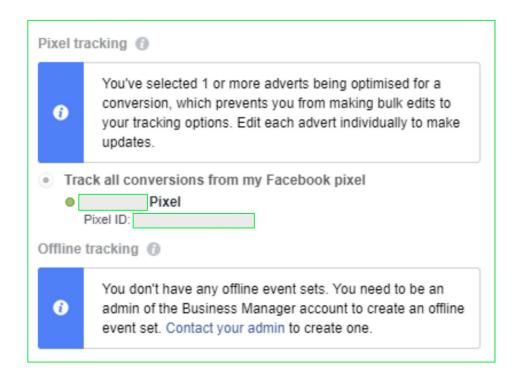
Facebook and LinkedIn both provide a suggested bid range. When getting started, set your bid near the high end of this range. Your CTR will quickly dictate the price you'll need to pay for traffic. If your CTR is high, you'll pay less per click. Your bid will also dictate how much of your target audience you'll be able to reach. On Facebook and LinkedIn you can get a fairly accurate estimation of your reach and at the end of the campaign, measure how many people you've actually reached.



2

MEASURE LEAD DATA

Make sure that you measure leads using the platform's pixel. The data shows engagement actions up to 30 days after a click, so check both the click conversions and post impression conversion all the time.



CREATE DIFFERENT ADS FOR THE SAME CONTENT PIECE

Test different headlines and images, then invest more in what works best.





MEASURE THE QUALITY OF VISITS

Evaluate time spent on each blog post or video, additional content viewed on your website, total time spent on your website, and whether or not you got new subscribers or customers (depending on their stage in the buyer journey).

OPTIMIZE IMAGE SIZE

To maximize appearance on social feeds.





Some audiences will click your mobile ad by mistake, and you'll get low quality visits in return, whilst other audiences check social media on the road, and won't see most of your desktop ads.



TRACK AND MEASURE YOUR **SUCCESS WITH THANK YOU PAGES**

Use a different thank you page for each conversion type and create a page view trigger that records conversions. Create tags for each channel, and connect them through Google Tag Manager (GTM). In addition, implement remarketing tags on all website pages for each different channel.



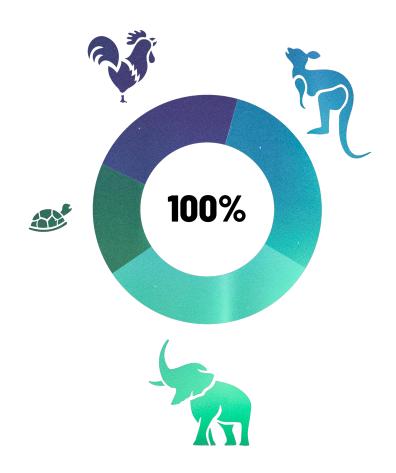
BONUS 2!

EXAMINE YOUR LINKEDIN TOP LEADS

To try to find more relevant skills/groups/job titles to target, by examining current quality leads' LinkedIn profiles...

QUALITY OVER QUANTITY

In the end of the day you want more quality over quantity. in PPC, it's easy to optimize by CTR/CPC/Leads but in B2B you need to look further down the funnel and optimize your campaigns based on what gives you the highest quality.



PAID MEDIA AND INBOUND MARKETING MAKE ONE EFFECTIVE FUNNEL

There's ample research to validate inbound marketing's strength in driving high quality organic leads and sales. Its cost effectiveness in the long term is also proven.

When you combine paid campaigns with inbound, you get a power strategy that helps you scale measurable business results now instead of waiting for a year or five for inbound marketing effects to kick in.

If you found this eBook interesting do us a favor and share it on twitter by clicking here.

It's a great way to share value with fellow marketing professionals... and we also like getting the alerts on our Twitter account:)





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