VirtuallySafe

How to Start a
TECH – BASED
SIDE HUSTLE

Virtually Safe   IMPACT AMPLIFIER   ‹ TEENS CAN CODE ›

Stop a random person on the street and ask "what do you know about the tech industry?" and you'll get variations of "it is the new gold m i n e . " The number of techies keep increasing and cooler names are being given to their profession as the days go by. We all remember when they were tech enthusiasts and tech savvy individuals until they metamorphosed into tech bros and eventually tech sis. Now, they're mostly called techies. More than anything, they're prominent for the much value they hold in several fields that they occupy because their knowledge in tech empowers them to communicate, collaborate, problem-solve and access information more effectively which can result in opening of opportunities for personal and professional g r o w t h . It's a digital age and it's not rock science how technological advancements is revolutionizing everything which is why this article is going to talk about how to start a tech-based side hustle as a teenager.

WHAT IS A SIDE HUSTLE?

A side hustle is a part-time job or freelance gig that teenagers take on alongside their studies or main occupation. It gives them the opportunity to pursue their passions, gain experience, and earn extra income. Side hustles come with a lot of benefits like skill development, exploration of interests, and financial independence. Having grasped the concept of the term, side hustle, we're going to explore the benefits of starting a tech-based side hustle as a teenager:

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

If you're not busy garnering skills as a teenager, what are you doing? I wonder. Teenagers have an ample amount of time on their hands, unlike adults, they are expected to devote time into acquiring of new skills and what better skill to learn than tech-based skills? A tech-based side hustle allows teenagers to develop valuable skills in technology, programming, web design, or app development. These skills are highly sought after in today's digital world and can provide a competitive edge in future careers.

EXPLORATION OF INTERESTS

It doesn't come off as a surprise when teenagers want to try their hands on a lot of things before settling for one which is one of the pros tech-based side hustle. Starting a tech-based side hustle gives teenagers the opportunity to explore their interests in technology and digital innovation. They can explore areas like game development, coding, graphic design, or social media management, and discover what they are truly passionate about.

ENTREPRENEURIAL EXPERIENCE

If you're going to do well balancing between the main hustle and the side hustle, entrepreneurial skills will prove efficient. A tech-based side hustle allows teenagers to gain hands-on entrepreneurial experience. They can learn about business planning, marketing, customer service, and financial management. This experience will be invaluable for future entrepreneurial endeavors or even future job opportunities.

INCOME GENERATION

Was this the part you were waiting for? Tech is the new gold mine! One of the major benefits of a tech-based side hustle is the potential to earn extra income. We can never have enough of money, so the extra can always come in handy.
As a Teenager, you can monetize your skills by offering services like website development, software troubleshooting, or graphic design. This financial independence will allow you to save for future goals or fund your interests or even academics. How does that sound? Great right?

FLEXIBILITY AND INDEPENDENCE

If there's anything tech-based side hustles are mostly known for, it is its fluidity. They often offer flexibility in terms of working hours and location. The flexibility allows you to work on your projects from the comfort of your homes, fitting it around your school or work schedule. This flexibility enables you to balance your work or studies while pursuing your entrepreneurial ambitions.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

If you're familiar with Steven Bartlett's book, Happy Sexy Millionaire, you'll recall him mentioning network as the second bucket he is currently pouring into with intentions of leveraging in the future. You see, networking is a thing! Nobody is a monopoly of everything, which is why engaging in a tech-based side hustle exposes teenagers to a network of professionals, clients, and like-minded individuals. Building connections in the tech industry can open doors to mentorship, collaboration, and future opportunities.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Starting and managing a tech-based side hustle requires discipline, problem-solving, and time management skills. As a teenager, the doors of development remains open to you as you cultivate attributes that would help you navigate the challenges and responsibilities of running your own venture. This personal growth extends beyond technical skills and can positively impact your overall development.

If you're yet to decide on whether or not to start a tech-based side hustle, this should be your cue.

Furthermore, we will be exploring the different types of tech-based side hustles available to teens:
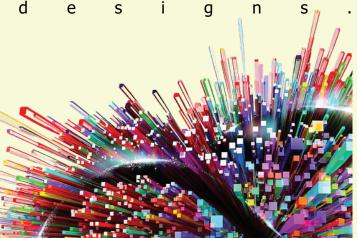
WEB DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN

This can pose as a suitable side hustle for teenagers with coding and design skills. They can offer web development and design services. They can create websites for individuals, small businesses, or organizations, focusing on elements such as layout, functionality, and user experience.

APP DEVELOPMENT

For teenagers who are proficient in programming languages like Java, Swift, or Python, they can venture into app development. They can create mobile applications for various purposes, such as gaming, productivity, or utility, catering to the needs and interests of different users.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Teenagers who have a knack for visual creativity are not left out. Yes! Graphic designing is a tech-based skill. They can provide graphic design services such as designing of logos, banners, social media graphics, or illustrations for individuals or businesses. This includes making use of software like Adobe Photoshop or Illustrator to create visually appealing and professional designs.

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT

Teenagers who are skilled in managing social media platforms can offer their services to individuals or businesses. They can curate contents using a content calendar, schedule posts, engage with followers, and implement social media strategies to enhance online presence and reach a wider audience. Teenagers can get paid handsomely doing this for an individual, company, big or small businesses.

ONLINE TUTORING OR TEACHING

This is another skill that not most people recognize as tech-based. If as a teenager, you have expertise in a particular subject, such as mathematics, science, or coding, you can offer online tutoring or teaching services making it a main hustle will not be a bad idea. You can hold virtual lessons, create educational materials, and provide personalized guidance to students through video conferencing or e-learning platforms.

VIRTUAL ASSISTANCE

I like to think that this is akin to babysitting, but in a more professional way and with more detailed responsibilities. Teenagers can offer virtual assistance services to busy professionals or entrepreneurs and ease them of their workload while learning a thing or two at the same time. This includes tasks like managing emails, scheduling appointments, conducting research, or providing customer support, all done remotely using communication tools and project management software.

These tech-based side hustles allow you to deploy your skills, interests, and knowledge in the digital realm. Each side hustle offers unique opportunities for personal growth, skill development, and income generation. You can choose the type of side hustle that aligns with your strengths and interests to create a fulfilling and successful entrepreneurial experience.

Next up are some relatable ways for teenagers to assess their personal interests and passion in the tech field:

EXPLORE DIFFERENT TECH ACTIVITIES

You are to explore various tech activities that align with your interests to know which one you want the most. Feel free to try coding through online tutorials or coding platforms, experiment with graphic design using design software, or create simple websites. By engaging in hands-on activities, you can gauge your enjoyment and excitement for different tech-related tasks.

PARTICIPATE IN TECH CLUBS OR COMPETITIONS

This is another thing you should try. Joining tech clubs or participating in coding competitions, hackathons, or robotics clubs can provide you with opportunities to engage with like-minded peers and discover new areas of interest within the tech field. These activities can help you explore different aspects of technology and gauge your enthusiasm and curiosity in specific areas.

SEEK INSPIRATION FROM TECH INNOVATORS

Mentoring can never be out of vogue. Learning from the experienced oldies in the field will always save you time of trial and error. Research and learn about successful tech innovators and entrepreneurs. You can read biographies, watch interviews, or listen to podcasts that feature individuals who have made significant contributions to the tech industry. Hearing about the journeys and passions of these role models can inspire you to identify your own interests and areas of focus.

FOLLOW TECH BLOGS AND ONLINE COMMUNITIES

Maximizing your online presence by following tech-related blogs, online forums, or communities where you can engage in discussions and stay updated on the latest tech trends and developments can be effective. Want to know why? Actively participating in these communities allows you to interact with others who share your interests and gain insights into different tech fields.

REFLECT ON PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY USE

It is necessary that you pay attention to your own technology use and the activities you enjoy the most. Do you spend time gaming, designing graphics, exploring new apps, or troubleshooting technology issues? Pinpointing the aspects of technology you naturally gravitate towards can provide valuable clues about your interests and passions in the tech field.

CONSIDER REAL-WORLD APPLICATIONS

Understanding the way technology is deployed in other countries can always suffice. For example, you can explore how technology is applied in healthcare, finance, environmental sustainability, or entertainment. This exercise can help you visualize how your tech skills and interests can contribute to making a positive impact in specific areas that you resonate with. Experiment with Different Tech Projects Get your hands dirty as fast as you can. Do not hesitate to embark on small tech projects or create your own tech-related initiatives. You can develop a mobile app, design a website for a local business, or create a game. The process of working on these projects allows you to gauge your enthusiasm, motivation, and overall enjoyment in the tech field.

By engaging in these relatable activities, you can assess your personal interests and passion in the tech field.

Another factor that can significantly contribute to your success on your journey of starting a tech-based side hustle is the combination of skills and interests to determine the right tech-based side hustle for you. Here is a few things to consider:

IDENTIFY YOUR SKILLS

This is the very first step. You need to start by identifying the tech skills you already possess or have an interest in developing. Consider some of the areas that have already been mentioned, or any other tech-related skills you have learned or are eager to learn.

ASSESS YOUR INTERESTS

Pay attention to your personal interests and hobbies outside of technology. Reflect on the subjects, activities, or industries that pique your interest; areas that you find fascinating. This step will help you align your tech-based side hustle with your non-tech interest. For example, if you have a passion for art, graphic design or game development may be a suitable fit. If you enjoy teaching and helping others, online tutoring or creating educational apps could be options to explore. That way you'll crack the hard nut quite e a s i l y .

FIND THE INTERSECTION

If you followed the steps up to this point, the next thing is to look out for the intersection between your tech skills and personal interests. Identify areas where you can combine your technical expertise with subjects or activities you are passionate about. This combination will make your side hustle more enjoyable and fulfilling.

RESEARCH MARKET DEMAND

After identifying your potential tech-based side hustle ideas that are in alignment with your skills and interests, the next ideal thing to do is to research the market demand for those services. Search for opportunities in industries or niches that are growing or in high demand. This will help you ensure that your side hustle has potential customers and income opportunities. You need to make sure that whatever you're venturing into will be substantial.

CONSIDER SCALABILITY AND GROWTH

Evaluate the scalability and growth potential of different tech-based side hustles. This is crucial. Some side hustles may have limitations in terms of scalability, while others may have the potential to expand into full-time businesses or even employment opportunities in the future. Pay attention to the likelihood of your chosen side hustle growing and evolving over time. This is something you look forward to, right?

TEST AND VALIDATE

Before fully committing to a specific tech-based side hustle, consider testing the waters. It is not recommended that you dive in for a swim without testing the waters. Before you devour, taste. Start with small projects or volunteer to render your services to friends, family, or local businesses to validate the market demand and gather feedback. This will help you refine your skills and gain valuable experience.

ADAPT AND EVOLVE

Do not lose your ability to learn as you embark on your tech-based side hustle. Maintain an open mind to enable you adapt and evolve in your services based on feedback and market trends. Technology is constantly evolving, and being flexible and willing to learn new skills or incorporate new technologies will keep you ahead of the curve.

Never forget that the right tech-based side hustle is one that combines your skills and interests, aligns with market demand, and offers growth potential. It should be something that you enjoy doing and that brings you satisfaction. By finding this intersection, you can create a side hustle that not only generates income but also allows you to pursue your passions in the tech field even as a teenager.

Starting a tech-based side hustle as a teenager offers a world of opportunities. You can leverage your unique tech skills, pursue your passions, and make a real impact in the digital world. So, what are you still waiting for? Take that leap of faith, stop keeping your creativity to yourself Let the world in on it and turn your tech skills into a thriving side hustle. The possibilities are endless, and the time to start is now.

You need not be reminded that, as a teenager, you have the advantage of youth and the digital world at your beck and call. While wasting time is a common trait among teenagers, being different will always put you on e d g e .

Why not allow your passion to drive you, your skills to guide you, and your determination to nudge you forward unto greatness? Start your tech-based side hustle today and watch as it grows, just like a baby, into something truly beautiful. Your future as a successful teen entrepreneur begins now!

Put your first foot forward and get to it.