

Extra links that we couldn't fit in this month's newsletter...



What's Emerging

Billboards that look back

Some entrepreneurs are equipping billboards with tiny cameras that gather details about passers-by — their gender, approximate age and how long they looked at the billboard.

Start-up releases smaller version of Flip Camcorder

In the last year, Pure Digital, a small San Francisco start-up, has shown the world's consumer electronics companies how to build a camcorder that regular people actually use.

Nano sponge for oil spills

A nanowire membrane that sops up oil while repelling water could be used for cleaning up oil spills.

Norway's StatoilHydro to test first deepwater floating wind turbine

Offshore wind turbines already exist in numerous places around the world but they have all been stationary turbines planted on the bottom of the seabed. StatoilHydro plans to attach the floating turbine to the top of a buoy, using technology similar to that of offshore oil and gas platforms.

Sepsis microfilter being developed

Researchers from Children's Hospital Boston, Harvard Medical School, Boston University, and the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory have been working on a prototype device that can act as a physical filter to remove pathogens responsible for sepsis.

Adobe's Acrobat.com could be an office killer

Adobe has tied together its online office suite with its Beta of acrobat.com. One of a group of online tool applications that could threaten Microsoft's dominance.

Scientists move a step closer to mind-reading

Scientists have developed a method for reading a person's mind using brain scans.

The future is now? pretty soon, at least

Ray Kurzweil's theory for augmenting human intelligence.

Heading skyward to beat gridlock

The solution to gridlock on our overcrowded roads is to take to the air in a plane-car hybrid that will revolutionise the way society works.

Reading books on twitter

Is this a new way to read books and interact with others on them while reading or just another fad?

High-tech surgical robot removes tumour from 21-year-old patient in its first operation

The two-armed robot that made medical history last week, helping a group of Calgary doctors remove a brain tumour from a 21-year-old woman, was developed by Richmond-based MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates Ltd., the same company behind the Canadarm, made famous through its many successful space missions.

Drugs to grow your brain

Compounds that trigger the growth of new brain cells might help treat depression.

Bugs to harvest difficult oil reserves?

British and Canadian scientists aim to boost world energy supplies by converting unrecoverable heavy oil deposits to natural gas (methane) with microbes.

Robobug goes to war

Troops to use electronic insects to spot enemy 'by end of the year'.

Websites that change with the user

Websites that respond to the patterns of user clicks may be able to increase on line sales. People have different cognitive styles and so some website designs suit some people while others suit other people. This paper shows an experiment with British Telecom.

How changing technology is having big impacts on business

An interesting article on why changing technology may result in a different type of IT executive, if you can get past some of the web 2.0 hype.

Brainpower may lie in complexity of synapses

A whole new dimension of evolutionary complexity has now emerged from a cross-species study led by Dr. Seth Grant at the Sanger Institute in England.

Every TV an internet TV

Plug one end of the ZvBox into your Windows PC, the other into an ordinary cable TV wall socket, and you can watch high-definition Internet video on any digital TV in the house.

Electric cars - retrofitted

A Finnish company is retrofitting Corollas as electric cars and removing the internal combustion engine

Urban farming

Permablitz is a social enterprise committed to improving the sustainability of cities and suburbs. They use a sustainable design system called permaculture to help communities grow their own food.

IBM to cool chips with H2O

Much like a Porsche boxer engine — only much, much smaller — scientists from the IBM Zurich Research Lab and the Fraunhofer Institute in Berlin are working on a microchip that uses micro pipes of water to cool itself.

Mashups turn into an industry as offerings mature

There were a great many product announcements at Web 2.0 Expo in San Francisco last month, but it was the number of announcements around Web-based mashups in particular that received a large share of attendee and media attention.

Disney world in 3D on Google earth

Check out Disney World in [Google Earth](#) — it's in full 3D glory, including trees, benches lamp posts, buildings, etc. It's also easy to get more information about landmarks in the form of audio clips, videos and write ups.

A technology that Greg House would be excited about

Researchers at UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center have modified a common chemotherapy drug to create a new probe for Positron Emission Tomography (PET), an advance that will allow them to model and measure the immune system in action and monitor response to new therapies.

Genetic tests already becoming obsolete

Genetic testing may be even worse than flat screens when it comes to the speed at which they become out of date.

The sky is falling

The odds that a potentially devastating space rock will hit Earth this century may be as high as one in 10.

Thinking ahead: Bacteria anticipate coming changes in their environment

A new study by Princeton University researchers shows for the first time that bacteria don't just react to changes in their surroundings -- they anticipate and prepare for them. The findings, reported in the June 6 issue of Science, challenge the prevailing notion that only organisms with complex nervous systems have this ability.

Africa's ecological footprint: Human well-being and biological capital

On June 9, 2008 at the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in Johannesburg, Global Footprint Network in conjunction with SDC and WWF International, released the first-ever detailed look at the Ecological Footprints of African nations and the trends at play over the last few decades.

A 30-picowatt processor for sensors

University of Michigan (U-M) researchers have developed [an ultra low power microchip](#) which 'uses 30,000 times less power in sleep mode and 10 times less in active mode than comparable chips now on the market.

Robotic Humvees in the sky?

According to Computerworld, a Colorado-based company has developed a prototype of [a 'flying Humvee' robotic aircraft](#) to ship supplies to military troops. This robotic aircraft, dubbed the V-STAR, short for "VTOL Swift Tactical Aerial Resource," should be operational around 2010.

A display that tracks your movements

There could be a revolution brewing in billboard advertising. Instead of simply presenting a static image, why not let people interact with the advertisement?

Which way(s) to advanced nanotechnology?

Will nanotechnology culminate with diamondoid nanorobots produced in nanofactories by atomically precise mechanosynthesis, or with "soft" machines that mimic the way biological molecular machines work? The June issue of [IEEE Spectrum online](#) contains a special report on "The Singularity", the concept popularized by Vernor Vinge, Ray Kurzweil and others that near the middle of this century.

Online game a medical breakthrough?

WASHINGTON University (UW) has launched a novel online game in an effort to engage computer gamers in trying their hands at 'protein folding.' The new game, Foldit, turns protein folding into a competitive sport. Its designers hope that gamers' intuitive skills and competitive nature will help create brand new protein shapes that can be used to develop drugs that may solve longstanding medical problems.

The future of robots

This collection of links from FringeHog includes a prediction that in the next decade people will be willing to spend as much for a multitasking humanoid robot as they would for a new car and that the personal robot market could balloon to \$15 billion by 2015.

'Aware car' knows when you're too old to drive - and tells you

The car of tomorrow will make senior citizens better, safer drivers and let them know when they ought to hang up the keys for good. It also could tell the DMV. Researchers at [MIT's AgeLab](#) are building the "Aware Car," a Volvo XC90 packed with cameras, monitors and sensors that keep tabs on drivers and their behavior to improve safety. Volvo is using similar technology to [create a crash-proof car by 2020](#).

Climb into the cockpit of tomorrow's slot machine

Everyone wants to know how to turn the younger crowd over at the gaming tables into the next generation of slot addicts. Cyberview's answer: videogames. In other words, Cyberview has pulled an arcade skin over a one-armed bandit, and each explosion is a pull of the arm.

A fork in the road

Thirty years of low-fat diets and scientifically proven superfoods have left us with an obesity epidemic and record rates of diabetes. Rod McGuinness speaks to food guru Michael Pollan.

Genetic bill of rights

The U.S. Senate has passed a federal standard that protects people who learn through genetic testing that they might be susceptible to a serious disease from losing their jobs or being denied health insurance. The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, called GINA, protects the privacy of personal genetic information so people who are tested can be assured that the results cannot be used against them.

What to expect when Costco comes to Australia

Costco is coming. Possibly by Christmas, but most likely in the first half of 2009. Robert Stockdill looks at what Australian retailers can expect from the US' king of value.