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## Introduction

The Internet is chock full of businesses, as well as online services that millions of people use to buy goods and accomplish every day tasks. Since the Internet first began, the opportunity to make money has become an explosion of unusual websites, marketing schemes, and new creative ideas. But you do not have to own your own e-commerce website or be an employee of a huge Fortune 500 Internet company in order to make money online. In fact, there are plenty of ways the average every day guy or gal can make some extra cash online by doing things in their spare time. With a little bit of extra time and some talent and ingenuity, you can earn money to pay off some bills or buy something you wanted but may not have been able to afford. Earning extra money online is an easy and fun way to get some dough in your pocket.

## **Ebay**

Ebay is one of the most popular websites. In fact, it is credited as being the world's largest online auction site. Here, you can sell or buy almost anything from new and used DVD', clothing, and video games to rare antique, hard to find items. It is literally a worldwide bazaar of amazing items and full of surprises.

Some things can sell for as little as a penny, while others have the potential to go up to thousands of dollars. If you are trying to get rid of some things you no longer want or use, then Ebay is the place to go. You can not only clean out that spare closet, you can also get paid to sell the things that you no longer want but may be a treasure and a coveted item to someone else.

Some people prefer to use Ebay as a place to buy new things at a discounted price, but others are looking for inexpensive clothing, used books, and vintage items. As an Ebay seller, you want to provide your customers with something they will enjoy and appreciate. Be sure to be descriptive in your listings so that the buyer knows exactly what they are getting. If a used item has any flaws, mention that in your listing and feature a close up photo of the flaw or imperfection if possible.

As a seller you can scour flea markets and thrift stores for hard to find items. The things that are rare and unique often sell for the most money. Another technique is to buy items in bulk at a discount and then sell them on Ebay. For example, non-prescription painkillers that are expensive at the store may be found somewhere at a good discount, and then resold on Ebay for a profit.

Registration is simple however it does require that you provide a valid credit card or bank account. This is to protect both you and your Ebay buyers from fraud. Once you're set up, the process to sell items is easy. Just take a picture of the things you're selling, fill out a simple form and upload your item's photo. Voila! You've created an auction listing where thousands of people have the potential to view it.

Choose between 3-10 days to keep your item up for auction, then sit back and watch the bids roll in. You can also opt to sign up for Paypal, an online electronic payment service that allows buyers to pay using their bank account, and then you can deposit them into your bank account quickly. Ebay charges a standard listing fee as well as final value fees, but you're only billed once a month and it's a fraction of the total profits you will make on a sold item.

Get started today by signing up for ebay – <a href="www.ebay.com">www.ebay.com</a>. Note: depending on your location, the URL may be different. For Australia, it would be <a href="www.ebay.com.au">www.ebay.com.au</a>

## **Get Paid to Blog**

Most Internet-savvy people already have some of form of personal blog, but did you know what some websites would actually pay you to write and maintain a blog? Blog-for-pay websites are becoming more and more common, and offer their users a wide variety of monetary incentives.

These websites may involve a little bit of marketing ability since they often link to other websites using your keywords and writing. If you have a knack for trying new products or writing up reviews, then online blogging is definitely the way to go. There is usually some kind of strict writing style guidelines that you must follow, but once you get into the knack of it, you'll find that bogging for cash can be easy and fun.

Some blog for pay websites will offer varying amounts of money depending on the quality of the content as well as the total wording or thoroughness of the blog. There are a great deal of sites who offer incentives for bloggers, but some might have to meet a certain set of criteria first, such as submitting sample blogs before getting approved.

If you enjoy writing and have spare time, this can be an excellent way to get some extra money coming in. Be sure you read the fine print and determine exactly just what is expected of you before committing to write the blog. Some blogs need submissions daily, weekly, or monthly depending on need.

The best way to get started is by approaching other blog owners in your niche and asking he/she if you can guest blog. You can simply go a search for

"keyword + blog". Simply replace 'keyword' with your niche. You'll find a list of blogs related to your chosen niche.

#### **Virtual Assistant**

Many businesses today offer up the opportunity for employees to telecommute. Another term for this is working from home via an online portal or just by physically working from home. Allowing employees to telecommute can save businesses thousands, even millions of dollars per year in overhead costs. It is much more cost effective for companies to hire people to work from home rather than rent out space for an office, pay the electric bill, offer benefits, etc.

Because of this fact, more and more companies are hiring people to act as a virtual assistant. Essentially, virtual assistants are available to remotely help people with things like paperwork, typing up letters, spreadsheets, and even answering the phone and taking messages. They may never even meet their boss in person, but they still communicate with their employer either through email or chat.

Some small business owners or larger online companies will choose to contract people out as virtual assistants. Then, when they find they are in need of help, they enlist the company to hire a virtual assistant to complete some of the work for them. Lawyers and doctors' offices are common clients that utilize virtual assistants as well. It is a sort of temp agency, but the work is performed from home and mostly online.

As a virtual assistant, you can be paid by the hour at a set hourly rate, or you can get paid per assignment such as a flat rate per spreadsheet completed, or letter written. The type of assignment and depth of what you must do is usually up to you, however you will probably have to pass certain tests such as Excel or Word accuracy tests so that the company knows you're a capable candidate. Once you

are hired, you can work long term for one particular client, or "hop around" from assignment to assignment, depending on the need.

You can get started by looking for jobs on sites like <a href="www.elance.com">www.elance.com</a> and <a href="www.guru.com">www.guru.com</a>.

#### **Freelance Work**

Freelance work is becoming increasingly popular. Thanks to the Internet, more and more businesses are looking to hire freelance workers instead of a full time salaried employee. This way, projects can be done on a case-by-case basis and overhead is cut back. As a freelancer, you can choose to submit samples of your work to different clients. Based on your portfolio, the client may then choose you to work on their project.

Freelancers can do anything from create a logo using their graphic design skills, to programming an entire website, to writing up an advertising or marketing proposal. As a freelancer, you can earn a lump sum for every project you complete. This can be something that takes a few hours or a few months, depending on the deadline that the project needs to be completed as well as the scope of work. A lot of long-term freelance projects can even net you a steady paycheck if the client pays you in phases as the project nears completion.

It can be a bit tough to find freelance work at first, especially if you have not become established in the online community. The online freelance community is quite competitive. There are several large freelance websites where users can register and then submit samples of their work. The clients then choose who they want to work on their project based on the work that they see.

It is definitely recommended that you create a portfolio of some kind in advance before attempting to get freelance work. Think about it this way: would a boss in any company want to hire someone without first seeing a resume and conducting an interview? The same principle applies to online freelancing. Clients want to actually get a feel for how well someone can do the job before they commit to

paying them, so be prepared to exhibit your skills accordingly.

Just like the virtual assistant business, you can get started by looking for jobs on sites like <a href="https://www.elance.com">www.elance.com</a> and <a href="https://www.elance.com">www.guru.com</a>.

## **SEO Writing**

Studies show that most people will only click on the top ten to twenty five results they see in Google when they enter in any one particular search term. Online companies know this, so they enlist the help of SEO writers to contribute content to their pages. As an SEO writer, you will be paid either at a set rate per word typed, or a set rate per article. Typically, SEO writing involves using keywords but strategically placing them into the article so that it does not appear as if they were "stuffed" there on purpose.

SEO writers must be skilled in English grammar as well as being able to effectively write. Some companies offer a large database of articles for the writer to choose from, while others may just assign the writers different topics.

If you have a talent for writing and blogging but do not like the blogging format, SEO writing is definitely something to consider. It allows you to utilize your writing skills in a new way and you can usually choose from a wide selection of topics ranging from marketing and e-commerce to travel and real world issues.

Whatever topics you choose, you will definitely be able to earn some extra money. Just keep in mind that in most cases, you will be a "ghost writer" when you do SEO work. This means that you will not receive credit publicly for the work, and sometimes it does not even get published. In some cases, the writing is embedded into the client's web pages and the actual writing is never really read by anyone other than the web master.

## **Affiliate Programs**

There are countless web based affiliate programs out there than can help you earn some money. Affiliate programs are easy to use and there is often no limit to the number of programs you can join. It really comes down to which programs you are most passionate about and which ones will offer you the most return. Simply put, an affiliate program enlists people to promote their website.

When a new customer or someone makes a purchase through the affiliate link, you receive a percentage. In most cases this is a set percentage amount no matter how much or how little the customer buys. Once your affiliate account reaches a set amount, you get paid. In most cases it is simply a matter of embedding your affiliate link (which you will receive once you sign up as an affiliate) into a website or on your own home page.

One of the great things about affiliate programs is that it requires very little work, unless you want to become a spokesperson for the company or sell the products yourself. Affiliates basically just get other people to sign up for the "parent company's" program or get them to buy their products, and then the company handles the rest such as shipping the products and accepting payment.

When a purchase is made, the link the customer clicked on indicates that it came to the company as a result of clicking on your specific affiliate link. These companies have programs that track your progress, and often have interfaces where you as the affiliate can log in and check your progress. Some affiliate programs automatically pay out once per week or month, while others let you accumulate your funds and then pay you when you decide to cash out your earnings.

To get started promoting products as an affiliate, go to <a href="www.clickbank.com">www.clickbank.com</a>. It's one of the easiest and fastest ways of finding and promoting products of your liking. There's thousands of products you can promote.

## **Online Surveys**

You might be surprised to learn that you can earn things like Amazon.com gift cards and money just by filling out simple opinion surveys. There are literally hundreds of survey companies online that offer incentives to their members just for giving their opinions. In some cases you might even be selected to try inhome product testing where you will not only get to try the product and in most cases keep it, you can also earn money for answering a few questions about your opinion of it! Surveys online usually take anywhere from five to twenty minutes, with some taking a bit longer.

Most of the time, the longer it takes to complete the survey, the bigger the reward. A few survey companies only offer online gift codes, while others let you decide what you prefer: the cash or the card. Some give away VISA gift cards, and some mail you a check.

Every survey company is different so it is a good idea to check into them before signing up. You may find that some send out emails for invitations much more often than others. Remember you can always cancel your membership if you want to. The more survey companies you register with, the greater the reward.

A lot of people will wait until they've earned a large sum, then cash out at once. Paypal is sometimes used to distribute funds so you can get your money much faster than check. No matter what you decide, filling out simple surveys online is an excellent way to get extra money for giving your opinions.

#### Fiverr.com

Have you ever heard of Fiverr.com? If not, go to <a href="www.fiverr.com">www.fiverr.com</a>. The fundamental concept of the site is selling your services for five dollars. No less and no more. Members are able to sell their services as "gigs" to other users for just five dollars.

What services can you offer? If you look at the site, there's a vast amount of services that people are willing to do. You can offer:

- Voice over services
- Design services
- Writing services
- · Advice and tips
- Information
- Digital downloads
- Advertising services

The topics are endless. It's really up to your imagination and creativity, as long as you don't violate their terms and conditions.

You can get started by simply signing up for a free account at <a href="www.fiverr.com">www.fiverr.com</a>. Setup your first "gig" or service and wait for people to see it. The great thing about Fiverr is that there's no limit to the amount of gigs you'd like to setup, at least at the time of writing.

## Conclusion

In the tough economic times that we currently live in, every single penny counts. If you can earn some money in your spare time by doing something you enjoy or are good at, then these Internet moneymakers are a great place to start. If you have an eye for discount shopping and looking for valuable items, then selling goods on Ebay may be right up your alley.

If writing and expressing yourself is something that is more of your style, then perhaps blogging, SEO writing, or freelancing is for you. For people with valuable skills like typing and working with Excel spreadsheets, becoming a virtual assistant is an awesome way to gain more income. For those who just want to make a few bucks in their spare time, maybe filling out online surveys is the way to go. No matter what online money making venture you choose there are always methods to have a bit of extra cash in your pocket by using your talents online.