User Documentation for EpicFreelancer.com

Introduction

Building a marketplace from scratch is expensive and complex. Most business owners spend months on development before they can ever accept a single payment.

EpicFreelancer.com is a complete multi-vendor marketplace platform. It allows you to sell three distinct types of assets: **Freelance Services**, **Digital Products**, and **Micro SaaS Tools**. As the owner, you control the platform, the commission rates, and the quality of content.

This application is built to save you development time so you can focus on acquiring users and generating revenue.

Why This Platform Creates Value for You

As the platform owner, you are running a software business. This application provides the specific tools needed to operate profitably:

- **Three Revenue Streams in One:** Unlike platforms that limit you to just freelancing or just digital downloads, this system supports both, plus Micro SaaS tools. You can capture a wider market.
- **Automated Payments:** The system integrates directly with Stripe. When a sale happens, the money is split automatically. You get your commission, and the provider gets their payout. You do not need to manually calculate or transfer funds.
- **Complete Admin Control:** You have a dedicated dashboard to view earnings, manage users, and configure site settings without writing code.
- **SEO-Ready Blog:** The platform includes a pre-built, high-performance blog system. This allows you to publish articles to attract traffic from Google without needing a separate WordPress site.

User Roles

Understanding who uses your platform helps you manage it effectively.

1. Owner / Administrator (You)

You have full access to the system.

- **Responsibilities:** Setting commission rates, connecting Stripe, approving seller applications, and moderating listings.
- **Goal:** Maintain platform quality and drive revenue.

2. Provider (Seller)

These are the users who provide value to your marketplace. They can be freelancers, designers, or developers.

- **Responsibilities:** Creating listings, delivering work, and uploading files.
- **Goal:** Sell their services or products to your audience.
- **Note:** Any registered user can become a Provider by clicking "Sell on Platform."

3. Buyer (Customer)

These are the end-users purchasing goods or services.

- **Responsibilities:** Browsing categories, placing orders, and leaving reviews.
- **Goal:** Find high-quality assets or services quickly.

Quick Start: Launching Your Platform

Follow these steps to configure your marketplace and prepare for traffic. This assumes the application is already deployed and running.

Step 1: Log in as Admin

Access the application using your administrator credentials. Navigate to the **Admin Dashboard**. This is your command center.

Step 2: Connect Payments

Go to **Site Settings** > **Payment Gateways**.

- Enter your Stripe API keys.
- This connection enables the shopping cart and split-payment system.
- Without this, transactions cannot process.

Step 3: Set Your Commission

Go to **Commission Management**.

- Define the percentage you want to keep from every sale (e.g., 10% or 20%).
- You can set different rates for Digital Products versus Services if your strategy requires it.

Step 4: Configure Branding

In **Site Settings**, upload your logo and define your primary color scheme. This ensures the platform looks like your unique brand, not a generic template.

Step 5: Open for Business

Once these settings are saved, your platform is live. You can now invite sellers to sign up and list their products.

Real-World Use Cases

Case A: The Digital Asset Store

Scenario: A graphic designer wants to sell icon packs.

1. **Provider Action:** They sign up, click "Sell on Platform," and upload a zip file of icons under "Digital Products."

2. **Buyer Action:** A customer purchases the pack for $50.
3. **Outcome:** The customer gets an instant secure download link. The Provider gets $45 (90%), and you (Owner) receive $5 (10%) automatically.

Case B: The Freelance Service

Scenario: A developer offers website optimization services.

1. **Provider Action:** They list a "Speed Optimization Service" for $200 with a delivery time of 3 days.
2. **Buyer Action:** A business owner books the service and provides their website details.
3. **Outcome:** The money is held in escrow. Once the developer marks the order as complete, the funds are released according to your payout schedule.

Case C: The Micro SaaS Marketplace

Scenario: A coder creates a small script that converts PDF to Excel.

1. **Provider Action:** They list this under "Micro SaaS" as a tool license.
2. **Buyer Action:** A user buys the license key.
3. **Outcome:** You facilitate the sale of software rights, taking a commission on high-value software sales.