Welcome to the mid month April edition of What's Emerging. Plenty of Business Tips and Links to keep you pondering about the future.

Cheers

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Business Tips

Internet based staff schedule system

Work When notifier is an email and SMS distribution system for staff schedules for small business. It is Australian based and offers a thirty day free trial with no credit card details taken. We have not used the services or endorse its use but it sounds interesting. *Read more…*

Is it worth It? An ROI calculator for social network campaigns

You can use this tool to calculate an estimate of cost and return on investment for the recruitment and fundraising efforts of your staff in social networking sites like Facebook or MySpace. It works sort of like an online mortgage calculator. *Read more…*

Texter

Texter allows you to create small strings of letters that then expand out. For example if I type "ta" in an email and press enter it types "Thanks Paul". It is a great time saver. Unlike software-specific text replacement features, Texter runs in the Windows system tray and works in any application you're typing in. The link has tutorials on how to use it. *Read more…*

Chartbeat

Chartbeat is a real time monitoring system for looking at web traffic for your site. *Read more…*

Xobni comes out of Beta

Long time readers of this enewsletter will know that Paul is a big fan of Xobni (Inbox spelt backwards) which is a plug in for Outlook that lets you really easily find people, email threads and files exchanged with people. Now it is out of Beta testing and there is an updated version which can be downloaded at the link. *Read more…*

PIPL

The most comprehensive people search on the web. Pipl's query-engine helps you find deep web pages that cannot be found on regular search engines. Unlike a typical search-engine, Pipl is designed to retrieve information from the deep web. We have tried it and it is amazing some of the stuff it drags up. *Read more...*

What's Emerging

Rising fear of a future oil shock

Sharp reductions in investments and low oil prices could curb future supplies by almost eight million barrels a day within the next five years, according to a report by Cambridge Energy Research Associates, an oil consulting firm. *Read more...*

Freedom to surf: workers more productive if allowed to use the internet for leisure

Surfing the net at work for pleasure actually increases our concentration levels and helps make a more productive workforce, according to a new University of Melbourne study. *Read more...*

Vint Cerf: Intelligent power grids

Drawing on his experience and ideas of the internet Vint Cerf shares his thoughts on how to create an intelligent power grid (similar to the internet) which will lead to a major transformation in how we use/produce energy. *Read more...*

Free Stanford course on developing iPhone software – on iPhone

Want to know how to write programs for the iPhone and iPod touch? Beginning this week, a Stanford computer science class on that buzzworthy topic will be available online to the general public for free. The 10-week course, iPhone Application Programming, is a hot ticket. It begins today and videos of the classes will be posted at Stanford on iTunes U two days after each class meeting (http://itunes.stanford.edu). Copies of the slides shown in class will be available there as well. *Read more...*

Special YouTube ads earn nonprofit $10,000 in a single day

Earlier this week YouTube launched a new feature for non-profit organizations called "Call to Action", allowing these organizations to place special overlay ads on their videos free of charge. These overlays can direct viewers to the non-profits' homepage, where users can elect to donate money, sign up for mailing lists, and interact with other members in the community. And unlike typical ads on YouTube (which video uploaders don't generally have control over), non-profits can specify exactly which page they'd like to redirect to. *Read more...*

Smart mob video

Internet technology and its enabling abilities can just be about fun and bringing joy to people. *Read more...*

Brain on a chip?

How does the human brain run itself without any software? Find that out, say European researchers, and a whole new field of neural computing will open up. A prototype 'brain on a chip' is already working. *Read more...*

Terrific survey of free business models online

From Box UK, a survey of business models used by the top Web apps, most of them variations of ad-supported Free and Freemium. *Read more...*

China vies to be world's leader in electric cars

Chinese leaders have adopted a plan aimed at turning the country into one of the leading producers of hybrid and all-electric vehicles within three years, and making it the world leader in electric cars and buses after that. *Read more...*

Do-It-Yourself magazines, cheaply slick

With a new Web service called MagCloud, Hewlett-Packard hopes to make it easier and cheaper to crank out a magazine than running photocopies at the local copy shop. *Read more...*

Gartner says worldwide IT spending to decline 3.8 per cent in 2009

IT spending is experiencing a sharp slowdown across all four key segments of hardware, software, IT services and telecommunications. *Read more...*

Human heart can grow new cells, study finds

It was long thought that the human heart, like the brain, was unable to grow new cells after birth. But scientists have announced the first evidence that new heart cells are made throughout a person's life. *Read more...*

FDA advisory panel recommends approval of VisionCare's implantable telescope

VisionCare Ophthalmic Technologies, Inc., a developer of advanced visual prosthetic devices for individuals with age-related macular degeneration (AMD), today announced the FDA Ophthalmic Devices Advisory Panel unanimously recommended that the FDA approve, with conditions, the premarket application (PMA) for its implantable telescope for End-Stage AMD. The implantable telescope is the first medical device to be recommended by the panel for FDA approval for End-Stage AMD, a leading cause of untreatable blindness in the U.S. *Read more...*

Robot scientist comes up with its own new discoveries

British scientists have unveiled a robot that can make its own scientific discoveries by coming up with hypotheses, designing experiments, and conducting them all on its own. *Read more...*

University offers a master's degree in social media

You're unbelievably good at using Facebook and Twitter but no one is taking you seriously because you don't have papers to prove it? Birmingham City University can solve your problems; as of next year, it'll offer a course in social media, encompassing social networking sites as communications and marketing tools. *Read more...*

Proteins by design: Biochemists create new protein from scratch

Using design and engineering principles learned from nature, a team of biochemists from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine have built – from scratch – a completely new type of protein. This protein can transport oxygen, akin to human neuroglobin, a molecule that carries oxygen in the brain and peripheral nervous system. Some day this approach could be used to make artificial blood for use on the battle field or by emergency-care professionals. *Read more...*

Internet advertising revenues surpass $23 billion in '08, reaching record high

Internet advertising revenues in the U.S. remain strong, topping $23 billion, according to the 2008 Internet Advertising Revenue Report. *Read more...*

The 100 top Web apps for 2008

These are the 100 best Web 2.0 applications, chosen by Webware readers and Internet users across the globe. Over 1.9 million votes were cast to select these Webware 100 winners. *Read more...*

Flickr Co-founder unveils her new start-up: hunch

People have been whispering about a new web application in development called Hunch. Today, Flickr co-founder and Hunch head honcho Caterina Fake divulged some more details about the new project on her blog. The new project aims to become a site that can help anyone make a decision about anything. The way it will do this is through the application of decision trees that are created by contributing users. Using decision trees in expert systems is nothing new, but applying that idea to a crowdsourcing model might possibly be a stroke of genius. *Read more...*

Obama's groundbreaking use of the semantic web

In a revolutionary move, Obama's administration is set to utilise next generation web technologies to bring an unprecedented level of transparency to government. In this case it will shed light on how the roughly US $800 billion dollar economic stimulus will be spent. The recently launched recovery.gov website (powered by nothing other than Drupal) brought with it the promise that citizens would be able to view where the money was going and how it was going to be spent. *Read more...*

Did you know

A great 5 minute video on some interesting facts about computers and the internet and the future. *Read more...*