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**Understanding how your client's digital shadow can help in offering partner services**

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When the concept of “contact-tracing” was first introduced in the late-1930s, venereal diseases like syphilis were being transmitted at staggering rates. The idea of interviewing patients with infections to gain access to their partners with the goal of offering them screening and treatment was considered radical by some due to the stigma associated with having diseases like syphilis. Contact-tracing, now known as partner services, continues to aid us in reducing the transmission of diseases for both the original client and their partners. Additionally, through partner services, staff can offer preventative measures such as PEP/PrEP and ART. The importance of partner services is no more apparent than today. As sexually transmitted diseases/infections increase, so does our acceptance of using digital outlets to find sex, love and everything in the middle. To continue providing these vital services we have to understand our clients’ digital lives as it relates to partner seeking and digital communication. Most importantly, we have to know how to “mine” the digital information shared with us through partner services.

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