

## What is the difference between an Online Business Manager and a Virtual Assistant?

This is the one question I'm asked most often, from both business owners (do they need a VA or an OBM?) and from VAs as well (do they want to become an OBM?)

Although similar in nature – both are driven to 'get stuff done' - there are some key differences between the two roles:

	<b>ONLINE BUSINESS MANAGER</b>	<b>VIRTUAL ASSISTANT</b>
<p><b>FOCUS</b></p> <p>The challenge for the OBM is to shift from doing to managing...</p>	<p>The focus of the Online Business Manager is on 'management' - they are hired to keep an eye on the big picture and manage all the pieces (projects, team members, operations, expenses) to ensure that all projects are getting completed in a timely and efficient manner.</p>	<p>The focus of the Virtual Assistant is on 'doing' - they are hired to perform specific tasks (i.e.: customer service, shopping cart maintenance, etc) or complete specific projects (i.e.: setup a new member area or blog) and are the ones actually doing the work.</p>
<p><b>MEASURES OF SUCCESS</b></p> <p>The OBM has to manage ALL tasks and projects, not just their own.</p>	<p>On OBM is responsible to ensure that everyone's tasks and projects are being completed and delivered in a timely fashion. The team is happy and motivated. Systems are running smoothly and efficiently.</p>	<p>A VA is responsible for their own tasks and projects are being completed and delivered in a timely fashion.</p>
<p><b>NUMBER OF CLIENTS</b></p> <p>The OBM gets to 'go deep' with a select few clients.</p>	<p>Because of the level of responsibility that you have with each client, an Online Business Manager will work with 2 or 3 clients at a time in this capacity.</p>	<p>Virtual Assistants will generally work with 5-10 clients and has to manage juggling the workload and expectations of many clients (vs. focusing on a few)</p>

<p><b>COMPENSATION</b></p> <p>As an OBM you need to be motivated by incentive based pay.</p>	<p>Base + incentive structure. You may start working on an hourly or retainer basis, but when you officially step into the OBM role the opportunity for incentive based pay is open to you.</p>	<p>Hourly or project based. Most VAs charge for their work on an hourly basis, which can be billed in advance as a retainer or monthly for hours worked. Some will charge a flat rate by project for certain services.</p>
<p><b>FUTURE POSSIBILITIES</b></p> <p>What kind of lifestyle do you want to create long-term?</p>	<p>As a business manager gaining the very strong trust of a few key business owners, a team that does the doing, and upside earnings potential you have the opportunity to build a lifestyle that doesn't require you to work yourself to the bone in order to be free.</p>	<p>In the classic hourly VA model, your income is directly related to the hours that you work... and you will need to continue to work the same (or possibly even more) hours in order to create the level of income that you want. This can affect your overall lifestyle if you find yourself working more than you would like!</p>
<p><b>WHY BUSINESS OWNERS WANT TO HIRE...</b></p> <p>The OBM frees up the business owner to do the things only they can do in their business...</p>	<p>Business owners want to hire an OBM when they've grown the business as far as they can being the 'only one in charge'. Usually around the early to mid 6-figure range a business owner becomes tapped-out and simply can't (and doesn't want to) be the one who is managing the day-to-day activities of the business. They need someone who can step into this role and take this off their plate.</p>	<p>Business owners hire Virtual Assistants to do the various tasks and projects that they need completed in their business. Most will hire in the very early stages of their business (help setup websites, shopping carts, etc.) and will also need the ongoing support of VAs long term as the business grows.</p>

## Want to Become an OBM?

Go to: [www.VAGraduateSchool.com/obm](http://www.VAGraduateSchool.com/obm) and fill out the form!