

We help you think about the future so you can act today ...

# What's Emerging?

The latest news and information ...

Published by Emergent Futures Pty Ltd

## Mid July 2010

### Welcome to the Mid - July edition of What's Emerging.

Welcome to the first edition of What's Emerging for the new financial year (in Australia anyway). Remember that you can get these links via several different channels and in different ways. If you just want to get the newsletter and read the links then you do not have to change a thing because the newsletter will still keep arriving every couple of weeks . If you want to look at any of the past links you can go to [download newsletters](#) as all the newsletters and the extra links are uploaded there. If you want to see the links as they are posted via your Twitter account you can see that by following [@futuristpaul](#) and you will get posts nearly every day. If you want to visit our scanning site at your leisure you can go to [www.emergentfutures.tumblr.com](#) where you can see our most recent posts and use the search facility to search for other posts. Or if you want to put our scanning site into your newsreader then go to [www.emergentfutures.tumblr.com](#) and click on the "subscribe via RSS button". Our intention is to give you a choice that suits what your needs are. Please keep your comments coming in on our re-design as we are still working on the website revamp that should be completed by the time of the next newsletter.

Cheers

Paul Higgins, Sandy Teagle, Kim Stewart, Anitha Mendonca, Syed Muqthar, and Samantha Kyle-Little

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### What we are writing about

This month we have a book review on The Checklist Manifesto which is about a series of trials of checklists in operating theatres around the world. While this may seem like a strange book for a futurist to recommend you may be surprised by the conclusions that were reached. [Read here.](#)

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### Business Tips

Our business tips are in our main newsletter and link to the download page.

#### Employees texting behind the wheel? It could cost you

There are a growing number of businesses facing lawsuits related to accidents that happened when their employees were texting on the job. Statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimate the cost of those crashes for employers at \$24,500 per crash, \$150,000 per injury and \$3.6 million per fatality. [Read More...](#)

## Freeware: Turn off windows update restart nag

Nothing is more annoying than working in the zone and getting interrupted. When it turns out Windows Update is pestering you to reboot, a double homicide is imminent. When you install Leave me Alone and click the "Leave Me Alone" button it temporarily turns off the source of these restart messages. [Read More...](#)

## Advanced ruler pro Android app measures heights so you don't have to

Advanced Ruler Pro app on your Android phone measures the height of buildings, people— basically, whatever you aim it at. [Read More...](#)

## How to stay safe on public Wi-Fi networks

Starbucks is offering free Wi-Fi to all customers, at every location. Whether you're clicking connect on Starbucks' Wi-Fi or some other unsecured, public Wi-Fi network, here's how to stay safe and secure while surfing a public hotspot. [Read More...](#)

## Turn your iPhone into a REAL teleprompter, complete with glass

Making a speech soon? Here's your chance to sound just like President Obama. Import your text into an iPhone, and then mount this Prompt-It iPhone teleprompter in front of a camcorder or webcam. Then you can read your iPhone's text as it scrolls, looking directly into the camera's lens. [Read More...](#)

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## What's Emerging

### Rolling forecasts

A great Dilbert cartoon on forecasts. [Read More...](#)

### Visa launches new online payment system payclick for media content consumers

Visa has launched a new service dubbed payclick to enable users to pay online for downloadable content like music, games and movies. Payclick payment service was developed by Visa and will be initially launched only for Australian customers. [Read More...](#)

### Twitter now the world's fastest growing search engine

According to cofounder Biz Stone, Twitter now reaches some 800 million search queries per day. That's over 24 billion searches per month, more than Bing (4.1 billion) and Yahoo (9.4 billion) combined. [Read More...](#)

### Google launches app to let users share open parking spots

The app, named OpenSpot, is very straightforward. If you are looking for parking, simply pull up the app to see a map of nearby openings. Right now, since the application is brand new, there's not likely to be much to find, but eventually over time as more people use the app, it could prove to be a useful parking tool. [Read More...](#)

### Telescopic eye implant approved by the FDA

VisionCare Ophthalmic Technologies' implantable miniature telescope is intended for patients over 75 years of age who are suffering from end-stage macular degeneration. We reported on this a while back and now it is approved for use. [Read More...](#)

### Blimps could replace aircraft in freight transport, say scientists

Helium-powered ships could be carrying freight – and even passengers – in as little as a decade's time. [Read More...](#)

### Yale bioethicist warns of singularity's perils at futurist gathering

Wallach is a pioneer in the nascent field of robot ethics and has captured the imaginations of futurists with his theories on artificial moral agents and computational ethics. [Read More...](#)

### Mollusc medium picks Spain to win World Cup

The two-year-old celebrity octopus, who has accurately picked the outcome of all six of Germany's World Cup matches so far, quickly tipped Spain to beat the Netherlands. It took him only three minutes to make up his mind. Read our post at [www.emergentfutures.tumblr.com](http://www.emergentfutures.tumblr.com) for our comments on prediction and chance. [Read More...](#)

## Internet appliances of yesteryear (photos)

Zdnet has some great photos of those early internet appliances we were all supposed to use.

[Read More...](#)

## First electric highway in US to be I-5 from Canada to Oregon

Washington state is about to turn a section of Interstate-5 — all the way from Canada to Oregon — into the nation's first electric highway. Thanks to a \$1.32 million federal grant, they'll be able to install 10 Level-3 electric charging stations along the route.

**Paul Higgins:**  
***Ultimately the charging time for these vehicles is a big draw back - hybrid options or faster charging are needed for people to change over. Of course most people only drive short distances so a combined system of personal electric vehicles and a vehicle sharing system like Flexicar for longer trips could be used.*** [Read More...](#)

## Peak oil postponed again

That at least is the story from the International Energy Agency. Their medium-term outlook for fossil fuel markets is a dazzling contrast with last year's warnings that a combination of break-neck industrialisation in China and lack of investment in new oil fields (thanks to the credit freeze) would exhaust global spare capacity by 2013. [Read More...](#)

## Rats breathe with first functional, lab grown lungs

In a first for medical science, rats were able to breathe and oxygenate their blood using lungs that had been grown in the lab. This a major step toward being able to grow replacement organs. [Read More...](#)

## Open University hits record 20 million downloads on iTunes

The Open University, a trend-setting distance learning establishment, is the first university worldwide to reach 20 million downloads through the iTunes U service, the repository for downloadable academic content. [Read More...](#)

## Flying car almost ready for take-off

An aeroplane that can drive on roads is one step closer to being commercially available after clearing a major hurdle with US aviation authorities. [Read More...](#)

## MIT, Harvard researchers create programmable self-folding origami sheets

The concept could one day produce complex programmable shapes that transform into, for instance "smart" cups that adjust based upon the amount of liquid needed, or a "Swiss army knife" that could form into tools ranging from wrenches to tripods. [Read More...](#)



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## More Links

We have many more links than we can fit in the newsletter - this month's 'Additional Links' are available on our [website](#)



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