

@ Emergent Futures | New Around the World | What Are We Writing About

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



What's Emerging

Ultrasound to Go

With a new probe, smart phones can be used to capture and send ultrasound images. [Read more...](#)

Vivid: New e-paper aims to be as sharp as the printed page

A team of engineers has developed a new prototype electronic paper that can rapidly reveal or hide enough pigments to form 1,000 different colors, paving the way for, among other things, more vivid e-book readers that will also be able to play video [Read more...](#)

Google named Australia's best place to work

After its outstandingly successful parent company topped a 100 Best Places To Work survey conducted by the US magazine Fortune, Google Australia has claimed the No.1 spot in a similar Australian poll. [Read more...](#)

'Hidden photons' to send secret emails through Earth

If you shine a laser on the floor, where does the light go? With the right preparation, some of it might pop out at the other side of the world - an effect that could be exploited to transmit secret messages through the ground. [Read more...](#)

Want to avoid Swine flu? There's an app for that too

Swine Flu Tracker is waiting for approval from Apple before it's released into the App Store. IntuApps' Barry Schwartz, who is also a blogger, sent along some screenshots of the app. In it, you can see the current Threat Level for the disease, a map showing confirmed and suspected cases, a symptoms area to inform people, and an alert page for breaking news on Swine Flu. [Read more...](#)

Hulu continues ascent in U.S. online video market, breaking into top 3 properties by videos viewed for first time in March

comScore (NASDAQ: SCOR), a leader in measuring the digital world, today released March 2009 data from the comScore Video Metrix service, showing that U.S. Internet users viewed 14.5 billion online videos during the month, representing an increase of 11 percent versus February. [Read more...](#)

Tech giants form open cloud standards group

A major systems-management standards body has formed a group dedicated to developing open management standards for cloud computing. [Read more...](#)

Posse!

You can join Posse to support your favourite bands by promoting their gigs online and pocket some cash doing it. [Read more...](#)

Biofuels vs. biomass electricity

Findings show that turning biomass into electricity is more beneficial than turning it into transportation fuels. [Read more...](#)

Video of SGN's unlaunched iPhone Jet Dogfighter game

People say the iPhone is really a gaming device with a mobile phone bolted on. The touchscreen, accelerometer and (mostly still untapped) ability to play games against others over Wifi or 3G make game play compelling. [Read more...](#)

GE unveils storage technology breakthrough

General Electric announced a breakthrough in optical storage technology on Monday, saying its researchers have developed a holographic disc which can store the equivalent of 100 DVDs. [Read more...](#)

Swiss robo-DJ demonstrates future of AI-human symbiosis

QB1, a robot created by Swiss group OZWE, is essentially a next-generation music playing machine. OZWE wanted to change the way we interacted with our entertainment devices in the first place. It's aware of its surroundings in 3D, recognizes faces and pictures, and can interpret gestures. [Read more...](#)

Gladstone scientists identify key factors in heart cell creation

Scientists at the Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease have identified for the first time key genetic factors that drive the process of generating new heart cells. [Read more...](#)

Your touchscreen phone may someday feature pop-up buttons

Hats off to some of the eggheads at Carnegie Mellon. They've developed a touchscreen that can actually produce tactile buttons by using latex, acrylic, and a little air pump. Imagine a touchscreen-only phone that pops up little keys when you open the on-screen keyboard. [Read more...](#)

Study finds file-sharers buy ten times more music

A new report from BI Norwegian School of Management shows illegal file-sharers are more likely to purchase music from legitimate sources than other web users. This is worth looking at although I think there is a serious chance that there is a selection bias in the way they have done the study. [Read more...](#)

Almost one in 10 videogamers could be addicts: study

A study released by the National Institute on Media and the Family at Iowa State University drew comparisons to compulsive gambling, concluding some children lie, borrow money from friends, or dodge work to play videogames. [Read more...](#)

NSi inventor of the year finalist: Obada Kayali

Video clip on invention to use fly ash – a major waste product from coal fired electricity plants – to create stronger and lighter weight building materials which mean significant savings in GHG and transport costs. [Read more...](#)

Father of the internet: Branding more important than ever before for journalists

At [IJ-6](#) (the Sixth Conference on Innovation Journalism), held at Stanford, the man often referred to the father of the Internet said that, in the digital world, branding will be more important than ever before for journalists. [Read more...](#)

Cancer protective genes in people with Down syndrome

A new study sheds light on why people with Down syndrome are less likely to develop cancer. The research team from Children's Hospital Boston has showed that since the patients have an extra copy of chromosome 21, it appears that people with Down syndrome may be getting an extra dose of one or more cancer-protective genes. [Read more...](#)

Tiny machine commands a swarm of bacteria

Video shows bacteria harnessed to move micro-robots around in liquid. [Read more...](#)

China outpaces U.S. in cleaner coal-fired plants

China has emerged in the past two years as the world's leading builder of more efficient, less polluting coal power plants, mastering the technology and driving down the cost. While the United States is still debating whether to build a more efficient kind of coal-fired power plant that uses extremely hot steam, China has begun building such plants at a rate of one a month. [Read more...](#)

Death of the hydrogen economy

A government program to help develop hydrogen-fuel-cell-powered vehicles--a hallmark of the Bush administration--has been almost completely wiped out in the Obama administration's proposed budget. [Read more...](#)

Going weak in the knees over Nanofiber scaffold

Researchers in the Cartilage Biology and Orthopedics Branch of the [National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases](#) (Baltimore) have developed a nanofiber scaffold to replace damaged or lost cartilage. Headed by Rocky Tuan, the team employs electrospinning, a technique adopted from the textile industry, to weave a scaffold that is structurally similar to the extracellular matrix, a fibrous material that supports the body's connective tissue. [Read more...](#)

How to predict pandemics

A new technique could dramatically improve our ability to determine whether a pandemic is likely at the beginning of an infectious outbreak. [Read more...](#)

Even to save cash, don't try this stuff at home

Saving money never cost quite so much. [Read more...](#)

Sending genes into the brain

More-invasive therapies show promise for treating Parkinson's. [Read more...](#)

I.B.M. unveils real-time software to find trends in vast data sets

New software from [I.B.M.](#) can suck up huge volumes of data from many sources and quickly identify correlations within it. The company says it expects the software to be useful in analyzing finance, health care and even space weather. [Read more...](#)

The personal genome project has a growth spurt

The ten intrepid volunteers who signed up for George Church's personal genome project (PGP), will soon have a lot of company. According to a [report](#) from Northwestern University, 13,000 people are in the process of enrolling in the project, which involves having the coding region of your genome sequenced, and then sharing it, along with medical records and other information, in an open-access database for analysis by geneticists and others around the world. [Read more...](#)

Not your grandfather's recession—literally

The ongoing recession has had different impacts on different age groups in America. Adults 65 and older—most of whom have already retired and downsized their lifestyles—have escaped its full fury. Adults in late middle age (50 to 64) have seen their nest eggs shrink the most and their anxieties about retirement swell the most. Younger adults (ages 18-49) have taken the worst lumps in the job market but remain relatively upbeat about their financial future. [Read more...](#)

The coming superbrain

The notion that a self-aware computing system would emerge spontaneously from the interconnections of billions of computers and computer networks goes back in science fiction at least as far as [Arthur C. Clarke's](#) "Dial F for Frankenstein." [Read more...](#)

Wireless substitution: Early release of estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, July-

December 2008

Preliminary results from the July-December 2008 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) indicate that the number of American homes with only wireless telephones continues to grow. More than one of every five American homes (20.2%) had only wireless telephones (also known as cellular telephones, cell phones, or mobile phones) during the second half of 2008. [Read more...](#)

Twitter.com quadruples to 17 million U.S. visitors in last two months

Twitter has done it again. Within a few short months this relative newbie on the social media scene has gone from having a modest following to being a decidedly mainstream Web attraction. According to just-released April 2009 U.S. ComScore Media Metrix data, was another huge jump in visitors to Twitter.com during the month. Its 17 million U.S. visitors in April represents an 83% gain vs. March and a 3,000% gain vs. year ago.

[Read more...](#)