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## **Bonus Report #3:** *How to Decide Which Freelancing Site is Right for You*

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# Introduction

Quick, what do you think of when someone refers to a freelancing site?

If you're like most people, [Elance.com](#) comes to mind. That's because it's one of the biggest and most well-known freelancing sites.

Truth is, there are plenty of other places to find great freelancing jobs. Just run a search for "freelancing sites" in Google, and you'll see plenty of options. But some of these sites are simply a waste of time for you.

Example: The site itself may not be bad, but it may be aimed at a specific kind of freelancer (one whom is not suitable for your project). In other cases, there may be known problems with a site, such as the site not having a built in escrow system, which means it's easier for a service buyer to scam you.

Either way, let me save you some time by telling you about the top freelancing sites.

These sites are all well-known and well-established, so you can generally feel confident using any of them. However, you'll want to read the following overviews to get a better feel for which sites are best for you...

## Elance.com

As mentioned, [Elance.com](#) one of the biggest and most well-known sites. As such, there are a lot of service providers on this site. This gives you two benefits:

- 1. You can find established freelancers.** Since Elance.com is one of the older sites, some of the freelancers on the site have been around for many years. Thus you can easily do your due diligence by checking their feedback rating, seeing how many projects they've done while a member of the site, checking samples, etc. In other words, researching their freelancing history is easy.
- 2. Plenty of freelancers will bid on your project.** I always say you should cast a wide net when looking for freelancers – and simply posting one project on Elance.com helps you do that, because a good project with a good budget is sure to attract plenty of qualified service providers.

These aren't the only advantages of using Elance.com. Here are three more:

- ✓ **Safe payments.** Elance.com provides an escrow system, meaning both you and your freelancer are protected. You never have to worry about paying for work that doesn't get completed.
- ✓ **Productivity and tracking tools.** Elance.com also provides you with all the time tracking, communication and productivity tools you need. That's because each project is assigned its own virtual work room.
- ✓ **Pre-written contracts.** Don't have an attorney to create agreements? No problem. Elance.com will provide you with agreements that define the relationship between you and your freelancer.

It's free for you to post jobs on Elance.com.

Elance makes money by deducting a percentage of the profits from the payment that you send to contractors. However, you don't need to pay any additional fees.

## MechanicalTurk.com

Compared to sites like Elance.com, [MechanicalTurk.com](http://www.MechanicalTurk.com) is a relatively new entry into the freelancing site arena. However, this site is backed by Amazon.com, so you can use this site with confidence.

The emphasis of this site is on tasks that a human can do better than a computer.

Thus if you have tasks such as content creation, data sorting, data entry, virtual filing, cleaning data, proofreading, and similar tasks, this is a good site to use.

- ✓ One advantage of this site is that you can hire Mechanical Turk Masters. These are people who have demonstrated their ability to do a specific task accurately and reliably.
- ✓ The site also gives you the option of searching for workers based on other qualifications, such as their overall approval rating or location. Thus the site has built-in tools to help you do your due diligence.

You'll pay an extra 10% fee on top of the pay rate you set for your worker. So if the project is worth \$100, then you'll pay \$100 to the worker and \$10 to Mechanical Turk.

If you decide to work with Mechanical Turk Masters, then you'll pay a 20% commission fee.

Tip: Like other popular freelancing sites, you need only pay when you are satisfied with the work, meaning you're protected from scams.

## **oDesk.com**

[oDesk.com](http://oDesk.com) is another big, well-known freelancing site, which means it's a dependable source for you to find a broad variety of freelancers. And while you can certainly post projects where you pay a flat fee per project, the emphasis on this site is for workers to get paid by the hour. Thus if you need to hire something like a virtual assistant or customer service representative, oDesk may be your first choice.

What makes this work – meaning, what allows you to trust your freelancers to work by the hour – is that oDesk has a virtual work room with tracking and productivity tools.

You'll be able to see screenshots of your worker's screen as well as data on their keyboard activity. You may even be able to see web cam shots of your freelancer working.

It's free to post jobs on oDesk.com. However, oDesk.com then adds its fees (10%) to the contractor's fees. This means that the rate you see is the rate you pay when hiring a contractor, so you don't have to worry about any hidden charges.

## **ScriptLance.com**

Based on the name alone, you've probably already guessed that the emphasis of this site is on workers who provide technical talent. If so, you'd be right. If you're looking for programmers, database managers, web developers and other technical workers, you may want to make [ScriptLance.com](http://ScriptLance.com) your first stop.

Tip: While Script Lance focuses on technical talent, you can also find other freelancers, such as writers or marketers. However, the talent pool isn't quite as big for these other categories, as most people come to this for programming and similar technical jobs.

- ✓ The upside of Script Lance is that it tends to have a talent pool that's cheaper than other freelancing sites. That may be because a large portion of the talent pool comes from developing countries and poor regions. So while the programmers are talented, they tend to charge a bit less because they have a lower cost of living where they live.
- ✗ The downside is that you really need to do your due diligence to make sure that the freelancer you're hiring is able to speak good English. That is, you need to make sure that the two of you are able to communicate well enough so that the worker can complete the task to your satisfaction. Thus be sure to pay particular attention to the worker's profile and feedback ratings.

Script Lance doesn't charge any sign up fees or ongoing monthly fees. Instead, the buyer (that's you) is charged a flat fee of \$5 when you select your winning bidder. However, there are fees for listing options, such as featured listings, listings marked "urgent" and other listing enhancements.

## vWorker.com

[vWorker.com](http://vWorker.com) is the site formerly known as RentACoder.com. Now it's known as vWorker, which stands for "virtual worker." As such, the site is trying to move away from its former focus, which was on "coding" tasks such as programming, script development, web development, mobile application development and similar.

These days you can find a wide variety of freelancers on the site, including virtual assistants, writers, copywriters, marketers and more.

However, even though the site has expanded to become more of a general freelancing site, the fact that it was once primarily a coding site means that it's a good place to look for coders. Thus if you need technical talent – such as someone to create a script or an app – then check this site out.

- ✓ vWorker does have extensive history available for its freelancers, so you can quickly see feedback ratings, comments left from previous employers, certification and more.
- ✗ The downside of vWorker is that the fees tend to be on the high side of the spectrum – as high as 15% for "per project" jobs and as high as 9% for "per hour" jobs. However, these fees aren't charged directly to you. Rather, these fees are taken out of the service providers' paychecks.

Make no mistake, however – since the service providers have to pay these fees, they will of course pass some of this expense along to you.

Thus you'll receive slightly higher bids than you would on other sites, especially from those workers who are well-established with good reputations on vWorker.com.

## Guru.com

[Guru.com](http://Guru.com) touts itself as the world's largest online marketplace – and that may be true, since at any one time there are hundreds of thousands of workers competing for tens of thousands of jobs.

This is one of the general freelancing sites, meaning you can find talent for just about any type of job or project you have on tap.

However, one item of note is that the site seems to have more U.S. based freelancers than freelancers from any other country.

Example: At the time of writing there are close to 195,000 workers from the U.S. The next biggest country is India, but there are only one quarter as many Indian workers on the site as U.S. workers.

What does this mean to you? It means that this is a good place to find workers with English as their native language. This is ideal if you need something like content creation, or if you have a complex task that requires good communication between you and your freelancer. This U.S. focus is also good if you're based in the U.S. and looking for someone local to hire (as you can search by zip code).

Guru charges its freelancers monthly membership fees as well as commission fees (from 5% to 10%, depending on membership level). For you, however, posting is free. You may have to pay fees such as escrow fees and credit card fees.

## Freelancer.com

[Freelancer.com](http://Freelancer.com) boasts a freelancer pool of over 2.5 million workers – thus you're sure to enjoy plenty of competing bids when you post on this site. And indeed, this is another well-known and well-established site where you can post a wide variety of projects and get a wide variety of bids in return.

When you post a project, you pay a \$5 refundable fee. Once you select a worker for your job, this \$5 fee is refunded. When the project is complete and you're satisfied, you then pay a \$3 fee or 3% of the project total, whichever is higher.

These are the basic fees. If you'd like to add enhancements to your listing – such as posting a “featured project” or hiding bidders' bids – then you'll pay extra fees. Freelancer also charges its freelancers fees, including a \$5 or 10% commission fee (whichever is higher) per project. Thus, as usual, you can expect the workers to pass some of their fee expenses along to you.

## WarriorForum.com

As the name may imply, [WarriorForum.com](http://www.warriorforum.com) isn't a freelancing site. Rather, it's a marketing forum. However, this forum is a long-established site that has a lot of freelancers networking on the site.

What's more, the site actually has a sub-forum where workers and employers can connect with one another. You'll find it here:

<http://www.warriorforum.com/warrior-products-services/>.

If you'd like to browse ads, then you can do so for free by looking in the “Warrior for Hire” section. Be sure to use the search function to find the exact types of workers you need.

- ✓ The advantage of using this forum is that you have “real time” history – meaning you can see what types of feedback the worker is getting in his or her ad thread.
- ✓ You can also check the worker's history on the forum and even his or her past posts, so that you can get a feel as to whether the person is a professional.

You can post your own ad in the “Wanted” section. There's a \$5 fee for this service.

## Conclusion

And there you have it – eight good sites that you can use to find your next freelancer!

Of course there are other freelancing sites (like [Fiverr.com](https://www.fiverr.com)) as well as other places for you to network to find freelancers (such as [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and [LinkedIn.com](https://www.linkedin.com)).

However, if you need to tap into a large pool of talent, then above eight sites are all good choices.