On Keeping Current

Sources and Methods

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Before I start, an update:

SDGblue

- I worked as an intern at SDGblue, LLC.
- I developed multiple web applications.
- I learned how to model data

Cypress Semiconductor

- I'm a CAD engineer.
- The CAD group maintains the design toolchain.
- My job requires a wide range of skills.

My information habit (addiction?)

I spend a lot of time consuming information.

I follow:

- 50 blogs
- 30 news feeds (programming or tech related)
- 10 podcasts
- 10 miscellaneous feeds

Why follow all of this?

- I find the stories interesting or amusing.

- I keep myself familiar with the field.

- Improve my understanding of the field.

Keeping Current: Methods

Following effectively

- Use a news aggregator
- Follow high quality sources
- Choose sources to provide a variety of news

Filtering information

- Start by filtering your sources
- Filter based on headlines

Keeping Current: Sources

Sources fall roughly into:

- Blogs

- News sites

- User-submitted news sites

- Periodicals (newsletters, podcasts)

Sources: Quality

I characterize quality based on:

- Frequency (items/day)

- Content (How valuable is the information presented?)

- Analysis (How valuable is the analysis of the information?)

- Signal:noise ratio (# interesting items/total # items)

Sources: Blogs

- Frequency: Low (~1 item/week)
- Content: Low (worst case), High (average case)
- Analysis: Medium - High
- Signal:noise: Very High

Sources: News sites

- Frequency: High (10s of items/day)

- Content: Medium (due to high variety)

- Analysis: Medium - High

- Signal:noise: Medium - High

Sources: User-submitted new sites

- Frequency: Varies (< 10 items/day to ~100 items/day)
- Content: Medium
- Analysis: Low
- Signal:noise: Medium - Low

Sources: Periodicals

- Frequency: Medium (1 item/week, but consistent)
- Content: High
- Analysis: Very High
- Signal:noise: Superb

Examples: Blogs

Cory Doctorow's craphound

www.craphound.com (http://www.craphound.com)

Schneier on Security

www.schneier.com (https://www.schneier.com)

Volatile and Decentralized

matt-welsh.blogspot.com (http://matt-welsh.blogspot.com)

Embedded in Academia

blog.regehr.org (http://blog.regehr.org)

Examples: News sites

Anandtech

www.anandtech.com (http://www.anandtech.com)

OSNews

www.osnews.com (http://www.osnews.com)

PC World

www.pcworld.com (http://www.pcworld.com)

Boing Boing

boingboing.net (http://boingboing.net)

Examples: User-submitted news sites

Slashdot

   slashdot.org (http://slashdot.org)

Hacker News

   news.ycombinator.com (http://news.ycombinator.com)

Examples: Periodicals

Anandtech Podcast

- Mostly covers PC and mobile news.

This Week in Google

- General discussion of tech, mostly tied to Google.

The Go Newsletter

- A collection of recent articles and discussions about Go.

  www.golangweekly.com (http://www.golangweekly.com)

Don't overdose

Information consumption absorbs time.

Information is only valuable if you can do something with it.

You can't use information if you spend all of your time consuming it.

Remember, interesting people spend time *doing*.

Questions?

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Tags: Keeping Current (#ZgotmplZ)

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