

BEYOND THE 9-5

SIDE HUSTLES UNLEASHED!

EXPLORE PROFITABLE VENTURES BEYOND THE 9-TO-5!



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Introduction

In an era where technology has bridged gaps, dissolved borders, and created a globally connected workspace, the concept of a 9-to-5 job is undergoing a radical transformation.

The advent of online side hustles signifies more than just the freedom to earn extra money; it represents a paradigm shift in our understanding of work, life, and success.

One of the undeniable advantages of this digital era is flexibility. Individuals no longer need to be tied to a desk or boxed within office hours.

They can seamlessly integrate work into life's ebb and flow, offering a unique opportunity to create a balance that resonates personally.

This shift also allows for diverse income streams, enabling many to leverage a myriad of skills, fuel passions, and seize opportunities that might otherwise remain unexplored in a conventional job setting.

Moreover, an online side hustle is more than just an income source—it's a real-world business school!

Whether it's sales, marketing, customer service, or a mix of all, you can garner hands-on experience and insights, often starting from the ground up, akin to an intense MBA crash course.

Such ventures not only pad bank accounts but can also pave the way to financial independence.

With the right strategies, what begins as a supplemental income stream can become a significant reservoir, providing the means to save, invest, and achieve financial milestones at an accelerated pace. 😊

But beyond financial gains, side hustles offer an invaluable sandbox for potential entrepreneurs.

Those contemplating diving into the vast ocean of business can first test their ideas in the relatively calmer waters of side hustling.

It's a platform to garner feedback, refine concepts, and make crucial pivots without the looming pressure of significant resource commitments.

So, without further delay, let's begin!

Freelance Writing

There's no doubt about it; content remains King.

Every blog post read, every product description browsed, and every e-book downloaded is a testament to the power and necessity of words.

So, it should come as no surprise that this constant demand has solidified freelance writing as one of the most popular and profitable online side hustles.

Freelance writing isn't just about crafting articles. The spectrum of opportunities is vast: from blog posts, product descriptions, and newsletters to technical manuals, ghostwriting for books, and even scriptwriting.

As businesses strive to create an online presence, the demand for diverse, high-quality written content has surged.

Starting Out

Identify Your Niche: While some writers are generalists, many find success (and better pay rates) by specializing in *specific* niches, be it technology, health, finance, or travel.

This not only sets you apart but allows you to develop expertise.

Build a Portfolio: This will be your showcase. Begin with personal projects, contribute to platforms like Medium or volunteer to write for local organizations.

Over time, this portfolio will be your most potent tool in acquiring clients.

Set Your Rates: Research what other writers in your niche charge. Remember, don't undervalue your work. As you gain experience and build a client base, you'll be in a position to command higher fees.

Finding Work

Freelance Platforms: Websites like Upwork and Freelancer are a good starting point. They can offer a plethora of job postings, though

competition can be fierce.

Networking: Engage in writer forums, attend webinars, and connect with potential clients or other writers on LinkedIn. A significant portion of writing gigs comes from referrals.

Cold Pitching: Research companies in your niche and reach out to them, proposing content ideas. It requires effort, but cold pitching can yield high-paying gigs.

The Road to Success

Continuous Learning: Writing is an evolving field. Engage in courses, attend workshops, and keep yourself updated with the latest trends in content creation.

Manage Your Time: Deadlines are sacrosanct in the writing world. Invest in productivity tools and create a writing schedule to ensure timely deliveries.

Feedback and Adaptation: Be open to feedback. Clients appreciate a writer who's willing to tweak and adapt. It helps hone your skills and build long-lasting client relationships.

Here are a few resources to help you get started:

KBoards: <https://www.kboards.com/>

Freelancer: <https://www.freelancer.com/>

Upwork: <https://www.upwork.com>

Prologger: <https://prologger.com/jobs/>

Absolute Write: <https://absolutewrite.com/forums/index.php>

Once you've planted your feet firmly in the freelance writing world, it's time to elevate your game.

Advanced freelancing goes beyond basic content creation—it delves into specialization, diversification, strategic networking, and ensuring consistent high-ticket projects.

Here are some advanced strategies to enhance your freelance writing trajectory:

Deep Dive into Specialization

Master a Sub-Niche: Going niche is good, but mastering a sub-niche can set you apart. For instance, instead of health, focus on holistic wellness or mental health.

Show Thought Leadership: Write in-depth articles or white papers on pertinent issues in your niche. Use platforms like LinkedIn or Medium to disseminate and position yourself as an expert.

Offer Consultation: As an expert, you can consult businesses on their content strategies, making you invaluable beyond just writing.

Diversify Your Skills and Services

Multimedia Integration: Incorporate elements like infographics, basic video scripts, or podcast outlines in your offerings, becoming a one-stop content solution.

Long-Form Content: Develop skills for e-books, white papers, or in-depth research reports, which usually command higher pay.

SEO Mastery: While basic SEO knowledge is crucial, advanced expertise—like understanding schema markup, voice search optimization, or featured snippets—can be a game-changer.

Leverage Tools for Efficiency

Advanced Writing Tools: Dive deeper into tools like Scrivener for long-form content or Hemingway Editor for content refinement.

CRM Systems: Tools like HubSpot or Zoho CRM can help manage client relationships, ensuring you never miss follow-ups or project deadlines.

Invoicing & Contracts: Platforms like AND.CO or Bonsai cater specifically to freelancers, handling contracts, proposals, and invoicing seamlessly.

Strategic Networking & Branding

Guest Posting: Write for industry-leading blogs or websites in your niche. It amplifies your visibility and asserts your authority.

Speak at Webinars & Workshops: Sharing your expertise in webinars or workshops can fetch both direct clients and referrals.

Write a Book: While this is a long-term investment, being an author gives unparalleled authority in your field.

Financial Management

Dynamic Pricing Strategy: Adjust your rates based on project complexity, turnaround times, and client demands.

Retainers & Recurring Gigs: Aim for long-term contracts or retainer agreements, ensuring steady income.

Invest Back: Attend premium courses, get certifications, or even hire a mentor. Investing in yourself directly boosts your value proposition.

Client Relationships

Over-Deliver Occasionally: Sending an additional piece, a refined strategy suggestion, or faster turnaround times can make clients see you as a valuable partner, not just a freelancer.

Feedback Loop: Constructive feedback isn't just for you. Offering clients insights on content performance can foster long-term collaborations.

Referral Systems: Encourage satisfied clients to refer others, possibly even offering discounts or additional services for successful referrals.

Incorporating these strategies will not only boost your revenue but also cement your reputation in the freelance writing world.

Digital Marketing Services

Offering digital marketing services is more than just understanding SEO or running ads; it's about crafting comprehensive strategies tailored to client needs and staying ahead of industry trends.

The realm of digital marketing is vast and multifaceted. Here's a deep dive into some core services:

Search Engine Optimization (SEO): This organic strategy improves a website's visibility in search engines.

Advanced strategies include voice search optimization, AI-driven SEO, and predictive search analysis.

Pay-Per-Click (PPC): Paid advertising on platforms like Google and Bing. Consider advanced tactics like dayparting, smart bidding using AI, and leveraging the Display Network for remarketing.

Social Media Marketing: Beyond basic posting, think about influencer collaborations, ephemeral content (like stories), and utilizing AI-driven analytics for campaign optimization.

Email Marketing: Move past newsletters. Implement segmentation, personalized content, and advanced drip campaigns.

Affiliate Marketing: Establish partnerships to promote products or services on a commission basis.

Advanced strategies involve high-ticket or recurring commission products and leveraging SEO with affiliate marketing.

Content Marketing: Creating valuable content to attract and retain customers. This includes long-form content, video marketing, podcasts, and interactive content like quizzes or webinars.

Advanced Digital Marketing Strategies

Omni-channel Marketing: Ensure a seamless user experience across all platforms, be it mobile, desktop, email, or in-app. It's about delivering consistent, yet platform-optimized content.

Data Analytics & Machine Learning: Utilize tools that offer predictive analytics, customer segmentation, and automated insights to refine marketing strategies.

Chatbots & AI: Deploy advanced chatbots that offer personalized product recommendations, support, and even drive sales.

Video SEO: With platforms like YouTube being the second largest search engine, optimizing video content is crucial. Think about video transcriptions, in-video annotations, and video schema markup.

Voice & Visual Search: As smart speakers and visual search gain traction, optimizing for these platforms becomes paramount.

Incorporate structured data, create voice-appropriate content, and ensure images are optimized for visual searches.

Interactive Content: Incorporate augmented reality (AR) experiences, interactive infographics, and immersive video content to engage users.

Personalization & Dynamic Content: Use AI-driven tools to deliver content tailored to user behavior, preferences, and past interactions.

Here are a few resources to help you get started:

Semrush SEO Training: <https://www.semrush.com/academy/>

Digital Marketer: <https://www.digitalmarketer.com/>

HubSpot Academy: <https://academy.hubspot.com/>

Google Skillshop: <https://skillshop.withgoogle.com/>

Embracing digital marketing as a side hustle or full-time venture requires a blend of continuous learning, agility, and the ability to anticipate or adapt to the ever-changing digital landscape.

With the right tools, strategies, and mindset, you can empower businesses to soar to new heights while ensuring your services remain indispensable! 😊

Affiliate Marketing

Ever wonder how that lifestyle influencer on Instagram, or that tech geek on YouTube, makes their cash?

The secret's out: it's often affiliate marketing!

This isn't about pasting links everywhere and hoping for the best. It's about diving into a world of potential passive income, leveraging trust, and genuinely providing value.

Let's cut the chase and get straight to how you can unlock the profitability of affiliate marketing.

Picture this: You rave about your new headphones to a friend. They buy it. The store gives you a cut.

Now, amplify this process online, and imagine hundreds or thousands acting on your recommendation.

Success in affiliate marketing goes beyond just sharing links. It's a blend of strategic promotion, trust-building, and staying updated with industry trends.

Here are a few ways to get started:

Selective Partnerships: Instead of promoting numerous products, select a few that align with your brand or niche. This not only builds trust but ensures higher conversion rates.

High-Ticket & Recurring Commission Products: Promoting products/services that offer significant commissions or recurring payments can amplify your earnings. For instance, many SaaS products offer monthly recurring commissions.

SEO-Driven Content: Creating content tailored to SEO can drive organic traffic to your affiliate links. This involves keyword research, backlink building, and optimizing content structure.

Utilizing Email Lists: Regularly engage your email subscribers with valuable content, integrating affiliate links naturally. Segmenting your list can allow for more targeted promotions.

Leverage Video Content: Platforms like YouTube are ripe for affiliate marketing. Product reviews, tutorials, and unboxing videos can seamlessly integrate affiliate links.

Value-Added Bonuses: Offering additional resources or bonuses when someone purchases through your affiliate link can be a deciding factor for many customers.

Track & Optimize: Use affiliate dashboard analytics to understand which strategies are working. Analyze click-through rates, conversion rates, and overall earnings to refine your approach.

Uphold Transparency: Always disclose your affiliate relationships to maintain trust. Not only is this ethical, but in many jurisdictions, it's also a legal requirement.

Keys to Cracking the Affiliate Marketing Code

Be Genuine: In a world full of fakes, authenticity is a currency. Promote products or services you truly believe in or personally use.

Engage & Understand Your Audience: Whether it's through blog comments, social media chats, or email, engage. Understand what they need and curate your recommendations accordingly.

SEO is Your BFF: Driving organic traffic to your affiliate content is like turning on a faucet of potential income. Master the basics of SEO and consider it an investment, not a chore.

Email: The Golden Channel: An engaged email list can be a goldmine. Provide value, sprinkle in your affiliate links, and watch the conversions roll in.

Diversify: Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Promote a mix of products across various price ranges and commission structures.

Here are a few resources to help you get started:

Super Affiliate Secrets: <https://promotelabs.com/sas/>

Affilorama: <https://www.affilorama.com/>

Wealthy Affiliate: <https://www.wealthyaffiliate.com/>

Online Courses & Coaching

You know that saying, "knowledge is power?" Let's tweak it:

"knowledge is profitable."

Every day, millions turn to the web to learn, grow, and transform.

Whether it's mastering a new hobby or seeking a career change, people are willing to pay for valuable insights. Got expertise?

Great, let's monetize it!

Endless Scalability: Teach once, profit forever. You invest time upfront, creating the course, and then sell it repeatedly without additional effort.

Direct Impact: Coaching offers a chance to directly influence someone's life. This direct impact often justifies premium pricing.

Flexibility: Live on a beach in Bali? Or maybe in a quiet town in the Midwest? It doesn't matter. Your location won't limit your earnings.

Minimal Overhead: No need for a physical space, staff, or printed materials. Just a good internet connection and some dedication.

Power Plays to Boost Your Course and Coaching Revenue

Pre-sell Your Course: Before diving deep into course creation, gauge interest. Pre-selling can provide both validation and funding.

Upsell & Cross-sell: Offer advanced modules, one-on-one coaching sessions, or complementary courses. A student already invested is more likely to want more.

Engaging Content is Key: Use a mix of videos, quizzes, and interactive assignments. Platforms like Thinkific even allow for drip content, keeping students engaged over time.

Leverage Testimonials: Success stories aren't just heartwarming; they're powerful sales tools. Showcase student achievements and feedback prominently.

Stay Updated: Industries evolve. Ensure your content remains relevant by updating it periodically.

Personal Branding: Your brand isn't just about a course or a session; it's about **YOU**.

Build trust and authority online. Use platforms like LinkedIn or Medium to share insights, enhancing your credibility.

Resource Links to Propel Your Course & Coaching Journey:

Content Sparks: <https://www.contentsparks.com>

Teachable: <https://www.teachable.com>

Podia: <https://www.Podia.com>

Kajabi: <https://www.Kajabi.com>

E-commerce & Dropshipping

You've seen the success stories: college dropouts turning a simple online store into a multi-million dollar empire, or someone selling quirky products you'd never have imagined could be such a hit.

Let's demystify this. At the core of these stories is e-commerce, and one of its most intriguing models: ***dropshipping***.

Global Marketplace: Your storefront is open to the world. Whether someone's shopping from Tokyo's bustling streets or a quiet corner in Prague, you're in business.

Low Startup Costs: Especially with dropshipping. You don't hold inventory; you just act as a middleman. Less risk, same reward.

Round-the-Clock Earnings: While you're dreaming, someone on the other side of the planet could be clicking 'buy now' on your store.

Niche Dominance: From eco-friendly products for pet lovers to specialized tech gadgets, finding and dominating a niche can be your goldmine.

Strategies to Catapult Your E-commerce Success

Customer-Centricity: Forget sales; think solutions. When customers feel you're solving a problem for them, loyalty and word-of-mouth referrals skyrocket.

Data is Your Compass: Dive into analytics. Understand your best-selling products, peak shopping times, and customer behaviors. Let data guide your strategies.

Quality Over Quantity: Especially in dropshipping, choose suppliers meticulously. One bad shipment can lead to countless negative reviews.

Upsell & Bundle: If a customer is buying running shoes, why not suggest athletic socks or a hydration pack? Increase cart value intelligently.

Social Proof & Reviews: Showcasing testimonials, reviews, and user-generated content can exponentially boost trust and sales.

Diversify Marketing Channels: Don't rely solely on one platform. From Instagram ads to email marketing, diversify your reach.

Resource Links:

Shopify: <https://www.shopify.com/>

Shopify Dropshipping: <https://www.shopify.com/dropshipping>

SaleHoo: <https://www.salehoo.com/>

Dropship.Me: <https://dropship.me/>

Doba Dropshipping: <https://www.doba.com/>

Blogging

So, you've heard of the allure of blogging, perhaps picturing yourself in a chic cafe typing away, as passive income rolls in. While this dream can be a reality, it takes more than a latte and a laptop to succeed.

The average beginner blogger might earn anywhere from \$50 to a few hundred dollars per month.

But seasoned bloggers? They're pulling in figures that range from \$5,000 to \$100,000+ per month. The difference lies in the strategies they employ.

The key is to focus on *multiple revenue streams*. Relying solely on Google AdSense won't make you rich.

Consider these:

- Affiliate marketing
- Sponsored posts

- Selling digital products or e-books
- Offering courses or webinars
- Premium content subscriptions

Niche Down for Success:

The most profitable blogs often serve a specific niche. Think ‘Keto diets for postpartum mothers’ rather than just ‘diets’.

Engage with Email:

An engaged email list is gold in the blogging world. It's direct access to your most loyal readers. Using it wisely can yield significant profits.

SEO Mastery:

Basic knowledge of SEO isn't enough. Delve deep. Understand keyword intent, long-tail keywords, and master the art of backlinking.

A well-optimized post can bring in consistent traffic, which translates to consistent income.

Stellar Content:

Quality over quantity always. Your content should be comprehensive, well-researched, and offer value that's hard to find elsewhere.

Consistent Branding:

Your blog should have a consistent voice, theme, and aesthetic. This builds trust and makes you memorable in a sea of bloggers.

Collaborate and Network:

Guest post on relevant blogs. Collaborate with influencers in your niche. Networking can boost your traffic, credibility, and revenue.

Use Analytics:

Understand your audience. Google Analytics can tell you what's working and what's not. Pivot accordingly.

Invest in Your Blog:

Whether it's buying a premium theme, attending a blogging conference, or investing in advertising, be prepared to invest in your blog's growth.

Above all else, focus on consistently engaging with your audience!

Your blog might have the best content, but if you're not engaging with your audience, you're missing out.

Reply to comments, engage on social media, and always seek feedback. When your readers feel valued, they become loyal supporters and customers.

Here are a few resources to help you get started:

AI-Powered SEO Keyword Tools:

<https://www.ryrob.com/keyword-tool/>

Content Creation Templates:

<https://offers.hubspot.com/content-creation-templates>

WordPress Training:

<https://academy.hubspot.com/courses/build-a-wordpress-website>

WP 101: “WordPress Training”

<https://www.wp101.com>

App & Software Development

Venturing into the realm of app and software development might seem daunting, given the vast landscape and swift technological advancements. But every expert was once a beginner.

Let's break down the journey into manageable steps and pave your way into the world of coding, creativity, and digital innovation.

Picking a Platform & Language: Where to Begin?

Web vs. Mobile:

Decide if you want to develop web applications, mobile apps, or both. Each has its own set of languages and tools.

Native vs. Cross-Platform:

For mobile apps, native development means focusing on one platform (like iOS or Android). Cross-platform tools let you develop for both simultaneously.

Start Simple:

For web development, HTML, CSS, and JavaScript are the foundational trio. For mobile apps, Swift (for iOS) or Kotlin (for Android) are popular choices.

Getting Your Hands Dirty: Learning & Practicing

Online Courses:

Platforms like Codecademy, Udemy, and Coursera offer courses ranging from beginner to expert.

Bootcamps:

Intensive, focused training programs, such as those from General Assembly or Le Wagon, can give you a head start.

Real-world Projects:

Theory is vital, but practice solidifies knowledge. Start small projects, even if they seem trivial. Each line of code gets you closer to proficiency.

Join Groups & Communities:

Platforms like Stack Overflow are not just for troubleshooting. They're communities of developers at all levels sharing knowledge.

Attend Meetups:

Websites like Meetup host events for developers. They're great for networking and learning.

Open Source Contribution:

Platforms like GitHub allow you to contribute to existing projects. It's a way to learn, collaborate, and enhance your portfolio.

Setting Up Your Developer Environment

Integrated Development Environments (IDEs):

Tools like Visual Studio Code, Android Studio, or Xcode offer a platform to write, test, and debug your code.

Version Control:

Learn Git. It tracks changes in your code and facilitates collaboration.

Stay Updated:

The tech field is ever-evolving. Regularly update your software tools and stay abreast of the latest in your chosen language or platform.

Other Ideas, Tips & Strategies:

Direct Sales:

Charge users to download your app or software. This model is straightforward but requires your product to stand out.

Subscription Model:

Regular, recurring income is a dream. Offer basic functionalities for free and charge for premium features.

Ad Revenue:

Free apps with a large user base can generate significant income from ads. Think of all those mobile games you've played with embedded ads!

Custom Software Solutions:

For businesses, develop custom solutions tailored to their needs. This B2B model can be highly lucrative.

Advanced Strategies for a Booming Dev Hustle

Solve a Real Problem:

The most successful apps address specific pain points. What problems can your skills solve?

MVP (Minimum Viable Product) First:

Release a basic version of your software first. Gather feedback, iterate, and improve. This way, you avoid spending time on features users don't need.

Master User Experience:

A functional app that's a nightmare to use will flop. Invest time in UI/UX. If this isn't your forte, consider collaborating with a designer.

Optimize for App Stores:

Learn App Store Optimization (ASO) for mobile apps. Much like SEO for websites, ASO will increase your app's visibility.

Network:

Engage in developer communities online and offline. Collaborations, partnerships, or even getting noticed by investors can spring from these networks.

Continuous Learning:

The tech world evolves rapidly. Stay updated with the latest in coding languages, tools, and best practices.

Diversify Platforms:

Don't stick to just iOS or Android. Explore both, and don't forget about web apps and software tailored for Windows or macOS.

Virtual Assistance & Management

With remote work becoming the norm, there's one side hustle that's becoming increasingly crucial: *Virtual Assistance and Management*.

But before you think of it as just another 'admin job', let me tell you — it's more than that. It's about building relationships, managing time, understanding businesses, and most of all, ensuring productivity.

While a beginner in virtual assistance may start at around \$15-\$17 an hour, according to PayScale.com, experienced virtual assistants (VAs) with specialized skills can charge \$50 an hour or more.

The key?

Specialization and branding.

But don't worry! While your skills will reflect the amount you get paid

and the virtual assistant jobs that you'll be suitable to apply for, there are many virtual assistant jobs for beginners.

Diversify Your Skill Set:

Virtual assistance is not just about answering emails.

It encompasses various tasks such as:

- Content creation
- Social media management
- Data analysis
- Event planning
- Bookkeeping
- Customer service

The more skills you master, the higher the fee you can command.

Position Yourself as a Virtual Manager:

Shift from the VA mindset to a Virtual Manager. Virtual managers not only handle tasks but also strategize on operations, project management, and team coordination.

Their role is to oversee and ensure everything runs smoothly.

Niche Down:

Specialize in a certain industry. Whether it's the health sector, tech startups, or the bustling world of influencers – find your niche.

A VA with a deep understanding of a particular industry is invaluable and can charge higher rates.

Create Packages:

Instead of charging hourly, consider creating monthly retainer packages. This way, clients will see you as a partner rather than a time-based asset.

Advanced Strategies to Boost Your VA Game

Tools & Automation:

Familiarize yourself with tools like Asana, Trello, Slack, and Zapier.

These aren't just tools; they're your virtual weapons. The faster and more efficiently you can work, the more clients you can handle.

Continuous Learning:

The digital world evolves quickly. Webinars, online courses, and certifications – make them your best friends.

Build Relationships:

Engage with clients beyond tasks. Understand their vision and offer insights. When you're seen as a consultant and not just a task handler, your value skyrockets.

Delegate:

Sounds counterintuitive, right? But as you scale, you can subcontract some tasks, essentially building your own VA agency. This way, you can take on more clients and focus on high-level management tasks.

Engagement is Key

Remember, the world of Virtual Assistance & Management is not just about skills, but engagement. It's a people's business.

The more you can understand and anticipate the needs of your clients, the more indispensable you become.

Also, don't forget to have a robust online presence!

A professional LinkedIn profile, a personal website showcasing your services, testimonials, and a portfolio will attract higher-paying clients.

Engage on social media, join VA communities, and network — the digital realm is your oyster!

Resource Links:

Virtual Assistant Information:

<https://www.upwork.com/resources/become-a-virtual-assistant>

FlexJobs:

<https://www.flexjobs.com/blog/post/how-to-work-as-a-virtual-assistant/>

Virtual Assistant Jobs:

<https://www.peopleperhour.com/> & <https://weworkremotely.com/>

Final Words

You've armed yourself with knowledge, strategies, and resources. But more than any tool or technique, it's the fire within you, that unyielding spirit, that will propel you forward.

There will be days of doubt, there will be days of triumph. Both are essential stops on the roadmap to success.

Your adaptability, your willingness to learn, unlearn, and relearn will be your greatest allies.

It's okay if the first venture isn't a resounding success. Thomas Edison once said, *"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."*

Each stumble, each 'no', brings you one step closer to your 'yes'.

Connect with others on this journey. Share stories, swap insights, and support one another.

Remember, you're not alone. There's a whole community of hustlers out there, grinding, dreaming, and reshaping the world one venture at a time.

To your success!

Resources

Here are links to a few resources that I believe will help you:

Course Creation:

>> <https://www.ContentSparks.com>

FlexJobs:

>> <https://www.FlexJobs.com>

We Work Remotely:

>> <https://weworkremotely.com/>

People Per Hour:

>> <https://www.peopleperhour.com/>