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Welcome to the End-September Edition of What's Emerging

Welcome to the end of September edition.

Paul is just back from the Business Innovation Factory's 10th conference and the Las Vegas Community Catalyst event. He will be blogging at www.futuristpaul.com about the trip over the next few days. In the next few weeks Paul will be presenting at the Queensland Nurse leader Conference on the future of medicine, working with State Trustees on their future strategy, working with the Bendigo Community Bank on the future of their network, and presenting to the CEO institute. If any of these approaches interest you then please contact us at info@emergentfutures.com.

We hope that you continue to find then newsletter interesting and useful.

Cheers,

Paul Higgins, Sandy Teagle, Prafulla, Syed Muqthar, and Samantha Kyle-Little

SECTIONS

[What we are writing about](#)

[Business Tips](#)

[What's Emerging](#)

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■ What are we writing about?

Paul will be blogging at www.futuristpaul.com on reflections from his trip over the next few days. You can our presentations by going to www.emergentfutures.com and looking under latest downloads on the home page. As always our presentations are designed to be an experience for the audience rather than asset of detailed notes. If you are interested in an online run through of any of our presentations then please contact us at info@emergentfutures.com. This is also a service that we offer clients during the presentation preparation phase for conference and workshops to fine tune our focus on the audience and the client requirements

■ Business Tips

How Neil Gaiman Stays Creative In An Age Of Constant Distraction

The great German writer and realpolitik statesman Goethe once said "talent is nurtured in solitude." The only way to achieve true creativity, then, was to become "a child of solitude."

[Read More...](#)

15 lessons from 15 years of blogging

Anil Dash has been at it for 15 years and his reflections on a decade and a half of blogging -- through major life changes from marriage to parenthood are really instructive. [Read More...](#)

[↑ Top of the page](#)

■ In case you missed it: Most popular links from the Last Edition

[Limits to Growth was right. New research shows we're nearing collapse](#)

The 1972 book *Limits to Growth*, which predicted our civilisation would probably collapse some time this century, has been criticised as doomsday fantasy since it was published. Back in 2002, self-styled environmental expert Bjorn Lomborg consigned it to the “dustbin of history”.

■ What's Emerging

Chaos Computer Club claims it can unlock iPhones with fake fingers/cloned fingerprints

The Chaos Computer Club's biometric hacking team has announced a successful attack on Apple's iPhone biometric fingerprint lock, using a variation on the traditional fingerprint-cloning technique. CCC's Starbug summarizes: “As we have said now for more than years, fingerprints should not be used to secure anything. You leave them everywhere, and it is far too easy to make fake fingers out of lifted prints.” [Read More...](#)

How Technology in Tourism is Taking Travel to the Next Level

The application of technology in tourism, whether it be in the vacation-planning process or during the actual vacation, is changing the entire travel industry. [Read More...](#)

Octobot uses webbed arms to swim faster

CHICAGO - Webbed underarms can turn a sluggish robotic octopus into a speed demon. [Read More...](#)

National Disaster Resilience Competition

On June 14, 2014, President Obama announced the National Disaster Resilience Competition. Responding to demand from state, local and tribal leaders who are working to increase the safety and security of their communities, the nearly \$1 billion competition will invite communities that have experienced natural disasters to compete for funds to help them rebuild and increase their resilience to future disasters. [Read More...](#)

EKSO Bionic Exoskeleton Successfully Used to Improve Gait After Stroke

We've written about the Ekso Bionics exoskeleton in the past, about the potential it might have of getting paralyzed people on their legs, but now a study from the Kessler Foundation has shown that the electronic suit is safe and effective for gait training of stroke patients. The suit can be programmed to assist the patient in a variety of ways, including setting how much power it adds to the wearer's own strength and the amount of time before it kicks in at every step. [Read More...](#)

A System to Cut City Traffic That Just Might Work

Traffic sucks. Congestion is bad for the environment, health (see: Beijing), and maybe most importantly, our sanity. One solution gaining in popularity amongst urban governments is the congestion charging scheme, in which drivers pay a toll to enter designated downtown areas. London, Stockholm, and Milan all have such systems in place, and New York came close to trying it out in 2007. Those efforts are all whippersnappers compared to Singapore's program, which was introduced in 1975. Over the past few decades, the city-state has upgraded the system, which now uses radio transmitters to detect cars entering designated areas. [Read More...](#)

Robotic fabric could bring 'active clothing,' wearable robots

Researchers are developing a robotic fabric that moves and contracts and is embedded with sensors, an approach that could bring “active clothing” and a new class of “soft” robots. [Read More...](#)

The Income Chart That Explains American Politics

On Tuesday morning, the United States Census Bureau released its annual report on income and poverty in the United States. Ostensibly, it didn't contain many news-grabbing headlines. In 2013, the number of people living in poverty edged down a bit—from 46.5 million, in 2012, to 45.3 million—and the median household income edged up a bit—from \$51,800 to \$51,900. (The income figures are adjusted for inflation.) [Read More...](#)

What's Emerging?

MIT's electric Cheetah robot silently bounds across campus

We've seen MIT's super-fast four-legged Cheetah bot sprint on a treadmill many times, but it seems that the team at MIT is finally ready to let the thing outside. Now, quadrupedal bots traversing hill and dale are nothing new, but the Cheetah's doing so using a new algorithm and without the benefit of an internal combustion engine or hydraulics. [Read More...](#)

India Wants To Build Massive Digital Infrastructure To Cover 800 Million Rural Citizens by 2019

A \$17-billion government program to build a national optical fiber network that will connect India's gram panchayats, or village-level governments, aims to cover the entire country in three years and could be a game changer, an Indian minister told Forbes. [Read More...](#)

Why Machine Vision Is On Track To Surpass Human Sight

Computers are now almost as good at visual object recognition as people are. The proof is in the ImageNet Large-Scale Visual Recognition Challenge, an annual contest for scientists attempting to developing a robotic equivalent to human vision. Contestants must develop computer algorithms that can identify objects that exist in certain images. [Read More...](#)

India Adopts Smarter City Strategy to Handle Massive Urban Influx

India is a dynamic nation of extreme contrasts. As the second most populated country in the world, Indian cities are facing unprecedented growth in population due to rapid urbanization. Imagine this, every minute during the next 20 years, 30 Indians will leave rural India to settle in urban areas. [Read More...](#)

Forget Terminator: The robots of the apocalypse could be squishy

Soft robots can be especially resilient when it comes to bad conditions. A new robot out of MIT can withstand ice, fire and being run over by a car. [Read More...](#)

Internet-Connected Machines Might Find Their Voices With This Chip

A future covered with data-beaming sensors just got a little closer. Stanford engineers say they have produced miniscule chips that cost just pennies to make. These silicon-based components can process and relay commands, making them ant-sized controllers that can send and receive information wirelessly. Developers say the chips bridge the communication gap between sensors, machines and computers and will let them communicate back and forth. [Read More...](#)

Canadian gov't economists insist that stats on collapsing middle class mean just the opposite

Dave sez, "Last year, Employment and Social Development Canada put together a report suggesting that the Canadian middle class has seen wage stagnation and is experiencing record levels of debt; Finance Canada felt that this 'appears to conflict with the general message in Budget 2014 and previous internal briefings' so they made a new report -- that says the opposite, while looking at the same data." [Read More...](#)

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