

Zerda

How old are you, and where do you live in the world?

38, Oregon in the foothills

Do you have a family? If so, are you the sole provider, or do other members of your family also work?

Depends on the definition of family. I have been caring for my parents in their mid 70's. I help out a lot financially and had helped them buy this home but they have some income from SS, pension and VA.

How long have you worked for the Mechanical Turk?

Since December of 2008

Why did you decide to begin working for the Turk?

I live rural in a small town so there is not much work without a long drive to the real city. I had a store that failed and found this was a workable way to make money.

What are your other jobs/professions?

I make a bit working with my exotic pets under my USDA license exhibiting them for educational shows and a bit of screen work as well.

How much of your overall income do you make by working for the Turk?

95% or more

How do you enjoy working for the Turk? What do you see as the benefits and drawbacks of this type of work?

In some ways you are free to work when you want. I have had to take a lot of time off recently and that can be hard to do with a real job. I could take time off for a headache if I want or just because I need a break. On the other hand any time not working is money lost more so than with a job as work gets posted and if you are not there to do it others will. So even if not working the whole time it's best to be on most of the day keeping an eye out. There are some kind of automated ways to "look" though so long as near the computer I can drop whatever and hop on to work on normal days.

Main drawbacks are the current interface of Turk that allows a requester to reject work with no recourse on the rejection being fair or not. I've not had major issue with that other than one mass rejection by one requester that was 100% their fault but it happens more often in smaller ways with a hit here and there.

What is the best/most interesting HIT you did on the Turk?

Thee have been a few. Once I got paid to draw my soul. Some people do cloud art by having a bunch of workers draw something then post the collected results. Another asked to do an act of kindness and post a photo as proof. Another fun one was being paid to go to an old cemetery and take photos of the headstones.

What has been the worst HIT you did on the Turk?

Hard to think of anything as I can just return anything I don't like and not finish it.

Have you ever had difficulty working with Requesters and/or with Amazon?

I got about 1200 hits rejected once by a requester when their auto grading software malfunctioned. They never reversed the rejects. Another time similar happened back before rejects could be reversed. Somehow my ID was attached to the wrong work from the hits and my work got rejected when someone else's should have(a known issue that crops up fro tie to time). Since he could not reverse he bonused me and gave me some dummy hits to just submit and up my submitted number to help the damage to my approval rate not be as much.

Are you also a Requester?

no

Will you continue working for the Turk in the future?

Yes. I think even if I move closer to the city I would prefer the freedom of working from home on my own schedule.

Manju

How old are you, and where do you live in the world?

I am 25 years old, living in India.

Do you have a family? If so, are you the sole provider, or do other members of your family also work?

Yes, I have a family. Apart from me my father & mother also work in private sectors. Also I have one sister who is pursuing graduation in engineering.

How long have you worked for the Mechanical Turk?

More than 2 years.

Why did you decide to begin working for the Turk?

Rather than wasting time by simply browsing, I decided to spend time in a fruitful way. You can earn some decent money & also you can learn many new things from here.

What are your other jobs/professions?

I am working as a software engineer from last 2 months.

How much of your overall income do you make by working for the Turk?

5-10% of overall income.

How do you enjoy working for the Turk? What do you see as the benefits and drawbacks of this type of work?

Sometimes it can be very frustrating to work on mturk as you don't find many good HITs matching your skills.

What is the best/most interesting HIT you did on the Turk?

I tested one website & reported my experience on using that website. I think it's one of the most interesting HIT I have ever done.

What has been the worst HIT you did on the Turk?

Survey HITs are the most annoying HITs available in mturk.

Have you ever had difficulty working with Requesters and/or with Amazon?

Yes, I have faced problems with some requesters in the past. One day I completed one survey which involves playing roulette. It almost took 3hr to complete the task for a reward amount of 0.20\$ but you had the chance to earn a bonus of 20\$ based on your performance. At the end I didn't get survey completion code to enter in the HIT. I thought maybe there's some bug & returned the HIT. After a week, I saw the same HIT & accepted that HIT. Again I didn't get the completion code at the end. I contacted the requester about this but he didn't respond to my mails. Later I came to know that the requester deliberately has designed the HIT that way so that I can get free data.

Are you also a Requester?

No. Maybe in the future.

Will you continue working for the Turk in the future?

Yes, whenever I find free time after the completion of professional work.

Shanae

How old are you, and where do you live in the world?

I am 28 years old and I live in Boise, Idaho.

Do you have a family? If so, are you the sole provider, or do other members of your family also work?

I have a husband and two cats. I am the breadwinner in the household, as my husband is going to college and works part time.

How long have you worked for the Mechanical Turk?

Mechanical Turking is something I have been doing off and on for about a year and a half.

Why did you decide to begin working for the Turk?

I was in need of some supplemental income and did an online search for options. I attempted donating plasma but had a severe allergic reaction which limited my options. So I started doing Mechanical Turks or HITs (human intelligence tests).

What are your other jobs/professions?

My day job consists of working as a security supervisor with the Idaho Department of Correction, in other words, I work in a prison. On the side, I am the art director for a local comic book publisher and I do freelance illustration work. I find myself looking for new challenges in unorthodox areas, which is how I ended up using the Mechanical Turk.

How much of your overall income do you make by working for the Turk?

I would say that the Turk has provided about two or three percent of my overall income. I have done less and less of it over time and started focusing more of my free time on making comic books.

How do you enjoy working for the Turk? What do you see as the benefits and drawbacks of this type of work?

I really enjoyed working for the Turk when there were good HITs that paid decently. For me "decent pay" was anything over \$0.25 that took less than thirty minutes. Doing art or photo-based HITs were a lot of fun and open-answer survey types were enjoyable too. I have a hard time with the audio translations which seem to dominate the high paying HITs lately. The benefits are really very personal, I believe that assisting with research by being part of test group is a vital part of educational development. I enjoyed doing survey type and puzzle/challenge HITs for universities. The drawback is simply that the payment does not match the amount of time that some of the HITs take. Some HITs are poorly described and end up taking longer than anticipated. The Turk is flexible and very broad in what it offers. I learned a lot about how information is gathered and how websites can ultimately manipulate ratings, page visits, reviews, etc. In some funny way, it showed me the inner workings of internet traffic. There is a price for everything, after all. In another way, Turking helped me appreciate the mindset that inmates face while they are incarcerated. Where I work, inmates get paid between \$0.10 - \$1.50 an hour for their work. The Turk really helped me put that into perspective and be more empathetic to their situation. There are inmates that gladly work for \$0.10 an hour because they like the job better than the \$1.50 jobs--something I found myself doing within the Mechanical Turk.

What is the best/most interesting HIT you did on the Turk?

The best/most interesting HIT is in fact the one I did for Tyler Coburn. He gave a simple idea and wanted in return a completed piece of visual art. The time limit was an hour, I think. This was fun and challenging, I really had to commit to my first idea and see it through to the end within the time frame. It was a high-paying HIT for me, I believe four dollars. This was a huge amount compared to my usual \$0.05 and \$0.25 payments. He even contacted me in order to get a better version of the image which I found to be very professional and respectful.

What has been the worst HIT you did on the Turk?

So many bad HITs have come across my screen. I really think some of the worst ones were the kind where you get most of the way through it and find that because certain parameters had not been established early on, the HIT cannot be completed. Usually, this would happen three-quarters of the way through and the survey would boot the user from the HIT. So frustrating to spend about 10 or 20 minutes working on something you weren't even qualified to do in the first place!

Have you ever had difficulty working with Requesters and/or with Amazon?

I rarely had any negative interactions with Requesters or Amazon. The Mechanical Turk actually really opened my eyes to the digital workforce that exists in the world. It actually improved my opinion of Amazon and turned me on to the seller based abilities on their website.

Are you also a Requester?

Not yet, but I have begun looking into options for my comic book company. Now that I know one can pay for social media popularity and website traffic, there seems to be some potential there.

Will you continue working for the Turk in the future?

Every now and then, I find myself looking up HITs to do when I am feeling bored or need some extra cash. What used to be a 10 to 15 hour a week commitment has become a one hour commitment when I feel like it. This flexibility, however, is why I keep returning to it periodically

Mummaleni

How old are you, and where do you live in the world?

24, India

Do you have a family? If so, are you the sole provider, or do other members of your family also work?

Yes, My Father Daily Labor, Mother House Wife.

How long have you worked for the Mechanical Turk?

2011 on wards

Why did you decide to begin working for the Turk?

During my college time I have searched so many part time online/offline jobs. Some times I have invested some money but they cheated. Finally I found mturk (2011). mTurk fulfilled all my needs. I respect mturk and Requester's.

What are your other jobs/professions?

Software Developer/ B-tech

How much of your overall income do you make by working for the Turk?

Monthly I can make: 80-100 \$ (Part time only)

How do you enjoy working for the Turk? What do you see as the benefits and drawbacks of this type of work?

I like very much, Actually during my job trails with this Mturk only I feed my self

What is the best/most interesting HIT you did on the Turk?

Each and every task is unique. If I know very well about task then only I will do, other wise I won't touch. If they reject hit means accuracy may go down.

What has been the worst HIT you did on the Turk?

If I have confident on hit then only I will do, So far I did like that.

Have you ever had difficulty working with Requesters and/or with Amazon?

All Requester's very good, Few Requester's will respond very promptly like you. Frankly I respect you also. That is the reason I have shared my what's up number to you. Trust plays major role in Mturk. I hope all requester's in Mturk very polite and genuine.

I forgot to tell about two Requester's.

Requester 1:

Year 2013 I have accepted one Hit. It's a kind of Captcha solve.

That task reward around 100 \$. Actually I am good in typing skills, So I have accepted the hit and started work. They also provided one URL... we have to enter into that URL and we have to submit the Captcha's there.

So during that time with me nearly above 2000+ mTurk workers solving captcha's but 100 \$ reward can earn only one person(who solve more catch's).

So I disappointed for that rule and came out from the challenge.

Again same requester posted same kind of work with 50\$ reward...This time also same rule....even though I have stared the work and finally I won the challenge. I got 50 \$ reward.

After that I have informed the Requester like this: This is not yet all fair, Every worker is contributing valuable time, but you are paying only one worker like that... and I have informed the proper distribution process also, He is very impressed about my suggestion and gave me 5 \$ Bonus.

Third time also same requester posted the work with my suggestion, But this time i didn't participate.

Requester 2 :

Actually I forgot requester name.

This requester will give some AD kind video's we have to see that AD and give some description. In that if any AD video not working properly we have to mention not working, But few days later every video coming like that...I informed some program bug at your end please correct.

So he immediately corrected and gave me 10 \$ Bonus.

So far nice journey with nice people...Thanks agin.. because of your question's I got all my old day's work and memorable moments.

Are you also a Requester?

No

Will you continue working for the Turk in the future?

I would like to work feature also.

Skye

How old are you, and where do you live in the world?

*I am 32 years old and I live in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Do you have a family? If so, are you the sole provider, or do other members of your family also work?

*I am single and live alone right now. I do not have any children and I am the sole income earner in my household.

How long have you worked for the Mechanical Turk?

*I have been working for Mturk on and off for 5 years. But I have been working consistently for the last three years.

Why did you decide to begin working for the Turk?

*I began to work for Mturk because I came across a forum on the internet and people were really making some good money with the platform. They said it had the potential to be a full-time job after you get to a certain level, so I figured it wouldn't hurt to try it out in my free time, and maybe I would be able to quit my job if I get to a good point.

What are your other jobs/professions?

*I also work as a Human Resources Manager for a security company. But I do not like working there that much.

How much of your overall income do you make by working for the Turk?

*I can say that at this point, about 35% of my income comes from Mturk. It could be much more if I was spending more time.

How do you enjoy working for the Turk? What do you see as the benefits and drawbacks of this type of work?

*I absolutely love working for Mturk. I get to choose what I want to work on and manage my own time. I want to do it full time, but a lot of the surveys ask that you have work outside of Mturk.

What is the best/most interesting HIT you did on the Turk?

*The best hit I have done on Mturk involved listening to Shakespeare plays and taking notes about them. It payed \$40 and I enjoyed doing it as well.

What has been the worst HIT you did on the Turk?

*The worst hit I have done was when a requester asked for us to do several image labeling tasks for \$1. I really did not want to do it, but I did because it was a slow day. It made me feel like the requester did not value our work or our time.

Have you ever had difficulty working with Requesters and/or with Amazon?

*I cannot say that I have had any difficulties. Some requesters are more responsive than others, but I have never had a requester that was blatantly rude or disrespectful. There are some requesters that take advantage of the platform for spam, but they usually get reported.

Are you also a Requester?

*No, I am not a requester.

Will you continue working for the Turk in the future?

*I will always work for Mturk as long as it is there. I cannot imagine just quitting.