

Welcome to the mid month May edition of What's Emerging. Plenty of links and some handy business tips. Enjoy!

Cheers

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Business Tips

UltraMon

Those of you that have followed us for a while will know we are big fans of the productivity improvements from multiple monitors (see our previous business tips for the research). UltraMon is intended for more than two monitors but looks useful. You need to take the tour to make it valuable but best features seem to be:

- It allows you to have a task bar on each monitor showing what is on that monitor – minimises mouse movements and also gives more space.
- One click allows you to move the application to the other monitor or you can drag fully opened ones – i.e. do not have to reduce in size and then move.
- Mirroring allows better control of options for projectors etc instead of all the mucking around with F8 etc.

Might be worth trialling and seeing what it does. We are doing that for the next month. [Read more...](#)

10 questions to consider when planning a Windows 7 upgrade

With Windows 7 on the horizon this is a useful article if you are looking at upgrading. Requires signing up which is free. [Read more...](#)

Three lessons from Warren Buffett

The wisdom of Berkshire's chairman, Warren Buffett, and co-chairman, Charlie Munger from the Berkshire Hathaway Meeting. They didn't disappoint. Despite their ages (Buffett is 78 and Munger is 85) and recent performance (Berkshire's stock was down 31.8% in 2008), the two multi-billionaires had plenty to say, which means there was plenty to learn. [Read more...](#)



What's Emerging

Mobile Phones as Sensors?

Cell phones will soon be able to sense our environment and its pollutants. This new power may change the way we move through the world, but can it motivate us to change it? [Read more...](#)

NREL, iTi Solar, others partner to make solar energy cheaper

A Boulder company's inkjet technologies are the "heart" of a new research project at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory that could help make solar panels more affordable in the future. [Read more...](#)

Robots are narrowing the gap with humans

Robots guided by their own computer "brains" now can pick up and peel bananas, land jumbo jets, steer cars through city traffic, search human DNA for cancer genes, play soccer or the violin, find earthquake victims or explore craters on Mars. [Read more...](#)

Printed supercapacitor could feed power-hungry gadgets

A supercapacitor – a device that can unleash large amounts of charge very quickly – has been created using printing technology for the first time. The advance will pave the way for "printed" power supplies that could be useful as gadgets become thinner, lighter and even flexible. [Read more...](#)

Smart Nanobox built out of DNA origami

Danish scientists at the Aarhus University Center for DNA Nanotechnology created a three dimensional box made out of DNA that features a lid that can be opened when a specific DNA strand is introduced as a key. The technology may allow for targeted drug delivery, with the lid opening when sensing the presence of a particular pathogen. [Read more...](#)

Is the growth of the web slowing down or just taking a breather?

There are now 231.5 million Websites according to Netcraft . But last year the number of new sites added to the Web slowed down to 29.9 million, from 48.7 million in 2007. [Read more...](#)

Web tool 'as important as Google'

A web tool that "could be as important as Google", according to some experts, has been shown off to the public. Wolfram Alpha is the brainchild of British-born physicist Stephen Wolfram. The free program aims to answer questions directly, rather than display web pages in response to a query like a search engine. [Read more...](#)

Global financial crisis making biotech business model unsustainable according to Ernst & Young

Despite worldwide economic turmoil, the global biotechnology industry delivered a solid financial performance in 2008, according to *Beyond borders: Global biotechnology report 2009*, Ernst & Young's 23rd annual report on the biotech industry. However, the prolonged and systemic funding drought is placing the business model that fueled biotech growth for the past 33 years under unprecedented strain. [Read more...](#)

The future of the social web: In five eras

Today's social experience is disjointed because consumers have separate identities in each social network they visit. A simple set of technologies that enable a portable identity will soon empower consumers to bring their identities with them — transforming marketing, eCommerce, CRM, and advertising. IDs are just the beginning of this transformation, in which the Web will evolve step by step from separate social sites into a shared social experience. [Read more...](#)

Android attack continues: Skytone Netbook to cost \$250, Samsung i7500 confirmed

The first Android netbook, called the Alpha 680, made by China's Skytone will cost \$250. It will run on an ARM chip, and weigh 1.5 pounds, or 25 percent less than the well-known first Eee 701 netbook. Its ARM11 chip — the same as the one used in the iPhone — supports YouTube video. The device's arrival is significant because it ushers in a bevy of potentially even more popular cheap computing devices that undercut the prices hardware makers — from Dell to HP — have long enjoyed. [Read more...](#)

Business spending on cloud computing rises to \$9.6 billion in 2009, up 22%

With cloud computing in the enterprise we tend to think of it as being conceptual and experimental. Besides Salesforce.com there aren't a lot of popular examples of business apps in the cloud. However, a new Gartner report says that business spending on software as a service (SaaS) will rise 22% in 2009 to \$9.6 billion. [Read more...](#)

Looking to big-screen E-readers to help save the daily press

The iPod stemmed losses in the music industry. The Kindle gave beleaguered book publishers a reason for optimism. Now the recession-ravaged newspaper and magazine industries are hoping for their own knight in shining digital armour, in the form of portable reading devices with big screens. [Read more...](#)

Are you a Cube?

Nissan Canada is promoting the Nissan cube by giving away 50 to the people that show them that they most deserve/personify the Cube vehicle - a social marketing/viral marketing campaign. [Read more...](#)

The online ad recession is officially here: First quarterly decline in revenues

It was the last part of the advertising sector to fall and may be the first to recover, but online advertising is now in a recession. [Read more...](#)

Predicting flu with the aid of (George) Washington

At the heart of his simulation are two immense sets of data: air traffic and commuter traffic patterns for the entire country, and the yield of a whimsical Web site, Where's George? Where's George? was started more than 10 years ago by Hank Eskin, a programmer who marked each dollar bill he received with a note asking its next owner to enter its serial number and a ZIP code into the Web site, just for the fun of seeing how far and fast bills travelled. By 2006, the site had the histories of 100 million bills. [Read more...](#)

How much has technology mitigated poverty and expanded personal freedom

Michael Anissimov discusses the idea that self-replicating factories, fed perhaps by acetylene, water, and the Sun (nanofactories) can lift most restrictions on freedom that come from finite resource. [Read more...](#)

Metric counts its iTunes success

For its first album in four years, electronic-tinged rock act Metric opted to go without the backing of a music label, a move that in the past would have been daring. But the Canadian quartet's new release, "Fantasies," popped up in the middle of the U.S. pop chart last week. Metric accomplished that thanks in large measure to iTunes and a nonprofit Canadian arts funding entity. [Read more...](#)

New LCD monitor watches you

If it senses for 40 seconds that no one is there, it puts the monitor into sleep mode. It then resumes normal operation when the user returns. [Read more...](#)

Bright automotive's 100 MPG plug-in hybrid truck: It's good enough for the post office

Bright Automotive's new "light-use truck" eschews the sexy aesthetic of cars like the Chevy Volt and Fisker Karma for a more utilitarian 180-cubic-foot space with a 2,000 pound payload. The IDEA uses only battery power for the first 30 miles of driving before switching over to a gas-supplemented electric system. Bright Automotive's truck gets 100 mpg for the first 50 miles--that's enough to get most urban delivery vehicles through the day. [Read more...](#)

European internet consumption to overtake TV in 14 months

The internet will overtake broadcast TV as Europe's most consumed form of media for the first time in June 2010 if current growth trends continue, according to Microsoft research. [Read more...](#)