

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

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*Welcome to the November edition of What's Emerging. This month we have a book review along with the usual assortment of interesting links that hopefully challenge your thinking.*

*Also a big thank you to our supporters who helped us raise over \$600 for charity by sponsoring our Noosa triathlon team on 2 November! The Emergent Futures team completed the race in 2 hrs 57 min. Photos can be viewed [here](#) (type 'Emergent Futures' in the gallery search field).*

*We hope you enjoy this edition.*

*Cheers*

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



## Business Tips

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### How IT can cut greenhouse gases

Information and communications technologies will become a major source of greenhouse gas emissions but can abate far more of them. Here are some clues as to where. [Read more...](#)

### The online search party: A way to share the load

Tools are being developed by Microsoft and other companies that let people at different computers search as a team, dividing responsibilities and pooling results and recommendations in a shared Web space on the browser display as they plan a family vacation, for instance, or research a medical problem. [Read more...](#)

### Do you change printer ink when you're told? If so, it's costing you

A superb bit of gadgetry investigative work done by PC World reveals that if you listen when your printer tells you you're out of ink, you may be wasting up to 40 percent of the cartridge. [Read more...](#)



## What's Emerging

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### Packs of robots will hunt down uncooperative humans

The latest request from the Pentagon jars the senses. They are looking for contractors to provide a "Multi-Robot Pursuit System" that will let packs of robots "search for and detect a non-cooperative human". [Read more...](#)

### Arab bloggers size up Obama

Barack Obama's election in the United States has fired imaginations around the globe, perhaps nowhere more than in the Middle East, where people wonder how the future president's approach to the Arab world will differ from that of his predecessor. [Read more...](#)

### **VeraSun, ethanol maker, seeks bankruptcy after corn losses**

VeraSun Energy Corp., the second largest U.S. ethanol producer by capacity, sought bankruptcy protection after racking up losses on hedges for corn. [Read more...](#)

### **An anti-frailty pill for seniors?**

Researchers at the University of Virginia Health System report that a daily single oral dose of an investigational drug, MK-677, increased muscle mass in the arms and legs of healthy older adults without serious side effects, suggesting that it may prove safe and effective in reducing age-related frailty. [Read more...](#)

### **Winemaker tracks carbon in real time**

Australian Vintage, maker of the popular McGuigan range of wines, has set up real-time carbon footprint reporting tools at the behest of one of its largest suppliers, Britain's Tesco supermarket chain. [Read more...](#)

### **The shocks of things to come**

Companies are facing massive shocks from information and communication technologies that will radically change existing business models. The ripples that began with the internet will have second-round impacts we can only begin to imagine, according to Digital Disruptions, a report from CSC's Leading Edge Forum. [Read more...](#)

### **Office-related carbon emissions surge**

The office is becoming a major driver of climate change. Despite ongoing efforts to improve energy efficiency in the workplace, the world's growing reliance on the Internet is leading to a rapid increase in greenhouse gas emissions. The energy required to power all the world's computers, data storage, and communications networks is expected to double by 2020, according to a new McKinsey & Company analysis. [Read more...](#)

### **1,000-device personal networks in 2017?**

According to ICT Results in 'The Network of Everything,' wireless experts estimate that our personal networks will include about a thousand devices in 2017, including dozens of sensors checking our health and our home. [Read more...](#)

### **Army developing 'synthetic telepathy'**

The U.S. Army is developing a technology known as synthetic telepathy that would allow someone to create email or voice mail and send it by thought alone. The concept is based on reading electrical activity in the brain using an electroencephalograph, or EEG. [Read more...](#)

### **Allstate examines brain fitness program to improve driver safety**

Allstate, an insurance company, hopes to begin offering discounts to drivers who use computer-based exercises to help improve their mental sharpness. Allstate has entered into a relationship with Posit Science®, the leader in clinically validated brain fitness programs and developer of InSight™, to offer this software program. [Read more...](#)

### **Cobalt biofuels raises \$25 million to commercialize next generation biofuel – Biobutanol**

Cobalt Biofuels announced today it raised \$25 million in equity to accelerate the commercialization of biobutanol, an advanced biofuel. Cobalt Biofuels will move aggressively toward commercial production of cost effective, non-food based biobutanol. [Read more...](#)

### **AGL, Macquarie in \$1b electric car deal**

Within four years, most Australians will be able to drive an electric car and recharge it at special plug-in points at home, the office or shopping centres. [Read more...](#)

### **Deleting selective memories**

Research in mice suggests that it might be possible to delete specific painful memories. [Read more...](#)

### **Can your mobile phone save you money?**

If you can't quite bring yourself to spend hundreds of dollars on a Smartphone, here's a thought to quiet your conscience: It might save you money. We wrote about the potential impact of this type of technology on the [future of shopping](#) in March last year. Looks like it is gaining momentum. [Read more...](#)

### **Google launches flu-tracking technology**

Internet search engine company Google has launched a new online tool to help track the spread of influenza in the United States. [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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### **Book Review - CauseWired: Plugging In, Getting Involved, Changing the World, by Tom Watson**

This is a book about how the internet and social interaction on the internet might change philanthropy around the world, both by changing fund raising methods and also by increasing connection and transparency. Overall I found the book a little disappointing on several fronts: [Read more...](#)

**Paul Higgins**