

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



## What's Emerging

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### **1 Risk of disease rises with water temperatures**

Scientists say it is a near-certainty that global warming will drive significant increases in waterborne diseases around the world. Rainfalls will be heavier, triggering sewage overflows, contaminating drinking water and endangering beachgoers. Higher lake and ocean temperatures will cause bacteria, parasites and algal blooms to flourish. Warmer weather and heavier rains also will mean more mosquitoes, which can carry the West Nile virus, malaria and dengue fever. Fresh produce and shellfish are more likely to become contaminated. [Read more...](#)

### **Gartner: 85 percent of companies using open source**

Eighty-five percent of companies are already using open-source software, with most of the remaining 15 percent expecting to do so within the next year, according to analysts at Gartner. [Read more...](#)

### **A drug that bypasses gene mutations**

PTC therapeutics has a drug in clinical trials that allows the bypassing of certain genetic mutations so that the protein produced by the cell is correct rather than non functional or dangerous. [Read more...](#)

### **Google is taking questions (Spoken, via iPhone)**

Pushing ahead in the decades-long effort to get computers to understand human speech, Google researchers have added sophisticated voice recognition technology to the company's search software for the Apple iPhone. Users of the free application, which Apple is expected to make available as soon as Friday through its iTunes store, can place the phone to their ear and ask virtually any question, like "Where's the nearest Starbucks?" or "How tall is Mount Everest?" [Read more...](#)

### **Kevin Kelly from Wired Magazine talking about the future of the web**

For 25 years Kevin Kelly has been a participant in, and reporter on, the culture of technology. Based in his studio in Pacifica, California, he immerses himself in the long-term trends and social consequences of technology. In this video presentation he talks about the evolution of the web which is now 6527 days past the formation of the first web page. [Read more...](#)

### **Market turmoil brings dim days for luxury hotels**

Even as midprice hotels began losing business this past summer, luxury hotels continued to fill their rooms. Companies treated the hotels as perks for top executives and quality locations for high-level business meetings. And many leisure travellers considered a stay at a top hotel - even for a couple of days - to be worth the cost. Times have changed. [Read more...](#)

### **For a thrifty audience, buying DVDs is so 2004**

Does an economy in tatters slow down or speed up the shift to watching TV shows and movies on the Web and mobile devices? The entertainment industry doesn't like the answer that is rapidly becoming clear: A global economic crisis almost certainly means a sharp acceleration in the move to new ways of consuming content, setting the stage for a new clash between consumers and studios. [Read more...](#)

### **Energy saving with AlertMe**

AlertMe uses smart plugs that measure the energy consumption of your appliances and communicate wirelessly with you so you can monitor consumption. This can be combined with a security system. [Read more...](#)

### **Electricity from waste heat**

Factories, data centers, power plants--even your clothes dryer--throw off waste heat that could be a useful source of energy. But most existing heat-harvesting technologies are efficient only at temperatures above 150 °C, and much waste heat just isn't that hot. Now Ener-G-Rotors is developing technology that can use heat between 65 and 150 °C. [Read more...](#)

### **World's first CO2 measuring, monitoring and verification initiative**

Launched in 2000, this 8-year \$80 million international project studies CO2 injection and storage underground in depleted oil fields. [Read more...](#)

### **Now in sight: Far-off planets**

A little more of the universe has been pruned out of the shadows. Two groups of astronomers have taken the first pictures of what they say — and other astronomers agree — are most likely planets going around other stars. [Read more...](#)

### **Fabrics woven from highly conductive, nanotube-coated cotton are wearable biosensors**

Intelligent textiles could monitor vital signs, warn of allergens, even cool off their wearers when the temperature rises. But wiring up fabrics with sensors has proved a challenge: most electronic textiles are too bulky to be worn comfortably and can't perform sophisticated operations. Now researchers have coated conventional cotton thread with highly conductive, biosensing carbon nanotubes. [Read more...](#)

### **Nokia: Global mobile phone market will fall in 2009**

Nokia said today that the world's mobile phone market would fall in Q4 2008 and 2009 as the slowing economy eases consumer demand around the world. 1.24 billion phones would be sold worldwide this year, down from a previous estimate of 1.26 billion, with handset market volumes and the overall telecommunications equipment market down next year. [Read more...](#)

### **Surface functionalisation of living cells with multilayer patches**

Using nanotechnology to attach patches to living cells may allow them to transport drugs in the body to specific sites. [Read more...](#)

### **T-Mobile USA to launch Cameo and a GSM digital picture frame**

T-Mobile USA is getting ready to launch a new service for its subscribers, together with a new product. Although it's a GSM device, the product in question is not a mobile phone, but a digital picture frame that comes with a SIM card and number, allowing you to send pictures to it from your camera phone. [Read more...](#)

### **Robotic spider designed to explore rough terrain**

The insect-inspired robot shown in this video, called Abigaille-I, has no problem walking on the ceiling. The robot was developed by researchers at the Simon Fraser University, in BC, Canada, and the European Space Agency. [Read more...](#)

### **A Robotic helper**

A robot inspired by helper dogs could assist the disabled and the elderly. [Read more...](#)

### **Mimicking natural sensors**

Artificial antibodies could be used in cheap, field-ready toxin sensors. [Read more...](#)

### **Which solar technology will survive?**

At the Cleantech Forum in San Francisco, Todd Glass of Heller Ehrman moderates a discussion on the various solar technologies. If you are interested in the area this is an interesting discussion but if not there are a lot of acronyms and jargon involved. [Read more...](#)

### **Honda unveils its second robotic system for assisting walking**

Honda has rolled out its second experimental walking device. The contraption is for folks that can walk, but have trouble supporting their weight. Given all those Baby Boomers will be hitting retirement age in droves Honda may find a market. [Read more...](#)

### **Using wireless networks to avoid car crashes**

European researchers are working on a project named I-WAY, an acronym for 'Intelligent co-operative system in cars for road safety.' The goal of this project is to develop new automotive safety systems that will alert drivers to potential hazards by using data obtained from in-vehicle sensing systems, the road infrastructure and other road users. [Read more...](#)

### **Palm sized projector**

Optoma has released a palm sized projector for home cinema sized viewing from personal media players, mobile phones, PDAs, cameras and gaming devices. [Read more...](#)

### **Catch the wind**

Catch the Wind Inc has a laser sensor that can spot wind gusts and changes in time for a wind turbine to adjust, improving efficiencies of wind power generation The Vindicator™ fibre optic laser wind sensing system is capable of measuring real-time horizontal and vertical wind speed and direction data at varying ranges ahead of the sensor location. [Read more...](#)

### **Decoding the language of the brain**

60 Minutes video of a monkey controlling a robotic arm through a set of sensors embedded in its brain. [Read more...](#)

### **Mozilla goes Mobile**

Mozilla releases a beta version of a mobile browser called Fennec. Those of you that have followed our tumblelog or our newsletter for a while will know that we are fans of Mozilla Firefox Browser. Now there is a beta version for mobile devices. [Read more...](#)

### **Verizon opens up its system to the world**

By opening up its network, Verizon Wireless hopes to see all sorts of new devices connect. [Read more...](#)

### **Smart insulin**

SmartCells Inc is developing a once a day self regulating injection of insulin that releases in response to sugar levels. [Read more...](#)

### **Better place partners with AGL and MACQUARIE to build EV infrastructure in Australia**

Better Place today announced agreements with AGL Energy and financial advisor Macquarie Capital Group to raise \$1 billion (AUD) and begin deploying an electric vehicle (EV) network powered by renewable energy. [Read more...](#)

### **Should big brands fear or revere the mommybloggers?**

As an example of how the social net will have a growing affect on brands and how they are perceived this blog on a reaction to a Motrin ad is a great one. [Read more...](#)

### **Carbon dioxide 'scrubber' captures greenhouse gases**

A team of researchers has shown it is possible to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) – the main greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming – using a relatively simple machine that can capture the trace amount of CO2 present in the air at any place on the planet. [Read more...](#)