

Case Studies



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REMOTIVE

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CASE STUDIES

In this section, you will find the story of Remotive Slack Community members who all have different background and who share with us how they landed their first remote job, together with their best tips.

Serge Kanunnikov, Designer

Twitter: [@kreativundfrei](https://twitter.com/kreativundfrei)

Lives in: Karlsruhe, Germany



What are you currently working on / what is your current role?

I'm Art Director at LEAD energy AG & Founder of kreativundfrei.de

Why do you work remotely, and how does it feel?

My whole job is remote. I lead a design team totally remotely and create awesome designs for LEAD energy.

How did you find your first remote job/gig?

I worked for this company as a freelancer and then they asked me to start as art director. I didn't want to move to Düsseldorf, so they were ok with a remote job.

What's your #1 advice for anyone who want to get started on remote work?

Self discipline is everything. If you can't organise yourself and need to connect to other every day - then it's a wrong thing for you.

Matt Aunger, Community

Twitter: [@MattMadeContent](https://twitter.com/MattMadeContent)

Lives in: Canterbury, England



What are you currently working on / what is your current role?

I've recently started working on Community at Pop Products, helping generate awareness and engagement with a couple of innovative B2C and B2B products.

Why do you work remotely, and how does it feel?

I work best when I'm in control of my own work hours. I've often found my best work happens deep into the night, and working remotely allows me to do that without disrupting or impacting others. To me, working remotely makes work part of your life. The two become complementary, instead of work being a means to an end.

How did you find your first remote job/gig?

I have freelanced as a side-gig for the past decade, and found all my clients online. This naturally progressed to a full-time remote freelance gig at the end of 2015, and recently to a full-time job.

What's your #1 advice for anyone who want to get started on remote work?

I always recommend anyone interested in remote working takes on small, remote freelancing side-gigs first. There's no training when it comes to remote working, and not everyone can naturally manage their own time or keep themselves accountable. Freelance side gigs are a great way to train yourself to be a successful remote worker.

Melissa Smith, Virtual Assistant

Twitter: [@thePVA](https://twitter.com/thePVA)

Lives: Virtually anywhere



What are you currently working on / what is your current role?

I'm a Virtual Assistant Staffer, Host of the Admin to VA Summit, VA Consultant & Trainer, Bestselling Author

Why do you work remotely, and how does it feel?

I started working remotely as a virtual assistant because I didn't want to choose between my family and doing the work I loved as an assistant. It has since grown to so much more. It feels amazing. I never imagined it would now allow me to work and travel to 12 countries in 12 months.

How did you find your first remote job/gig?

My first remote job was as an employee. My employer didn't want to lose me and I told him he didn't have to. I simply asked to become a virtual assistant. At the time neither of us really knew what that meant. He asked me to draft a proposal of how it would work. I drafted the proposal, we met again so he could approve, and then I met with the team I worked with to make sure I hadn't forgotten anything.

After a short time, I realized that if I could work remotely for them I could do it for myself. With no real understanding of what it meant to be a business owner, I went out on my own.

What's your #1 advice for anyone who want to get started on remote work?

My #1 piece of advice would be to join the [Remotive community](#). Seriously. Being remote is not about being on your own. Not only can you find jobs, best practices, tools, learn what companies are looking, you get connected to a community.

You will need support. You will need to ask the advice of others. Not all support and advice are the same. You need the perspective of someone who has already been there, done that, and can provide insight to your journey. Plus, it's just fun!

Lucile Foroni, Growth Manager

Twitter: [Lucile Foroni](#)

Lives: France & Nomad



What are you currently working on / what is your current role?

I'm a growth manager for Todoist at Doist. I work on everything related to growth, product management and marketing. Very diverse and exciting :D

Why do you work remotely, and how does it feel?

What I enjoy the most with working remotely is my freedom. The freedom to work when I'm the most productive during the day as well as the freedom to disconnect from my work and enjoy time with my close ones when I am done for the day.

How did you find your first remote job/gig?

Hugo (growth manager at Doist as well) reached out to me about joining the team. I had been an apprentice at a digital agency for two years, working on mobile marketing. Hugo thought I could bring something to the team. He supported me in getting interviews and triggering a job creation. And that's how it all started :)

What's your #1 advice for anyone who want to get started on remote work?

I would say to start with small projects. Working in an association remotely, doing some freelance or free work. Just to get a sense of whether remote is something that would work for you. Also, I believe it's a nice added-value for a recruiter to know that you are autonomous and have already been working remotely on some projects.

Beatriz Leon, Software Engineer

Twitter: [Beatriz Leon](#)

Lives: Bogota, Colombia



What are you currently working on / what is your current role?

I am a software developer at the [Shadow Robot Company](#), a company famous for producing the most dexterous hand in the world and now in the process of developing the [Smart Grasping System](#). Being part of the software team, I am involved not only in developing the software for the robot hands we produce, but also participating in different research projects with a wide range of applications such as agriculture, surgery, tele-operation or robot home assistants.

Why do you work remotely, and how does it feel + How did you find your first remote job/gig?

I worked in the Shadow London office for over a year, but I decided to move back to Colombia, my home country, as raising my daughter apart from my family was proving exhausting. When I told Shadow that I wanted to go back, they were open minded and gave me the opportunity to continue to work for them remotely. After living in Bogota for a few months, I couldn't be happier. I am still enjoying being part of the software team, doing what I love and at the top of the robotics field with a lot of exciting projects.

What's your #1 advice for anyone who want to get started on remote work?

I don't have experience finding a remote work as I found mine after working for my company locally. Although I feel that it is also an option to find a job for others, as you could approach a company looking for someone with your profile and ask them if they are willing to consider you

to work remotely. After you find a remote job, you still have to learn how to improve your productivity. I feel it is not easier to focus when you don't have an office environment, so my advice for anyone started on remote work is to take time researching and experimenting with different tools/apps and see what works for you. I found especially helpful doing my todo list using the [Bullet Journal](#) and [taking specific times for focus](#) and rest periods. Also moving from your home to a different environment has helped my to concentrate more. In our company, all the software team members are connected with Slack and I found it very useful as I somehow I feel that I am not alone and that I get help as if I were back in the office.

Kavi Gupta, Freelance writer

Twitter: [Kavi Gupta](#)

Location: Perth, Western Australia



What are you currently working on / what is your current role?

Freelance writer/content producer on future of work and business innovation.

Why do you work remotely, and how does it feel?

To have flexibility and the ability to travel. My work requires me to get out and see the world.

How did you find your first remote job/gig?

Network contacts and job boards.

What's your #1 advice for anyone who want to get started on remote work?

Figure out how well you can organize yourself. Figure out your process. Learn to communicate. You need all 3 to be successful.

Ladislav Martincik, CTO

Twitter: [Ladislav](#)

Location: Ostrava, Czech Republic



What are you currently working on / what is your current role?

Software Engineer, CTO, Consultant

Why do you work remotely, and how does it feel?

Because I want to be with my family in my country and don't want to see their lives remotely. Family isn't working remote, work does.

How did you find your first remote job/gig?

A relationship, helping a friend.

What's your #1 advice for anyone who want to get started on remote work?

Keep your current job while looking for remote job/gig and don't be afraid. Also, read some articles or books about what does it mean to be remote.

Jonathan Sharp, Front-end Developer

Twitter: [Jonathan](#)

Location: Three Lakes, WI, USA



What are you currently working on / what is your current role?

I'm a front-end JavaScript developer with a focus on React development. I founded the [Remote Works podcast](#) and blog about remote work and culture at [Cultivate Now](#).

Why do you work remotely, and how does it feel?

My reason for working remote is my family. I resigned from my commuter job in 2008, 2 weeks after my daughter was born. My desire and goal was to be present in my family's life and have some flexibility of schedule. It has also allowed for my wife being able to pursue a career in the equine industry and find a balance.

How did you find your first remote job/gig?

Through my personal network. I started off with small project based work referred through friends and colleagues. The first year was a challenge but I had faith and hustle and it turned out well.

What's your #1 advice for anyone who want to get started on remote work?

First, have a specific reason for why you want to work remote as there will be significant challenges and knowing your "why" will help you persevere through it. Second, look for an opportunity that has a 100% remote culture. For your first remote gig, it will be easier if they've fully embraced remote and will help you learn to be "remote". Finally, be patient for the right opportunity, there are many remote opportunities that are just as bad as bad commuter opportunities.