

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

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Welcome to the end of April edition of What's Emerging. We can happily report great news: Sandy and her husband Simon have had a baby girl called Demi. We wish all three of them well and look forward to welcoming Sandy back in a part time role when she is able to do so. Also next week we will have a special newsletter because we are launching a new scanning and business intelligence service for organisations and industries and there will be a special bonus offer for our newsletter subscribers only.

Cheers

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



Business Tips

ZoomSafer

Zoom Safer enables safe and legal use of mobile phones while driving. With the risks of accidents and injury clear from mobile phone use while driving companies may choose to install this program on employee's phones.

[Read more...](#)

Why you can't work at work

Jason Fried, Co-founder, 37signals : With its constant commotion, unnecessary meetings, and infuriating wastes of time, the modern workplace makes us all work longer, less focused hours. Jason Fried explains how we can change all of this. [Read more...](#)

LucidChart and Creately Plug Flowchart tools into Google Apps

Flowcharts are a helpful tool for entrepreneurs and organizations alike, and there are a lot of web-based tools for making them. Two of them, LucidChart and Creately, have helpfully integrated into the Google Apps Marketplace, where they fit in nicely. [Read more...](#)

Windows maintenance tips: The good, bad, and useless

Everybody's got an opinion on how to keep a Windows system running fast and smooth. Some tips are timeless, others are bunk that always recirculate. Here's a closer look at what really helps and hurts your Windows PC.

[Read more...](#)

Top 7 Windows search tricks used by pro users

What this means is that more often than not, one will have a hard time finding the file when it's needed the most. You can make use of some of the tips to keep your files and folders organized, or perhaps you can get really good at doing a Windows search. If you opt for the latter, here are some Windows search tips and trick that you should know about. [Read more...](#)



What's Emerging

HP launches 3D printer

The device can take CAD drawings and print molten ABS plastic into objects by printing fine layers on top of each other. The colour version can print up to 8 colours at a time. Priced at \$17,500, the printer is targeted towards business and education. [Read more...](#)

Gary Hamel: Hierarchy of employee traits for the creative economy

In his keynote for the Spigit Customer Summit, management guru Gary Hamel discussed the Creative Economy. [Read more...](#)

Will smart contact lenses be the bluetooth headsets of the future?

Imagine instant access to the latest market segment information at a meeting, or seeing the fourth quarter earnings for a company in (literally) the blink of an eye. [Read more...](#)

25 startups that will be shaping the next web

The organizers of The Next Web 2010 say they have reviewed 245 submissions, looked at 73 one-minute video pitches and ultimately selected 45 companies for a back-to-back interview round. In the end, 25 start-ups made the cut – they will get the chance to talk up their company on the main stage. [Read more...](#)

GM viruses offer hope of future where energy is unlimited

The researchers have assembled genetically modified viruses into wire-like structures that are able to use the energy of the sun to split water molecules into their constituent parts of oxygen and hydrogen, which can then be used as a source of chemical energy. [Read more...](#)

LED light bulb wars heat up: Philips debuts dimmable 12-watt model

On the heels of an announcement by General Electric of a 40-watt-equivalent LED light bulb, Philips has announced that it will begin selling a 60-watt model by the end of the year. [Read more...](#)

Quiet sun puts Europe on ice

BRACE yourself for more winters like the last one, northern Europe. Freezing conditions could become more likely: winter temperatures may even plummet to depths last seen at the end of the 17th century, a time known as the Little Ice Age. That's the message from a new study that identifies a compelling link between solar activity and winter temperatures in northern Europe. [Read more...](#)

Why we can't do 3 things at once

For those who find it tough to juggle more than a couple things at once, don't despair. The brain is set up to manage two tasks, but not more, a new study suggests. [Read more...](#)

Get ready for decades of Icelandic fireworks

Volcanologists say the fireworks exploding from the Eyjafjallajökull volcano on Iceland, which is responsible for the ash cloud that is grounding all commercial flights across northern Europe, may become a familiar sight. Increased rumblings under Iceland over the past decade suggest that the area is entering a more active phase, with more eruptions and the potential for some very large bangs. [Read more...](#)

Light blue optics light touch

Light Touch™ is an interactive projector that instantly transforms any flat surface into a touch screen. It frees multimedia content from the confines of the small screen, allowing users to interact with that content just as they do on their hand held devices – using multi-touch technology. **Paul Higgins: I wrote an article for MaaS360 small business mobility magazine in November about why I thought smartphones would replace laptops in the future. The developments in interfaces was one of the things that I said were necessary to achieve this change. This is an example of one of those changes. You can read the article on our website: www.emergentfutures.com. [Read more...](#)**

Study: Brain exercises don't improve cognition

In the largest study of these games to date, a team of British researchers has found that healthy adults who undertake computer-based "brain training" do not improve their mental fitness in any significant way. [Read more...](#)

South Korea unveils mobile underwater robots

Boffins at South Korea have managed to come up with mobile underwater robots that are able to crawl at 98 feet per minute and swim 59 feet in the same amount of time, where they hope that such robots will one day aid underwater search as well as rescue efforts. [Read more...](#)

Epic drought broke the Ming dynasty: Study

A study of tree rings has provided the most detailed record yet of at least four epic droughts that hit Asia over the past millennium, including one that helped end China's Ming Dynasty in 1644. Among them was a drought that caused tens of millions of people to starve to death in the late 1870s. [Read more...](#)

How IBM's world community grid is helping cure AIDs, cancer, and world hunger

IBM's virtual supercomputer is tapping the unused processors of half a million people to speed up critical scientific research. ***Paul Higgins: I have this on my laptop so it runs when I am not using the computer.*** [Read more...](#)

The second screen

A great post from Bijan on the integration of computers and social networking into the living room. [Read more...](#)

More links

We have many more links than we can fit in the newsletter - this month's 'Additional Links' are available on our [website](#).