

# Experimenting with Mars Edit

[By Holly Lisle](#)

There was a point in my writing career where I was blogging as I wrote. I'd do a starting wordcount and the day's objective, post little snippets of something I wrote while the letters were still glowing from the heat, build a new post as a digression from my worldbuilding or research (research was the origin of a lot of Rants).

The blog was busy.

**And then *Ecto* died.**

What was Ecto? A little app I had on my desktop that just sat there besides me – open – so that I never had to slog to my blog, open WordPress, go through the friggin' interface, set up a post, save, test, save, test, save, test... publish.

When it died, blogging stopped being easy and started being work that did not gently flow into what I was actually doing and actually got paid for (blogging being essentially free nonfiction done during work hours that, if you have to stop and spend a couple hours on an in-depth post, cuts into actual paid work).

I have from time to time searched for something that would do what Ecto did, and have repeatedly had my hopes crushed.

So now I'm looking at Mars Edit.

**The first big test is going to be:** Will it actually post to my blog. This is where other programs have died an ugly death.

**The second is:** How much of a pain in the ass is it going to be to edit a post? Will I be able to do that from here and still get the post to look the way I want?

I'll still have to log in to update the software, and I'm looking at doing (yet another) total site overhaul with a major re-theming to decrease the cluttered look while still keeping all the content.

But as I write this, I like the interface, I like the simplicity, I like the small footprint that lets it fit on my desktop beside my actual work.

If it works, this could be my path back to doing something that I love (talking about work while I work, and showing off my work while I work) that died with Ecto.

If it doesn't...?

Same old slog, and my best attempt to do a post a week, that degrades when things get chaotic into a post or two a month.

So here's to hoping this works.

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