

Stunning I.T. Epoch



As a member of the IT generation, share with us your personal experiences and opinion about any IT, as facebook, twitter, online-shopping...

A Word from the Editor



First I'd like to say a big thank you to all those who contributed to this edition and to all those who have stuck with us throughout this year following our editions, but don't quit now there is one more remaining

The next edition will be titled “ **Planning for Success**” , so if you have any tips, ideas and information please feel free to submit it for the next issue by **May 31st** to me at macheri.samuels@gmail.com.

For this issue **Stunning IT Epoch** you will first be treated to a sweet anecdote on the social network, then you will be educated on the e-waste that has been taking place because of this IT Revolution. After you will hear from Regine and Vincent on the influence of the Social Network and the Chinese twitter. Then a brief glimpse of the Stunning IT Epoch through my eyes and some intriguing information about Paris – the Real Marais.

Happy reading everyone ^_^

Macheri Samuels

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Happy Birthday!!



My sweet “anecdote” on the social network

By Kim Anh Le



The social network becomes a phenomenon. Hollywood even made a film with same name to provoke attention from people. After Facebook was born one year, in 2005, Yahoo launched Yahoo! 360, beta version, home of many blogs, photos, stories, links to share with your families and friends. I was fan of Yahoo! 360 from that time, when I was still a student.

I posted a lot: when I hang out with my friends you may see some photos; when I travelled you could share my journeys; when I visited the museums you could recall with me the histories; when I cooked a Vietnamese food you could find its recipe. Evidently, I had friends, real, that means well-established friends, and virtual ones. My virtual friends came from different corners of the world with different backgrounds and different languages. Through my blog on Yahoo! 360, we exchanged our discoveries, our ideas on life, our happiness and sadness, and our home sickness since most of us were studying overseas. I was really happy and excited to hear from the others. When I found a blog I interested in, I just sent a message to ask his or her become my friend. So fast, so easy, just some typing and one click. I always sent a private message to show my intention and my politeness when adding friends. Each morning, the first thing I did was open my laptop, switch it on, read favorite blogs then leave the comments on the articles I was eager to see.

I remembered there were some famous bloggers, one even published her story she wrote on her blog then sold her book with thousands copies making a hot topic in Vietnam at that time. One of my virtual friends recommended me to publish the stories I wrote but I refused. I love sharing, the open sources...

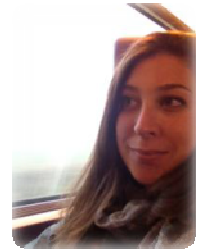
In 2009, Yahoo closed Yahoo! 360 but remained Yahoo! 360plus, a Vietnamese version. I quitted Yahoo! 360 regretfully and switched my account into Facebook. I was unable to “produce” my stories as before. I thought one of those reasons was many virtual friends on Yahoo! 360 created their accounts on other social networks such as Twitter or MySpace so that my habit of reading their blogs was stopped. After all, I realized that I could not find my passion for writing any more.

I called my time with Yahoo! 360 one of “anecdotes” of my life. Yes, it remains with me until I decide to forget it like the birth and the disappearance of one social network.



The Technological Waste

By Lilian KNIJNIK



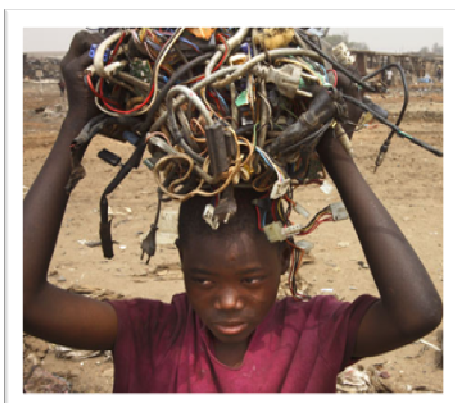
The frenzy in buying new computers, new phones and the latest versions of all types of technologies makes out of the electronic industry the world's largest and fastest growing manufacturing industry. It ends up generating an unsolved matter: The technological waste.



A big reason to the increasing production of that waste is the ***programmed obsolescence***.

The programmed obsolescence was created in the 20's by the American Alfred Sloan, the General Motor's CEO at that time. To attract the customers to change their cars frequently the appeal was to change annually the model and the accessories of the cars. Today, this mechanism happens so naturally that it seems to have existed since ever and it is applied in all sectors of commerce.

The problem with technological waste is that it is not just any waste, it is highly toxic and hazardous, containing heavy metals. But *e-Cycling* is expensive; so hey, let's think of a way of solving the problem of that huge amount of technological trash generated: "some brilliant *developed* minds" have decided to create a world e-waste dump in Africa (mostly in Ghana) and in China. China **produces 2,6 million** tons/year of electronic waste, but it receives from various countries around **35 million** tons/year of that type of waste.



Shipping the high tech trash might not be a bargain, since some studies show that merchandise commercialized back from China to the U.S. are contaminated with lead and other heavy metals. The policies are starting to go a little bit stricter in that field; India is pioneering in public policies, that BRICS member created the first important e-waste world rule by recognizing the electrical and electronic producer's liability for recycling and reducing e-waste in the country. This law, to be enforced in May 2012, left one year for the companies to organize the e-waste collecting centers and to familiarize customers about the hazards of the products and how to proceed. Some electronic companies are also taking some initiatives: HP followed Dell, the first two to decide to not export their own e-waste from rich to poor countries.

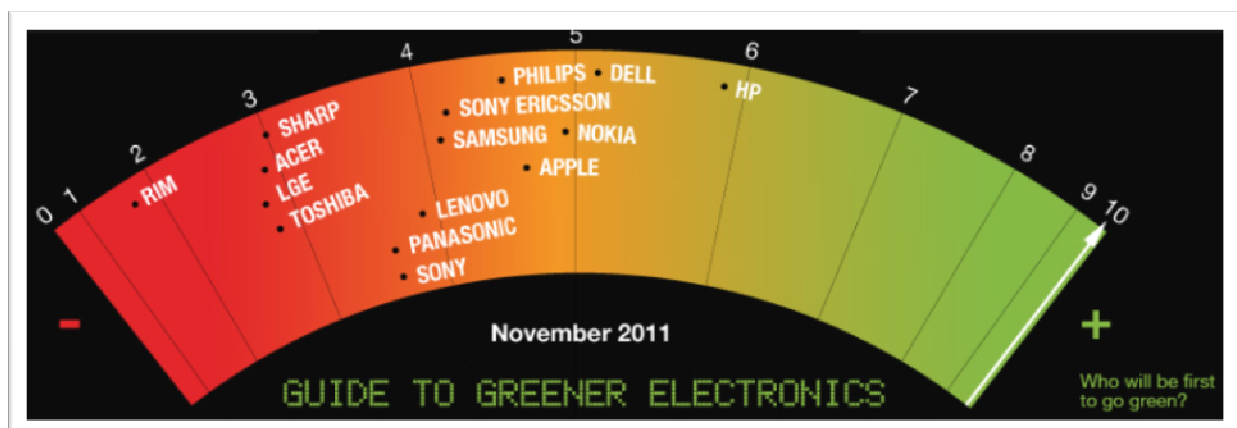
The Greenpeace have long been in that fight; in 2004 it started protesting in a *Greener Electronics Campaign*, exposing and comparing the electronics companies' policies to the world. Greenpeace has been releasing compared rates every year forcing these companies to go in a competition, a "horse race" for greener policies. According to Greenpeace the intent is to make them:



“* Measure and reduce emissions with energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy policy advocacy;

* Make greener, efficient, longer lasting products that are free of hazardous substances;

* Reduce environmental impacts throughout company operations, from materials and energy used to make products right through to global take-back programs for old



products”.

The head of the list is HP, with a 5.9/10 grade. In second place come Dell and thirdly Nokia. Apple that started out as latecomer now belongs in the top, after going up many places and becoming the fourth player, following its investments in sustainable operations, although still scoring weakly on energy issues.

Well... going back to the “disposability” of tech products, I can say that even me, a militant pro-sustainable development have the latest version of the Iphone and I’m totally looking forward to buy the new apple’s laptop MacBook Air Core i7, 1,8GHz, 11 inches!! Why is it that we are trapped in this consumerist net? Well, to be aware, to gain conscience that it is in fact a marketing trick is a first step to be able to control those forged impulses. But there are some things that we are not ready or even not willing to



give up for certain causes. The issue here is the WILLINGNESS. I explain better: I’m from the south of Brazil, we have large green fields where happy cows cattle freely; it is the barbecue land!! Everyone eats a lot of quality, tasty and juicy beef there. And I’m not **willing** to eat less meat, just because cows emit too much CH₄ into the atmosphere. Cows are actually very pollutant! Nor I’m **willing** to travel less to Brazil, just because long distance airplane trips are very pollutant. Supporting the sustainable development is not supporting going back to caves and picking the food that fall down from the trees in order not to pollute. I support the human progress, we don’t need to sacrifice our life quality.

But I do support that we take action, hence not only by the daily recycling, saving water and electricity, but also by requesting companies to be responsible for their actions, just like the initiatives taken by Greenpeace. I also support that high tech products won’t be allowed to bear so many hazardous metals, and that they have a stricter policy about their wastes. That no country would be allowed to export their own computer junk and learn a cleaner way to deal with it. I support that the governments create more incentives so that the customers don’t have to pay 5 times more for an electric car and that they continue to offer public transportation that are less and less dependent on petrol. And I deeply support that one day we could live in that capitalist world in a less consumerist way. Too many things to support, let me first finish writing this article. To find out more:

[http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/campaigns/climate-it/Guide-to-Greener-Electronics/?id=.](http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/campaigns/climate-it/Guide-to-Greener-Electronics/?id=)



The Social Network

By Regine Figueroa

IT has influenced many people now days. As time goes it is fast becoming more and more interesting in some way. Most people spent their time doing these “social network “we call it, example, LinkedIn, is a directory of professionals and companies. Individuals and companies use LinkedIn for networking, job searching, hiring, company research, and connecting with affiliates, including alumni, industry, and a variety of other business related groups. Founded in December 2002 and launched in May 2003, it is mainly used for professional networking. As of 3 November 2011, LinkedIn reports more than 135 million registered users in more than 200 countries and territories. The site is available in English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Romanian, Russian, Turkish and Japanese. Quantcast reports LinkedIn has 21.4 million monthly unique U.S. visitors and 47.6 million globally. In June 2011, LinkedIn had 33.9 million unique visitors, up 63 percent from a year earlier and surpassing MySpace LinkedIn filed for an initial public offering in January 2011 and traded its first shares on May 19, 2011, under the NYSE symbol "LNKD". LinkedIn is totally free ,no cost, It's quick and easy to get started using LinkedIn. You'll need to sign up for LinkedIn and create a LinkedIn profile. Then you'll be able to start using LinkedIn to connect, to network, and to job search and boost your career. It is also a tool for managing online reputation and personal branding. On LinkedIn, there are groups for each network. Choose some network you belong e.g. web marketing and join. Select groups with a greater number of members. One of the most important parts of LinkedIn is your profile. That's what you use to connect with people in your network and your profile is how you get found on LinkedIn, because it contains information about your skills and experience. Of course, the more complete your LinkedIn profile, the more chances you will have to be found and to be contacted. Use your LinkedIn profile like a resume and provide prospective employers with detailed information on your skills and experience

I remember from my past experienced, I was just surfing the site and start reading few lines from different professional experiences , suddenly there's one profile who catches my attention, she's one of active marketing sales supervisor of a luxury hotel in Cannes, France, not knowing she's an ancient college of my cousin. So, I sent her a message and after 1 week she replied and we met for a formal interview and we began to talk about my interests, and she gave me a chance to show my skills. I began to work in luxury hotel and started to meet lots of interesting people, professionals and we exchanged LinkedIn emails . Since then I stayed contact with a lot of friends, professionals thanks to LinkedIn.

www.Linkedin.com

Weibo - The chinese twitter

By XU Zhaohua.



Just 4 months ago, Veronica told me that there was a new social network named "weibo" which is currently popular in China. It is kind of "twitter".

But I didn't give much attention to this "Chinese twitter" thing at that time. Because at that time, in my mind, the Chinese "facebook"--"renren" was the main popular social network. All of my classmates and friends were on "renren", but not "weibo". No need for me to get in another social network.

However, after 4 months, the thing which I am currently doing every day is visiting "weibo". I am beginning to ignore the "renren" just like I ignored the "weibo" before.

What happened?

The very reason is the difference of "news and ideas" sharing system between these two social networks.

"Renren" used the social network system which is almost like facebook. You just can be friend of the person who wants to be your friend. And sharing "news and ideas" between you each other.

Well, as for "weibo", you could get "news and ideas" sharing from any person you want, such as your friends, superstars, the government and so on. As long as you clicked the "caring" button of this person. You could get news and ideas all over the China extremely fast and fresh.

微博系统压力过大
正在抢修，我们深表歉意




See the World Through My Eyes By Macheri Samuels




The word 'epoch' refers to "A particular period of history, especially one considered remarkable or noteworthy." So what do I find most noteworthy in this IT epoch? Two things came to mind immediately. (Bare with me information technology isn't my strongest area).





The irony that though the progress in IT has allowed us to do a lot more today than ever before, but we actually as human beings, do a lot less. Frankly we waste a lot of time doing non-sense. I for one know that I am guilty as I have started to write this article so many times now... in my mind... but I failed to put anything on paper because I was so busy. You know how it is, I had to catch up on the latest episodes of my

favourite tv series, update my  acebook status for not only my profile page but also my fan page. I had to check out what my friends back home were doing and I was so

behind in that game Family Feud. Oh wait a minute *pause* I just had to  weet

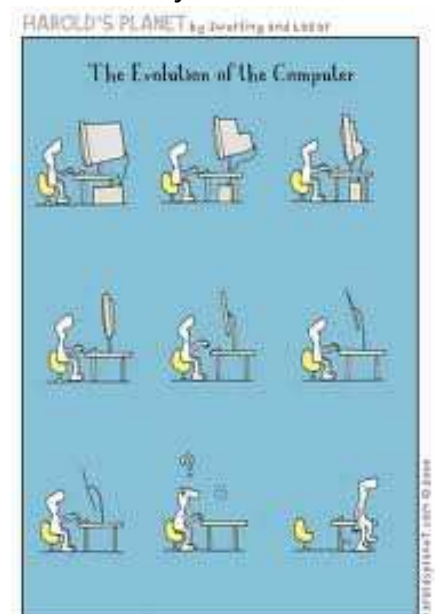
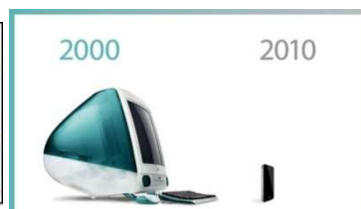
about that. I almost forgot I have a  date in a little while and as I am writing this article I have at least 3 chat windows open on Gmail chat and MSN chat. My life is so busy with emails and text messages to respond to, who has time to do anything. However, I dare not close all these windows, sign out of anything, or turn my phone off because, I might miss something.

According to Uberfacts  (who tweet "the most unimportant things you'll never need to know") Social media causes what is referred to as FOMO- Fear Of Missing Out, psychologist say that this may heighten anxiety and depression. Do you have this?  I do.



Gadgets keep getting smaller

Computers



Phones



This is just a few examples but I'm sure you get the idea. Quite frankly I'm proud of the accomplishments here but I'm worried about my eyes *exasperated sigh* I already wear glasses, imagine me in my old age. What size will these gadgets be????



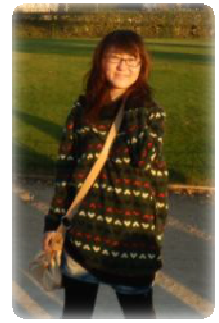
Anyway for humanity and our progress thus far, but it's up to us to decide how we'll use these things. Remember this memorable quote from Spider man, "With great power comes great responsibility"

So catch you next time in the next edition of the newsletter.



Paris – the real Marais

By Liu Binbin



Like Soho to Londoners, Washington Square to New Yorkers and the Royal Mile to the people of Edinburgh, the Marais is mainly a place to take out-of-towners; one more sight, like the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe, to tick off the list.

In just a few words :

The Marais is one of the most ancient and picturesque parts of Paris, characterized by its unique 17th century buildings and elegant stores and restaurants. For visitors who wish to explore Paris on foot, this is an excellent point from which to do so, for the marvellous Marais district includes the Place des Vosges, Picasso Museum, Carnavalet Museum, Hotel de Ville and of course the Louvre.

Lovely neighborhood for explorer

Within walking distance you will have

- Place des Vosges
- Picasso Museum
- Carnavalet Museum
- Hotel de Ville
- Louvre Museum
- Beaubourg Center

The Marais, situated on the Right Bank in roughly the 3rd and 4th Arrondissements, was once a marshland and is a quartier which has retained many of its tiny streets and hints at how old Paris looked. This area was once a centre of high culture.



The center of the Marais, this is a lively neighborhood with a strong alternative lifestyle scene as well as lots of trendy bars, shops, and restaurants. The rue des Rosiers is a centerpiece of Jewish lifestyle in Paris and the Ile St. Louis and the Ile de la Cité are the oldest parts of Paris. Undoubtedly one of the most picturesque districts, the Marais a wonderful place to stroll. Fashionable

bars, shops and restaurants line the streets.

Here you will find the lovely Square Place des Voges, built by Henry IV. From 1832–48 Victor Hugo lived at a house at No 6, which has now been turned into a municipal museum. Today, the arcades



around the place are occupied by expensive galleries and shops, and cafés filled with people drinking little cups of coffee and air-kissing immaculate passersby.

There are several good open air markets, a gigantic covered flea market, and lots of great special food stores, especially along rue de Bretagne. You will also have chances to see many magic street drawing!



The museums of the 3rd are among the best anywhere, including the Musée Picasso which contains both the master's works and his collections. The Musée Carnavalet offers the visitor a large collection of paintings, drawings, sculptures, prints and decorative arts on the history of Paris since its

origins to the present time. Since 1989, the Musée Carnavalet has been considerably enlarged by the addition of the Hôtel Le Pelletier de Saint-Fargeau, the vast 17th century residence situated at 29 rue de Sévigné presenting the major collections devoted to the revolutionary period as well as works from the 19th and 20th centuries.

Museums open time:

As a rule, museums are open from 9 or 10am until 5 or 6pm. Others open later and close at 8 or 9pm. Closing day is most usually Monday or Tuesday, with a few exceptions. Some are even open 7 days a week, such as some of the major monuments which can even be visited as late as 11pm or midnight. Don't forget too that on public holidays many museums and monuments are closed. It's a good idea to check beforehand.



More new events resource

There are 3 specialist magazines that relay the full list of what's on in Paris in French. They are on sale every Wednesday in all newspaper kiosks and newsagents': *Pariscope*, *L'Officiel des spectacles* and *Zurban*.

For English-speakers, try *Time Out*.

Velib rent news



Do you want to have great view in Paris's street without stuck in the metro for only? Common on! Now you can have a chance and at the same time do some excises to relax, also, if sometime you go home too late missed the metro miserably, Velib —

bicyclessevers for Paris public will be your best friend!

Here I'm going to give you some notes about how to rent a Velib in most easy way.

There will be many choices you can choose, but my suggestion will be Sign up for Vélib' Passion for only 29€ per year if you are 14-26 years old, if you are not at that range, it will be 39€ instead, anyway, with which you can use Vélib' as often as you want.



The extra 15 extra minutes will be activated on receipt of the required document (copy of your passport or ID card). If you don't want Velib card, just Activate your long-term subscription on your Navigo pass on line and get cycling right now!

Being afraid of getting lost in Paris maze? Special maps are everywhere for you! You can find them not only

on line but also in every Velib parking place.

For more information:

<http://www.velib.paris.fr/>

night service: <http://blog.velib.paris.fr/blog/velib-et-vous/info-service-nuit-de-la-st-silvestre/>

Let's start our life on bike in Paris!



Belated to

Yao Meng

Zhe Sui

Shu Zang

Aline Barbosa DaCosta

Biyun Dai

Muriele Djeli

Huang Qiushi

Huang Xiaoying



Thi Hai Ha Nguyen

Iretunde Victoria Oshinowo

Feihuang Tan

Yujia Tang

Yewei (Nick) Wang

Sijue (Veronica) Xu

Shendlin Zhang

Zhu Zhu

In Advance

Linglang Xu

Regine Figueroa

Sina Heidari Esfahani

Keija Kang

Han (druid) Qin

Julia Utnitskaya

Zhaohua (Vincent) Xu

Yufan Zhang

