

# PC Post



Official Newsletter of the  
Modesto PC User Group.  
Modesto, California

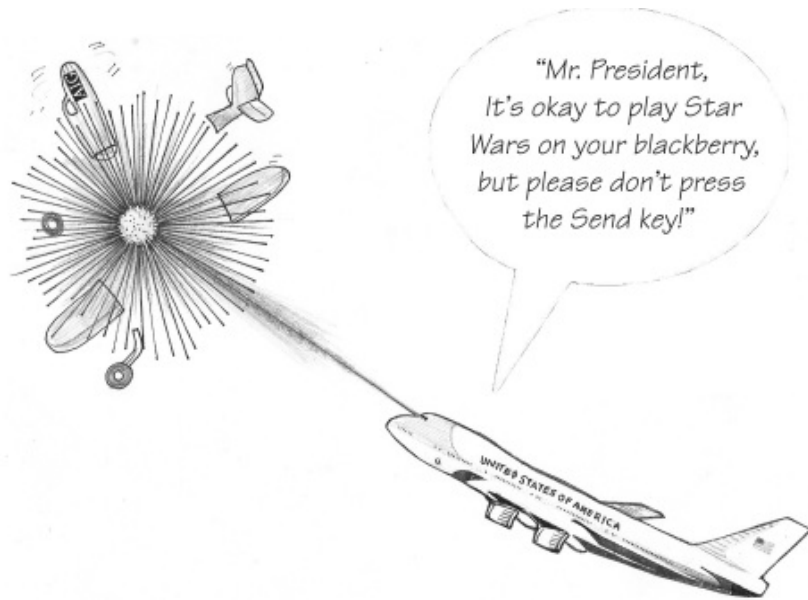
27 YEARS OF USER HELPING USER

April 2009, VOLUME 27.4

## Inside this Issue

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Claude's Bytes..<br>April '09                | 2  |
| Twitter, what are<br>you doing right<br>now? | 3  |
| Vistas Not So Bad<br>After All               | 6  |
| Cleanup Your<br>Room / Desktop               | 7  |
| Beginner's Guide<br>to Selling on eBay       | 10 |
| Smart Computing<br>Tips & Fun Facts          | 12 |

© Bucky Milam 2009



- MILAM -

Bucky Milam is a master of the fine arts, with an emphasis on the cool and casual. He is the recipient of numerous awards for his painting and graphic design, which has been displayed at the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Modern Art, the Chicago Art Institute, and the London and Tokyo Museums of Fine Art. A trumpet virtuoso, he performs widely in clubs throughout the region and is a recognized composer of jazz and classical music for brass.

Bucky comes to computing as an accidental tourist. His peculiar perspective is of the visual media and the image they project of our civilization and culture. You can find his musings in each monthly issue of dacs.doc.

## Important Meeting Dates

General Meeting - April 23 - Denny's Restaurant, 1525 McHenry  
Board Meeting - May 6 - Ridgeway's Restaurant,  
Beginner's SIG Meeting - Suspended due to lack of Interest

## **Claude's Bytes. . . April '09**

**By Claude Delphia, Editor Emeritus, Modesto PC User Group**

Oh so sneaky - Here's another example of a phishing email. It purports to be from PayPal, for which I do have an account. I was pretty sure right from the beginning that it was a standard phishing email - trying to get me to give them my access information so they can take over my account. This is pretty critical as my bank checking account is connected to my PayPal account.

Recently I wrote here about things to watch out for in these phishing emails such as bad layout, missing spaces or spelling. So just out of curiosity I went through this latest email. It was pretty good, no misspellings or layout problems, but then I saw it: "We thank you for your cooperation in this manner." Manner? Didn't they mean "matter"? So it was a giveaway. No one at PayPal would use "manner" when "matter" is the right word. All I had to do was to read it carefully looking for mistakes or inconsistencies.

But there was a problem that was greater and told me that this was a phishing email. PayPal had informed all it's users that there would be a code that would tell us if it came from them. The same goes for eBay, and the code wasn't there. End of story, straight to the delete file.

IRS phishing email - "If u don't receive your refund within 9 business days from the original IRS mailing date shown, you can start a refund trace online." Do YOU see the key to why this is a phishing email? Would the IRS address to u this way?

Greeting cards problems - Most of you probably don't have this problem. You just sit down and write something in a greeting card. However I have to seriously plan what I'm going to say and then make sure it is all spelled right.

So, what I do is to write it in Word and then when I have it just write, I sit down and follow the printout exactly in my own hand righting write onto the card. This process has saved me from major mistakes any number of times.

Email conferences - I just had an email conversation with 3 other people in virtually real time. We were on a particular topic where three of the people were in their various offices and we were each responding in the equivalent of a telephone conference call. These were short emails, sometimes just a one or two word answer, but none of us had to stop and setup a conference call. We just wrote and submitted our ideas and responses to in the Reply All mode.

It was very productive, informative and allowed us to participate in a decision process that otherwise wouldn't have happened at all. It was very creative and maybe even profitable \$ wise for the others. My only problem is that sometimes I write with an underlying tone of sarcasm which can get me in trouble.

You also have to remember who's in the conference or you can end up saying the wrong thing.

Memory sticks - Some time ago I wrote that I had heard of very few memory sticks that failed. I can no longer say that. As a recent article in the Modesto Bee computer column points out, if you remove the memory stick while it is being accessed, then the memory may no longer be accessible and you lose everything on the drive. My personal opinion is that this is a problem that is particular to certain memory sticks or brands. The reason I think this is because I've removed my largest stick numerous times with no problem. However some sticks have special programs that come on the stick and my GUESS is that is where the problem lies. So to be on the safe side, always do an Eject or go to the icon in your program bar and cancel the access to the stick before removing it. Better to be safe than sorry as the stick and its contents will be lost.

## **Twitter, What are you doing right now?**

**Written by Ira Wilsker, Member Golden Triangle PC Club; Columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont, TX; Radio Show Host**

[www.gtpcc.org](http://www.gtpcc.org) / [iwilsker@ih2000.net](mailto:iwilsker@ih2000.net)

### WEBSITES:

[www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)

Several of the readers of this column have asked me, "What is Twitter?", following media reports that senators and congress people were "Twittering" during recent presidential speeches. Twitter (the Internet service and the person who does the posting) and Twittering or Tweeting (the posting of personal activities on Twitter) has become one of the most popular ways of communicating one's activities so that others can follow what is going on in the life of a Twitter. The service is self-described as, "Twitter is a service for friends, family, and co-workers to communicate and stay connected through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What are you doing?" According to some of the national media quoted by Twitter.com, The New York Times calls Twitter "one of the fastest-growing phenomena on the Internet."

TIME Magazine says, "Twitter is on its way to becoming the next killer app," and Newsweek noted that "Suddenly, it seems as though all the world's a-twitter." One may wonder why a Twitter user would post his daily activities as they occur; Twitter explains it this way: "Why? Because even basic updates are meaningful to family members, friends, or colleagues — especially when they're timely."



Just to experience the life of a Twitter, I went to [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and signed up for a free account. The signup process was very fast and easy, only asking for me to create my user name, create a secure password, and enter my email address. After creating my account, I was given the opportunity to upload a photo of myself for display to anyone that views my Twitter page, and to customize my page to control the way others view it. I entered my first short message that I was using Twitter, and it appeared on my now-personalized webpage. Since messages and other postings are intended to appear as text messages on cell phones as well as on a webpage, individual postings are limited to 140 characters, the maximum length of a text message (SMS) allowed on most cell phone systems. As I was typing this column, I posted a Twitter (message) that I was typing this column; if anyone is following my activities at this instant, he would receive this news as a text message on his cell phone, as an RSS feed on his computer, as an email message, or by simply viewing my Twitter webpage.

The screenshot shows the Twitter homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Profile', and 'Find'. Below that is a text input field with the placeholder 'What are you doing?' and a character count of '140'. A 'Latest' tweet from 'iwilsker' is visible, stating 'Typing my weekly newspaper column. less than 5 seconds ago'. Below the tweets is a 'What to do now' section with three numbered steps: 1. Tell us what you're doing in the box above, 2. Find some friends and follow what they're doing, 3. Turn on your mobile phone to update your friends on the go.

On my view of my webpage is a text box where I can type my current activity, as long as I keep it under 140 characters, as shown by the counter adjacent to the text box. Postings can be made or received by computer, cell phone text message, Blackberry, or other communications device. Postings can also be received on any newsreader that uses the RSS news feed format.

Twitter makes it very easy to find friends who also Twitter. By clicking on the “Find People” icon, a window is opened that says “Find people. Follow them”. To locate friends on Twitter, I chose to allow Twitter to access my email address book to determine if any of my current correspondents are on Twitter. Twitter can access (but only with your express permission) address books on Yahoo, Gmail, AOL,

The screenshot shows the 'Find people. Follow them' window. It has a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Profile', 'Find People', 'Settings', 'Help', and 'Sign out'. Below the title, there are four tabs: 'Find on Twitter', 'Find on other networks', 'Invite by email', and 'Suggested Users'. The 'Find on other networks' tab is selected. On the left, there are icons for Gmail, Yahoo, AOL, Hotmail, and MSN. In the center, there are input fields for 'Your Email' and 'Email Password'. On the right, there is an 'Email Security' notice: 'We don't store your login, your password is submitted securely, and we don't email without your permission.'

Hotmail, and MSN. It will quickly scan the online address book, and match any email addresses in the address book against the millions already in the Twitter database. Twitter states that it does not save the email addresses and passwords, and does not send out emails to those located without express permission to do so. I also used the “Find on Twitter” feature to enter my last name to see if any of my relatives are on Twitter, and add them to my friends list. Just as a lark, I entered the names of some of our elected officials, and found that several of them do have Twitter accounts. If I want to invite friends by personal email, I can enter their email addresses in the “Invite by Email” box, and Twitter will send them an invitation.

If I want to add celebrities to my friend’s list, I can click on “Suggested Uses”, and a list of celebrities who Twitter will be displayed. By checking the box adjacent to their names, we can exchange Twitter posts and monitor each others’ activities. Some of the more interesting celebrities and online services that can be added to anyone’s Twitter friends list are the Jodrell Bank observatory, the Dell Outlet Store, JetBlue Airways Customer Service (monitors Twitter 24/7), the New York Times, 10 Downing Street (the official residence of the British Prime Minister), rapper M. C. Hammer, CNN Breaking News, Al Gore, John McCain, Whole Foods Market (Fresh organic tweets from Whole Foods Market HQ in Austin), Lance Armstrong, Britney Spears (Yes! This is the real Britney Spears!), George Stephanopoulos (ABC News' Chief Washington Correspondent and Host of "This Week"), Women's Wear Daily, the Nightline TV news show, Martha Stewart, comedian and magician Penn Jillette, rapper 50 cent, and many more. The business and news outlets listed post breaking news or special deals to their Twitter friends. One that I added, being the nascent bargain shopper, is Woot.com , which posts one deeply discounted bargain each day in each of its merchandise categories.

## Why use Twitter?





Why? Because even basic updates are meaningful to family members, friends, or colleagues—especially when they’re timely.

- **Eating soup?** Research shows that moms want to know.
- **Running late to a meeting?** Your co-workers might find that useful.
- **Partying?** Your friends may want to join you.

Twitter, the company, is headquartered in San Francisco, and was founded in 2006. It is a small company, with only a few dozen employees, but has millions of members. It has a marketing model to generate revenue, but the revenue model has not yet been implemented, leaving all of the posts and web pages currently free of advertising.

I am not sure how much I will be using Twitter on a regular basis by posting my personal activities and short commentaries, but I will check

my page occasionally just to see who is following my activities. The main purpose of Twitter is to answer the question, “What are you doing?” For those who want others to be able to know the answer in real time, they can do so with Twitter.



[www.compukiss.com](http://www.compukiss.com)  
[sandy@compukiss.com](mailto:sandy@compukiss.com)

## Vista's Not So Bad After All

Since Microsoft released Windows Vista, there has been a lot of complaining. People have blamed Vista for everything from slowing down their computer to making it more difficult to perform computer tasks. You rarely hear anything good about Vista. So today I'd like to give you just a few of Vista's more helpful features. You see, although Microsoft could have done better (and they will with Windows 7), Vista does some things much better than Windows XP.

Here's a quick example. The other day I was showing someone how to work with photographs on a Vista computer. When we right-clicked on a picture to rename it, Vista was smart enough to know that we probably only wanted to rename the first part of the name, so only that part was highlighted and renamed. The three-digit extension (the part after the period) remained .jpg, which is just what we wanted. In comparison, Windows XP always highlights the entire name and if you forgot to retype the extension, it throws up an error and makes you retype the new name all over again.

When we started moving the pictures around, another nice feature of Vista came into play. In Windows XP, when you dragged a picture from one place to another, sometimes it would copy the picture and sometimes it would move it, depending on the circumstances. The same thing is true in Vista, but Vista tells you what it is doing so you can confirm that it is performing the proper function. In Vista when you drag a file or folder to another place, it tells you right on the screen if the item is being moved or copied.

When it came time to make a slight correction to a photo, Vista came through again. Windows XP would let you do a slideshow of your photos and rotate them, but Vista lets you create a slideshow, rotate the picture, fix red eye, crop the picture, and adjust the color and/or exposure all with having to open a photo editing program. In fact, right from Vista's picture viewer you can add a caption, email the photo, burn it to a CD, and add a descriptive tag, and/or put the photo in a organize your photos in the Windows Photo Gallery.

Also when we opened a folder that contained photographs in Vista, the headers gave us the ability to quickly sort the photos in many different ways. Our choices were to sort by Name, by Date Taken, by Tags, By Size, or by Rating. We could also view the pictures in the folder in seven different ways including small, medium, large, and extra large icons. We couldn't sort like that in Windows XP and XP didn't give us as many useful options for viewing the photos in different sizes.

When we wanted to do some serious photo editing, the new features in Vista again made it easier than Windows XP. In Windows XP we would have had to click on Start button and

look through the All Programs list to find the Photoshop program that we wanted to use. It was much easier in Vista. We simply clicked on Start and started typing the word photoshop. By the time we got to the third letter, Vista had found Adobe Photoshop and put it at the top of the window for us to click on.

Vista also makes it easier to switch between one application and another. While pressing Alt+Tab in Windows XP gave us a view of the running applications, pressing the same keys in Vista gave us a much more graphic representation, showing us exactly which documents and programs were running. We were able to get an even better look at pressing the Windows Key and the Tab key at the same time. This gave us a 3D representation of each running application that flipped by in a visually appealing manner.

Vista may not be the best operating system ever invented, but it has some very nice features that most users overlook. And you can expect that these features and more will also be available in Microsoft's next operating system which has been named Windows 7. In the meantime, though, if you take a good look, you will find that Vista isn't all bad!

## **Cleanup Your Room / Desktop (Part I)**

**by Ron Hirsch, a member of the Boca Raton Computer Society**

[www.brcs.org](http://www.brcs.org) / ronhirsch1439 (at) comcast.com



So, does the title ring any bells? If you're a youngster, you've heard your elders tell you to clean up your room very often. And if you're not a youngster, then you use the line yourself on your kids or grandchildren. Well, I have no young kids around anymore, but I often use that line (with a slight change.) I'm constantly telling people to "Clean up your desktop", with "desktop" being their computer screen after the machine has booted up, and before any programs are run.

There are some desktop differences between the different Windows versions.

And, some companies such as Dell and Compaq very often install a "special" arrangement on the desktop, mostly to keep their name in front of you. Also, there are programs which generate their own desktop arrangement. But, they all generally respond to the procedures presented below. Once you become an expert in this area, you'll have no problems with the finer points and variations.

Since most of you are using Windows XP, and since I use XP on all my machines, all the activities discussed are based on XP. I have not used Vista, but I would assume it's the same there. One thing I do remember however, is that in Windows 95, desktop icons did not automatically line up in rows and columns. In XP, when you move an icon, it automatically snaps to the nearest position which keeps the rows and columns aligned.

The average computer user, even those who should know better, generally have disaster zones for the desktops. There are icons all over the place, not in any order and not lined up. And, there are many, that when I ask what they are, I'm told "I don't know." And, when I ask

to have Windows Explorer or Notepad opened, there's usually a lot of scrambling, to find out where the icon is located.

Many programs, when installed, will place an icon on your desktop. Sometimes they ask you during the install if you want this - and sometimes they don't ask. There is always a tendency for software companies to grab real estate so that they can prominently keep themselves in front of you. Some newer computers running Windows XP/VISTA may even start off with almost nothing on the desktop. If you want to go back to a more conventional appearing desktop, right click on the desktop, and view the various options you have. There is probably a choice to revert to an "old-fashioned desktop, which I personally prefer. Most people keep their medications in a medicine cabinet, canned goods in the pantry, garden tools in the garage, etc.. But when it comes to their computer, they are as disorganized as is humanly possible. They feel intimidated by their computers, and don't wish to antagonize it. So, the thrust of this article is to go back to real basics again, and give you some information on organizing and cleaning up your desktop. If you're already super organized, you can skip this article, accept my apologies, and move on. But 99 out of 100 of you probably don't qualify to get the gold star for desktop organization. Once you do the tasks presented, you'll probably wonder why you didn't do it sooner. It not only is much easier to work with a good functional desktop, it looks prettier also, and will impress those who see it.

### **WHY HAVE ICONS ON THE DESKTOP?**

Most users are familiar with the primary way to run a program. Click on START>PROGRAMS, and one can navigate to all the programs that are installed on the machine. But, most users generally have several programs that they use often. Having an icon for these programs on the desktop makes it easier to access that program. Just double click on that icon, and the program opens.

### **WHY SHOULD I BOTHER?**

Let's take an extreme analogy. How would you like to have a dictionary where the words were randomly listed, not in any order? It would take lots of time to look up a word. By organizing things, and getting important icons at your fingertips, you can make your life much easier. And, your friends will be asking you to help them, when they see your desktop. Consider the desktop as a presentation area for icons that you often use. Count the icons on your desktop that you that you really use, and those you don't use. Then list the icons that you use which are not readily available on the desktop and you have to do lots of clicking to reach. You will see why it's a good idea to improve things. Now let's get down to business and fix things up.

### **OPERATING ON ICONS**

The following activities are easy to perform on icons, wherever they may be. There are a few icons that Microsoft does put in places where they take control away from you - you can't readily rename them, or move them off the desktop, although you can always reposition them on the desktop. You may discover some of these in your travels. When you do, you'll just have to skip those icons. While they can be operated on using special protocols, that's outside of the scope of activities for these lessons.



**WHAT IS AN ICON**

An icon is a representation of a program, or file, or just about anything you want. The icons on your desktop are usually shortcuts to running a program, be it a word processor, spreadsheet, Internet connection, etc.. All icons have properties, which define the nature of the icon, and details of what it does when used. Right clicking on an icon will bring up a window with the bottom item in the list being “properties”. Left click on “properties”, and you'll get a window with lots of information about the icon. Try it, and browse around to get a feel for things. The more familiar you become with things on your computer, the more comfortable you'll feel using them.

**MOVE AN ICON**

Left click on and drag an icon, and you can move it manually anywhere you want on your desktop, or into another open folder. The ability to drag an icon around is tied into the choice that was made on how icons are positioned. Before you can engage in changing locations et al on your desktop, you must first check to see how things are set. Right click on the desktop, and in XP, you will bring up a small box with a list of items in it. The contents of this box will vary, depending upon which version of Windows you are using. The top item is “arrange icons by”, and it has a little arrowhead to the left. Click on that arrowhead, and you'll see a variety of items related to arranging icons. Some of these may be checked. The best way to learn what does what is to play around with the checking and unchecking. After a few trials, you will get a good feel for what they all do.

**COPY AN ICON**

Copying an icon is similar to moving an icon. As with the standard Windows protocol, do exactly as you would to move, but hold down the CTRL key while you are doing the click and drag operation. If you copy it into the same area, you'll probably see a (2) following the text in the copy. You can't have two icons in the same place, with the same name. So, Windows adds the “(2)” for you. If you move it to another folder, the “(2)” will stay, but you can edit the text as you'd like. See “Rename an Icon” below. Dragging an icon to any folder on your desktop will move the icon into that folder

**DELETE AN ICON**

Click once on an icon to highlight it, and then hit the Delete key. Remember, the icons here are generally shortcut icons with the little curly arrow on the lower left corner. Deleting these does not delete anything from your system except the shortcut icon. No programs or data will be deleted, just the icon.

**RENAME AN ICON**

Click once on an icon and then hit the F2 key. This puts you in “edit” mode, and you can type a new name by using the keyboard. If you type in a very long name, all the text you entered may not display when the icon is not selected. But, when you click once on the icon, the extra lines of text should be visible. In general, try to keep the text to a maximum of 2 lines under the icon. Remember the F2 key. It is the “edit” key, for folder names, filenames, icons, and other elements in Windows .

Remember, you will learn by experimenting and exploring - so don't be afraid to do so.

## **Beginners Guide to Selling on eBay**

**Written by Linda McNeil, a MACSA@PACS SIG, Philadelphia Area Computer Society**

[www.pacsnet.org /](http://www.pacsnet.org/)

The easy steps to selling an item on eBay were made relevant by my goal of placing my collectible light blue, hook-lid teapot (created by the notorious pottery maker, Hall), in the popular online auction.

It is important to read the instructions on the eBay site ( [www.eBay.com](http://www.eBay.com) ), to become a Seller (or a Buyer).

First, I found that I needed to then set up a seller's account by bank account information. If I information, there was a choice



Register to become a seller and to providing valid credit/debit card and preferred to not provide this to become Verified instead.

Next, an option for registering for eBay Payments is offered. This enables a seller to use eBay's easy way to accept buyers' credit card and electronic check payments online. Doing so before listing your first item for sale was recommended.

An Audio Tour of Selling is available to assist the new eBay Seller with the process of listing an item. EBay also provides Tips for the various sections that a seller will need to consider.

The Sell Your Item Form is where I would need to create my eBay listing. Several sections were available for me to complete:

- Choose a Selling Format (e.g. eBay's standard online auction format, setting a fixed price, using one's own eBay Store, or listing an ad in the Real Estate category).
- Select a Category -- to choose the best place to list your item. It is wise to familiarize yourself with categories ahead of time and to try searching for similar items to see where they are listed.
- Writing a Title to describe your item is the next step and an important one. You want to include the words that buyers would search for when looking for an item. eBay provides Tips on Titles.
- Item Specifics is a field that is only available for select categories. If it appears, fill in the details to help your item sell fast.
- Item Description – Describe and promote your item here. Include measurements, material composition, age, condition of item (including specifics about flaws), whether the item is

signed, numbered, dated, or marked with the manufacturer's name or symbol, etc. You may also be creative in listing uses for it or in telling the history of the item if it is known.

-- Add Pictures – Show off your item with vivid pictures. Using appropriate backgrounds with good lighting helps a lot. You can use eBay Picture Services, which lets you add pictures straight from the selling form – and offers some attention-grabbing options. Or, you can click Web Hosting to use your own hosting service. In addition to showing the good features of the item, displaying a picture of flaws is one way to avoid complaints from buyers later.

-- Pricing and Duration -- You must decide how long you want your listing to run, how many items you are selling, and what your starting price will be. If you want to use a reserve price or offer a "Buy It Now" option, this is the place to make those decisions.

-- Item Location – It is as simple as saying where you are located. Where you are located may affect shipping costs in some instances.

-- Increase Your Item's Visibility – Explore the many listing upgrades that can help your item stand out from the others. Choose the options that are right for you.

-- Enter Payment and Shipping Information – How will you accept payment from your buyer when your listing ends? Where will you be willing to ship your item and who will pay for that cost? Will you offer insurance as an option or a requirement? Do you ship internationally? The more you fill out here, the easier the transaction will be.

-- Review and Submit your Listing. – Now you will see a preview and a summary of its details. Look this over carefully. If you are satisfied and finished, submit your listing. Behold, your listing actually begins!

Now I get to watch the bidding and eagerly waits for the final vultures who will competitively bid zillions of dollars at the last minute for myr museum-quality (?) teapot, formerly owned by the Queen herself (???), and passed on to me in tribute to my dedicated services to Macs at Pacs. Dream on! Then again, maybe I really do have a rare treasure – a "must have" for some collector. It's a good idea to put some effort into learning about an item beforehand. However, if the item is a "dud" and no one bids on it, I can relist it and try again – maybe the person who "must have it" will be searching eBay at another time.

Okay, so I sell the teapot, and when the auction ends, I must now communicate with the Buyer. I may have selected eBay's Checkout service, so after the buyer has completed Checkout, eBay will notify me by email. If I hadn't specified shipping and payment details, the buyer can use Checkout to request this info. I could also use Checkout to send the buyer an invoice. If I preferred not to use Checkout, I could contact the buyer directly using e-mail. Buyer and Seller are supposed to communicate within three days of the end of auction.

Receiving payment – If the buyer paid with eBay payments, I will receive an e-mail confirming this. I may have preferred to receive a check, allowed it to clear, and to then prepare the item for shipping.

Ship the Item to the Buyer – Meticulous as I am, I packed the teapot with great care (maybe even double box it). It should survive a drop from an F-16. (I may also include some herbal tea and will paint a peaceful scene of a country cottage on the package).

Leave the Buyer Feedback – e-Bay's feedback system helps create a trustworthy community for everyone. Feedback about the buyer is important information for other sellers. Since I did such a good job as a Seller, the Buyer should leave excellent feedback for me as well.

I will now methodically hunt down things in an attic and basement to sell, will become addicted to garage and estate sales, and so will you when you start selling on eBay.

Again, take advantage of the excellent guidelines that eBay provides so that you can become an educated Seller (or Buyer).

Special thanks to George Hattersley for his help in putting together this article and for the excellent presentation, which was enjoyed by MACS @ PACS members.



## **Smart Computing Tips & Fun Facts**

[www.smartcomputing.com](http://www.smartcomputing.com)

### **Focus Your Shots**

If the autofocus on your digital camera has a tough time locking on when you're shooting close-ups, switch to the camera's Macro mode if one is available. Otherwise, set the camera to its highest resolution and lowest compression level, step back, take the shot, and crop it down to size later using an image editor.

### **Speed Up Your Internet Connection**

The first things to examine whenever system performance slows to a crawl are the tasks, or processes, your PC is running. No matter how fast of a CPU you have, running too many apps at once can slow everything down.

Check running applications. Use the Windows Task Manager to check on hidden apps that could be starving your browser of precious time. Right-click the Taskbar, select Task Manager, and click the Processes tab. You'll see a list of every process running on your PC; you can sort the list by name, amount of CPU time, or memory usage.

If you sort by CPU time and notice a couple programs trying to grab all the CPU, it's a clue something has gone awry. If you identify an unknown program hogging all the CPU, you can stop it by right-clicking the name and selecting End Process. But be careful: accidentally killing a valid Windows process may cause other problems, requiring a reboot to fix.

**For the latest information about the MPCUG — Check our website at [www.mpcug.net](http://www.mpcug.net)**

### **The Club's Meeting Place**

Our general meeting and the Random Access Special Interest Group are held at the Denny's at 1525 McHenry Avenue

**Free classifieds for members. Email the text to the editor at [scvjudy@usa.net](mailto:scvjudy@usa.net)**



### **Need help hooking up that new PC, or installing DSL-Cable?**

Call Jim Goodman, \$60.00 for as long as it takes.579-0122

[jgood99@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jgood99@sbcglobal.net)

Modesto, Ceres Area



### **Hot Spots...**

Go Wireless-  
Your Personal  
Connection  
to the World.



For Information about our website host and how you can get on board:

Click on this link [info@fire2wire.com](mailto:info@fire2wire.com)

### **Cyrano Writing & Editing**

When you need help putting it in words, call Cyrano.

(209) 523-4218; 499-5401

*Resumes, letters, applications, articles, newsletters, press releases, theses*

**Elizabeth Leedom**

**Modesto FISHG.INFO**  
sources for area home & garden  
artsonhome.com  
Claude Delphia, publisher  
**Websites, Photo Editing & Graphics**  
209-402-1936

# Modesto PC User Group Officers

|                   |                  |          |  |
|-------------------|------------------|----------|--|
| President         | Mike Kumler      | 531.2262 | <a href="mailto:president@mpcug.net">president@mpcug.net</a> |
| Program VP        | Elizabeth Leedom | 523.4218 | <a href="mailto:programvp@mpcug.net">programvp@mpcug.net</a> |
| Secretary         | Terry Fix        | 524.8062 | <a href="mailto:secretary@mpcug.net">secretary@mpcug.net</a> |
| Treasurer         | Barbara Cameron  | 522.1389 | <a href="mailto:treasurer@mpcug.net">treasurer@mpcug.net</a> |
| Director-at-Large | John Selover     |          | <a href="mailto:dal@mpcug.net">dal@mpcug.net</a>             |

## Appointed Positions

|                 |                  |              |  |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------|--|
| SIG Coordinator | Jim Goodman      | 579.0122     | <a href="mailto:sig@mpcug.net">sig@mpcug.net</a>               |
| Press Relations | Elizabeth Leedom | 523.4218     | <a href="mailto:programvp@mpcug.net">programvp@mpcug.net</a>   |
| Membership      | Hank Mudge       | 529.1936     | <a href="mailto:membership@mpcug.net">membership@mpcug.net</a> |
| Webmaster       | Jim Goodman      | 579.0122     | <a href="mailto:webmaster@mpcug.net">webmaster@mpcug.net</a>   |
| Editor          | Judy Tylour      | 661.252.8852 | <a href="mailto:scvjudy@usa.net">scvjudy@usa.net</a>           |

## PC Post

Editor Emeritus: William "Doc" Holloway – 1920-1996

Editor Emeritus: Claude Delphia

President Emeritus: Bud Bondiotti – 1950 - 2008

## Join The Modesto PC User Group

Website: [www.mpcug.net](http://www.mpcug.net)

To join MPCUG (or just get more information about us, go to our Website and fill out the new member form or mail your check to: MPCUG, P.O. Box 5122, Modesto, CA 95352-5122. Membership is just \$24 a year and includes 12 issues of the PC Post along with participation in all meetings and events. You will also receive E-mail advising you of extra events or news.

## The PC Post and Editorial Policy

The PC Post is published online 12 times per year and is available to all group members as a membership benefit. Annual group membership dues are \$24.00.

Opinions expressed in PC Post do not necessarily reflect the opinions or views of the members as a group or the Board of Directors.

The PC Post encourages group members to submit articles for publication. We would like to have articles which deal with the writer's experience with computer hardware and software or digital photography.

An article may deal with any computer-related subject provided it contains no libelous or offensive material. We can't use information copied from other publications without written permission except for quotes.

Articles should be submitted in unformatted MS Word RTF text. Proofread and run your spell checker; watch for special upper and lower case in brand names. If you want to include a graphic, please send it as a jpeg attached to the E-mail submitting your article. Please note in the article where the jpeg should be placed.

We reserve the right to edit articles for length or to improve readability. Longer articles may be published in several parts. We will not knowingly promote unlicensed businesses.

Letters to the editor are encouraged. All articles and letters to the editor should be submitted to the editor via E-mail as an attached file. Call her at 661 252 8852 before submission. Please include your name, day and evening phone numbers, and E-mail address for contact.