

BACKUP YOUR CELL PHONEBOOK

My cell phone and my appointment book are practically attached to my body at all times. My whole life is in them and the orderly running of my life depends on them. Over the last two years, I created a huge list of extremely important phone numbers. My entire client list, friends, family, my doctors and all my mother's doctors, pizza delivery, Chinese take-out, auto repair shop, hair salon, contractors and more are in there. One of my great fears was that I'd lose my phone or it would be destroyed beyond allowing the store to transfer the numbers. (Dropping it in the driveway and running over it with your car will do that, as one of my friends discovered!)

I was delighted when I discovered this information on My Account at verizonwireless.com:

» **My Contacts**

Manage your phone's contact list online

Store a copy of your phone's contact list

View, add and update your contacts from your computer.

Send updates to your phone at the click of a button or schedule automatic updates.

Transfer contact list to your new phone, when you upgrade or if your phone is lost or stolen

Service is free for My Account customers

It was exciting to discover I could back up my list so it could never be totally lost! I did it IMMEDIATELY! When I then viewed my list I got even more excited. I can edit that list and add new contacts from my computer!

As much as I love my cell phone, entering new contact information directly into the phone can be very annoying and slow for folks as clumsy as me. The tiny buttons aren't all that friendly. (I'm not very good at text messaging either.) Now though, I can go through the list, on my computer, and edit the spelling errors, add additional information, add new contacts and delete old one easily. Then, with a simple click the new information is transferred into my phone! Ta! Da!

I set up My Account page as soon as I got my first cell phone because I pay my bill online. If you haven't done it, do not worry, you can do it anytime and it's easy. You know the drill. Near the LOG IN prompt there will be a selection for setting up a new account. Enter the phone number, email, and a password and you have an account! When you log in all your personal information is available!

Not all phones are capable of doing this. I would guess some of the older phones do not have the necessary features. The phone I had until last week was a very simple inexpensive LG and it was capable. My new, cooler and more expensive LG phone uses the same list. Although it is easier to use – I can even send understandable text messages – I still intend doing the major additions from my computer.

To check if your phone is compatible with the backup feature, click on the My Contacts link and the page has a list of phones that work. If your phone is on the list do it immediately. If your phone is not on the list, remember this feature at your next upgrade.

For those who have cell phones other than Verizon, check your online account to see if this feature is available to you. If not, well.....

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