

# What's Emerging?

The latest news and information ...

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

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## Extra Links Mid December 2010

### Welcome to the last edition of What's Emerging for the year

This month we have only one business tip because at this time of year we do not expect that you will be diving into these links to look for new ways of doing things while trying to get everything done you need to get done before the Christmas holidays. We do think however that a break like this can be useful for reflection so our business tip contains some interesting ways on which our brains work which you might find useful when reflecting on the year that is coming to a close and the year ahead. Reflecting on reflecting if you like. Our first edition in 2011 will be a bumper business tips edition so you can have a look at them as you begin your new year. Our book review this month is on Patrick Smith's book *Somebody Else's Century: East and West in a Post Western World* because we think that China will be extremely important in shaping the next 50 years, perhaps in ways that are not part of the current standard thinking on China.

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

We would also like to wish you and your families a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and we look forward to interacting with you all in 2011.

Cheers

Paul Higgins, Sandy Teagle, Kim Stewart, Anitha Mendonca, Syed Muqthar, and Samantha Kyle-Little

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### What we are writing about

#### Book Review: *Somebody Else's Century: East and West in a Post Modern World* by Patrick Smith

This book is essentially a collection of three essays on the future of the world in the 21st century. I initially chose to read it because I wanted to learn more about China but it is broader than that, encompassing large parts of Asia and also a discussion of the development of the West. [Read More...](#)

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### Business Tips

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

### What's Emerging

## When the software is the sportswriter

StatSheet, a Durham, N.C., is a company that serves up sports statistics in monster-size portions. The company, with nine employees, is working to endow software with the ability to turn game statistics into articles about college basketball games. [Read More...](#)

## Consumers under 35 ditching browser for apps, study shows

Consumers under 35 - that is, those in Generations X and Y, the latter also referred to as "millennials" - tend to prefer using mobile applications over Web browsers on smartphones, as compared with older mobile users, a new study shows. [Read More...](#)

## Astronomers find first evidence of other universes

Our cosmos was "bruised" in collisions with other universes. Now astronomers have found the first evidence of these impacts in the cosmic microwave background. [Read More...](#)

## Hospital tech: Robots in the pharmacy and barcodes on the patients

After more than a year in the works, NYU Langone Medical Centre launched last month a new, robot-assisted pharmacy. One of about two dozen in the nation, the pharmacy provides a glimpse into the hospital of the future. [Read More...](#)

## How many points for inbox zero?

"Game dynamics" is all the rage—but can it help you deal with e-mail overload? [Read More...](#)

## A \$525, 2048-core cluster in 45 minutes

They started setting up the cluster at 1030am and by a 1115 they were maxing out over 2000 cores. The job was done by 2pm and it took another 10 minutes to bring the cluster down. Total AWS price: \$525. [Read More...](#)

## Is Saturn's Titan producing DNA in its atmosphere without water? Experts say "yes"

Saturn's moon Titan has many of the components for life without liquid water. But the orange hydrocarbon haze that shrouds Saturn's largest moon could be creating the molecules that make up DNA without the help of water – an ingredient widely thought to be necessary for the molecules' formation according to a new study. [Read More...](#)

## Navy antenna using seawater instead of metal

The average U.S. Navy vessel has 80 different antennae bristling out of it like a spiny beetle. But it's often hard to find adequate space for all of them without interference, and their height can expose the ship to radar detection. What if they could be replaced using something a ship always has plenty of: seawater? [Read More...](#)

## Will the next internet revolution be televised?

Someday, you'll be able to turn on your TV and view any movie or show ever recorded anywhere with the tap of a few keys. And someday, it turns out, is now. All you (and the government) have to do is get out of the way and watch. [Read More...](#)

## Scientists fear mass extinction as oceans choke

Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies (CoECRS) and from the University of Queensland, says there is growing evidence that declining oxygen levels in the ocean have played a major role in at least four of the planet's five mass extinctions. [Read More...](#)

## Could location-based services increase civic engagement in millennials?

Location-based social networking services like Foursquare, Gowalla and SCVNGR are increasingly popular, particularly among young people. Could game dynamics and technology be used to increase civic engagement and participation among them? [Read More...](#)

## Surgery dramatically lowers blood pressure

A California company has shown how to dramatically lower blood pressure in hard-to-treat patients by destroying tiny nerves in the kidney. The nerves are located inside the main arteries leading to the kidney. They affect blood pressure by controlling the release of sodium and an enzyme called renin, and by managing blood flow from the kidneys themselves. [Read More...](#)

## RavenBrick's nanotech 'smart' wall absorbs heat for later release

RavenBrick has developed a new type of nanotech wall that absorbs sunlight throughout the

day and slowly releases heat into your home at night. The system could potentially lead to ultra-efficient homes that eliminate the need for central heating, significantly cutting carbon emissions. [Read More...](#)

## Organic cotton struggles in French fashion industry

Huge rises in raw material costs threaten its already precarious sales. [Read More...](#)

## Nations that debate coal use export it to feed China's need

Traditionally, coal is burned near where it is mined — particularly so-called thermal or steaming coal, used for heat and electricity. But in the last few years, long-distance international coal exports have been surging because of China's galloping economy, which now burns half of the six billion tons of coal used globally each year. [Read More...](#)

## In European debt crisis, some call default better option

Many experts now say that bailouts only delay the inevitable. Instead of further wounding their economies with drastic budget-slashing, the specialists assert, governments should immediately start talks with bondholders and force them to accept a loss on their investments. [Read More...](#)

## First electric cars have power industry worried

"Jonathan Fahey writes for AP that as the first mass-market electric cars go on sale next month, the power industry faces a huge growth opportunity, with SoCal Edison expecting to be charging 100,000 cars by 2015 and California setting a goal of 1 million electric vehicles by 2020. But utility executives are worried that the difficulty of keeping the lights on for the first crop of buyers — and their neighbours — could slow the growth of this industry because it's inevitable that electric utilities will suffer some difficulties early on. [Read More...](#)

## No hiding place from new U.S. Army rifles that use radio-controlled smart bullets

The U.S. army is to begin using a futuristic rifle that fires radio-controlled 'smart' bullets in Afghanistan for the first time, it has emerged. The XM25 rifle uses bullets that are programmed to explode when they have travelled a set distance, allowing enemies to be targeted no matter where they are hiding. [Read More...](#)

## Fiji water to leave Fiji

If you bottle the water outside of Fiji, is it still Fiji Water? ***Paul Higgins: I have a real problem with carting bottled water around the world anyway because of the environmental issues associated with the energy required.*** [Read More...](#)

## Diamond shines as basis for bionic eye prototype

Melbourne researchers working to restore sight to the vision impaired believe diamond is the best material with which to build a bionic eye and hope to have a prototype in testing within the next few years. [Read More...](#)

## Five internet television providers pitch for Optus streaming

After dragging its heels on the issue for close to two years -- allowing competitors such as Telstra to launch its T-box personal video recorder and IPTV content -- Optus is expected to make a decision by February. [Read More...](#)

## What 11.6 million tracked bicycle trips can tell us

When the French city of Lyon inaugurated its Vélo'v public bike project, it was widely regarded as an important experiment: Can a shared collection of thousands of bikes, rented by many more thousands of people and swapped between hundreds of docking stations, possibly work? [Read More...](#)

## Chinese bullet train breaks 302 mph; breaks speed record

The Chinese CRH308A "Harmony" bullet train broke 302 miles per hour — 486.1 km/h on a run on a pilot segment between Zaozhuang to Bengbu on the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway. [Read More...](#)

## Can the U.S. beat China on Innovation?

China is on pace to become the world's most important source for innovation by 2020, overtaking both the U.S. and Japan, according to a public opinion survey conducted by drugmaker AstraZeneca that will be released next week. [Read More...](#)

## IBM chip breakthrough may lead to exascale supercomputers

IBM researchers have made a breakthrough in using pulses of light to accelerate data transfer between chips, something they say could boost the performance of supercomputers by more than a thousand times. [Read More...](#)

### Google activates 300,000 phones every day

Google is closing in on an astounding 10 million phones per month. Recall that Apple just had its biggest quarter ever with 14.1 million iPhones sold. [Read More...](#)

### Democratizing DNA sequencing

A device that reads the sequence of DNA using semiconductor technology could bring the power of sequencing to a much broader swath of the science world. The desktop machine, developed by a startup called Ion Torrent, is slated to go on sale this month and will cost \$50,000, about one-tenth of the cost of other sequencing machines on the market. [Read More...](#)

### An energy boost for ultracapacitors

An alternative to batteries gets an advance from tiny, crumpled sheets of graphene, whose electrodes can store more charge because they have larger surface areas. [Read More...](#)

### Forecasting flu pandemics hinges on insights into the virus

Scientists have made strides in predicting how influenza outbreaks will spread, but now the pressure is on for a breakthrough way to model how deadly new strains form. [Read More...](#)

### Holograms deliver 3-D, without the goofy glasses

WHEN the famous hologram of Princess Leia says, "Help me, Obi-Wan Kenobi," in "Star Wars," it's science fiction. Now you can watch actual moving holograms that are filmed in one spot and then projected in another spot. [Read More...](#)

### Ultrasound gets more portable

A new handheld ultrasound device could be the first that can connect directly to cell-phone and Wi-Fi networks. [Read More...](#)

### Predicting how long you'll live

To price insurance policies and calculate retirement benefits more accurately, a new breed of lifespan modellers is turning to personal data about who you are and how you live your life. [Read More...](#)

### Scientists program bacteria to act like computers

Christopher Voigt isn't looking to replace your laptop with a biological computing system. But he is trying to use bacteria to program cells, so they can act like miniature computers. [Read More...](#)

### As China rolls ahead, fear follows

For nearly two years, China's turbocharged economy has raced ahead with the aid of a huge government stimulus program and aggressive lending by state-run banks. But a growing number of economists now worry that China could be stalled next year by soaring inflation, mounting government debt and asset bubbles. [Read More...](#)

### In 500 billion words, new window on culture

With little fanfare, Google has made a mammoth database culled from nearly 5.2 million digitized books available to the public for free downloads and online searches, opening a new landscape of possibilities for research and education in the humanities. [Read More...](#)



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