# How to Start a Money Making Blog

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# A Simple Guide on

# How to Start a Money Making Blog

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# Introduction

Blogging gives millions of people the opportunity to express themselves while sharing information they feel people really want and will benefit from.

While most bloggers start out blogging for fun, many get to a point where earning a living becomes an exciting part of the equation.

Full-time bloggers often spend more than 8 hours a day working on their content to ensure they keep the information relevant. Getting paid to do so gives bloggers further incentive to continue blogging.

Making money blogging can be accomplished in a variety of ways. Whether you choose to use one, or all, of these methods below, be sure to research thoroughly before committing to anything.

Finally, the three blogging benefits that are a magnet to millions (including me), is that blogging makes you location independent, has literally unlimited upside potential, while YOU control your daily schedule.

If you are new to blogging, you would be smart to read through this entire guide to familiarize yourself with the money making options presented here. You can then select the ones that appeal to you most for a closer look.

After that, you will be able to experiment with the one that appeals to you the most. Keep learning about it, start a trial run and see where it takes you. You will need to adjust your approach as you go. Your first try is unlikely to be a resounding success.

But the more you learn, and the more you specialize in your chosen option, the greater your ultimate success will be.

This is the process that most successful bloggers followed in taking their blogs to the top earning ranks.

Only your persistence and hard work will determine how far you go.

If you haven't yet set up a blog, follow the easy step by step blog set up tutorial below.

## **Easy Blog Set Up Tutorial**

# **Getting Started**

The most important step is the first one: **what subject do you want to blog about**, this will be your niche.

It should be something you really like so you will be motivated to write about it on a regular basis. If you are knowledgeable about your topic you will be ahead of the game.

While you want to make your blog unique, which means you most likely will have a narrow focus, you also need to make sure that the topic you choose provides you plenty of opportunities to keep writing about.

Before committing yourself to your niche, you should do some research into successful blogs in your niche. You can then decide what angle you can take to make your blog stand out.

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#### Pick a Domain Name and Web Host

Before you set up your own blog you need to choose a domain name and a web host. Those new to blogging find it easier to register both domain and hosting with one company. This keeps things simple and easy for you to work with.

**Domain Name**: This is the website address people use to enter your blog.

It is usually Your Blog Name.com.

Choose a *short, descriptive but catchy name* that people will remember. Use the link below to find out if the domain name you've chosen is available.

## **Domain Availability**

**Web Hosting**: This is where your blog pages are stored. There are a variety of hosting companies that cater to different websites styles. Choose one that fits you and your blog.

While the WordPress platform is free, there is usually a three or four dollar monthly fee to pay for domain and web hosting registration fees.

#### **Bluehost: Best Hosting Site**

One of the best hosting sites is <u>Bluehost</u>. They offer service to over 2 million people worldwide, so they must be doing something right. With 24-hour support 7 days a week, this company is built to succeed so that you will succeed.

**Bluehost** has a simple installation process, is reliable and offers great customer service.

If you are not happy with your Bluehost account, you can request a refund if you do so within 30 days of purchase.

#### **Bluehost** offers additional services:

Domain Privacy Protection - for around \$15 a year you can opt to have your private details (name, address and contact information) kept private.

Or you could save that money and get yourself a Post Office Box as I have done, and not worry about privacy issues.

**Themes**: Lost for ideas? Bluehost has enough themed pages to make any blog page shine. Make your website uniquely you by picking and choosing what works for you.

After trying other WordPress Hosting providers, I found that Bluehost is the place that all beginning bloggers should start this adventure.

#### **Install Bluehost**

To install your hosting company, simply follow the instructions of their website as shown in the screenshot below. Don't hesitate to ask them if you need additional help with installation.

Currently, Bluehost is offering a special for \$3.95 a month, this includes a **FREE domain name** for a year.

New bloggers should check out the **Bluehost Choice Plus** plan. It costs a bit more, but you also get more unlimited features than a start-up plan. This is the perfect plan to choose if you know you are going to grow your blog or are planning to host multiple websites, which most of us do.

#### The **Bluehost Choice Plus** plan includes:

- A free domain name
- High quality, reliable and fast web hosting
- One simple click installs and 24 hours a day support

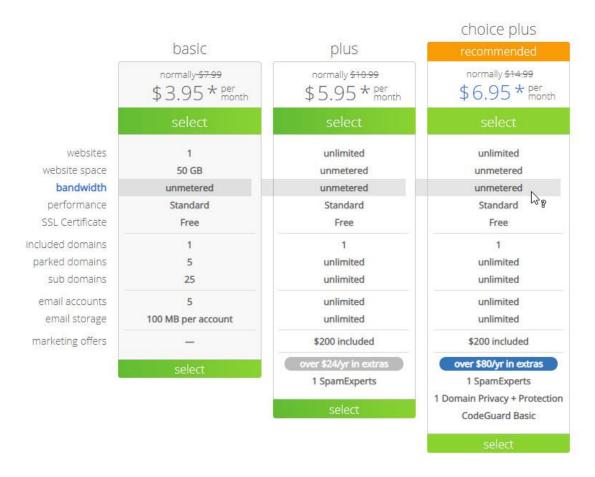
- Ability to host numerous websites on one account
- Unlimited email accounts
- Unlimited email storage

Click the "Get Started Now" button and start creating your own blog.

Now it is time to choose a plan.

#### **Package Information**

## Select Your Plan



The 36 month Plus or Choice Plus plans are the best deals. However, a 1 or 2 year plan works just as well. The Choice Plus package offers domain privacy for free.

I personally use a Post Office Box, so I don't have to worry about disclosing my home address.

After choosing your plan you will be directed to another page where you enter your domain name. You can check to see if your desired domain is available by inserting it in the box below:

Once you have a domain name registered, then just enter that name in the box on the right side of the page, as shown below.

If you need to choose a new domain name simply type the name you want in the box labeled "Create a new domain" then click the next button.

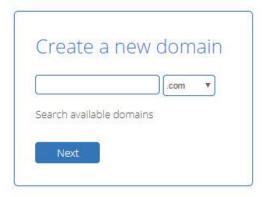
If the name is available you will be told to proceed.

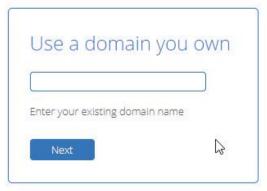
If that name is already in use then Bluehost will show you domain names close to what you want. You can choose one of their suggestions or try another name.

Eventually your domain name choice will be available.

# Next we'll set up your domain.

Your domain will be your website's address.
You can create a new domain, use one you already own, or make one later.





Or you can skip this step and create a domain later.

I'll create my domain later >

#### **Sign Up Now**

Now that you have your domain name, you are ready to start setting up your new hosting. The page you should be on after choosing your domain name is the basic domain registration page. Put all your account information here and then you can move on.

You can skip the Package Extras... you don't really need them.

# Package Information

Account Plan
Hosting Price
S95.40 (\$7.95 for 12 months)
Let's Encrypt SSL
Free - terms

# Package Extras

Codeguard Basic

■ - \$ 2.99 per month (Billed to end of hosting term)
More information

■ - \$ 1.99 per month (Billed annually at \$23.88/yr)
More information

SiteLock Security Essential

Savings
Total

■ - \$ 3.99 per month (Billed annually at \$47.88/yr)
More information

\$60.48 (38% off)

\$179.16
Add tax exemption

#### **Account information**

Fill in your personal information... be sure to provide a working email where you can receive login information and plan updates from Bluehost.



Billing information is next, then you are on your way to creativity!

# Payment Information

Pay by credit card, or see more payment options

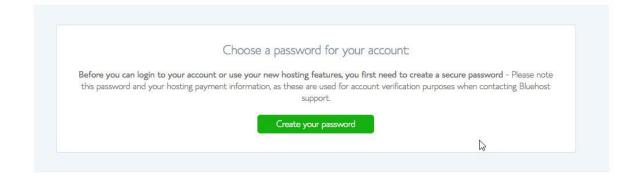


#### **Login Details**

Bluehost will send you an email with all your account and login details listed. Remember to check your Spam folder because unknown mail often ends up in that box. Keep this information in a safe place, as you may need it in the future.

After you pay, you will be directed to a page where you create your WordPress dashboard login password.

Choose a password with a good mix of upper and lower case letters, numbers and a few characters. The more unique you make it, the harder you will make it for hackers to get into your website. After you have your password set, click the green button and go from there.

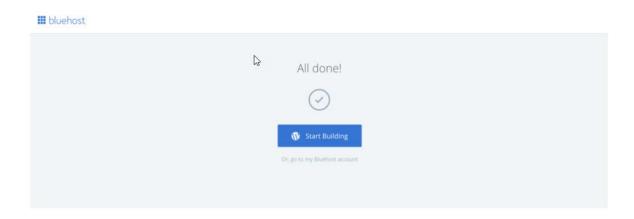


## **WordPress Installation**

You're signed up, you've paid, now you are ready to start creating.

Using the information you got in your welcome email, login to your Bluehost account.

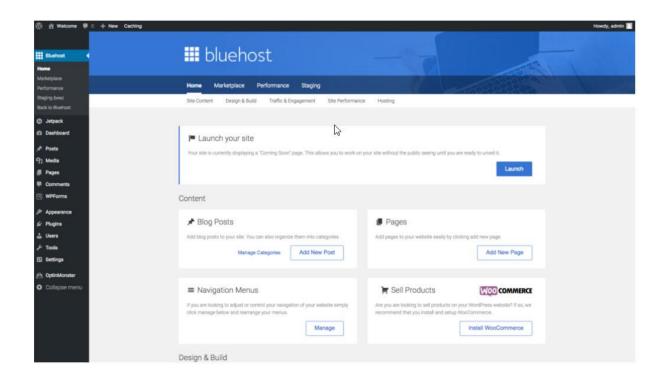
Click on the blue "Start Building" button.



It may take a couple of minutes to load WordPress on your hosting account. Once it is loaded then you can login.

There is a link that says "I don't need help". If you are reading this and using this tutorial, click this link.

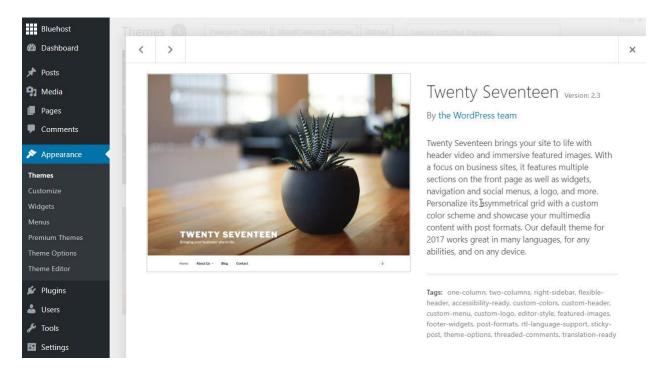
On the top left of the Bluehost screen you will find the Bluehost menu where you can click "Posts" to start a new post, "Pages" to start a new page, "Appearance" to select a theme, or "Plugins" to install a plugin in your new website.



## **WordPress Themes**

A WordPress theme is a template that allows you to customize your website. You will want to consider the type of blog you are creating. You can choose one of many free themes WordPress offers you, which is probably a good idea as you're starting out.

There are paid themes at sites like Mythemeshop.com or Themeforest.net. A basic, clean, uncluttered theme is advisable. Just make sure your theme selection is configured to automatically adjust to mobile devices.



Once you choose a theme, you simply click the "Activate" button under the picture and the theme will be quickly installed on your website. If you find you don't like it, you can easily switch to another theme by repeating the process with your new theme selection.

## **Uploading a Theme You Purchased**

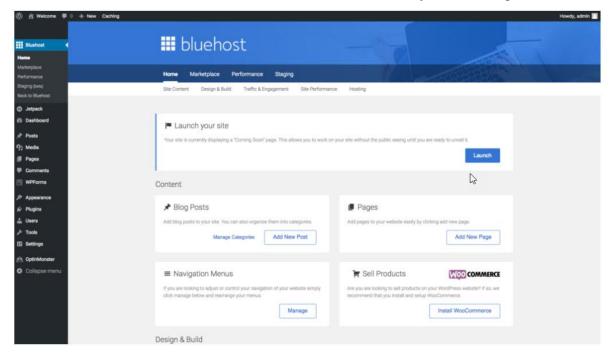
If you decided to invest in your own premium theme, you have to upload the zip file it comes in. Here's what you do, click on:

Appearance >
Themes >
Upload > (This will appear at the top of the page, then you click "Upload Theme"
Chose File >
Install Now >

And you proceed in the same manner you add an attachment to an email.

# **Launching Your Own Blog**

Now click the blue "Launch" button so the whole world can see your new blog.



Congratulations, and

Have fun with your creativity!

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# How to Make Money with Your Blog

# Affiliate Marketing

Affiliate marketing is probably the most popular money-making option among bloggers, and it is my favorite one as well.

It simply consists of you selling other people's products or services on your blog.

You may not have any control over the content someone wants you to sell, but you also don't have the hassle of creating the eBook, online courses or whatever else they offer up.

With affiliate programs, you are free to diversify and add multiple affiliate links to your blog pages. Having more than one affiliate offer is optimal because if one seller removes their offer or stops selling their product you will not be left without a cash flow.

## **Finding Affiliate Marketing Programs**

There are numerous ways to find affiliate marketing programs:

- 1. Think about the products you already use and like. Find these companies online and see if they have affiliate programs that you can apply for.
- 2. Talk to people you know that already experience success online. If they have a great product or service, ask them if you can promote them on your blog site.
- 3. Use platforms designed to help bloggers find affiliate programs that not only enhance your product or services but will make money.

A few of these are:

- Offervault.com is a search engine which gives you access to thousands upon thousands of affiliate offers you can promote.
- Amazon Associates (https://affiliate-program.amazon.com/ is free and offers tons of affiliate offers for choosy bloggers.
- CJAffiliate (www.cj.com) has helped tens of millions of people learn about and establish affiliate accounts.

4. Keep searching because there are so many affiliate programs out there. The more work you put in to find these programs, the more money you will eventually make.

## **Converting Readers into Buyers**

First of all you need to think strategically about what you are promoting and how you go about making readers click those links.

Two pearls of wisdom: promote only those products or services that you have used yourself; and, be honest and genuine with your readers.

## **Promoting Your Affiliate Links**

Promoting your affiliate links is as easy as going to various social media sites and spreading the word. Well, it does take time and commitment to do this on a consistent basis to keep the money flowing in, but so worth it. Don't limit yourself to Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest, there are plenty of other social media venues to explore. And, don't forget your own social media groups outside the mainstream; chat rooms and message boards can also be helpful in promoting your affiliate links.

You can also create a special email list to share the affiliate links. Your customer base would love to know about new products or services in your niche area.

It really helps if you already have a very loyal following. The more people that trust you and your word, the more opportunities there will be for them to visit your blog and click on the affiliate links.

## **Organizing Your Affiliate Links**

It is best to keep things nice and tidy when working with affiliate links. It makes things easy to manage as your collection of links begins to grow.

There are many online tools available to help you easily organize and maintain all your links.

Thirsty Affiliates is a free tool that helps bloggers make money. They work with and for you, to insure you grow a successful blog.

For those of you looking for more help in this area, there is a course offered by Making Sense of Affiliate Marketing. This course will convince you that you can be a successful blogger. Their step-by-step process helps you understand the whole concept of affiliate marketing, and how to make it work for you.

This course also has a checklist of all the things you should avoid. The number one thing to avoid is being fake. Your readers can easily tell if you write about, or endorse, a product you know nothing about.

It might be wise to take this course before you start your affiliate marketing journey. A well-armed blogger is smarter and makes money quickly.

# **Different Types of Affiliate Programs**

- One Tier: you receive a commission whenever a sale comes from your affiliate link.
- Two Tier: you make commission for referring other affiliates once they start generating sales.
- Climbing Tiers: more commissions earned as you continue to increase your sales.
- Cookies: it may take up to 90 days to receive commission on the sale when your affiliate link is clicked.
- Pay Per Lead: you receive commission based upon how many leads you send to the business.
- Recurring Commissions: subscription services offer you commission as long as there are people signed up for the service.
- Sitewide Commissions: you get commission on any product bought on the affiliate's website.

Because of the variety of affiliate marketing programs, it is wise to do some research into each type. Knowledge about each one will help you choose the types of programs that will work best with your blog styles and ideals.

# Advertising

## **Cost Per Click**

Cost Per Click (CPC) and Pay Per Click are interchangeable names for the same thing and is the most used method for advertising online. Simply put, CPC means that advertisers pay you every time someone clicks the ad on your page. How much you are paid depends upon the advertiser and how much traffic your site generates.

#### **Google Adsense**

Many bloggers start this journey using Google Adsense. It is simple and it is free.

Ads are placed on your blog pages and you receive payment for every visitor that clicks on that ad.

Adsense offers you ads that fit in your specific niche. You can pick and choose which ads actually appear on your page. You even have the option of changing the way text ads look. You are in control of what ads are placed on your blog.

Performance reports help you see where you need to make changes in your ad content in order to increase your profits. You can easily check these stats on the AdSense mobile app.

#### Media.net

The Yahoo Bing Network's Media.net is a step up from Adsense. While it does take media.net some time to optimize ads for your blog, they do place relevant ads by focusing on keywords. The more you use media.net, the better the algorithm works in determining what keywords work best for your particular audience.

One nice thing about media.net is the account rep who is assigned to help you generate as much revenue as you can. Your rep is there to give you tips to optimize ads for your niche site.

#### **Infolinks**

Infolinks also offers a pay per click revenue source. Infolinks offers options like:

- inframe ads vertical banners on either side of your website,
- insearch ads ads that are placed on YouTube search results pages,

- intag ads ads using tag clouds and other related tags, and
- in text ads ads places in text that are double underlined.

#### Chitika

Chitika uses contextual advertising - targeted advertising - on a variety of websites and in displays on mobile browsers. Selected randomly by an automated systems, these ads are all selected based on what content appears on the user's website.

The best thing about about this service is they pay you via PayPal after you make just \$10.

While all CPC or PPC pay per click, the payment methods vary on all ad sites. Most pay through PayPal, eCheck, Wire Transfer, Western Union, Payoneer or ACH. Be sure to check this out before committing to anyone. You want to be able to retrieve the money you earned.

## **Cost Per Thousand**

Although similar to cost per click, this method pays you for every 1,000 clicks. Cost per thousand (CPM) offers you a better income stream than CPC. You are guaranteed a certain income when maximum impressions are made.

## **Pulsepoint**

Currently, Pulsepoint is mostly sold to those with traffic based in the United States, and those with mostly original content on their blog.

They let you set your own prices. The best advice here is to always set your price higher than whatever you are currently using for advertising. Only commit if they can beat the price of whatever you are already using.

Pulsepoint pays every 45 days via PayPal, check or EFT.

## Pop-ups

Okay, we all hate pop-ups - the world agrees. However, this option is simple and is another way to generate advertising revenue. These ads can be either pop-up or pop-under ads.

## **PopAds**

PopAds works best with those who speak English. Using pop-under ads you get to choose price and how often pop-unders appear for your visitors.

Payment is made via PayPal, AlertPay or Wire Transfer.

## Write Reviews

Writing reviews about services and products you like and trust is a great way to make money. You set your own price per review. Depending upon your niche, your rank and your traffic, you can command up to \$500 for one review.

#### **SponsoredReviews**

With SponsoredReviews you write posts on your own blog about whatever subject your client wants. You can choose from a network of dozens of advertisers. These posts should be as honest as can be; write in-depth about how you really feel about said service or product.

Payment is via PayPal.

#### PayU2Blog

Similar to SponsoredReviews, PayU2Blog pays you to write informative blog posts on your own website. You have to sign up for this service and wait to see if your blog fits in their niche world.

PayU2Blog assigns you topics to write about. Again, just being honest in your writing is what these posts require. You don't need to endorse a product or service if you don't believe in it. Honest opinions are what is wanted most.

Payment is via PayPal.

## Sell Text Links

Sites with good traffic should try text-link ads. With text-link ads you simply link text from your page to another site.

#### LinkWorth

Linkworth is the most popular text-link network site. Here you will choose from a variety of options such as paid reviews or text ads.

Payment is through PayPal, check or wire transfer.

## Sell Ads

Websites that generate a lot of traffic benefit from selling ad space directly on their blog pages.

Simply add an 'advertise with us' page on your website. List all the formats of ads available and the cost per month. Be sure to include your Google page rank, your Alexa rank and any relevant stats that buyers should be aware of. The more buyers know about you and your blog, the better informed choices they can make to advertise on your pages.

Here are a couple alternatives to going the 'do it yourself' route:

#### **BlogAds**

BlogAds is a marketplace that lets you list your ads for potential clients.

You earn 70% ad revenue for each sale, while the marketplace takes the other 30% as commission.

Payment is via PayPal or wire transfer.

#### **BuySellAds**

Another marketplace that lets you list your ads.

BuySellAds only keeps a 25% commission, leaving 75% for your revenue stream. They hold your earnings and let you remove money twice a month to your own PayPal account. Both of these marketplaces require that your site is generating a lot of traffic. If you are just getting started on your blog, it is best to wait to use these two areas of advertising.

These are only a sample of what advertising revenue streams are available for use on your blog. The internet is a vast resource for finding exactly what you need. Hopefully, these ideas will get you started down the path of making money on your blog through various advertising methods.

# **Services**

# What Makes Your Blog Unique?

The vastness of the internet ensures that there will be many other blogs similar to yours. If you want to make money, your blog should stand apart from the crowd. So, what makes your blog unique?

Do you offer greater services? Better customer service? Cheaper Prices? Better deals? Only you can answer these questions.

You need to create a list of what makes your blog different from every other one out there. After you create a good list you need to create a USP (Universal Selling Proposition); this is nothing more than the list you just made that you share on your site that shows everyone who visits what you have to offer that puts you above your competitor's.

Having a USP is important because it shows potential clients that you are that 'step above the rest' and an expert in your field.

To learn more about how a USP works visit https://fizzle.co. The site offers a free month of training, or you can just browse the site for more information. Be sure to read the information on this page: https://fizzle.co/sparkline/unique-selling-proposition.

Remember, the better your USP, the more clients you attract. Don't be shy here, write down everything you have to offer, even if it seems trivial. As we all know, more is better than less - so fill that list.

## **Services You Offer**

Take a close look at your blog and your USP to decide what services you can offer. If you blog about creating easy-to-set-up websites, offer your service to create a site for someone who may not want to do so themselves. Offer at a price point low enough to entice clients, but at a point where you do make a profit. Your USP lets clients know about all your services.

If you share recipes and tips, offer up an online cooking class, or offer to cook or bake for people in your own community.

The ideas for services are as endless as the number of bloggers around the world.

## Offer Free or Discounted Services

Offering your service for free, or at a discounted rate, to fellow bloggers or experts in your niche is not only a fantastic way to attract new clients, it is a great way to build your online portfolio.

Promotional products and services always put you that step above others. Everyone enjoys paying less and getting something worth more.

## **Services That Bloggers Can Provide**

This varies a lot by niche, but many bloggers can (and do) offer the same type of service. The following list shows various ways bloggers can offer their services.

- Community bloggers help others build an online community.
- Consultancy could be any niche and can involve many types of services.
- Creative Services anything that is created by the blogger
- Maintaining Lists maintaining lists of those looking for specific things like writing or tech support. Offering this list for a monthly fee.
- Mentors guide someone through whatever it is they wish to learn.
- Software Support bloggers offer software products online, with further help as needed.
- Sponsored Posts bloggers create the content for sponsored posts on their personal blog, this include text, graphics and sound.

Here are a few examples of successful services:

- Tech blogger can offer locals hands-on help fixing personal electronic devices.
- Consultants help businesses increase their website performance by pairing them with people who can provide every service they may need that you cannot provide.
- Coaching can be anything from cooking to exercise and sports. Offer online classes or a oneon-one live help session.
- Writing freelance writers are in high demand.
- Graphic Design as with writing, many people prefer to have others design their website.
- All-in-One offer blog management services to include most of the above and more.

## **Be Seen and Heard**

Now is the time to consciously think about what you write - every time you write a blog post or a quick post on a message board or chat. A quick mention of your services in every social media venue is a great way to keep yourself 'out there.'

When you share valuable information in your emails, blogs or posts your reader's will (1) see that you are knowledgeable in your field, and (2) want to know more. This will lead them to your blog, and, hopefully, to buying your services.

There is nothing wrong with including a plug for your blog and services on guest posts you write. The more you share your unique services and blog, the more you are 'seen and heard.'

## **Showcase Your Service**

It is important to share your blog with others, it is also important that you keep your USP and service blogs at the top of your web pages.

It is even more important that you showcase your services on other top blogs within your niche. There is no better way to increase your brand and build your portfolio at the same time. And, there is no better way to reach your future clients. Turnover is quick on most blogs, often leaving your post buried. Writing more often will allow your posts to be seen in the top spots on topnotch blog sites.

# Digital Products

Selling digital products on your blog is probably one of the easiest ways to make money - if you are really creative and really committed. Once you have a finished product, the selling seems to happen right away.

However, getting to that finished product can be a difficult and trying journey. You have the knowledge and power to create a product or service that could possibly change the world. Your success means staying committed to the end; this is no easy task and many people never make it.

It is normal to feel as though your product or service might not be good enough for the world and will be a total failure. You also might be worried that no one will purchase something they could possibly find for free online. While these feelings are normal, you can easily move through them if you have the information you need to succeed.

No one can tell you what product to offer, but it is always a good idea to listen to what your readers are saying. If your email is constantly filled with the same questions, considering answering them all in a way that you can sell this information.

The best way to jump start your campaign selling digital products is to offer those on your email list a discount for buying your product. Make sure you set the point low enough for most people to purchase immediately and be sure to tell your readers that this discount will not last for long.

Here are some of the most popular ways to 'go digital':

## E-Books

The most popular digital product is the simple e-book. Armed with all the questions your followers have sent you, take the time to thoroughly answer each one, then put them together to create a very informative e-book.

People are looking for quick solutions and many would prefer to buy an e-book that offers them solutions to many problems all at once. It is often easier just to click 'buy now' than to search for hours looking for the same information.

A simple e-book can be written and converted to a downloadable PDF. E-books are a great starter product that gets your name, brand and ideas out to the public in a fast and efficient way. People purchase your e-book and receive it instantly, reading it as they see fit. Neat and tidy for those looking for just that information.

E-book topics can be a vast as the number of books in a library. Remember, you are creating this e-book to enhance your blog - make it relevant to the material you know and already share.

Shout Me Loud ( https://www.shoutmeloud.com/apps-create-ebook.html ) offers beginners a way to get started writing their first e-book.

## **Printables**

Printables can mean anything from simple graphics you create and sell, to blueprints for building homes. If you can design and create printable patterns, worksheets or planners, people will want to purchase them.

Looking for - and finding - just the right picture or graphic, just the right sewing pattern, or blue print to build a castle bed is worth paying for online. Your printables are a sure bet if people want your product and don't want to shop around outside the internet to find something else.

Michelle Hickey (https://www.michellehickey.design/10-tips-for-creating-printables/) has a great website that offers you 10 tips to help you create awesome printables.

## **Online Courses**

Like e-book subjects, the list is endless for online (or e-course) subjects. The difference between the two is much greater. You should have some type of written manual prepared (such as an e-book) that supports your online class. Creating downloadable worksheets and video lessons means you must commit to the students who sign up for your classes. Answering questions in email might be easy enough for you to handle on a daily basis. Some people create private Facebook groups to bring a class together for greater feedback between students and teacher.

While you can fill your e-book with informative material, your e-course should be designed to help people solve a problem that are already experiencing.

ThinkIFic (https://www.thinkific.com/blog/29-free-tools-online-course/) shares 29 free tools to help you get started creating your own online courses.

The best part about creating your own digital products is you have control, work from home, and enjoy all the perks of your online business.

#### Furthermore:

- little shipping is involved unless you sell physical products
- creating your printable product can be accomplished in a week or two
- people love being rewarded with the product immediately
- the profit is all yours, minus a transaction fee here and there
- you can automate the process and sit back and collect the cash
- and, you have complete control of your printables, unlike other sources of blogging revenue.

# **Conclusion**

Blogging is hard work, but the hard work you put into your blog will determine just how successful you will ultimately be. Like any good project, monetizing your blog will take time.

Start slow and work your way up to larger and more profitable ways to earn money blogging. Soon, you too, will be able to say, "I did it!" when someone asks you about creating a successful blog.

And remember, the one benefit that's attractive to millions is that blogging makes you location independent, while *YOU* control your schedule.

As a blogger, success and smiles are almost interchangeable.

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