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About Us

Preferment Times: *Retirement Redefined*

July 2025 Issue

The Best is Still to Come

Toes in the Sand, Mind Engaged





Coaches Corner

July = Freedom

July serves as a powerful reminder of freedom—freedom of choice, freedom of time, and the freedom to create the life you truly desire.

It's no coincidence that this month, which celebrates independence, provides the perfect opportunity to reflect on the reasons you chose freelancing in the first place.

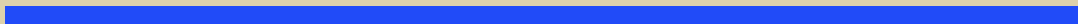
Maybe it was the desire to escape the 9-to-5 grind... or to finally do meaningful work that aligns with your values. Perhaps it was the need for flexibility, the excitement of working with clients from around the world, or the drive to build something completely your own. Whatever your "why" is—hold onto it. Let it guide you, especially during slow days or moments of doubt.

Freelancing isn't always easy—but it's always yours. Every proposal you send, every conversation you have, and every lesson you learn brings you one step closer to a life of intention and self-direction.

This month, take a moment to check in with yourself: Are you honoring your goals? Are you making space for growth? What can you do today that your future freelancing self will thank you for?

You have everything it takes. Keep showing up, keep learning, and keep embracing the freedom you've chosen. July is your reminder that you're not just working differently—you're working intentionally. And that's something worth celebrating.

Take action this month: Reassess your freelance goals, update your profile, or pitch to one new client. Small steps lead to significant breakthroughs—start today.





🚀 Exciting July Lineup on Our YouTube Channel! 🚀

Get ready for another month packed with valuable tips and insider knowledge to level up your freelance game! Join Patty & Robert on our YouTube channel as we dive into some must-know topics for online freelancers:

- 📅 **July 7:** Robert will talk about **Upwork Messages**
- ✍️ **July 14:** Patty talks about **Turning Down Job Offers**
- 🌐 **July 21:** Patty will talk about **Freelance Burnout**
- 🎬 **July 28:** Robert will talk about **Handling Rejection**

It will be another busy month – with great topics – don't miss them!

Subscribe here: www.youtube.com/@RPTVirtualServices

Don't forget: Subscribe, tune in, and get ready to take your freelance game to new heights!

See you on our channel! Remember to subscribe, like, and share!



Resilience Pays the Bills: Why Bouncing Back is Your Most

Valuable Freelancing Skill

In the world of freelancing, resilience isn't optional—it's essential.

Unlike a traditional job where someone else manages marketing, deadlines, and the security of a steady paycheck, freelancing is a solo endeavor. There are exhilarating highs—landing a dream client or receiving glowing feedback—and discouraging lows, such as rejected proposals, sparse job listings, or difficult clients. The one skill that will support you through it all? Resilience.

The Reality: Freelancing Isn't Always Smooth Sailing

Many freelancers, particularly those transitioning from traditional jobs, are often surprised to discover that freelancing involves more than just leveraging your skills. It also requires you to market yourself, set your prices, and maintain resilience during quiet periods.

Some months feel like a flood of opportunity, while others seem like a drought. Clients disappear, projects fall through, and algorithms change. But here's the thing—none of that defines your potential. It lies in how you respond, and that is what makes the difference.

What Resilience Really Looks Like

Resilience doesn't mean pretending that everything is fine. It means experiencing the frustration, confronting the challenge, and showing up anyway.

It's about reworking your Upwork profile after a few dead-end proposals.

It's about sending that 15th pitch after the first 14 were ignored.

It's about learning a new tool or skill when you realize your niche is evolving.

It's about responding to client feedback with curiosity instead of defensiveness.

Resilience in freelancing is both gritty and quiet. No one applauds when you update your profile or revise your proposal for the third time. However, those are the moments that shape your long-term success.

Real Talk: Why Some Freelancers Quit—and Why You Won't

We've seen it: some freelancers give up after the first dry month. They assume it's not working or that they're not cut out for it.

But here's the truth—success rarely occurs overnight. The freelancers who succeed are those who commit to learning, adapting, and maintaining consistency. They don't attach their value to one slow week or a single critical client. They persevere because they understand that one yes can change everything.

Every successful freelancer you admire has been told "no." The only difference is—they didn't stop after that.

How to Build Resilience on Your Freelancing Journey

1. Reframe rejection.

Every "no" is data. Look at what you can tweak. Was your proposal clear? Was the client the right fit? Did you lead with what *they* need, not just what you offer?

2. Set small, consistent goals.

Resilience is built in daily habits, not grand gestures. Send two proposals a day. Learn one new thing a week. Track your wins, no matter how small.

3. Stay connected.

Don't isolate. Stay in touch with your freelance community (like our coaching group!). Others have been where you are—and come out stronger.

4. Remind yourself why you started.

Whether it's freedom, flexibility, or finally doing meaningful work—keep your *why* front and center. Especially when things get tough.

5. Celebrate progress, not perfection.

You don't have to have it all figured out. If you're still showing up, you're already succeeding more than you think.

Final Thoughts

Freelancing involves more than just writing, designing, coaching, or consulting. It's about personal and professional growth. This growth does not arise from perfection; rather, it emerges from confronting challenges, learning from them, and persisting in the face of adversity.

If this week has felt discouraging, take a moment to breathe. Then, take the next step: update your profile, send the proposal, watch the tutorial, and reach out to your coach. You're not starting over; you're building something.

And remember: resilience doesn't just help you survive in freelancing—it's what helps you thrive.



NEW ALERT: Rise in Online Freelance Scams

Stay Smart, Stay Safe: Spotting Scams in the Freelance World

As freelancing continues to grow, so do the scams—clever, convincing, and often aimed at new freelancers trying to get their foot in the door. Recently, there has been a noticeable uptick in fraudulent activity on well-known platforms like Upwork and Fiverr. These are not always obvious “get rich quick” schemes. Some are long cons, drawing freelancers in with promises of steady work, only to leave them unpaid or worse—out thousands of dollars.

What makes these scams particularly dangerous is how real they can appear. Scammers may utilize legitimate business names, polished job descriptions, and even staged interviews. For freelancers eager to secure that first client, it can be easy to let your guard down.

So how can you protect yourself? Awareness is your first line of defense. Be cautious of clients who ask you to work outside the platform, send money upfront for “equipment,” or avoid signing contracts. When in doubt, take a moment to pause and ask questions—or reach out to a mentor or trusted coach.

Freelancing offers freedom and flexibility, but it also requires discernment. As you build your business, ensure that you're also enhancing your ability to identify red flags, because your time, skills, and financial security are worth protecting.

Call to Action:

Take a few minutes this week to review safety guidelines on Upwork and any online platforms you may be using. Knowledge is power—and peace of mind.



Be the first to know— and the first to apply.

Freelancer Plus subscribers now receive job alerts—real-time notifications about new opportunities matching their skills and preferences—at no extra cost.

Apply quickly to high-quality jobs and boost your chances of getting the right work—before others even see it.

How it works

If you're a Freelancer Plus member, you'll receive job alerts that send you instant leads similar to the jobs you've already proposed on. Finding the right job at the right time is crucial, especially when new job posts quickly attract proposals. Job alerts make it easy to stay ahead by notifying you of relevant jobs as they're posted.

- **Eligibility:** You are on the Freelancer Plus plan, and you've submitted a proposal to at least one active job on Upwork.
- **Receive instant, relevant alerts:** Alerts are based on jobs you've submitted proposals to before, better ensuring you see only high-quality leads. They will be sent immediately after a similar job is posted, ensuring that you can be one of the first to apply.

Customize your job alert notifications

You can choose where to receive your job alert notifications. Here's how:

1. Select the bell notification in your navigation bar to open the notifications page
2. Choose the **Job alerts** tab, then choose **Alert preferences**
3. Select how you want to get notifications (Upwork mobile app and email are the choices—you'll get account notifications on desktop by default) and choose **Save**

Pro tip: We suggest using the Upwork app to get notifications since it's the quickest way to receive them. If you haven't downloaded our app yet, [learn more here](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get access to job alerts?

To get job alerts, you can sign up for our [Freelancer Plus plan](#).

I signed up for notifications but I'm not receiving them where I want. What's wrong?

We suggest taking a look at your job alert notification settings to make sure they are set up as you prefer. Here's how:

- Select the bell notification in your navigation bar to open the notifications page
- Choose the **Job alerts** tab, then choose **Alert preferences**
- Select how you want to get notifications (Upwork mobile app and email are the choices—you'll get account notifications on desktop by default) and choose **Save**

I was receiving notifications but they have stopped. What's wrong?

It's possible that your email system is misreading the notifications as spam and putting them in your spam/promotions folder. We suggest checking there.

The job alerts I've received don't always match my skills. Why?

Job alerts are based on the types of jobs you've submitted proposals to in the past. If you've applied for jobs outside your skill area, that may affect the relevance of the alerts you receive.

I received an alert about a job I was interested in, but when I went to submit a proposal the job post was gone. What happened?

In most cases, this is because the job post was removed. It may have been removed by the client, or by us if we found that it violated our Terms of Service.



Did you know – You can and should ask clients for feedback?

Positive Feedback Fuels Your Freelancing Success

Once you've finished your first few projects with two or more clients, you'll unlock your Job Success Score (JSS)—Upwork's key metric for evaluating your performance and client satisfaction. A high JSS (90% or above) not only enhances your credibility but also qualifies you for the coveted Top Rated badge.

But numbers alone don't tell the whole story. Positive client reviews—both public and private—play a powerful role in illustrating your skills, work ethic, and value to potential clients. After a project wraps up, it's perfectly acceptable to ask for feedback—especially if the client seemed pleased with the results. Be professional and polite, and let them know how much a few kind words could aid your growth on the platform. You can even gently suggest they highlight specifics about what you delivered or how you made their life easier.

Are you working on a long-term project? You don't have to wait until it's over. Providing mid-contract feedback is an excellent way to build credibility while you're still actively engaged—especially helpful if one of your initial jobs evolves into a long-term opportunity.

In the early stages, when your profile is still gaining traction, every review matters. If you don't yet have Upwork client feedback, consider asking previous clients or employers (outside the platform) for testimonials. These can serve as powerful trust-builders until your Upwork history begins to shine.

The bottom line? Feedback isn't just about praise—it's a freelancing superpower that builds trust, attracts more clients, and fuels your momentum.



Tech Corner

AI Productivity Tools Are Changing the Freelance Game

Staying competitive as an online freelancer no longer relies solely on your skills—it's also dependent on the tools you use. In 2025, one trend is emerging for freelancers across every niche, from writing to design to admin support: AI-powered productivity tools.

These tools aren't just a flash in the pan—they're transforming how freelancers work, get hired, and expand their businesses. If you're not already integrating AI into your workflow, July is the ideal month to explore what's possible.

Why AI Tools Are a Game-Changer for Freelancers

The best part? You don't need to be a tech genius to take advantage of this trend. Today's AI tools are more user-friendly than ever, and many are designed specifically for freelancers and solopreneurs.

Here's why they matter:

- Save time: Draft emails, create outlines, or summarize meeting notes in seconds.
- Stay organized: Use AI to help manage your calendar, to-do lists, and even client follow-ups.
- Boost quality: Tools like Grammarly or Hemingway improve your writing, while others help analyze data, optimize content, or enhance design.
- Look more professional: Automated proposals, client onboarding docs, and polished edits give your brand a more polished edge.

Tools to Check Out in 2025

Let's break it down by category so you can pick what's relevant for your work:

1. Content Creators & Writers

- ChatGPT (hello again!) is still the frontrunner for content creation, brainstorming, idea generation, and editing.
- Notion AI: Great for creating blog outlines, managing research, and turning notes into structured content.
- Jasper: A powerful AI writing assistant ideal for marketers, social media freelancers, and brand storytellers.

2. Admin & Virtual Assistants

- Motion or Reclaim.ai: Automate your schedule based on your to-do list and meetings.
- Superhuman AI Email: Sort, prioritize, and even respond to emails faster than ever.

3. Designers & Creatives

- Canva Magic Studio: New AI tools help generate layouts, suggest branding, and even create social posts from scratch.
- Adobe Firefly: Easily transform text prompts into editable designs or photos—perfect for creating client-ready visuals fast.

4. Freelance Business Operations

- Trello with Butler AI: Set up automations to manage client tasks and deadlines effortlessly.
- Dubsado & HoneyBook (with built-in AI): Automate client communication, contracts, invoices, and more.

What to Watch Out For

Of course, it's not all sunshine and super-efficiency. There are still a few things to keep in mind:

- Privacy matters: Make sure your tools follow client confidentiality agreements.
- Don't lose your voice: AI should *enhance* your work, not replace your unique style or human touch.
- Avoid over-reliance: Use AI to *speed up* your process, not do your thinking for you. Clients still expect your expertise.

The Bottom Line

AI-powered productivity tools are not just a trend—they are becoming essential for freelancers who want to remain relevant, efficient, and client-ready in a fast-paced digital world. If you have been hesitant to explore AI, now is the time to experiment. Try one new tool this month and see how it integrates into your workflow.

As always, we're here to support you every step of the way. If you need help learning how to use AI tools in your freelance business—or if you're not sure where to start—reach out to us! We'll guide you through it.

This July, take a bold step forward. Let the tech work *for* you, so you can spend more time doing what you love—and earning what you deserve.





Success Stories

Keep watching here for our next success story - maybe it will be you!

Contact us at info@rptvirtualservices.com to learn how to schedule a free Discovery Call with us on Zoom.



Hope you have a very Happy and Successful July 2025!
Patty & Robert



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