

I.T. Links

From “self-service” to “room service” :
How emerging Information Technology is changing the way we live

“The Future is already here; It’s just not evenly distributed.” --Gibson

By Steve Knode, sknode1@yahoo.com

The Information Overload Problem

Information overload is becoming a real problem for virtually all of us. The amount of information that is being created is now so much more than the recent past, that the challenge of the 21st century might well be how to navigate this growing information “tsunami”. Try <http://www.sims.berkeley.edu/research/projects/how-much-info-2003/> for a tremendous report on just how much information is being created. The amount of information now being generated is truly daunting. According to an earlier report from the same source, as of 2000 each person on earth was generating 250 megabytes of information. (Remember, that includes all the billions of people who are not creating any information!)

Yet many of us continue to utilize the same time-honored approaches we have always used when getting behind in our ability to keep up with necessary information, namely, reading faster, staying at work longer, skimming important articles, etc. It is evident that these strategies will not suffice. There might even be health hazards relating to information overload.

Consider a recent article

(<http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn7298>) which stated that the overload problem could cause more brain damage than marijuana smoking!

I believe that only the use of “intelligent” systems will allow us to deal effectively with the problem.

Links for this Issue

Future - General

- [In the Year 2025](#) This article gives an excellent summary of many of the developments in the world of Artificial Intelligence. It includes a summary of CYC as well as a discussion of chatbots.
- [Computers that Fix Themselves](#) This article will give you a flavor for how neural networks are changing our approach to maintenance. Instead of “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it”, the new mantra will be “fix it before it breaks!”, quite a revolutionary approach.
- [Common Sense Boosts Speech Recognition](#) Speech recognition has come a long way. If you have not tried it, I encourage you to give it a try. Inexpensive software (dragon naturally speaking, for example) can improve your ability to dictate text. Remember: compare it to what you can now do, not what you would like to have!

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Artificial Intelligence

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chatbots.

- [Computers that Fix Themselves](#) This article will give you a flavor for how neural networks are changing our approach to maintenance. Instead of “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it”, the new mantra will be “fix it before it breaks!”, quite a revolutionary approach.

[Common Sense Boosts Speech Recognition](#)

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Special Report: www.REALTOR.com

REALTOR.com is a real estate technology company that offers consumers a comprehensive suite of services, tools and content for all aspects of the residential real estate transaction. The website includes a directory of approximately 800,000 realtors to help guide buyers and sellers through the real estate transaction process.

- Access to iPIX Virtual Tours - virtual tour technology which allows consumers to interact with 360-degree views of properties, essentially allowing them to “walk through” the home while viewing the property online.
- Access to search for homes almost anywhere in the U.S.
- Time savings in the entire search process due to instantaneous service made possible by the digital process

Realtor Advantages

REALTOR.com provides realtors with access to real estate productivity tools including:

- XLERator - an online prospecting tool that enables real estate professionals to market themselves to potential buyers during the earliest stages of the research process when they search for homes on REALTOR.com
- One Place - a suite of products, including a website, that integrates with an interactive voice response system that enables realtors to be paged when a potential homebuyer or seller submits an inquiry about a specific property listing.

Other advantages include:

- Increased efficiency in processing data, storing data, communicating with customers, and reducing advertising costs
- National exposure through web

Disadvantages?

The biggest disadvantage for realtors is that REALTOR.com does not allow any realtor to gain an unfair advantage over another. A realtor cannot promote himself on REALTOR.com. So, while there may be some advantage to being listed amongst the thousands of realtors on REALTOR.com, one cannot stand apart from the crowd and promote oneself.

