

CSC420

Getting Input from Users

The Basics

- Make sure the user understands what is asked for, and why
- If you can, avoid asking the question at all
- If possible, ask for a choice out of a set, rather than asking for text
- Beware of a literal translation from the underlying programming model
- Usability-test it
- The controls on the UI affect users' expectation of what is asked for

The Patterns

- Forgiving format
- Structured format
- Fill-in-the-blanks
- Input hints
- Input prompt
- Autocompletion
- Dropdown chooser
- Illustrated choices
- List builder
- Good defaults
- Same-page error messages

Forgiving Format



- Catch: turns an UI design problem into a programming one
 - UI designers and developers must work together

Structured Format

Name:*

Company:

Serial Number:*

Fill-in-the-blanks



- Catch: hard to localize for languages with different word order

Input Hints

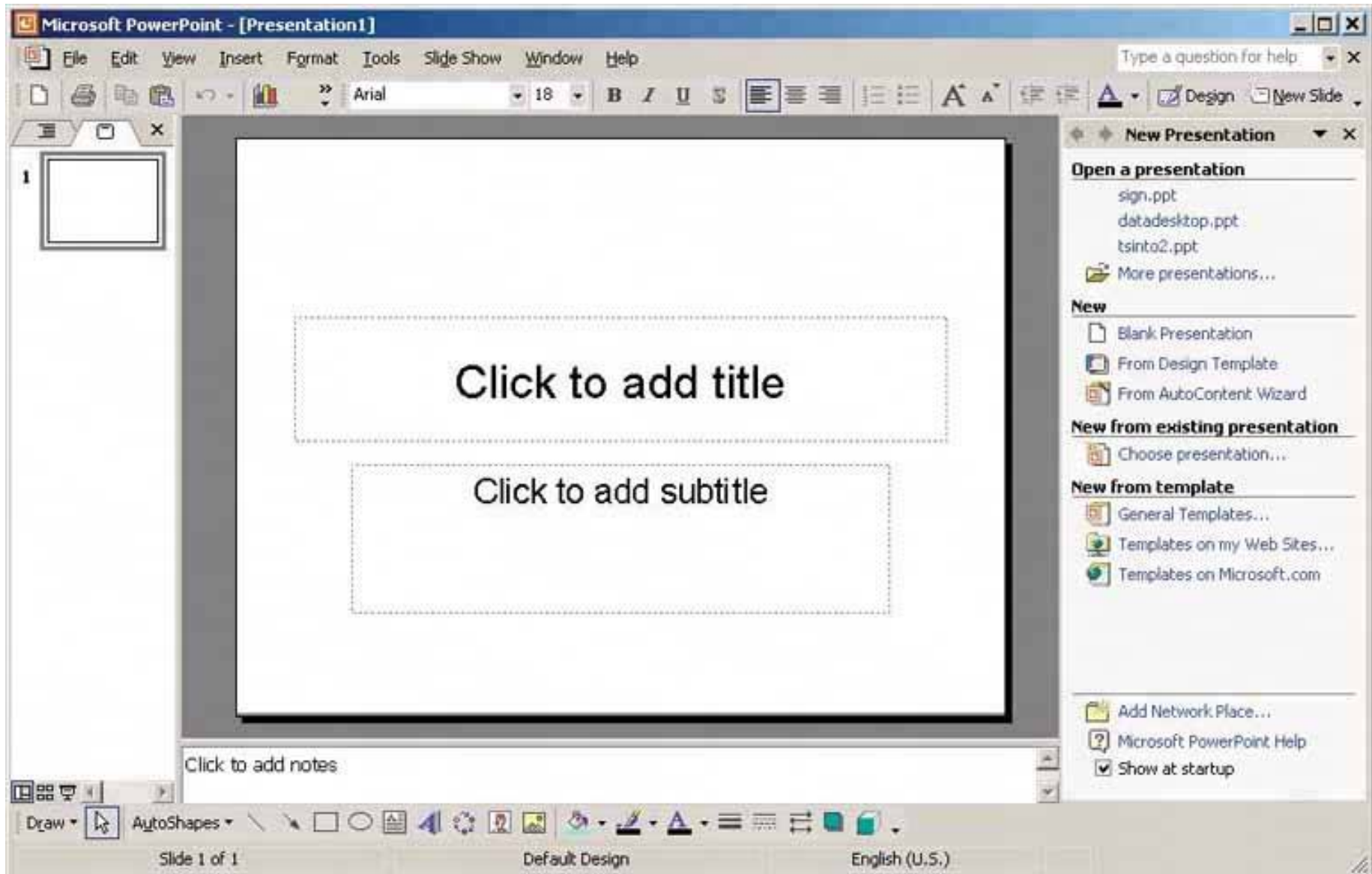
Name:

Example: Mary Jones

Short Name:

This is an alternate name for your account, used by some network services. Enter 8 lowercase characters or fewer with no spaces. Example: mjones

Input Prompt



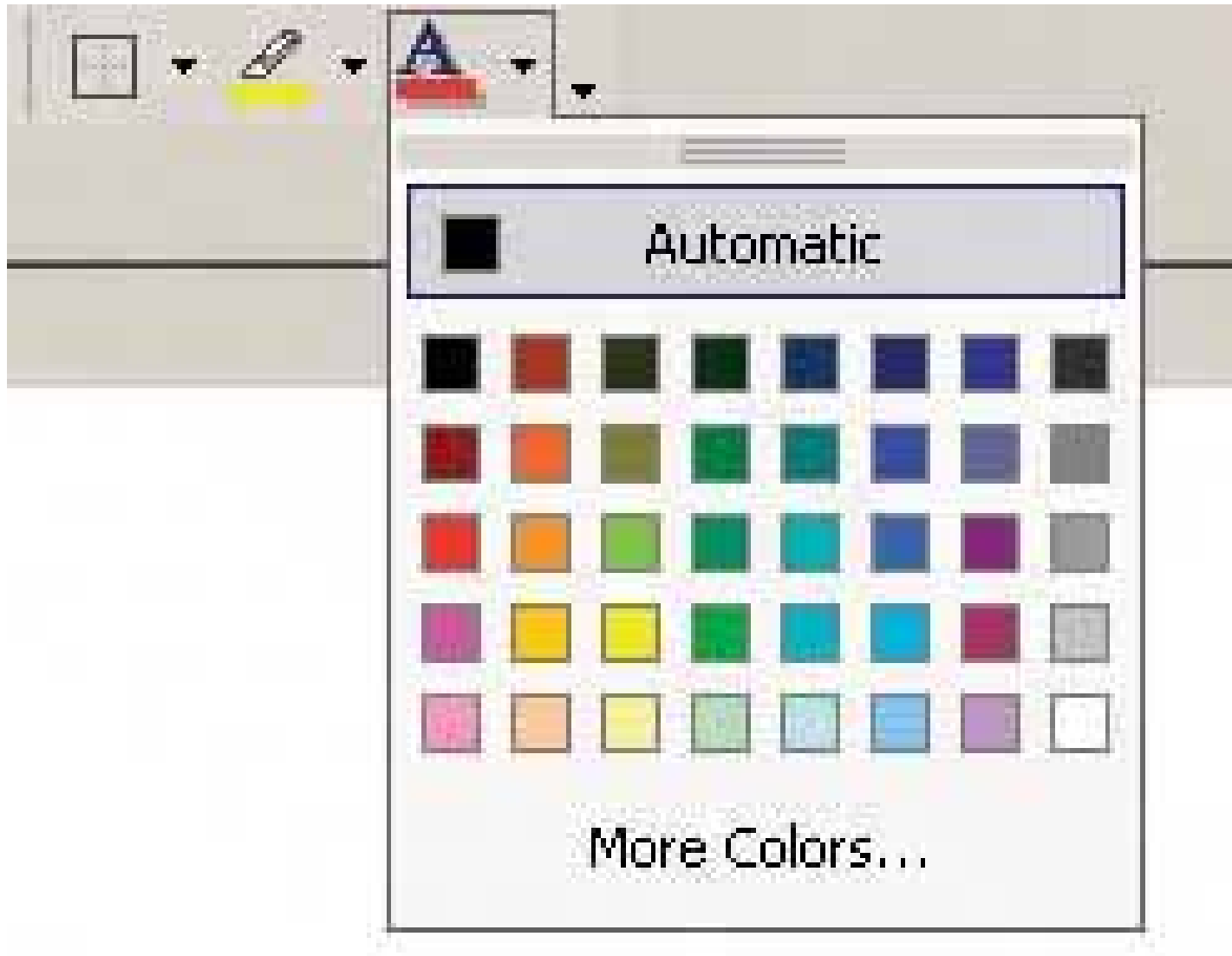
Autocompletion

To: dis|

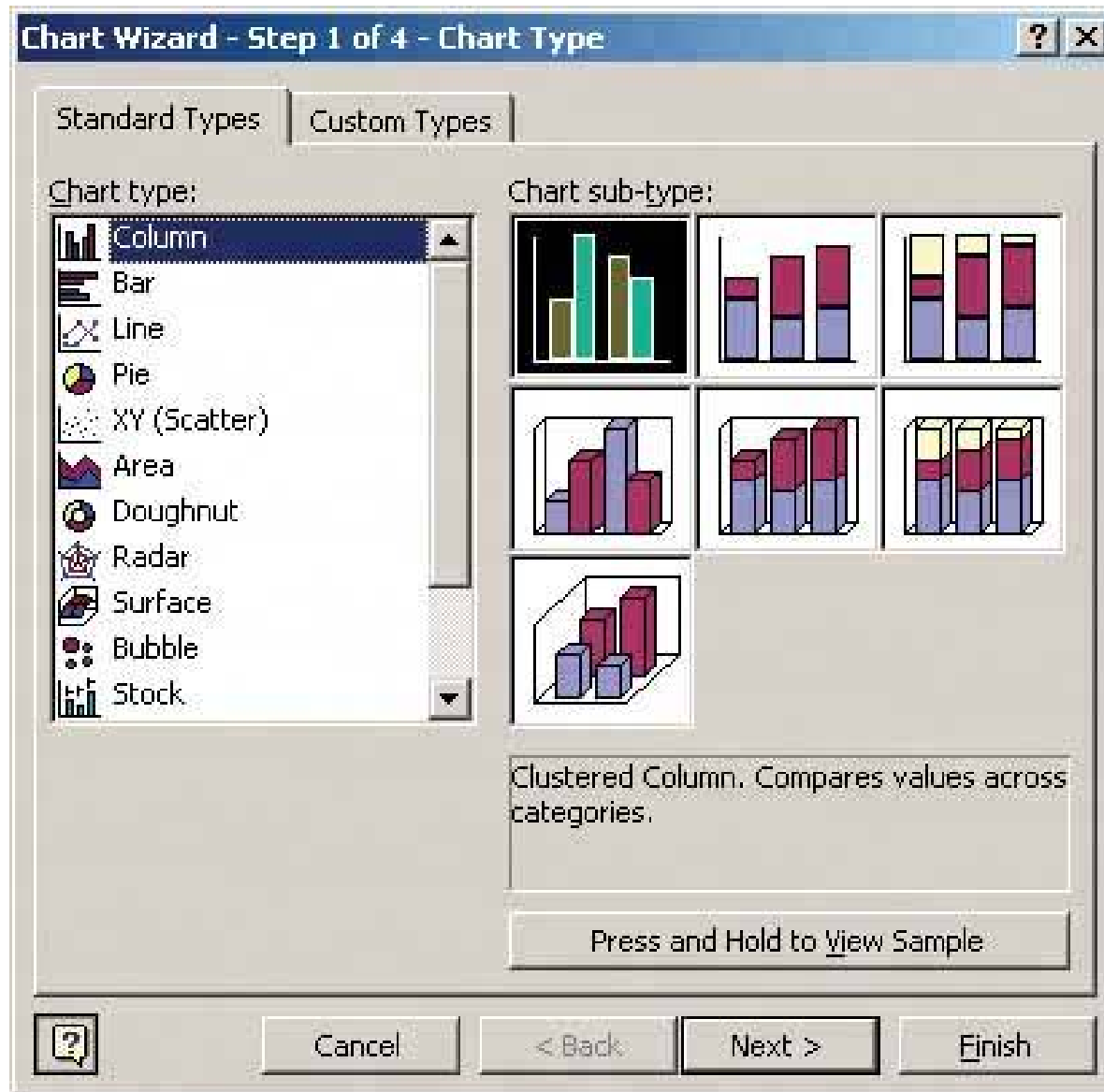
To: discuss@interactiondesigners.com (Interaction Designers)

ask him, but are we out of m
that we haven't found the tim
Yours truly,
YOU

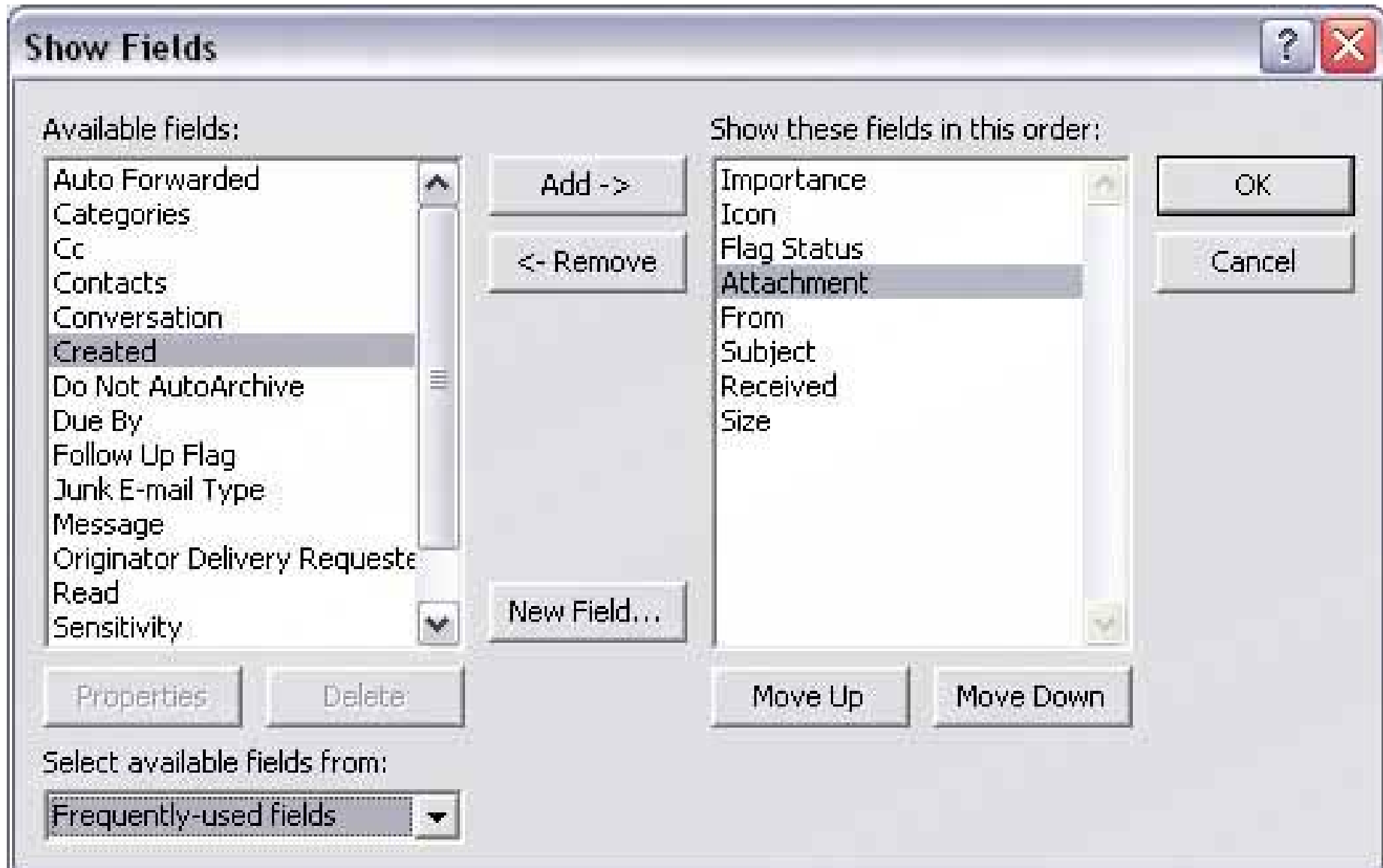
Dropdown Chooser



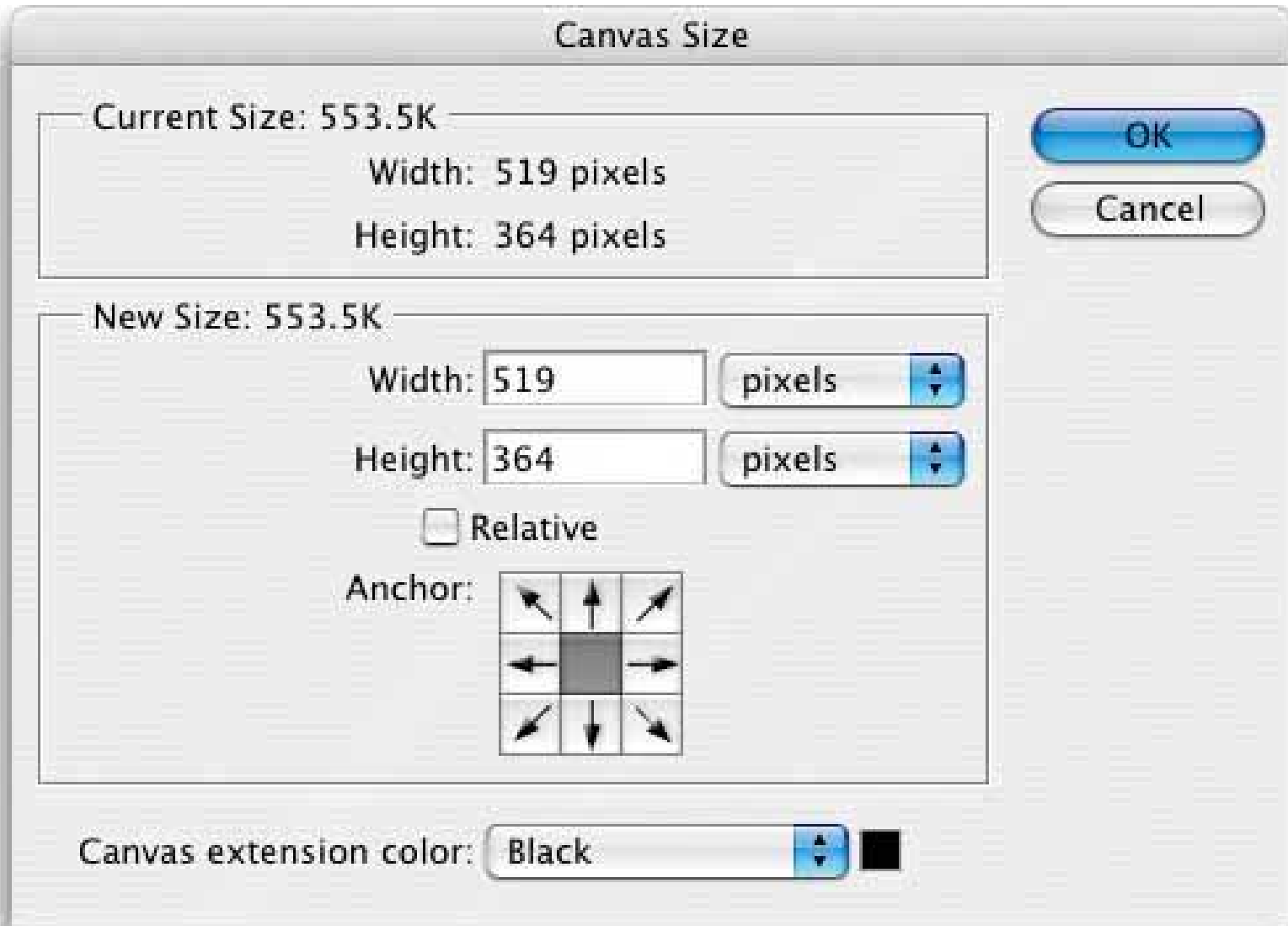
Illustrated Choices



List Builder



Good Defaults



Same-Page Error Messages



Register: Enter Information

1 Enter Information 2. Choose User ID & Password 3. Check Your Email




The following must be corrected before continuing:

- [Last name](#) -- Please enter this information.
- [Address](#) - Please enter this information.

Register now to bid or buy on **any** eBay site. It's easy and **free!**

First name

 Please enter this information.
Last name

 Please enter this information.

Street address

City

State / Province

Zip / Postal code

Country