

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

What's Emerging?

The latest news and information ...

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Extra Links Mid November 2010

Welcome to the middle of November edition of What's Emerging.

This month Paul was quoted in a Sunday Age article on smartphones replacing MP3 players. You can read the article under our "What are we writing about" section. To coincide with this the business tips in this edition are centred around applications for smartphones with a couple of cartoons and graphics thrown in for fun. Also Paul has set up goal to complete a Sprint Triathlon (1/2 Olympic distance) in Melbourne in March and to lose weight. Using the website Every Day Hero he has set up a fund raising goal to raise money for [Kids Under Cover](#) which does fantastic work in Australia helping preventing kids at risk from becoming homeless. The goal involves Paul matching public donations dollar for dollar and also penalties if he does not reach his target. If you would like to support this great cause go to our [home](#) page and click on the fund raising widget.

We hope that you continue to find the newsletter interesting and valuable and would welcome any feedback.

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 Paul was quoted in a technology article in the Sunday Age looking at whether smartphones would replace mp3 players and CDs. [Read More...](#)

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■ Business Tips

Our business tips are in our main newsletter please click [here](#).

■ What's Emerging

Biodegradable Styrofoam made of milk, clay

Ultra-light and largely biodegradable, the plastic might some day become a green alternative to petroleum-derived foam packaging blocks, among other applications. [Read More...](#)

Nanogenerator powers up

A device containing piezoelectric nanowires can now scavenge enough energy to power small electronic devices. [Read More...](#)

"Skin Printers" could become biological inkjets of the battlefield

Gaping battlefield flesh wounds that take off more than 4 cm of skin can't heal without aid, so researchers at Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine created a fantastical system that literally prints skin on demand. [Read More...](#)

Ning gets itsgroupon on

In what may be the first of several big distribution deals aimed at cementing its lead in social commerce, Groupon and Ning are launching an affiliate beta program. Anyone who runs a Ning social network can now add a Groupon widget with geo-targeted daily deals. They will get a cut of any Groupon deals purchased through their Ning sites, and Groupon will extend its reach potentially to tens of thousands of new sites with strong communities who perhaps would like to start buying things together. [Read More...](#)

Scientists find that evergreen agriculture boosts crop yields

A unique acacia known as a "fertilizer tree" has typically led to a doubling or tripling of maize yields in smallholder agriculture in Zambia and Malaw. [Read More...](#)

Wireless charging system for electric cars

New technology from HalIPT allows electric cars to be charged wirelessly by parking over a transmitter pad in the road. Roll over the interactive to see how the system works. [Read More...](#)

10 Million UK consumers sought financial advice online in September 2010

Nearly 10 million internet users turned to the web for financial advice, spending an average of 15 minutes on sites in the category during the month. [Read More...](#)

E-Commerce spawns networks of frenemies

Why more Web merchants now work cautiously with their competitors. [Read More...](#)

China unveils world's fastest bullet train: 262 mph

The Chinese-made CRH380 train will run at an average speed of 220 m.p.h. on a shiny new railway connecting Shanghai's western suburb of Hongqiao and the city of Hangzhou. [Read More...](#)

US military releases Android mental health app

The Department of Defense has released an Android app called the T2 Mood Tracker, which lets users track their moods over time. Mood is a big research concern in the military. With so many coming back with traumatic brain injuries, or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. [Read More...](#)

How 3-D printing is transforming the toy industry

Toymakers once made models by hand, but 3-D printing has changed all that. [Read More...](#)

After China's rare earth embargo, a new calculus

Despite producing 95 percent of the world's rare earths, China has only 37 percent of the world's proven reserves. Sizable deposits are known to exist in the United States, Canada, Australia, India and Brazil, among other places. But experts say that any meaningful new production from outside China is at least five years away, and that it will come with its own environmental cost calculus. [Read More...](#)

Starbucks stores in New York now accepting mobile payments

Starbucks has seen sufficient success with its Starbucks Card Mobile payment pilot program in select San Francisco, Seattle and Target stores that its ready to extend the program to nearly 300 company-operated stores in New York City and Long Island. [Read More...](#)

Building a better goat

Brazil's investment in transgenic animals shows how opposition to such technologies in the United States is opening opportunities elsewhere. [Read More...](#)

Robotic limbs that plug into the brain

A new generation of much more sophisticated and lifelike prosthetic arms, sponsored by the Department of Defense's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), may be available within the next five to 10 years. Two different prototypes that move with the dexterity of a natural limb and can theoretically be controlled just as intuitively--with electrical signals recorded directly from the brain--are now beginning human tests. [Read More...](#)

Video ads that outwit spammers

Websites may soon be asking you to watch a short ad rather than enter garbled text.

[Read More...](#)

Large-scale fish farm production offsets environmental gains

Industrial-scale aquaculture production magnifies environmental degradation, according to the first global assessment of the effects of marine finfish aquaculture (e.g. salmon, cod, turbot and grouper). [Read More...](#)

News International publishes pay wall figures, claims 105,000 online customers

News International has released its first figures for subscriptions to the Times and Sunday Times websites since introducing a paywall to the sites five months ago. [Read More...](#)

Poland-based BEYOND standards is a collaborative design and production studio

At 100% Design, they launched the Coffee Bench, a movable bench and table that is a smart use of space. Inspired by the need to have coffee in the garden with no space for the cup or newspaper, they designed a smart, rotating unit that can be easily adjusted based on your needs. [Read More...](#)

Crash helmet with a useful smell

Cycle helmets are available in a wide range of types, including foldable models, models fitted with a flashing rear light or featuring an iPhone display. In future, they will start to smell distinctively if they need to be replaced. A new process causes odoriferous oils to exude from plastic materials if they are cracked. [Read More...](#)

Solar/wind light up close

Recently honored with a federal award for energy and water savings, Argonne is lowering its campus energy footprint in creative ways. These hybrid solar- and wind-powered streetlights, which are completely off the grid, adorn Argonne sidewalks. A small solar panel and wind turbine powers the LED light atop the fixture. The light can store energy in batteries for up to three days without sun or wind. [Read More...](#)

Single cell brain control

People can exert conscious control over individual neurons, using that control to alter images on a computer screen, according to research published this week in Nature. [Read More...](#)

Report: 6 nanotechnologies could offset negative impact of coal

Emerging technologies consulting firm Lux Research has published a new research report ("Nanotech's Answer Key to the Energy Problem") suggesting that 6 different nanotechnologies could project energy efficiency savings and energy consumption reductions that are the equivalent of shutting off all the coal-fired power plants in the United States. [Read More...](#)

Potatoes could boost water supplies

New technology for extracting water from potatoes is being trialled by food giants PepsiCo, which owns the crisp manufacturer Walkers. They are perfecting a process to capture water released from the potatoes as they are cooked into crisps before using it in the manufacturing process. [Read More...](#)

Stealth DNA may control ageing

Research on Amish people reveals a link between a rare genetic pattern and healthy aging. [Read More...](#)

4% of online Americans use location-based services

In its first report on the use of "geosocial" or location-based services, the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life project finds that 4% of online adults use a service such as Foursquare or Gowalla that allows them to share their location with friends and to find others who are nearby. On any given day, 1% of internet users are using these services. [Read More...](#)

Sharp to launch two 3D Android handsets in Japan

Having to wear a pair of special glasses to be able to enjoy 3D content on a mobile phone doesn't sound very practical, but Sharp has a solution in the way of two glasses-free 3D Android handsets. [Read More...](#)

An implant could ease balance problems

A patient has received the first ear implant to treat a balance disorder; researchers hope it leads to similar devices that are even more complex. [Read More...](#)

Game theory explains why some content goes viral on Reddit, Digg

With some extensive theoretical work in game theory, two researchers have shown that trendy changes don't spread quickly just because they gain exposure to a high number of people. Instead, the spread of innovations may work more like a game where players are gauging whether to adopt something new based on what others immediately surrounding them do.

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Atlantic current backward during ice age

The Atlantic Ocean current, which may be affected by future climate change, today takes heat north to Europe but 10,000 years ago it was weaker and flowed in the opposite direction.

[Read More...](#)

In first test of interstellar GPS, team uses distant pulsars to determine position in space

Global Positioning Systems work famously here on the home planet because we control all of the moving parts; put some satellites in the sky, equip a device with the proper hardware to communicate with them, and you can locate yourself just about anywhere. But how would we locate ourselves in deep space? For that kind of spatial location, a team of Italian researchers have devised a way to calculate one's position in space using pulsars as interstellar navigation beacons. [Read More...](#)

A cure for the cold??

A cure for the common cold may finally be achieved as a result of a remarkable discovery in a Cambridge laboratory. [Read More...](#)

Groupon said to seek funding valuing it at \$3 billion

Groupon Inc., owner of a daily coupon website with 20 million subscribers, is seeking venture funding that may value the company at about \$3 billion, according to three people familiar with the matter. [Read More...](#)

Genetic secret to AIDS immunity found

Research offers insights into how some HIV-positive people are able to avoid the full-blown disease. [Read More...](#)

Obesity rate will reach 42 percent, Harvard researchers say

Researchers at Harvard University say America's obesity epidemic will continue to spread until at least 42 percent of adults are obese, according to a new study. That conclusion defies some experts' claims that the obesity rate in the U.S., settled at 34 percent for the past five years, has peaked. [Read More...](#)

From roadside weed to new source of biofuel

A common plant found along many of America's roads could become a new source of biofuel, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers. Scientists found that field pennycress yields large quantities of seeds whose oil could then be used for biodiesel production.

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Adding cabbie know-how to online maps

Nobody knows how to get around a city like a taxi driver. A new method for creating online maps taps into that expertise. [Read More...](#)

Genetic modification could amply boost plants' carbon-capture and bioenergy capacity

A new review sums up options for increasing global carbon sequestration by flora and speculates that genetically engineering crops and trees could enhance the process, trapping gigatons of the greenhouse gas as well as increasing bioenergy production. [Read More...](#)

Android has absolutely crushed RIM in the last year

The chart shows the collapse of RIM's dominance in the smartphone world. As you can see, in the span of one year RIM and Android have essentially traded spots. [Read More...](#)

Where good ideas come from

New search technologies can identify influential documents without relying on links. [Read More...](#)

China zooms past US with new supercomputer

Named Tianhe-1A, which means "Milky Way" in Mandarin, China's new supercomputer has 168 graphics processing units -- the type of graphics chips used in video games -- and 14,336 Intel CPUs, according to PC World. [Read More...](#)

Dream recording device 'possible' researcher claims

Writing in the journal Nature, researchers said they have developed a system capable of recording higher-level brain activity. [Read More...](#)

St George launches first Android banking app

Pad and iPhone apps are currently all the rage amongst Australia's largest banks — but Westpac subsidiary St George late last week bucked the trend by launching what it said was the first mobile banking application in Australia to focus on the emerging Android platform. [Read More...](#)

Square now processing millions of dollars in mobile transactions every week

After ten months of a private pilot limited to only 50,000 users, Square has finally opened its doors to the public. [Read More...](#)

Scientists make blood from human skin cells

Scientists at McMaster University discovered an alternative way to make blood - all it takes is a fingernail-sized piece of skin to produce enough blood for a transfusion. [Read More...](#)

For your eyes only

Everyone has a unique pattern of eye movements. A new biometric security system exploits this for a simple, hard-to-fool approach. [Read More...](#)



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