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Created: 2/18/2019

Last Edited:

Getting Started with Amazon Mechanical Turk

Objective:

This document is intended to get the user from a place of no familiarity with Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk) to a position where “batches” (jobs) can be posted on MTurk and payments can be made efficiently (via the Amazon Web Services (AWS) API). If sample sizes are expected to be very small and paying workers manually is acceptable, all the user needs is a regular Amazon account.

Step 1: Decide on or create a regular Amazon account. This is the same as an account that any consumer on Amazon would use.

Note: MTurk workers will not see any of your contact info regardless of if you use a new or old account, but they will be able to email you (without seeing your email address).

Step 2: Using this Amazon account, sign into MTurk as a requester.

The following steps are also outlined in the [“Developer” section](https://requester.mturk.com/developer) of your MTurk Account.

Step 3: [Create an AWS account](https://aws-portal.amazon.com/gp/aws/developer/registration/index.html). This will require you to enter the name and address of your employer and input a credit card for payment information, although you may sign up for a free plan and then will not be charged (there may be a $1 authentication charge that is reimbursed).

Step 3: Link your Amazon and AWS accounts.

1. Log into your MTurk Requester account.
2. Select “Developer” in the toolbar
3. Scroll down and select “Link Accounts.”

You are now set up to post batches for MTurk workers to complete, and to pay workers efficiently via the AWS API. For more information on this, see the “Paying MTurk Worker Bonuses via Amazon Web Services (AWS) API” documentation.