

Re: A Golden Opportunity!

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From: Don James (*stop_spaam_at_hotmail.com*)

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"Michael A. Covington" <look@ai.uga.edu.for.address> wrote in message news:<4123efda\$1@mustang.speedfactory.net>...

> *"Don Bruder"* <dakidd@sonic.net> wrote in message

> news:LbNUc.8416\$54.122899@typhoon.sonic.net...

> > *And that's the long and short of it: You anti-sniping folks are crying*

> > *because you got something taken away from you by someone who knew what*

> > *they wanted, knew what it was worth to them, and wanted it worse than*

> > *you did. Get over it.*

>

> *Er... Can't we say the same to YOU? If you know what you're willing to pay,*

> *why do you snipe? Why don't you do what you're telling us to do?*

Michael, there are many advantages to bidding very late besides possibly getting a lower price:

1) I'm less likely to be shilled (yes, shill bidding happens on eBay, and it costs buyers a lot of money)

2) I don't have to wait for the auction to be over before I bid on another similar item (remember, even if you're outbid on eBay, a retraction or cancellation can make you the winner; if you don't want two of something, you have to wait for the auction to end once you've bid)

3) I don't become someone's "personal shopper" (someone who bids early on a lot of items, allowing others to find things by scanning his bidding history)

4) I'm less likely to get "auction fever" and bid more than I can afford; I get one shot, and have to decide how much an item is really worth to me.

There are others, but the point is that sniping isn't done just to take advantage of the uninformed bidder. It would be fine with me if eBay restricted people to one bid per item (as you suggested), but I think they like the bidding wars.

Automatic extensions may be OK for some sites, but I doubt they'd be well-received in a global, 24/7 environment like eBay. You're proposing a system that would virtually require users to be at their computers when an auction is ending, in order to defend their bids (I wouldn't expect eBay's proxy bidding system to survive if other bidders could nibble away at the proxy for as long as they wanted; that would be paradise for shill-bidders and "win at all costs" bidders). That gives me a one-hour time window; if an auction for something I want doesn't end in that window, I won't be bidding. That doesn't sound like an effective system to me.

BTW, Yahoo Auctions offers extensions as an option. It's rarely used. If eBay offered it, I'd expect the same level of success.