

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

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Welcome to the middle of June edition of What's Emerging. Unfortunately we did not get the website and newsletter revamp completed in time for this newsletter although we are very close to completion so you will have to put up with the old style for one more edition. We hope that you continue to enjoy the newsletter and find it useful.

Cheers

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



Business Tips

Anki

Anki is a free flashcard program which makes remembering things easy. Because it is a lot more efficient than traditional study methods, you can either greatly decrease your time spent studying, or greatly increase the amount you learn. [Read more...](#)

PowerPoint Viewer

Microsoft PowerPoint Viewer lets you view full-featured presentations created in PowerPoint 97 and later versions. [Read more...](#)

Whitey Boards – Stick on White Boards

WhiteyBoards are like big stickers that won't damage your wall. They are made of a vinyl peel and stick material that is durable, washable, movable and removable. [Read more...](#)

QuickReader iPhone app teaches you how to read faster

QuickReader's approach is different. Instead of flashing words at you at a set speed - which can quickly become very tiring - the app displays a whole page of text and then gives you visual guidance that drives you to read faster [Read more...](#)

Snoopon.me is a creepy, probably effective productivity tool

We go through a lot of trouble to keep people from seeing everything we do on our computer, but free web service Snoopon.me aims to do the opposite: allow your family and friends to watch your activity to keep you productive. **Not for the faint hearted.** [Read more...](#)



What's Emerging

A smarter magazine: Sports Illustrated's tablet prototype

At Google I/O in San Francisco, SI editor Terry McDonnell demos the sports magazine on a tablet device using HTML5. Similar to Apple's iPad, users have the ability to swipe to turn pages, view photos and video, and

search for specific content within the magazine. [Read more...](#)

Google now activating 100,000 Android devices a day — 50,000 Android apps

Last year, Google was activating 30,000 Android phones a day. The past February, that number jumped to 60,000. Today, Google is now activating over 100,000 Android phones a day. [Read more...](#)

Little big world

I met Patrick Lawrence last month through the good graces of Michael Short of the Age (@shortmsgs) at The Age. This is a video of his idea of how to develop empathy between children from different circumstances, languages. [Read more...](#)

Sony ultrathin flexible OLED display can roll around a pencil

How thin is ultrathin? Approximately 80µm thick, with a resolution of 432 by 240 pixels at 121 pixels per inch. The roll-up OLED display touts a contrast ratio of 1,000:1 and manages a brightness level of 100 cd/m². [Read more...](#)

Study: Communities with wider social networks have more economic opportunity

According to a new study, people who phone diverse acquaintances live in more affluent communities and have more economic opportunities than those who talk to people in their immediate vicinity. [Read more...](#)

Let's cover the moon in solar panels

Here's an idea so crazy it might work: a solar plant on the Moon. Specifically, a 6,800 mile long solar belt that spans the Moon's equator and sends energy back to Earth with lasers and microwave power. [Read more...](#)

DARPA-funded LittleDog robot shows off new tricks

LittleDog is a four-legged robot designed to learn how to negotiate and traverse unknown rugged and complex terrains. The 5-inch-tall quadruped, manufactured by Boston Dynamics, has been recently upgraded with an impressive set of improved locomotion skills thanks to researchers at the University of Southern California. [Read more...](#)

DNA logic - computers in your bloodstream

DNA-based logic gates that could carry out calculations inside the body have been constructed for the first time. The work brings the prospect of injectable biocomputers programmed to target diseases as they arise. [Read more...](#)

Slow going on cellulosic biofuels

ZeaChem starts construction in Oregon, but plans elsewhere have stalled or been scaled back. [Read more...](#)

Museum of the future: Mobile augmented reality

A new report suggests that museums are also becoming part of the mobile revolution — yes, if you want to visit the Museum of London without flying all the way to Heathrow Airport, there's an app for that. (However, it's best to be in town to really experience the service). [Read more...](#)

World Bank warns of double dip recession

The World Bank has warned that a double-dip recession cannot be ruled out if Europe's debt crisis continues to spread. [Read more...](#)

TomTom: Why smartphones won't destroy our business. Paul Higgins: "tell em they're dreaming"

According to Tom Murray, TomTom's senior vice president of market development, there are a number of reasons a portable navigation device trumps the navigation tools on a smartphone. **Paul Higgins: If you read this post I think that Tom Tom are fooling themselves. The basic rule that I live by for technology adoption by people is that there has to be a big jump in utility or value for people to move either to a new platform or shell out a significant amount of money for an extra device. All of the issues that Tom Tom talk about here are real but they are incremental. For most the people with smartphones (and the numbers are rapidly growing) the issues highlighted here are a negative and an irritant but I would suggest not enough to spend significant dollars.** [Read more...](#)

Why a good memory is bad for you

The counterintuitive finding that too good a memory makes foragers inefficient reveals a glimpse of the forces that govern the evolution of intelligence. [Read more...](#)

Report: Half of China's population will live in urban areas by 2020

China has entered period of accelerated urbanization and it is estimated that 50 percent of the population will live in urban areas by 2020 and 75 percent by 2050, according to a report released by the China Association of Mayors recently. [Read more...](#)

The kids are alright

American high school students today take significantly fewer health risks than did their counterparts in the early 1990s. [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

Book Review: Rework by Jason Fried and David Heinemeier Hansson

This is a book by the people at 37 Signals a company that supplies collaboration tools for people with a business or organisation at several different locations and want a simple way for interact and collaborate. I was particularly taken by one of the statements on the blurb on the back of the book which is "Planning is Guessing" which I think encapsulates a lot of the sort of thinking that we do about forecasting and planning. 37 Signals essentially evolved out of a web design company that was not satisfied with the tools for project management on the internet and so set out to build their own. [Read more...](#)