## Freelancing as a Web Developer

**Pros**

* Flexible Schedule
* Money can be nice

**Cons**

* If not managed correctly, work/life balance can become problematic
* People’s expectations may be unreasonable.
* It’s not for everyone
  + At low levels, you might be expected to design
  + Communication is tough
  + Collecting money can be tough

## Prep Work

### Choose a Tech Stack and stick to it

**Example Front end and LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySql, PHP) Track:**

* Every website needs HTML, CSS (SCSS), Javascript
  + It’s possible to freelance with this alone
* You’ll need experience with Git at higher levels
* Eventually you will need back end language and database experience
  + PHP, MySql
* You’ll also need experience with server architecture
  + Linux, Apache
* All of this experience combined will allow you to learn a few CMS’s well.
  + Wordpress, Drupal

### Build a portfolio

**Gaining Experience**

* I’m not suggesting working for free, but I have helped people out for substantially less
* Build a site for a family member or build a site on a topic you like
* Look at a site that you like and try to build it on your own
* Help nonprofits with their website issues
* Contribute to a project on Github

## Finding jobs

### Build relationships

**Build genuine relationships with people in the industry**

* When fellow freelancers & developers get to know you they'll start to think of you when a need arises. Gotta be genuine though—it's about building relationships vs "networking".
* Go to local meetups on your tech stack.
* Go to business meetups.
* Join the Cincinnati Web Tech Slack.

**Finding Jobs**

* Figure out where your skill level lies and build a portfolio
* Understand your strengths and weaknesses. Do not oversell yourself. It’s ok to not know everything.
* Do you have a unique advantage?
  + Women owned, etc
* Avoid freelancing sites because they are risky, and you will end up wasting your time.

### External resources

NOTE: Be aware of some resources. Sometimes there is useful information out there. Other times, people are selling snake oil to newbies.

[Stack Overflow](https://stackoverflow.com/) - Place to ask questions or find answers to your questions.

[GitHub](https://github.com/) - Version Control platform that lets you use or contribute to other projects

[Invite for Cincy Tech Slack](https://cincytech.herokuapp.com/) - Get your invite for the Cincy Tech Slack room here.

[Access Cincy Tech Slack](https://cincytech.slack.com/) - Once you get your invite, access Cincy Tech Slack here.