

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

www.emergentfutures.com

Welcome to the end of September edition of What's Emerging. All the usual suspects plus a book review.

There are two changes we have made to our set up which you might be interested in. The front page of our web site now features our Twitter Stream: <http://www.emergentfutures.com/>. If you use twitter and want to follow all of our posts as they are done rather than waiting for the newsletter then click on futuristpaul in that box on our home page and sign up to follow us.

We have re-designed the Tumblelog appearance: <http://emergentfutures.tumblr.com/> If you want to follow our posts as they are done rather than waiting for the newsletter you can make this page the home page on your browser, or include it in the RSS feed for your news reader.

Our "Help Charity - Make Us Pay!" initiative is still going - for more details click [HERE](#).

Cheers

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



Business Tips

[The Windows 7 upgrade survival guide](#)

Want to make the Windows 7 upgrade experience as short and painless as possible? Follow these seven suggestions to make the process easier. [Read more...](#)

[YouTube auto buffer makes the popular video site a lot better](#)

Firefox with Greasemonkey: The YouTube Auto Buffer Greasemonkey script tweaks the popular video sharing site to fix some of its most common annoyances. Specifically, it stops videos from automatically playing, turns on HD/HQ playback for all videos, and hides in-video advertisements.

Warning : slightly technical. [Read more...](#)

[CrowdFlower](#)

Presented at TechCrunch 50, CrowdFlower easily connects you with thousands of people online, around the clock to do jobs that are difficult for a computer, easy for a human, and have many independent pieces. [Read more...](#)

[The best sounds for getting work done](#)

The right kind of sound can relax your mind, hone your focus, drown out distractions, or get you pumped to kill your to-do list. Lifehacker has assembled some research and free resources to help you create your own best workspace soundtrack. [Read more...](#)



What's Emerging

Mitsubishi, IHI to join \$21 billion space solar project

Mitsubishi Electric Corp. and IHI Corp. will join a 2 trillion yen (\$21 billion) Japanese project intending to build a giant solar-power generator in space within three decades and beam electricity to earth. [Read more...](#)

The future of libraries, with or without books

The stereotypical library is dying -- and it's taking its shushing ladies, dank smell and endless shelves of books with it. [Read more...](#)

The effect of economic recession on population health

Economic recessions have paradoxical effects on the mortality trends of populations in rich countries. Contrary to what might have been expected, economic downturns during the 20th century were associated with declines in mortality rates. [Read more...](#)

Forecasts for 2010-2025 from the world future society

A set of interesting forecasts from one of the futurist professional bodies. [Read more...](#)

Dean kamen claims new slingshot purifier can clean 97 percent of earth's undrinkable water

Currently, a Slingshot costs hundreds of thousands of dollars. However, Mr. Kamen is looking for partners to mass produce the device. He hopes to reduce the cost to about \$2,000 a unit, and to enlist humanitarian groups to start buying the devices for regions in need. [Read more...](#)

Can you trust crowd wisdom?

Researchers say online recommendation systems can be distorted by a minority of users. [Read more...](#)

Artificial life will be created 'within months' as genome experts claim vital breakthrough

Dr Craig Venter - one of the world's most famous and controversial biologists - said his U.S. researchers have overcome one of the last big hurdles to making a synthetic organism. [Read more...](#)

Australian population set to soar

The Federal Government has significantly upgraded its population forecasts for Australia to over 35 million people within 40 years. [Read more...](#)

Dual-screen laptop on sale by Christmas

The world's first truly dual-screen laptop, which will allow computer users to multi-task while on the move, is due to go on sale by the end of the year. ***Paul is salivating over this given that he hates leaving his double screen behind when he goes on the road - see Business Tips on our Website.*** [Read more...](#)

The unmanned surveillance plane that can fly for five years non-stop

It might look like alien technology but this aircraft is no UFO. It's an Odysseus solar-powered aircraft that aims to be able to stay in the air for over five years continuously. [Read more...](#)

Is crowd-sourcing killing the traditional design industry?

Design practice has a pretty long history of participatory design where users have become involved in the creation of products and services. For the most part, this has occurred at the periphery.....Yet, increasingly, we are seeing new design-related magazines and websites that call on the crowd to both create and participate in critiquing design. ***Story sent to us by subscriber Lorraine Tran of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority.*** [Read more...](#)

Immortality only 20 years away says scientist

Scientist Ray Kurzweil claims humans could become immortal in as little as 20 years' time through nanotechnology and an increased understanding of how the body works. [Read more...](#)

Robots 'to revolutionise surgery'

A robot has been developed that will self assemble inside the body, after the patient has swallowed up to 15 separate parts, and then aid the surgeon to carry out procedures. Within ten years some doctors and scientists are predicting that all surgery could be scar less. [Read more...](#)

Mobile phone towers a threat to honey bees

An experiment conducted in Kerala, India, found that a sudden fall in the bee population was caused by towers installed across the state by cell phone companies to increase their network. The electromagnetic waves emitted by the towers crippled the "navigational skills" of the worker bees that go out to collect nectar from flowers to sustain bee colonies. [Read more...](#)

When the sun goes quiet earth shivers

The sun has gone quiet, with a sharp decline in sunspot numbers in the past couple of years - possibly heralding the start of a solar depression that could lead to cooler weather on Earth. [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 - *Weird Ideas That Work: How to Build a Creative Company* By Robert I Sutton

This book is now seven years old which dates some of the examples and stories that are used to back up the main ideas. However those ideas are still relevant.

The author starts out by discussing the tensions between having a great execution capacity and having a great creative capacity. In many cases a great execution capacity is about doing things consistently and well, while a great creative capacity is about changing things around, doing things differently, and breaking some of the rules and failing. It is important that people understand the differences. No one wants to get on a flight from Melbourne to Sydney and hear the pilots say "I am going to try a bit of creative flying today". So each capacity needs to be applied in the right context. However that is very difficult to do in practice so this book is about trying to help you achieve that balance. [Read More...](#)