FREE STARTER GUIDE · PREVIEW OF THE AI MONETIZATION & STARTUP INTELLIGENCE PLAYBOOK

AI Monetization Opportunity Sheet

Separate a genuine value exchange from a fragile monetization idea — referrals, affiliate kickbacks, usage fees or subscriptions — before you build it.

For	Level	Time	Next level
Founders and creators	Intermediate	90 minutes	Chapter 1 of the full playbook

THE MICRO-PAIN THIS GUIDE FIXES

If the money only works because of the incentive, the business doesn't work.

AI makes it tempting to monetise everything: affiliate links inside AI answers, referral kickbacks from tools you recommend, per-use fees, 'AI-powered' premium tiers. Some of these are solid businesses. Many collapse when the incentive changes, the platform bans the tactic, or customers realise the recommendation wasn't neutral.

A credible monetization model starts from who pays and why — the value they receive even without any incentive — then separates revenue, referral, incentive and cost assumptions and tests them with small paid experiments or interviews before building the mechanism.

Trust

Undisclosed kickbacks damage credibility — and can breach advertising rules.

Platform risk

Affiliate and referral programs change terms with little notice.

Margin

AI costs per user can erase thin commission revenue.

When you finish this free guide you will have

- A value-exchange statement: who pays, for what, and why it's legitimate
- A model separating revenue, referral, incentive and cost assumptions
- A disclosure and compliance check
- A small paid test or interview plan with a decision rule

THIS FREE STARTER

- One working route for one problem
- 7 short steps and a copy-and-use prompt
- One worked example and a final checklist

THE FULL PLAYBOOK · $39

- 6 chapters that take the whole job end to end
- 7 ready-to-use templates, a worked case, 132 PDF pages
- **See The AI Monetization & Startup Intelligence Playbook →**

STEP BY STEP

The working method

Value → payer → model types → assumptions → compliance → test → decide.

You need: A spreadsheet; Terms of any affiliate/referral programs you rely on; Your AI cost estimates (tokens, tools). **Rule:** Disclose paid relationships clearly (e.g. FTC and similar rules in other markets).

STEP 01 OF 07

Write the value exchange

- Who receives value? What problem is solved?
- Who pays — the user, a partner, an advertiser?
- Would the payer and the user both be comfortable if the arrangement were fully public?

Example: Users get a neutral tool comparison; vendors pay per qualified lead — disclosed on every page.

Done when: Exchange statement passes the 'fully public' test.

Avoid: Hiding who pays because disclosure 'hurts conversion'.

STEP 02 OF 07

List model options

- Options: subscription, usage-based, one-time purchase, affiliate/referral, sponsorship, services, lead fees.
- Note what each rewards you for (usage, outcomes, referrals).
- Flag conflicts of interest.

Example: Affiliate rewards recommending the highest-commission tool — a conflict; subscription doesn't have it.

Done when: 3–4 options with incentives and conflicts noted.

Avoid: Stacking every model at once.

STEP 03 OF 07

Separate the assumptions

- Revenue: price or commission, conversion rate, volume.
- Referral/incentive: program terms, cookie windows, payout rules.
- Costs: AI usage, tools, content, support, payment fees.
- Label each: measured, estimated, guess.

Example: Commission 20% (program terms), conversion 2% (guess), AI cost $0.03/answer (estimated).

Done when: Assumption table with labels.

Avoid: Using the affiliate program's marketing numbers as your conversion rate.

STEP 04 OF 07

Model contribution per user

- Revenue per user per month for each option.
- Minus variable cost per user (AI, payments, support).
- Stress test: commission cut in half, conversion halved.

Example: Affiliate: $0.40/user – $0.25 AI cost = $0.15. Halved conversion → negative.

Done when: Contribution per user for each option + stress test.

Avoid: Ignoring AI costs because they're 'small per request'.

> **In the full playbook** · The AI Monetization & Startup Intelligence Playbook includes pricing and business-model worksheets with AI-specific examples. See what is inside · Get it for $39

STEP 05 OF 07

Check disclosure and platform rules

- Check advertising disclosure rules for your markets.
- Read affiliate/referral program terms (prohibited placements, AI-generated content rules).
- Check app store or platform policies if relevant.

Example: Program forbids links in email → removed email channel from the plan.

Done when: Compliance notes per option. **Avoid:** Discovering program restrictions after commissions are withheld.

STEP 06 OF 07

Design a small test

- Choose a test: paid pre-order, pilot with a partner, 10 interviews with pricing questions, a landing page with a real checkout.
- Define success and a decision rule before starting.
- Time-box to 1–2 weeks.

Example: Landing page offering the tool at $12/month; continue if ≥20 paid sign-ups from 1,000 visitors.

Done when: Test, metric, threshold and date written. **Avoid:** Asking 'would you pay?' — people say yes and don't.

STEP 07 OF 07

Decide and document

- Pick the model that passed the test and has no unresolved conflicts.
- Record assumptions to monitor.
- Set a review trigger (e.g. program terms change, margin below X).

Example: Chose subscription with disclosed partner links as a minor add-on; review if AI cost/user > $1.

Done when: Decision record with monitoring triggers. **Avoid:** Keeping all options 'open' indefinitely.

COPY AND USE

Prompts and template

Paste into your AI tool and replace everything in [brackets].

PROMPT 1 · CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST CHECK

```
My product: [ ]. Audience: [ ]. Monetization idea: [ ].
Identify any conflict of interest between what earns me money and what's best for the user. Suggest
disclosure wording and structural changes that reduce the conflict. Note regulations I should check
for [markets] (don't state legal conclusions; list what to verify).
```

PROMPT 2 · STRESS-TEST THE MODEL

```
Here is my per-user model: [numbers with labels measured/estimated/guess].
Run 4 scenarios: base, commission/price -50%, conversion -50%, AI cost x3. Show contribution per user
and which assumption breaks the model first. Do not invent new inputs.
```

WORKED EXAMPLE

An AI tool-recommender that chose trust over kickbacks

Diego built an AI assistant that recommends productivity tools and planned to earn only from affiliate links.

1. Exchange: users want neutral recommendations — affiliate-only created a conflict.
2. Options: affiliate, subscription, sponsored placements (disclosed).
3. Stress test: affiliate model negative if conversion halved.
4. Program terms banned links in AI chat on one platform.
5. Test: $6/month 'pro' tier with saved stacks; 26 paid from 1,000 visitors.
6. Decision: subscription primary; disclosed affiliate links secondary.

RESULT

A model that survives program changes and keeps users' trust.

FINAL CHECKLIST

Before you call it done

- [ ] Value exchange passes the fully-public test
- [ ] 3–4 model options compared
- [ ] Conflicts of interest flagged
- [ ] Assumptions labelled
- [ ] Contribution per user modelled
- [ ] Stress test run
- [ ] Disclosure rules checked
- [ ] Program/platform terms read
- [ ] Paid or commitment test designed
- [ ] Decision and review trigger recorded

In the full playbook · The full playbook adds opportunity scorecards to compare monetization paths side by side. See what is inside · Get it for $39

WHEN IT GOES WRONG

SYMPTOM	LIKELY CAUSE	FIX
Revenue vanished	Affiliate program changed terms	Diversify; don't depend on one program
Users distrust recommendations	Undisclosed incentives	Clear disclosure; neutral ranking rules
Margin negative at scale	AI costs ignored	Include cost per user; cap usage
Test inconclusive	Asked opinions, not money	Use real checkout or commitments

LOCKED IN THE FULL PLAYBOOK · TOOLKIT PREVIEW

This free starter shows the method. The AI Monetization & Startup Intelligence Playbook ships the ready-to-use files:

- AI income workflows menu
- Customer interview script
- Evidence ladder tracker
- First offer launch checklist
- Opportunity brief template
- Pricing and unit economics worksheet
- Startup grants research agent

Unlock all templates — $39 one-time →

WHERE THIS FREE GUIDE STOPS

You fixed one problem. The full system fixes the job around it.

This starter gave you one route through one step. It deliberately leaves out what makes the result hold up at work:

- **The steps before and after this one.** The AI Monetization & Startup Intelligence Playbook covers the whole job in six chapters, not one slice of it.
- **Ready-to-use templates.** 7 copy-and-use files, so you do not rebuild the structure every time.
- **A full worked case** that shows every decision on a realistic project, start to finish.
- **Checks for when it fails**, so a result you ship tomorrow is still right next month.

YOUR NEXT STEP · THE AI MONETIZATION & STARTUP INTELLIGENCE PLAYBOOK

Find and price the AI opportunity worth building

What you will be able to do:

- Find AI opportunities in painful workflows you can actually reach
- Validate the problem with past-behavior interviews before building
- Shape and price a small offer on the value of the outcome
- Stretch your runway with credits and grants from a 61-program directory

6	7	1	132
chapters	templates	worked case	PDF pages

You just read a preview of **Chapter 1: Pick opportunities from painful workflows you can reach, not from what AI can do**.

~~$59~~ **$39** one-time · instant access in your CosynkAI Library

Get the playbook — $39 one-time → ***See what is inside***

WORKING ON SEVERAL AI WORKFLOWS?

Complete Guide Library — all 8 CosynkAI playbooks for **$97** one-time ($472 combined regular prices). Already own a playbook? Its price is credited toward the Library.

Get the Library — $97 → Compare all 8 playbooks

You received this free guide after sending the keyword **KICK**. Developed by CosynkAI.com · Edition 1.0 · September 2026. Educational resource, not an implementation service. Tools, prices and limits change; check current documentation before relying on a tool in production. Questions: hello@cosynkai.com · Privacy Policy · Digital Product Terms