



Selling Your Time For Money Through Freelancing

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Introduction

Decades ago, freelancing meant going to a friend's or uncle's shop to work extra hours after you had logged out of your day job. It could also mean having to babysit neighborhood kids during the weekends while their parents go on date nights or do errands.

Today, the Internet has provided a platform that enables you to work extra hours from home. Yes, the regular 9 to 5 job indeed presents its own set of pros and cons. It is limited in terms of space and hours. You must be at the office during those hours. The salary is also limited unless your benefits include commissions and overtime pay. However, there is a certainty about it: the salary will be there for sure, and you can relax after your shift. If you are the manager or someone with extra responsibilities, this may not be the case, but your salary may reflect the additional compensation.

So, why do people still lean towards freelancing? The industry has even created a term for itself: the gig economy.

Freelancing presents a lot of freedom. It enables the freelancer to work whenever and wherever. This flexibility allows him the freedom to respond to other responsibilities he may have at home or elsewhere. It also presents a lot of uncertainty, as the fledgling freelancer finds himself navigating the often intricate world of freelancing. Sutherland et al., in their journal article, "Work Precarity and Gig Literacies in Online Freelancing," have narrated some of the other issues that may arise in such a setup. They believe that freelancing is challenging to navigate for some because it does not come with the support that you usually get from officemates; it also does not come with the comfort of a regular job.

Selling your time as a freelancer equates to being free, yes, but it ultimately better serves those who have the extra drive and sense of autonomy. Many others will find themselves floating aimlessly in the gig economy's virtual world. So, if you want to fully assimilate yourself into this world, you need some help. This eBook tries to provide you with such assistance.



It is easy to get carried away when you are online. You are offering services to people who have not met you in person. You also discover that many of them do not really care what resume you present to them; they are more interested in the skills that you can offer. So, even if you have sent them a long list of achievements, they will still ask you for a sample.

Some freelancers do not dive in quite so blindly. They have their resumes and online portfolios polished and ready to be shared. The portfolios come with samples, while offline samples can also be made available when requested.

It is at this point that the freelancer should start pondering how he can zero in on a persona. After all, some law students have done programming for clients on a freelance basis. Engineers have written science articles for online journals. While your academic background provides most employers and clients with an idea of what you can bring to the table, it does not prevent you from starting a completely new persona online.

What do you really want to offer in your free time?

