

What's Emerging?

The latest news and information ...

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

Published by Emergent Futures Pty Ltd

July 2011

Welcome to the End of July edition of What's Emerging

This edition features the concept of "Peak Child" where Hans Rosling describes the statistics which lead him to conclude that we will never again have so many children on the planet. It also seems that those children may be converting to what is called the "generation of the screen" with cursive writing skills perhaps being phased out. If you look at only one link then look at the one for shopping at the South Korean subway station. It really blew us away.

Cheers

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

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What we are writing about

Paul presented to the Destination Gippsland Conference on Monday 18th July on the competitive landscape the tourism industry faces in the coming decade. The presentation concentrated on the effects of technology, trust and transparency on the industry. The overall presentation is based on our competitive business landscape model which is an adaptation of the Porters Five Forces Model. You can see the presentation by going to www.emergentfutures.com and looking in the download section.

There were some interesting questions and interactions at the conference and during the presentation so Paul has written an insight piece summarising some of the issues. The piece is posted in our Premium Environmental Scanning Service. If you are already signed up you will be able to access the piece by searching for the tag: "insight article". If you are interested in looking at it but are not a subscriber we offer everyone a free one month trial which you can access via the links at the bottom of the home page.

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Business Tips

Affordable mobile data in Europe

Some tips from Fred Wilson on how to access low cost data in Europe for your phone.

[Read More...](#)

Why every maker should learn Chinese

An interesting post on the economic power of China plus some tools you can use for learning language. Including Memrise which we have featured here before. [Read More...](#)

Don't count on gods to save data in cloud

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LAST month's massive cyber attack on and subsequent collapse of Melbourne hosting company Distribute.IT is a warning to all businesses of the need to maintain up-to-date back-ups of systems and data. [Read More...](#)

Go ahead, take that Break

According to current neuroscience research, after focusing intently on a project or problem, the brain needs to fully disengage and relax. As composer, musician and producer Brian Eno has opined: "The difficulty of always feeling that you ought to be doing something is that you tend to undervalue the times when you're apparently doing nothing. [Read More...](#)

How to Embed Twitter testimonials on your website

Here's a simple strategy to help you convince prospects to become customers. And it's done by embedding Twitter testimonials on your website. [Read More...](#)

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In search of growth

WORLD GDP over the past 12 months was about \$65 trillion. In the year to September 2013, global output will be about \$10 trillion bigger, according to the IMF's projections. But where will that next \$10 trillion be added? [Read More...](#)

Surging China costs turn some U.S. makers homeward

A variety of factors are driving the shift, including rising wages in parts of Asia, surging fuel prices and the complexity of transporting goods across the Pacific. [Read More...](#)

Smart cities investments to skyrocket

A new study on the growth of smart cities estimates that investments will increase fivefold over the next five years. [Read More...](#)

The handwriting is on the wall

Learning cursive is going the way of the quill pen. It's only the end of civilization as we know it. [Read More...](#)

Peak child and the graying population of the developing world

Hans Rosling: The net result is that we reached what he termed "peak child" in about 2005. The world used to be dominated by the population in the lowest age brackets. That's now starting to shift—with the biggest chunk of the population now being in adolescence. The world isn't getting gray just yet, but, as Rosling put it, "we now just have adult population growth." [Read More...](#)

Coming soon: Pharmaceutical testing on mice with human-like livers

Researchers at MIT have figured out how to grow "humanized" livers inside of mice--so the little critters could soon accurately predict how our livers will respond to drugs. [Read More...](#)

Now you can buy groceries using augmented reality, in South Korean subway stations

Called E-Marts, these virtual stores are stocked by supermarkets like European grocery store giant Tesco and Home Plus - but they sell their goods via glowing pictures on subway platforms. Shoppers waiting for a train can simply look at the walls to view potential groceries, scan the respective QR codes with their smartphone, and then have their groceries delivered by the time they reach their homes. [Read More...](#)

London hotel creates snore-absorbing room

First there was a hypo-allergenic hotel rooms for ultra-sensitive people – now Crowne Plaza The City London is looking to introduce snore-absorbing rooms. [Read More...](#)

History suggests that austerity and growth just do not mix

In a recent study of 173 fiscal-policy changes in rich countries from 1978 to 2009, economists from the IMF found that cutting a country's budget deficit by 1% of GDP typically reduces real output by about two-thirds of a percentage point and raises the unemployment rate by one-third of a percentage point. [Read More...](#)

Brain network connections revealed

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The researchers published an article in the journal Cerebral Cortex showing that the brain is characterized by a highly consistent, weighted network among the functional areas of the cortex, which are responsible for such functions as vision, hearing, touch, movement control and complex associations. The study revealed that such cortical networks and their properties are reproducible from individual to individual. [Read More...](#)

Flying sphere goes where humans fear to tread

The black, open-work ball looks like a futuristic work of art, but it can hover for up to eight minutes and fly at 60 km (37 miles) an hour -- although it does slow down for open windows. [Read More...](#)

10,000 successful projects

On July 6th, a project called Citizen is releasing a 7" record! from a band in Toledo, Ohio, was funded by 28 backers, becoming the 10,000th successfully funded project in Kickstarter history. [Read More...](#)

'Quick Charge' trucks will save your stranded EV

AAA is rolling out North America's first fleet of quick-charge trucks that will rescue dead electric vehicles and get them back on the road. [Read More...](#)

The future of gift shopping - design and print your own 3D chocolate objects

The project is funded as part of the Research Council UK Cross-Research Council Programme - Digital Economy and is managed by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) on behalf of ESRC, AHRC and MRC. It is being led by the University of Exeter in collaboration with the University of Brunel and software developer Delcam. [Read More...](#)

Students can now save up to 80% with kindle textbook rental

Amazon.com announced the launch of Kindle Textbook Rental--now students can save up to 80% off textbook list prices by renting from the Kindle Store. Tens of thousands of textbooks are available for the 2011 school year from leading textbook publishers such as John Wiley & Sons, Elsevier and Taylor & Francis. [Read More...](#)

Zipcar's impact on how people use cars is enormous

After a year of Zipcar availability in Baltimore, a survey finds that Zipcar membership means less driving, more public transportation, more exercise, and better quality of life for everyone. Read Paul's comments from his own experiences and the original story. [Read More...](#)

CHART OF THE DAY: The evolution of Apple's business

The real story for Apple continues to be the iPhone which did \$13.3 billion in sales for the quarter. The iPhone and iPad are now 66% of Apple's sales, impressive considering how relatively new the products are. [Read More...](#)

Punching a hole in time

A robber breaks into a bank safe and returns home, where he activates a device that conceals his earlier burglary, making it look like he never entered the bank in the first place. Such a "time cloak" is still a long way from reality, but researchers have now made an important first step, demonstrating a cloaking device that can hide for a fraction of a second an event that occurs at a specific point in time. [Read More...](#)

Police to begin iPhone iris scans amid privacy concerns

Dozens of police departments nationwide are gearing up to use a tech company's already controversial iris- and facial-scanning device that slides over an iPhone and helps identify a person or track criminal suspects. [Read More...](#)

Toyota share the touch screen car windows of the future

Toyota Belgium have just released a concept video that shows what they are thinking the future of car windows might look like in the years to come and how some of the windows will be turned in to giant touchscreens that passengers can use as a practical resource to find out more information about the journey as well as entertaining themselves. [Read More...](#)

Time travel impossible, say scientists

By showing a single photon cannot travel faster than the speed of light, scientists prove time travel is impossible. [Read More...](#)

Ford to phase out CD players in its cars

Ford has foreseen the direction it must take in order to stay up to date with the modern day technology. But in some people's point of view the decision seems to be taken a bit sooner than expected. [Read More...](#)

Ars Technica tries a new way to monetize a much-anticipated article with a Kindle ebook for Mac fans

"It's the same review that you get for free on Ars. You don't have to pay for it," Fisher said. But people have: The ebook sold 3,000 copies in the first 24 hours, Fisher said. [Read More...](#)

The next generation of turbines go underwater, and they're coming soon

As water is 832 times denser than air, it poses tough engineering challenges for power generators who must contend with corrosion, stray electromagnetic fields, and rules to safeguard sealife. [Read More...](#)

Assessing a new landscape in journalism

As traditional newsrooms have shrunk, a group of institutions and funders motivated by something other than profit are entering the journalism arena. This distinguishes them from the commercial news institutions that dominated the 20th century, whose primary sources of revenue-advertising and circulation-were self-evident. [Read More...](#)

Social media is Pentagon's new battlefield

THE Pentagon is asking scientists to figure out how to detect and counter propaganda on social media networks in the aftermath of Arab uprisings driven by Twitter and Facebook. [Read More...](#)



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