



The Advanced Guide To Mobile App Marketing

A detailed framework for how to achieve explosive growth by harnessing the power of digital marketing.

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90%

Did you know that more than 90% of tech start ups fail?

There are a handful of key decisions that entrepreneurs have to make in the first 18-24 months of their startup.

These decisions will either make or break their business.

Apps can fail for many reasons (the app has bugs, it isn't intuitive to it's user or it was a bad idea to start with, etc etc) but the most common reasons that apps fail because it **doesn't attract enough users**.

What ends up happening is, you put all of your time, money and effort into the app, and then squander the best opportunity you've ever had by not marketing your app properly and you never attract users.

You're app then fails, and you are left with no money, a broken heart and looking like a fool.

But don't fret, we're here to help!

After seeing many start-ups fail I can objectively say that digital marketing is the best fit for 95% of tech startups.

This guide is going to help you find the right framework for success to design the perfect solution for marketing your app.

So congratulations for downloading this e-book and welcome to The Digital Marketing Guide!

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Your audience is online, which means that your marketing efforts need to also be online.

This is why I want to share with you in this guide the framework for building a completely actionable digital marketing campaign.

In fact this is the same framework we use in conjunction with our own clients to launch new projects into the marketplace and build user bases of hundreds of thousands of people within weeks.

You will be able to walk away from reading this, confident and informed enough to execute your own digital marketing strategy.

By providing you with tools, insights, tutorials and step-by-step processes, I know I can save you thousands of dollars in digital marketing training, and potentially millions in opportunity cost.

INTRODUCTION

Why I Wrote This Guide

I want to share with you some profound insights into digital marketing so you can go out and make an impact in the world.

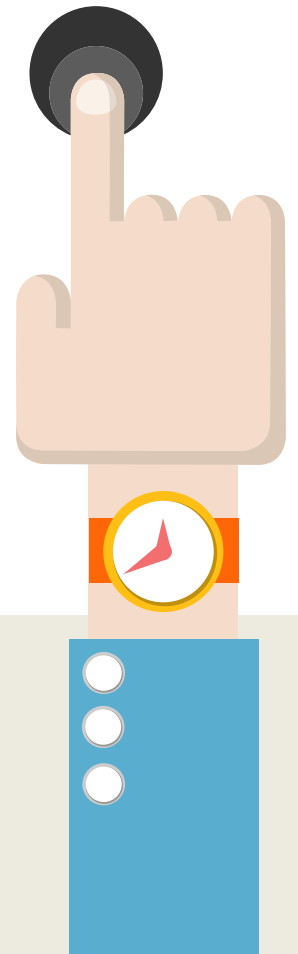
My personal mission in life (watch out, it's about to get a little mushy) is to help entrepreneurs build successful companies that solve real world problems.

It's the great entrepreneurs of the past who've invented the technology that solves our problems today, and it's the promising entrepreneurs of today who will solve our problems in the future.

The marketing question I get asked the most is "What channel is best for me?" After seeing many start-ups fail I can objectively say that digital marketing is the best fit for 95% of tech startups.

Learning how to use Social Media properly, or how to acquire users via paid mediums can be the difference between growing exponentially...or growing stale.

Don't worry if your app has already been launched, it's never too late to take your company **to the next level.**



INTRODUCTION



How This Guide Should Be Used

You need to discover through your own research what's the best digital channel for you to invest in.

But what this guide will help you to understand is what you actually need to consider in that research.

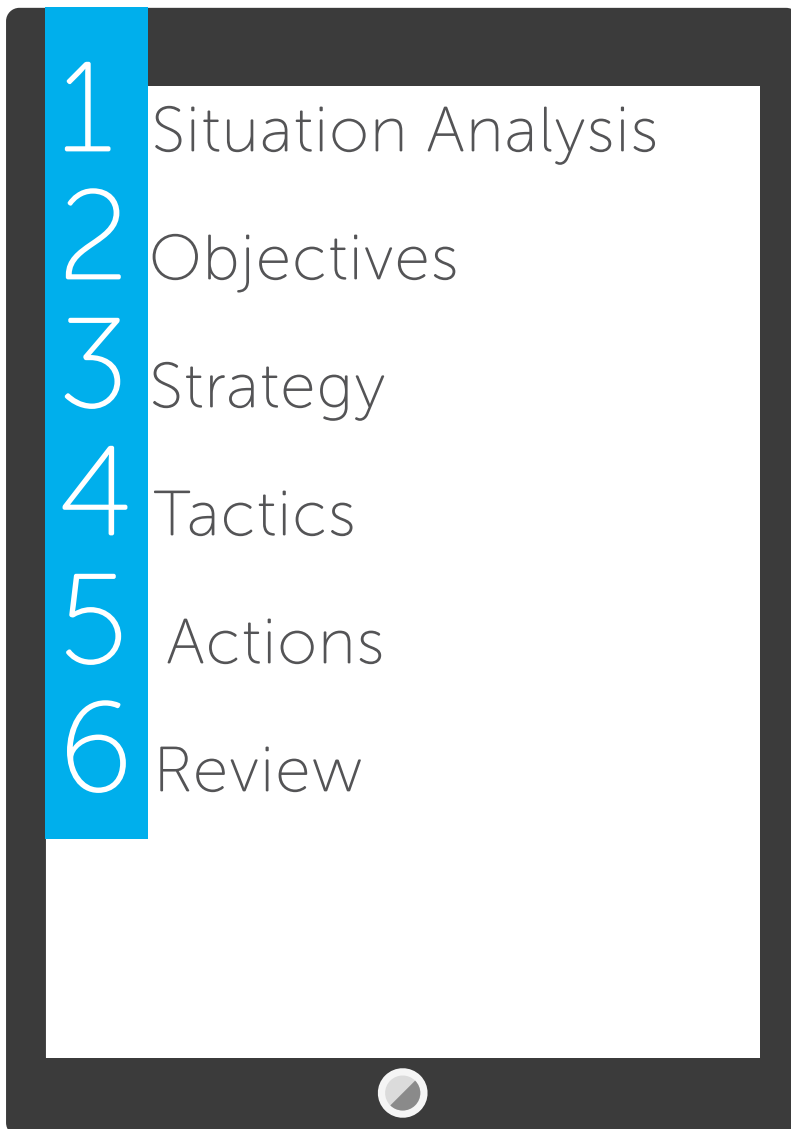
This guide gives you real insights into digital marketing tactics and should be used as a guideline in implementing your own digital strategy.

Without a framework to guide you, all of these activities can quickly eat into your time and money, and leave you wondering whether you've actually made any progress...

Now it's time unleash the secrets of how to actually create your digital marketing strategy to promote and grow your userbase.

INTRODUCTION

I've broken down this e-book into **six** easy to read chapters:



Remember **SOSTAR** to keep these actions front of mind.

CHAPTER ONE: The Situation

Who are your audience, how old are they, what sites do they visit most, what platforms do they spend all of their time on?



CHAPTER TWO: The Objectives

What do you want to achieve? Where do you want to be in 6 months time? Being able to measure the effectiveness of goal achievement is super important.



CHAPTER THREE: The Strategy

This is the Plan! What steps will you take to achieve your goals?



CHAPTER FOUR: The Tactics

Now you know what you want to achieve and where your audience hangs out. How do you capture their attention and implement your strategy?



CHAPTER FIVE: The Action

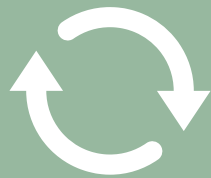
Learn to make the most of your time actioning your strategy. Have you ever wondered how you can manage to post across Facebook, Twitter, Google Plus and LinkedIn 3-4 times a day whilst still managing your life?



CHAPTER SIX: The Review

Like all marketing strategies, it is important to be flexible. What's working and what's not?





CHAPTER ONE:
The Situation

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CHAPTER ONE: THE SITUATION

In this chapter I will share with you our research framework for identifying digital solutions where you can find and get to know your audience.



Did you know that 80% of Apps fail to engage users?

Why?

More often than not, it's because they don't understand their marketplace.

Therefore step one is to conduct a simple SWOT analysis of your market place so you understand the situation you are entering.

CHAPTER ONE: THE SITUATION

The SWOT ANALYSIS

This should be done before your app even goes into development, but can be done again once your audience has been refined.

If you don't know what a SWOT analysis is, it analyses the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of a market place.

For example: An app like Snapchat would discover in a SWOT analysis that their target audience is between the ages of 14-25 and spends majority of their time in Social Media platforms. It makes sense that their most effective digital marketing channel is Social Media.

Strengths

- Unique approach to messaging and mobile communications allows it to differentiate itself from the crowded social media feeds.
- Functionality that deletes content and messaging allows for a more private, and less risky approach to interacting with others via social media.
- Mobile-ready and simplistic design gives the app an easy-to-use and sleek interface.

Weaknesses

- Controversy often surrounds the company, specifically around its ability to enable things like sexting, offensive or lurid comments, or abuse of others without evidence.
- Inability to retain messages or content can be a frustrating side effect as much as a useful feature.
- The company still needs to demonstrate how it plans to monetize the app, and its ever-growing legions of followers.

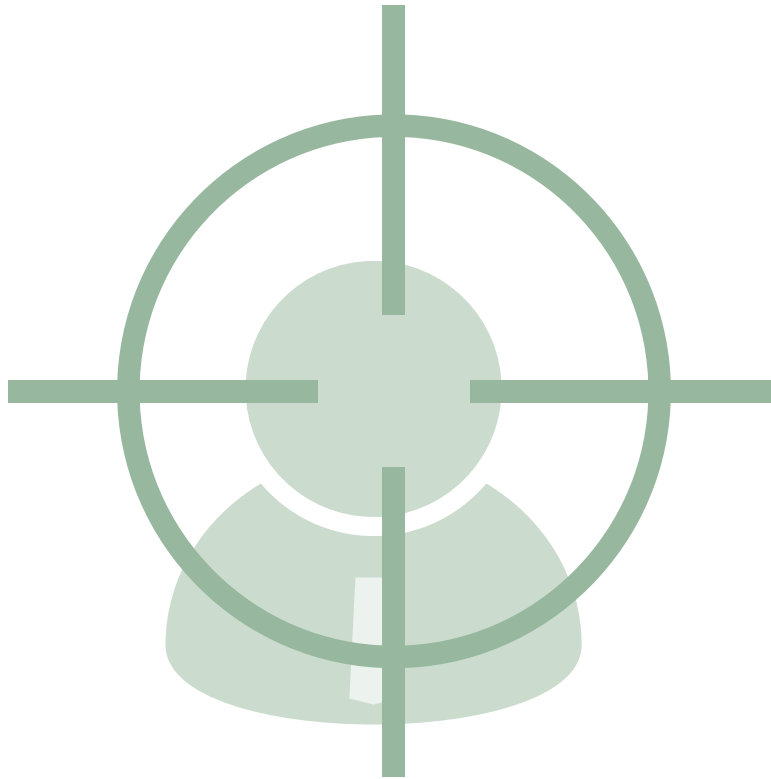
Opportunities

- Growth has continued to boom, especially among the teenage segment. The teenage segment spend most of their time in social media platforms.
- Use social media as an engagement tool, advertising on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter to draw users back to the app.

Threats

- Legal ramifications of Snapchat have not yet become an issue, but have the potential to alienate certain users.
- Press coverage and public opinion, especially influenced by the continued prevalence of cyber bullying and sexual abuse, could easily mark Snapchat as an enabler or medium for these issues.

Know your Competitors



You will always have competitors, even if your idea is completely new and utterly groundbreaking.

Anyone who is stealing attention away from your app is an indirect competitor.

You need to assess what your competitors are doing in the digital space, so you know how you can do it better...or different.

Do you really think Candy Crush was the first iPhone game?

Or Spotify the first music streaming app? They weren't.

These guys nailed their digital marketing strategy and are two of the most downloaded apps on the planet.

Top 5 Tools For Assessing Your Competition



Look at the Best! - Start off by assessing the Top 50 Apps for 2014 and see how they execute their digital marketing strategy, as they are obviously doing something right.



Alexa is a free tool acquired by Amazon that provides traffic rankings of your competitors. If a competitor has a high search engine ranking, they must be doing something right.



SEMRush is the leading competitive keyword research tool on the market, with analysis on your competitor's digital marketing campaigns, including AdWord campaigns and keyword rankings. How much are your competitors spending per user acquisition?



Gartner is a research service that focuses on technology adoption, how fast are users adapting to new technology? This will help your understand your target audience.



SimilarWeb is a tool that allows you to analyse and draw detailed insights from websites and mobile apps such as; where do they get their traffic from, backlinks pointing into their sites/app store page, and much more.

CHAPTER ONE: THE SITUATION

Segmentation, targeting and positioning

You need to know your target market. Their behaviours, what devices they use, their interests, what websites and mediums they spend the most time on.

Segmenting your audience allows you to create targeted digital advertising campaigns, you can actually choose what audience you want to receive your advertisement. (We will talk about this in more depth later)

If you were to launch a digital advertising campaign, where would they be?

It's exactly the same as researching where would be the best place to put up a Billboard so your audience would see it.

If you have already launched your app, you can use the data you have collected from your users to refine your target audience.

As an example: ASOS knows that 85% of their app visitors are female aged 18-35 and spend a lot of time on Facebook. ASOS spends a large chunk of their marketing budget on Facebook advertising.



CHAPTER ONE: THE SITUATION

If Your App Is Already Launched

You can find 'hidden treasures' buried in checking out your user data.

Some questions to ask yourself...

Is your app connected to an analytics platform?

This tells you how old your users are, what they like to do, what they do inside the app, etc.

You'll be amazed at what the data may reflect and how different it can be to what you first thought or expected.

Your audience may be 10 years older than you anticipated. How does that change your service offering? How does it affect your marketing strategy?

Have you implemented any **in-app user feedback tools**?

There are a tonne of ways to gain feedback and cultivate a community around your startup **after** your application has gained significant traction, e.g.:

START AN OPEN FORUM/WIKI for users to discuss hot topics around your app

USE SOCIAL MEDIA to build engagement outside of your app

HOLD FOCUS GROUPS with loyal users

CREATE A HASHTAG to focus online discussion

HOST A GOOGLE HANGOUT webinar

Etc.





CHAPTER TWO:
The Objectives

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CHAPTER TWO: THE OBJECTIVES

Running a marketing campaign without goals is like driving with your eyes closed; stupid, and extremely dangerous.

You will never know what you're going to get. You're virtually flipping a coin.

Long story short; you need to set goals.

And you want to make sure you are setting goals that give you feedback that determines whether your campaign is successful or not. Ultimately that means 'revenue generation'.

Design goals based on business outcomes that attract app downloads that converts into revenue.

A thousand downloads isn't a goal, it's a means to an end. The end is revenue.

Follow the SMART framework to **design your goals.**

Specific:

What exactly do you want to accomplish? Your goals need to be clear and have profitable outcomes.

Measurable:

How will you demonstrate that your goal has been met? Can the goals be tracked and measured?

Achievable:

Your goals need to be challenging yet reachable. If they are too high then you can be left with a broken heart, and if they are too low, you are missing out on opportunity.

Relevant:

The goals need to be determinant of your business responsibilities. You can't just set goals to get Facebook likes, these Facebook likes have to have profitable outcomes.

Timely:

Set target dates, make sure the timeframe is achievable.

After you identify what you want to achieve, start asking yourself, what can I do to achieve these goals using **digital marketing**?



CHAPTER THREE:

The Strategy

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CHAPTER THREE: THE STRATEGY

Spending 24 hours a day 7 days a week trying to tap into and optimise every digital channel available is one way of going about Digital Marketing. You're sure to achieve a lot in the short run. But you'll get burned out very...very quickly.

Instead, follow these three questions as a framework guide. This will help you choose which channel is going to help you achieve your goals.

What are you going to do...

1. TO ENGAGE THEM?

You need to be where they are...

There was 100 BILLION apps downloaded by 2014... Yes 100 BILLION!

There are 8 Billion people in the world and 1.5 Billion smart phone users.

That is a lot of apps downloaded... and a lot of opportunity.

But with such great opportunities comes big competition...

All the app developers in the world are fighting for the attention of the smartphone users.

So what do you need to do to get your users to start paying attention to you?

2. TO SPEAK TO THEM?

You need to be where your audience is... What websites are they on? Where do they look for information?

You need to have relevant content that helps them connect with your brand.

This includes a great website, interesting emails, exciting social media posts and eye-catching digital advertisements that help build an emotional bridge between you and your audience.

The most important thing when speaking to your audience is to give them a good experience.

You don't want to annoy them by filling up their inbox or spam them via Facebook.

You want them to feel like they are part of a community.

3. TO GET THEM TO DOWNLOAD YOUR APP?

Once you've got their attention, you need to decide how will you actually convert this relationship into an app download.



CHAPTER FOUR:
The Tactics

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CHAPTER FOUR: THE TACTICS

By now, you should have an in-depth understanding of your target audience and what avenues of digital you need to consider.

So what channels are actually best for you?

A great way to put this into perspective is... Do you think Candy Crush would greatly benefit from spending \$1,000 on sponsored posts via LinkedIn?

Definitely not is the correct answer. People aren't on LinkedIn to play games. They're there to network and learn.

But for a CRM company like Hubspot, who have an awesome app, LinkedIn is the perfect place to target their audience of Marketing Executives and CMOs.

The correct channel will be unique to your app.

Here are a few questions to ask yourself about different channels you consider.

1. Does your audience spend a lot of time on Social Media? Which platform?

Consider sponsored news feed advertisements.

2. Is there a certain drop-off point within your app? Spend money on remarketing. This reminds your customers in other digital channels that they are visiting that they have unfinished business in your app.

3. Does your audience spend a lot of time on Youtube? It may be worth investing in an animated 30 second clip to use as a YouTube pre-roll ad.



CHAPTER FIVE:
The Actions

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CHAPTER FIVE: THE ACTIONS

When you are ready to action your strategy, you need to know what are the best tools that allow you to manage your time.

Actioning your digital marketing plan is when things become technical and often quite tricky.

I am going to let you in on a secret:

The marketing strategy that works for 84% of apps is 'Content and Social'.

By creating content (memes, blog posts, ads, etc.) and publishing them out via social networks such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Google+, Twitter, etc. you are able to reach and engage a large chunk of your audience.

At Buzinga, we've built a multi-million dollar company with Social Media and Content marketing at the forefront of our strategy.

This may not work for everyone, but it's certainly the go-to-strategy for most new businesses.

Why?

People read content in their daily news feeds, and consume more advertisements and information than ever before.

Not only are people going to be exposed to your content on a massive global scale. It's also dirt cheap.

The problem is this; you're not the only one marketing through social media, so you need to know how to break through the noise. With the right approach you'll be able to get through the clutter and seamlessly integrate into your audience's daily routine.

To get you started here are some great tools, infographics and in-depth tutorials on how to manage the channels you choose to use.

1. Social Media

Your brand is unique, and social media should be the unique voice of your brand.

Katelyn Duckworth,
Marketing Co-ordinator at Buzinga.

Use social media to post videos and updates, run competitions, talk to your customers and respond to their concerns. Re-tweet and post creative images of customers using your products. Everyone loves recognition.

Find ways to generate great content, share it and measure the engagement. What content achieves:

- a) High engagement
- b) More quality downloads

Lastly, you need to pay a lot of attention to the times when people are engaging with your brand online.

The times that you post your content will have a fundamental impact on the success of your campaign.

These are the best times to post on the biggest social media platforms:

CHAPTER FIVE: THE ACTIONS

Facebook



BEST DAYS TO POST

M T W TH F SA SU

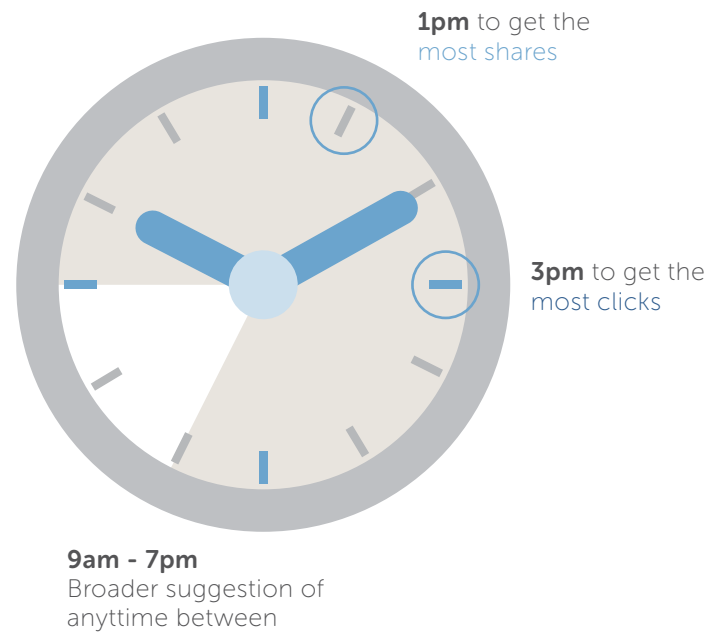
Engagement rates fall 3.5% below average for posts published Monday through Wednesday.

The happiness index on Facebook spikes by 10% on Friday.

"The less people want to be at work, the more they want to be on Facebook!" – Buddy Media



BEST TIME OF THE DAY TO POST

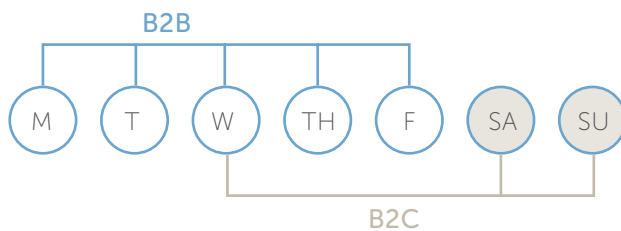


CHAPTER FIVE: THE ACTIONS

Twitter



BEST DAYS TO POST

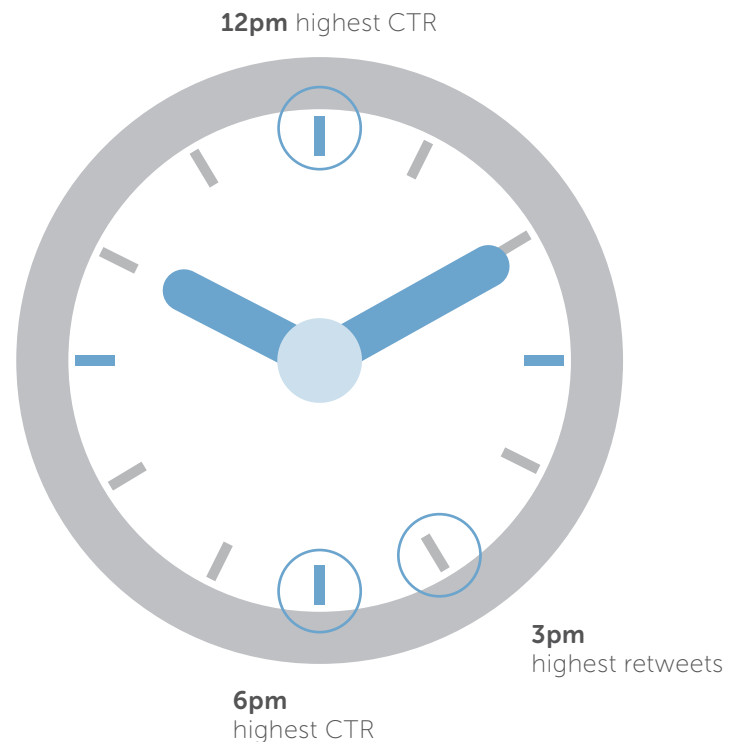


Weekdays provide 14% more engagement than weekends for B2B customers.

Engagement for B2C (Games, E-Commerce, Social Apps) is highest on weekends and Wednesdays.



BEST TIME OF THE DAY TO POST



Best times to post: This is usually when people are on lunch, or on their commute home from work.

CHAPTER FIVE: THE ACTIONS

LinkedIn

BEST DAYS TO POST

M

T

W

TH

F

SA

SU

LinkedIn consists of a mostly B2B audience which is why engagement is the highest on these days.

BEST TIME OF THE DAY TO POST



CHAPTER FIVE: THE ACTIONS

1. Social Media Management Tools



Hootsuite is a social media management system that helps you schedule posts in advance, engage your audience and measure ROI. It covers all major social media platforms from Twitter to Instagram. Hootsuite will help you post at the optimal time, by measuring when your existing fan base is online and what time they responded to you best last time.

FREE

up to 3
social profiles.

PRO

\$9.99 a month
with up to 50 social profiles.



If your fan base is most active on Instagram, Latergramme helps you schedule your Instagram posts at the optimal time for your audience, similar to Hootsuite. It allows you to go to sleep each night knowing that your international audience is in reach as well as your local. After all, this is a global market.

FREE

to get started.

PRO

Up to \$50 a month.



TweetDeck

A powerful tool for tracking real-time engagement and industry related trends on Twitter. You can organise and build custom timelines, and track topics, events and hashtags.

FREE

E-Mail

MailChimp

HubSpot

There are thousands of platforms to manage your email campaigns.

My personal favourite is Mail Chimp, it is simple and comes with it's own easy to build templates with functions that allow you to create targeted audiences from your database.

If you want to implement a large inbound CRM system, we use Hubspot!

CHAPTER FIVE: THE ACTIONS

2. Display Advertising

You may know these as Display Banners. They are graphical ads that appear in ad spaces on websites.

They include text, logos, pictures, rich media and more.

Display advertising has a horrible conversion rate, reaching barely 1% in 2014.

But they are relatively easy to set up and track, especially through the Google Network which combines your Google Analytics account (for audience targeting), remarketing capabilities and your Pay-Per-Click account.



What I suggest as a more fruitful option for creating a display campaign is using 'remarketing software' instead of standard campaigns.

Instead of displaying a random ad, remarketing presents people with tailored ads that pop up everywhere after they've shown an interest in your app.

3. Remarketing

Back in December, I wrote a successful blog called How To Use Remarketing To Keep Your App Users Engaged. Have a read of that [here](#).

Here are some tips of what to ask when preparing a remarketing campaign.



Variations; Put together a list of 20 variations of your ad with different imagery, messages and calls-to-action.



Location; Where do you want your ads to appear? Do you want your ads on any display network or on specific pages related to your app? You can target sites yourself.



Budget; What are your bidding and budgeting preferences? Manual bidding allows you to control what your maximum cost-per-click should be for keywords or placements.

4. Pay per Click advertising

Pay-Per-Click advertising is really straight forward, but it's highly competitive and the success of your campaign is very relevant to the industry.

You will most likely be familiar with Google AdWords as featured in the image above. Google Adwords allows you to bid for an advertisement to be shown at the top of Google's search results for that keyword.

For a gaming app, the bid is around \$2.50 per click to your website. This is not worth the money as barely 1000 people a month search for "app games" on Google. However, it might work well on Facebook.

For an E-Commerce or corporate app, advertising is a highly competitive space, and it has a high conversion rate. Spending money in this area to feature in Google's top results is worth the money.



Here is a [Google tutorial](#)
on how to create an AdWords Campaign

CHAPTER FIVE: THE ACTIONS

5. Social Promotions/Amplifications

Have you ever created a targeted ad for Facebook and Twitter?

If you haven't, prepare to have your mind blown! Because it's mind blowing...

Facebook has an entire campaign called "Get Installs of Your App."

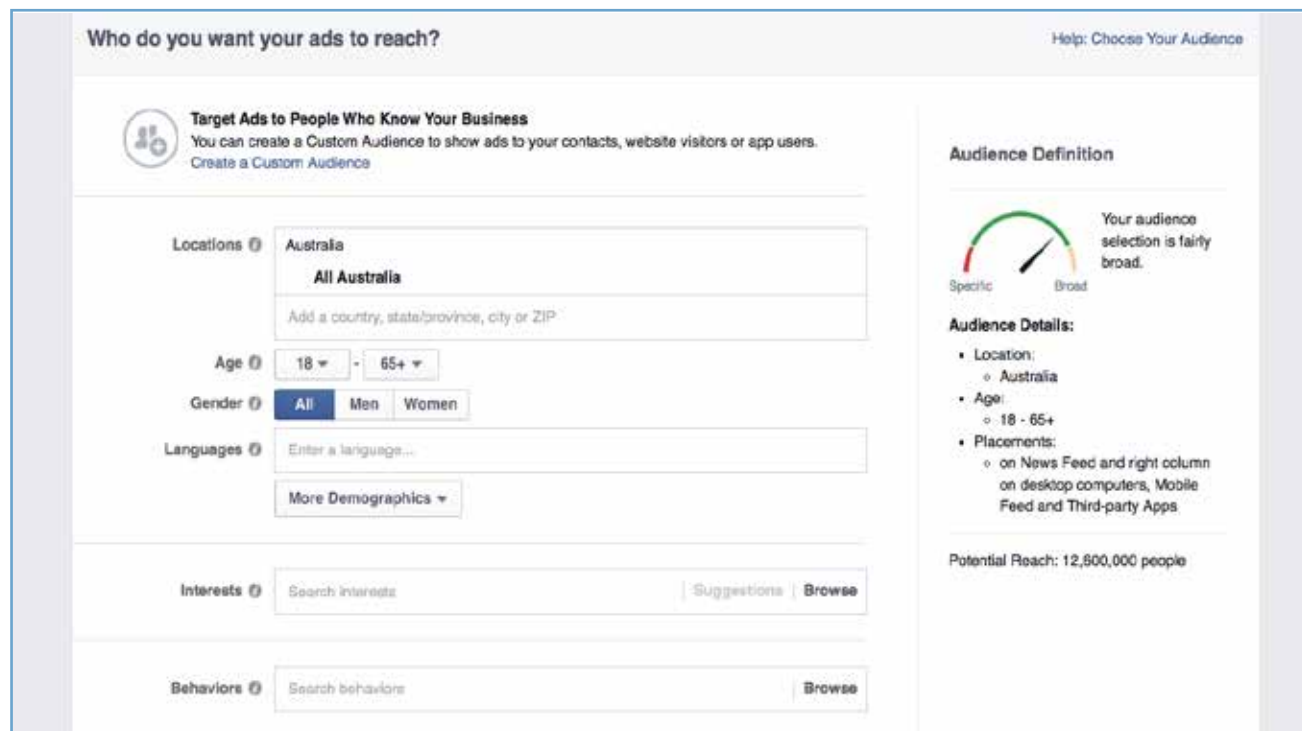
What you do is, simply choose the campaign: "Get Install of Your App."

You will be prompted to add in your URL for the AppStore or Google Play.

(Create a separate ad campaign for each operating system)

Facebook then recognises the operating system and automatically targets the ad to only iOS or Android users.

Below is an example of Facebook's targeting capabilities.



The screenshot shows the Facebook targeting interface titled "Who do you want your ads to reach?". It includes a "Help: Choose Your Audience" link. The main section is "Target Ads to People Who Know Your Business", which allows creating a Custom Audience. The targeting options are:

- Locations:** Australia (All Australia)
- Age:** 18 - 65+
- Gender:** All (selected), Men, Women
- Languages:** Enter a language... (More Demographics dropdown)
- Interests:** Search interests (Suggestions, Browse)
- Behaviors:** Search behaviors (Browse)

The right sidebar shows the "Audience Definition" with a gauge indicating "Your audience selection is fairly broad." and "Audience Details" listing the location (Australia), age (18-65+), and placements (News Feed and right column on desktop computers, Mobile Feed and Third-party Apps). The "Potential Reach" is 12,800,000 people.

CHAPTER FIVE: THE ACTIONS

As you can see on the right, Facebook will give you an estimate of what your potential reach is based on what you selected as the targeted options:

Men and Women aged 40-65 who live in Melbourne= 1.04 Million people reached.

You can go as far as targeting the behaviour and interest of your users.

Behavioural examples include online digital activities (audience is active online, downloads games from sponsored ads, frequently purchases online.)

Interest examples include Fitness, Travel and Business.

Why is this so exciting for you?

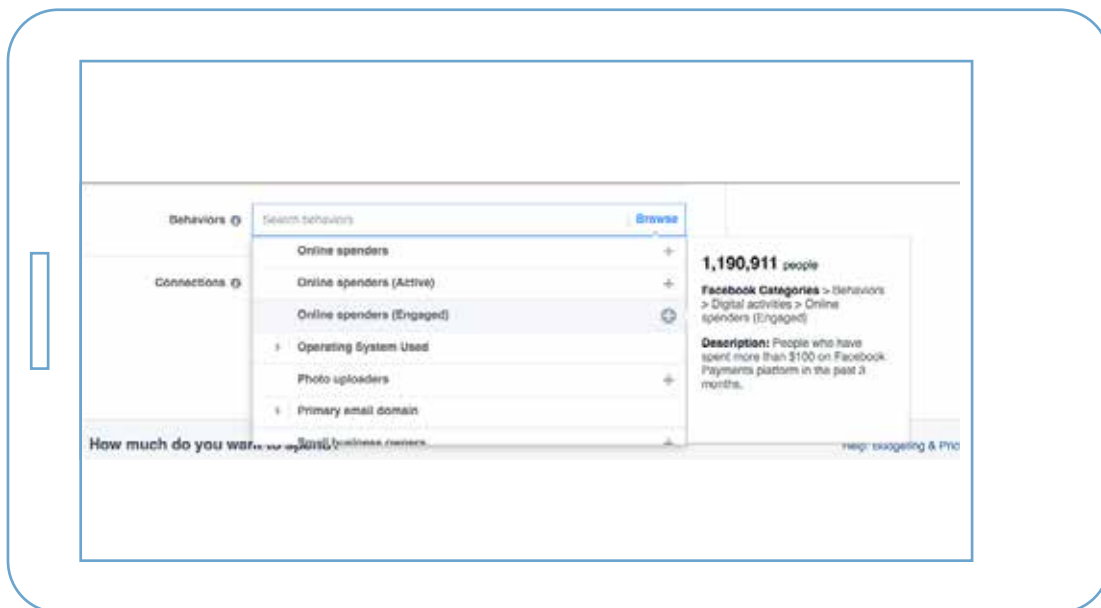
Well, if you have developed an app that assists travellers, your return on investment will be higher if you target an audience that has an interest in travel.

The likelihood that they will engage an ad that is of interest to them will be higher.

How does Facebook know this information?

Facebook collects this information by analysing your online activities, such as what pages you like or what location you have recently checked into.

After choosing your audience you just simply choose your daily budget.



6. Native Advertising

An ancient concept only recently reaching the digital space; native advertising is essentially product placement.

This is sponsored content that if you remove the brand name, it would fit the style of the publication.

It doesn't cost a lot, and can really help in boosting downloads.

You can get featured on sites such as Forbes, or BuzzFeed. We use **OutBrain** to amplify our content online.

In your case this could be content about the launch of your new app, or a user case scenario, that appears as sponsored content in the tech section of the Financial Review.

It would have a clickable link so that the reader can find out more about your app and potentially download it.

7. Site Design

A site is important to create a tangible presence in search engines.

How is Google, Bing or Yahoo going to find you, let alone place you at the top of the search results, if you don't have a presence?

Creating valuable, relevant content on your site drives your search engine rankings up which makes it easier for people to find you online. This could even form an online community for your users to come and ask for help.

These are some examples of websites that promote apps we've built in the past:

- <http://www.tribesta.com/>
- <http://mydebits.net/>
- <http://www.foodswitchstars.com.au/>



CHAPTER SIX:
The Review

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CHAPTER SIX: THE REVIEW



Commit to CAN! - Constant and Never-ending Improvement.

Anthony Robbins

The most valuable part of a digital strategy is that you can monitor and measure everything you do! Be careful not to lose your mind in data though. I will provide you with the necessary steps to ensure that you know what the most valuable metrics are to track.

The most powerful tool you have in digital marketing is analysing your database.

The best thing to do when you measuring the performance of your digital campaigns is to set aside an hour or two a week to measure your weekly performance.

Make sure you have Analytics set up and attached to your campaigns. Google Analytics is the most holistic approach to monitoring the majority of your campaigns.

If you are a marketer, you should know how to do this. If you are not, Google has a great step-by-step process of how to implement it; [here](#)

It's best to follow these four steps when monitoring your performance.

Make sure to keep the business objectives at the forefront of your analysis.

1. **Spend quality time with your data.**
2. **Eliminate the metrics that are irrelevant to your business objectives.**
3. **Use the data you collect to make marketing and business decisions. If you see that Social Media is your most fruitful engagement channel then you should be investing 80% of your marketing spend into this area and 20% into experimenting with new channels.**
4. **Continuously adjust and measure your strategy. The digital platform is always changing and so should your strategy.**

You should discover here what were your greatest strengths and weaknesses.

CHAPTER SIX: THE REVIEW

This is where you gain all of the information about who your actual target audience is, allowing you to choose the RIGHT channel for your app.

Here are the metrics you should be tracking – these are universal and work for games, ecommerce apps, utility apps, social media apps and more:

MONETISATION

Ultimately you're trying to generate revenue. Therefore the monetization metrics are going to be vital in understanding whether your marketing efforts are resulting in revenue generation. If not, then look for alternative acquisition channels.

Metrics-

- Average \$ earned per user (segmented by the monetization model)
- Average User Life Time Value (LTV)

Segment both of the above by the marketing channel to find where your money is best spent.

DEMOGRAPHICS:

Knowing who your users are and where they are is imperative in understanding how to get more of them.

Metrics-

- Most used devices/OS being used (iOS users spend more money)
- Country/language/territory

MARKETING/USER ACQUISITION:

These metrics are about measuring the performance of your marketing channels and measuring the performance of your campaigns.

Metrics-

- Cost per user
- % of users that are activated*
- What activities are generating downloads?
- DAU/MAU (daily active users / monthly active users)
- Segment user by marketing channel

**Active users are defined by you. Ideally this is a type of user that display the behaviour that generates profit for your business.*

RETENTION/CHURN:

The lifetime value (LTV) of your users (how much money they earn you during their use of your app) greatly impacts the profitability of your business. By measuring the retention/churn metrics, you can gradually improve the LTV of your average user.

Metrics-

- How many people drop off (%) at the following intervals; after 7 days, 30 days, 90 days.
- At what stages in the app are most users dropping off?
- Average session length per user.
- Average # of sessions per user.
- Bounce rate – how many people are leaving your app as soon as they arrive.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



LOGAN MERRICK

Co-Founder / Director of Marketing

One of Australia's leading entrepreneurs, Logan has been personally involved in the development of over 250+ Mobile apps. He directs the Marketing and User Experience Departments and works closely with our clients on their brand positioning.



KATELYN DUCKWORTH

Marketing Coordinator

Katelyn has nearly a decade of experience in retail sales, naturally transitioning into app marketing. She understands from the frontline the fundamentals needed to create a successful marketing strategy to attract and retain loyal app users.

Do you have an app idea?

Book a complimentary 30min consultation with one of our Experts to discuss the potential of your app.

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