

Don's Home News

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One Billion “Things” are Transforming the Internet

It's not quite the *Matrix* as portrayed in the sci-fi flick, but it's still a matrix of sorts. It's the Internet, and it's growing – not just from additional human users, but from the very machines we thought we controlled.

Where before, Internet growth came from our mobile devices, people are no longer the primary users of the Internet; things are – one billion of them in 2013, estimated to rise to 27 billion by 2020. Our Internet has become the “Thingernet.”

Just the sheer scale of technology connected to the Internet far surpasses a layman's understanding. As a recent article in the *Economist* points out: things now connected to the Internet include “everyday objects – cars, household appliances, food, clothing, pets, medical implants, tools and toys.” These are connected with “smart chips capable of sensing and sharing information about themselves and their surroundings.” The mind boggles.

To many, the Thingernet is an exciting development that has been predicted practically since the Internet was born. As Jonathan Peachey posted in a blog devoted to “random thoughts on the Internet of things” (<http://thingernet.tumblr.com>): “Thingernet is about how the world is connecting itself together, one appliance at a time.”

But as even its enthusiasts admit, this transformation to an Internet of things raises new issues: As the *Economist* notes, the “concern is that it could overwhelm society before the appropriate safeguards have been put in place ... issues such as privacy, safety, ethics, and governance are only just beginning to be discussed.”

Are You Searching for a New Home on line?

Now you can search Metro Atlanta listings in real time just as real estate agents do.

Due to recent changes in multiple listing service rules, I can now set you up with an account where you can search for properties just as I do. No more out of date data like you get on the internet from web sites like Realtor.com, and Trulia.com.

Call or [email](mailto:donzahnle@gmail.com) me today to have me set up an account for you. It is **FREE** and takes only minutes for me to set it up.

Is it all in a Name? Ask Residents of Country Club Drive

Residents of Wisteria Lane, USA might have found their property values rising during the long run of the *Desperate Housewives* TV series, but they've got nothing on the people who live on Country Club Drive.

According to a University of Georgia study, the value of homes with “country” in their addresses is 4.2 percent greater than similar properties located on streets that aren't “countrified”. As for those lucky people on Country Club Drive, this posh address increases the value of their homes by 9.3 percent.

As reported in the Wall Street Journal's blog, *Developments*, the study found that Country Club Drive sounded prestigious to those looking to impress, unlike the intersection of Lonesome and Hardup Roads, as WSJ writer Robbie Whelan points out.

But it's not necessarily all in a name.

As listing site Point2Homes suggests, it's also the ad listings that draw buyers to your Open House. A fancy address obviously helps, but so do the descriptors “exquisite,” and “private” when applied to luxury properties – those listed for \$5 million or more.

For the rest of us, there's always the “dream home,” which comes sixth in a list of top 100 home descriptors developed by Point2Homes in its scan of 300,000 US homes. And, of course, features such as hardwood floors and stainless steel appliances.

So, for those looking for the perfect home, scan the ads for stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and spa bathrooms. But if it happens to be located on Country Club Drive, so much the better.

Are We Cutting the Cord on Traditional TV?

In an age of constant connection – through streaming, smartphones, the Internet and tablets – the ability to watch the shows we want, when we want, is literally at our fingertips. So in this age of endless possibilities, have we cut the cord on traditional television?

Could be. More than five million homes in the US have given up expensive cable and ugly satellite dishes in favor of Internet viewing, according to a recent announcement by ratings giant, Nielsen. The company, which dubbed these viewers “Zero TV” households because they don’t fit the pattern of traditional TV households, is hoping to track them for its ratings report.

Zero viewers are still an important audience to Nielsen and advertisers. The young adults, who are most likely to live in this Zero-TV world, keep up

with *Game of Thrones* and worry about Don Draper in the new – and darker – season of *Mad Men*. They’re still watching their favorite TV shows, but in new ways, thanks to a changing industry.

Netflix, for example, recently released two shows available exclusively on its streaming website, allowing viewers to watch on demand all the series’ episodes for a fee.

Making money in the Zero-TV age is a hot topic, particularly with traditional broadcasters, who are the losers in this equation. “But that’s life,” as Joan Harris said on season three of *Mad Men*. “One minute you’re on top of the world; the next minute some secretary’s running you over with a lawnmower.” Broadcasters may lose, but TV still rules.

Quick Quiz

Each month I’ll give you a new question.

Just email me at donzahnle@gmail.com for the answer.

How fast can a sneeze travel?

Why Not Pass Me to a Friend?

If you’ve enjoyed this newsletter and found its information useful, please pass it to a neighbor, friend or co-worker.

And if you have any comments about it, don’t forget to give me a call or send me an email!

Are You Wondering How Much Your Home Is Worth?

Do you want to know how the price of your home has changed in today’s market? Do you want to know for how much other homes in your neighborhood are selling?

If you’re wondering what’s happening to prices in your area, or you’re thinking about selling your house, I can help.

Either call 404-939-1309 or [email](mailto:donzahnle@gmail.com) me for a no-obligation, professional evaluation.

I won’t pressure you into listing with me or waste your time. [Read about how I feel about pressure!](#) I’ll just give you the honest facts about your home and its value.

I’ll also give you the “inside scoop” on what’s happening in the housing market near where you live!

Call me at 404-939-1309 or email me at donzahnle@gmail.com and we will arrange a time to get together.

Worth Reading

Spider-Man turns 50: Why the Moody Teenage Webslinger Still Matters

By David Brothers
The Atlantic

Spider-Man, like us, is getting older. But while his narrative heads firmly into middle age, he’s still a boy. And that makes his story as relevant as ever. Peter Parker’s just a good kid, working to help his widowed aunt pay the bills. He’s bullied. He wants to be more than he is, and his desire to atone for his uncle’s death drives his superhero persona. He’s like us, in good and hard ways.

More: <http://tinyurl.com/ct2cqc>

The Bullying Pulpit

By Bill Keller
The New York Times

The Internet can breed a lot of creativity. But it can also reveal just how mean people can be. This piece, inspired by online reaction to one of Keller’s columns, suggests social media encourages bullying; a 140-character insult takes seconds to compose, but is there far longer than we’d like to think.

More: <http://tinyurl.com/c66wtdd>

Scrabble is so Annoying Now, Innit?

By Craig Brown
The Daily Mail

The first rule of Scrabble: know how to duck. Apparently, more than a million Scrabble tiles have gone missing since the game was invented. The reason; Angry players slamming the board and scattering tiles after losing. And that number should grow, especially if we’re searching for the word formed by all the Scrabble tiles produced over the years laid end to end. It would wrap around the world eight times.

More: <http://tinyurl.com/cxbdmun>

The Growing Trend to Micro/Mini Housing

Shrinking homes are a growing trend. More and more people are choosing to live in tiny houses – homes that are often less than 500 square feet.

Perhaps the state of North American real estate markets has something to do with it: In the US, the grueling past few years have left big homes empty and their owners underwater.

People are looking for ways to save on their home ownership costs, and for some, tiny homes are the way to go.

Factors driving the tiny house craze

Actually, there are all sorts of factors at work driving the micro/mini home craze. Economically, little homes can make sense. They can cost less to

maintain; they can cost less to furnish; they probably have lower heating costs; and there is choice galore for those at the leading edge of the small-is-beautiful movement.

Mobile minis, which are on wheels, are designed to be fitted with solar panels and other green technology options.

Some companies sell do-it-yourself (DIY) plans for tiny homes, but people can also purchase pre-built homes that can be delivered straight to their plots of land.

There are also workshops available to aficionados on topics ranging from DIY construction to finding small-scale furniture for your small home.

As well, some of the mini-micro homes are designed to be added to, so if the lot will accommodate it and authorities approve, your tiny house can grow.

If a bigger small home isn't in your plans, perhaps you and your house can be part of a larger community; several tiny housing blogs discuss building communities of small homes.

Generally speaking, owners of tiny homes are singles or couples who are younger, on average, and may work in creative professions. However, anyone can be part of this growing trend. And it just may be a trend whose time has come.

A Peaceful Use for Drones: Aerial Videos

Unmanned aerial vehicles – nicknamed drones – have seamlessly made the leap from military to peaceful uses, attracting an entirely new (and wide) audience who just love them for their role in creating amazing aerial photography.

For under \$1,000, enthusiasts can acquire remote-controlled cameras that take photos and video footage that would otherwise be impossible. These aerial cameras are producing videos that are attracting major attention online – like the one of a pack of wild coyotes running on a California hillside that accompanied a recent article in the online magazine, *The Week*. Trend watchers are calling for an “explosion” in drone-facilitated aerial photography

In the past, bird's-eye shots were only possible with expensive, inaccessible technology like that used in movies. Now, hosts of inexpensive and easy-to-get products are available from \$300 to \$700. So anyone can take awe-inspiring photos and videos.

Of course, this technology isn't without its cons; remote-control cameras make it easy to infringe upon someone's privacy and that is an issue. However, it will be difficult, if not impossible to impose strictures, especially when the product is so amazing.

Talking, Texting and Driving: Is it Worth It?

Sure, smart phones have become indispensable in today's world. But when it comes to talking, texting and driving, these lifelines become deadly distractions. Statistics show that driver distraction is a factor in some four million motor vehicle crashes in North America annually.

Driving distracted means that response time increases. According to University of Utah research, drivers are four times

more likely to cause an accident when driving while talking on a cell phone – about the same result as driving while impaired (DWI). When texting while driving, the risk increases to eight times.

In response, drivers caught using their cell phones may now face disciplinary action. In many areas, cell-addicted drivers can expect to be fined hundreds of dollars for the offence.

Ask the Agent: This Month's Question

Should we buy a home for our out-of-town student?

You actually can profit in two ways from ensuring your student has a safe and comfortable place to live while studying.

Many students don't live on campus, but parents still want their kids located in a good area. Purchasing a home and renting to your student (and others, if size permits) may be the perfect solution. The location and the home itself is your choice, so you can assure yourself it's as safe as possible. And by paying rent, your student will learn about personal and financial responsibility.

It's also a great investment. As well as covering some or all of your costs, the property can be sold once it's outlived its usefulness. Look for a property close to campus for resale purposes and to reduce your student's commuting time, and ensure you work with a real estate agent who is familiar with the local neighborhoods and rental properties.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Search for homes free at
www.AtlantaHomesOnline.com

	3					7		2
2			9				6	8
8				5				
6	2		8	4			1	
		4				9		
	1			3	6		4	5
				6				4
1	8				4			9
5		6					2	

Sudoku instructions: Complete the 9 × 9 grid so that each row, each column and each of the nine 3 × 3 boxes contains the digits 1 through 9. Contact me for the solution!

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Recipe: Greek Shrimp with Feta

Serves 4

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 cup chopped yellow onion
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes, or more to taste
- 2 ¼ cups chopped peeled ripe tomatoes
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 ½ pounds uncooked frozen shrimp, thawed
- 4 ounces good-quality feta cheese, crumbled
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley

Preheat broiler. On a burner, heat olive oil in an ovenproof skillet and add onions and pepper flakes.

Stir often until soft – about five minutes – and then add tomatoes and season to taste with salt and ground pepper. Lower heat and simmer sauce until slightly thickened.

Place shrimp in one layer in the skillet and spoon some sauce on top.

Continue to simmer until shrimp are pink and cooked through – about 1–2 minutes per side.

Scatter the feta on top and transfer to broiler briefly until cheese begins to melt.

Remove, sprinkle dish with parsley. serve.

