

Profit Streams

*21 Powerful Ways To Make
A Living Online*



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Introduction

There are many, many ways to make money online, but by no means are they created equal. There are those that don't work out well, there are the scams, and then there are the proven ways to make money online.

In this e-book, we discuss 21 of the best proven ways to make money online. After reading through this, you may very well be fired up to get into making some money online! Note that the order we listed these methods does not imply any greater or lesser value, since people have different strengths and circumstances.

The greatest requirements to make money online are creativity and diligence. The Internet is basically a canvas which you can use to your gain, but you will need to work hard to make things work. With that said, let's begin looking into just how you can make some money online.

1. Freelance Writing

Freelance writing refers to the activity wherein you will write for various clients. The content and length of the material greatly varies. You can find jobs that ask for short 100-word snippets to full-blown thousands-of-words-long e-books. It really depends on what your clients are looking for.

These job requests can be found on many websites dedicated to job requests, and there are even websites specifically catering to writing job requests. A quick Google search for “freelance writing” will pull up a slew of websites.

As a freelance writer, your potential clients are website owners, bloggers, marketers, and small business owners. The subject matter can cover just about anything under the sun – you’ll find job requests for rifle scope descriptions to electronic product reviews to skateboarding website copy.

You can choose to focus on a few topics, or go with the flow and take up whatever job requests come your way. The latter tends to be more interesting, even if it can tend to slow down your writing (because of the research required) and lower your output.

One very important facet of this proven way to make money online is keyword research. On the Internet, the search engine is a prime mover because it directs people to where they want to go. Websites are multitudinous and often in competition, and so search engine companies evaluate websites to enable better result filtering and improved user

satisfaction. One way that search engines evaluate websites and webpages is by analyzing their keywords for type, frequency, and distribution.

As a freelance writer, your output will often be required to have proper keyword application. You can conduct your own research, or even better, you can get the job order complete with keywords and frequencies. Remember to distribute the keywords as evenly as you can throughout the entire article.

In practice, there are two ways to conduct your freelance writing. One, you can write articles and sell them in batches; think “3 300-word articles on web marketing for x dollars” kind of thing. In this case, you will need to conduct your niche research well, and also know where to go to advertise your output.

The other approach is to get yourself hired by picking up posted requests. This entails more time spent trawling websites for requests and conducting communication with job request owners, but it does provide you with better direction.

Here are some recommended freelance sites:

www.elance.com

www.odesk.com

You may also like to try micro outsourcing sites:

www.fiverr.com

www.microworkers.com

2. Write and Submit

This is different from freelance writing because you are not selling your services to a certain person or party. In this proven way to make money online, you write articles on your own time and then submit them to article directories, or even to magazines.

Again, you will see a great range of potential niches and topics. In theory, the range of potential subjects for writing is endless – you’re only limited by your expertise and willingness to cover those topics. The length also varies, but in this method you will mostly be limited to articles between 200 words and a thousand words. This is because you are writing “articles” that are readable in one short sitting, and yet are substantial enough to justify the space they occupy.

Article directories are quite simply orderly repositories of written material, generally of the informative sort. A visitor can access the directory and use keywords to search for articles, and then peruse at their leisure. As a writer, these directories allow you to get views for your articles while having a regular outlet for your written material.

How does this make money for you? Well, some directories pay for each visitor who comes to read your articles. Of course, you can also use your articles to market various products and get money from sales or commissions. On the World Wide Web, making money often involves multiple overlapping strategies. This may seem intimidating to the budding Internet-based moneymaker but you'll get the hang of it quickly enough.

Remember to pick out the right categories for your articles, or they could end up getting misclassified and may suffer penalties. Additionally, do not forget your keyword research. Though in this method the keyword research is not as important as in freelance writing, you will still get more hits if you use the right keywords.

3. Article Marketing

What makes article marketing different from the two previous writing-type methods to make money online? It's really a difference in context. Whereas freelance writing means writing and giving your clients partial or full ownership of the material, and writing and submitting means publishing material under your own name for the sake of writing, article marketing is more directly profit-oriented.

Article marketing refers to the set of activities revolving around the writing of articles to promote and sell various products and services. Like in the "write and submit" method, you own your material, but the principle is

different. Article marketing is all about making money from your words by selling something that you or someone else is offering.

Though different in spirit, article marketing does also require research into the keywords that are popping and generating lots of interest. Aside from helping you choose a niche, you can also use the keyword variants that get more views, or you could cover the less-used keywords to take advantage of under-explored markets.

These articles are also submitted to various websites and directories where they can get more exposure. More exposure equals more hits equals greater chances of converting into a sale equals more money for you. It's a simple equation, really.

In article marketing, you have to put on your plastic smile and pull out all the stops on your ability to act (as far as writing is concerned). Remember that you are trying to sell something, so the more convincing you are, the more effective and efficient your methodology is. Know your audience and adjust your writing style to get better results.

Recommended article directories to submit to:

www.ezinearticles.com

www.articlecity.com

www.articlebase.com

www.goarticles.com

www.ideamarketers.com

4. Graphic Design

Are you a deft hand at Photoshop or other image editing software? Do you have a good grasp of graphical style and mechanics? Then graphic design may be the path to your online fortune! Graphic design covers a broad range of disciplines that are highly valued in this digital age. To be a great graphic designer, you will need to train yourself to get many skills, and also develop your aesthetic sense and even a personal style.

When we talk about graphic design, we are talking about anything from simple cropping and resizing to editing for clarity and style, all the way to full-blown image creation from scratch. These images make their way into various websites, either as material for use in published articles or as elements in the design of static portions of the website. Some of these images even make their way offline, to printed ads and billboards – that's where the big bucks are! But let's not get too far ahead of ourselves.

More often than not, the images that you will create as a graphic designer will be sued as advertising material by small business owners and web developers. This is not a bad prospect. If you build up a good name for yourself, you can charge more for your work.

Of course, this entails a great amount of creativity, skill, and the ability to translate your clients' wishes into the finished product. However, creative types will find this work fulfilling and enjoyable.

If you want to develop a sense for what's popular, in style, and works well in various contexts, then you should spend lots of time viewing other people's works and analyzing them.

Graphic artists can also work with physical media and translate them into digital forms via scanning or high-definition photography. You can also make a name for yourself as an artist by sharing your work on various art-oriented websites like deviantArt.

If you do share your work as art, be prepared to face both praise and criticism; as they say, beware of the trolls.

If you are going to use images that you did not make yourself, then make sure that you are allowed to do so to avoid lawsuits. Check out royalty-free stock photography options.

Also, brush up on copyright and intellectual property rules so you don't end up "stealing" someone's work, or having the same done to yours.

One trending niche is the creation of backgrounds for personal profile pages like those on Twitter and so on. These backgrounds can also include wallpapers for smartphones and other devices. Take a peek into this method and see if you like it.

The Warrior Forum is a great place to offer your graphic design services to fellow Internet marketers. Go to <http://www.warriorforum.com/warriors-hire/> and post your service there. Be sure to include some samples of your work.

5. Logo and Design Contests

There are a surprisingly large number of logo and design contests to be found online. If you are good with image creation using digital or traditional tools, then you will want to keep an eye out for these contests. Each contest is not just a chance to make money – some of the prizes can get quite large – but also to get your name out and in the spotlight.

As with all the highly-creative methods to make money, you will need a goodly bit of imagination and aesthetic sense to pull this off, not to mention the actual technical skills. Many logo contests are held by companies looking to modernize their look, and that means you will need to get a good grasp of the contemporary art styles.

Unlike in graphic design, logo and design contests will constrain you with rules and requirements. However, you can also view these not as restraints but as guideposts to help you direct your energies more efficiently.

Remember that your art will face much analysis and criticism, but if you do win, then it was well worth it. You will need to bring your A-game every time, should you choose to pursue this path.

Remember to review the rules and regulations of the contests, specifically with regards to the Intellectual Property rights after submission.

Like the previous method, you can submit your design services at <http://www.warriorforum.com/warriors-hire>.

Another great site is <http://fiverr.com>. Services offered on this site are high in demand.

6. Web Design

Because first impressions count, all websites need good web design.

However, not all websites are created equal. Some are nicer to look at, some are so-so, and others look outdated or just plain yuck.

Web design can pay a lot, but you will need to compete with many strong web designers. This should not be a discouragement, but a challenge that can be overcome!

In web design, you will have to concern yourself greatly with things like layout, color schemes, font faces and more. However, more important than the individual components of design is your ability to deliver a consistent look across all pages of the website.

There has to be a “theme” and also a seamless overall look that binds the whole website together. Even a slight shift in the position of the header or footer can be a jarring and unfavorable experience for the user.

Here are some things you will want to keep in mind: color theory, size and proportion of page elements, readability, bandwidth load, and user-friendliness. It’s a lot to keep in mind, but these are all essential for any great website design.

Discussing each of these would take a whole book in itself, so we had best leave them at that.

There’s a common joke about how web designers face problems with the translation of the clients’ wishes into the design. At most, this is only a half-joke. As a web designer, you will need to have very high quality communication with your client, and we are not talking about the clarity of your webcam and microphone.

You and your client should be able to converse and exchange ideas with each party understanding what’s being discussed. Without this communication, you will end up doing many revisions and facing much frustration.

7. Web Development

If web design concerns itself with the appearance of the webpages, web development concerns itself with the underlying structure of the website. To give an analogy, web designers are responsible for the control panel with all the buttons, bells, and whistles, while web developers ensure that all the wires are laid out and attached correctly.

However, that analogy is oversimplifying it. A web developer's world is highly technical, with many different technologies to consider. Aside from knowing these technologies, a web developer also needs to think about how they can be applied and integrated with each other. Compatibility can mean the difference between a few copy-and-pasted program statements and a programming purgatory.

Web developers use various technologies that enable websites to work as they do. Databases, security, bandwidth management, responsiveness, and so many technical criteria keep web developers busy. There is no end to the demand for these services, and if you can deliver high-quality results then you can find yourself rolling in the dough.

Compared to the other proven methods to make money online, web development is the most technical and logical. Programming is not just knowing the code structures and constructs; it is also a mindset. Logic is essential because not only does it enable the programmer to construct the

website in an organized and efficient manner, but it also allows succeeding programmers to understand the code easily.

This is one method that you cannot just jump into. It will require training and practice, not to mention self-promotion to get clients. It is not for the faint of heart, but the potential rewards are appropriately great too. Once you get your skills up to par, build a few websites on free hosts so you can have something to show in your portfolio. Also, don't forget to build and trick out your own website, so potential customers can get a feel for what you can do for them.

8. Create Your Own Information Product – Text

A trend that has seen massive growth in the past few years is that of information products. Information products are basically any constructed item containing information that customers may find valuable in one way or another.

The most common type of information product is the electronic book or e-book. When you put your thoughts down on digital paper and package it as a salable product, then you already have an information product.

You can start typing out an e-book using basic word processing software like Microsoft Word or the free alternative called OpenOffice available at www.openoffice.org

The hardest part of using information products to make money is not the creation, but the marketing. Setting aside the amount of competition you will face, it is not exactly easy to get people to part with their money for things that have no physical form – though in the past couple of years this mindset has been changing. Nevertheless, you will need to put your writing prowess into not just the creation of the product but also in its promotion.

The length of a text information product varies, but normally it is significantly longer than any given “article”. That means you are looking at something that is at least a couple thousand words long, written in an organized manner and packaged to be a cohesive unit. That may sound like a task and a half, but experienced writers can do this naturally.

Of course, with any material that gets this long, you will need to consider editing. Editing is the process where someone (preferably not yourself) reviews your work for contiguity, flow, and value per section, aside from the usual spelling and grammatical errors.

If you have friends or family members who don’t mind helping you out, then ask them. Don’t forget to acknowledge them in your book’s public incarnation!

In practice, you can even get others to write your books for you, but you must not forget to read it yourself and edit as needed. It should come out sounding like you, or else you risk being “busted” for using a ghost writer.

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