

How soon should you switch careers?

If you have been working at the same job for 5-7 years or more, you should be seen as an experienced professional; someone regarded as highly valuable in your field by new and old employers alike.

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Switching careers—for both new professionals and seasoned veterans—is a risky decision to take. While burnout and lack of salary increments contribute towards experienced jobholders looking for better opportunities, a less roughened employee will want to switch to either upskill or explore a different field.

So, for both the new and old alike, when is the optimal time to consider switching careers? Let's take a look.

Pulling the trigger too early or too late

Career switchers are often judged by their work history and skills from previous roles. This is more so the case if you're new in your industry and haven't built a reputation for yourself yet. If you are changing jobs too frequently, it will be difficult for you to build expertise in one field, which will in turn make employers hesitate to choose you for a higher-level job or a possible promotion.

Keep in mind that growth in any career usually takes time. When you change too early, you risk leaving just before a potential promotion, specialised training sessions, or the experience of working on a major project that could enhance your skill set.

On the other hand, staying in one job for a long time can turn both physically and mentally straining for certain individuals. If you have been working for over 4 years without a major promotion or significant salary increase, it would be professionally sound on your part to start exploring other options in your field or push towards a better role in the same workplace.

Nonetheless, whether you are new or old in your field, it is always a wise idea to consult someone more experienced than you, so you can gain insight into how far your industry-relevant skills have developed and how well you can potentially fare in a completely new



ILLUSTRATOR: ZARIF FAIAZ

work environment.

Finding that 'sweet spot' for the switch-up

The question "How soon should you switch careers" does not have a one-size-fits-all answer. However, the 'sweet spot' typically tends to be between 3 to 7 years. This is because 3 years is often enough time to master fundamental skills and showcase your potential. By then, you are likely to know if this field resonates with you.

If you have been working at the same job for 5-7 years or more, you should be seen as an experienced professional; someone regarded as highly valuable in your field by new and old employers alike. At this point

in your career, you should also have enough financial security to afford a potentially risky career switch - something less experienced employees will not have the comfort of.

At the end of the day, you should not consider a career switch before extensive, thorough self-assessment. Do you have a strong enough reason to switch? Have you researched the new industry/position? Can you leverage any existing skills? Remember, when it comes to switching careers, the timeframe is never as important as the strategy and preparation you put towards it. A thoughtfully considered move can lead to a fulfilling career and a brighter professional future.

OpenAI to shift from non-profit to for-profit company: report

NEXT STEP DESK

OpenAI is reportedly in discussions with the California attorney general's office to change its corporate structure to a for-profit model, according to Bloomberg News. This potential shift would mark a significant change for OpenAI, which was originally established as a non-profit research organisation in 2015.

The move, which follows earlier reports from

September, would align OpenAI's business structure with its growing appeal to investors. Microsoft, a major backer, has previously supported OpenAI's rapid development and commercialisation efforts.

Sources indicate that OpenAI's core business could soon become a for-profit benefit corporation, while its non-profit branch would continue to operate with a minority stake in the new entity, states a follow-up report by Reuters.

Nvidia becomes first company to surpass \$3.6 trillion market value after Trump's election win

NEXT STEP DESK

Nvidia Corp has made history as the first company to reach a stock market valuation of \$3.65 trillion, surpassing Apple's previous record of \$3.57 trillion. The surge in the chipmaker's stock comes as Wall Street celebrates renewed optimism following Donald Trump's recent return to the US presidency, with expectations of tax cuts and reduced regulatory measures.

On Thursday, Nvidia's shares rose 2.2%, driven by investor confidence in the tech sector's potential under a pro-business administration. This

performance helped Nvidia's market value outpace Apple's, which also saw gains, with its stock climbing 2.1% to a value of \$3.44 trillion.

Nvidia's extraordinary rise has been bolstered by its dominance in the artificial intelligence (AI) chip market. The company has benefited significantly from a technological arms race among industry giants like Microsoft, Alphabet, and other major players, who are striving to expand their AI computing capabilities. As a result, Nvidia's stock has skyrocketed, tripling in value since the start of 2024 and posting a 12% gain in November alone.

Disney to form new business unit dedicated to AI: report

NEXT STEP DESK

Disney is stepping up its AI efforts with the creation of the 'Office of Technology Enablement', a new business unit to drive tech integration across its film, TV, and theme park divisions, according to a Reuters report.

As per an official memo seen by Reuters, the new office will be helmed by Jamie Voris, Disney's former film studio CTO, known for his work on Disney's app for Apple's Vision Pro mixed reality headset. Voris will now report

directly to Disney Entertainment Co-Chairman Alan Bergman, who emphasised the strategic importance of AI in the memo.

Disney's approach with this business unit is to coordinate AI and XR projects across various divisions without centralising them, says the report. The Office of Technology Enablement will launch with a core team and is expected to expand to approximately 100 employees, which will guide the aforementioned AI integration.

5 top YouTube channels to learn Figma for UI/UX designers

MARWAN KHADEM

Whether you are an absolute beginner or a seasoned UI/UX designer wanting to brush up your Figma skills, YouTube is a goldmine of knowledge. Here are five YouTube channels that will not only help you learn Figma but also share valuable UI/UX wisdom with you. Let's dive into it.

Flux Academy

This channel stands out for its extensive approach to Figma and UI/UX design. Here, you will not only find thorough tutorials but also real-world projects, and understand how to apply design principles in real-life situations. It can be a go-to channel for UI/UX designers to build a strong foundation as it focuses on both technical skills and creative thinking.

Must-watch videos/playlists: Figma tutorial for Beginners: Complete Website from Start to Finish, Design Tips & Tricks

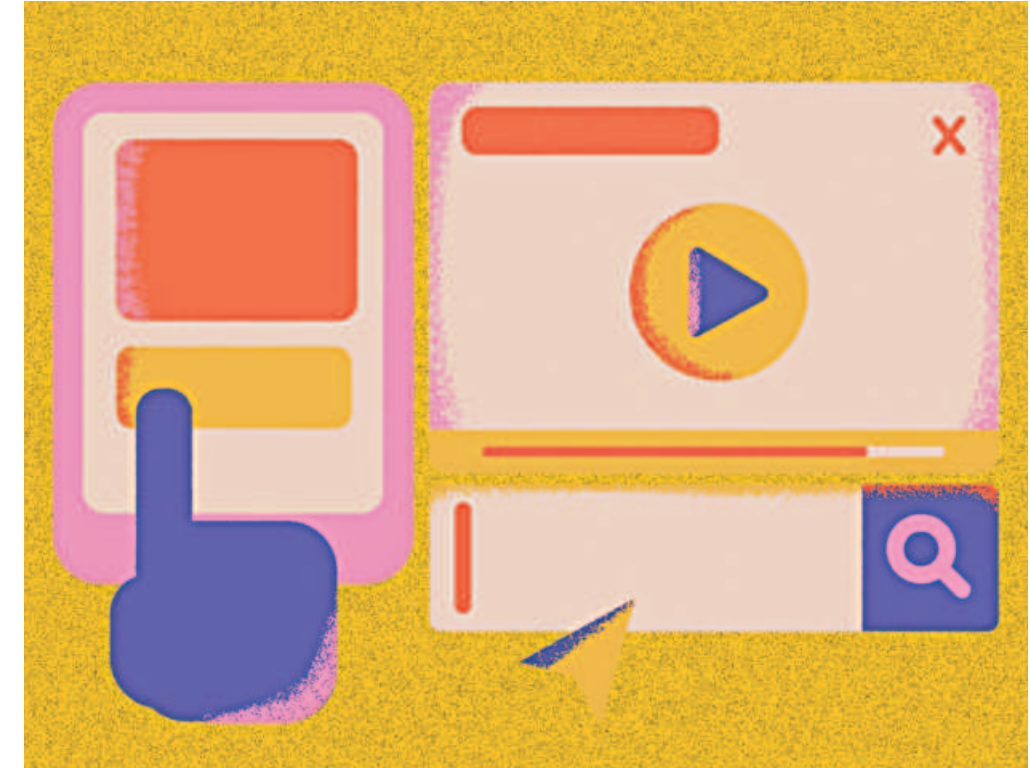
Mizko

Anyone who is looking to deepen their knowledge of UI/UX design and Figma should check out this channel, where you can find engaging tutorials on real-world applications. The content is easy to follow, and you will end up creating your own portfolio projects in no time. The style of teaching will help you to understand difficult concepts while having fun.

Must-watch videos/playlists: Figma Masterclass Course 2024 | Figma Tutorial for Beginners, Design System Series - Figma

Aliena Cai

Aliena Cai provides a fresh take on learning Figma and UI/UX design through her blend of practical advice and creative thinking. You will find the content to be relatable as she shares her journey with insights that focus on the importance of storytelling in design. She will motivate you to think critically about design choices and help you develop a deeper understanding of user experience.



ILLUSTRATOR: ZARIF FAIAZ

Must-watch videos/playlists: Figma UX Tutorial by Aliena, If I started UX in 2024, I'd Do This

DesignWithArash

Arash does an excellent job of offering practical tutorials and industry insights, with several lessons on how you can make the best use of Figma. You will be surprised to see how fast you are learning complex design concepts as his content is easy to follow. This channel will help you build a strong understanding of design principles while encouraging your creative thinking.

Must-watch videos/playlists: Figma Tutorials, UI/UX Design Tips

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GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

