

## CHAPTER 1

# The world has become remote

For many years I wanted to work remotely. It seemed like an easy and even obvious way to greatly improve my life. However, that was an elusive dream for a long time, as remote jobs were far from being common. I had the impression it was something only a few lucky ones would get it. Or something that was reserved for people far more competent than me. But after many years of suffering from long commutes, I eventually joined the lucky team.

The good news is that we live in a different reality now. A much better one regarding remote jobs. You don't need to rely on luck anymore. And you also don't need to be one of the biggest specialists in your field. Now there's a vast world of remote opportunities just awaiting you.

### **The turning point**

It might surprise you, but we have the technology to support remote work for quite a while. There are companies that have been working remotely for more than a decade. Even so, a few years ago remote work was still far from being as ubiquitous as it is today. It was growing steadily every year, but not fast enough, considering how revolutionary it could be

for our society. The truth about people, and ultimately about companies, is that we don't like big changes. We're too stuck in our ways to embrace the new. Even something that has the potential to make people happier and more productive is met with skepticism.

I was convinced that the situation wouldn't drastically change, and that remote work would keep growing continuously but slowly. Then COVID-19 happened. I'm sure I don't need to explain this to you. It hit everyone's lives. It changed the world more than any other event in my lifetime. Suddenly the office wasn't safe anymore, and companies sent their employees home. They had no alternative but to surrender to that terrible thing called remote work.

This is the moment when you realize it was necessary for the world to suffer a huge blow for companies to embrace remote work. And even then, it happened just because it was their only alternative. They had to go remote if they wanted to keep working. There was no other way. Then something they were sure was impossible happened: the companies kept working and doing business even though their employees were not in the sacred temples of productivity known as offices. Even with all the challenges of doing such a sudden migration without previous planning, it worked. And it worked in such a difficult moment that it would be very understandable if it didn't.

Nothing speaks louder than results. Companies had to confront the cold fact that remote workers didn't break their companies. Quite the opposite, they kept them afloat. If COVID-19 happened 20 years ago, it would be much worse. There would be no way for people to work from home, so companies would bankrupt or endanger their employees by forcing them to stay at the office.

Now, even though COVID-19 is still around, it's not the threat it once was. As a consequence, many companies around the world have returned to their offices. But now they have a factual assessment of remote work. They know it works, the sheer reality of the numbers shows it. If they pretend it doesn't and try to force everybody back to their offices, they'll be confronted with an even harsher reality: many of their employees have tasted a better life and there's no turning back after that.

## The benefits of working remotely

I've been talking about how good remote work is, but without explaining why. Now it's time to fix that.

Working remotely will allow you to eliminate what is possibly the biggest waste of time in your life: commuting. You won't need to wake up hours in advance anticipating a long, slow, and dreadful commute. You'll have a more fulfilling sleep, waking up more rested and happier, instead of starting your day at work already stressed. And as soon you stop working, you're already at home! No need for more commuting. In essence, you'll be able to claim your time back and spend it doing the things that really matter to you.

However, the pain of being an office worker doesn't always end once you arrive at the office. Many companies like to further torture their employees with open offices. This is a great strategy when you trying to set up people to fail. Open offices are usually loud and prone to interruptions, so is the perfect environment to make it harder for you to focus on your tasks. The only problem is that failure is not the end goal in most jobs, which in turn makes open offices terrible. But guess what! You can escape that by working remotely! No more interruptions to answer something that could and should be asked through email. You'll finally have the peace to focus on that boring report you must finish by the end of the week.

Another advantage of working remotely is that you can apply to jobs all over the world, as long as you have a compatible timezone. This opens a much wider pool of jobs available to you, allowing you to work in fields that are not in high demand where you live. And because your job is not tied to the city you live in, you can move to other places. You don't need to live in expensive cities like San Francisco anymore just to have access to interesting jobs and good salaries.

This is good for companies as well. It's not uncommon for companies located in small cities to struggle when they try to hire a very specific professional to work onsite. The position can be open for weeks or even months, and in many cases, it will end up never being filled. But when hiring remotely, it doesn't matter if the company is based on a small island or in a big city. Hiring remote workers allows a company to choose globally. And not only is easier

to fill their positions, but it's also easier to fill them with the most qualified professionals.

As we're talking about companies, they can also save a lot of money by hiring remotely. If most employees of a company are remote, a smaller office can be enough, so the company spends much less. It's also possible to save money on office furniture, electricity and internet bills, and many other items that are cheaper when you have fewer people in the office. So even though saving money is not exactly the goal here, it's a very welcome consequence.

I could go on, but I believe you got the point by now: remote work is about the freedom to pursue a more meaningful and productive life.

## **Is remote work for me?**

No matter how fantastic working remotely is, it won't be great for everybody. So it makes sense to ask yourself if it's a good match for your reality. But don't fear, I'm here to help you with that. Here are some situations that don't favor remote work:

- **You're not an office worker.** This is the most obvious item in this list, but it needs to be said regardless. Remote work probably doesn't fit you if you're a mailman, a zoo keeper, a waiter, or anything else that requires going to a specific place so you can do whatever you do in order to get paid.
- **You don't have a quiet place to work.** A loud office is exactly one of the things we're trying to escape, so you need a calm environment if you're thinking about working remotely. But that place doesn't need to be your house. If you think you can't be productive working at home, you can try a coworking space, a library, a coffee shop, or any quiet place with an internet connection that allows you to work there.
- **You don't have enough discipline.** When working outside an office, without your boss breathing down your neck, you need to have some discipline to do your work instead of watching cute cats on YouTube all day. I know it's hard, those damn cats are so cute. But unfortunately, you're probably not paid to watch cute cats (but if you are, I would love to be your coworker).

- **You need constant human contact.** If that's your case, and you live by yourself, maybe you shouldn't consider working remotely. Your typical day would be very dry socially, which can be detrimental to your mental health. But you can try to balance things by having some frequent social activity after work. Something like practicing a team sport, attending some kind of class, or anything that puts you in a situation where you can interact with other human beings.

Are you still unsure? You can always give it a try. By the way, that's the only way you can actually know if it works for you. Before doing that, you have at most an educated guess.

## Finding a remote job

Now it's time for you to take advantage of the sea of opportunities available. To help you with that, I'm listing below some of the best websites to find remote jobs:

[We Work Remotely](#)<sup>1</sup>: this is maybe the most popular website for remote jobs. It has positions in many different fields, such as programming, design, sales, marketing, finance, and customer support. You can filter the job posts by category, or search using keywords. It also states if the positions are accepting applicants anywhere in the world or only in specific regions. You can keep up to date with the latest job posts without even visiting the website, you just need to subscribe to its RSS feed.

[Remote OK](#)<sup>2</sup>: this is another hugely popular job board for remote workers. It also has jobs in many fields, an RSS feed, and even an API. One of the most interesting features that Remote OK provides is the creation of profiles for remote workers. That way recruiters can also find you, which increases your chances of getting a job.

[FlexJobs](#)<sup>3</sup>: here we have another website with tons of job posts. It has basically the same features as the previous two websites, plus some extra services: career coaching, resume

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1. <https://weworkremotely.com/>

2. <https://remoteok.com/>

3. <https://www.flexjobs.com/>

review, and mock interviews.

[Himalayas](#)<sup>4</sup>: this strangely named job board has jobs in the following categories: development, customer service, product management, marketing, design, and finance. It has a nice UI and a lot of positions, so you should take a look.

[JS Remotely](#)<sup>5</sup>: if you're a JavaScript developer looking for a remote job, this website was made for you.

[Remote.co](#)<sup>6</sup>, [Jobspresso](#)<sup>7</sup>, [RemoteLeads](#)<sup>8</sup>, [Remotive](#)<sup>9</sup>, and [DailyRemote](#)<sup>10</sup>: most of these websites have nothing special, but they deserve a mention since they have a good amount of job posts.

[LinkedIn](#)<sup>11</sup>: remote work is so popular nowadays that even broad platforms like LinkedIn have remote positions. And if you're strong enough to endure the boredom of keeping your LinkedIn profile up to date, you can be contacted by recruiters without having to do anything. If you're experienced in your field, this is probably the easiest way to get a remote job.

[/r/RemoteJobs](#)<sup>12</sup>: this is a subreddit for remote jobs. If you're not familiar with Reddit, it's a website with thousands of forum-based communities called subreddits. It's not very structured, but it's worth a shot if you don't find anything that interests you in any of the previous options.

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4. <https://himalayas.app/>

5. <https://jsremotely.com/>

6. <https://remote.co/>

7. <https://jobspresso.co/>

8. <https://remoteleads.io/>

9. <https://remotive.com/>

10. <https://dailyremote.com/>

11. <https://www.linkedin.com/jobs>

12. <https://www.reddit.com/r/RemoteJobs>