

## There's Cash to Be Had Online!

Is there really anyone who doesn't want to make money online? It's an appealing idea, but it's also fraught with problems. After all, statistics suggest that for every single legitimate opportunity, there are another sixty that are complete scams. Almost everyone wants to believe that there's some piece of magic floating around that allows you to make money without putting any effort into it, and this is especially true online. Remember work from home scams just a few decades ago? There were claims you could make hundreds of dollars a week just by stuffing envelopes for various companies. As marketing moved into the online world, the scams only got more complex. So, are there actually ways to make money online without getting involved in a scam? Absolutely. The simple truth, though, is that all of them require hard work. Sure, the opportunities come with real rewards, but there's a huge difference between those legitimate jobs and those that just aren't going to pay off. Here are a few real opportunities you may want to consider.

- **Get a Real Job, Online.** If you actually want to make money at home, one way to do it is get a very real job online. Most of the scams out there target people who just want to work a few hours a week, and with any real job, you're going to have to put more time in it than that. There are industries with online job opportunities that pay just as well as offline jobs. Customer service is a big one, but there are also other choices like programming, graphic design, data entry, transcription, accounting, and even teaching.
- **Consider Surveys.** There are some survey scams floating around out there, and this is the reason this one gets such a bad rap from many websites that review work from home scams. Just because there are a few bad apples, though, doesn't mean you have to throw out all of them, and you can actually make some cash taking surveys. You need a company that is associated with an actual market-research firm, as well as one that doesn't make it sound like you'll make your fortune just by making a click here and there twice a week. The problem with this choice is that most market research firms are looking for those within a specific demographic, so you might not qualify. Be honest in your profile and try to apply to a number of different survey companies.
- **Paid Browsing Works.** As with online surveys, there are some stinkers in this category, but thanks to the sheer number of retail dollars spent in the world of online marketing, allowing someone to study your own browsing habits is a big deal. SwagBucks is the biggest name in this world, and they pay for those who browse, those who shop, and those who play online. They even work to protect your privacy. This isn't a big earner, but if you're online a lot anyway, you may as well get paid for it.
- **Turn Your Site Into Cash.** There was a time when you needed a level of expertise to run your own site. That time is long gone. Thanks to platforms like WordPress, you can create your own site in a matter of minutes. Once you establish yourself with advertisers like AdSense, you can make quite a bit if you have the right niche. The only drawback to this opportunity is that you might not see the cash for several months as you work to build a real content base, but if you'll work for it, you'll find success.

- **Write Your Own Checks.** If you can write, you can make money online. Writing is easily one of the simplest online job opportunities you're going to find, and thanks to the ongoing growth of sites, you're likely to find many people who demand solid writing services. You can find both short and long term opportunities with companies who need writers. You could also submit your original content to sites that offer revenue-sharing arrangements. You write what you want, and you earn part of what the ads generate on those pages. It's not going to turn into a pot of gold, but it may help you get through the holiday season.
- **Work At the Micro Level.** Not everything can be handled by a computer these days, and often companies need to outsource some of those tasks. For example, maybe you have some photo editing work in your background. You could work for a company that simply needs their photos retouched for their new site. Quite a few sites like Microwork and AgentAnything have listings for jobs like these, and they're not all within a specialized skill set. Sometimes it might involve simple tasks anyone could take on.
- **Point and Shoot.** Good with a camera? Stock photos can be sold online to lots of different sites. You don't even have to shoot anything interesting. Basic things like computers, desks, chairs, and even your dog qualify in there. Someone buys your photo, and you get paid. You can utilize sites like iStockPhoto for your new business or you could simply look around for people who need help on sites like eLance.

It really is possible to get paid online, but it takes some tenacity and a bit of digging to find those opportunities that will pay off. P.T. Barnum said, "There's a sucker born every minute." You don't have to be the next sucker in the world of online work. Just do your research before you take on a new job opportunity.