

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

[www.emergentfutures.com](http://www.emergentfutures.com)

*Hello everybody,*

*Welcome to our last newsletter for the year.*

*As a special Christmas message and a bit of fun we have a video on our Tumblelog at <http://emergentfutures.tumblr.com/> (and yes we are already anticipating the question as to which Elf is Paul out of the two round headed ones). Remember instead of waiting for the newsletter you can put our tumblelog in your news aggregator such as Google Reader because we post most of our links to this site as we go.*

*Also a reminder that our book competition closes soon. Thanks to all the people that have responded so far. If you want the chance to Win a copy of Ken Wilber's book "A Brief History of Everything" then go to our website and follow the instructions on the front page. ([www.emergentfutures.com](http://www.emergentfutures.com)).*

*Our article this month is on oil pricing. Those of you that have been following us for a while will recall that back in August 2006 Paul made a bet with a number of people that oil would be back below US\$40 a barrel before the end of 2009. Given we have now reached that level we have written an article looking at that assessment and what lies ahead.*

*We hope that you all have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and we look forward to being in touch again at the end of January.*

*Cheers*

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



## Business Tips

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### The top 10 Vista sidebar gadgets

Not everyone is a fan of Vista gadgets, but Deb Shinder has a large collection of them that she finds extremely useful. Here are the ones that top her list of favourites. [Read more...](#)

### How online advertising works: Whither the click?

A very interesting paper on the mechanics and successes of different kinds of online advertising. [Read more...](#)



## What's Emerging

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### The 2008 Clinton Fitch (Dot) Com! Top 10 applications list

Ten top applications for windows mobile devices. [Read more...](#)

### **HSBC's in-flight magazine puts customers in charge**

HSBC is offering passengers at London's Heathrow Terminal 1 the opportunity to create their own in-flight magazine. It will allow customers to choose the celebrity writers they are most interested in. [Read more...](#)

### **In an age of robots, one to clean the house? Still but a dream**

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — In Nicholas Roy's robotics laboratory at the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#), fake things looked real and real things looked fake. [Read more...](#)

### **Good morning America coverage - Cure for blindness?**

Three young adults with virtually no vision can now read several lines on an eye chart and see better in dimly lit settings thanks to an innovative gene therapy aiming to reverse blindness in a severe form of retinitis pigmentosa known as Leber congenital amaurosis or LCA. See video coverage. [Read more...](#)

### **Five fallacies of grief: Debunking psychological stages**

We have all heard about the five stages of grief. Now this Scientific American article says there is little evidence to back up the model. Not sure if I am angry or in denial about this!!!! [Read more...](#)

### **UC Berkeley and Nokia turn mobile phones into traffic probes with launch of pilot traffic-monitoring software**

Drivers in the San Francisco Bay Area with GPS-enabled mobile phones can soon tap into new technology that promises to transform traffic monitoring. Moments before midnight on Monday, Nov. 10, researchers from the University of California, Berkeley, and Nokia Research Centre, Palo Alto will publicly release pilot software that turns cellular devices into mobile traffic probes providing real-time information on traffic flow and travel times. [Read more...](#)

### **Review of solutions to global warming, air pollution, and energy security**

This Stanford paper reviews and ranks major proposed energy-related solutions to global warming, air pollution mortality, and energy security while considering other impacts of the proposed solutions, such as on water supply, land use, wildlife, resource availability, thermal pollution, water chemical pollution, nuclear proliferation, and under nutrition. [Read more...](#)

### **Wheego whips up A \$19K EV**

If you're eager to get your hands on an EV but don't have the money for a [Tesla](#) or [Mini-E](#), the time to wait for a [Mitsubishi iMiEV](#) or the smarts to [build your own](#), the guys at Ruff & Tuff Electric Vehicles may have just the ticket - an electric car that looks a lot like a Smart and costs \$19,000. [Read more...](#)

### **A design for cheaper wind power**

A design that draws on jet engine technology could halve the cost of generating electricity from wind. [Read more...](#)

### **Apple, Mozilla gain ground on Microsoft for web traffic**

According to a survey by NetApplications reported on Fortune's Apple 2.0 blog, the number of people accessing the Internet via a Windows PC has dropped below the 90 percent mark, while Mac users have climbed to nearly 9 percent. At the same time, access via Mozilla's Firefox browser - which grew to more than 20 percent - caused the number of users accessing via IE to drop below 70 percent. [Read more...](#)

### **A new tool makes it easier to see the Web changing over time**

The Web is ephemeral. Pages change frequently, and it is nearly impossible to find data or follow a link after the underlying page evolves. Zoetrope, a system that enables interaction with the historical Web (pages, links, and embedded data) that would otherwise be lost to time. Using a number of novel interactions, the temporal Web can be manipulated, queried, and analysed from the context of familiar pages. Watch the video it is really clever. [Read more...](#)

### **Half-brain micro-napping**

A new study published online in the journal Biology Letters suggests a behavioural adaptation which enables the Swainson's thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) to rest one hemisphere of their brain for short periods of time while keeping the other hemisphere fully awake. [Read more...](#)

### **New laser technique seals and heals wounds**

Using carbon dioxide lasers to seal wounds inside the body and out with a technique known as "laser welding," a team of Tel Aviv University researchers have perfected a new device to heat body tissue in a precisely controlled manner. [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](#).



## What We Are Writing About

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Back in August 2006 Paul made a number of bets at various conferences that oil would be back below US\$40 a barrel before the end of 2009. The original article can be downloaded from our website [HERE](#). Now Paul has written a new article which was published in The Age which look at that analysis and what might lay ahead. [Read more..](#)

**Paul Higgins**