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

Business Tips

Synchronising google calendar with outlook

If you want to maintain a Google Calendar online (free) so you can access it from anywhere, even if you do not have your laptop or PC available, and/or allow access for anyone else to the calendar then Google now has a new system for synchronising Google Calendar to your Outlook System (if you are using Outlook). The link above gives a step by step approach on how to achieve the change.

Sick of not being able to transfer songs from your iPod to your computer?

iTunes and iPods are set up so that you cannot transfer your songs from your iPod to your computer for copyright reasons. However if you lose a hard disk or have problems with a computer this can leave you in a situation where the only place you have your songs is on your iPod and syncing with the iPod will actually wipe the songs from the iPod as the sync process only works one way. At iLounge you can get programs that allow you to transfer music the other way.

ETSY and Alchemy

Etsy is a website for people selling hand made goods. All reasonably straightforward. However they have recently reactivated a service called Alchemy where you can post a photo of a damaged or missing item and get people to quote on making you a replacement. Just the go if you have lost that valuable piece of jewelry and have a photo if it (or maybe you should take photos of all your precious stuff and keep them in case) or have just damaged something beyond repair. We have not tried it out so cannot guarantee that it works.

What's Emerging

Artificial letters added to life's alphabet

Two artificial DNA "letters" that are accurately and efficiently replicated by a natural enzyme have been created by US researchers. Adding the two artificial building blocks to the four that naturally comprise DNA could allow wildly different kinds of genetic engineering, they say.

Wind power urged for computers

The world's computing power should be moved from desktop computers and company servers to remote outposts where renewable energy such as wind and solar power is abundant, according to a Cambridge University computer expert.

Pulsing web gives ailing hearts a boost

A pulsing fibrous web to wrap around diseased hearts is being developed by UK researchers. The approach is less invasive than existing heart-assist techniques, which involve surgically plumbing a pump directly into the heart, the researchers say.

Guayaki announces first carbon-subtracting beverages

Thanks to the vast carbon-sequestration that occurs in the South American rainforests where Guayaki's yerba mate is sustainably harvested, each 16-ounce package of San Mateo Loose Yerba Mate and Traditional Loose Yerba Mate, according to Guayaki, subtracts more carbon than it emits during the entire manufacturing process - from its harvesting south of the border, to its placement on store shelves in the United States - resulting in a net subtraction of 573 grams of carbon. We are sceptical about these claims as it needs to be compared against what might have been grown there instead and what it substitutes against in the market.

Southern Baptist leaders shift position on climate change

Several prominent leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention said Monday that Baptists have a moral responsibility to combat climate change - a major shift within a denomination that just last year cast doubt on human responsibility for global warming.

Bacterial battle generates new antibiotics

Scientists at MIT encouraged bacteria to produce a novel antibiotic by pitting them against a microbial enemy. The newly discovered compound can kill H. pylori, bacteria linked to stomach ulcers. The approach could provide a new way to discover novel antibiotics and shed light on how and when bacteria churn out these toxic compounds.

The coming online radio ad boom

For over half a century, radio has been derided as a collapsing medium, soon to be merely an exhibit in the information museum as it gives way to better, more visual technologies. Radio has continued to prove all its critics wrong. Nowhere is the continued vitality of radio more apparent than online.

Rapid biological sensors

Innovative Biosensors, Inc. is a pioneering developer and manufacturer of rapid detection technologies. It's Bioflash sensor systems consists of immune cells that light up with immunofluorescence when they come into contact with certain pathogens such as Anthrax.

Vaccine for hypertension

A Swedish company called Cytos is developing a vaccine for treating hypertension instead of people having to take daily medication.

Nothing between you and your machine

Last year the arrival of the Nintendo Wii and the Apple iPhone began to break down the logjam in technological innovation for the way humans interact with computers. What is new is a convergence of more powerful and less expensive computer hardware and an inspired set of mostly younger software designers who came of age well past the advent of the original graphical user interface paradigm of the 1970s and ′80s.

Apple unveils plans for iPhone 2.0

Apple wants the iPhone to become a business email gadget - and a portable video game machine that might also help users manage their health records. To help fuel that transformation, the company is teaming with a prominent venture capital firm to offer $US100 million to lure developers to the iPhone to create the next generation of applications.

Adaptable polymer inspired by sea cucumbers

Scientists at Case Western University have made a biopolymer that switches rapidly between rigid and flexible states, using material inspired by sea cucumbers.

US vehicle sales fell by 10% last month

Sales of cars and trucks in the United States fell 10 percent in February as oil prices climbed past $100 a barrel and worries about a recession rattled consumer confidence.

Nanotechnology may provide a way to deliver drugs to cartilage to treat osteoarthritis

A properly sized nanoparticle linked to a peptide that binds specifically to cartilage proved an effective drug delivery method when injected into the knees of mice. One of the most promising applications of near term nanotech is the ability to combine different chemical and biological functions to delivery drugs to the right places.

Gene map becomes a luxury item

On a cold day in January, Dan Stoicescu, a millionaire living in Switzerland, became the second person in the world to buy the full sequence of his own genetic code.

Tiny radios

If you own a sleek iPod Nano, you've got nothing on Alex Zettl. The physicist at the University of California, Berkeley, and his colleagues have come up with a nanoscale radio, in which the key circuitry consists of a single carbon nanotube.

Beam me up Scotty?

Teleportation might not work like it does in Star Trek but it may be useful for quantum computing.

Are viruses a cure for brain cancer?

Cancer is, essentially, simply uncontrolled growth of cells. Cells are affected by viruses. Could a virus seek out cancerous cells? The answer, as Yale researchers discovered, is yes. The Yale researchers, led by Dr. Anthony van den Pol, used an existing virus related to rabies, the vesicular stomatis virus -- as a weapon against cancerous cells.

Solar without the panels

Investors and utilities intent on building solar power plants are increasingly turning to solar thermal power, a comparatively low-tech alternative to photovoltaic panels that convert sunlight directly into electricity. This month, in the latest in a string of recent deals, Spanish solar-plant developer Abengoa Solar and Phoenix-based utility Arizona Public Service announced a 280-megawatt solar thermal project in Arizona. By contrast, the world's largest installations of photovoltaics generate only 20 megawatts of power.

Smart coating delivers drugs

MIT researchers have developed a medical-device coating that releases precise doses of drugs under the control of electrical signals. The thin film, which consists of only the drug itself and an electrically active compound, might be coated onto stents, knee replacements, and even fully biodegradable patches of polymers for drug delivery.

Cash-rich, publicity-shy, Abu Dhabi fund draws scrutiny

Abu Dhabi has about 9 percent of the world's oil and 0.02 percent of its population. The result is a surfeit of petrodollars, much of which is funneled into a secretive, government-controlled investment fund that is helping to shift the balance of power in the financial world.

Skype rolling out for playstation portable in Japan

Sony's handheld video game machine, the PlayStation Portable, will connect to Skype, the popular, free voice-over-Internet service, later this month in Japan after a two-month delay, the company said Tuesday.

Putting innovation in the hands of a crowd

If executives are going to rely on the wisdom of the masses for business help, it's probably time the masses get a little compensation for it. That's the theory behind Kluster, the newest in a lineup of companies using the Web to channel the collective wisdom of strangers into meaningful business strategies.

iPhone SDK downloads surpass 100,000

Showing how important the development community around a software or hardware product is Apple today announced that more than 100,000 developers have downloaded the beta version of the company's iPhone Software Development Kit (SDK) in the first four days since its launch on 06 March 2008.

Space-based solar power beams become next energy frontier

They're officially all the rage in the Pentagon and the private space industry: orbiting satellites that send solar power back down to earth to fight global warming—and turn a profit - **make sure that you read the posts which are largely critical**.

Web mashups made easy

Software being developed at Intel makes it easy for people with no programming experience to combine data from different Web pages.

Sir Tim Berners-Lee: Semantic web is open for business

This link goes to a post about an interview with Tim Berners Lee which talks about the semantic web. You can also follow links in the story to get a podcast of the interview.