

Affiliate Marketing 101; What are the Ways I Can Make Money Online?

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Chapter 1: Affiliate Marketing: Exactly What it is and How it Works

Affiliate Marketing is a wonderful business relationship where an individual or company, large or small, agrees to pay you money based on a certain action that people you send to him take.

Let me give some examples:

Amazon.com has one of the biggest and longest-running affiliate programs. They will pay you a commission based on what people buy when they come in through your links. So, let's say you

make a website to promote a product. You get traffic to your website and send it to Amazon using your affiliate links.

Let's say these people buy something. You will make a commission on anything they buy that falls within Amazon's rules.

Amazon's commissions are low compared to many other affiliate programs, but some affiliates have found that the ease of selling physical goods at amazon (versus selling digital goods somewhere less well known) makes up for the low commission rates. Plus, refund rates are low.

Let's talk about selling digital goods somewhere less well known – there is a platform called clickbank.com where people sell digital e-books. An individual or company writes an e-book and puts it up for sale and for promotion in the clickbank marketplace.

The individual or company is known as a vendor at clickbank. Each vendor can set their own commission rates and some set them as high as 75%.

On a \$37 or \$97 e-book, 75% is a lot. Commission is much higher, but conversion rates - meaning how many people click through your link and buy - can be much lower.

Besides Amazon goods and e-books, there are many other affiliate marketing options. Almost any topic you can imagine will have a related affiliate program of some sort.

CPA Offers

Besides receiving a commission on physical goods and digital e-books, you can also promote CPA offers. CPA stands for cost per action.

The action can often be something simple like filling out a form, applying for something, giving out their e-mail address, or sometimes signing up for an offer.

So, the way this works is you would somehow get people to the offer and if they complete the offer you would get a set amount of money. Normally this money is low, like a dollar or two dollars, but with some offers it can be quite high.

There are medical offers where people sign up to receive a medical item in the mail and only pay shipping and handling, but then if they don't cancel or send back the item their credit card will get charged for the full amount of the item.

These offers often pay substantially better than one where the person would only give out their e-mail address. These offers may also have higher return and refund rates though.

Google Adsense / Contextual Marketing

Another method of affiliate marketing that many people participate in is Google AdSense. Google AdSense. If you create a website that gets a lot of traffic but you can't really figure out what kind of ads or affiliate links you should put on it then AdSense may work for you.

You sign up for an AdSense account, and AdSense gives you a block of code. You paste this code into your website and where the code is AdSense will send ads. AdSense will read the words on your page and decide what the page is about and send ads related to that. When someone clicks on the ads you will make money. Some topics are worth more than others. For example, travel can be worth more than recipes.

Pay per Click

There is one more type of affiliate program that I would like to explain, although this one is not as common. It is pay per click. Let's say you had a website, and you put a link on that website and the vendor would be willing to pay you a certain amount of money for every click that came through the link. Vendors can pay as little as a penny to as much as \$.15 or \$.20 a click.

I hope this helps explain affiliate marketing. It's not free money, but sometimes it can feel like it. You have no product and no customer service worries, and yet you can still get paid.

Chapter 2: The Top 10 Ways to Make Money Online

These top 10 ways to make money online that I will be describing do not all qualify as affiliate marketing, but that's okay. Chances are anyone looking to learn about affiliate marketing would actually be okay with any of these ways to make money online.

10. Coaching

There are many coaches online charging for their services. There are many life coaches and business coaches and then there are other professional performance coaches in other fields.

What do you do now? What are you successful at? What could you successfully coach someone else to do by e-mail or by Skype or by phone?

These are the questions to ask yourself to determine if you can offer coaching online. Even if no one else is doing it, that doesn't mean you can't be the first.

The way you would offer coaching is you would create a website that tells what you offer, and pick out a payment processor like PayPal, and then advertise or market your services.

9. Selling Services

Many people get their online start by selling services. There are lots of things that people who market online need done. Website owners need links to be created and content to be written and articles to be distributed.

Head over to Elance.com and check out some of the services that people are offering. Is there anything that you can do? You may also want to look at fiverr.com and see what people are offering there. People are doing things as simple as making small stuffed animals and selling them for the five dollars.

If you are a good writer you are almost guaranteed to be able to make very quick money by writing articles for people. Everybody on the Internet needs content created in some way.

8. Creating Membership Sites

There are membership sites for everything that you can imagine. People will pay five dollars a month to \$37 a month to hundreds of dollars a month to be able to get recurring, great information on the subject of their choice.

Are you an expert at a popular game like [World of Warcraft](#)? A membership site can be as simple as people paying you for tips tricks and help on something like this.

Membership sites can be a lot like coaching, except you would coach many people at a time by e-mail or forums instead of just one person a time.

These people would pay less money but have less access to you also.

7. Selling on ebay or amazon

There are people making many full-time incomes selling on eBay or Amazon. Some buy from wholesalers or drop shippers, and some buy from thrift stores and yard sales. Some start with thrift stores and yard sales and move up to wholesalers or drop shippers.

Some people buy full pallets of merchandise and then sell them off piece by piece. Some people even buy a LOT of something on eBay and then resell it in smaller pieces on eBay.

6. Creating Software or Addons or Plugins for Webmasters

If this is a talent that you have, you can create software or plug-ins for websites and then market them to webmasters. Or, if you think of a good idea that will help webmasters you could pay to have the software or plug-in created and then market it.

5. Creating Videos

Videos are a very popular way to share content. There are ways to create videos and use them in your affiliate marketing efforts. Some people create viral videos that everyone links to and then there is a affiliate link underneath the video.

Other people use videos as a way to create a following and then market their product to their following, or put Google AdSense ads on their videos.

4. Creating Content / Revenue Share Websites

There are many revenue share websites where you go to the website and create content or write articles or promote products and the website lets you use their platform and splits any revenue with you.

Some examples of these are squidoo, hubpages, redgag, shetoldme, and webnuggetz.

3. Blogging

Blogging is very popular although a lot less people actually make a living at it and think they are going to make a living at it when they start.

Blogging takes a lot of consistent action and writing and marketing and not everybody is up for the task.

Bloggers that really make it big normally post new blog posts on a very consistent schedule like one each day. These bloggers also write on a subject that appeals to a wide variety of people, like mothers, or people looking to save money, or people looking to improve their lives.

So how do bloggers make money? Many do it with affiliate marketing – they recommend products that they use and like. Others do it with direct advertising. Companies want to advertise on their website and will pay for the privilege. Others do it with Google AdSense.

Others write their own books, print books and e-books. And many bloggers use all of the above.

2. Writing and or Promoting ebooks

if you have writing skills and knowledge or the ability to research or hire someone with knowledge to write an e-book then this can be a very lucrative path. Once the book is written though, or if you are just planning on promoting someone else's e-book, you will have to figure out how to market the book.

Many people like to create a whole website about a topic and create an e-mail list too that people sign up for to get more information on the topic. They then recommend the book on the website and the e-mail list.

1. Content Websites

And the number one way to make money online is definitely content websites. Is a content website different than a blog? Yes, it is. A blog is more of an ongoing commentary, where a person shares bits of life and knowledge on a very regular posting schedule.

A content website is a website where the pages are more static, meaning they all could be put up at once and then the site may not ever get any bigger. It can get bigger, but the main purpose of the website is to give static information about something – not to be constantly updating.

A content website on a particular topic that has lots of buying opportunities related to it is a great way to get started in affiliate marketing.

For example, let's say you were to create a content website about a certain place that lots of people travel to.

You could create pages that give tips on how to travel to this place and what to do once someone gets there and you could recommend that they buy certain products like guidebooks or coupon books or even use a specific airline or booking service so that you can get a commission.

There you have it – the top 10 ways to make money online. Don't worry about picking the wrong one, just pick one and get started. Most of these can evolve into any of the others and many of them can be combined.

Chapter 3: What if you Just Want a Paycheck Online?

What if you decide that affiliate marketing looks like too much work and you just want to get a paycheck? Are there any ways to do a set amount of work and get a paycheck much like you are going to an ordinary job?

Freelance Writing or Offering Services

One of the easiest ways is one of the easiest ways to perform work in exchange for money online is to offer your services at Elance.com. You would create a profile for yourself that tells what you do and then bid on jobs. In the beginning you may have to take some rate cuts in order to get new clients, but once you have proven the quality of your work be sure to charge what you are worth.

For some people they don't want to have to market themselves in this way and so they really are looking for a type of job where someone tells them what to do and they do it and they get paid. If this is what you're looking for there really are some options for you.

Google Rater

You could become a Google rater: Google, the monster search engine, hires people to work from home evaluating websites. They get paid weekly from \$10-\$20 an hour. The work may become tedious but it's real work from home.

Google does not hire these people directly. Three companies do the hiring for Google instead. They are Lionbridge, Leapforce, and WorkForce Logic. In order to get hired, you'll need to apply with one of these companies.

Online Psychic

You could also become an online psychic. This may sound ridiculous but it is not. If you don't have any psychic skills, then you probably shouldn't apply for this one. But if you are already psychic then Certified Psychics Network may be interested in hiring you.

Virtual Assistant Jobs

You could also work online as a virtual assistant. Many people create a virtual assistant job for themselves and market themselves with a website and are in charge of their own hiring and payment collection. If this is not for you then you can get involved with a company like virtualassistantjobs.com.

The one thing I must stress is that if you have to pay an application fee or hiring fee or if you have to pay the company money in any way then there is a good chance you are falling for a scam instead of getting a job. Be sure you are not paying for your virtual assistant job.

Online Surveys and Mystery Shopping

Some people wonder about taking online surveys and mystery shopping. These are both very valid ways of making a paycheck online, but the problem is that there is not a lot of money involved.

You can sign up to be a mystery shopper but unless you live in a very busy city there is a chance that you won't get more than one mystery shop a month, if that. Since you usually don't make more than \$10 a shop, that's not a lot of money.

With taking surveys online, you can take a survey every few days but many times each survey only amounts to \$.50 or so - so again, this does not add up to very much money.

Legitimate Online Surveys - pays in cash or gift certs:

<https://www.globalopinionpanels.com/home>

Legitimate mystery shopping - pays via paypal

<http://www.shopperscritique.com/>

Two more places where you can sign up to make a paycheck online are iWriter.com and Demand Studios.

For iWriter, You sign up and say what kinds of articles you are willing to write and then iWriter will provide you with article orders. You write the articles and you get paid. The amount that

you get paid can be quite small, or it could be not too bad. It's up to you if the rates will work for you or not.

<http://www.iwriter.com/>

For Demand Studios, you have to submit a resume and if you are accepted you can pick out of available articles. They pay \$15 an article every 2 weeks via paypal.

<http://www.demandstudios.com/>

So I hope this is very helpful to you in your quest to find an online paycheck! Just get started, you never know what your jobs will evolve into.

Chapter 4: Back To Affiliate Marketing: Decide what to Sell (Promote)

If you are an absolute beginner at affiliate marketing one of the biggest and earliest and most important questions you will ask yourself is "what am I going to promote?"

Since you are a beginner, I would strongly advise against promoting anything in the make money online niche. If you are making any money yet – you can't very well tell others how to make money. Also, the make money online niche is one of the hardest to break into and do well and the competition is very fierce.

So what else is there? Many people advise start with what you love, but this is not always the smartest advice if there is no money in the niche. For example, I have a friend who started a gluten-free recipes blog. She is struggling. There is really nothing to sell in this niche except recipe books. Some people do great with recipe books but it might be easier if the only options of things that people buy in the niche cost more than \$14.

Maybe examine your current living situation – do you live in an area that people visit? Maybe Hawaii, or Las Vegas, or New York City? You could consider a travel website or blog.

Are you single and really into the dating scene? You could consider becoming an affiliate for the dating websites. Dating websites pull in a lot of money.

Do you know a lot about a certain medical topic? Is there stuff to buy that will help people get better from this medical topic? Are there books and medical equipment and maybe even e-books on how to cure this thing naturally? Then that's something to consider.

What have you bought recently? Is your kitchen full of a certain kind of appliance? Do you love a certain color and your whole house is decked out in it? Maybe these are the kinds of things you can write on.

Although I wouldn't go as far as to say that your first affiliate marketing subjects should be something that you love, I certainly would say it should be something that you know a bit about. That will just make things easier.

Especially if you are going to be doing all of the early writing yourself, instead of having someone do it for you, if you don't have to do incredible amounts of research just to get your first page written things are going to be much easier.

Plus, if you have some pictures or can take some pictures of the items you want to promote, that will help fill your blog or website out too.

Let me give you some ideas of things to promote:

Digital books on clickbank, toys, coupon books to certain tourist areas, home decor, strollers, cribs, tools, exercise machines, teeth whitening pens, printer ink, anything on Amazon - if it's on there that means that people are buying it online - , home saunas, protein powder and protein bars, Cindy Crawford's beauty lotion, computers, computer batteries, and jewelry.

Have any ideas yet? Think on them for a bit – is there an angle that you can take to make your information in your store unique? How can you stand out promoting this particular product?

Once you can figure that out then you can take it to the next level.

Chapter 5: Top Affiliate Networks and How to Get Credit for your Sales

Here I'm going to name the top affiliate networks and talk a little bit about them and then later we'll talk about linking techniques and how it is that the affiliate networks know that you are the one that should get credit for any sales you bring in.

Some companies will run their own affiliate programs so your checks will come directly from the company and all of your reporting will also be seen at the company website.

Other companies will run their affiliate programs through an affiliate network, which means that you will go to the affiliate network to get your links and to check your stats. Some companies will do both – they will have an in house program and the program through an affiliate network.

Probably the most famous in-house affiliate network is the Amazon Associates program. Amazon does all their own reporting and linking so if you want to be an Amazon affiliate you'll have to go to Amazon.com and sign up to be an associate.

Now I will list the top five affiliate marketing networks – you may want to go to them and look around and see if they have any programs that you are interested in promoting.

Commission Junction <http://www.cj.com/>

Commission Junction is a very large affiliate network that has been around forever.

Linkshare <http://www.linkshare.com/>

Linkshare has also been around for a long time. The Walmart.com affiliate program and the iTunes affiliate program are some notable programs at linkshare.

Google Affiliate Network <http://www.google.com/intl/en/ads/affiliatenetwork/>

The Google affiliate network is actually relatively new to the affiliate scene. But that doesn't mean that they don't know what they're doing.

ShareASale <http://www.shareasale.com/>

Shareasale specializes in small and medium-size businesses and places a special emphasis on fair business practices.

Clickbank <http://www.clickbank.com/index.html>

Clickbank's sole purpose is not to provide a medium to bring companies and affiliates together like the other networks, but clickbank deserves a special mention here because of the large amount of digital items that are easily promoted by any affiliate.

So once you have found a product or two to promote on one or more of these affiliate networks that question now becomes how to effectively promote the product in a way that will ensure that you get the commission that you deserve.

Each of these affiliate networks will give you a specific link to put on your website or wherever you're putting your links. You want to copy these links and paste them directly into your website exactly how they were given to you.

The links will normally include a one by one pixel image that will tell the network how many times your link has been viewed. The link will also include special code that will tell the network this is your link.

Especially as a beginner, you do not want to mess around with these links at all. Copy and paste these links exactly so you can be sure that you are getting credit for any and all sales you send to the company.

One more thing, what if you can't find the company that you want to promote at any of the top affiliate networks? This is when you go to Google and you type "company name or product name affiliate" without the quotes. You also can go to the company's website and look for a link called affiliates. Not everyone has an affiliate program but if this particular company does these two strategies should help you find it.

Chapter 6: No Money? How to Get Started in Affiliate Marketing for Free

No money? Don't worry about it. There are ways to get started in affiliate marketing without spending a dime. And no matter how you get started your business can always evolve and grow

so just because you got started on a free platform does not mean you have to stick with that forever.

In fact, your free webpages can bring in money that will help you grow your business and then can serve as assets by providing places for you to put links to your own websites, once you create them.

So let's talk about all the places to get started for free. Actually, there is no way we could talk about every place there is to get started for free because the list is huge and growing every day. But we can talk about some of the better places to get started for free.

<http://www.blogger.com/home>

Starting a free blog would be a great idea. Blogger.com really is a great place to do this because:

1) Google owns blogger and Google really does like blogger blogs.

2) when you start a blog at blogger.com there aren't any restrictions on you - for example if you started a blog at WordPress.org there would be a reception that you could not place commercial links on it. Blogger doesn't do that to you. You can do anything that is legal on your blogger blogs.

The other great thing about starting a free blog is you are building your knowledge base. The more blogging platforms you use, the easier you will be able to figure out all the buttons on any new ones you try. Plus you will begin to understand blogs and the purpose of them better with every blog post you create.

<http://www.squidoo.com/>

Another wonderful place to get started is at squidoo. Squidoo.com is a revenue share website that makes it very easy to create single webpages about a single topic. Squidoo also makes it very easy to link to Amazon and link to eBay and even if you happen to be in a state where you cannot be an Amazon associate you can use squidoo's website in order to make commissions from Amazon sales.

One more thing that is really fantastic about squidoo is their community. Squidoo has a forum and some Facebook groups dedicated to them where other people who are creating pages on squidoo hang out. They will come to your lenses and check them out and give them social likes and shares if you go to their lenses and check them out and give them social likes and shares. This is very valuable.

<http://hubpages.com/>

Hubpages used to be a great place to create webpages like squidoo but these days Google doesn't send them that much traffic so unless that changes I would stay away from them.

<http://www.xomba.com/>

Xomba.com is another revenue share website. If you sign up with Google AdSense, and you give xomba your Google AdSense code they will automatically rotate AdSense views between your AdSense code and they are AdSense code. This is how they share revenue. There are many sites that do it this way.

<http://www.epinions.com/>

Many people have gotten their affiliate marketing start on epinions.com. Write reviews and epinions pays you. Easy!

So far all we've talked about are content sites – let's throw a few video revenue share websites in here. The most popular one is YouTube of course but in order for you to be able to put ads on your videos they have to get tens of thousands of views before YouTube will invite you into the program. Let's go for something easier.

<http://www.expotv.com/> expotv.com is a new and interesting concepts where you can get paid for making video reviews of products.

Honestly there are many revenue share websites out there. You could type revenue share website into Google and be busy for hours. Longtime affiliate marketers will tell you that revenue share websites are not worth it because they can take down your pages at any time for any reason and honestly this is true, but it happens a lot less often than people warning you it about this would think.

If a revenue share website is shying away from a certain topic or saying your pages are in violation of something, most likely they are doing it to stay in Google's good graces. And if this is the reason, then you should pay attention, because you want to be in Google's good graces too.

Regardless of the risks of revenue share websites, they are still a great place to get started and to learn the ropes and basics of affiliate marketing. As soon as you have made some money, nothing would be smarter than going out and starting your own website. But if you don't have any money to start with then starting a free blog or starting with a revenue share website is a brilliant way to go.

Chapter 7: The Absolute Easiest Way to Get Started

When you are just beginning affiliate marketing and you haven't even gotten started yet all the information coming at you can seem completely overwhelming. But there is an easy way to get started and it is important that you do get started because you will learn more by doing than you will ever learn by reading.

So I believe the absolute easiest way to get started in affiliate marketing is to do the following four steps:

1) Go to Amazon and pick a product.

This product can cost any amount of money, but it might make more sense for it to be between \$40 and \$200. This is a good price range to get you a decent commission but not cost so much money that nobody is buying it.

If you can pick something that is trending right now even better. By trending it means something that people are buying now or will be buying soon – for example if Christmas is coming up then maybe pick a toy that is popular. Or, if it is the end of spring, then pick a product like a portable swimming pool or a certain color of swimsuit or maybe even some fancy summer sandals.

2) Go to squidoo and sign up

Create a lens on squidoo about the product that you have picked. When you first start you may not be able to use the Amazon module. If this is the case, link to the product on Amazon in a regular link and then do whatever you have to do to get enough points to be able to use the Amazon modules. Once you can use Amazon modules, go back in and add at least one. Add an eBay module also.

Write in the first person with a conversational and friendly tone. Don't copy reviews from anywhere. Tell a little story about the product and paraphrase the reviews that are already on Amazon if you don't know much about the product.

Look around at other people's lenses to get an idea how a lens should look. Put a link to your product in the very top intro module if you can. Title your squidoo lens like this: **Buy Product Name Online**. Title all your module titles with a variation of the product name.

If you want to get an idea of what a good sales lens looks like at squidoo look at this lens:

<http://www.squidoo.com/bubble-chair-circle-and-ball-chairs-buy-stylish-round-furniture-online>

Don't copy the topic but do you structure your lens in a similar way if you aren't sure what else to do.

3) Post your published lens at squidoo.com and in the Facebook group related to squidoo.

Participate in the community and visit other people's lenses so they will visit yours. Build a back link to your lens at loveblinks, webnuggetz, and hubpages. You can also start your own free blog at blogger and send a back link to your lens from there.

<http://squidoo.com/forum/>

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/15945307607/>

<http://loveblinks.com/>

<http://www.webnuggetz.com/>

<http://hubpages.com/>

4) Over the next few weeks pay attention to your stats and see what kind of keywords people are coming into your lens on. If it is a keyword that is not actually present on your lens, if you think it is related you can add it into your lens in the content. If you don't think it is related you can create another lens about this keyword and sell whatever the keyword is about on it.

5) Repeat the process. You are trying to get a feel for how promoting products that aren't yours works online. Try to take what you have learned about creating lenses and apply it to your own blog.

Getting started in affiliate marketing is a marathon, not a sprint. It will take time and work. But this is the absolute easiest way to do it because squidoo has a built-in community of friendly people who will help you with your lens and who will help you get

some attention to it. Also, squidoo makes it easy to put up pages that are designed to make money.

Chapter 8: Have Some Money to Spend? Here's How to Get Started Professionally for Under \$20

If you are looking to get started in affiliate marketing and you do have a little bit of money to spend than here's what you should do.

1) Choose a domain name

If you don't have any idea what you're product is going to be that you are promoting then maybe this is not your current step. Your domain name does not have to exactly match your product, but when you're getting started it may be easier if it does have something to do with it.

When you are ready to choose a domain name then you can go to a domain spinner to see what is available. Do not try to create a domain name out of any word that is possibly trademarked. The person that holds the trademark can make you give the domain if you do.

Type in domain spinner in Google and go to one. Type in some variations of the domain that you want to see what is available. When you hit on a good one that is available go to the next step.

2) Sign up at HostGator.com

You don't have to pick HostGator, but it is a beginner-friendly host with good customer service and one click installs that will let you pay monthly. Dreamhost is another good one.

Sign up for an account. The hatchling plan is \$7.16 a month. While you are signing up you also be able to register your domain name if it is available. This will cost you something like \$11 or \$12 a year.

Once you are good to go with a domain name and hosting account and then you will want to create your website. It easy way to get started is to have hostgator install WordPress for you and use it.

An easy way to do this is to go into your control panel – use the link from the welcome e-mail that you were sent – and under software/services choose quickinstall and then wordpress and follow the instructions. If you run into problems chat with hostgator support. They are very helpful.

3) Once your website is up and running you will want to create some content. Don't worry if it is not all perfect at the start, you can change things as needed. In the beginning the most important thing is just to get started. You have to make a lot of mistakes online before you start making any serious money. You want to get your mistakes started now!

4) Consider creating a list - \$1 for your first month at aWeber

What is your content about? Is there anything that people who would be interested in buying the things that you are promoting are looking for answers for? If you have answers that people want then you can create a list and give away these answers.

In your messages to your list you can also recommend products. This is a perfect way to keep your website and your message in front of the people who are interested in buying the types of things that you recommend.

There is a lot to learn in list building so a good way to get started is to sign up for a few lists of websites that sell the same products you will be selling. How do they do it? How often do they mail? What kind of products do they recommend how do they structure their e-mail messages? Do their messages make you want to buy?

Once you have a domain name, a website, and a list you are doing better than 99% of the rest of the people who want to get started in affiliate marketing. Sure you had to spend a little money to get there but that will only motivate you more. Keep going and you will see your first profit in no time!

Chapter 9: How Long Does it Take to See Income?

If you are new to affiliate marketing you're probably wondering how long does it take before you see some income coming in from your efforts. Especially if you are spending money right now on hosting and domain names.

This is an extremely relative thing because not everyone gets started with the same knowledge and using the same types of methods. There is a very steep learning curve to affiliate marketing and many beginners get frustrated and give up long before they ever see a dime.

Many other people spend hundreds of dollars on an information product after information product trying to figure out the secrets to actually making money online. There are secrets but many of them can only be learned through experience. And the rest of them won't make a lot of sense until you have a little experience anyway.

So honestly the best way to get started is just to do something and do it now. But that doesn't answer the question how long will it take for me to make money online? Honestly, if any experienced, successful affiliate marketer were to start all over again with the knowledge they have now they could probably be making money online within hours.

But the only way a newbie to affiliate marketing is going to be making money within hours is if they offer a service – if they do something like go to Elance.com and say I will write you 10 articles for X amount of money. And even then, there is still a learning curve to learn how to use the site and how to convince people to hire you.

My best guess is that the earliest a person who knows absolutely nothing about affiliate marketing will start making money is about six months. Wow! That is disheartening, isn't it?

Honestly, if you could find a mentor – someone to take you under their wing and teach you exactly what they know step by step – then maybe you could be making money earlier. Maybe within one to two months.

But in this case you are actually learning affiliate marketing – you are just copying someone else's system. And that's okay, if it works it works and you can learn more when you decide to. It's not easy to find a mentor though. Your best bet might be to add on over to a popular Internet marketing forum like the warriorforum and start reading everything you can.

There are even some forums where you pay a monthly fee (e1kad, wealthyaffiliate) and get a more private, focused group atmosphere that is focused on helping beginners. This is a valid way for someone brand-new to affiliate marketing to get started and try to cut their learning curve down as short as possible. Whatever you are going to do – get started today!

Chapter 10: I am Promoting Something, Now What?

When you are new to affiliate marketing it can be hard to know what steps to take next. Once you have your website up or your method of promoting something running, then you may want to know what exactly you should be doing next.

Unless you're getting lots of traffic already one of the first things you may want to consider doing is building back links to your website or to the pages you are creating. You also may want to start exploring other ways to get traffic than just what the search engines send you.

Let's talk about how to get back links:

One of the very best ways to get back links is to create something known as linkbait. There are a couple of ways to do this. You can study pictures that go viral on Facebook and consider whether or not you could make your own.

If you think you could then you want to put the picture on your website and make sure you have social share buttons above and below the picture. Once you have this going then start sharing your picture and start recommending it to all your friends and do anything you can think of to get the ball rolling.

Make sure that you also are linking back to your main website from this picture so that your website gets the benefit of any social shares that are made. If you are using free websites, the process is the same.

Another way to create linkbait is to write an extremely informative article about something related to your topic. Make it almost like a Enquirer-style article but do not put any sales links in it. You wanted to be something amazing that people just have to share with their friends. Again, put social share buttons above and below the article and link back to your main site so that the search engines see that people really like this page that is associated with your site.

Other ways to get links into your site are to go out and create them. There are many free websites and blogs and revenue sharing websites that will let you go in and create pages about anything that you want and link back to your website within them. These websites do have authority and will count as links to your website. Here's some examples:

Squidoo

Hubpages

Webnuggetz

Loveblinks

Xomba

Shetoldme

paper.li

weebly

inlinkz

BestReviewer

redgage

in forum signatures of forums that allow this

in dofollow blog comments

These will keep you busy in starting to create backlinks to your website. If you are already getting lots of traffic and you don't think you need to be creating backlinks than probably what you need to be doing is figuring out how to translate that traffic into sales.

There are many things that can affect how well your traffic converts, and this is the kind of thing that you will want to start looking into. Search in Google for how to increase conversion rates and start experimenting. In affiliate marketing you can always do better than what you are doing now.

I think the overall theme of this report has been "just get started" and honestly, getting started doing anything will help. There is nothing wrong with changing directions midstream, especially as a beginner. Every step you take will give you more knowledge about affiliate marketing.

To Your Success!