The Dystonaut
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On Skill-Sets:

I often receive emails from people, novice "preppers", asking me what "survival skills" they should learn. My reply is that the survival skills they should learn are real-world skills. Some people get it, and proceed to have an enjoyable and educational lifetime of building up their own unique skill-set that will serve them well both now and in whatever potential future that unfolds. Others don't get it. They are not looking to discover their full potential and truly learn the art of self-reliance and preparedness. They remain under the false pretense that they only need to learn a few of these special magical skills so they can be an expert survivalist that's ready for 2012, Planet Nibiru, or UN Peacekeepers. For those of you who are just starting out, it is important that you learn how to differentiate between the two. The former are the people you want to associate with. You and them will learn from each other and might even possibly from a loose voluntary affiliation of similarly-minded individuals. The latter are just a bunch of fantasy-types who will eventually frustrate you if you deal with them for any length of time.

Those of you who have read my book, will undoubtedly be familiar with a gentleman who I have given the moniker "Neuro-John". Lest you think I dislike this individual or am implying that he is somehow a bad person, I'm not and he isn't. He's simply a neurotic fantasy-type who is into what could probably be best described as "Walter Mitty Survivalism". Any dystonaut would find him frustrating on a level, and while generally being an "OK guy" you wonder what purpose his existence serves and come up blank. For my purposes, he serves the useful function of providing an example of how not to practice self-reliance and preparedness, and provides a source of entertainment for my wife when I relate his latest adventures to her. The funny part about it all is that considering the way the universe works, he just might wind up surviving TEOTWAWKI by sheer random luck (or stupidity).

Recently Neuro-John posted up on a survivalist internet forum asking about "survival fishing" skills. Such an animal probably doesn't exist. There are a few techniques listed in military survival manuals, and survival kits generally contain some nominal amount of fishing tackle. If you really wanted to collect fish in a survival situation your best bet would probably be to use some quick & dirty indiscriminate technique such as a gill net, but doing so in a non-SHTF situation would have you running afoul of fish & game laws.

The military survival fishing kits are truly minimalist. They have some line, lures, hooks, and other items. You'd have to improvise a rod or similar casting method, and it would probably help a great deal if you actually had some experience fishing. I suspect that most American males, and many American females have had at least a nominal exposure to the sport of fishing unless both their parents were a pair of neurotic liberals that hate anything that even has the slightest whiff of testosterone to it. I used to fish with my dad. Mostly salt-water, but we did occasionally cast into our local lake. My wife went for channel catfish with her dad. We both drifted away from the sport as we got older, but the skill-set is still there and we are still familiar with how it's done. I suspect that given one of those kits, we could probably do something with it and not starve despite not having fished in a while.

With that said, I suppose you could consider survival fishing to be the employment of your normal angling skill-set under less than ideal circumstances and with expedient equipment. In short, the same set of circumstances many of us fished with when we were kids. You know, scrounging some hooks and line, digging up nightcrawlers,

making a rod out of a tree branch. Even with tackle of that low level we were still able to pull a few pumpkinseeds out of a pond.

Going back to the beginning of my polemic and the point of this article, if you wanted to learn "survival fishing" techniques, you would want to learn how to fish in the first place, and then improve your fishing skills by learning multiple techniques and becoming increasingly minimalistic with the tackle you use. You would want to try different improvisations while fishing to see what works and what doesn't. Your skill level increases as a result, and eventually you become confident that you can coax fish out of the water regardless of most circumstances. Perhaps the most important aspect of all this is that you find yourself having an enjoyable time learning something practical.

This was explained to Neuro-John, and his reply was that he was not interested in fishing, but just wanted to know "survival fishing" techniques for when TSHTF. He didn't get the idea, or didn't want to get the idea that the way to learn survival skills is to learn real-world skills. Hopefully this little story showed you how to tell potential dystonaut material from the fantasy-type wannabes so you don't waste your time with the latter.

Go fish...

I was visiting my local Orvis store and discovered they offer free clinics for individuals interested in learning how to fly-fish. That's a type of angling I've yet to do, and something I've found interesting and fascinating, especially the art of fly-tying. My daughter has expressed an interest in both fishing and entomology, so there is also that to take into consideration. When an opportunity like this presents itself it's best to take advantage of it, and I signed up for the class.

The class lasted about an hour and a half, and was taught by Orvis-certified instructors and volunteers from the local Trout Unlimited chapter. With the class you get a free 1-year membership to Trout Unlimited. This organization is an invaluable resource for the novice angler, so the free membership is a bonus. There are also some Orvis coupons that enable you to save money on getting your fishing kit together. Did I mention that the class was free?

The class was broken into two parts. The first part discussed some basic knots used in fly fishing, how to set up your reel, and talked a little bit about flies. The students were also given an opportunity to practice tying knots and ask questions. The second part brought the class out into the parking lot behind the store were we were taught how to fly-cast (it is different than spin-casting) and given about 45 minutes to practice. During the practice time, the instructors went to each student and gave them some personalized instruction and tips to help improve the individual student's casting technique.

I have done some bait fishing previously when I was younger, but have absolutely zero experience with fly-fishing. When I was finished with this class I felt comfortable going out into a stream and fly-fishing at a novice level. Both the Orvis instructors and TU volunteers were extremely knowledgeable in the subject matter and very helpful. Contact information was given out at the end of the class for those students who wanted to go beyond the 101 class and become further involved in the sport. If you have even the slightest interest in fly-fishing and have never done it before I would definitely recommend taking this free class from Orvis.

You bloom where you're planted...

The title of this article is attributable to my wife, whom I first heard it from. I think it appropriately sums up the subject matter. I see a lot of talk on the Internet among survivalist circles about retreat and bug-out locations, the Free State projects, and more recently this thing called "The American Redoubt". All sorts of data and figures are presented in an attempt to convince the reader that a particular location is the absolute best for survivalist purposes, implying that other choices are somewhat flawed. It reminds me of the 1970s cartoon movie Yogi's Ark Lark. For those of you who weren't kids in the 1970s, the movie was about how Yogi Bear and his friends leave Jellystone Park in light

of deteriorating environmental conditions there and go look for **The Perfect Place**. They never find it, and in the end they decide to return home and clean it up.

The point I'd like to drive home here is that <u>there is no perfect place</u>, although some places are better than others. Manhattan Island for example would probably be a very bad idea. The laws are oppressive, cost of living is very expensive, and it's overcrowded. Upstate New York, especially the Catskills and Adirondacks, would be a better choice although you still have New York politics to deal with, and God help you if you live on New York City Watershed these days.

Southern New England is not much better. I've found Connecticut to be tolerable for the moment, although that's temporary. Massachusetts is like New York, but I know a few survivalists who live in the Western side and it suits their needs for the moment. Northern New England is nice, and would be my first choice. Between New Hampshire and Vermont there are enough differences between the two that you can form a preference. For me it's a more-or-less even tie between the two, and my wife leans towards Vermont. Then again as of late we joke about how if we were Ivy League schools she'd be Harvard and I'd be Yale.

Some people's preferences are more Western in flavor. My friend "Snarling Chesty" just moved his family out to New Mexico. They were originally from Southern Tier New York and moved to Connecticut. Some survivalists consider New Mexico to be a more "liberal" Southwestern state and eschew it for Nevada or Arizona, but it seems to suit his purposes just fine. The original members of the Free State Project who refused to relocate to New Hampshire seem to gravitate towards either Idaho or Wyoming. I like Idaho's terrain, but have to pass on the complete and utterly total rural environment as it's not optimal for my particular strategy.

While there is no perfect place, there are many that are pretty good, and more than adequate for your needs and strategies. **Do your research.** Get your feet on the ground for a few days in areas of potential interest. Find out everything about a potential location: good, bad, and ugly.

Make a decision and then implement your plan. Also don't be afraid to come to the conclusion that things will be OK just where you are if you only implement a few minor changes.

On Personal Infrastructure and Your Secret Laboratory, Cabin In the Woods, or Wherever...:

Those of you who follow my blog **Oberon's Rest** have read about my project to repair and fix the old shed in the backyard that was damaged in the snow/ice storms last winter and convert it into a combination cabin/workshop. Those of you who are serious about the study of modern survivalism, what I call *Dystonautics*, need a place where you can read without interruption, keep all your books and tools, and work on various hobbies whether it's electronics, gunsmithing, or reloading without having to assemble and disassemble your workspace every time because it happens to be the dining room table. This place can be the corner of a room where you can fit a small homemade workbench, or a whole outbuilding dedicated to your dystonautic pursuits. Whatever the size and location, you absolutely need to have this space. The bigger the better. If you can't manage a workspace in your current residence, then it's probably not sustainable in other ways as well. Students of traditional survivalism are undoubtedly familiar with the rule of threes, which says that you cannot live more than:

- 3 minutes without breathing

- 3 hours without shelter in an extreme environment

- 3 days without water

- 3 weeks without food

Under the rule of threes, shelter is second in importance and priority, right below breathing. Since breathing comes naturally to most of us under normal circumstances, unless you're drowning or about to be downwind of toxic fumes, having proper shelter should be your first priority. It need not be particularly elaborate, as long as it serves the necessary functions. I have lived in various

places from a 10x15 tent in the Adirondacks to a rented room in a basement. In all these instances I was able to maintain a small workspace with tools adequate for typical technological survival activities.

For those of you in extreme conditions, there are both plans and finished products available for small portable workbenches and workspaces that offer tool storage and a nominal work surface. DIY-types will want to check out Kurt Saxon's excellent **Survivor** back-issue compendiums (a must-have for your library). Tool companies such as Stanley and Milescraft offer various designs of portable workbenches and workcenters. There are plenty of options available to fit your particular situation.

High Tech Gadgets For Becoming Informed: Part 1

by Corcceigh Green

So, you have opened your eyes and noticed that the world and the universe operates on an entirely different reality than is reflected by the evening news. Good for you! Now, you'll want to know if there is any information out there that reflects the events that are truly happening and if anyone is giving any information on what to do when those events hit the fan. Fortunately, there are plenty of information sources of which you can take advantage. Of course, I'm talking about the internet. I know, the internet has become the butt of barbed jokes tossed by a dieing media, usually a sarcastic, "I read it on the internet, so it must be true." You and I both know that not everything you read on the internet is true. It is up to the reader to show some discernment and do some research into any interesting subjects. That said, there is also a lot of very good information that will further your education, keep you informed of real current events and instruct you on how to survive in a topsy-turvy real world.

Since this article is about high tech gadgets and I just finished a paragraph on the internet, you probably already know that I'm going to talk about the high tech gadget you must use to peruse the internet; the computer. Good guess. Now, I'm not going to

tell you about the newest and fastest processor or the largest terabyte hard drive nor the loudest and flashiest bells and whistles. This may surprise you, but you don't need the best and latest in computer technology to fight the good fight. My current and latest computer is a model dating from around 2005 and is an e Machines T1100. The system consists of an Intel Celeron Processor at 1 GHz speed, 256 MB of RAM and a 20 GB hard drive. It also includes 1CD recordable and rewritable drive and 1 3.5" floppy drive. One USB port in the front of the tower and one game MIDI port are connected. There are ports in the back for telephone jacks, monitor, scanner, printer, mouse and speakers. The operating system or OS is Windows XP with service pack 3. For internet surfing and e mail to stay in touch, a Conexant SoftK56 Modem is included. The audio card is an Intel AC'97for sound. The graphics card is also an Intel. The entire web surfing experience is connected through a landline, dial up system, as cable, cellular technology and WiFi are unavailable in my remote area.

For modern internet surfing, video conferencing and speedy downloading, or gaming, this system is woefully slow. If, however, you don't mind waiting a long time for your downloads and you forego watching videos online and video conferencing, this system makes a very nice library computer. I have been able to download short, lower quality videos, entire shelves of books and pamphlets as well as stay in touch with family, run an online magazine, website and store. I am also able to listen to internet radio. This is very adequate for what I wish to do without breaking my bank. The system is also upgradeable to a high speed satellite connection should I ever decide that it is worth the money. Once video has been downloaded onto disk, whether I have weathered a very large and long download or have special ordered something, the video runs at normal speed rather than suffering the long pauses and stops that is required for watching videos on low bandwidth internet. Since I'm not a gamer, I don't consider online gaming a factor for spending more money on my system or speeding up the internet.

I'm proof positive that a well made computer can last a good decade and beyond.

Bad things do happen, however. Because the electronics of a computer is so fragile, there are many incidents that can render them inoperable. Lightning strikes, EMP events, operating the computer in high heat, electrical surges and much, much more can all render your computer inoperable. Since our reason for maintaining a computer is to provide ourselves with information regarding our survival in the real and sometimes harsh world, it is best to have a backup for your computer should it be damaged when whichever event finally catches up to the Ostrich-like majority of your neighbors today.

Purchasing another computer can be quite expensive. Most will opt to consider the computer a non-essential piece of equipment should theirs be damaged and a more urgent sense of survival becomes necessary during a crisis. If, however, you are planning now for your survival, you will be laying back supplies like food, ammo, seeds and tools. If you are operating a computer for gathering information you are probably downloading books, videos or web pages with all sorts of neat information that you would like to employ during certain circumstances. When your computer goes down, that information goes away. Breaking out a backup unit and setting it up will bring all of that information back to your finger tips if you had it backed up on CD or DVD.

Fortunately, there is a very cheap alternative to acquiring a backup computer in case yours is damaged come the day and it is how I acquired my 2 backups. First, as mentioned, I have 2 backups. I got such a deal on these that it was stupid not to acquire them both just in case I break out and set up my backup after an EMP event just to have my backup fried in a second EMP event. How could the prices on these be so low as to allow a poor boy to acquire 2 units? Easy, I picked them out of the local dumpsters. Every time I see electronic equipment from computers to satellite receivers at the local dumpsters, I pick them up and take them home for testing. If they work, I incorporate them into my survival plans. If they don't work, I strip them of any working components like hard drives and haul them back to the dumpsters.

You won't get the same brand and model units this way, so you won't have uniformly interchangeable components, but your equipment can be made compatible through it's software. For example, I have loaded all my units with Windows XP and all of the redundant software allowing me to read, watch or listen to all of my saved files. Each computer has a CD drive, so all of my files and software are backed up on CDs. The backup units are stored in EMP protected boxes. They are never connected to the internet. Their sole purpose is to allow me to read files and books stored in my survival library, watch videos from the same library CDs and listen to stored MP3 files from Militia and Patriot radio broadcasts after the day.

In order to make use of the computer you'll need some more hardware before you can begin your odyssey for information. First, the monitor. This is your visual interface with the computer. The computer places data in a usable form for you to see, read or manipulate on the monitor's screen. Unfortunately, monitors wear out about every 5 years on the average, though I've had some for longer periods of time. You should be prepared to purchase more monitors as backups. Most monitors found at the dumpsters do not work, especially if they are in the dumpster unaccompanied by other computer equipment. If you find one in the dumpsters with other equipment, take it home and test it along with the other equipment. Many people will throw away perfectly usable equipment so they can make room for the newest equipment. Always take advantage of this.

Another cheap method for acquiring an extra monitor is to peruse yard and garage sales. Sometimes they will be sold separately with it's own price and sometimes it will be sold with a complete system. If you don't need the complete system make an offer on the monitor alone. You can usually talk the owner into selling it without the system. Ask to plug in the monitor to check if it is working. If you are buying the entire system, ask to hook it all up to make sure it isn't bad. If the owner does not want to do this, be suspicious of the unit or monitor and walk away from the deal. Most of the time, owners merely want to sale a perfectly good system to offset the purchase price of the newest system on the market. Very good bargains can be found this way, so always check your local yard and garage

sales. Get as many working monitors as you can. Many times you can get entire systems cheaper than the price of a new monitor, so take advantage of this as well.

To allow you to manipulate the data you see on the monitor, a mouse must be included in the system. You are able to move the cursor with your mouse, cut and past or select text, scroll up and down the screen, turn pages and place the cursor over icon to click on files and software to open and/or read. Older mouses (mice?) worked with a ball mechanism to send electronic messages to the computer for positioning the cursor. The ball would often pick up dust and particles and wear down the contact within the mouse rendering the mouse inoperable. These would have to be replaced almost once a year! The newer optically operated mouse is far superior in this manner. These mouses scan the surface on which they sit several times a second to determine which way they are being moved and position the cursor accordingly. Without the need for an electrical contact in their mechanism, there is no such point to wear out. I am still using the first one I bought which must be around 5 or 6 years old now. The only point where the optically operated mouses wear out is in the scroll wheel, which a person can live without. You will find many of these in the dumpster, people will throw them away when the scroll wheel wears out, but that is usually the only thing wrong with them. You will collect different brands, but drivers are downloadable on the net. I also have backups for the mouse, all optical.

The keyboard is another interface with the computer via the monitor. The keyboard not only allows you to manipulate the data being presented on the monitor's screen, but also allows you to enter or create data of your own. Yes, you guessed it. You'll need to have one or more backups for your keyboard too. Usually, when you find a computer in the dumpster, you'll find the more or less complete system and this almost always includes the keyboard. Keyboards found with complete systems usually work very well. Always pick these up with the rest of the system and test it. When found in the dumpsters alone, there is a question of whether the keyboard works, but pick it up anyway and test it. Many of these will work fine as well. Alternatives to dumpster

diving for keyboards are, again, the yard and garage sales. Again, keyboards wear down, as do the other components of your system. EMP events, lightning strikes and heat can destroy their electronics. Have backups. If your system is destroyed in one of the above events, your keyboard will also be affected.

Part of your system's interface between you and the data is through sound. Beside error messages, bleeps and bloops to get your attention, sound comes in very handy when listening to an MP3 archived broadcast. When watching that downloaded youtube video about planting seeds it sure helps to hear what the hosts are saying about the subject. This makes your speakers a very important component in your system. Unfortunately, when I see these in the dumpster, I see them only with a complete system. Your area may be different, so check for them anyway, but most people hold on to the speakers to use with their new system, so do not throw them out. You may find them at yard and garage sales. Speakers vary in price along a very wide range. You can buy a few sets of cheap ones to back up your good ones or you can have a couple of mid-priced sets that are of great quality. I'd suggest brands like GE, which I am happy with. If you listen to a lot of music via your computer you may want a complete home entertainment sound system hooked up. These can be expensive, but I've seen some very good quality bargains in the $150 range as well. Your main reason for maintaining these backups is, again, to hear information that could help you re-build or maintain your life during hard times. A superior quality entertainment system is not necessary, but I do concede that having the ability to play some music for entertainment or even watching an entertainment movie or video once or twice a week would have a positive, uplifting affect upon the survivor of a collapse. Get what you can afford and look over the bargain stores and dumpsters.

Earphones and ear buds are also excellent choices for quietly listening to files when remaining silent is an advantage, but instructions from such a file is necessary. They are also advantageous for two way radio broadcasting. Many of these are quite inexpensive and should be no problem in stockpiling a few sets of

backups. In fact, if you don't have the budget for a few backups for your speakers, you may opt to stock back a few earphones or buds as backups.

Consider now, that you've been downloading books and instruction manuals. You'll be utilizing these instructions in projects around your home in order to make yourself more efficient for survival. Building raised beds, garden boxes, hydro-electrical systems and more for the first time will require following some written instructions and plans on the job sight. This will lead us to printers. Your printer will print photos of objects you are working on, blueprints and exploded views. You may also print books and instructions to read at the job sight, or because you are working on multiple sights, the printout is much more portable and convenient to bring with you to the different sights. This also doesn't require power from batteries or fuel hungry generators. Printing out your most important documents and books before the day comes will also insure that you have these important instructions on hand without the need of a power source.

Printer selection is very important. You will want your printers to be functional for a few years without technical support in case of a collapse. With this purpose in mind, we can work up the parameters for a good survival printer. Your printer must be rugged enough for 3 to 5 years of off and on again use without technical support or normal maintenance. It must operate in varying temperature from hot to cold. It's ink wells must be able to be refilled multiple times and must not utilize expiration chips. It must be able to handle paper of varying types and thickness. Very few printers are capable of this.

Instead of listing the many brands and models of printers on the market, I'll let you in on the printer I depend on and why. My main printer and backup are both the Canon i560. When I purchased these they were in the $50 each price range unused, brand new in the box. This made the i560 feasible as my main working printer with money enough left over to purchase another as a backup. The i560 is extremely user friendly. Its software allows for simple maintenance in clearing and cleaning the ink wells and aligning the printer heads. It can often re-

align paper and avoid paper jams. It has performed very well for me with on and off again printing projects. Most importantly, its inkwells have no expiration chips. Unlike many other brands like the insidious Lexmarks, the i560's printing head doesn't stop working once the inkwells' expiration chip reaches a certain date. You can continue to refill the i560's ink wells as long it's sponge remains viable and it will work every time. The i560's inkwells themselves do not utilize semi-conductor or computer chips, therefore nothing tells them to stop working once a certain date is reached. To keep your i560 working simply stock back a lot of ink in black, yellow, blue and red, a package of several ink wells in their various colors and refill the ink wells as long as their sponges do not dry out. Stock back reems of paper and this printer will give you superior performance on your survival retreat during a crisis.

Gadgets that can compliment your system are MP3 players or IPods and Palm Units, aka IPads. IPods can store MP3 files and play them back to you via its phone jack and headsets. These are extremely handy. I know, you mostly see these attached to people who are oblivious to their surroundings and listening to loud music. That isn't the way you have to use them, however. MP3 files aren't just music, they can also be archived radio and internet broadcasts as well as audio-books. I have been using an MP3 player for years to listen to downloaded files of "The Intelligence Report", "The Alex Jones Show" and "The Q Files" while at work. I work on a sander and must have hearing protection, so I place ear buds connected to my MP3 player in my ears and wear hearing protectors over them. I can listen to hours of Patriot broadcasting and learn while I'm making a living. These are powered by battery which is recharged by merely plugging the device into your computer's USB port. IPads basically consist of a palm sized screen and keyboard that allows you to read files and watch videos as your computer does. This allows your files to become much more portable so that you can take them with you to read while away from your system. I have not used one of these yet, but can see the advantage should you not want to print out an entire book on paper, but need to take the information with you to a building or work sight.

To support this system, you will need to stock back some items that will allow you to transfer and/or store data. Also, hard drives do not last forever. Protected in an EMP protected box and protected from moister and the environment, a new in the box hard drive will last your lifetime. When opened and installed, a hard drive may last 10 or 20 years. Your hard drive will wear out sooner depending on how often the computer is turned off and on, how often it is overwritten and how often it is defragged. Other factors also include temperature, humidity and if it is bumped and moved while writing or reading. Fortunately, for your purposes you do not need the largest capacity, highest density and newest technology in hard drives. Since we are envisioning a future where the internet is not available, you will only need your hard drives to store information you already have downloaded and to communicate with others via packet radio. Cheaper technology is available that will perform this job more than satisfactorily. With all of the terra-bite capacity hard drives coming on the market and becoming less expensive, the last generation of technology is becoming a bargain. Go back another generation, which will still serve our purpose and then some, and you will be able to purchase several backups for the price of a single hard drive in the latest technology.

Keep all of the software and information on your hard drive backed up on CDs or DVDs to load into your new hard drive when your current one fails. As you may be collecting new information or networking with others of like mind in your community or long range via HAM or packet radio stock back plenty of CDs or DVD disks. Pick one of these as your system. In other words, if the system you are using today utilizes a DVD drive to store portable data do not buy a system for backup that utilizes a CD drive and visa-versa. Since much of the older, more cheaply available technology uses CD drives for this purpose, you may choose this option as I have. Some later technology is able to burn both CD and DVD format disks. This is a very convenient option especially when networking with others after a collapse and allows you to utilize more options as long as at least one of your backups has the same capability. In any case, make certain that you have stored your pertinent data in a format that all of your backups can use.

Digital cameras and video cameras as well as audio capable equipment can be important when conveying information to others or when making records for posterity. Cheap digital cameras are on the market today for storing photos of one's gardens to blacksmithing and other building projects to schematics and blueprints. No reason not to store some of these back. Make sure you have stored any necessary drivers. Digital video cameras are coming down in cost as well and I'll be adding one of these to my system soon.

Scanners are another consideration. A scanner can turn your system into a copying machine and re-publishing center. Old, worn out books can be taken apart and scanned into your system. They can, then be re-organized from their files and re-printed and distributed to your community or traded. Flyers can be quickly copied from the artist's rendition and printed for distribution. The scanner for my system has been the A4 EPP. This scanner's features allow a lot of options for your system. It turns your system into a copy machine, allows you to send a fax, it will direct scan a page or photo into JPG or BMP digital files and its OCR will scan text from a page directly into a TXT or RTF format file. This has been the way to go for me. Unfortunately, I do not yet have a backup, so I must remove my scanner from its protection when I must scan and place it back when finished. If I can gather the money and find another one of these, I will certainly buy it. Look into the options of any scanners you come across. The OCR Textbridge is definitely worth it.

In the future, your system may become the hub of an information system that keeps us from sliding into another dark age. At least it may keep you out of the dark age that the rest of the world is diving into headlong. Thus far, we have only covered the basic items and systems you should consider should you decide that some high tech gadgets would help in your survival in a dystopian future. We will continue this train of thought with our next entry by considering what software is necessary for your system and web pages and information we need to be visiting and downloading now while the internet is still free.