

Gambling

By Bob Osgoodby

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Some people view gambling as "the work of the devil", others view it as a pleasant past time, and still others who seem obsessed, will bet on anything. Gambling, regardless of your views, is here to stay. Did you know - The total sales of government sponsored lottery tickets in the US exceeds what Americans spend on movies, theater and music --combined.

From the Bingo Games sponsored by local churches or non-profit organizations, to large multi-state lotteries, they are a fact of life. In fact, many people view the stock market as being just another large scale gambling operation.

You can legally gamble in many State Approved Casinos, and Indian Reservations also run legal casinos - State Lotteries abound. Gambling is not only tolerated, but legally approved in many quarters.

But non-sanctioned bookmaking is a crime in the U.S., and the forty year old Interstate Wire Act, forbids wagering across state lines. A co-owner of the Caribbean-based online sports-booking operation "World Sports Exchange", has the dubious distinction of becoming the first person to be found guilty of violating the terms of the federal Wire Wager Act. U.S. District Judge Thomas Griesa sentenced him to 21 months in prison and fined him \$5,000 for violating the act, which outlaws the use of telephone lines--including Internet connections--to place sports bets in interstate commerce. To compound the problem, more and more online casinos are springing up, and it is becoming a huge multi-billion business.

The real problem is if you place an online bet in New Orleans via an online casino that is operated in the United Kingdom, where did the gambling occur -- New Orleans, the United Kingdom or the Internet? If it occurred on the Internet exclusively, then how did you break a law, since no one has quite figured out yet where the Internet is, or if it is subject to laws that are based on crossing borders?

Online Virtual Gambling Casinos are housed in jurisdictions where gambling is legal, with many of them in the UK. In the US, Nevada and New Jersey are actively pursuing legalizing online gaming through the existing casinos.

Can anyone set up a website and run a casino? No - not where it is illegal in their country.

The three biggest bookmakers in the UK reported recently that almost 20% of their internet business was coming from the state of California. Paul Graham, a principal in ActiveGambling.com -

<http://www.activegambling.com> - from the UK - reports that "these companies have a shop on every corner in Scotland, and what they do is perfectly legal in the UK." Paul feels that it comes down to the individual to choose, and most would agree that it's definitely the individual's responsibility to ensure that they comply with their own country's laws."

Many people are taking advantage of gambling over the Internet, and there are certainly advantages to this way of operating. However, it isn't at all prudent to allow your winnings to accumulate in a virtual account on an ongoing basis. Some people have done this and found to their dismay, that when they made a request for several thousand dollars or more to be paid to them from their account, the money never arrived.

All virtual accounts are not untrustworthy, as this is by no means the case. What you should do is to play it safe. When gambling on the Internet, take your winnings regularly and let them accumulate in your bank account rather than in cyberspace."

Are there any opportunities in this growing phenomenon for entrepreneurs and web masters? I visited one of Paul's recommended sites at: http://www.roibot.com/w.cgi?IM8589_am which is called "Slotland". They have a program that is aimed at website owners and webmasters to promote "Slotland" on their website(s), and earn money when someone directed from their site registers to play at "Slotland". Without going into the details of their offer, you can earn revenue for people who start to play with them, transferring new money to them.

As with any program, it pays to get informed before getting involved. A good source of information is Internet Gambling News at: <http://www.IGamblingNews.com>

Gambling on the Internet is a reality. Government agencies where it is illegal, are looking at the lost tax revenue being siphoned elsewhere. Like everything on the Internet, which changes on an almost daily basis, the reaction time of those in charge has to match what is happening in the real world. Gone are the days when they could sit back in their isolated little world and ignore what is going on.

Bob publishes the free weekly "Your Business" Newsletter Visit his Web Site at <http://adv-marketing.com/business> to subscribe. As a bonus, get 40,000 FREE E-Books from Larry Dotson, when you visit <http://www.ldpublishing.com>

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