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## Mid-November 2016

### Welcome to the Mid-November 2016 Edition of What's Emerging

Our apologies for our gaps in sending out the newsletter. We had several technical difficulties with the takeover of our previous email service and then again when we changed to Mail Chimp. Normal email service should now resume.

In the next few weeks Paul will be finalising his work with the Epworth Private Hospital Group on Research strategies, working with the Australian Veterinary Board Council and the Veterinary Schools on the future of veterinary education and regulation, presenting to the New Zealand Business Analysts Institute on the Future of Business Analysts, and working with Moreland City Council on the foresight approaches to their strategic planning.

If any of those approaches interest you then please contact us at [info@emergentfutures.com](mailto:info@emergentfutures.com)

We hope that you continue to find then newsletter interesting.

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

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### What are we writing about?

Paul has written a detailed post on the future of the major supermarkets in Australia (spoiler alert: he thinks they are in big trouble)

You can see the post by going to [www.futuristpaul.com](http://www.futuristpaul.com)

### Business Tips

Evernote: How to Win 2016 with Calendars, Checklists, and Note Links

Long-time subscribers will know we are big fans of Evernote. Here is another tip on how to make it more useful [Read More...](#)

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## Someone Is Learning How to Take Down the Internet

While this is about major internet infrastructure companies it was also a big point of discussion at the Gigaom Change conference that Paul attended. Much more sophisticated attacks that seem to be seeking to map company defences. The key takeaway -make sure your defences are not that obvious or you are exposing yourself and your company. [Read More...](#)

## Smashwords Coupons Enhanced to Enable More Flexible Book Promotions

If you are looking to self-publish Smashwords keeps adding capability and flexibility for authors [Read More...](#)

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

### [Are Tote Bags Really Good for the Environment?](#)

## ■ What's Emerging

### The AI Now Report: social/economic implications of near-future AI

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the National Economic Council convened a symposium at NYU's Information Law Institute in July, and they've released their report: 25 crisp (if slightly wonky) pages on how AI could increase inequality, erode accountability, and lead us into temptation [Read More...](#)

Imagine all those cashback, customer rewards, points, airline miles and loyalty programs in one place: that's blockchain for business

IBM and China UnionPay have piloted a loyalty bonus points exchange among multiple banks using blockchain technology.

[Read More...](#)

Amazingly large split here in worldview. Reminds me of Postrel's The Future and Its Enemies.

Clinton & Trump Supporters See The World Very Differently [Read More...](#)

Bjørn Lomborg centre got \$640,000 for report saying limiting warming rise to 2C not worth it

Australia's education department paid Bjørn Lomborg's Copenhagen Consensus Centre \$640,000 to help produce a report that claimed limiting world temperature increases to 2C was a "poor" use of money. [Read More...](#)

Scientists at SONY CSL Research Laboratory have created the first-ever entire songs composed by Artificial Intelligence: "Daddy's Car" and "Mister Shadow".

The researchers have developed FlowMachines, a system that learns music styles from a huge database of songs. Exploiting unique combinations of style transfer, optimization and interaction techniques, FlowMachines composes novel songs in many styles. [Read More...](#)

### Our Atmosphere Is Leaking Oxygen and Scientists Don't Know Why

It's nothing to lose sleep over—really, I promise—but Earth's atmosphere is leaking oxygen. Atmospheric oxygen levels have dropped by 0.7 percent over the past 800,000 years, and while scientists aren't sure why, they're rather excited about it. [Read More...](#)

Lorn's Anvil music video is a beautiful glimpse into a bleak cyberpunk future

The sky is tuned to a dead channel as drones fly lazily over the metropolis. This is the opening shot of the new music video for Lorn's song Anvil, set in an overpopulated world a century from now. [Read More...](#)

## Bad crop: Global R&D spend reveals alarming trends

RISKS to global food security are growing as public investment in crucial early stage research and development falls among high-income nations and low-income nations, with booming populations, are left dangerously behind. [Read More...](#)

## Can CRISPR–Cas9 Boost Intelligence?

Not now, certainly, but maybe someday—although there are plenty of hurdles to overcome first [Read More...](#)

## Jupiter: New evidence of water plumes on gas giant's moon Europa

More evidence of possible water plumes erupting from the surface of Jupiter's icy moon Europa has been spotted using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, the US space agency says. [Read More...](#)

## Quantum computing: Scientists stop light in a cloud of atoms

They may not be wearing the robes of Jedi warriors but Australian researchers have stopped light, turning a Star Wars scene into reality. [Read More...](#)

## Zika may have been infecting Asians for decades—and many may already be immune to the disease

With its hot and humid climate, Southeast Asia has no shortage of mosquitoes. Many health official fear it will experience a massive outbreak of Zika fever, especially after the number of cases in Singapore jumped from a few dozen to almost 300 in recent weeks. [Read More...](#)

## How curiosity can protect the mind from bias

Kahan and his team were interested in politically biased information processing, but also in studying the audience for scientific documentaries and using this research to help film-makers. They developed two scales. [Read More...](#)

## Largest DDoS attack ever delivered by botnet of hijacked IoT devices

Securing the internet of things should become a major priority now that an army of compromised devices – perhaps 1 million strong - has swamped one of the industry's top distributed denial-of-service protection services. [Read More...](#)

## Machine-learning photo-editor predicts what should be under your brush

In Neural Photo Editing With Introspective Adversarial Networks, a group of University of Edinburgh engineers and a private research colleague describe a method for using “introspective adversarial networks” to edit images in realtime, which they demonstrate in an open project called “Neural Photo Editor” that “enhances” photos by predicting what should be under your brush. [Read More...](#)

Address: Level 27 | 101 Collins Street | Melbourne | VIC 3000  
Phone: +61 3 9018 7917 | Fax: +61 3 9012 3580 | [emergentfutures.com](http://emergentfutures.com)

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