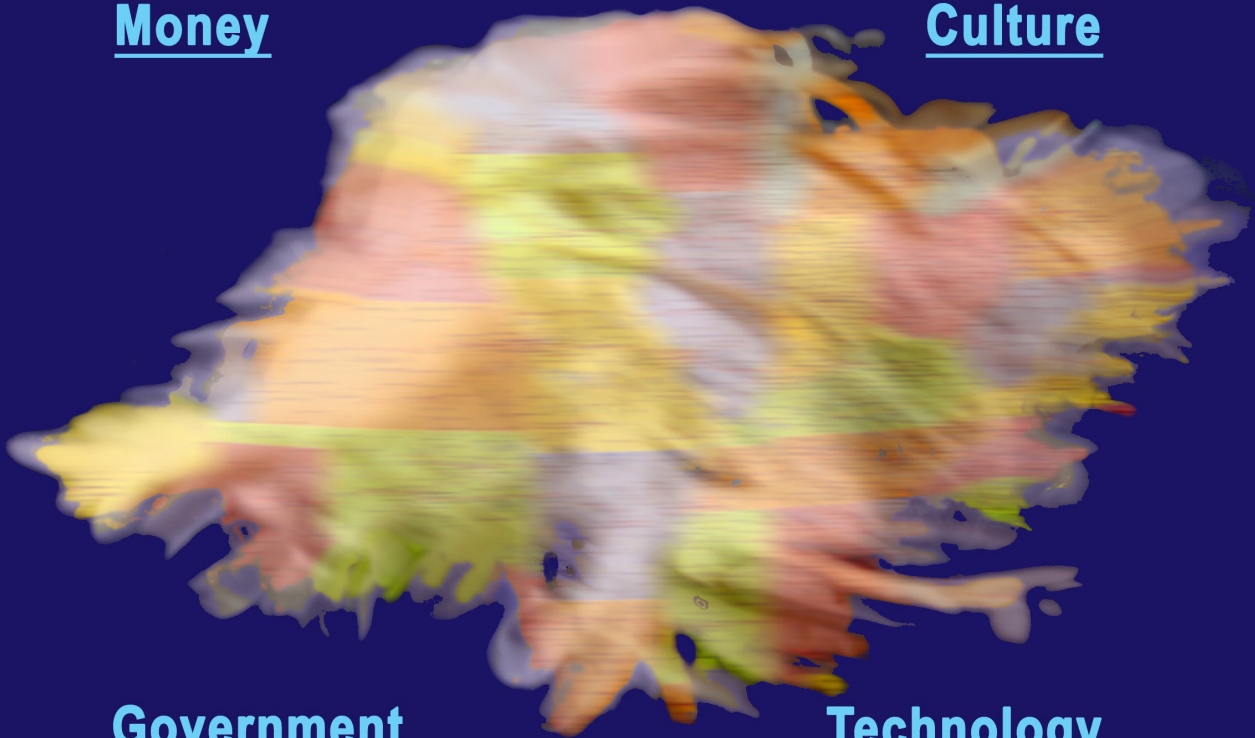


TIM MARSHALL

Money

Culture



Government

Technology

THE
GREAT
UNRAVELING
UPDATES

AUGUST-DECEMBER 2014

Emails of Love to Family and Friends

with live links to sources

Table of Contents

Update August 27: Money, Technology.....	2
Update September 2: Money.....	7
Update September 6: Money, Technology.....	12
Update October 14: Money, Technology, Culture, Government.....	15
Update October 27: Money, Technology, Government.....	24
Update November 11: Money, Technology, Culture, Government.....	29
Update November 20: Money, Technology, Culture.....	36
Update December 14: Money, Technology, Government.....	43

Please visit
www.thefreedomdrivenlife.com

**The Freedom Driven Life: The Case for Freedom
and**

The Great Unraveling

Freedom Driven[®]

UPDATE AUGUST 27

Hello everyone... Today is 08/27/14

At the end of Part 11 of *The Great Unraveling* I said that the playing out of "whoever controls the purse strings, controls the people" is very watchable. That was back on 08/05. As I have shared many times, I do not go looking for this stuff, I come across it in my normal reading.

We're not even out of August yet, and more info is presenting itself.

There are only four articles in this email; two from CNN, one from The Washington Post and one from WND.

First is a chart regarding the move away from cash. The chart shows how far along the various countries of the world are toward being cashless.

The second article is more about how we will transact payments in the future --- near future --- okay, already happening in part.

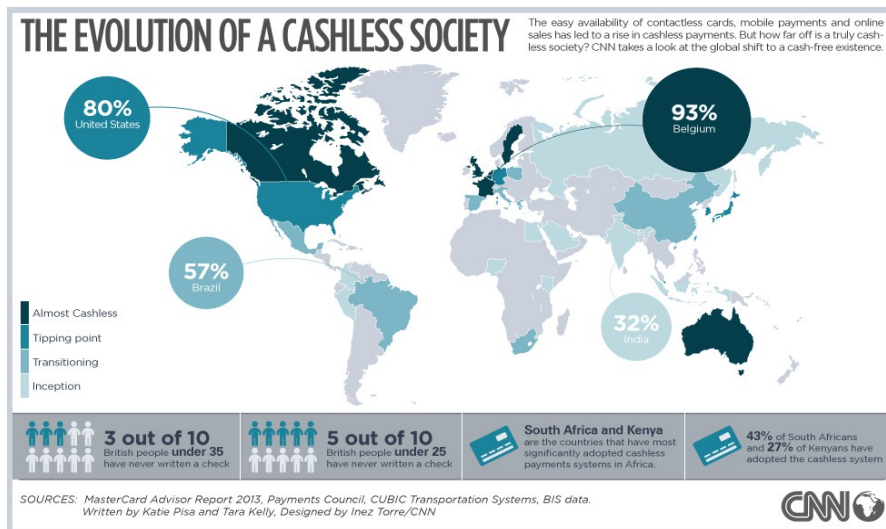
The third is about new technology that is allowing governments all over the planet to track you by your cell phone... on another CONTINENT!

And the fourth was just published yesterday at WND, regarding a new government program to watch what you do and say on Twitter.

Family. Friends. I love you! Get yourself mentally prepared.

Tim

Is a cashless society on the cards? (07/09/14, Tara Kelly and Katie Pisa, CNN)



http://www.cnn.com/2014/07/02/business/is-a-cashless-society-on-the-cards/index.html?iid=article_sidebar

Digital wallets and vein scanners: How we'll pay for things in the future (08/21/14, Teo Kermeliotis, CNN)

Excerpt: If you're in San Francisco, perhaps you waved your smartphone over a payment terminal; if in London, maybe you momentarily tapped your funky-looking wristband on it; if in Nairobi, you probably just sent a text message. And if you're in Lund in Sweden, maybe you simply swiped your palm.

(Further down)

Wave and go

Even though the technology, also known as near field communication (NFC) has been around for several years now, it's only recently that contactless cards have started gathering pace. Last year, a report by Juniper Research said that 249 million cards will be used for contactless payments in 2014, driven by rising adoption in countries like the UK, Australia, Canada and Poland. In Britain alone, spending via contactless payment cards hit £109.2 million last March, up three times compared to a year ago.

"We're starting to see a proliferation of point of sales terminals and contactless cards deployed," says Alex Rolfe, managing director of Payments Cards & Mobile. "That in itself is going to be a critical driver for the next stage," he adds, "which is mobile contactless payments."

(Further down)

Mobile rising

Naturally, mobile is at the heart of this -- and the options already on offer are far from limited.

"With mobile phones," says Clarke, "there's a wide range of different routes that people are taking to see which one is going to be the one that catches on most with consumers and with retailers."

One of them is NFC, which allows customers to use their smartphone as a substitute to contactless cards. Google Wallet and mpass are just some of the mobile applications using NFC -- in fact, the technology has long been touted as the next big thing, but the uptake has been slower than anticipated.

(Further down)

Future is here?

If this all sounds too futuristic for you, how would you feel if you just used your veins to pay for goods? After being used to verify the IDs of smartphone and computer users, as well as in airports and government buildings, biometric systems have also started entering the fast-

moving world of payments.

"With more sensors expected to arrive on the next generation of mobiles and wearables, companies have even more data points to track and recognize individuals," says Luke Edwards, news editor of Pocket-Lint. "This should mean a complex enough biometric security system isn't far off from replacing pin codes, passwords and even keys."

Developed by Swedish engineer Fredrik Leifland, Quixter is a new biometric solution that aims to eliminate the need to carry a card or device completely. It allows you to make a transaction in just a few seconds by determining your ID based on the vein patterns in your palm -- all you need to is enter the last four digits of your phone number and then simply press your hand over the device's sensor.

"Combining biometrics and mobile phones is something that could also take off really well," says Clarke. "Yet, it is very early in terms of saying which one people are going to favor."
<http://www.cnn.com/2014/08/21/tech/how-well-pay-for-things-in-the-future/index.html>

The following article is fairly long, offering details about specific systems, which you may, or may not, find interesting. I have tried to get to the bottom line of the article in the excerpt.

For sale: Systems that can secretly track where cellphone users go around the globe
(08/24/14, Craig Timberg, The Washington Post)

Excerpt: Makers of surveillance systems are offering governments across the world the ability to track the movements of almost anybody who carries a cellphone, whether they are blocks away or on another continent.

(Further down)

Users of such technology type a phone number into a computer portal, which then collects information from the location databases maintained by cellular carriers, company documents show. In this way, the surveillance system learns which cell tower a target is currently using, revealing his or her location to within a few blocks in an urban area or a few miles in a rural one.

(Further down)

Security experts say hackers, sophisticated criminal gangs and nations under sanctions also could use this tracking technology, which operates in a legal gray area. It is illegal in many countries to track people without their consent or a court order, but there is no clear international legal standard for secretly tracking people in other countries, nor is there a global entity with the authority to police potential abuses.

(Further down)

Location tracking is an increasingly common part of modern life. Apps that help you navigate

through a city or find the nearest coffee shop need to know your location. Many people keep tabs on their teenage children — or their spouses — through tracking apps on smartphones. But these forms of tracking require consent; mobile devices typically allow these location features to be blocked if users desire.

Tracking systems built for intelligence services or police, however, are inherently stealthy and difficult — if not impossible — to block. Private surveillance vendors offer government agencies several such technologies, including systems that collect cellular signals from nearby phones and others that use malicious software to trick phones into revealing their locations.

(Further down)

By repeatedly collecting this location data, the tracking systems can show whether a person is walking down a city street or driving down a highway, or whether the person has recently taken a flight to a new city or country.

(Further down)

“People don’t understand how easy it is to spy on them,” said Philippe Langlois, chief executive of P1 Security.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/technology/for-sale-systems-that-can-secretly-track-where-cellphone-users-go-around-the-globe/2014/08/24/f0700e8a-f003-11e3-bf76-447a5df6411f_story.html

'Truthy' joins NSA, IRS in watching you (08/26/14, Bob Unruh, WND)

'Reminiscent of the treachery we witnessed under the Nazi regime'

Excerpt: Americans' telephone conversations already are being monitored by the National Security Agency and their health-care policies by the Internal Revenue Service. Now there's "Truthy," a government-funded project at Indiana University that will watch their Tweets for "political smears" and "social pollution."

The goal is to track those comments.

(Further down)

“For the federal government to be tracking so-called hate speech or subversive propaganda is not only Orwellian but violates the very fundamental rights to free speech and privacy guaranteed to us by the Constitution,” he told WND. “Under such a program, the Founding Fathers would have been under surveillance and probably rounded up for opposing the British government.

“Moreover, encouraging fellow citizens to inform on each other is reminiscent of the treachery we witnessed under the Nazi regime where people were arrested for merely raising questions about government actions. This is clearly an illegitimate use of taxpayer monies.”

(Further down)

The concept of “hate speech” has been used as a political weapon since before Obama became president. But it was his signature that made law the federal “hate crimes” act, which applies special penalties based on person’s beliefs and feelings.

WND reported “hate crimes” and “hate speech” were targeted by two Democratic lawmakers when the Justice Department submitted a report for action against any Internet sites, broadcast, cable television or radio shows determined to advocate or encourage “violent acts.”

Among the organizations that previously have been labeled as “haters” are the World Congress of Families, which promotes the “natural family,” the Drudge Report for covering “black crime” and Joseph Farah, WND founder and CEO, who long has been targeted by Southern Poverty Law Center which has described WND as “the conspiracist ‘news’ site.”
<http://www.wnd.com/2014/08/new-program-joins-nsa-irs-in-watching-you/>

UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2

Hello everyone... Today is 09/02/14

I hope you had a great holiday weekend. Well, there has been a lot going on relating to the United States in just the past couple of weeks, but this is an update of things we have already been looking at in *The Great Unraveling*. Keep in mind that with everything going on the primary focus of the media has been on those other news items, not the things we have been discussing.

The US Dollar losing its status as the global reserve currency

The first is an article updating the agreement between Russia and China to move away from the US dollar as the Reserve Currency. In the previous update post in *The Great Unraveling* Part 10 they were talking about using an alternative currency, and at the time Gazprom was asking their large customers to begin paying their bills using currencies other than the dollar. They are no longer talking about it, they just pulled the trigger.

A possible financial road map to 666

The second is a very long adicle (my term for an Internet informational ad, like its close relative the infomercial on TV). In this case, it is an interview with Jim Rickers, the Financial Threat and Asymmetric Warfare Advisor for both the Pentagon and CIA. The adicle is selling Jim's *The Project Prophecy Wealth Defense Blueprint*. Jim developed the project system for the CIA to foretell impending terrorist events using financial data. I did not include it to promote the package. I found the interview extremely interesting, in light of the strands of *The Great Unraveling* we've been looking at. The information he presents he acquired through his working over decades with the Intelligence Agencies and Project Prophecy. For the excerpt I chose a small portion from the written transcript that is located closer to the end of the interview, like 3/4 of the way through.

Due to Mr. Rickers work the Intelligence Community seems to have determined how things will play out, except they are looking at a 25 year depression. What I found interesting is that he lays out (WITHOUT REALIZING IT, HE HAS A WHOLE DIFFERENT AGENDA) how the 666 prophecy can be fulfilled. The second chart in the excerpt presents 5 flashpoint events the Intelligence folks see playing out. Since Russia has just put into action the move away from the US dollar as the Reserve Currency, we are now entering into Flashpoint 2.

However, from what I have seen, Flashpoint 3 is also already in play. In fact, from other articles I have read, China's clandestine (stealth) gold acquisitions have been going on for a few years.

Eventually, according to Rickers, in Flashpoint 5 a new world currency will be issued by the International Monetary Fund. Rickers says the IMF will "print new currency".

Really? Why?

As we have already seen in *The Great Unraveling*, we are now digital. The IMF will not have to actually 'print' anything; just make an electronic entry and call it money. The primary focus here is not the currency, that's just air, but who controls the currency. We do not know for sure how long it will take to reach Flashpoint 5, however, as you will see, Rickers states that there is a ten year plan that he believes from his research will come to fruition much sooner than ten years. Is he right? We shall see.

Mr. Rickers lays it all out very nicely. If you want to take the time to either listen to the interview or read the transcript in its entirety, it's all there.

As I commented at the beginning of this email there is a lot going on with regard to the US, such as, ISIS, a.k.a. ISIL, and our southern border being suddenly overwhelmed, etc. You know, CRISES. These crises will have an effect on what we have been looking at. For example: ISIS has broadcast that they are already in the US and targeting certain cities. Britain has also been threatened and increased their security warning level. For some reason, the US has not. Keep an eye on things. As a result of these things, life is going to get more difficult and messy in the not-to-distant future.

If you haven't already figured it out, now is a good time to get in the habit of turning toward your family and friends and saying... I love you! These three words are three of the most powerful words in your vocabulary. Wanna see?

Hey... I love you!

Tim

The Nail In The Petrodollar Coffin: Gazprom Begins Accepting Payment For Oil In Ruble, Yuan (08/27/14, Tyler Durden, Zero Hedge)

Excerpt: According to Russia's RIA Novosti, citing business daily Kommersant, Gazprom Neft has agreed to export 80,000 tons of oil from Novoportovskoye field in the Arctic; **it will accept payment in rubles, and will also deliver oil via the Eastern Siberia-Pacific Ocean pipeline (ESPO), accepting payment in Chinese yuan for the transfers.** Meaning Russia will export energy to either Europe or China, and receive payment in either Rubles or Yuan, in effect making the two currencies equivalent as far as the Eurasian axis is concerned, but most importantly, transact completely away from the US dollar thus, finally putin'(sic) in action the move for a Petrodollar-free world.

(Further down)

Still confused? Then read "90% Of Gazprom Clients Have "De-Dollarized", Will Transact In Euro & Renminbi" for just how Gazprom set the stage for the day it finally would push the button to skip the dollar entirely. **Which it just did.**

In conclusion we will merely say what we have said previously, and it touches on what will be the most remarkable aspect of Obama's legacy, because while the hypocrite "progressive" president who even his own people have accused of being a "brown-faced Clinton" after selling out to Wall Street and totally wrecking US foreign policy abroad, is already the worst

president in a century of US history according to public polls, the fitting epitaph will come when the president's policies put an end to dollar hegemony and end the reserve currency status of the dollar once and for all, thereby starting the rapid, and uncontrolled, collapse of the US empire.

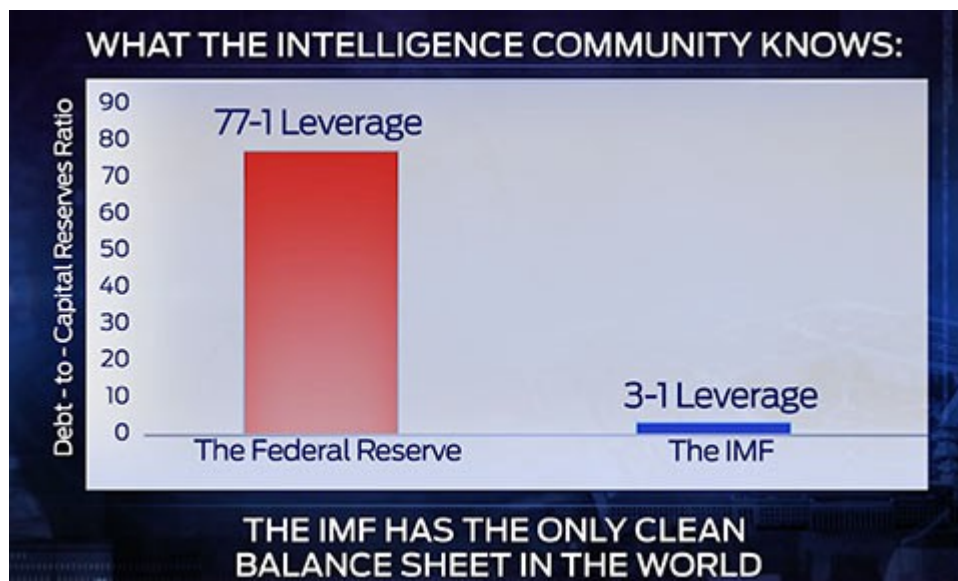
<http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2014-08-27/gazprom-begins-accepting-payment-oil-ruble-yuan>

Many in the U.S. Intelligence Community fear a 25-year Great Depression is unavoidable... (Steve Meyers interviewing Jim Rickers, you can watch the video or if you prefer to read the interview, click on a link to move away from the video page and choose to stay on the written transcription page when asked)

Excerpt: We have a financial panic in the world.

If a central bank has to re-liquefy the world, where is that money going to come from?

It can't come from the Fed, they're leveraged 77-to-1.



There's only one clean balance sheet left in the world... the IMF's.

The IMF, believe it or not, is only leveraged 3-to-1.

When the next crisis comes, it's going to be bigger than the Fed.

The only source of liquidity in the world is going to be the IMF.

Think of it this way.

The Federal Reserve has a printing press, they can print dollars.

The European central bank has a printing press, they can print euros.

The IMF, the International Monetary Fund, has a printing press too.

They can print something called the Special Drawing Right, or the SDR for short.

These SDRs can come along as a new reserve currency.

The reason they came up with the name Special Drawing Right is because if they called it "world money" that would sound a little spooky and scary.

But that's exactly what it is.

Here's the point.

This may be a ten-year plan.

We're not going to make it ten years.

This collapse will happen a lot sooner than that.

So they're going to have to dust off this playbook and run out these SDRs and print trillions of them to prop up the system.

Now, if the Fed bailed out private credit in 2008...

And the IMF now bails out the Fed in the next financial panic...

Who runs the IMF? Who's really in charge?

Well, it's a nice crowd.

We've got kings, dictators, communists...

They're unelected, unaccountable.

And this is the next flashpoint, really, the IMF taking over the world monetary system and becoming the central bank of the world...

Printing "world money" called the SDR.

(Further down)

THE 25-YEAR GREAT DEPRESSION

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY FLASHPOINTS

- #1: ATTACK ON U.S. TREASURY MARKET**
- #2: FALL OF PETRODOLLAR**
- #3: CHINA'S STEALTH GOLD RUN**
- #4: THE COLLAPSE OF CHINA**
- #5: THE IMF'S PLAN TO REPLACE THE DOLLAR**

<http://pro.moneymappress.com/MMRBSSH39/LMMRQ816/?h=true>

UPDATE SEPTEMBER 6

Hello everyone... Today is 09/06/14

I'm sending this email out to get ahead of this coming week. Right off the bat, it is the 13th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. There has been much going on this past week. The Islamic State (ISIS, ISIL) has been very busy, both in the middle east and at our southern border. At this moment, Texas seems to be the target. We'll have to see if 9/11 (or this week) comes and goes without incident. In the meantime, we have an update for strands of the Great Unraveling we've been looking at.

This time we have the hi-tech strand and the financial strand bonding closer together. This coming Tuesday Apple will announce it's next generation iPhone. And what is its primary selling point? The cell phone will also be a mobile wallet. Now owners of the new iPhone will be able to securely pay for items in stores with the touch of a finger.

Meanwhile, speaking of Apple security, last Sunday somebody supposedly hacked into 101 accounts (mostly celebrity) (okay, mostly female celebrity) located on Apple's iCloud and stole nude pictures of the celebrities from their accounts and started to put them online for the world to see. I say supposedly because only a small portion of the 101 celebrities listed publicly by the hacker were actually posted, and many of those were fakes. I am including it because it is a great ironic incident within the context of our discussion leading up to Apple's new iPhone/wallet for secure shopping. Most of the article is about the celebrities responses. For our purposes, in the excerpt I have tried to stay on point with the actual hacking.

And lastly, this past week it was discovered that there are some fake cellphone towers all over the US. Their apparent purpose is to collect cellphone data: calls and texts. According to the article they seem to be mostly located near US military bases, and they are not NSA. It is an addition to what we have already looked at. More info on this will probably come out in the near future.

Hey, you're my family and friends. I love you guys! Be ready for anything and nothing this coming week; particularly you guys down in Texas.

Tim

Apple Teaming Up With Visa, MasterCard on iPhone Wallet (09/01/14, Matt Townsend, Bloomberg)

Excerpt: Apple Inc. (AAPL) plans to turn its next iPhone into a mobile wallet through a partnership with major payment networks, banks and retailers, according a person familiar with the situation.

The agreement includes Visa Inc. (V), MasterCard Inc. (MA) and American Express Co. (AXP) and will be unveiled on Sept. 9 along with the next iPhone, said the person, who asked not to be identified because the talks are private.

The new iPhone will make mobile payment easier by including a near-field communication

chip for the first time, the person said. That advancement along with Touch ID, a fingerprint recognition reader that debuted on the most recent iPhone, will allow consumers to securely pay for items in a store with the touch of a finger.

(Further down)

Apple's move is also about generating more revenue from the roughly 800 million global iTunes accounts, which include payment information, that have already been created, said Richard Crone, chief executive officer of Crone Consulting LLC, which advises retailers and banks on mobile-payment solutions.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-08-31/apple-said-to-team-with-visa-mastercard-on-iphone-wallet.html>

Kirsten Dunst leads celeb anger at Apple over hacked photos (09/01/14, David McCormack and Paul Chavez and Sophie Jane Evans and Zoe Szathmary, Mail Online)
Excerpt: Kirsten Dunst has become the first celebrity to publicly criticize Apple after it emerged that a flaw in the 'Find My iPhone' function of its iCloud service may have helped an unknown hacker steal nude photos of her and '100 other celebrities'.

The Spiderman star tweeted 'Thank you iCloud' along with icons representing a slice of pizza and a pile of poo on Monday afternoon, the day after naked photos of her were published online.

The supposed hacker behind the scandal has claimed that they broke into stars' iCloud accounts, including those of Dunst, Hunger Games actress Jennifer Lawrence, Kate Upton and Rihanna, before publishing them on 4chan, the image-sharing forum.

(Further down)

'We take user privacy very seriously and are actively investigating this report,' Apple spokeswoman Natalie Kerris told MailOnline.

Despite the story breaking on Sunday night, Apple is still yet to confirm or deny whether its software was the target of the hacking.

However, in the meantime, it has quietly issued a 'patch', or fix, for the bug.

Launched in October 2011, the firm's iCloud service is now used by more than 320million people worldwide.

When activated, it automatically stores users' photos, emails, documents and other information in a 'cloud', allowing them to sync the data across a range of platforms. These include iPhones, iPads and MacBooks.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2740034/Kirsten-Dunst-leads-criticism-company-actively-investigates-claims-hundreds-stars-nude-images-stolen-iCloud.html>

Mysterious Fake Cellphone Towers Are Intercepting Calls All Over The US (09/03/14,

Jack Dutton, Business Insider)

Excerpt: Seventeen fake cellphone towers were discovered across the U.S. last week, according to a report in Popular Science.

Rather than offering you cellphone service, the towers appear to be connecting to nearby phones, bypassing their encryption, and either tapping calls or reading texts.

Les Goldsmith, the CEO of ESD America, used ESD's CryptoPhone 500 to detect 17 bogus cellphone towers. ESD is a leading American defense and law enforcement technology provider based in Las Vegas.

(Further down)

ComputerWorld points out that the fake towers give themselves away by crushing down the performance of your phone from 4G to 2G while the intercept is taking place. So if you see your phone operating on a slow download signal while you're near a military base ... maybe make that call from somewhere else.

In an amazing coincidence, police departments in a handful of U.S. cities have been operating "Stingray" or "Hailstorm" towers, which — you guessed it — conduct surveillance on mobile phone activity. They do that by jamming mobile phone signals, forcing phones to drop down from 4G and 3G network bands to the older, more insecure 2G band.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/mysterious-fake-cellphone-towers-intercepting-162645809.html>

UPDATE OCTOBER 14

Hello everyone... Today is 10/14/14

Is there enough CRISIS going on? Remember, CRISIS, real or manufactured, is the magic catalyst for implementing all kinds of government policy, for the people and against the people. In simple terms: Freedom is either the goal, or it's not.

If you had the chance to read *The Great Unraveling* emails, no comment by me is necessary regarding this update. The articles pretty much speak for themselves. For the most part, I have put them in order by date published, or close.

Love you guys,

Tim

5 Banking Services That Will Be Obsolete in 10 Years (06/03/14, Casey Bond, GoBankingRates)

Excerpt: John Cooke of BankFive in Fall River, Mass., told GOBankingRates that in the next 10 years, “most delivery channels will be moving into the digital realm, especially paper-based account services such as paper checks, paper statements, passbook accounts, etc.”

Additionally, as more transactions are completed via debit, mobile and person-to-person (P2P) payment apps, Cooke said these technologies will replace many services commonly performed in-branch.

“These trends won’t just be adopted for urbanites,” he added. “As branches consolidate in the U.S., more rural areas may be located further from local branches. Their reliance on such technology will be crucial for everyday banking.”

So what does this mean for the future of banking? The emergence of cost-effective, convenient digital services combined with shrinking branch numbers will contribute to the extinction of several common banking services over the next several years.

5 Banking Services About to Disappear

1. In-Branch Services
2. Check Writing and Cashing
3. Paper of Any Kind
4. Traditional Bank Tellers
5. Face-to-Face Asset Management

http://www.gobankingrates.com/banking/5-bank-services-obsolete-10-years/?utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=cpc&utm_content=wnd

LA County to collect more personal data without public notice (09/24/14, Ali Winston, The Center for Investigative Reporting)

Excerpt: Without notice to the public, Los Angeles County law enforcement officials are preparing to widen what personal information they collect from people they encounter in the field and in jail – by building a massive database of iris scans, fingerprints, mug shots, palm prints and, potentially, voice recordings.

The new database of personal information – dubbed a multimodal biometric identification system – would augment the county's existing database of fingerprint records and create the largest law enforcement repository outside of the FBI of so-called next-generation biometric identification, according to county sheriff's department documents.

(Further down)

All of this is happening without hearings or public input, yet technology companies already are bidding to build the system, interviews and documents show. Officials would not disclose the expected cost of the project or which companies are bidding but said it would be a multimillion-dollar undertaking.

(Further down)

According to federal guidelines for the storage of biometric data in Next Generation Identification, information on an individual with a criminal record will be kept until that person is 99 years old. Information on a person without a criminal record will be purged when he or she turns 75.

(Further down)

Bibring said the new database, if paired with facial recognition-enabled surveillance cameras, could drastically increase law enforcement's ability to track a person's movements just as license-plate readers track vehicles.

"The federal government is creating an architecture that will make it easy to identify where people are and were," Bibring said. "It threatens people's anonymity and ability to move about without being monitored."

(Further down)

Khan, of the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition, said such sensitive information in the hands of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department raises further questions about oversight and information security.

"When we look at the multiple contractors and subcontractors and who will have access to this information," he said, "the whole issue of identity theft comes to mind."

<https://beta.cironline.org/reports/la-county-to-collect-more-personal-data-without-public-notice/>

US threat to British online privacy (09/27/14, David Barrett and Philip Sherwell, The Telegraph)

Private information stored online by British computer users could be scrutinised by American law enforcement agencies under new 'right-to-snoop' rule

Excerpt: Federal authorities in the US are using the courts to try to force American-owned technology companies to disclose emails and other data held in the "Cloud" - the vast network of servers where data is stored for customers.

The claim would require companies such as Microsoft, Apple and Google to open up all their electronic records to agencies - such as the CIA, the NSA and the FBI – even if it is stored in Europe rather than on US soil.

(Further down)

If the US government wins the case, data stored by British customers in the "Cloud" would be open to inspection by American investigators.

It would also affect details held about people in this country even if they never use the internet, as companies and even government departments use the services of American-owned companies to hold information in the "Cloud".

The insecure nature of "Cloud" storage has already been highlighted by the disclosure of intimate pictures of more than 100 Hollywood actors, such as Jennifer Lawrence, and other celebrities after they were stolen by hackers from Apple's iCloud service.

(Further down)

Gus Hosein, of the campaign group Privacy International, said the case proved that the US Government had a "voracious appetite for other people's data".

It could affect the whole range of information stored online – not just personal emails but financial information and even health records, he said.

"The US Government is saying that it has jurisdiction around the world and it can get access to your data wherever you are," said Mr Hosein.

"That is why this court case is such a worrying development because the scope for spying on people's personal business is vast."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/11125962/US-threat-to-British-online-privacy.html>

Inventor of World Wide Web warns of threat to internet (09/27/14, AFP, Yahoo News)

Excerpt: Tim Berners-Lee, a computer scientist who invented the web 25 years ago, called for a bill of rights that would guarantee the independence of the internet and ensure users' privacy.

"If a company can control your access to the internet, if they can control which websites they go to, then they have tremendous control over your life," Berners-Lee said at the London "Web We Want" festival on the future of the internet.

"If a Government can block you going to, for example, the opposition's political pages, then they can give you a blinkered view of reality to keep themselves in power."

"Suddenly the power to abuse the open internet has become so tempting both for government and big companies."

http://news.yahoo.com/inventor-world-wide-warns-threat-internet-224455080.html;_ylt=AwrTWf2ygCdUCj8AYIfQtDMD

Hackers charged with stealing over \$100m in US army and Xbox technology (09/30/14, Nicky Woolf, The Guardian)

Indictment unsealed on Tuesday reveals Department of Justice charged four people in international computer hacking ring

Excerpt: Four men have been charged with breaking into the computer systems of Microsoft, the US army and leading games manufacturers, as part of an alleged international hacking ring that netted more than \$100m in intellectual property, the US Department of Justice said on Tuesday.

The four, aged between 18 and 28, are alleged to have stolen Xbox technology, Apache helicopter training software and pre-release copies of games such as Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3, according to an indictment dating from April that was unsealed on Tuesday.

(Further down)

"These were extremely sophisticated hackers ... Don't be fooled by their ages," assistant US attorney Ed McAndrew said after a court hearing on Tuesday.

<http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2014/sep/30/four-hackers-charged-stealing-xbox-army-technology>

Record world debt could trigger new financial crisis, Geneva report warns (09/29/14, Phillip Inman, The Guardian)

Concerted effort required to tackle economic woes as slow growth and low inflation cause global debts to balloon

Excerpt: Modest falls in household debt in the UK and the rest of Europe have been offset by a credit binge in Asia that has pushed global private and public debt to a new high in the past year, according to the 16th annual Geneva report.

The total burden of world debt, excluding the financial sector, has risen from 180% of global output in 2008 to 212% last year, according to the report.

(Further down)

Arguing that the European central bank had taken several mis-steps in efforts to orchestrate a

broader revival, it said: “Further procrastination in implementing these by now urgent policy measures would risk, in the medium term, the resurgence of pressures on the sustainability of the eurozone itself.

“Contrary to widely held beliefs, the world has not yet begun to de-lever and the global debt to GDP ratio is still growing, breaking new highs.”

A lack of sustainable growth dates to the 1980s, according to the Geneva economists, who document the rise of debt-fuelled household and government spending over the past 30 years. After the financial crisis, debts increased dramatically in the west, but efforts to reduce them have been outstripped by a rise in borrowing across Asia.

Similarly to an earlier BIS report, the Geneva economists are particularly worried by a borrowing binge in China, which they said Beijing should reduce, though this would slow growth and have a negative knock-on effect on global recovery.

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/sep/29/record-world-debt-financial-crisis-eurozone-geneva-report>

Elephant in the Room Minsky Moment (09/28/14, Guest post: Steen Jakobsen, chief economist of Saxo bank, Mish's Global Economic Trend Analysis)

Excerpt: Short put, we're still working with the same dog-eared script we were introduced to all of five years ago, when markets had stabilized in the wake of the financial crisis: maintain sufficiently low interest rates to service the debt burden. Pretend to have credible plan, but never address the structural problem and simply buy more time. But while we were able to get away with this theme for an awfully long time, the dynamic is now changing as the risk of low inflation (and even deflation) is a brick wall for the extend-and-pretend meme. Yes, interest does grow without rain, and the cost of maintaining and servicing debt grows especially fast in a deflationary regime.

(Further down)

Whatever the timing, the USA, China and Europe are all headed for another Minsky moment: the point in debt inflation where the cash generated by assets is insufficient to service the debt taken on to acquire the asset. The US productivity growth last year was +0.36%. The real growth per capita was about 1.5%. Anything which is not productivity is consumption of capital. So, the only way to grow an economy without productivity growth is temporarily with the use of debt – about 75% debt and 25% productivity growth in this case.

Since the 1970s, US productivity growth rates have fallen 81% - the move onto the internet has ironically made us bigger consumers and less productive. Had we remained at pre-1970s productivity, the US GDP would have been 55% higher and the outstanding debt to GDP would be easily fundable.

I just returned from Singapore on business – Singapore, to me, used to be the most rational business model around. Its founder Lee Kuan Yew was one of the greatest statesmen in history. Now, productivity is collapsing in Singapore. They are, like us, becoming the Monaco of the world, an economy based on consumption and not on productivity and growth. The

developed economies are growing old in demographic terms, but we're still not wise enough to realize that our current model is a Ponzi scheme rushing toward its inevitable Minsky moment. No serious policymaker or central banker is talking about the truth told by simple maths and hoping that things turn out well. Hope is not good policy and it belongs in church, not in the real economy.

<http://globaleconomicanalysis.blogspot.co.uk/2014/09/elephant-in-room-minsky-moment.html>

The following article is pretty lengthy, covering a number of items relating to the implementation of FATCA. You remember FATCA. It went into effect July 1. I took a section of a section for the excerpt, there's a lot more. Also, as I read through the entire article, I was struck with FATCA's potential to be a precursor leading to the fulfillment of the 666 prophecy.

'I was terrified we'd lose all our money': banks tell US customers they won't work with Americans (09/24/14, Siri Srinivas, The Guardian)

Thousands of Americans abroad are giving up their citizenship as the implementation of a complex new tax law causes banks to shut down accounts for US expatriates

Excerpt: In February this year, the US and Canadian governments signed an intergovernmental agreement to co-operate on Fatca. The Foreign Accounts Taxation Compliance Act required all foreign banks to disclose the financial information of any American with assets over \$50,000 sitting in banks outside of the US.

Steep penalties add muscle to the law. If a foreign bank – not just in Canada, but anywhere – fails to report even a single US citizen as a customer to the IRS, the US Treasury department would withhold 30% of the banks' US income as penalty.

Foreign banks, some of whom earned a reputation as tax scofflaws, are now deeply afraid of the Internal Revenue Service.

The US government is policing foreign banks aggressively as it comes down hard on any company that helps tax evaders, money launderers and other criminals.

Scared of running afoul of US banking laws, foreign banks are taking extreme steps to limit US citizens to a narrow range of services.

The result for expats has been a chaotic brew of closed bank accounts, mysterious excuses and a scramble to find local banks that would allow them to park their money.

<http://www.theguardian.com/money/2014/sep/24/americans-chased-by-irs-give-up-citizenship-after-being-forced-out-of-bank-accounts>

Will bureaucracy bury the Bitcoin? (10/01/14, Phil Elmore, WND)

Excerpt: Despite lingering uncertainty over its stability and security, the virtual currency Bitcoin continues to make strides toward mainstream legitimacy. This week, Boston-based Circle, what the Guardian calls a "Bitcoin bank," opened to the public after extensive development. "The service ... is one of the most aggressive attempts so far to take Bitcoin payments mainstream. ... Users can transfer cash in using a bank account or debit card, which is then converted into Bitcoin by Circle, and they can spend their Bitcoins online or in

physical shops with ease.” The new service intends to compete directly with online payment giants like PayPal. Whether this can be accomplished given Bitcoin’s numerous security and legal liabilities remains to be seen.

(Further down)

“Opponents of Bitcoin, including governments, both federal and state here in the U.S. and national governments elsewhere, face a dilemma,” explains Martin Tillier. “They disparage the crypto-currency by claiming that it is not a currency at all, just some artificial creation without worth, but this assertion presents them with a problem. If Bitcoin is not a currency and has no intrinsic value, how do you regulate it and, more tellingly, how do you enforce those regulations?”

(Further down)

Martin Tillier, however, sees crypto-currencies as the future of commerce, despite their significant growing pains. “The financial world is littered with examples of fraud and theft, and governments have a duty to protect, so some legally enshrined protection is probably warranted. That protection can only come, though, once governments make it clear that Bitcoin is a currency, not some crazy speculative game. To be fair, most countries around the world seem to be doing just that. Most of the published verdicts of governments around the world take the form that they do not regard Bitcoin as legal tender, but they recognize its status as a currency. Incidentally, the whole “legal tender” thing can be misleading to some. That a currency is not legal tender doesn’t make it worthless; it simply means that merchants are not obliged to accept it in payment.”

http://www.wnd.com/2014/10/will-bureaucracy-bury-the-bitcoin/?cat_orig=money

Cyberattack Against JPMorgan Chase Affects 76 Million Households (10/02/14, Jessica Silver-Greenberg, Matthew Goldstein and Nicole Perlroth, The New York Times)

Excerpt: A cyberattack this summer on JPMorgan Chase compromised the accounts of 76 million households and seven million small businesses, a tally that dwarfs previous estimates by the bank and puts the intrusion among the largest ever.

The details of the breach — disclosed in a securities filing on Thursday — emerge at a time when consumer confidence in the digital operations of corporate America has already been shaken. Target, Home Depot and a number of other retailers have sustained major data breaches. Last year, the information of 40 million cardholders and 70 million others were compromised at Target, while an attack at Home Depot in September affected 56 million cards.

But unlike retailers, JPMorgan, as the largest bank in the nation, has financial information in its computer systems that goes beyond customers’ credit card details and potentially includes more sensitive data.

(Further down)

Operating overseas, the hackers gained access to the names, addresses, phone numbers and emails of JPMorgan account holders. In its regulatory filing on Thursday, JPMorgan said that there was no evidence that account information, including passwords or Social Security numbers, had been taken. The bank also noted that there was no evidence of fraud involving the use of customer information.

(Further down)

Hackers drilled deep into the bank's vast computer systems, reaching more than 90 servers, the people with knowledge of the investigation said. As they analyze the contours of the breach, investigators in law enforcement remain puzzled, partly because there is no evidence that the attackers looted any money from customer accounts.

That lack of any apparent profit motive has generated speculation among the law enforcement officials and security experts that the hackers, which some thought to be from Southern Europe, may have been sponsored by elements of the Russian government, the people with knowledge of the investigation said.

(Further down)

The initial discovery of the hack sent chills down Wall Street and prompted an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The bank was also forced to update its regulators, including the Federal Reserve, on the extent of the breach.

Faced with the rising threat of online crime, JPMorgan has said it plans to spend \$250 million on digital security annually, but had been losing many of its security staff to other banks over the last year, with others expected to leave soon.

http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2014/10/02/jpmorgan-discovers-further-cyber-security-issues/?_php=true&_type=blogs&_php=true&_type=blogs&_php=true&_type=blogs&module=Notification&version=BreakingNews®ion=FixedTop&action=Click&contentCollection=BreakingNews&contentID=21122396&pgtype=article&_r=2&

US Slips to 12th in Economic Freedom (10/12/14, Mike Flynn, Breitbart)

Excerpt: The 10 freest economies in the world are: Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, Switzerland, Mauritius, United Arab Emirates, Canada, Australia, Jordan, and Chile and Finland tied for 10th.

America's descent down the ladder of economic freedom is unsettling, in itself. More troubling, however, is the chief factor behind the US decline. The biggest drop in US economic freedom has been in the country's legal structure. The report notes that, "increased use of eminent domain to transfer property to powerful political interests, the ramifications of the wars on terrorism and drugs, and the violation of the property rights of bondholders in the auto-bailout case have weakened the tradition of strong adherence to the rule of law in United States."

The rule of law has long been the foundation of America's economic prosperity and liberty. The US ranking in this area has plummeted to a terrible 36th place in the world. This,

combined with increased regulation is stifling US economic growth. The report observes, "[t]o a large degree, the United States has experienced a significant move away from rule of law and toward a highly regulated, politicized, and heavily policed state."

<http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2014/10/10/US-Slips-to-12th-in-Economic-Freedom>

UPDATE OCTOBER 27

Hello everyone... Today is 10/27/14

Money. Culture. Government. Technology. Four entirely separate areas of our lives. Or are they?

All of the articles in this update, at first glance, seem to be about Money and Technology, having nothing to do with the other two. The truth is that in our "inter-connected" world, activity in one automatically eventually affects the other three. With everyone, and everything we do, being converted into an electronic digitally connected environment, we are all becoming integrated. Conceptually think of yourself in the "connected" world as a workstation in a business that is connected to the network.

For the past 34 years I have been helping companies to electronically integrate their previously separate manual systems; with the accounting systems being the centerpiece. I am now watching the same dynamics for systems integration in companies happening to our world overall - at the individual level - as we continue to develop into a global society connected 24/07, with electronic/digital money transactions being the centerpiece. Not the only focus, but the centerpiece.

The resulting system structure actually forces a reduction, a limitation on individuality; which is also a limitation of personal Freedom. Within a networked integrated system it is unavoidable. And here's the part nobody is considering: in an electronic/digital system, the system is whatever the programmers have designed the software running the system to be. For the end-user (us/you), the system is what it is. Every created thing has a purpose, so what is the ultimate purpose of the interconnected electronic system we have/are creating for ourselves? Oh, and one important aspect of any electronic network is that it is closed architecture that requires security; everything on or in the network must conform to the network design. This is the way things will be done. You are either an asset to the network or you are a liability. If you work for a company that has a computer network, try doing anything you want to your workstation, especially if it creates a problem for the network, then watch how long it takes for the network supervisor to come give you a warning or suggest you be fired. Does Facebook or Twitter allow you to do anything/say anything you want?

If you are thinking that this is no big deal, what happens to people when they are DEEMED a liability to the connected system? It can work both ways depending on the ultimate intended purpose of the system being created... or how it is eventually used. The intended purpose at creation may get derailed or redirected into an entirely different purpose along the way. This can happen because of abuse by the users or become abuse by those in charge.

I have put the articles in order by date. Note that the first one is dated 10/16. In the big picture you can see "us" - people - people all over the world trying to come up with solutions to cyber crime in all its forms. Having watched how all of this has come about and gotten worse, even with solution after solution being devised and implemented, cyber crime continues and is becoming a bigger and bigger problem. That big Technology problem then also affects the Culture, which activates the Government, which is expected to overcome the problem and

keep the people secure. How is Government going to get control of an out-of-control crisis situation? As I have shared many times, there are only so many (very limited) scenarios for this to play out.

In *The Great Unraveling* and updates that have followed, take notice of the fight and the arguments taking place between law enforcement (Government) and Technology and our rights. It is a huge unavoidable mess.

Love you guys,

Tim

As Cyber Crime Grows, Buy This Firm? (10/16/14, Marty Biancuzzo, Wall St. Daily)
Excerpt: Every year, this threat costs companies and consumers \$100 billion in losses.

Around 12 people fall victim to this menace – every second, according to Russia’s Bureau of Special Technical Measures.

In a Kaspersky Labs and B2B International survey, 62% of people claim it has directly impacted their finances.

In fact, the FBI says it’s becoming the No. 1 terrorist threat against the United States.

(Further down)

“The Bad Guys Are Winning”

If you haven’t guessed yet, I’m talking about the nightmare that is cyber crime.

This year, we’ve seen high-profile cyber attacks on eBay (EBAY) and PayPal, Snapchat, plus Silk Road hacking the Bitcoin market and making off with \$2.7-million worth of Bitcoins.

“The bad guys are winning,” concludes Verizon’s (VZ) 2014 Data Breach Investigations Act.

With the incredible growth of mobile devices and more people connected to the internet, there no doubt that cyber crime will continue to rise.

<http://www.wallstreetdaily.com/2014/10/16/chaos-system-fireeye/>

Surveillance-Proof (10/17/14, Judith Miller, City Journal)

Technology companies take heat for making phones the government can’t tap.

Excerpt: Law enforcement officials in New York and Washington criticized technology superpowers Google and Apple this week for selling cell phones and other devices that cannot be accessed by the government, warning that such technology jeopardizes public safety. In his first major policy address, FBI director James B. Comey called on Congress and the Obama administration to counter the expanding use of such devices, which he and other law enforcement officials assert endanger efforts to prevent terrorism and fight crime. Without

lawful government access to cell phones and Internet devices, Comey warned, “homicide cases could be stalled, suspects could walk free, and child exploitation victims might not be identified or recovered.”

(Further down)

Concern in Washington about such technology has been increasing. Comey’s predecessor, Robert Mueller, asked Congress to force communications companies to sell only devices and systems that can comply with a wiretap order to intercept and unscramble encrypted messages. That effort went nowhere on Capitol Hill, and suspicion of government spying soared following Snowden’s revelations. First Apple and then Google announced that they would use encryption on new phones that wouldn’t permit them to help police execute warrants to examine data on a cell phone or other device.

(Further down)

But technology experts have argued that strong default encryption is needed to protect users from unwanted violation of their private data by governments and hackers alike. In a statement yesterday, Nuala O’Connor, president of the Center for Democracy and Technology, defended the encryption of cell phone and other personal communications devices. Law enforcement officials, she said, have “many legitimate ways to obtain the data stored on our devices. Weakening the security of smartphones and trusted communications infrastructure should not be one of them.”

<http://www.city-journal.org/2014/eon1017jm.html>

FBI Director Warns Google and Apple "If You Don't Decrypt Phones, We'll Do It For You" (10/18/14, Mike Shedlock, Mish's Global Economic Trend Analysis)

Excerpt: The Fourth Amendment to the US Constitution is crystal clear in meaning.

(Further down)

FBI Director, James Comey, an Obama appointment, does not give a damn what the Constitution says.

In a recent speech, Comey warns If Apple and Google Won't Decrypt Phones, We'll Force Them To

(Further down)

A safe that cannot be cracked and a door that cannot be opened except by the rightful owner is precisely what everyone should want. It's what the Constitution explicitly states. Instead, Comey wants the right to read your papers and search your effects.

<http://globeconomicanalysis.blogspot.com/2014/10/fbi-director-warns-google-and-apple-if.html>

High-speed phone calls, image recognition and a smartphone that’s SUPPOSED to bend: The 10 tech trends ready to take off in 2015 (10/20/14, Victoria Woollaston,

Mailonline)

Excerpt: - 2015 will see an increase in alternative charging methods for phones
- Devices will be charged using energy generated by human bodies
- Contact lenses will become tiny displays - and could replace the TV
- Cheap sky-high Wi-Fi and calls will launch across all airlines
- Apple and Samsung will face competition from DIY and modular devices
- Everyday smart cars will predict traffic before accidents happen
- And virtual reality will extend into schools, shops and hospitals

SEARCHING SET TO BECOME MORE HUMAN

Google is already able to understand context in a similar way to a human, and this will improve throughout 2015.

Its image recognition identifies objects, even when they're obscured by another, using its beta GoogLeNet detection software.

And faces in a crowd will be identified in the same way we instantly recognise someone we know.

STAYING CONNECTED WHEN OFFLINE

In regions where few people are online, Multipeer Connectivity Framework (MCF) is set to become more widespread.

MCF connects phones and lets users send messages to each other within 30ft (9 metres) by creating a localised network.

Apple added this feature to iOS 7, the free FireChat iOS app uses MCF, and more firms are likely to introduce it during 2015.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2781893/high-speed-phone-calls-image-recognition-smartphone-s-supposed-bend-10-tech-trends-ready-2015.html>

Revealed: The top ten online scams - and how one victim lost his money to fraudsters who conned all his Facebook friends too... (10/21/14, Lee Boyce, Mailonline)

Excerpt: The ten biggest online scams lost victims across the country £670million over the last year – and this figure is likely to be far higher due to unreported cases, National Fraud Intelligence Bureau data reveals.

The case of a victim known only as Chris, who had thousands stolen by fraudsters who simply rang his bank to gain details and also conned his Facebook friends into sending money too, is highlighted by Get Safe Online Week, which started yesterday.

It comes as a study found half of those who have been a victim of cyber fraud – which includes ID theft, economic losses, hacking and viruses - said they felt either 'very' or 'extremely violated' by their ordeal.

The survey also revealed 53 per cent of the population now view online crimes as seriously as 'physical world' crimes, destroying the notion internet fraud is 'faceless' and of less importance than other offences.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/news/article-2801328/top-ten-online-scams-fraudsters-stole-victim-s-money-conned-facebook-friends-too.html>

Is Staples the latest retailer to be hacked? Office supply store looks into 'potential' credit card breach (10/21/14, Associated Press and MailOnline Reporter, Mailonline)

Excerpt: Staples is looking into a 'potential' credit card data breach - in what could be the latest case of a mega retailer falling victim to hackers.

The office supplier retailer said it has been in touch with law enforcement officials about the issue.

It comes just over a week since Kmart joined an increasingly long line of retailers who have suffered massive credit card breaches this year, including Home Depot.

(Further down)

Earlier this month Sears Holdings Corp. reported a data breach at its Kmart stores.

Other breaches have occurred at retailers including Target, Neiman Marcus, P.F. Chang's, Supervalu and Home Depot.

At Home Depot, 56 million customer credit cards were put at risk of theft by data-stealing malware that had avoided detection.

Target also suffered a huge hack last year, leaving the credit card data of 40 million customers - and personal information of 70 million more - exposed to fraudsters.

In a bid to avoid such hacks, the government has called for a move to more secure chip-and-pin technology, encouraging stores to stop relying on magnetic strip payment cards.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2801495/Staples-investigating-possible-data-breach.html>

UPDATE NOVEMBER 11

As we have also seen, the financial and technology players we have been looking at are absolutely in bed with political players, and are, therefore, beyond political remedy.

Additionally, the financial industry, using the hi-tech industry, will function regardless of who is in office and what the agenda is of the party in power. It always has. That principle is not just for the US, we can apply it to every country around the world.

(The Great Unraveling, Part 11)

Hello everyone... Today is 11/11/14

Okay, the elections are over, changes are in the works and here we go!

What do you feel about the elections last week? Are you happy with the outcome? Not happy?

Keep an eye how those who are leaving office and those who work for them exit. Graciously, or deplorably.

I have a concern about people's expectations. It is the very difficult age-old question: What do you want?

If we apply that to last week's elections, the American people spoke loudly giving control of both chambers of Congress to the Republicans, as well as other offices across the states. But the question still remains: What do you want? And, do those representing you (even those you voted for) want the same thing(s) as you? In other words, was the outcome of the elections just a big STOP sign? Or was the outcome of the election the voice of the people saying we want to proactively move forward in a specific direction? We have determined that the road we were going down was the wrong road and we the people have decided and agreed together to go down another road, that we believe is the right road... this time.

You see the problem? My concern is that the outcome was the people putting on the brakes but not necessarily knowing how to move forward.

If what I am saying sounds a bit vague, that's exactly my point, it is totally vague. Ask any married couple how this dynamic works. Often a spouse will say what they don't want or like, but never says what they do want or like, leaving the other spouse wondering how to proceed. If the couple is experimenting with something or discussing something with a goal in mind, that's one thing. But when it is neither of those, things just come to an uncomfortable halt. Specifically, what is it that you want? If there is no specific communication on either side, talking or listening, assumptions are made. Quite often, wrong assumptions.

How should we, as a united people, move forward? Just saying you don't want what the Democrats have been doing and voting Republicans into power does not necessarily say anything about what is wanted, only what isn't wanted; particularly when the game only allows voting for one or the other. If you want to stop the direction one is taking us, great, put on the

brakes by voting for the other. But how did the ones being voted out get into office to begin with? Based on party affiliation: in prior elections they were voted in over the ones we are now putting back in control. You see, our statements are more about what we don't want, rather than what we want. Like the married couple, are we working toward a goal or just stating what we don't like, leaving our action up for interpretation and assumptions?

Ultimately, in all of it, are we pursuing, promoting and protecting Freedom? Is Freedom what we want? Be careful how you answer. As I have pointed out many times, when I ask individuals or groups how far are they willing to go for Freedom, most respond with great conviction that they are willing to die for Freedom. And my next question is: Are you willing to live for Freedom? Freedom is for the living.

To our Veterans: THANK YOU!

Family. Friends. Love you guys!

Tim

19 Very Surprising Facts About The Messed Up State Of The U.S. Economy (10/20/14, Michael Snyder, The Economic Collapse)

Excerpt: Sadly, the vast majority of Americans still have absolutely no idea what is being done to our economy. For those out there that still believe that we are doing "just fine", here are 19 more facts about the messed up state of the U.S. economy...

#1 After accounting for inflation, median household income in the United States is 8 percent lower than it was when the last recession started in 2007.

#2 The number of part-time workers in America has increased by 54 percent since the last recession began in December 2007. Meanwhile, the number of full-time jobs has dropped by more than a million over that same time period.

#3 More than 7 million Americans that are currently working part-time jobs would actually like to have full-time jobs.

#4 The jobs gained during this "recovery" pay an average of 23 percent less than the jobs that were lost during the last recession.

#5 The number of unemployed workers that have completely given up looking for work is twice as high now as it was when the last recession began in December 2007.

#6 When the last recession began, about 17 percent of all unemployed workers had been out of work for six months or longer. Today, that number sits at just above 34 percent.

#7 Due to a lack of decent jobs, half of all college graduates are still relying on their parents financially when they are two years out of school.

#8 According to a new method of calculating poverty devised by the U.S. Census Bureau, the

state of California currently has a poverty rate of 23.4 percent.

#9 According to the New York Times, the "typical American household" is now worth 36 percent less than it was worth a decade ago.

#10 In 2007, the average household in the top 5 percent had 16.5 times as much wealth as the average household overall. But now the average household in the top 5 percent has 24 times as much wealth as the average household overall.

#11 In an absolutely stunning development, the rate of small business ownership in the United States has plunged to an all-time low.

#12 Subprime loans now make up 31 percent of all auto loans in America. Didn't that end up really badly when the housing industry tried the same thing?

#13 The average cost of producing a barrel of shale oil in the United States is approximately 85 dollars. Now that the price of oil is starting to slip under that number, the "shale boom" in America could turn into a bust very rapidly.

#14 On a purchasing power basis, China now actually has a larger economy than the United States does.

#15 It is hard to believe, but there are 49 million people that are dealing with food insecurity in America today.

#16 There are six banks in the United States that pretty much everyone agrees fit into the "too big to fail" category. Five of them have more than 40 trillion dollars of exposure to derivatives.

#17 The 113 top earning employees at the Federal Reserve headquarters in Washington D.C. make an average of \$246,506 a year. It turns out that ruining the U.S. economy is a very lucrative profession.

#18 We are told that the federal deficit is under control, but the truth is that the U.S. national debt increased by more than a trillion dollars during fiscal year 2014.

#19 An astounding 40 million dollars has been spent just on vacations for Barack Obama and his family. Perhaps he figures that if we are going down as a nation anyway, he might as well enjoy the ride.

If our economy truly was "recovering", there would be lots of good paying middle class jobs available.

But that is not the case at all.

I know so many people in their prime working years that spend day after day searching for a job. Most of them never seem to get anywhere. It isn't because they don't have anything to offer. It is just that the labor market is absolutely saturated with qualified job seekers.

Law Lets I.R.S. Seize Accounts on Suspicion, No Crime Required (10/25/14, Shaila Dewan, The New York Times)

Excerpt: ARNOLDS PARK, Iowa — For almost 40 years, Carole Hinders has dished out Mexican specialties at her modest cash-only restaurant. For just as long, she deposited the earnings at a small bank branch a block away — until last year, when two tax agents knocked on her door and informed her that they had seized her checking account, almost \$33,000.

The Internal Revenue Service agents did not accuse Ms. Hinders of money laundering or cheating on her taxes — in fact, she has not been charged with any crime. Instead, the money was seized solely because she had deposited less than \$10,000 at a time, which they viewed as an attempt to avoid triggering a required government report.

(Further down)

Using a law designed to catch drug traffickers, racketeers and terrorists by tracking their cash, the government has gone after run-of-the-mill business owners and wage earners without so much as an allegation that they have committed serious crimes. The government can take the money without ever filing a criminal complaint, and the owners are left to prove they are innocent. Many give up.

“They’re going after people who are really not criminals,” said David Smith, a former federal prosecutor who is now a forfeiture expert and lawyer in Virginia. “They’re middle-class citizens who have never had any trouble with the law.”

(Further down)

But the Institute for Justice, a Washington-based public interest law firm that is seeking to reform civil forfeiture practices, analyzed structuring data from the I.R.S., which made 639 seizures in 2012, up from 114 in 2005. Only one in five was prosecuted as a criminal structuring case.

The practice has swept up dairy farmers in Maryland, an Army sergeant in Virginia saving for his children’s college education and Ms. Hinders, 67, who has borrowed money, strained her credit cards and taken out a second mortgage to keep her restaurant going.

Their money was seized under an increasingly controversial area of law known as civil asset forfeiture, which allows law enforcement agents to take property they suspect of being tied to crime even if no criminal charges are filed. Law enforcement agencies get to keep a share of whatever is forfeited.

(Further down)

Army Sgt. Jeff Cortazzo of Arlington, Va., began saving for his daughters’ college costs during the financial crisis, when many banks were failing. He stored cash first in his basement and

then in a safe-deposit box. All of the money came from paychecks, he said, but he worried that when he deposited it in a bank, he would be forced to pay taxes on the money again. So he asked the bank teller what to do.

“She said: ‘Oh, that’s easy. You just have to deposit less than \$10,000.’”

The government seized \$66,000; settling cost Sergeant Cortazzo \$21,000. As a result, the eldest of his three daughters had to delay college by a year.

“Why didn’t the teller tell me that was illegal?” he said. “I would have just plopped the whole thing in the account and been done with it.”

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/26/us/law-lets-irs-seize-accounts-on-suspicion-no-crime-required.html?_r=2

The following article is an extremely interesting look at what is going on for the Millennials, and for me easy to read because it is mostly pictures... charts. Take a moment to read the actual article. There is more to it than just homeownership.

US Homeownership Rate Drops To 1983 Levels: Here's Why (10/28/14, Tyler Durden, Zero Hedge)

Excerpt: The last time US homeownership declined down to 64.4% (which the Census Bureau just reported is what US homeownership declined to from 64.7% in Q2), was back in the fourth quarter of 1983.

(Further down)

Of course, those who have been following real-time rental market trends would be all too aware there is no rebound coming to the homeownership rate. The reason is simple: increasingly fewer can afford to buy, instead having no choice but to rent, which in turn has pushed the median asking rent to record highs. In fact in the past two quarters, the asking rent was just \$10 shy of its time highs at \$756 per month.

(Further down)

Yes, in theory, in a normal world, demand should increase over time. But the world is anything but normal.

Enter: the **Millennials**.

For the benefit of a very confused Bank of America, and everyone else who missed out weeked chart porn on the financial state of the Millennial, here are some of the key charts which explain why owning a home in the US has become a mirage for an entire generation of Americans. Incidentally, the largest generation in US history.

<http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2014-10-28/us-homeownership-rate-drops-1983-levels-heres-why>

The world economy is flying with only one engine (11/02/14, Nouriel Roubini, The Guardian)

Excerpt: So the question is whether and for how long the global economy can remain aloft on a single engine. Weakness in the rest of the world implies a stronger dollar, which will invariably weaken US growth. The deeper the slowdown in other countries and the higher the dollar rises, the less the US will be able to decouple from the funk everywhere else, even if domestic demand seems robust.

(Further down)

Furthermore, the Fed has now exited quantitative easing and is showing a willingness to start raising policy rates sooner than markets expected. If the Fed does not postpone rate increases until the global economic weather clears, it risks an aborted takeoff – the fate of many economies in the last few years.

(Further down)

Fortunately, rising geopolitical risks – a Middle East on fire, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Hong Kong's turmoil, and China's territorial disputes with its neighbors – together with geo-economic threats from, say, Ebola and global climate change, have not yet led to financial contagion. Nonetheless, they are slowing down capital spending and consumption, given the option value of waiting during uncertain times.

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/nov/02/world-economy-flying-one-engine-us-growth>

Original headline:

Manipulating the Consumer Price Index: Hedonic Quality Adjustments (11/04/14, The Consumer Price Illusion)

Headline for Zero Hedge:

The Magic Of CPI: Watch How Economists Transform A 400% Price Increase Into A 7.1% Decline (11/06/14, Tyler Durden, Zero Hedge)

Excerpt: Have you heard the one about CPI?

Suppose that a TV manufacturer retires a product and replaces it with a newer, better, and much more expensive one. **If the new TV costs 5 times more than the old one, how can we manipulate the hell out of the price of the old TV to make it look like the price fell? By using the dark arts of econometrics, my son!**

If you believe the public comments made by the world's central bankers, the prices that consumers pay for items are not rising fast enough; in some places like Europe they worry that prices might actually fall (a tragedy for the possessing classes, as their manic one-way long bets might not work then).

Central bankers are terrified of this outcome. Setting aside for a second the apparent insanity of this logic for your average consumer, who experiences price rises on a near continuous basis, let's examine in detail one of the jokes gauges economists use for measuring prices: the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

(Further down)

Oh good! You see, my neighbor, John Q., thought that prices were going up and was about to riot in the streets because he couldn't buy anything now. How relieved he was to live next to an economist and mathematician; **I merely explained that even though he couldn't afford the new TV (or anything else) it was actually less expensive once quality was taken into account.** Boy was his face red. He went home and explained it to his wife and kids and they laughed and laughed about their mistake.

Few modern people would consider progress to be a bad thing. Quality improvements should be celebrated and technological change embraced. Yet when a policymaker says that she wants inflation to pick up and trots out the CPI as evidence, she doesn't care whether that comes about from actual price inflation or quality decreases. **Given the accelerating pace of technological improvements, it's hard to imagine an outcome besides hyperinflation that will satisfy central bankers and their slavish dependence on indicators which have been so far abstracted from reality as to have little actionable value.**

Alternatively, **causing a complete economic meltdown by manipulating the price of money and inflating the mother of all bubbles will probably slow down technological development,** so either way, ~~fuek you John Q~~ well played.

(Further down)

More than likely the deflation is used as cover for the [agency problem](#) faced by central bankers every day. Most market practitioners know we are in a classic debt-fueled bubble initiated by wildly loose monetary policy – central bankers included. **Given that the public will rightfully blame policymakers when the bubble bursts, no central banker wants to run the risk that it pops on their watch. That would make them look stupid, and might endanger their future lives as highly paid consultants. In that context printing endless supplies of money makes perfect sense.**

<http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2014-11-06/magic-cpi-watch-how-economists-transform-400-price-increase-71-decline>

UPDATE NOVEMBER 20

The one thing I have learned through it all is that God, our Creator, loves us and is still in control, even when it seems otherwise. He is also the source of Freedom. God's the go-to-guy if you want access to Freedom in your life.

So, my beautiful nieces and nephews, my dear friends of the X, Y and Z generations and my wonderful children, too, I love you! I want the best for you. You are being set up by things put in place decades ago (a century ago) that can no longer be artificially propped up and are now unraveling; and by people of today who are using the destructive fallout to accomplish their own malevolent agendas. Freedom is not their agenda. Their agendas are not for your benefit, even though they may proclaim they are, with a straight face no less. (All been done before. See the list of tyrants above.)

As things continue to unravel, who will the fingers be pointed at to blame? You.

It's already happening. What I am telling you has been repeated over and over again throughout history. Today is your time in history. Get ready.

If I sound overly dramatic, I understand. I get it. However, things can only play out so many ways, and the scenarios are very limited. Therefore, as we travel forward on the historical timeline a little further, just remember what I am saying to you right now.

(The Great Unraveling, Part 1)

Hello everyone... Today is 11/20/14

This update is about Society, Government and Technology. The articles pretty much speak for themselves, so any comments I've made are with each article.

Hope all is well, and that you are going to have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Love you guys!

Tim

Bill Bonner paints a little more historical detail onto the 20th Century canvas we began in *The Freedom Driven Life: The Case for Freedom* and continued in *The Great Unraveling*. What do you think, is our picture becoming more hi-resolution? Are you ready to hang it in your living room?

“Hi, This Is Michelle Obama...” (11/04/14, Bill Bonner, Bonner & Partners)

Excerpt: In the Wall Street Journal last week our spirits were buoyed when we realized that we had more life left than we thought. New figures show a man who reaches age 65 will likely live to be 86.6 years old – a full two years more than the last forecast.

Two more years? What will we do with them?

Run for public office? Learn a foreign language? Rob a liquor store and serve 24 months in jail?

Wait. There must be a cloud to go with this silver lining. “The new estimates [...] could eventually increase retirement liabilities by roughly 7%,” says the Journal.

(Further down)

Modern government demands more fraud than force. Capitalism depends on complex, trusting relationships and long-term fixed investments. Stealing things outright disrupts it. Output goes down. Nations that have no respect for the requirements of capitalism have weak economies. And weak economies can't afford much firepower.

That was what led China and Russia to abandon their Communist creeds in the late 20th century. Command economies are weak economies, and weak economies can't compete militarily.

Wolves and Lambs

After the French Revolution, almost all major countries found they needed to make the common people feel that they were in charge of government.

And after Bismarck, political parties found they needed to offer the voters some form of social welfare. Otherwise, they faced a “revolt of the masses.”

That is what turned today's governments into huge kleptocratic insurance companies. They run grossly inefficient health care and pension programs; the elites steal a large part of the cash flow (sugar subsidies, QE, Fannie Mae, pharmaceuticals, bailouts, etc.).

This model has worked reasonably well for the last 150 years. Capitalists added more meat to the average man's diet and more leisure to his time. Wealthier, he demanded... and was able to support... increasingly ambitious insurance programs.

But Bismarck's model reached its peak in the last half of the 20th century. In Europe and the US, substantial real income gains ended in the 1970s. The old Fords and Rockefellers were gone. And the new capitalists were so fettered with taxes, rules and regulations that they found it hard to move ahead.

Debt and demography, too, reduced growth rates. But people still wanted more benefits. They looked to the government and the credit industry to supply them. Presidents Johnson and Nixon cut the dollar loose from gold in 1968 and 1971 – making it possible to go deeper into debt than ever before.

As benefits rose, the more important they became to the people receiving them... and the more costly they became to the governments. Politicians found they could not raise taxes or cut benefits. All they could do was borrow more.

As is recounted superbly by former Reagan budget adviser David Stockman, in the fight for balanced budgets in the early 1980s the Republican Party took a dive.

Thereafter, there was no serious opposition to deficits. By early in the 21st century, more than half of the voters were receiving support from the government. The wolves outnumbered the lambs at the polling stations; the dinner menu was a foregone conclusion.

(Further down)

And now – with graying populations, falling birthrates, heavy debt and slow growth – claims rise. The insurance company model is headed for a bust.

The good news from last week's life expectancy numbers is that we have a good chance of living long enough to see it.

<http://bonnerandpartners.com/hi-michelle-obama-voters/>

Dear Millenials, when you look back at history and shake your head and laugh, or cry, or get angry at the stupid things the Boomers did, or thought they wanted... well... read this article. It'll help you keep things in perspective.

Generation WiFi wants brains hooked to Internet (11/12/14, Leo Hohmann, WND)

'You will have a God-like feeling of how people are thinking and feeling'

Excerpt: According to a survey by tech giant Cisco Systems, about a fourth of professionals ages 18 to 50 would leap at the chance to get a surgical brain implant that allowed them to instantly link their thoughts to the Internet.

The study was conducted on 3,700 adults working in white-collar jobs in 15 countries.

“Assuming a company invented a brain implant that made the World Wide Web instantly accessible to their thoughts, roughly one-quarter would move forward with the operation,” the study found.

(Further down)

The study posed dozens of technology-related questions to professionals in 15 countries including the U.S., Japan, China, Russia and France.

“I really think it's the cool factor. When they see something that's cutting-edge, they really don't stop to think about the implications,” said Liz McIntyre, a privacy expert and co-author of the book, “Spychips: How Major Corporations and Government Plan to Track Your Every Purchase and Watch Your Every Move.”

(Further down)

She said many people have become “brainwashed by the industry” to the point where they think they can't live without being connected to the Internet.

(Further down)

“So you will have a God-like feeling of how people are thinking and feeling at all times. It will get to a point where you won’t have a choice. People will become more like machines,” McIntyre said. “There will be a central intelligence, and they will all act on it. You’re part of it. You talk about mind control? Everything will be known. Everything will be part of this collective, and if you don’t participate you won’t have a place in this civil society.

(Further down)

McIntyre, who speaks on technology and privacy issues around the world, said the people with whom she comes in contact are not so eager to be chipped with an RFID, let alone a brain implant that would connect their thoughts with cyberspace.

“You know, when I talk to real people every day, they don’t want implants,” she said. “Even tech people, privately they’re a little bit scared. I have people come up to me wherever I go saying, ‘You know I would have said something, but I work for this company or that company,’ and they have real concerns but are prevented by their job constraints from saying anything. It’s really not normal (to be so accepting).”

Katherine Albrecht, co-author of “Spychips” and founder/director of Consumers Against Supermarket Privacy Invasion and Numbering, said she also has doubts about the credibility of Cisco’s study.

In 2005 she interviewed hundreds of people for her doctoral dissertation at Harvard University and asked them if they would be willing to take an RFID implant.

But the number of people open to such an extreme fusion of technology with the human body could very well be growing.

Albrecht said many younger people have been brought up to think all technology is “cool,” and they’ve also become less sensitive to what she calls “body modifications.”

“We’ve got piercings. We’ve got tattoos. We’ve got implants, people putting silicon in their bodies, implanting weird things,” she said. “In Japan, there is a trend for putting a doughnut shape in your forehead, so the younger generation has been desensitized to this body modification.”

But she still doubts that 26 percent of Gen Y’ers are ready for brain implants, as the Cisco survey suggests.

(Further down)

Charlotte Iserbyt, former education adviser to President Ronald Reagan and author of the book, “The Deliberate Dumbing Down of America,” took up the Cisco study this week in her blog, “ABCs of Dumb Down.”

When one-fourth of a couple of generations is willing to line up for brain implants, the implications are chilling, she wrote.

“The article describes an addiction of proportions in which substance addiction pales by comparison,” Iserbyt wrote. “Imagine what the statistics may be with current young generations whose lives are shaped by addiction to technology from infancy through formative years of schooling dominated by ever more intrusive cyber ‘learning.’

“Prediction being fulfilled and even going beyond the book, ‘1984’ (but 30 years later) with willing humanity so controlled that people volunteer to subject themselves to physical implants to ensure connection to their slave masters?”

http://www.wnd.com/2014/11/generation-wifi-wants-brains-hooked-to-internet/?cat_orig=us

In *The Great Unraveling* we very clearly saw the intrusion into our privacy by the government(s) within our hi-tech way of doing things. Part 11 included an article about how a guy sending child porn in his email was caught by Google because they scan all emails that go through their servers. The article made it sound like Google scanning (reading) everyone's email was a good thing, simply because they caught a bad guy. I asked if the Post Office did the same thing with our hard-copy mail, would that be good too? This article continues the discussion.

'Fed up with dragnet government surveillance' (11/13/14, Bob Unruh, WND)

New email security option announced at privacy conference

Excerpt: Yahoo, Google and Apple all claim they have a right to read your email. Google even sent out a notice to system users about how it does it. And we all know the federal government is collecting untold quantities of information about Americans from the Web.

And then there are the hackers.

So what would consumers think of having access to encrypted email, giving them control over who can read their messages?

We're about to find out, based on an announcement at the fifth annual Privacy Identity Innovation conference, called pii2014 Silicon Valley, at the Crowne Plaza Palo Alto hotel.

There, StartMail.com announced the launch of a private email service that includes revolutionary, one-click, PGP – or Pretty Good Privacy – encryption.

Already, there have been more than 20,000 requests for subscriptions to the service.

“It's time people start using encryption for their everyday communications,” said CEO Robert Beens. “So we've made it easy. StartMail is Web-based, supports IMAP, and has great privacy tools like disposable email addresses and Q&A encryption.”

(Further down)

Katherine Albrecht, whose work on privacy includes the groundbreaking “Spychips” book,

called the development of accessible encryption for emails “Big Brother’s biggest nightmare.”

“Emails of millions of people will suddenly be private, out of their view,” she told WND. “Here’s the reason why this is important. ... Not only do companies read emails, there are these vacuum cleaner programs that sweep up everything.”

“After 15 years of warning people about the invasion of privacy,” she said. “It’s exciting to have a product to recommend.”

<http://www.wnd.com/2014/11/fed-up-with-dragnet-government-surveillance/>

Obama's never-ending spy machine hits critical mass (11/14/14, Larry Klayman, WND)

Exclusive: Larry Klayman is outraged over latest cellphone snooping revelation

Excerpt: During the oral argument of Nov. 4, 2014, concerning the appeal of a case Freedom Watch and I brought against President Barack Hussein Obama, his National Security Agency (NSA) and other government and individual defendants over their illegal and unconstitutional surveillance of the telephonic metadata of nearly all Americans (14-cv-5004, 14-cv-5005, 14-cv-5016 and 14-5017, see www.freedomwatchusa.org), the legal counsel of the U.S.

Department of Justice predictably lied to the three-judge panel. This Obama Justice Department lawyer told the judges, in no uncertain terms, that the NSA does not access the records of ordinary Americans by using identifying information unless there is a reasonable suspicion that a person is in contact with terrorists or is in the act of committing a crime.

(Further down)

Now, just a few days after our brief was submitted, a new secret Obama spy program has been revealed, this one being run primarily by – you guessed it – the same Justice Department that has become a criminal enterprise for the president and the intelligence communities’ tyrannical acts to keep Americans enslaved to their corrupt whims and wishes to rule over us as they see fit. Here is what Fox News reported just last Friday:

“The Justice Department is scooping up data from thousands of cellphones through fake communications towers deployed on airplanes, a high-tech hunt for criminal suspects that is snagging large number of innocent Americans, according to people familiar with the operations.

“The U.S. Marshals Service program, which became fully functional around 2007, operates Cessna aircraft from at least five metropolitan-area airports, with a flying range covering most of the U.S. population, according to people familiar with the program.

“Planes are equipped with devices – some known as ‘dirtboxes’ to law-enforcement officials because of the initials of the Boeing Co. unit that produces them – which mimic cell towers of large telecommunications firms and trick cellphones into reporting their unique registration information.

“The technology in the two-foot-square device enables investigators to scoop data from tens of thousands of cellphones in a single flight, collecting their identifying information and general location, these people said.

“People with knowledge of the program wouldn’t discuss the frequency or duration of such flights, but said they take place on a regular basis.

<http://www.wnd.com/2014/11/obamas-never-ending-spy-machine-hits-critical-mass/>

You're being watched online via your webcam (11/18/14, Bob Unruh, WND)

'Broadcasting private lives on the Internet'

Excerpt: A website is displaying the video streams of webcams in tens of thousands of private homes and businesses around the world to show how easy it is to intercept them if the owner doesn't change the manufacturer's default user name and password.

“Last week, I sat at my computer and watched a young man from Hong Kong relaxing on his laptop; an Israeli woman tidying the changing room in a clothes store; and an elderly woman in the UK watching TV,” wrote Joseph Cox for the Web magazine Motherboard.

“All of these people were completely unaware that I was spying on them, thousands of miles away, through devices that were inadvertently broadcasting their private lives on the Internet.”

(Further down)

But he warned that manufacturers' default user names and passwords follow simple patterns, making the system vulnerable.

“Just change the dang password. And it's not just because you don't want Russian thugs watching your teens play video games,” he continued. “There's lots of stuff you can skip over the holidays, but changing the password on your new DIY surveillance system isn't one of them. What you do in your hot tub should stay in your hot tub.”

(Further down)

“To remove your public camera from this site and make it private the only thing you need to do is to change your camera default password.”

Techcrunch reported there were 73,000 camera feeds on the site.

<http://www.wnd.com/2014/11/youre-being-watched-online-via-your-webcam/>

Update 2015: After WND published the article, the link to the website was killed for a time. However, a new link was created at some point; here it is: <http://www.insecam.org/>

UPDATE DECEMBER 14

Hello everyone... Today is 12/14/14

Technology

Sony Pictures HACKED; Studio-Staff Computers Seized by Hackers (11/24/14, Swati Khandelwal, The Hacker News)

Excerpt: According to multiple reports, the corporate computers of Sony Picture employees in New York and around the world were infiltrated by a hacker, displaying a weird skeleton, a series of URL addresses, and a threatening message that reads:

"Hacked By #GOP Warning: We've already warned you, and this is just a beginning. We continue till our request be met. We've obtained all your internal data, including your secrets and top secrets. If you don't obey us, we'll release data shown below to the world. Determine what will you do till November the 24th, 11:00 PM (GMT)."

(Further down)

Hackers group that identifies itself as **#GOP (Guardians of Peace)** claimed responsibility for the defacement across staff computers at Sony Pictures, and apparently stolen reams of internal corporate data as well.

<http://thehackernews.com/2014/11/Sony-Pictures-Hacked.html>

Sony Hackers Promise to Deliver Large "Christmas Gift" (12/13/14, Ryan Gajewski, The Hollywood Reporter)

Excerpt: Hackers released a seventh cache of files leaked from Sony Pictures Entertainment on Saturday, along with a promise of more to come.

(Further down)

The Daily Beast reports that Sony files released on Dec. 5 include emails from the studio's execs about several film stars.

Read more Source: 'The Interview' Won't Be Released in Asia

One leaked exchange reportedly involved Columbia Pictures co-president of production Michael de Luca telling Sony co-chairman Amy Pascal that Ryan Gosling has expressed interested in appearing in the Ghostbusters reboot, with Pascal then asking whether Gosling would have any interest in Sinister Six or the Steve Jobs biopic.

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/sony-hackers-promise-deliver-large-757492>

Money, Politics

Paying Down The Debt Is Now Almost Mathematically Impossible (12/12/14, Tyler Durden, Zero Hedge; originally posted 12/11/14, Simon Black, Sovereign Man blog)

Excerpt: **Exactly 199 years ago, in 1815, a "temporary" committee was established in**

the US Senate called the Committee on Finance and Uniform National Currency.

It was set up to address economic issues and the debt accrued by the US government after the War of 1812.

Of course, because there's nothing more permanent than a temporary government measure, **the committee became a permanent one after just one year.**

It soon expanded its role from raising tariffs to having influence over taxation, banking, currency, and appropriations.

(Further down)

Over the century that followed, the US has gone from being the biggest creditor in the world to its biggest debtor.

Decades of expanding government programs, waste, endless and costly wars, etc. have racked up such an enormous pile of debt that it has become almost impossible to pay it down.

(There is a video explanation on this at the end of the article. It runs about an hour. Very well done. At Zero Hedge it is easily accessed. At Sovereign Man, not so easy to access. - Tim)
<http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2014-12-12/paying-down-debt-now-almost-mathematically-impossible>