

February 24, 2012 Freelance Friday #EFAChat

Topic: What You LOVE About Freelancing

336 tweets, 24 contributors, 40 retweets, 155 @replies, 10 links

@EFAFreelancers: Hello all, and welcome to the EFA's Freelance Friday! It's 3pm EST ... let's begin. #EFAChat

@TwtrChat411: It's 3:00pm EST ! Time to #EFAChat for EFA members/friends and freelancers interested in joining. Moderated by @EFAFreelancers

@EFAFreelancers: This month's topic is: What we love about freelancing. I'll be asking some questions to get us started, but first... #EFAChat

@EFAFreelancers: ... introductions! Who is joining us, what do you do, and where are you from? #EFAChat

@kimberlycreates: It's #Freelance Friday! Please pardon my chattiness for the next hour as I chat with other freelancers! #efachat

@KOKEdit: Hi! I'm a medical editor who specializes in ESL editing. I've been self-employed for 17 years & live on Long Island. #EFAChat

@virtuallori: @EFAFreelancers Lori Paximadis, copyeditor and project manager living just outside Cleveland, Ohio #efachat

@EInspirations: April Michelle Davis. Richmond, VA. Freelance editor, indexer, and proofreader for 11 years...and loving it all! #EFAChat

@FastEditing: It's #Freelance Friday! Pardon my chattiness for the next hour as I participate in @EFAFreelancers' #EFAChat

@alaltenburg: Andrea here from Toledo, Ohio. I am a technical writer and manuscript editor #efachat

@kimberlycreates: Hello! I'm a freelance editor, writer, and writing coach from WI, #EFAMember, and @EFAFreelancers board member. #efachat

@LisaLOwens: Hi all. Seattle-based writer, editor, and children's book author here -- 19 years freelancing. #EFAChat

@FastEditing: Hi, everyone -- I'm a developmental editor and copyeditor specializing in Catholic material. Also starting to do some writing! #efachat

@After_Words: I'm a copyeditor/proofreader in CT, recently returning to freelancing after taking time off to be with my kids. #EFAchat

@SVB_Editor: I am a copyeditor and writer living not far from Buffalo, NY. #EFAChat

@alaltenburg: I will be chatting for the next hour at #efachat Feel free to join the talk

@jamesfraleigh: James Fraleigh, from N. NJ, entering my 4th freelance year. Copy editor and proofreader: academic, business, healthcare, & related. #efachat

@lieslw: Hi everyone, I'm a writer & editor in #DC, I specialize in informational & mktg content for nonprofits & small biz #efachat

@EFAFreelancers: Maria Boyer (@mmb064), Palmyra, PA. Freelance editor/proofreader for 15 years now, almost 30 in the biz. Busier than ever! #EFACHat

@scieditorIM: I edit (substantively) school materials in Canada. #efachat

@theculturemom: I've been freelancing since my kids were born, mostly for companies on a 20+ hour a week basis. #EFACHat

@EFAFreelancers: Welcome everyone! What a nice turnout we have today. I see some new "handles" on the list. Happy to "see" you all! #EFACHat

@KOKEdit: So much experience--and so widely varied--in one "room"! Just think of the brainpower :-)) #EFACHat

@Carolcdt: @EFAFreelancers #efachat I'm a freelance editor in Spokane, WA.

@LisaLOWens: @Carolcdt Hi from a fellow Washingtonian! #EFACHat

@EFAFreelancers: Who wants to go first? We've been plugging this chat all month. What DO you love most about freelancing? #EFACHat

@EFAFreelancers: @KOKEdit It's almost intimidating. :) #EFACHat

@KOKEdit: One of the best things: choosing the projects I'll work on! No boss to insist I work on awful stuff. #EFACHat

@alaltenburg: I love the ability to pick and choose what projects I want to work on. I also love the flexibility be home and raise my child #efachat

@After_Words: I like the flexibility of freelancing....I can be here when I need to be here for my kids. #EFACHat

@EInspirations: First: I love what I do! I love working with authors and publishers and books! #EFACHat

@scieditorIM: I love being able to step away from the project when I'm not being productive. Like now. #efachat

@jamesfraleigh: Flexibility of work/life balance. Far easier to program a week / change it at short notice when one or the other throws a curve. #efachat

@FastEditing: Where to start with freelance loves? Learning, variety, independence, cultivating relationships =) #efachat

@SVB_Editor: I love not having to wake up at 7 or 8am to get ready for the "working day." #EFACHat

@kimberlycreates: I love a lot of things about freelancing, but the biggest perk is getting paid to read books! #efachat

@LisaLOWens: No interruptions unless I decide to create one. #EFACHat

@alaltenburg: Also, not having to sit at your desk and look busy if you have no work #efachat

@virtuallori: Time flexibility is the biggest perk for me. #efachat

@alaltenburg: @kimberlycreates I agree getting paid to read is a plus. #efachat

@scieditorIM: @SVB_Editor Good point. Cutting the commute makes work/life balance easier. #efachat

@LisaLOWens: @SVB_Editor I get up just as early but love letting my hair air dry. It's the little things. #EFACHat

@KOKEdit: .@alaltenburg Yes, being around to raise my children--for 17 years!--has been wonderful! #EFACHat

@EInspirations: Second: I love the flexibility! I love being with my son and watching him grow, and I love stimulating work! #EFACHat

@YogiSaraPhD: My favorite part of freelancing: no more petty office politics! And working in yoga pants is pretty cool, too. #EFACHat

@kimberlycreates: Yes! Like @FastEditing, I love the variety too. Even reading fiction, I learn something new on almost every project. #efachat

@LisaLOWens: I like the 20-step commute to my basement office. #EFACHat

@scieditorIM: Knowing that difficult projects will end, not set the trend is nice, too. #efachat

@KOKEdit: .@scieditorIM Ugh, commuting! I used to have 1.5-hr commute by train & subway--and that was just one way! #EFACHat

@Kemari: RT @alaltenburg: @kimberlycreates I agree getting paid to read is a plus. #efachat

@alaltenburg: staying inside when the weather is bad #efachat

@EFAFreelancers: I (@mmb064) love the flexible schedule, the variety of clients I have, and there's no fighting over whose filing cabinet is larger. #EFACHat

@virtuallori: I can work the way that's best for me, not someone else's idea of how I should work. #efachat

@LisaLOWens: I LOVE having more control over what I work on and how I prioritize my day. #EFACHat

@KOKEdit: .@YogiSaraPhD Yes! Out with the petty office politics! #EFACHat

@kimberlycreates: I cut my commute down to five steps -- my desk is in my bedroom now! #efachat

@FastEditing: For me, it adds up to work-life balance (a luxury b/c I'm not primary income earner, but I'll take it) #efachat

@jamesfraleigh: Variety's a big one too. Helps me avoid burnout. Morning and afternoon can have 2+ different tasks, genres, or work roles. #efachat

@BookKvetch: RT @LisaLOWens: I like the 20-step commute to my basement office. #EFACHat

@virtuallori: @LisaLOWens There's a lot to be said for that short commute, too. Mine used to be an hour each way. #efachat

@scieditorIM: @KOKEdit 3 hrs daily commute. That would definitely cut into the "raising a family" time. #efachat

@EInspirations: Yes, I love the commute! I, too, had a 1-2 hour commute each way. #EFACHat

@EFAFreelancers: @LisaLOWens I (@mmb064) need to learn to say "no" a little more often though. I am working on that. #EFACHat

@ebrenner: I agree with @virtuallori: flexible work hours are the best thing for me. #efachat

@Carolcdt: @EFAFreelancers #EFACHat I like throwing my all at something some days and not working some days.

@KOKEdit: MT @virtuallori: Can work the way that's best for me, not someone else's idea. ... // Yes, hate being supervised! #EFACHat

@BookEditorLM: Really gratifying to develop relationships with clients w/o any intermediary (used to work in-house) #EFACHat

@lieslw: Agreeing w/ lots: control, no commute, & esp flexible schedule: I get to spend more time w/ nieces & nephews :) #efachat

@FastEditing: Dropping the commute lets me work out in the mornings -- no longer spending 1.5 hrs/day on the road glaring at other drivers #efachat

@kimberlycreates: Being able to be home for my kids is a huge bonus. #efachat

@SVB_Editor: @alaltenburg The weather hasn't been bad enough in Buffalo this winter! Too tempting to go out & put off work! #EFACHat

@EInspirations: I enjoy working a little bit each day, but never a solid 8-hour shift. #EFACHat

@KOKEdit: .@scieditorIM Yes, commute did cut into family time. Didn't see much of my daughter for a few years. Hated that! #EFACHat

@LisaLOWens: @KOKEdit Same here. I like to be the supervisor, and love having ME as mine. #EFACHat

@EInspirations: I enjoy meeting new authors and seeing their love for their subject matter. #EFACHat

@alaltenburg: @SVB_Editor True, we have had a mild winter in NW Ohio as well. #efachat

@ebrenner: Variety is another great perk, as @jamesfraleigh said. I get bored quickly! #efachat #efachat

@kimberlycreates: YES! RT @jamesfraleigh: Not bankrupting myself on gas costs or risking my life on weather-wracked streets. #efachat

@KOKEdit: MT @EInspirations: I enjoy working little bit each day, but never solid 8-hour shift. //Solid 8 hours is mind-numbing. #EFACHat

@scieditorIM: OTOH, being available to family can cut into the work day. Time to pick up the kid. Bye! #efachat

@ebrenner: I don't know, @LisaLOWens: my boss is a slave driver. No rest for me! #efachat #efachat

@EFAFreelancers: Did it take everyone long to adjust from office life to freelance life? #EFACHat

@KOKEdit: .@EInspirations *We* are the boss of us! :-) #EFACHat

@FastEditing: Availability to take care of things around the house is good, too -- home repairs, chimney cleaning, etc. #efachat

@EFAFreelancers: @ebrenner Mine too. ;) #EFAChat

@LisaLOWens: @ebrenner Ha! Mine is, too, but I'm into that. #EFAChat

@Carolcdt: @EFAFreelancers #EFAChat Also like working with a subjects across the board, just like in my first career as a reference librarian.

@scieditorIM: Mine too. :(RT @ebrenner: I dont know, @LisaLOWens: my boss is a slave driver. No rest for me! #efachat #efachat

@jamesfraleigh: I also love being seen as a solution, instead of a cog or a cell in a beancounter's P/L Excel sheet. I feel like I matter far more. #efachat

@kimberlycreates: Adjusting from office to freelance life was a process for me. Started out by moonlighting after a 6, or 8, or 10 hour work day. #efachat

@alaltenburg: @EFAFreelancers I am still transitioning from full time office to freelance so hard to tell how it will go. #efachat

@AJB_editor: Hi--my first EFA chat. Love flex hours and the freedom to work w/ who I choose. #EFAChat

@ebrenner: I worked from home as a F/T employee before I started freelancing. I was adjusted to somethings but not others. #efachat #efachat

@BookEditorLM: Adjusting to freelance life was relatively pain-free, b/c am an introvert. Didn't miss constant interruption, chaos, meetings etc. #EFAChat

@EFAFreelancers: @jamesfraleigh You make a good point. #EFAChat

@EInspirations: @LisaLOWens My boss is rough, too! My husband says how I expect too much of myself and am too hard on myself. #EFAChat

@kimberlycreates: Now that I'm freelancing full-time, I sometimes feel like I need more structure. #efachat

@ebrenner: I still keep fairly regular business hours, but I'm learning to be more flexible with them. #efachat #efachat

@KOKEdit: .@EFAFreelancers When started freelancing, was lonely till I joined EFA & professional e-mail lists (& I'm an introvert). #EFAChat

@jamesfraleigh: Adaptation to home was near-immediate. Parents immediately recognized that 9â€"5 were still work hours. #efachat

@ebrenner: @BookEditorLM I don't miss the interruptions and noise either! #efachat #efachat

@FastEditing: I made the leap about 1.5 yrs ago. Took a while to establish routine, but not too long. I work reg biz hrs, keeps things easy #efachat

@SVB_Editor: Adjusting to working at home was easy; finding work, not so easy at first. #EFACHat

@EFAFreelancers: @EFAFreelancers: If you're just joining us, welcome to Freelance Friday. Jump in any time! Use #EFACHat hashtag to join in! #EFACHat

@EInspirations: I started out moonlighting, too. When I began freelancing full time, it was a relief! #EFACHat

@kimberlycreates: .@BookEditorLM Me too--I can do w/o the constant interruptions--and the meetings! #efachat

@FastEditing: @ajb_editor Hi, and welcome! #efachat

@alaltenburg: learning how to adjust to a newborn while working at home will be my challenge for awhile. I struggle to stay focused some days #efachat

@jamesfraleigh: @kimberlycreates, I set contact goals during the early months to ensure I kept structure & made a job of finding gigs. #efachat

@KOKEdit: MT @SVB_Editor: Finding work, not so easy at first. // It takes time to build up a clientele. #EFACHat

@FastEditing: .@kimberlycreates I also freelanced PT for years, after regular work and on weekends. Became exhausting as I got older. #efachat

@YogiSaraPhD: It took me awhile to figure out my routine and how much work I could tackle in a day. I think I have a great work-life balance now. #EFACHat

@BookEditorLM: Even when I've felt a little "understimulated," still feel so much better finding ways to get needed stimulation in my own way! :O) #EFACHat

@LisaLOWens: I always keep regular hours just because that's how I stay on task. #EFACHat

@EFAFreelancers: @alaltenburg I was in that same boat early on. It will come. Patience... (@mmb064) #EFACHat

@virtuallori: I don't miss useless meetings one tiny bit. #efachat

@ebrenner: @alaltenburg As you get to know your baby, you'll find your work time. #efachat #efachat

@EFAFreelancers: @YogiSaraPhD If only I allowed myself some yoga time. #EFACHat

@lieslw: A2 (adjusting): a little too easy at first before I put some structure and routine to my days. #efachat

@alaltenburg: The part time freelancing for the past couple years helped me get the clientele to start with. Now people actually seek me out #efachat

@jamesfraleigh: Only weird aspect at 1st: Midday shopping. Felt like I was taking a sick day/playing hooky. Quickly got over it, esp. 'round Xmas. #efachat

@EInspirations: @alaltenburg Yes, that was my challenge 3 years ago. You are supposed to sleep when the baby sleeps. Where does work fit in? #EFACHat

@FastEditing: Yes, exactly - a relief! RT @einspirations: Started out moonlighting ... When I began freelancing full time, it was a relief! #EFACHat

@jamesfraleigh: RT @virtuallori: I dont miss useless meetings one tiny bit. <â€”AMEN. #efachat

@ebrenner: @alaltenburg Yah! #efachat #efachat

@LisaLOWens: My transition from in-house to freelance was rough because I was used to constant stimulation from interactions. #EFACHat

@AJB_editor: Office to freelance was a relief for me. Was forced into it after laid off after maternity leave. Got to stay home! #EFACHat

@BookEditorLM: @KOKEdit Found that to be true: Took about 9 months to get enough clients to sustain the biz. #EFACHat

@virtuallori: This is my second stint at full-time freelance, so I knew what to expect. Always an adjustment in ramping up w/ new business #efachat

@EasilyMused: @kokedit That's my issue...being an introvert. Not so good with the self-marketing and socializing. #efachat

@YogiSaraPhD: @EFAFreelancers you can do it! Even 10 minutes a day works wonders. #EFACHat

@KOKEdit: MT @alaltenburg: Part time freelancing for past couple yrs helped me get clientele. Now people actually seek me out. // Hurray! #EFACHat

@kimberlycreates: .@FastEditing Yes definitely! Plus, being the primary caregiver of our kids. It's like having three full-time jobs. #efachat

@LisaLOWens: RT @jamesfraleigh: RT @virtuallori: I dont miss useless meetings one tiny bit. <â€”AMEN. #EFACHat

@After_Words: I've only been back to freelancing for a few weeks so I'm still establishing my routine. #EFAchat

@EFAFreelancers: @alaltenburg You bring up a good point. How much do you have to "sell" your services these days? #EFAChat

@alaltenburg: @EInspirations Exactly what I will be learning :) Very exciting times though #efachat

@ebrenner: @jamesfraleigh I don't taken advantage of midday shopping enough. I save non-work time for when the kids get home. #efachat #efachat

@EFAFreelancers: @kimberlycreates @FastEditing: TweetChat needs a "like" button. #EFAChat

@EInspirations: @EasilyMused I'm an introvert, too. I've learned to pretend otherwise, when discussing my business. #EFAChat

@alaltenburg: @AJB_editor You were laid off after maternity leave? How terrible #efachat

@jamesfraleigh: I too am an introvert. Enjoyed not being interrupted once out of an office, but reaching out to contacts took practice. #efachat

@virtuallori: @jamesfraleigh I *LOVE* midweek shopping. Fewer people, less craziness, get more done in less time. #efachat

@KOKEdit: @EasilyMused Ah, but I've found social media helpful for marketing despite being an introvert. You're onstage in the flesh. :-) #EFAChat

@kimberlycreates: @jamesfraleigh That's the most important thing I learned after going FT! #efachat

@EFAFreelancers: This question was meant for all: How much do you have to "sell" your services these days? #EFAChat

@FastEditing: @lisaLowens Agree about stimulation level. I enjoyed people popping in and out -- took a while to get used to quiet and solitude. #efachat

@SVB_Editor: @jamesfraleigh I still feel like I'm playing hooky every day! And feeling glad for it! #EFAChat

@jamesfraleigh: Now I actually enjoy 1 in-office gig I have, as it brings just the right amount of social interaction w/o the politics/drama. #efachat

@Carolcdt: @LisaLOWens Yes. Sometimes I stimulate myself with a few minutes on Twitter :) #EFAChat I

@kimberlycreates: RT @virtuallori: I dont miss useless meetings one tiny bit. #efachat

@EInspirations: @alaltenburg Yes, that's part of the reason why I love freelancing. The two of us are home together. #EFACHat

@alaltenburg: @EFAFreelancers I was always told if you are not working, then finding work should be your fill time job. Same with freelance #efachat

@ebrenner: Reaching out does take practice, but the internet makes it so much easier. #efachat #efachat

@virtuallori: @EFAFreelancers I do very little marketing these days. My roster is full of clients who keep coming back. #efachat

@jamesfraleigh: Social media is a wonder for introverts. Finding one's tribe, interacting to the extent of one's comfort, & not feeling "on" 24/7. #efachat

@BookEditorLM: @EFAFreelancers Promoting your business is something I believe you need to do every day (social media)... #EFACHat

@AJB_editor: Get most clients via referrals, which is great, but still want to build client base. #EFACHat

@LisaLOWens: @EFAFreelancers What I *love* about PR for my biz is exploring my options and choosing what works for me. #EFACHat

@ebrenner: I still find it difficult over the phone or in person, which is why I make myself go to conferences when I can. #efachat #efachat

@jamesfraleigh: RT @alaltenburg: I was always told if you are not working, then finding work should be your fill time job. Same with freelance #efachat

@KOKEdit: "How much do you have to "sell" your services these days?" After 17 yrs & having built a big presence online, not much. :-D #EFACHat

@alaltenburg: @EInspirations That would be a downside to freelancing ;-) #efachat

@virtuallori: Introvert here, too. I make myself go to the gym 3x/week and to the coffeeshop at least 1x/week to be out among people. #efachat

@LisaLOWens: I also love engaging in the best PR, staying in touch with colleagues and past clients. #EFACHat

@kimberlycreates: Me too! Shock 1st, then relief. RT @AJB_editor: Office to freelance was a relief for me. Was forced into it after laid off... #efachat

@kristenfischer: @LisaLOWens understandable, freelancing can be a tad lonely if you don't know to reach out. #EFACHat

@KOKEdit: RT @ebrenner: I still find it difficult over the phone or in person. ... //Which is why I LOVE Twitter, Facebook, & e-mail lists. #EFACHat

@lieslw: .@jamesfraleigh: enjoy 1 in-office gig; enough social interaction w/o politics/drama<--makes me glad 4 at-home days #efachat

@Carolcdt: @EFAFreelancers I am no good at selling services at all. Wretched. If it weren't for repeats & word of mouth, I'd have no work! #EFACHat

@FastEditing: On selling services: Not much, these days. Niche is targeted, services are in demand, have plenty of work. Can be picky, for now #efachat

@kimberlycreates: Me too. Joining in-person networking groups is helping. RT @EasilyMused: Not so good with the self-marketing and socializing. #efachat

@SVB_Editor: I don't sell my services as much as I could; steady clients keep me busy and content for now. #EFACHat

@EasilyMused: @virtuallori I can't wait to get to that point #efachat

@alaltenburg: @virtuallori Panera has become my favorite place to work! #efachat

@ebrenner: I've cut back on social media in the last few months because my client list is keeping me busy. #efachat #efachat

@FastEditing: Yes, absolutely, & make yourself indispensable. RT @lisalowens: The best PR, staying in touch with colleagues and past clients. #EFACHat

@jamesfraleigh: On Wed I drove a friend whose car crapped out home from the garage on short notice. Flexible schedule let me help AND socialize. #efachat

@AJB_editor: @alaltenburg yep. The day I got back. Downsizing. The plus side was it helped push my husband into being OK w/ my going freelance. #efachat

@ebrenner: @FastEditing "for now" is always the key phrase for freelancers! #efachat #efachat

@lieslw: A3 (selling svcs): I need to do more to get the type of work I want, which isn't necessarily the work that finds me #efachat

@YogiSaraPhD: I am still fairly new to freelancing, so I regularly "prospect" for new clients. I have a few repeat clients, so life is busy! #EFACHat

@kimberlycreates: I feel like a spammer when I try to sell myself outright. Focusing instead on helping people and providing free resources. #efachat

@ebrenner: @alaltenburg I imagine you won't be ready in April for ACES. How about Oct. for Comm. Central: <http://t.co/hRPqdlnP?> #efachat #efachat

@jamesfraleigh: Yes to past clients/colleagues: Let everyone know what you're doing and how you can solve their problems/those of their contacts. #efachat

@alaltenburg: @AJB_editor the price of daycare helped push my husband into being okay with my going freelance. I am waiting for maternity now :) #efachat

@FastEditing: Oh yes. =) Got to have back-pocket contacts when "for now" changes: RT @ebrenner: "for now" is always key phrase for freelancers! #efachat

@ebrenner: @kimberlycreates I find helping people is what brings in the most work for me. #efachat #efachat

@alaltenburg: @lieslw (selling services) I am usually found for tech writing while I prefer manuscript writing. Can't be too picky yet though #efachat

@KOKEdit: MT @kimberlycreates: Feel like spammer when I try to sell myself. Focusing instead on helping, providing free resources. /Brava! #EFACHat

@kimberlycreates: Ditto. RT @Carolcdt: I am no good at selling services at all. Wretched. If it werent for repeats & word of mouth, Id have no work! #efachat

@FastEditing: My DH has worked in sales, says that true selling is about how you can help the customer/client in a genuine way #efachat

@LisaLOWens: RT @FastEditing: My DH has worked in sales, says that true selling is about how you can help the customer/client in a genuine way #EFACHat

@EasilyMused: @kimberlycreates Sounds like I need to do the same re: in-person networking groups. #efachat

@KOKEdit: MT @FastEditing: My DH has worked in sales, says true selling is about how you can help customer/client in genuine way. // Yes!! #EFACHat

@EInspirations: @FastEditing Yes, my DH said the same thing when he worked in sales. Sometimes I have him help me prepare. #EFACHat

@EFAFreelancers: @FastEditing true selling is about how you can help...in a genuine way. Keywords: "help" and "genuine." Our clients do love that! #EFACHat

@lieslw: .@alaltenburg Agree can't be too picky yet. I'd like more tech writing! :) What kinds of MSs do you write? #efachat

@FastEditing: .@einspirations =) Me too. He's great with both motivation and practical business advice/coaching. #efachat

@kimberlycreates: @EasilyMused I was intimidated by in-person networking at 1st, but after a few mtgs, I made a few friends and look forward to it. #efachat

@alaltenburg: @lieslw I edit manuscripts, do not actually write them. I love editing more technical stuff, but usually do fiction right now #efachat

@EFAFreelancers: So, what challenges do you face as a freelancer? #EFACHat

@alaltenburg: @ebrenner I imagine you won't be ready in April for ACES. How about Oct. for Comm. Central: <http://t.co/A9DJRJGk?> //possibly :) #efachat

@lieslw: RT @EFAFreelancers @FastEditing: true selling is about how you can help...in a genuine way<--great for happy clients & repeat biz! #efachat

@kimberlycreates: @alaltenburg I think it's good to diversify though--I love fiction but am prospecting for more non-fiction clients. #efachat

@alaltenburg: So, what challenges do you face as a freelancer? // fear of the unknown and not getting enough work #efachat

@jamesfraleigh: I had to overcome discomfort in speaking about myself amid promo, but discussing client's needs keeps them central/provides an "in" #efachat

@FastEditing: Great networking every year at the Comm. Central conference (in Baltimore MD again this year!) <http://t.co/K4sM1Re0> #efachat

@EInspirations: @FastEditing Yes, it is nice having someone you can bounce ideas off of, that way you don't do anything too drastic or crazy. #EFACHat

@KOKEdit: A challenge in freelancing: learning to budget for up-and-down income stream. #EFACHat

@EFAFreelancers: @kimberlycreates And I'd love a few more fiction projects. That grass ... it is always greener. #EFACHat

@ebrenner: My biggest challenge is my habit of overscheduling myself. Why can't I do it all? #efachat #efachat

@Kemari: Okay, had to switch to my regular twitter account. (was tweeting as @EasilyMused). #efachat

@SVB_Editor: Challenges? Biggest one is simply finding better-paying clients. #EFACHat

@jamesfraleigh: Challenges: Ensuring work is constant, but not taking on too much to the point of harming quality of any one project. #efachat

@EInspirations: That's sometimes one of my challenges. Finding someone to bounce ideas off of... #EFACHat

@EFAFreelancers: Yes, @FastEditing. It was great to meet you there! #EFACHat

@ebrenner: @alaltenburg I think fear of not having enough work is why I overschedule. It's very bad for my personal life. #efachat #efachat

@lieslw: @kimberlycreates @alaltenburg: lots of #nonfiction work here in #DC; let me know if u want info. Rarely run across fiction tho #efachat

@virtuallori: @EFAFreelancers Biggest challenge is multiple projects coming in all at once, other people's timing. #efachat

@EInspirations: ...husband is good sometimes, but he only know what I have taught him about the publishing industry, so he could be biased. #EFACHat

@alaltenburg: @EFAFreelancers Indeed the grass is always greener LOL #efachat

@virtuallori: MT @FastEditing: Great networking every year at the Comm. Central conference (in Baltimore again this year!) <http://t.co/JfzdLKRj> #efachat

@FastEditing: Challenges: Negotiating rates, not overbooking. Today's challenge was definitely one of motivation =) #efachat

@kimberlycreates: Challenges: Staying focused some days. Feeling secure about having "enough" work. Over-committing. #efachat

@EFAFreelancers: @EInspirations You can always find all of us here on Twitter! #EFACHat

@alaltenburg: @ebrenner I think fear of not having enough work is why I overschedule. It's very bad for my personal life. // I forget to say "no" #efachat

@YogiSaraPhD: @virtuallori @EFAFreelancers Agreed! I find myself either swamped with work or waiting for comments/approvals. #EFACHat

@ebrenner: I have more ideas than I have time to implement. I want to expand my website, make my blog pay me, write an ebook... #efachat #efachat

@jamesfraleigh: Another: Saying no in a way that keeps door open for future gigs. Always afraid I'll be marked "always busy" in the database #efachat

@FastEditing: @efafreelancers You too, Maria! =) @mmb064 #efachat

@ebrenner: @alaltenburg I'm working on that one, too. I fired a client last week, and it was so freeing! #efachat #efachat

@LisaLOWens: Enjoyed the love-fest portion! Re challenges: Gotta get back to it. Thanks, all + @EFAFreelancers! #EFACHat

@alaltenburg: @lieslw lots of #nonfiction work here in #DC; let me know if u want info. //I would LOVE more info for nonfiction! #efachat

@lieslw: A4 (challenges): RT @virtuallori: multiple projects at once. Feast or famine! RT @FastEditing: negotiating rates #efachat

@ebrenner: @kimberlycreates Focus can be tough some days, but I try to remember that other days I'm overly focused. It balances out. #efachat #efachat

@virtuallori: @ebrenner I know this. So many irons in the fire, all the time. #efachat

@kimberlycreates: Over-committing: On the bd. of one prof. assoc., invited to be on the bd. of another, and trying to start a local EFA chapter too! #efachat

@EFAFreelancers: Thanks for joining us, @LisaLOwens! Always a pleasure to see your smile online. #EFACHat

@alaltenburg: @virtuallori @FastEditing: Great networking every year at the Comm. Central conference// I'm gonna try to make it #efachat

@ebrenner: @jamesfraleigh I feel like there should be a balance between being in demand and booking a month out & being available. #efachat #efachat

@ebrenner: @jamesfraleigh But I don't always find that balance with prospects. You win some, you lose some. #efachat #efachat

@FastEditing: Yes, this is one of my challenges/fears too RT @jamesfraleigh: Saying no in a way that keeps door open for future gigs. #efachat

@AJB_editor: Not stressing when work is light while getting it all done when it then all comes in at once. #EFACHat

@Carolcdt: @EFAFreelancers #EFACHat Challenges: editors I've worked with laid-off; and, publishers/editors offering less \$ than 5+ years ago.

@virtuallori: @kimberlycreates I've had to cut back on volunteering and stick with those things I truly love instead of saying yes to everything #efachat

@alaltenburg: @ebrenner I'm working on that one, too. I fired a client last week, and it was so freeing! //wow! Go you! Go you! I turned one down #efachat

@ebrenner: @virtuallori It's true! And I've put aside my blog & website to build out my husband's blog as a family project. #efachat #efachat

@FastEditing: .@alaltenburg We'd love to meet you there! =) #efachat

@ebrenner: @alaltenburg Good for you! #efachat #efachat

@jamesfraleigh: @ebrenner I try to decline by saying when I will be available so they know when to check in again. #efachat

@AGirlWithAPen: RT @kimberlycreates: Challenges: Staying focused some days. Feeling secure about having "enough" work. Over-committing. #efachat

@EFAFreelancers: @virtuallori I think we have A LOT in common! #EFACHat

@virtuallori: @ebrenner @jamesfraleigh I try to leave a little wiggle room in my schedule to handle last-minute can't-say-no projects. #efachat

@alaltenburg: @FastEditing FastEditing We'd love to meet you there! //we'll see what I can afford after a newborn :) #efachat

@kimberlycreates: Yes! Saw a lot of turnover w/1 of my clients recently made me nervous. RT @Carolcdt Challenges: editors I've worked with laid-off #efachat

@Kemari: @agirlwithapen Staying focused is a big one for me. #efachat

@EFAFreelancers: We only have about 15 min. left, and there's one topic of interest to me (@mmb064) personally: Do you have a dedicated home office? #EFACHat

@FastEditing: RT @ebrenner I fired a client last week, and it was so freeing! #efachat / Good for you! It's terrifying but freeing in my exp.

@ebrenner: @jamesfraleigh Sometimes that works for me. I try to remember I can't edit everything, so it's ok to lose out if I'm busy. #efachat #efachat

@EFAFreelancers: I didn't for a lot of years. Working on my kitchen table got OLD. So we converted the laundry room. BEST move I made in 15 yrs. #EFACHat

@alaltenburg: @EFAFreelancers (home office) I do have a room to store my files, but never work out of it. #efachat

@EFAFreelancers: I even have a window that opens. #EFACHat

@kimberlycreates: Smart--I'll have to remember that RT @jamesfraleigh I try 2 decline by saying when Ill B available so they know when 2 check again. #efachat

@EInspirations: I have a little one home, so certain times to work. I've had to learn to make myself focus at my work times. #EFACHat

@AJB_editor: @EFAFreelancers I wish I had a dedicated home office. It's on the wish list for our new house! #efachat

@jamesfraleigh: I have a dedicated corner of my apt for work computer/proofing. Would try for 2-BR apt. if I moved to enclose work in specific room #efachat

@KOKEdit: "Do you have a dedicated home office?" I wish! Even after 17 years, I'm still using a corner of my kitchen. "Tiny house syndrome." #EFACHat

@ebrenner: Dedicated work space? Yes & no. It's an office/playroom. But the kids play in here less now that they're in school F/T. #efachat #efachat

@kimberlycreates: Ditto! RT @Carolcdt: One good challenge is being asked to something youve never done before. Love learning/gaining new experience. #efachat

@FastEditing: Yes, I share half a home office with my husband. (And the cats, of course) #efachat

@virtuallori: @EFAFreelancers Yes, I have a dedicated office: <http://t.co/Fj56Etyt> #efachat

@EFAFreelancers: @jamesfraleigh (declining work) I just did that this morning. #EFACHat

@EInspirations: I have a dedicated office, sometimes I wish it had doors. #EFACHat

@AJB_editor: Me too! RT @Carolcdt: @EFAFreelancers #EFACHat One good challenge is being asked to something (cont) <http://t.co/wJGhRfW>

@kimberlycreates: Home offc: I used to have one in the basement. Found myself working upstairs so much though, I just moved up here. #efachat

@ebrenner: My "second" office is the back deck in the good weather, thanks to WiFi. #efachat #efachat

@EFAFreelancers: @ebrenner Mine's still the laundry room too. BUZZZZZZ... #EFACHat

@SVB_Editor: I don't have a dedicated home office. I do most of my work in a corner of my bedroom/study. #EFACHat

@kimberlycreates: Now I split my time between the fam. rm. desk w/PC for electronic editing and bdrm. rolltop desk for paper editing. #efachat

@KOKEdit: @virtuallori Great photo of your office! <http://t.co/oMkiTjOR> #EFACHat

@virtuallori: @ebrenner I'll work on the front porch or patio in nice weather, too. #efachat

@jamesfraleigh: Love the office, @virtuallori! Also love the past-work shelves. Always good to look back & know you made a difference! #efachat

@ebrenner: My laundry room is three floors below me. Doing the laundry during the day gets me out of my chair once in a while. #efachat #efachat

@KOKEdit: @SVB_Editor Nice to know I'm not the only one with a corner-of-another-room office. :-) #EFACHat

@ebrenner: Getting rid of the desktop and setting up WiFi, though, was the best move. When I need a change of scenery, it's easy. #efachat #efachat

@FastEditing: I'm writing now, great new skill update. / RT @Carolcdt: Good challenge: being asked to do something you've never done before. #efachat

@EFAFreelancers: RT @KOKEdit: @virtuallori Great photo of your office!
<http://t.co/DVQhyMDI> // I LOVE THIS! #EFACHat

@Elinspirations: I also have a desk in my bedroom, and I sometimes work in bed. #EFACHat

@SVB_Editor: I used to work on the patio on warm days, back when I did lots of proofreading on paper. #EFACHat

@Carolcdt: @EFAFreelancers Almost! Have a shared dedicated home office. DH desk and mine are front-to-front. #EFACHat

@AJB_editor: #EFACHat of course, if I had an office, I'd probably never stay in it. I'd feel too disconnected (esp w/ kids). Odd, I know.

@ebrenner: OK, who's going to set up the album for everyone to upload their home office pix to? #efachat #efachat

@FastEditing: My monitor setup is too hard to relocate to deck or porch, but sometimes I can get by with just the laptop. #efachat

@kimberlycreates: So neat & organized! Mine never looks like that! RT @KOKEdit
@virtuallori Great photo of your office! <http://t.co/8EkFZKJC> #efachat

@ebrenner: @Carolcdt That sounds cozy. My DH's is across the room, but he's only at it twice a week. #efachat #efachat

@jamesfraleigh: I'd post a photo of my work nook, but I can never get all the dust bunnies to smile at once. #efachat

@SVB_Editor: @KOKEdit I think I get less traffic in my office, though, except for cats. ;-)
#EFACHat

@alaltenburg: I tend to use Panera bread or the library as my office. More focused than seeing a messy house #efachat

@kimberlycreates: RT @ebrenner: OK, whos going to set up the album for everyone to upload their home office pix to? #efachat

@Kemari: @ajb_editor So not odd. I feel the same way. Made mine all fancy and what not. Still have a hard time working there. #efachat

@Carolcdt: @ebrenner Funny thing is we can't really see each other past large monitors ;) #EFACHat

@EFAFreelancers: @ebrenner: home office photo album " great idea! Don't know that I'm techie enough. #EFAChat

@YogiSaraPhD: @virtuallori I love your office! I still sit on the couch (horrible, I know) or at the kitchen table. I need a dedicated office #EFAChat

@FastEditing: Very jealous of @virtuallori 's office. Can't get my husband to reduce his pulp fiction collection on our shared bookcases. ;) #efachat

@ebrenner: @jamesfraleigh I usually have crumbs (I eat too many meals at my desk) and the kids' scribbles on my desk. #efachat #efachat

@virtuallori: @kimberlycreates Don't feel bad. That photo was taken in a project lull. There's crap all over the desk right now. :-) #efachat

@kimberlycreates: That's my problem too. MT @jamesfraleigh: Id post a pic of my wrk nook, but I can never get all the dust bunnies to smile at once. #efachat

@SVB_Editor: @FastEditing I used to take my laptop outside, but now I need to use specialized setup. #EFAChat

@ebrenner: @alaltenburg I like our local Starbucks for a change of pace. I try to go for a few hours each week, just to get out. #efachat #efachat

@virtuallori: @YogiSaraPhD I'll do brainless work on the couch sometimes to sit w/ my husband when he's watching TV. #efachat

@lieslw: @kemari @nouveaulise @alaltenburg it's govt & nonprofit work, not really creative nonfiction (NYC probably best for that) #efachat

@Kemari: @alaltenburg Love Panera as an office. I've been known to do a wifi-enabled laundromat too (I know that's weird). #efachat

@ebrenner: @virtuallori I've done that as well. #efachat #efachat

@Kemari: @lieslw Even better. I've done creative nonfic. Want to branch out! #efachat.

@FastEditing: @svb_editor Yes, I recall that your setup is more elaborate than mine, even. #efachat

@ebrenner: @Kemari Not weird, efficient! #efachat

@EFAFreelancers: Just a couple min. left to chat. Thanks all for making my 1st time @ the reigns a fun one. I'm always amazed how fast the hour goes #EFAChat

@jamesfraleigh: Couch is good for short proofreading jobs. Will sometimes print a short report & get the hell away from the screen w pen in hand. #efachat

@Carolcdt: @EFAFreelancers I'm sans laptop right now. Need to get one so I can move about. Sometimes my chair seems like my enemy. #EFACHat

@ebrenner: @EFAFreelancers Thanks for the inspiring questions! #efachat

@alaltenburg: @Kemari I've been known to do a wifi-enabled laundromat too (I know that's weird). // not weird at all! Good idea :) #efachat

@AJB_editor: @virtuallori I do couch work for husband time too. It's better than nothing! #efachat

@alaltenburg: @lieslw it's govt & nonprofit work, not really creative nonfiction (NYC probably best for that) //perfect! #efachat

@kimberlycreates: #EFACHat The rolltop desk <http://t.co/vwj42kKZ>

@EFAFreelancers: A transcript of today's chat will be available on the EFA website in the near future. We'll be sure to let you know when it's there #EFACHat

@Kemari: @efafreelancers Well you did a smashing job at the reigns! :) #efachat

@FastEditing: Freelancing also lets me go to appointments earlier ... which I have to do now. Great chat, thanks @EFAFreelancers and all! #efachat

@BookEditorLM: @lieslw I branched out into white papers this year -- any nonprofit connects for that? Thanks so much, btw, for offering to list #EFACHat

@SVB_Editor: @FastEditing I use just 2 monitors, but with alternative input devices (head tracker, voice recognition etc). #EFACHat

@alaltenburg: @AJB_editor sometimes I work on the couch while husband pays bills. Quality time :) #efachat

@alaltenburg: RT @Kemari: @efafreelancers Well you did a smashing job at the reigns! :) #efachat

@jamesfraleigh: Many thanks for the fine hosting and all the excellent wisdom. Love these monthly confabs! #efachat

@kimberlycreates: @kemari I put my headphones on to filter out noise when I'm working in the family room at the PC #efachat

@EFAFreelancers: @jamesfraleigh They are fun, aren't they? #EFACHat

@EFAFreelancers: Feel free to keep chatting with the #EFACHat hashtag, but the transcript of today's chat will be ending here. #EFACHat