

Flexible Software Development Gigs for ~20 Hours/Week

Open-Source Bounty Platforms

Open-source projects often post **paid issue bounties** for bug fixes or feature implementations. These tend to be lower-paying and less competitive, making them great for building experience and earning modest rewards. For example:

- **IssueHunt:** A platform where anyone can solve GitHub issues for cash. Bounties range from a few dollars for simple fixes up to a few hundred for bigger features. For instance, IssueHunt's listings include minor tasks like fixing broken links in documentation (bounty ~\$5) or adding a small plugin feature (bounty ~\$20) ¹ ², alongside larger requests (e.g. \$622 for implementing multi-user support in a project) ³. You get paid once your pull request is accepted.
- **Opire:** Another open-source bounty marketplace (launched in 2024) with dozens of open issues. As of late 2024 it had 63 *active bounties totaling* ~\$3,677 in rewards ⁴. Tasks span various languages (JavaScript, Python, Rust, etc.), and many bounties are in the sub-\$100 range, which attracts fewer hunters. You solve a GitHub issue and claim the reward when your solution is approved.
- **BountyHub:** Similar concept – it allows anyone to place or solve bounties on GitHub issues. It's a smaller platform (on the order of "*tens of bounties*" available at a time) ⁵, so competition is low. Pay varies per issue; many bounties here are for minor bug fixes in open-source tools.

Why these are suitable: They don't require credentials or networking – just pick an issue and start coding. Because payouts are modest, many "prestige" hunters ignore them, giving a diligent developer a good chance. It's flexible work (you choose the issues and work on your own schedule), perfect for ~20 hours/week. *Example:* One IssueHunt task offers ~\$22 to add a small feature in a JS framework's UI component ⁶ – not high pay, but achievable and a quick win.

Freelance & Micro-Job Boards

For immediate small gigs, consider communities where individuals and small businesses post tasks with modest budgets. These gigs are typically one-off or short-term, but can be stacked to fill ~20 hours/week. Key places:

- **Reddit – r/forhire:** A subreddit where clients post freelance openings. Many are small web development or scripting projects that pay hourly or per project. *Example:* A recent post sought a freelance web developer to build simple 5–10 page websites for local businesses at **\$25/hour (~\$800 per site)** ⁷. The work involved turning provided designs into responsive sites and basic SEO setup – a straightforward gig for a full-stack dev. Such posts often emphasize flexibility (work is as-needed, depending on client orders) and do not require formal credentials beyond a portfolio.
- **Reddit – r/SlaveLabour & r/QuickFreelancers:** These communities specialize in **below-market-rate gigs** and "odd jobs," which means *low competition* for capable developers ⁸. Clients here

openly admit budgets are small, so few experienced devs apply – an opportunity for someone who doesn't mind modest pay. Typical tasks include writing automation scripts, scraping data, or fixing code. *Examples:* One user offered **\$30–\$60** for a “*small Python script to clean and structure scraped data*” ⁹ – a task likely involving Python/pandas to tidy a CSV. Another post advertised **\$100** to create a *Printful API automation script*, even providing an existing script as a starting point ¹⁰. These posts illustrate the kind of quick scripting/debugging gigs available. They're achievable in a short time frame and pay reliably upon completion (often via PayPal or similar).

- **Other Forums:** Keep an eye on niche forums or Discord communities related to tech stacks you know. For instance, WordPress plugin support forums or small business tech groups sometimes have members asking for help (like “*can someone fix this plugin bug for \$50?*”). Similarly, specialized subreddits (e.g. r/wordpress or r/webdev) occasionally feature “for hire” threads. While not as organized as the above, they can yield one-off debugging or maintenance tasks with quick payment.

Why these are suitable: They require little to no “networking” – you reply to posts and offer your service. Because the pay is lower, you won't be up against a flood of applicants. You can cherry-pick tasks that fit your skills (JavaScript, scripting, debugging, etc.) and fit them into your 20-hour week. Over time, completing a few of these builds reputation, which can lead to repeat requests from the same clients or referrals (all without needing formal credentials).

Part-Time Contract Roles (Low-Profile)

Another route is **part-time developer positions or retainers** with small companies. These are often less advertised than full-time jobs and sometimes posted in community job boards. They may not pay glamorous wages, but they offer steady, scheduled work for ~20 hours weekly. Examples include:

- **WordPress Maintenance Developer:** Small businesses running WordPress/WooCommerce sites often seek part-time help for upkeep. For example, a recent job listing on the official WordPress Jobs board is hiring a developer/admin for a WooCommerce site at **\$8/hour, ~10–30 hours per week, flexible** timing ¹¹. The role involves “unprestigious” but crucial tasks: fixing plugin bugs, debugging errors, writing small PHP scripts, and handling routine site maintenance ¹² ¹³. The pay is low, but it's a *long-term remote position* where reliability is valued over elite credentials. This kind of role lets you leverage your debugging and scripting skills on an ongoing basis, with a steady trickle of income.
- **Small Startup/Project Roles:** Occasionally, startups or solo founders seek part-time developers for specific projects. These can be found on subreddits (e.g. r/forhire, r/DeveloperJobs) or indie job boards. *For instance*, one Reddit post (6 months ago) was “*hiring a Full-Stack Developer for a 6-month contract, ~20 hours/week*” to build an AI-powered ERP system ¹⁴. Such roles typically pay a fixed monthly or hourly rate (often modest if the project is budget-constrained) and focus on getting a functional product rather than polished, cutting-edge development. The advantage here is lower competition – these aren't Google jobs, they're gigs where a solid dev who can “*get it done*” is welcome.
- **Local Small Businesses:** Don't overlook local classifieds or community boards (even Craigslist or Facebook groups). A local business might post something like “Need part-time help debugging our MS Access database” or “Seeking a programmer to automate Excel reports, 10 hrs/week.” These opportunities are hit-or-miss to find, but almost always low-competition when they appear. Since you're open to less glamorous work, solving a local business's tech headache for a modest fee can be a stable niche (and once you build trust, they might retain you for maintenance).

Why these are suitable: They explicitly offer part-time, flexible hours, and they “*don’t require high upfront credentials.*” The WordPress example above even lists that it’s **not** beginner-friendly work but pays only \$8/hour – indicating they just need someone competent and dependable, not a rock-star resume ¹⁵ ¹⁶ . These employers are often happy to find *anyone* to reliably handle maintenance and fixes, making it easier for you to land the role. The work involves a lot of debugging, scripting, and incremental development – perfectly aligned with your skillset.

Bug Bounties and Security Challenges

If you enjoy reverse engineering and security, **bug bounty programs** can be an avenue for commission-based earnings. The key is to focus on *lower-profile bounty programs* and open platforms, where competition isn’t as fierce as on big-name programs:

- **Open Bug Bounty:** This is a community-driven platform where you can report vulnerabilities to websites that don’t have a formal bounty program. There’s no gatekeeping – you find a security bug (XSS, SQLi, etc.) in a site, report it through OpenBugBounty, and if the site owner chooses to reward it, you get paid. Many smaller companies will give a token reward (e.g. \$50–\$100) for a valid bug report – **far less than Google’s payouts** (Google might pay \$7,500 for an XSS, whereas a small site might offer closer to \$100) ¹⁷ . This lower payout is actually an opportunity: those “low-hanging fruit” bugs on obscure sites are not heavily hunted. With your debugging/reverse-engineering skills, you could identify a few straightforward vulnerabilities each month. Even if the bounty is modest, it’s flexible, self-driven work (and can be done 100% on your own schedule).
- **Bug Bounty Aggregators (BB Radar, etc.):** To find *less saturated* targets, tools like **bbradar.io** aggregate newly launched bug bounty programs and lesser-known ones ¹⁸ . When a company first announces a bounty program (say on HackerOne or Bugcrowd), there is often an initial window where easy bugs haven’t been found yet. By using an aggregator, you can jump on new or niche programs early. These might be lower-paying programs (perhaps a startup offering \$100–\$500 per bug, or a narrow-scope program), but again, fewer researchers will be interested.
- **CTFs and Miscellaneous Challenges:** Some organizations run capture-the-flag contests or debugging challenges with small prizes. For example, a security forum might have a monthly reverse-engineering challenge with a \$200 award, or an open-source project might offer a bounty to whoever can refactor a tricky piece of code. Keep an eye on security community boards or Twitter for these. The payouts aren’t huge, but they can be fun, one-off ways to monetize your reverse-engineering know-how.

Why these are suitable: You mentioned willingness to do “less prestigious” work – hunting for minor vulnerabilities on small websites fits that bill. It won’t make headlines, but it can reliably net you small rewards. Moreover, your skills in reverse engineering and debugging give you an edge in finding issues others overlook. The work is commission-based (you only get paid if you succeed), but you control which targets to pursue. By focusing on quantity of easy wins (e.g. a bunch of \$50–\$100 bug reports), you can generate income without needing to out-compete top hackers on high-profile bounties. And as a bonus, you’ll sharpen your security skills along the way.

Summary & Getting Started

To make the most of these opportunities, you might divide your 20 hours/week among a few categories. For example, you could spend 10 hours solving two IssueHunt/Opire issues, 5 hours doing a quick freelance

script fix from Reddit, and 5 hours doing recon on new bug bounty targets. This diversified approach ensures you have multiple income streams without over-relying on any single gig.

All the options above are **actionable immediately**: you can visit the links and start applying or contributing. No need for extensive networking – your **skills in full-stack JS/Java, scripting, and debugging** are the currency. These gigs may be lower-paying, but they are real and can be strung together to meet your schedule and income needs. Over time, completing such tasks reliably can also lead to better gigs (e.g. a small business you helped for \$50 might come back with a \$500 project once they trust you). In the meantime, you'll be getting paid for work that is achievable and on your own terms, which seems to be exactly what you're looking for.

Quick Links to Opportunities:

- *IssueHunt Open Bounties*: Browse tasks (with bounties displayed) that you can start fixing ¹ ¹⁹ .
- *Opire Bounty Listings*: Open issues across many projects, with reward amounts shown (63+ bounties available as of late 2024) ⁴ .
- *Reddit r/forhire*: Job board-style posts – e.g. the \$25/hour web dev gig ⁷ (check newest posts for current openings).
- *Reddit r/SlaveLabour (and r/QuickFreelancers)*: Search within for “[Hiring]” posts – e.g. Python scripting tasks for \$30-\$100 ⁹ ¹⁰ – and respond to those within your expertise.
- *WordPress Jobs Board*: Recent part-time dev/admin opening at \$8/hour ¹¹ (and more under “Development” category – filter for freelance or part-time).
- *BB Radar (Bug Bounties)*: Monitor new bounty programs to catch unsolved, lower-competition security bugs early ¹⁸ .

By focusing on these channels, you should be able to secure a steady flow of modest but real software development gigs that fit a 20-hour weekly schedule. Good luck, and happy hunting!

Sources:

- IssueHunt – examples of open bounties (small fixes \$5-\$20 and larger features up to \$600+) ¹ ³
- Opire platform stats (dozens of bounties totaling ~\$3.7k available) ⁴
- Reddit r/forhire post – small web design business offering \$25/hour for part-time dev work ⁷
- Reddit micro-gigs (r/SlaveLabour, etc.) – e.g. \$30-\$60 Python scripting task ⁹ and \$100 automation script task ¹⁰ ; note these subreddits specialize in below-market gigs ⁸
- WordPress jobs board listing – part-time WooCommerce developer at \$8/hour, flexible hours ¹¹
- Reddit post for 20-hr/week contract (AI ERP project) – example of a short-term part-time dev role ¹⁴
- OpenBugBounty info – smaller sites may reward bugs with ~\$100 or less (vs. big tech payouts) ¹⁷
- Bug bounty tip – use bbradar.io to find new bounty programs with less competition ¹⁸

¹ ² ³ ⁶ ¹⁹ Issuehunt

<https://oss.issuehunt.io/issues>

⁴ Opire • OSS.Fund | The Open Source Monetization Hub

<https://www.oss.fund/opire/>

5 **BountyHub • OSS.Fund | The Open Source Monetization Hub**

<https://www.oss.fund/bountyhub/>

7 **[Hiring] [Remote] Website Developer Needed (Long Term) : r/forhire**

https://www.reddit.com/r/forhire/comments/1lg8xay/hiring_remote_website_developer_needed_long_term/

8 **Easiest ways to make money reddit (gd1HWjG)**

<https://irp.cdn-website.com/b450ca0f/files/uploaded/m.html?j0=irTGk>

9 **[hiring] need a small python script to clean and structure scraped ...**

https://www.reddit.com/r/QuickFreelancers/comments/1p6lssr/hiring_need_a_small_python_script_to_clean_and/

10 **[Task] Python Developer for Printful API Mockup Automation Script ...**

https://www.reddit.com/r/slavelabour/comments/1lb3dwf/task_python_developer_for_printful_api_mockup/

11 12 13 15 16 **WordPress & WooCommerce Developer + Site Admin | WordPress Jobs**

<https://jobs.wordpress.net/job/wordpress-woocommerce-developer-site-admin/>

14 **[Hiring]: Full-Stack Developer to build an AI-powered ERP system**

https://www.reddit.com/r/forhire/comments/1nvgko1/hiring_fullstack_developer_to_build_an_aipowered/

17 **About the Project | Website Vulnerabilities - OpenBugBounty.org**

<https://www.openbugbounty.org/about/>

18 **I Discovered OpenBugBounty : r/bugbounty - Reddit**

https://www.reddit.com/r/bugbounty/comments/1e8qmiw/i_discovered_openbugbounty/