5 Startup Ideas

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This is a short proposal on five possible startups that can developed by Odissey. For each startup, I shortly describe the problem it is trying to solve, the way it could solve it, who wants it, who is doing it already, how to get paid for it, and a list of technologies that I believe would be required other than the usual web development technologies.

SkillEx

SkillEx is a web platform that allows users to share and sell their skills to other users. Young men and women that have a particular strong interest and consequent skills[1] desire to meet people with similar skills to practice together and share expertise. Also they might be interested to teach in exchange of learning some other skill or of monetary compensation. Hence the platform would focus on the following three user stories:

1. As a passionate expert, I want to find and meet other passionate experts in the same field as mine to practice and form a community of people that share a passion.

2. As an expert I would like to teach other people my expertise in exchange of learning another skill or monetary compensation.

3. As a young man/woman I want to learn a new skill from an expert in my area, because I can't find a business that can teach me what I want to learn and I want an informal friendly setting.

[1] For example a 'skill/expertise' could be skateboarding, skiing, juggling, pen tricks, photography, painting, etc...

The 'experts' will have a public profile, and will prove they have the skills they claim by uploading a video of themselves. We would take care of the transactions and take a small commission on them.

I could not find anyone doing anything similar online and I honestly how large is the target market. However, I love features (1) and (3), and would use this service. The MVP could start with (1) and develop in the rest once we have a good network of people. We need: video player (for the videos), location tracker (to automatically chase the location of the 'experts'), and some payment function.

I heard the name SkillEx at startup weekend for a similar platform and really liked it.

WeMakeIt

WeMakeIt is a web platform that allows freelance product designers to sell their products without having to worry about manufacturing. The freelance designers would upload their product on our site and we would asses the production cost, decide on a sale price, and how many units is profitable for us to sell (break even * 1.x). Then visitors of the site can choose the cool products they like and buy them. If we presell the amount of units we decided in advance within a certain time limit (say one month), we manufacture the product and ship it. Else, we reimburse the people that already payed for it. FInally, for each sold and shipped product, we would then send a large share of the profit (say 70%) to the product designers and keep the rest. In a way, it would feel like Kickstarter, but we would take care of the production overhead. We could start by printing t-shirts, and search for attractive product categories. The MVP could focus on the following user stories:

1. As a college student with an idea for some cool t-shirt and a skill in adobe illustrator or alike, I want to sell the t-shirt I designed, because I would not mind some extra cash and I would find pride in seeing students with my t-shirt walking around campus.

2. As a man/woman looking for something original, I am looking to buy some products that are close to unique (not many units sold), because I want to differentiate myself from the crowd I have something that you would not usually find.

We would need to find a product category for which we could easily delegate the manufacturing, and the marginal cost for manufacturing the products would be low. The best I can think of right now is t-shirts.

I have heard this idea from a business guy a couple of weeks ago and unfortunately I found a site that is doing this already, unire. Most likely the site is from the guy that told me about the idea. However, I believe we could do it much better than the way he is doing it right now.

TravelBox

A web platform that prepares for city visitors a package of tickets for events that are happening during the time the tourist is visiting the city.

Unplugged

A web platform for party organisers to rent out amateur music bands that have no agent.

NeverIdle

A web platform that allows owners of machinery that is idle most of the time to sell out the machinery usage to people that live within a certain distance from them