

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



What's Emerging

Web video isn't killing cable subs...yet

To hear the prognosticators and media tell it, cable subscriptions are being supplanted for video services like Hulu. A recession, free Web video, and cable costs add up big problems for cable providers. The reality may be very different, says Bernstein analyst Craig Moffett. [Read more...](#)

Nanoparticle 'smart bomb' targets drug delivery to cancer cells

Researchers at North Carolina State University have successfully modified a common plant virus to deliver drugs only to specific cells inside the human body, without affecting surrounding tissue. These tiny "smart bombs" - each one thousands of times smaller than the width of a human hair - could lead to more effective chemotherapy treatments with greatly reduced, or even eliminated, side effects. [Read more...](#)

Speed-reading DNA inches closer

A British company has demonstrated an important step for a new sequencing technique. [Read more...](#)

Team finds immune molecule that attacks wide range of flu viruses

Researchers at The Scripps Research Institute report the characterization of an immune system molecule that targets what appears to be an "Achilles heel" of a wide range of influenza viruses - including the viruses responsible for past global pandemics, those causing current common infections, and strains of bird flu believed to pose future world threats. The discovery of the molecule, an antibody known as CR6261, is good news for researchers who hope to design a flu vaccine that would give humans lifelong protection against a majority of influenza viruses. [Read more...](#)

Toward synthetic life: scientists create Ribosomes -- cell protein machinery

Harvard scientists have cleared a key hurdle in the creation of synthetic life, assembling a cell's critical protein-making machinery in an advance with both practical, industrial applications and that advances the basic understanding of life's workings. [Read more...](#)

Android sales to outstrip iPhone's by 2012

The iPhone's lead over smartphone upstart Android is set to be short-lived, according to new research. [Read more...](#)

Netbook-based robot takes popcorn orders via-Twitter

Coppa is a \$1,649 software-ready robot (you supply the machine's netbook brain). Optional accessories include motion, heat, and humidity sensors, and servo-driven grabbing actuators. The video shows one such unit that's been programmed to take popcorn orders via-Twitter, timed to deliver the goods when the operator arrives home from work. Couch surfing may never be the same. [Read more...](#)

Data mining sheds light on what makes news

Researchers at Cornell University are trying to get a quantitative handle on how news stories proliferate. [Read more...](#)

The future of the browser

Dion Almaer and Ben Galbraith of Mozilla Labs offered some clues in a "What is the Future of the Browser?" session at the Future of Web Apps conference. [Read more...](#)

PC sales to see worst fall in history

The global PC industry will suffer its 'sharpest decline in history' in 2009, as overall demand for PCs falls by 11.9 percent compared with 2008, according to analysts at Gartner. [Read more...](#)

Exploring a 'Deep Web' that Google can't grasp

One day last summer, Google's search engine trundled quietly past a milestone. It added the one trillionth address to the list of Web pages it knows about. But as impossibly big as that number may seem, it represents only a fraction of the entire Web. [Read more...](#)

AppStore secrets

Pinch Media has published a slide share presentation of some of their data and conclusions from the Apple Store applications. Some of it is self serving but there is some interesting stuff in it as well. [Read more...](#)

Food magazines begin to consider cooks' budgets

After covering eating trends that have included haute pub food, exotic fruits like yuzu, and restaurants that dehydrated, foamed and froze everything from meat to dessert, upscale food magazines are writing about an even more unexpected topic: cheap home eating. Reflecting the bad economy, Gourmet, which usually writes about expensive restaurants and faraway travel, has added a feature about what to do with leftovers, and put a ham sandwich — albeit a fancy one — on its March cover. [Read more...](#)

The future of machine intelligence

Ben Goertzel's Report on AGI-09: The Second Conference on Artificial General Intelligence, March 6-9, Arlington Virginia, USA. [Read more...](#)

Mobile platform wars: Symbian top mobile OS globally; Mac OS X surges

Gartner has tallied the global smartphone sales by operating system and the results put Symbian as the top dog with market share of 47.1 percent with RIM's BlackBerry OS a distant second at 19.5 percent. [Read more...](#)

Computer makers prepare to stake bigger claim in phones

Emboldened by Apple's success with its iPhone, many PC makers and chip companies are charging into the mobile-phone business, promising new devices that can pack the horsepower of standard computers into palm-size packages. [Read more...](#)

Natural gas, suddenly abundant, is cheaper

The decline in crude oil prices gets all the headlines, but the first globalized natural gas glut in history is driving an even more drastic collapse in the cost of gas that cooks food, heats homes and runs factories in the United States and many other countries. [Read more...](#)

DEMO trend: The smarter web

Today, companies are trying to build a smarter web - one that understands what things are, how they relate, and perhaps most importantly, what things you're going to like. But has Web 3.0 arrived in its full semantic glory? No, not yet. But it's clear we are getting closer than ever before. [Read more...](#)

The Jos. A. bank risk free suit program

This company is offering to refund your money if you buy a suit from them and are fired before the end of the year. In a situation where the risk of being fired in 3 months is higher than normal but still not that high it is an interesting promotion. [Read more...](#)

Prostate test found to save few lives

The PSA blood test, used to screen for prostate cancer, saves few lives and leads to risky and unnecessary treatments for large numbers of men, two large studies have found. [Read more...](#)

Shellfish and Inkjet printers may hold key to faster healing from surgeries

Using the natural glue that marine mussels use to stick to rocks, and a variation on the inkjet printer, a team of researchers led by North Carolina State University has devised a new way of making medical adhesives that could replace traditional sutures and result in less scarring, faster recovery times and increased precision for exacting operations such as eye surgery. [Read more...](#)

Flexing muscles made of carbon nanotubes

Scientists have created artificial muscles out of carbon nanotubes in aerogel sheets that are super elastic, harder than steel, and nearly as light as air. [Read more...](#)

How Twitter could bring search up to speed

Some say that Twitter may be as important to real-time search as YouTube is to video. [Read more...](#)

Sugar is back on food labels, This time as a selling point

Sugar, the nutritional pariah that dentists and dietitians have long reviled, is enjoying a second act, dressed up as a natural, healthful ingredient. [Read more...](#)

Gallery: the World Wide Web hits 20

In March 1989, Tim Berners-Lee submitted a paper called "Information Management: a Proposal" to his supervisor Mike Sendall. This document, called "vague, but exciting" by Sendall, became the blueprint for the World Wide Web which launched the following year. [Read more...](#)

The travelling-wave reactor

Intellectual Ventures, an invention company, believes they've developed a "new reactor design [that] could make nuclear power safer and cheaper." [Read more...](#)

Stimulus dollars energize efforts to smarten up the electric power grid

One gizmo allows you to run the dishwasher when electricity is cheapest. Another decides when to fire up the water heater if you plan on a 6 a.m. shower. Another routes solar energy from a rooftop panel to a battery in your garage and the wiring in your house. [Read more...](#)

Social networking more popular than email

New stats from Nielsen Online show that by the end of 2008, social networking had overtaken email in terms of worldwide reach. According to the study, 66.8% of Internet users across the globe accessed "member communities" last year, compared to 65.1% for email. [Read more...](#)

Smart sensors the way to go

The Australian federal Government is considering mandating that all major new infrastructure projects such as bridges, roads and railways have smart sensors built into them to monitor maintenance and help prevent disasters like the Minnesota bridge collapse. [Read more...](#)

The middle east: Life after the oil bust

How have the combined effects of the global slowdown and low oil prices affected the economies of the Middle East? In this special report, Knowledge@Wharton and Khaleej Times explore how businesses in the region are coping with today's brutal reality. [Read more...](#)

Ancient brain circuits light up so we can judge people on first impressions

Scientists have recorded the gentle flicker of activity that lights up the brain when we form our first impressions of people. The study shows how age-old brain circuitry that evolved to make snap decisions on the importance of objects in the environment is now used in social situations. [Read more...](#)

Battery breakthrough could make electric cars practical

Researchers in the US say they have made a major breakthrough, developing a new lithium ion battery that is smaller and lighter than those used today and can recharge in seconds. [Read more...](#)

Is a food revolution now in season?

After being largely ignored for years by Washington, advocates of organic and locally grown food have found a receptive ear in the White House, which has vowed to encourage a more nutritious and sustainable food supply. [Read more...](#)

Australians bin \$5.3 billion of food each year

Australians love their food. Strangely enough, we also love throwing it out. According to a 2005 study by the Australia Institute, Australians bin a staggering \$5.3 billion of food a year, including \$630 million of uneaten takeaway, \$876 million of leftovers and \$241 million of frozen food. [Read more...](#)

Idled U.S. farmland may be large carbon sink: USDA

The Conservation Reserve, which pays owners to idle fragile U.S. farmland, could become one of the largest carbon sequestration programs on private land, an Agriculture Department official said on Wednesday. [Read more...](#)

***in silico*: How IT is changing medical research**

Traditionally, health researchers conduct in vivo or in vitro studies—medical studies using either living organisms or test tubes. But recent advances in IT from processing power to storage have opened up the possibility of conducting in silico studies, or medical studies conducted by computer simulations or computer modeling. [Read more...](#)

Stem cell therapy boy develops tumors

A newly published medical article by researchers in Israel describes the case of a boy who developed tumors in his brain and spine four years after receiving fetal stem cell therapy for a rare genetic disease. [Read more...](#)

Stem cell treatment for Crohn's disease

Hospital Clínic, Barcelona is one of the few hospitals in the world to apply this new therapeutic option for patients with Crohn's disease, and it does so with the guarantee of success experienced in the US and Italy, where the technique has been tested with excellent results: in an average follow-up period of 6 years, 80% of transplant patients are in a phase of total remission of the disease and the remaining 20% have shown considerable improvement following the transplant, and are now responding favorably to drugs. [Read more...](#)

The atlas of hidden water

An "[atlas of hidden water](#)" has been created to reveal where the world's freshwater aquifers really lie. "The hope," New Scientist reports, "is that it will help pave the way to an international law to govern how water is shared around the world." [Read more...](#)

We can't keep it all: Murray-Darling expert

One of the foremost experts on the Murray-Darling river system has called for it to be disconnected from hundreds of lakes, wetlands and other environmental assets as part of a radical shrinking and reconfiguration of the waterway. [Read more...](#)

Europe leads emissions reduction

The Covenant of Mayors is a commitment by signatory towns and cities to go beyond the 20% by 2020 objectives of EU energy policy in terms of reduction in CO2 emissions through enhanced energy efficiency and cleaner energy production and use. 466 cities that have joined the Covenant so far. [Read more...](#)

Rising voices, TED, Pop!Tech and the challenges of innovating... everywhere

[Rising Voices](#), led by David Sasaki, is an initiative that demonstrates that [citizen media](#) is possible in any corner of the globe. In some cases, Rising Voices has helped small, community-based organizations to have a national or international impact, and to reach the stage where they can seek sustaining funding from other foundations or find business models that allow them to continue their work. This is a surprise because this is supposed to be one of the hardest things to do in the nonprofit and foundation world. [Read more...](#)