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Welcome to the mid July 2017 Edition of What's Emerging

Paul is back from holidays and back into the swing of things. As well as continuing to write his book on the future of driverless cars (he wrote 25 pages on holidays) with Dr Chris Rice he is preparing an executive retreat workshop for a media group, working with a health group on strategy, and preparing for a future of tourism leadership program. We are also in the middle of preparation with a European company to bring a new software based foresight tool to Australia. The system is still in Beta and will be trialled with some clients before a wider release. If you are interested in registering for a webinar look at the tool in late August/early September please email us at info@emergentfutures.com.

We hope that you continue to find the newsletter interesting.

Cheers,
Paul Higgins, Sandy Teagle, Ranjitha and Samantha Kyle-Little

What are we writing about?

Paul's latest blog post is about how driverless automated food delivery systems may contribute to the demise of the current large scale supermarket model and revive urban environments. You can read it at: [The Supermarkets Demise – A Scenario](#)

Business Tips

The 10th Business Delusion That Deceives Managers

Rob builds on a summary of one of the best business books of all time – The Halo Effect and adds another delusion on digital change – well worth the read. [Read More...](#)

Making the Most of Working from Home

Paul: If you work from home (as I do quite a lot) staying productive can be a challenge at times. This excellent summary is a worthwhile reminder of what you need to do. I particular like the "set your pace: sprint or marathon". I am definitely a sprinter and try and set two hour blocks with a ten minute break in the middle to be at my most productive. [Read More...](#)

[↑ Top of the page](#)

SECTIONS

[What we are writing about](#)

[Business Tips](#)

[What's Emerging](#)

[→ Visit our website](#)

[t Follow us on Twitter](#)

[t Visit our Tumblelog](#)

My Company Tried Slack For Two Years. This Is Why We Quit.

An interesting analysis of work tools based on chat tools [Read More...](#)

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

[Make two lists](#)

■ What's Emerging

Apple Tests 3-D Face Scanning to Unlock Next iPhone

Apple Inc. is working on a feature that will let you unlock your iPhone using your face instead of a fingerprint. Hopefully the technology is good enough to not unlock it via a photo, or as one system was hacked with a picture of an eye on a golf ball. [Read More...](#)

Amazon's Alexa passes 15,000 skills, up from 10,000 in February

Amazon's Alexa voice platform has now passed 15,000 skills — the voice-powered apps that run on devices like the Echo speaker, Echo Dot, newer Echo Show and others. We bet you will only use 15 of them. [Read More...](#)

The U.S. fertility rate just hit a historic low. Why some demographers are freaking out.

The United States is in the midst of what some worry is a baby crisis. The number of women giving birth has been declining for years and just hit a historic low. Part of an ongoing trend around the world that sees some countries such as Japan and Russia in significant decline

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Astronomers discover orbiting supermassive black holes for first time in distant galaxy

In what is being hailed as a "groundbreaking discovery", astronomers have for the first time observed two supermassive black holes orbiting around each other in a distant galaxy, according to new research. [Read More...](#)

Bee brain formula for seeing colours more effectively could be used in drones, robots

Scientists investigating how bees see colours say the insect's highly efficient visual system could revolutionise the way robots and drones view the world. [Read More...](#)

Geneticists Are Developing Heat-Resistant 'Cows of The Future' To Deal With Earth's Rising Climate

Cows of the future will be better placed to cope with changing climates -- and they'll taste great, too! Lots of research going on in agriculture around this sort of stuff. Despite climate change action adaptation is still going to have to be a major part of the response [Read More...](#)

Autonomous Grocery Vans Are Making Deliveries in London

The vehicles can find their way along real roads in order to deliver bags of food to Greenwich residents. See Paul's blog post for more details of the implications. [Read More...](#)

Home ownership in Australia in decline for three decades: Grattan Institute

The number of Australian homeowners has been falling for three decades, and it could take just as long to turn the situation around, researchers say. The decline is much larger in the younger demographics. [Read More...](#)

There has been no income growth for the bottom half of Americans

Henry Blodget dissects a chart featured in a recent blog from the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business based on economist Thomas Piketty's research that shows there has been absolutely no income growth for the bottom half of Americans. A major issue in politics in the USA. [Read More...](#)

The World's First Robot Lawyer Offers Services in All 50 States

Joshua Browder is a junior at Stanford University. He has developed a chatbot called DoNotPay that uses artificial intelligence to provide free legal assistance. Part of more and more applications in legal services. [Read More...](#)

Job of the future: robot psychologist

Modern robots do much more than work on car-assembly lines. Helping them be more responsive and empathetic to humans may well be a job. [Read More...](#)

VCs determined to replace your job keep AI's funding surge rolling in Q2

These are good times for AI entrepreneurs. Recent analysis of venture data shows that funding for artificial intelligence start-ups continues its upward trend in 2017, with investment hitting new highs. Momentum or hype, only time will tell.

[Read More...](#)

A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Europe's Huge New Vertical Farm

The Eindhoven High Tech Campus, a 90-minute train ride south of Amsterdam, consists of two rows of nondescript mid-rise office buildings on either side of a wide, tree-lined road. We are not sure how this can be competitive with normal agriculture unless food prices rise significantly. [Read More...](#)

The Technology That Will Make It Impossible for You to Believe What You See

With these techniques, it's difficult to discern between videos of real people and computerized impostors that can be programmed to say anything. Thought that you had seen fake news before, you ain't seen nothing yet. [Read More...](#)

Renewable energy is becoming so cheap the US will meet Paris commitments even if Trump withdraws

Research analysts at Morgan Stanley believe that renewable energy like solar and wind power are hurtling towards a level of ubiquity where not even politics can hinder them. Renewable energy is simply becoming the cheapest option, fast. One of the great stories of the last two decades. [Read More...](#)

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