

Conducting Outreach on Manhunt.net

This guidance has been created in an effort to assist your organization in the creation of a profile designed to provide outreach to the members of Manhunt.net. This document has been developed by Adelson Consulting Services, Inc. in partnership with Manhunt.net. For questions regarding this documents or Internet Interventions conducted on Manhunt you may contact the Manhunt Health Liaison at 866-424-9999 ext 8945 <u>outreach@online-buddies.com</u> or Adelson Consulting Services at 617-953-9366 sadelson@sadelson.com.

Introduction to Manhunt

Manhunt is a world-wide community of men seeking other men for a variety of reasons such as friendship, romance, dating, or a sexual hookup. The parent company of Manhunt is Online-Buddies, Incorporated.

Manhunt.net was launched in 2001 and is a leader in gay dating and social networking; covering over 100 countries with more than 1.7 million members. The site is offered in 5 languages.

Social responsibility has always been a focus of the company. Internet interventions such as Internet-based partner services, online outreach, and health communication within social networks were pioneered on the site. Since the introduction of these interventions manhunt has established relationships with 205 organizations that are conducting outreach through the site and 31 profiles created for Internet-based partner services.

Manhunt is a diverse site with a broad range of members, each with their own intention. It is a fallacy to assume that simply because a person is a member of Manhunt (or any other website such as Manhunt) that they are only using the site to arrange a sexual encounter, the online MSM community is much more complex than it appears on the surface.

Although Manhunt charges a membership fee for full access in most areas, free full access is granted to all health care professionals that are conducting outreach, partner services or health communication. Free advertising space is also available to researchers or programs looking to promote events for non-profits such as fundraisers or HIV/STD testing events. Free advertising space is provided based on availability. For information regarding advertising on Manhunt please complete thier online form and you will be contacted by the health liaison: http://www.online-buddies.com/advertising/health/

To familiarize yourself with the features of Manhunt it is recommended that you review the site by taking their site tour: <u>http://www.manhunt.net/intro.php?lang=en</u>. It will also be helpful for you to review the site help pages: http://www.manhunt.net/mhelp_en_v2/

Manhunt is the only MSM site that has a full time Health Liaison that is available to assist your program with the creation of your profile or with any other health related requests.

In addition to allowing outreach workers on the site, free full access profiles are provided to jurisdictions that are seeking to conduct Internet-based Partner Services.



Manhunt provides a Help Center where outreach profiles can be found quickly and links to other organizations can be found.

Getting started

The first step in creating your outreach profile will be to download and read the National Guidelines for Internet-based STD and HIV Prevention, specifically the section titled: "Guidelines for Internet Outreach". This document was sponsored by the National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD) and has been endorsed by the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD). You may download a copy of the guidelines here: http://www.ncsddc.org/upload/wysiwyg/documents/IGO.pdf

Effective outreach workers are; knowledgeable, proficient in a variety of counseling strategies, culturally sensitive, non-judgmental, patient and technically proficient.

Outreach workers should be selected based on their professional skills and their ability to relay information in a compassionate, culturally sensitive way. Using outreach workers that are indigenous to the target population is ideal.

As stated in the national guidelines: "Internet outreach should always be conducted in a culturally and linguistically competent manner. A key element of any successful STD/HIV prevention program is an understanding of the community within which prevention activities take place, which includes the linguistics or language of the community members and the capacity to communicate with them in meaningful terms. It is important to not only understand the beliefs, attitudes, behaviors, norms, and values of a population, but also to be able to understand and convey information to them in their "language".

"Staff members that perform STD/HIV prevention activities on the Internet are expected to be culturally competent and skilled at providing health education messages to the specific, online population that is being targeted. This competence includes an awareness and understanding of health-education messages and a strong awareness and comfort level with communication that may be sexually explicit or conform to community standards that could be in conflict with the personal ethics or values of the outreach worker. It is recommended that staff participate in cultural competency training with regards to the specific population being targeted prior to conducting Internet outreach activities. The staff's level of cultural competency should be reviewed periodically."

Manhunt will not allow outreach workers to aggressively contact members for any reason, including the delivery of health messages. Outreach workers must approach members passively, logging on to be available to answer questions and educate members. Outreach workers that aggressively approach members will be subject to removal from Manhunt and risk damaging the relationship between public health, Manhunt, and its members.

Possible Goals for Internet Outreach

Outreach workers will join websites solely for the purposes of providing STD/HIV related: health information and education, referrals and access to services, recruitment for testing and treatment, and to provide support for reducing risk behaviors.

- Increase knowledge and awareness of signs and symptoms of STDs and HIV.
- Promote sexual risk-reduction techniques and safe-sex options.
- Encourage harm reduction techniques for alcohol/drug use.
- Provide online educational support using individual-level risk-reduction counseling strategies.
- Assist in the normalization of partner elicitation/notification.
- Help establish a community that supports healthy behaviors.
- Increase awareness of local resources for HIV/STD testing and treatment services.
- Provide web-based information and online resources such as thebody.com or HIVTest.org
- Provide contact information for local health care service providers.
- Recruit individuals for STD/HIV testing.

Sample outreach profile on Manhunt



Getting started

Before you create your educator profile download and read the National Coalition of STD Director's (NCSD) 'Guidelines for Internet Outreach' available here:

http://www.ncsddc.org/upload/wysiwyg/documents/IGO.pdf

Prior to creating your outreach profile on Manhunt, you will need to send the following information and documentation directly to either the health liaison at Manhunt <u>outreach@online-buddies.com</u> or Adelson Consulting Services <u>sadelson@sadelson.com</u>.

Once this documentation has been submitted and has been approved you may create your profile by following the steps as described in the section "Creating your profile".

- A copy of the current Internet outreach protocol that is active and approved for use by your agency.
- A description of training that has been conducted or is planed and is specific to Internet-based activities.*
- Names and email address of all profile users
- Proof of age for all workers (may be a statement such as "We state that all workers conducting outreach are over the age of 18")
- A completed and signed Manhunt "Health Profile Agreement"

* The Internet is constantly changing and new technologies continually emerge therefore outreach workers must be provided with ongoing training.

Recommended topics for training include:

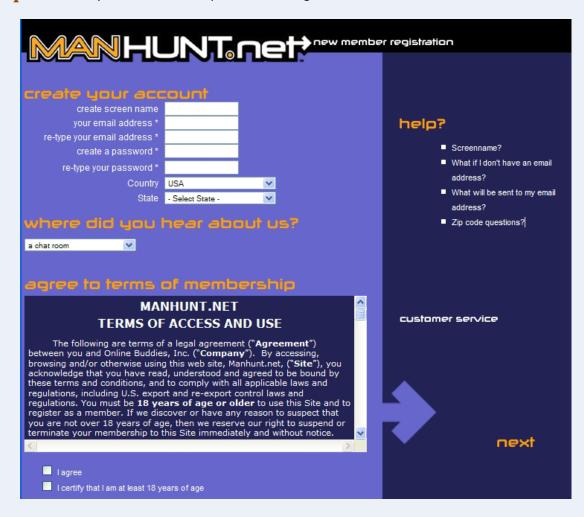
- Ability to conduct HIV, STDs, and sexual health 101
- Ability to conduct risk identification counseling
- Knowledge of human sexuality, including diverse lifestyles and sex practices
- Understanding of harm reduction, risk-reduction, and prevention counseling
- Thorough knowledge of confidentiality, privacy, and ethics
- Review of policies on security
- Sensitivity to issues for persons living with HIV/AIDS and STDs
- Cultural diversity and cultural competence
- Orientation to the agency, community, and available community resources
- Orientation to useful health-related websites and other Internet resources
- Introduction to behavior-change theories
- Understanding of motivational interviewing techniques
- Build communication skills (e.g., active and reflective listening, clear written communication, and client-centered interaction)
- Basic knowledge of family planning and contraception
- Knowledge of treatment and therapy for people living with HIV/AIDS and STDs
- Orientation to crisis intervention

Creating your profile

Please proceed to the following link to create your profile: http://www.manhunt.net/register/register.php?lang=en&atype=org

Creating your outreach profile on Manhunt is an easy three step process. Profiles are created as a way for members to get to know each other; a profile is a quick sketch of 'who you are'. Profiles on Manhunt (as on most websites) are geared towards individuals, not organizations; therefore careful attention to each request for information should be taken. As an outreach worker your profile must clearly describe your function and your program to avoid any confusion as to your purpose on the site and the function of your organization.

All Internet-based communication that comes from an organization must clearly indentify the organization and the intention of the outreach program in every possible way.



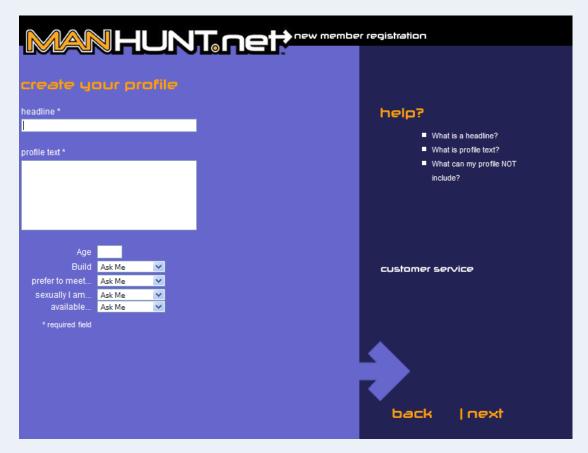
Step 1: Create your screen name, password and agree to the terms of service



Step 2: Enter your profile head line and text.

Your profile headline is an introduction to your agency and should be used to attract attention to your program. The profile text must state your purpose for being on the site (outreach) and include the details of your agency and program. Your protocol should help guide you in the creation of your profile. If your protocol does not provide the details please refer to the National Guidelines, speak to your supervisor, or contact the Manhunt Health Liaison <u>outreach@online-buddies.com</u>, or Adelson Consulting Services <u>sadelson@sadelson.com</u> for further assistance.

It is highly recommended that you set your age to 99, and keep ASK ME for all other fields.



Profile Headline: What do you want to know?

Profile Text: Come on...don't be shy, ask away!

I'm a safer sex educator Fenway Community Health! Email or IM me with questions about safer sex, STDs, HIV, testing, and referrals.

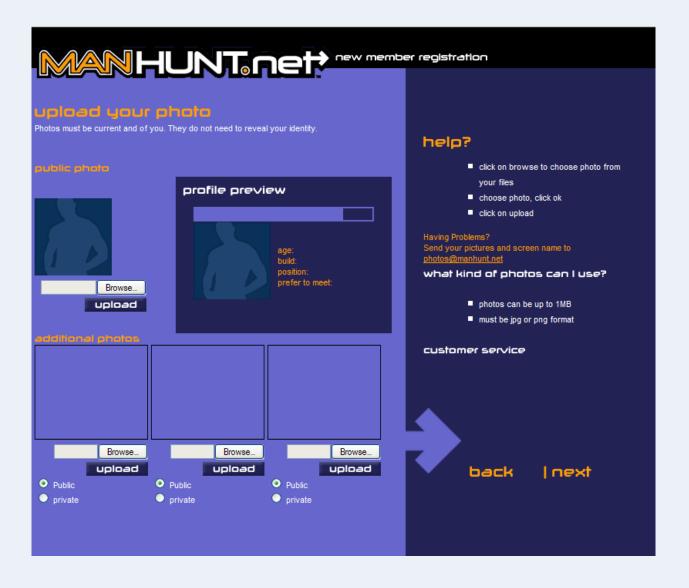
Need health insurance? Ask! www.fenwayhealth.org



Step 3: Upload your photo

Manhunt has a standard public image that is used for all outreach and partner services profiles. This image will be placed on your profile once it has been approved. You may upload a secondary image such as an agency logo, or the logo for the outreach program.







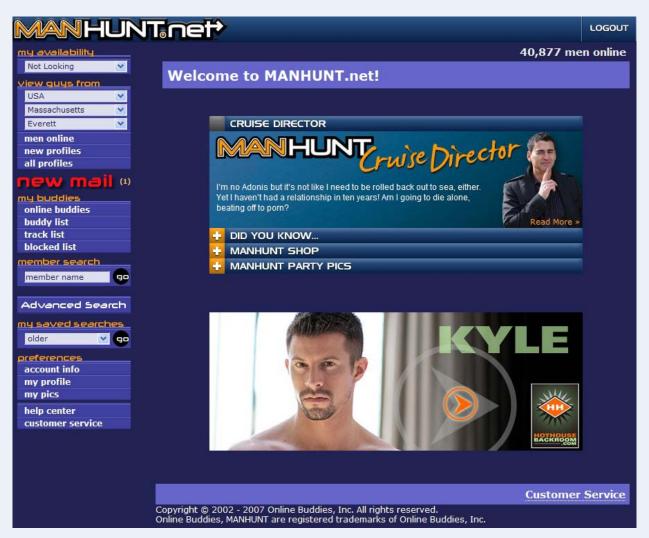
Congratulations, your profile has been created and your registration is complete. Although your profile has been created, you will not be able to login to use the profile until it has been approved by the Manhunt Health Liaison.

MANHUNT net	
congratulations! Your registration is complete:	custamer service
new member login	
screen name	
password	



Commonly Used Site Features

When you log into your account you will 'land' on the Welcome page as shown below.



Your protocol should address how each filed of your profile should be completed. To assist programs that do not have a detailed protocol we have the following recommendations:

My Availability – this feature informs members when you will be available. We suggest that this be set to 'Ask Me' or 'Not Looking'.

View guys from – by selecting a country, state, and city you are setting the location where you will be viewing profiles. For example, setting this drop down menus to USA, Massachusetts, Everett will ensure that you are viewing members located in Everett Massachusetts. When **Men Online**, **New Profiles**, and **All profiles** are clicked members that fit these categories in the area chosen will be displayed.



Mail – email is the primary means of communication between Manhunt members. New Mail will display in bold red letters when you have received new mail. Your mail box is structured much like a mailbox on Outlook or Lotus notes with an Inbox, a Sent box, a Saved box, and a Trash box.

MAN	HUNT net			
				close [x]
check new mail	select all messages	m	iessages 0 - of 0	
	SENDER	SUBJECT	DATE	
inbox	Sorry no messages in your Inb	10X		
sent	Sony no messages myour mo			
saved				
trash				
	-			
	delete selected save select	ed empty inbox		? help
	Messages are deleted after 10 days. Int • Unread Message ★ Replied Message	oox is limited to 500 messages.		

Mail that you have read and kept in the Inbox will be automatically deleted after 10 days. Your Inbox is limited to 500 messages.

You may move mail from any mail box into your Saved folder. Mail in the saved folder will be kept indefinitely but is limited to a total of 45 messages.

The Trash folder is automatically emptied every 24 hours.

Buddies – the buddies feature of Manhunt is similar to the Friends feature on MySpace. By clicking the Add Buddy link on a member's profile they will be added to your buddy list. The buddy list can be used as a quick way to find members that you have been in touch with before. The buddy list is limited to 500 members.

Track list – clicking the track list will display a list of members that have viewed your profile. It is highly recommended that you disable this feature so that other members will not know when you have viewed their profile. To disable the track feature click: Track List and scroll to the bottom of the page, then under "Allow my name to be shown on the Track List of other members" choose NO

shawn	Mon 04 Aug 2008 03:17 PM
foryourev	Sat 02 Aug 2008 10:23 PM
flyj	Sat 02 Aug 2008 01:39 PM
yur	Sat 02 Aug 2008 01:31 PM
saltyar	Tue 29 Jul 2008 11:55 PM
Allow my name to be shown on the Track List of other members. • Yes • No	 Member is online Member is on your Buddy List

MANHUNTERS

Member Search – This feature is used to quickly find a member when you know their screen name or a portion of their screen name. Simply enter the portion of the screen name you know and click GO. A list of names that match the search criteria will be displayed.

Select search criteria below and click "search" to view your results.
search
Only members online now
Location must check one:
♥ Find profiles in Massachusetts ♥ Region Chelsea ♥
Find profiles within 0 miles of zip/post code 02150 select 0 miles to only search profiles within a single postal code
Find profiles in these cities enter city names separated by commas. List Of Cities In Massachusetts
Key Word Search enter up to 3 words to search within profile text fields:
 → The Flavor: what he's into → The Time: when he wants it
→ The Position: how he likes it → The Place: where it happens
 The Place: where it happens The Guy: what makes me hard
Save my search with this name: (max 12 letters)
search
my saved searches
go [Edit my Saved Searches]

Advanced Search – Using the advanced search feature will allow you to search for members in specific locations, with specific words in their profile (key word search), and by personal preferences. Search may also be saved for quick access at a later date.

Preferences – the preferences section is where you can change your account information.

Clicking **Account info** will give you access to settings such as your location, your email preferences, and instant messaging options. It is recommended that you set your Email/Text Message Alerts to "Daily' so that you are notified when you have new mail on the site daily.

To quickly change your profile pictures or text you may click **My Profile** or **My Pics** to gain access to a page where these may be easily changed. Remember that Manhunt requires their "Manhunt Cares" logo to be displayed at all times.

	LOGOUT
password language billing location email/bxt messaging i	im myprofile mypics
Member Name: topper Password: (edit)	
Language Current Language: English. (edit)	
Billing Current Plan: ERROR (edit) Purchase a Full Access Membership (buy) Billing History (view)	
Credit Card on File: xxxxxxxxxxx (edit)	
Location Current Location: Chelsea (edit) Neighborhood: (edit)	
Email /Text Messaging Current member email: sadelson@sadelson.com (edit)	
Current Cell #: (edit)	
Current Cell Provider: (edit)	
Email/Text Message Alerts: How often do you want to get email alerting you of unread messages in your Manhunt mailbox? √Never (edit)	
My Standard Regret Message: Thank you for contacting me, your hot, but I am looking for something else. √ (edit)	
Instant Messaging √ ON (edit)	
	customer service

Member profiles



Each member profile offers the option to email the member, block the member, or unlock your private photos for the member.

Profiles of members that are online will also have an option to IM – Instant Message – the member. Clicking on the IM option on a members profile will send an invitation to that member asking him if he would like to chat privately with you. Once he accepts the invitation you will be able to chat with the member in real time.

Manhunt also offers the option to Cam 2 Cam, or as they call it, use ManCam. This means that if you and the member you have started an IM session have a web cam, you may view each other on cam in real time.





Conclusion

When carefully planned out and implemented, online outreach can be a useful way of providing STD/HIV health information, prevention messages and referrals to online populations.

Manhunt is vested in supporting the sexual health of their members and has welcomed public health and community based organizations as invited guests to help support their members and encourage health sexual practices. Please remember that you are an invited guest and to act accordingly. For Internet Outreach to be successful and each member must be treated with dignity and respect regardless of your personal options or judgments.