

Roblox executive says children making money on the platform is 'a gift'

Roblox, one of the most popular gaming platforms in the world, has taken a lot of heat from critics who accuse it of exploiting its users, the vast majority of whom are children and teenagers. In a recent interview with *Eurogamer*, however, *Roblox*'s studio head, Stefano Corazza, said the platform has actually been a gift to the young developers who make money by creating games on the platform.

"You can say, 'Okay, we are exploiting, you know, child labor,' right? Or you can say: we are offering people anywhere in the world the capability to get a job, and even like an income," Corazza said. "So I can be like, 15 years old, in Indonesia, living in a slum, and then now with just a laptop, I can create something, make money, and then sustain my life." (An unidentified *Roblox* PR person present during the interview told *Eurogamer* that most of the developers earning money on *Roblox* are 18 or older.)

Third-party developers on *Roblox* are paid in Robux, the platform's in-game currency, which can be redeemed for cash. As *Eurogamer* notes, *Roblox* also sells Robux at a much higher price than it pays for them: a user can buy 1,000 Robux for \$12.50 but can cash out 1,000 Robux for just \$3.50. Users can also use Robux elsewhere on the internet – including online gambling websites, according to a lawsuit two parents filed against *Roblox* last August.

Roblox, for its part, has made recent overtures to legislators as part of a broader effort to prove it's taking children's

safety seriously. “Obviously, everyone wants to keep kids safe,” *Roblox* CEO and co-founder David Baszucki told *The Verge*’s Alex Heath. “It has been something we’ve always focused on. And so we wanted to be a resource for legislators as they start thinking about laws.”

Baszucki is now headed to Washington, DC, to meet with lawmakers about legislation that affects kids’ internet use – and that will affect *Roblox* as well.

<https://www.theverge.com/2024/4/4/24121420/roblox-child-exploitation-robux-child-labor>