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Welcome to the end of April edition of What's Emerging

Thank you to those people that have signed up for our environmental scanning tool test. We will be having a couple of rounds of interaction and then move to a staged launch of the service in May.

If anyone is aware of not for profit organisations that may be interested in a collaborative project on how we design "safe fail" projects in the sector then please contact Paul about them at paul@emergentfutures.com. "Safe Fail" projects are small pilot projects that are used to test out ideas and strategies where the complexity of the environment we are operating in means that it is not possible to see the future or create firm strategies. The idea is that we start multiple small projects, recognising that a large percentage of them are likely to fail and then kill what does not work and reinforce what does. We have four organisations already interested in starting and would like to look at another 2-4 as part of the project. Ideally they would be based in Melbourne but if they are prepared to travel to meet and work with the group then that can also work.

We hope that you continue to find the newsletter useful and interesting.

Cheers

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

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■ What we are writing about

Why high performance organizations will thrive on uncertainty and lack of control

This is an excellent post by Ross Dawson on the future of business and uncertainty [read more](#). I gave a presentation to the Leadership Victoria 2011 year group in April which centred around similar themes but broadened them out to apply to government and not for profit organisations. It started with a quote from Marshall Ganz:

Leadership is: taking responsibility to enable others to achieve purpose in the face of uncertainty.

and went on to say that is this is leadership then we need more of it because there is going to be a lot more uncertainty.

I looked at why and then at some of the forces that are driving both that uncertainty but also opportunity.

You can view the presentation at our [website](#).

We tend to create these presentations to complement the talking rather than containing lots of detail. If you are interested in more information you can contact me by email at

paul@emergentfutures.com.

■ Business Tips

The top 10 best Dropbox services, addons and hacks

Everyone from heavy Dropbox users to those who are wondering just what the fuss is all about with this cloud syncing business should be able to find something useful to them in this list.

[Read More...](#)

Pocket-sized mobile 3G router a 'must have'

THE reasons for owning a pocket-sized mobile 3G WiFi router are becoming compelling, and Australia's telcos are not missing the chance to flog them. These little credit-card sized devices beam out a WiFi hotspot wherever you are. With a SIM card, they glean the internet from Australia's mobile networks just as your phone does, and rebroadcast it to your iPads, tablets, netbooks, laptops and internet-enabled cameras as WiFi, wherever you are. **Paul Higgins: I quite happily use my Android phone as a WiFi hotspot for my iPad and it works fine. You do have to watch the data download but that is true of these routers as well. Don't think I will be using one any time soon.** [Read More...](#)

22 free tools for data visualization and analysis

Got data? These useful tools can turn it into informative, engaging graphics. [Read More...](#)

The founder's library

This collection of articles is hand-picked to provide actionable advice, useful insight, or practical tools and techniques for startup founders. [Read More...](#)



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■ What's Emerging

The city of the future: built around air travel

How will we live in the future? According to Greg Lindsay, it is in cities and regions that are oriented around air travel. [Read More...](#)

New disposable, medical camera is the size of a grain of salt

At about a cubic millimetre in size, this camera is right at the size limit that the human eye can see unaided. The camera not only produces decent images but it is also very cheap to manufacture...so cheap in fact that it is considered disposable. [Read More...](#)

Tablet device usage overtaking print, radio & TV

Admob (the mobile ad network owned by Google) recently surveyed 1431 tablet device owners to learn more about their usage habits. [Read More...](#)

Mobile by the numbers [INFOGRAPHIC]

Mobile is a rapidly developing sector. According to some projections, mobile internet usage will overtake desktop usage before 2015. In preparation, companies are developing new mobile commerce platforms, strategies, and marketing efforts. [Read More...](#)

Reprogrammable chips could enable instant gadget upgrades

Obsolescence is the curse of electronics: no sooner have you bought a gadget than its hardware is outdated. A new, low cost type of microchip that can rearrange its design on the fly could change that. The logic gates on the chip can be reconfigured to implement an improved design as soon as it becomes available—the hardware equivalent of the software upgrades often pushed out to gadgets like phones. [Read More...](#)

Gartner says over half of innovation will be gamified by 2015

The tech research firm released a report that says over half of companies that want to drive innovation will be gamified by 2015 — and that in three years, gamified services for consumer goods marketing/customer retention will become as important as Facebook, Amazon or eBay. [Read More...](#)

World Bank president says world 'one shock away from crisis'

Speaking in Washington and concerned over rising food prices and lingering instability in the

Middle East and Africa, World Bank President Robert Zoellick believes the global economy is "one shock away" from a major crisis. [Read More...](#)

Foursquare shifts focus from present tense to future

Foursquare has grown to almost 10 million users by connecting them to where they are now, in the present. But the company sees a much brighter future in focusing on the future movements of its users. [Read More...](#)

NewsFlash: Rumor sweeping world's science community

Rumor Sweeping World's Science Community that CERN's LHC has Detected the Higgs Boson - The "God Particle". [Read More...](#)

Controlling prosthetic limbs with electrode arrays

A new nerve-cell-support design could give amputees better control over prosthetic limbs. [Read More...](#)

BMW, Siemens developing wireless charging system for plug-in vehicles

Siemens' contactless charging station is connected to the grid by wires buried underground. A secondary coil is attached to an electrified vehicle and a charge, induced by a magnetic field, is sent across an air gap of up to six inches. The wireless charging process is claimed to be more than 90 percent efficient. [Read More...](#)

Amazon to introduce library lending for Kindle

"Customers will be able to check out a Kindle book from their local library and start reading on any Kindle device or free Kindle app for Android, iPad, iPod touch, iPhone, PC, Mac, BlackBerry, or Windows Phone," the company said in its announcement. "If a Kindle book is checked out again or that book is purchased from Amazon, all of a customer's annotations and bookmarks will be preserved." **Paul Higgins: A very interesting development. If Amazon can guarantee people the security of their own notes then the e-library you borrow from becomes and extension of your own library of book.** [Read More...](#)

Bacteria divide people into 3 types, scientists say

In the early 1900s, scientists discovered that each person belonged to one of four blood types. Now they have discovered a new way to classify humanity: by bacteria. Each human being is host to thousands of different species of microbes. Yet a group of scientists now report just three distinct ecosystems in the guts of people they have studied. [Read More...](#)

Researchers create functioning synapse using carbon nanotubes

Engineering researchers at USC Viterbi have made a significant breakthrough in the use of nanotechnologies for the construction of a synthetic brain. They have built a carbon nanotube synapse circuit whose behavior in tests reproduces the function of a neuron input, the synapse, the a building block of the brain. [Read More...](#)

The future of relationships – A twitter conversation summary

Paul Higgins: A great summary of the Association of Professional Futurists monthly future chat on the future of relationships. I did not participate but came across it through a couple of people I follow on Twitter. I am not sure about the chat format as such but the summary provides a great resource thanks to @kristinalford. [Read More...](#)

Self-healing polymers fix scratches using light rather than heat

These "metallo-supramolecular polymers" are capable of becoming a supple liquid that fills crevasses and gaps left by scrapes and scuffs when placed under ultraviolet light for less than a minute and then resolidifying. [Read More...](#)

Paul Higgins: a really good piece in The Age on China and its future in the world by my friend Paul Monk

Political reform has always been excruciatingly difficult in China, but calls for it are not a Western plot and they are not designed to weaken China. They are intended to strengthen it and provide for better, more resilient, more responsive governance. They are intended to make it possible for China to become a more fully accepted and welcome member of the international society of states. [Read More...](#)



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