In one aspect, this application describes a method for determining personal advertisements for display with search results. The method includes receiving a query that corresponds to content associated with members of an online social network, generating search results that are responsive to the query, and obtaining information that characterizes a personal advertisement that advertises a particular member of the online social network. The method also includes comparing information associated with the search results to the information that characterizes the personal advertisement to determine whether the personal advertisement is related to the search results. The method also includes providing the personal advertisement for display with the search results in response to determining that the information that characterizes the personal advertisement is related to the search results.
Start

Receive Personal Web Page Content

Generate Personal Ad

Associate Personal Ad with Personal Web Page Content Related to Ad

Associate Personal Ad with Keywords or Categories Related to Search Results

Receive Request from Personal Web Page to Display Ad

Receive Request to Generate Search Results

Transmit Ad for Display with Personal Web Page

Transmit Ad for Display with Search Results

End

FIG. 5
User Clicks on "Advertise my profile"

User Logs in to Account

User Generates Ad Content

User Enters Payment Details

User Sets CPC, Budget, Targets

End
PROFILE ADVERTISEMENTS
CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION


TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] This instant specification relates to systems and methods for advertising online profiles.

BACKGROUND

[0003] As the Internet has become increasingly popular, online social networks are becoming an important and pervasive mechanism for communication, entertainment, and profession and social networking. Some online social networks use digital advertisements to meet or defray the costs of hosting. Some of the advertisements, however, are directed to commercial products, which may not be of interest to many people using an online social network for the purposes described above.

[0004] Some other online social networking systems may proactively highlight new or popular members of the systems. However, the highlighted members may have little in common with other users of the social network system that view these highlights. To find members with similar interests, users may have to perform searches using a search feature of the online social network system. However, the search results may be dependent on the accuracy of the search terms entered by the user. Additionally, the search mechanism may not provide members with an opportunity to make their profiles more prominent in the search result.

[0005] Also, the ability of the members to highlight themselves may be limited by the proactive nature of the searching because a user may have to purposely initiate a search for other members before members with similar interests are highlighted for the user.

SUMMARY

[0006] In general, this document describes advertisements associated with particular persons or groups (e.g., bands, clubs, and the like). In one example, a system may generate on-line personal advertisements, such as for members of a social network, and may track responses to such advertisements.

[0007] The systems and techniques described here may provide one or more of the following advantages. First, a system can provide members (which may include individuals or identifiable groups) of an online social network a proactive method to highlight themselves. Second, a system can generate advertisements that are more relevant to members of a social network. This may increase the profitability of entities hosting the social network by generating a revenue source from the members and increasing the click through rates for the generated advertisements. Third, a system may provide members of one social network with information about people that have similar characteristics but are members of a different social network.

[0008] In one implementation, a computer-implemented method for determining personal advertisements for display with search results is described. The method includes receiving, using a computer system, a query that corresponds to content associated with members of an online social network. The method also includes generating, using the computer system, search results that are responsive to the query. The method also includes obtaining, using the computer system, information that characterizes a personal advertisement that advertises a particular member of the online social network. The method also includes comparing, using the computer system, information associated with the search results to the information that characterizes the personal advertisement to determine whether at least a portion of the personal advertisement is related to at least a portion of the search results. The method also includes providing the personal advertisement for display with the search results in response to determining that at least a portion of the information that characterizes the personal advertisement is related to at least a portion of the search results, the personal advertisement including a link to a document for the particular member on the online social network.

[0009] In some aspects, the method may include certain of the following features. For example, the method may also include monitoring accesses of the document for the particular member on the online social network that occur as a result of the personal advertisement being presented. The method may also include generating a fee that is charged to the particular member based on at least one of the accesses, and/or generating a payment that is paid to the online social network based on at least one of the accesses. The particular member may be a group on the online social network.

[0010] In another implementation, a computer-implemented system for providing personal advertisements for display with search results is described. The system includes a search engine executing on a computer system to receive a query that corresponds to content associated with members of an online social network, and to generate search results that are responsive to the query. The system also includes a personal advertisement database to store a personal advertisement that advertises a particular member of the online social network, the personal advertisement including a link to a document for the particular member on the online social network. The system also includes a personal advertisement server executing on the computer system to compare information associated with the search results to the information that characterizes the personal advertisement to determine whether at least a portion of the personal advertisement is related to at least a portion of the search results. The system also includes an interface to provide the personal advertisement for display with the search results in response to determining that at least a portion of the information that characterizes the personal advertisement is related to at least a portion of the search results.

[0011] In some aspects, the system may include certain of the following features. For example, the interface may monitor accesses of the document for the particular member on the online social network that occur as a result of the personal advertisement being presented. The interface may also generate a fee that is charged to the particular member based on at least one of the accesses, and/or generate a payment that is paid to the online social network based on at least one of the accesses. The particular member may be a group on the online social network.
DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of an example system for presenting advertising content related to a personal web page.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of an example system for presenting advertising content related to a personal web page.

FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram of an example system for presenting advertising content related to search results.

FIG. 4 is a block diagram of an example system for presenting advertising content related to search results.

FIG. 5 is a flow chart of an example process for presenting advertising content related to a personal web page or search results.

FIG. 6 shows example user interfaces for creating an advertisement to be presented in relation to a personal web page or search results.

FIG. 7 is a flow chart of an example process for creating an advertisement to be presented in relation to a personal web page or search results.

FIG. 8 shows example user interfaces for presenting advertisements related to a personal web page or search results.

FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram of an example generic computer system.

Like reference symbols in the various drawings indicate like elements.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of an example system 100 for presenting advertising content 102a-c related to a personal web page 104. The personal web page 104 is, for example, a user profile in an online social network 106, which may include hosted web pages that describes profiles, or characters, of the social network’s members. Examples of online social networks can include orkut.com, myspace.com, and friendster.com. Alternatively, other types of online social networks or personal web pages may be used, such as job hunting web sites (e.g., monster.com), school alumni web sites, organizations of professionals, Internet dating sites, ratings sites (e.g., hotmot.com), and a company employee internal web site. The personal ads 102a-c direct users viewing the personal web page 104 to other personal web pages, such as other social network user profiles or other non-commercial web pages. In certain implementations, the personal ads 102a-c are received from a personal advertiser (e.g., someone advertising his or her personal profile or personal web page).

An external server 108 indexes content from user profiles 110 and stores the indexed content in a repository 112. In addition, the external server 108 stores personal ads in a repository 114, such as the user B personal ad 102a from a user B client 116. Using the indexed profiles in the repository 112, an ad server 118 determines which of the ads in the repository 114 relate to the user A profile 104 currently presented. The related personal ads 102a-c are displayed with the user A profile 104. In certain implementations, the related ads 102a-c are transmitted to the social network 106. Alternatively, the related ads 102a-c may be transmitted to a client device presenting the user A profile 104. In certain implementations, the components and/or actions attributed here to the external server 108 may be included in and/or performed by the social network 106.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of an example system 200 for presenting advertising content 102a-c related to a personal web page. The external server 108 includes a web crawler 202. The web crawler 202 receives the user profile content 110 via an interface 204. The web crawler 202 traverses the user profile content 110 and generates the indexed user profile content stored in the repository 112.

In addition, the web crawler 202 can generate statistical associations between keywords and the user profile content 110. For example, the user profile content 110 can contain information used by the web crawler to identify what keyword may be related to the content of the profile. This information can include text within the profile, keywords (e.g., metadata) that describe the profile, frequencies of words occurring in the profile, font size of text in the profile (e.g., if one word has a larger font size, more emphasis can be given when associating the profile with keywords), or a hyperlink structure within the profile. The web crawler 202 can store the statistical associations in a repository 206.

The structure of the profile used in certain social networks also can be integrated into the analysis of appropriate keywords to link to the profile. For example, the profile may be structured so that certain types of content are identified using their location on the page, metadata, and text proceeding the content (e.g., “interests,” “age,” etc.). If the web crawler 202 determines that the text “law” is within the “interest” content of a first profile, it can record this association so that other advertisements for profiles that include similar interests may appear on the first profile.

The external server 108 receives the user B personal ad 102a via an interface 208 and stores the personal ad 102a in the repository 114. The personal ad 102a includes sub-components, including a uniform resource identifier 210, an image 212, a video 214, and text 216. The image 212, video 214, and text 216 can form the information presented to the user viewing the personal ad 102a. In addition, the personal ad 102a may include audio or other appropriate media.

In certain implementations, the URI 210 is a uniform resource link (URL) that permits a user viewing the personal ad 102a to navigate from the user A profile 104 to a personal web page of the user B. In other implementations, the URI 210 can include contact information for the user B (e.g., instant messenger address, telephone number, mailing address, email address, etc.).

In certain implementations, the image 212, video 214, and text 216 are retrieved from the user B personal web page to which the URI 210 directs. For example, a personal advertiser can enter in the URI of the advertiser’s profile. The web crawler can retrieve content from the profile based on the profile structure. Because the profile structure is uniform, the web crawler can retrieve consistent content, such as an introductory paragraph that describes the personal advertiser and a photograph of the personal advertiser. In other implementations, the personal advertiser selects the content and uploads it as part of the User B Personal Ad 102a.

The keywords 218 describe the personal ad 102a and/or the user B personal web page that the personal ad 102a advertises. The keywords 218 may describe, for example, a
category to which the ad $102_a$ or the web page belongs, or a language used by the ad $102_a$ or the web page. The personal advertiser can enter the keywords, the external server $108$ can generate them using the statistical information in the repository $206$, or the keywords can originate from both.

[0032] The external server $108$ includes an ad to profile matcher $220$ within the ad server $118$. The ad to profile matcher $220$ matches personal ads from the repository $114$ to a profile to be presented. The matcher $220$ uses the indexed user profile content in the repository $112$ together with additional personal ad keywords $222$ from the repository $206$ to relate, for example, the user A profile $104$ to the personal ads $102_a-c$. For example, the user A profile $104$ may contain text, keywords, or links to web pages including the phrases “Star Trek,” “cycling,” and “local music.” The personal ads $102_a-c$ may contain keywords of “Star Trek” $218$, “cycling,” and “local music,” respectively. The matcher $220$ determines that the profile $104$ is related to the ad $102_a$ by the words “Star Trek,” to the ad $102_b$ by the word “cycling,” and to the ad $102_c$ by the words “local music.”

[0033] Additionally, a phrase associated with the user A profile $104$ may originate from the additional personal ad keywords $222$. For example, the user A profile $104$ may include the phrase “bicycling.” The repository $206$ may contain a statistical association between the word “bicycling” and the word “cycling,” therefore the word “cycling” is included in the additional personal ad keywords and then related to the ad $102_a$.

[0034] In addition, the user A profile $104$ may include the word “physicist.” The repository $206$, and the additional personal ad keywords $222$, may include a phrase of “Star Trek” associated with the word “physicist.” The crawler $202$ may have determined that there is a relationship between profiles including the word “physicist” and profiles including the phrase “Star Trek.” The matcher $220$ then relates the additional keywords “Star Trek” to the user B personal ad keywords $218$.

[0035] In the examples described here, an exact match is identified between the phrases from the user A profile $104$ and the ads $102_a-c$. In general, the profile content portions are statistically related to the personal ad keywords, but the relationship may be less than exact, such as a relationship meeting a predetermined statistical threshold. The ad server $118$ outputs the related ads $102_a-c$ via the interface $204$. Ads can also be targeted to attributes expressed in manners other than keywords, such as user age or age range, gender, geographic proximity, and non-profile attributes such as how often a user logs into a social network.

[0036] FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram of an example system $300$ for presenting advertising content $102_a-c$ related to search results $302$. A client $304$ transmits a search query $306$ to a search engine $308$ at a search server $310$. The search may be, for example, a lookup of profiles at the social network $106$. The search engine $308$ generates the search results $302$. The search engine $308$ may base the search results $302$ on an index of the user profile content $110$ from the social network as well as content from other websites. The search server $310$ determines the personal ads $102_a-c$ to be displayed in conjunction with the search results $302$. The search server $310$ then transmits the search results $302$ and the personal ads $102_a-c$ to the client $304$.

[0037] FIG. 4 is a block diagram of an example system $400$ for presenting advertising content $102_a-c$ related to search results $302$. The web crawler $202$ indexes the user profile content $110$ as well as other website content $402$ and stores the indexed content in a repository $404$. A request processor $406$ receives the search query $306$. After processing the search query $306$, the request processor $406$ passes the search query $306$ to the search engine $308$. The search engine $308$ uses the search query $306$ together with the indexed content in the repository $404$ to determine the search results $302$. The search engine $308$ passes the search results $302$ to a response formatter $408$.

[0038] The ad server $118$ determines which ads from the repository $114$ to present with the search results $302$. The ad server $118$ uses the indexed content in the repository $404$ together with the search query $306$ and/or the search results $302$ to determine the personal ads $102_a-c$ related to the search results $302$. The ad server $118$ passes the related ads $102_a-c$ to the response formatter $408$. The response formatter $408$ outputs the search results $302$ and the related ads $102_a-c$ via the interface $204$.

[0039] FIG. 5 is a flow chart of an example process $500$ for presenting advertising content related to a personal web page or search results. The process $500$ may be performed, for example, by the systems $100$, $200$, $300$, and/or $400$, and for clarity of presentation, the description that follows uses these as the basis of examples for describing the process $500$. However, another system, or combination of systems, may be used to perform the process $500$.

[0040] Process $500$ begins with receiving $502$ personal web page content. For example, the external server $108$ and the search server $310$ receive the user profile content $110$. The servers $108$ and $310$ index the user profile content $110$ and store the indexed content in repositories $112$ and $404$, respectively.

[0041] Process $500$ generates $504$ one or more personal ads. For example, advertiser users may submit information used to create the personal ads $102_a-c$ at the servers $108$ and $310$ or the ads $102_a-c$ may be created by the servers $108$ and $310$ using content from the personal web pages referred to by the ads $102_a-c$.

[0042] Process $500$ associates $506$-a-b one or more personal ads with personal web page content related to the ads or keywords/categories related to search results, respectively. For example, the ad server $118$ may relate the user A profile to the personal ads $102_a-c$ or the ad server $118$ may relate the search results $302$ to the personal ads $102_a-c$.

[0043] Process $500$ receives $508$-a-b a request to display an ad with a personal web page or to generate search results, respectively. For example, the social network $106$ may make a request to the external server $108$ that ads be displayed in conjunction with the user A profile $104$ or the client $304$ may transmit the search query $306$ to the search server $310$.

[0044] Process $500$ transmits $510$-a-b the one or more ads for display with the personal ad or the search results, respectively. For example, the external server $108$ may transmit the personal ads $102_a-c$ to the social network $106$ or the search server $310$ may transmit the personal ads $102_a-c$ to the client $304$.

[0045] The personal ads $102_a-c$ may be placed in various manners. For example, the personal ads $102_a-c$ may be placed on a user’s profile page to which the ads $102_a-c$ have been determined to bear a relation or some commonality. Various visitors to the person’s profile page would then see the ads $102_a-c$. In one implementation, the ads $102_a-c$ may be generated to match ads for other profiles with the present profile.
such as by comparing the two profiles. Specifically, an ad may be in the form of, “If you like Sally’s profile, then you’ll love ______’s profile.”

0046] The personal ads 102a-c may also be placed to be targeted to a particular member as they navigate a site such as a social network site. For example, if the user is anywhere in the site, they may see ads directed to attributes of their profile. The selected ads may be taken from a sub-group of ads relevant to the place the member is visiting, and the particular ads to display may be selected using parameters associated with the user. Also, the ad selection may occur using a combination of attributes for a visiting user, and attributes associated with a page (such as a personal profile page) that the person is visiting. In such a situation, the visitor’s profile may show explicitly attributes associated with the user, whereas the place the user visits may reflect implicit attributes, such as the user’s (perhaps well hidden) desires. Thus, in this manner ads 102a-c may be targeted to an end member in general.

0047] FIG. 6 shows example user interfaces 600a-c for creating an advertisement to be presented in relation to a personal web page or search results. The interface 600a is a representation of a personal ad. The interface 600a includes a media window 602, a description text 604, and an advertise control 606. The media window 602 presents media, such as an image, audio, or video, to a user viewing and/or listening to the ad. The description text 604 contains the text body of the ad that describes a personal web page being advertised. A user viewing the ad may select the advertise control 606 to initiate the creation his or her own personal ad.

0048] The interface 600b allows an advertiser to select a file to be uploaded from a file list 630. The file may be media such as an image, audio, or video. The file list 630 may contain controls that allow the advertiser to navigate to a location where a particular file associated with the personal web page to be advertised resides. Selecting a file in the file list 630 may initiate the interface 600c or another control may initiate the interface 600c.

0049] The interface 600c is an editor for the text description of the personal ad. The interface 600c includes a text entry area 660 and a text formatting controls 662. An advertiser may make inputs to the text entry area 660 containing the description of the personal ad. The advertiser may format the description such as with underlining, boldface, color, font, or font size, using the text formatting controls 662.

0050] FIG. 7 is a flow chart of an example process 700 for creating an advertisement to be presented in relation to a personal web page or search results. Process 700 begins with a user clicking (702) on “Advertise my profile.” For example, a user may click on the advertise control 606 in the personal ad interface 600a. Selecting the advertise control 606 initiates an ad generator front end 704. The ad generator front end 704 guides the user through the personal ad creation process.

0051] Optionally, process 700 receives (706) a user login to an account. For example, the personal ad creation/modification process may be password protected to prevent unauthorized changes from being made to personal ads.

0052] Optionally, process 700 receives (708) a user generated ad. For example, a user may create a personal ad using the interfaces 600a-c. Alternatively, personal ads may be automatically generated by process 700 using, for example, content from a user’s personal web page.

0053] Process 700 receives (710) a user-specified cost-per-click, budget, and targets. For example, the user may specify how much the user intends to pay for each action resulting from the personal ad, such as an action of navigating to the user’s personal web page via the personal ad or performing an action at the personal web page. Payments may be triggered by various events, such as cost/pay-per-impression, cost/pay-per-click, and cost/pay-per action or acquisition (where action/acquisition may include, for example, adding the user as a friend). Payments made by the advertiser based on the cost-per-click (or other method) may be credited to an entity providing the ad server 118 functionality, an entity responsible for the personal web page where the personal ad is presented, an entity hosting the personal web page where the personal ad is presented (e.g., the social network 106), or some combination of these entities.

0054] A payment system 712 tracks the number of times the advertiser’s personal web page is accessed via the personal ad. The budget indicates a limit to the number of times the personal ad may be presented and selected. The targets indicate the types of personal web pages where the personal ad is to be presented, or the types of viewers to whom it is to be presented. For example, the keywords 218 (or other attributes) may include the specified target information. The keywords 218 are then used when determining with which personal web pages to display the personal ad in conjunction.

0055] Process 700 receives (714) user payment details. For example, the advertiser user may input credit card information or PayPal information to make the payments based on the selected cost-per-click amount.

0056] FIG. 8 shows example user interfaces 800a-d for presenting advertisements related to a personal web page or search results. The interfaces 800a-d include the advertisement control 606. The interfaces 800a-d present the personal ads 102a-d having the keywords “Star Trek,” “cycling,” and “local music,” respectively. The interface 800a presents the personal ads 102a-c in a horizontal or banner orientation. The interface 800b presents the personal ads 102a-c in a vertical or sidebar orientation. The interfaces 800a-b may represent the personal ads 102a-c as described above with reference to Figs. 1 and 3. In another example, a single personal ad may be shown, such as the personal ad 102a in the interface 800c, or two personal ads may be shown, such as the personal ads 102a-b in the interface 800d.

0057] FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram of an example of a generic computer system 900. The system 900 can be used for the operations described in association with the method 300 according to one implementation. For example, the system 900 may be included in either of all of the social network 106, the external server 108, the user B client 116, the client 304, the search server 310, and the payment system 712.

0058] The system 900 includes a processor 910, a memory 920, a storage device 930, and an input/output device 940. Each of the components 910, 920, 930, and 940 are interconnected using a system bus 950. The processor 910 is capable of processing instructions for execution within the system 900. In one implementation, the processor 910 is a single-threaded processor. In another implementation, the processor 910 is a multi-threaded processor. The processor 910 is capable of processing instructions stored in the memory 920 or on the storage device 930 to display graphical information for a user interface on the input/output device 940.

0059] The memory 920 stores information within the system 900. In one implementation, the memory 920 is a computer-readable medium. In one implementation, the memory 920 is a volatile memory unit. In another implementation, the memory 920 is a non-volatile memory unit.
The storage device 930 is capable of providing mass storage for the system 900. In one implementation, the storage device 930 is a computer-readable medium. In various different implementations, the storage device 930 may be a floppy disk device, a hard disk device, an optical disk device, or a tape device.

The input/output device 940 provides input/output operations for the system 900. In one implementation, the input/output device 940 includes a keyboard and/or pointing device. In another implementation, the input/output device 940 includes a display unit for displaying graphical user interfaces.

The features described can be implemented in digital electronic circuitry, in computer hardware, firmware, software, or in combinations of them. The apparatus can be implemented in a computer program product tangibly embodied in an information carrier, e.g., in a machine-readable storage device or in a propagated signal, for execution by a programmable processor; and method steps can be performed by a programmable processor executing a program of instructions to perform functions of the described implementations by operating on input data and generating output. The described features can be implemented advantageously in one or more computer programs that are executable on a programmable system including at least one programmable processor coupled to receive data and instructions from, and to transmit data and instructions to, a data storage system, at least one input device, and at least one output device. A computer program is a set of instructions that can be used, directly or indirectly, in a computer to perform a certain activity or bring about a certain result. A computer program can be written in any form of programming language, including compiled or interpreted languages, and it can be deployed in any form, including as a stand-alone program or as a module, component, subroutine, or other unit suitable for use in a computing environment.

Suitable processors for the execution of a program of instructions include, by way of example, both general and special purpose microprocessors, and the sole processor or one of multiple processors of any kind of computer. Generally, a processor will receive instructions and data from a read-only memory or a random access memory or both. The essential elements of a computer are a processor for executing instructions and one or more memories for storing instructions and data. Generally, a computer will also include, or be operatively coupled to communicate with, one or more mass storage devices for storing data files; such devices include magnetic disks, such as internal hard disks and removable disks; magneto-optical disks; and optical disks. Storage devices suitable for tangibly embodying computer program instructions and data include all forms of non-volatile memory, including by way of example semiconductor memory devices, such as EPROM, EEPROM, and flash memory devices; magnetic disks such as internal hard disks and removable disks; magneto-optical disks; and CD-ROM and DVD-ROM disks. The processor and the memory can be supplemented by, or incorporated in, ASICs (application-specific integrated circuits).

To provide for interaction with a user, the features can be implemented on a computer having a display device such as a CRT (cathode ray tube) or LCD (liquid crystal display) monitor for displaying information to the user and a keyboard and a pointing device such as a mouse or a trackball by which the user can provide input to the computer.

The features can be implemented in a computer system that includes a back-end component, such as a data server, or that includes a middleware component, such as an application server or an Internet server, or that includes a front-end component, such as a client computer having a graphical user interface or an Internet browser, or any combination of them. The components of the system can be connected by any form or medium of digital data communication such as a communication network. Examples of communication networks include, e.g., a LAN, a WAN, and the computers and networks forming the Internet.

The computer system can include clients and servers. A client and server are generally remote from each other and typically interact through a network, such as the described one. The relationship of a client and server arises by virtue of computer programs running on the respective computers and having a client-server relationship to each other.

Although a few implementations have been described in detail above, other modifications are possible. For example, the payment system 712 described in association with FIG. 7 can include a micropayment system. In one implementation, the micropayment system can track a number of times a user selects a URL in an advertisement for a personal profile. Instead of charging a person associated with the advertisement each time the URL is selected, the micropayment system can charge the user after a charges associated with the clicks have crossed a predefined threshold, such as ten dollars. Alternatively, the micropayment system can accept a payment from a user and create an account that the fees are debited against.

In other implementations, the source of the advertisements of profiles from a first online social network may be displayed with profiles hosted by a second online social network. An external web server can receive profile information from the first online social network and transmit advertisements for profiles from the second online social network for display with profiles hosted by the first online social network.

In yet other implementations, a personal profile includes web pages not associated with a social network. These web pages may not include a standard structure of categories that describe a user. A user may design a web page that includes a variety of content include information about the user. For example, geocities.com hosts a variety of websites that describe personal aspects of users of the web hosting service. These websites may be noncommercial websites, where the primary purpose of the content of the user designed website may be expressing personal information and interests instead of promoting a product for sale. Although advertisements for products may be generated and associated by the web hosting service for display with the user designed website, the content of the websites may still be noncommercial.

In addition, the logic flows depicted in the figures do not require the particular order shown, or sequential order, to achieve desirable results. In addition, other steps may be provided, or steps may be eliminated, from the described flows, and other components may be added to, or removed from, the described systems. Accordingly, other implementations are within the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for determining personal advertisements for display with search results, the method comprising:
receiving, using a computer system, a query that corresponds to content associated with members of an online social network;
generating, using the computer system, search results that are responsive to the query;
obtaining, using the computer system, information that characterizes a personal advertisement that advertises a particular member of the online social network;
comparing, using the computer system, information associated with the search results to the information that characterizes the personal advertisement to determine whether at least a portion of the personal advertisement is related to at least a portion of the search results; and providing the personal advertisement for display with the search results in response to determining that at least a portion of the information that characterizes the personal advertisement is related to at least a portion of the search results, the personal advertisement including a link to a document for the particular member on the online social network.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the particular member is a group on the online social network.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising monitoring accesses of the document for the particular member on the online social network that occur as a result of the personal advertisement being presented.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising generating a fee that is charged to the particular member based on at least one of the accesses.

5. The method of claim 3, further comprising generating a payment that is paid to the online social network based on at least one of the accesses.

6. A computer-readable storage medium storing instructions that, when executed by one or more processing devices, cause the processing devices to perform operations comprising:
receiving, using a computer system, a query that corresponds to content associated with members of an online social network;
generating, using the computer system, search results that are responsive to the query;
obtaining, using the computer system, information that characterizes a personal advertisement that advertises a particular member of the online social network;
comparing, using the computer system, information associated with the search results to the information that characterizes the personal advertisement to determine whether at least a portion of the personal advertisement is related to at least a portion of the search results; and providing the personal advertisement for display with the search results in response to determining that at least a portion of the information that characterizes the personal advertisement is related to at least a portion of the search results, the personal advertisement including a link to a document for the particular member on the online social network.

7. The storage medium of claim 6, wherein the particular member is a group on the online social network.

8. The storage medium of claim 6, wherein the operations further comprise monitoring accesses of the document for the particular member on the online social network that occur as a result of the personal advertisement being presented.

9. The storage medium of claim 8, wherein the operations further comprise generating a fee that is charged to the particular member based on at least one of the accesses.

10. The storage medium of claim 8, wherein the operations further comprise generating a payment that is paid to the online social network based on at least one of the accesses.

11. A computer-implemented system for providing personal advertisements for display with search results, the system comprising:
a search engine executing on a computer system to receive a query that corresponds to content associated with members of an online social network, and to generate search results that are responsive to the query;
a personal advertisement database to store a personal advertisement that advertises a particular member of the online social network, the personal advertisement including a link to a document for the particular member on the online social network;
a personal advertisement server executing on the computer system to compare information associated with the search results to the information that characterizes the personal advertisement to determine whether at least a portion of the personal advertisement is related to at least a portion of the search results; and an interface to provide the personal advertisement for display with the search results in response to determining that at least a portion of the information that characterizes the personal advertisement is related to at least a portion of the search results.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the particular member is a group on the online social network.

13. The system of claim 11, wherein the interface monitors accesses of the document for the particular member on the online social network that occur as a result of the personal advertisement being presented.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the interface generates a fee that is charged to the particular member based on at least one of the accesses.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the interface generates a payment that is paid to the online social network based on at least one of the accesses.