Exploring Remote Career Options

Working from home can be a wonderfully empowering and rewarding way to make a living. Freedom and control are great, but there are challenges, too.

The number of people working remotely has increased in recent years with advances in cloud and web-based communication, project management apps, and video conferencing technologies. The recent pandemic has accelerated the trend, proving to even the most skeptical that remote work can be highly productive.

Many kinds of jobs can be done remotely, but what types of jobs and fields are particularly well suited? And what are the pros and cons?

Success from afar

Here are a few fields that lend themselves to remote work:

- Customer Service/Call Centers
- Sales
- Computer Programming
- Data Entry and Coding
- Transcription
- Teaching/Tutoring
- Digital Marketing
- Medical Billing and Coding
- Freelance Writing
- Graphic Design & Web Development
Just like anything else, there are pros and cons to working remotely.

**I Love It!**

- ✓ I have the freedom to determine my own hours.
- ✓ My commute is 90 seconds.
- ✓ I can more easily manage other, non-work commitments.

**Well, Maybe Not.**

- ✗ It’s kind of weird working alone—I feel isolated.
- ✗ It’s harder to collaborate and communicate.
- ✗ It’s harder to motivate with no one around.

People who work remotely really enjoy the freedom and increased control over their time. The flip side: binge watching The Office is just a click of the remote away. Working remotely has its own challenges, requiring a different mindset and more self-discipline, but the rewards are there for those who can adjust.

**Explore remote work opportunities**

If you think a remote career might be for you, the next step is to see what’s out there. There are many, many job boards focused exclusively on remote work. Here are a few sites that offer listings, advice, and other support:

- **careersidekick.com** – Best Remote Job Boards” listing
- **workplaceless.com** – Five Best Places to Find Remote Jobs” listing
- **flexjobs.com** – a subscription site devoted to helping you find work-from-home and other flex-time jobs

Before you start setting up interviews, consider this: your current employer might just be open to a work-from-home arrangement. It doesn’t hurt to ask!