Twitter Thread by Steph Smith



Steph Smith
@stephsmithio

If you're looking in the right places, the internet is a treasure trove.

The best internet gems you've never heard of:

I'll share 20+ tools, so I'll start by breaking them into 4 categories.

Tools that:
• Give perspective
• You can play with
• Center around data
• Can help creators

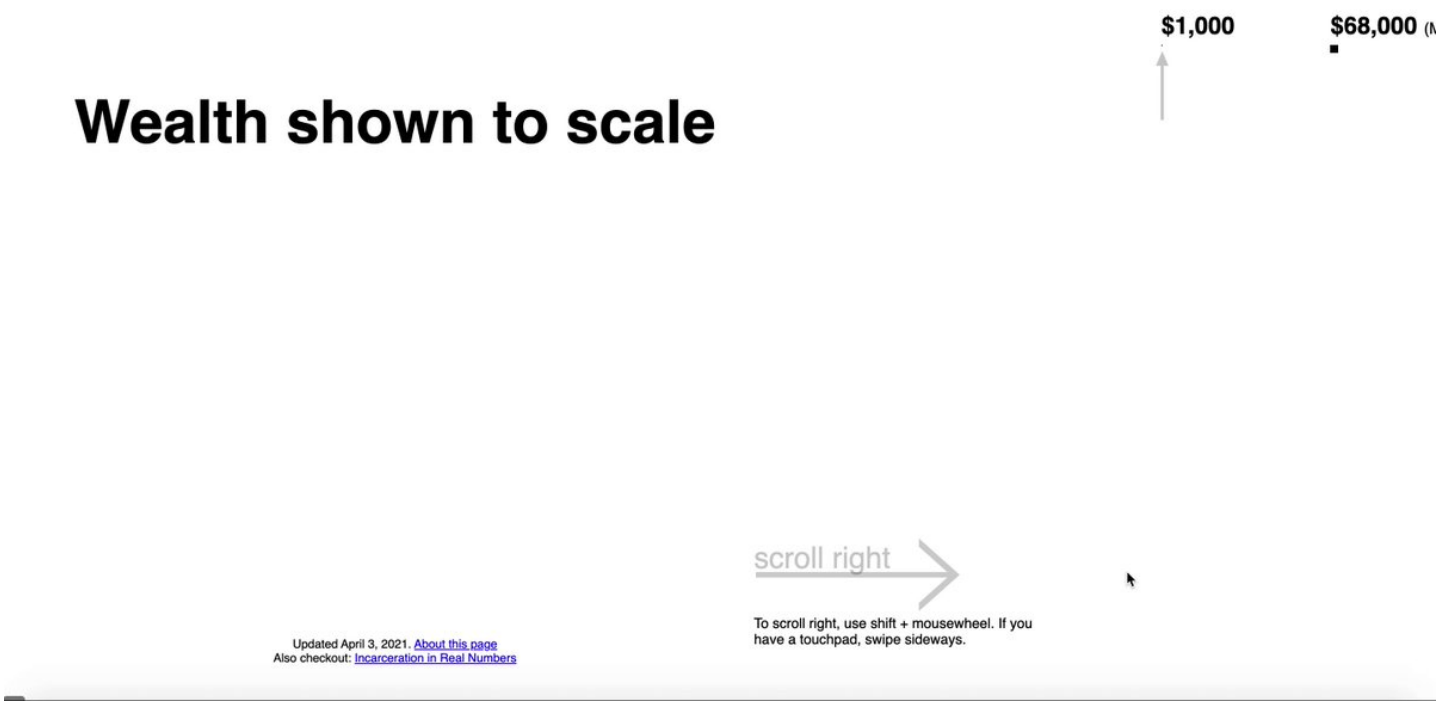
The common theme across all is that no one "needed" to make them, but we're all better off bc someone did.

1. Let's start with tools that give perspective!

These often solicit both of these reactions:
• Who the hell made this?!
• I love that person

For example, this site which puts into perspective just how much a billion dollars is.

Hint: It's a lot.
https://t.co/KVSWcd6jbq



> This is wild.
>
> Regardless of how you feel about billionaires, this is an exercise that everyone should go through.https://t.co/RuYegk7CMn
>
> — Steph Smith (@stephsmithio) July 26, 2020

2. Here's another fun one: emojis to scale

Get a sense of how the emojis that you use every day, compare in size IRL...

From the 3mm mosquito ■ to the 9500000000000km Milky Way ■

https://t.co/F8R5MA2naF

> This is super neat: emojis to scale
>
> h/t @ImJacobCohen
>
> \U0001f69c<\U0001f992<\U0001f996<\U0001f3e0<\U0001f6e9\ufe0f<\U0001f334<\U0001f68e<\U0001f335<\U0001f40bhttps://pic.twitter.com/bz0Bmpvn0v
>
> — Steph Smith (@stephsmithio) January 21, 2022

3. Speaking of mosquitos, did you know that they're the most deadly animal in the world?

I bet you also didn't know that eating 1k ■ is more dangerous than a ■ encounter.

Thankfully, this graphic maps out our likelihood of death.

The more you know...

https://t.co/HhhbbNR85I

> Likelihood of death:
>
> Everest ascent
> > Waking @ 90
> > BASE jumping
> > Day of birth
> > Giving birth
> > Using MDMA
> > Skydiving
> > Marathon
> > Waking @ 45
> > Scuba diving
> > 48h in NYC
> > 1h in coal mine
> > Eating 1k bananas
> > Driving 230mi
> > Walking 20mi
> > Day of skiing
> > Kangaroo encounter pic.twitter.com/hQ2nBYkw5x
>
> — Steph Smith (@stephsmithio) January 15, 2022

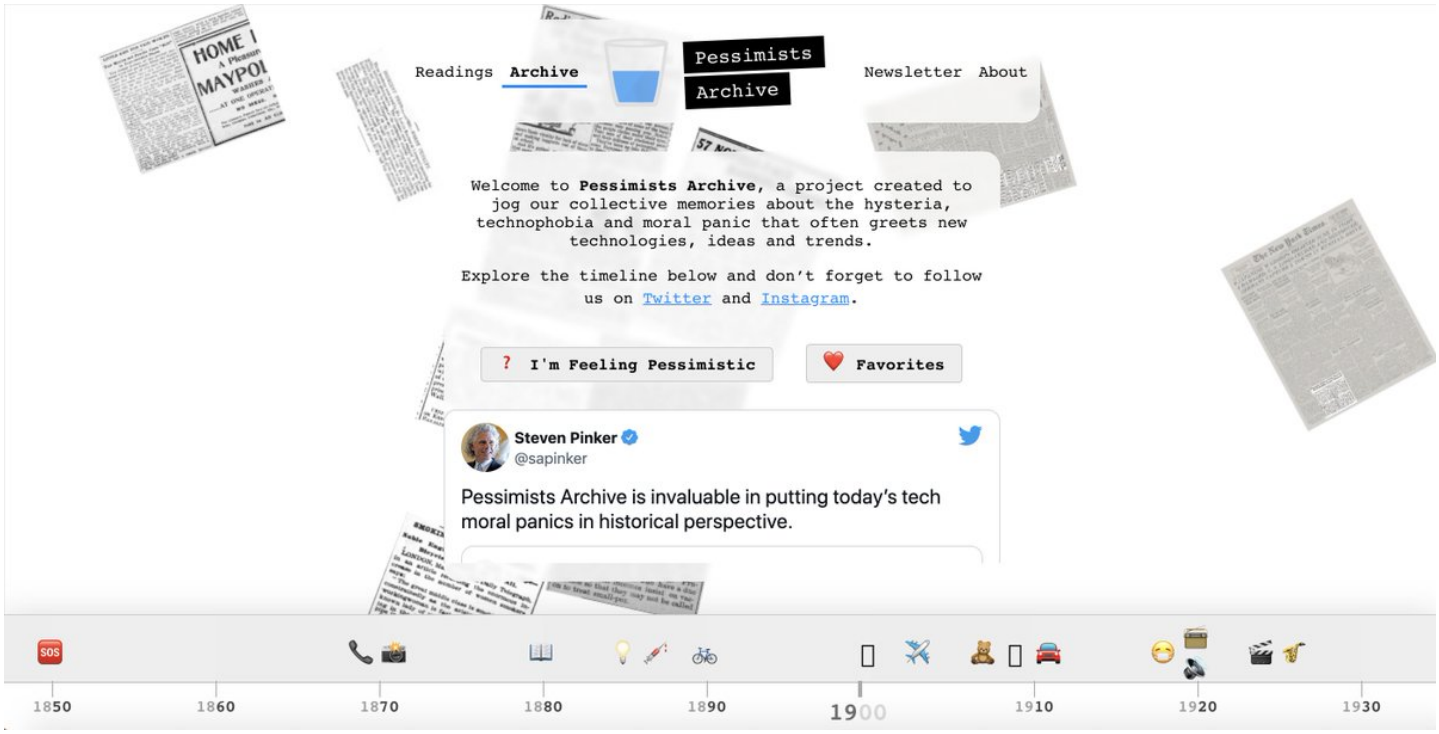
4. Death is depressing. So are pessimists.

@PessimistsArc has put together a wonderful gallery of the headlines from the past, regarding technology that people feared.

What did they fear? Nearly everything.

Even teddy bears. ■

https://t.co/DcZA3owyAo



Innovations that people once feared:

\u2022 TV
\u2022 Wifi
\u2022 Cars
\u2022 Radio
\u2022 ATMs
\u2022 Phones
\u2022 Bicycles
\u2022 Elevators
\u2022 Railroads
\u2022 Airplanes
\u2022 Electricity
\u2022 Computers
\u2022 Anesthesia
\u2022 Telephones
\u2022 Photography
\u2022 Printing press
\u2022 Reclining chairs
\u2022 Even... jazz music

— Steph Smith (@stephsmithio) December 23, 2021

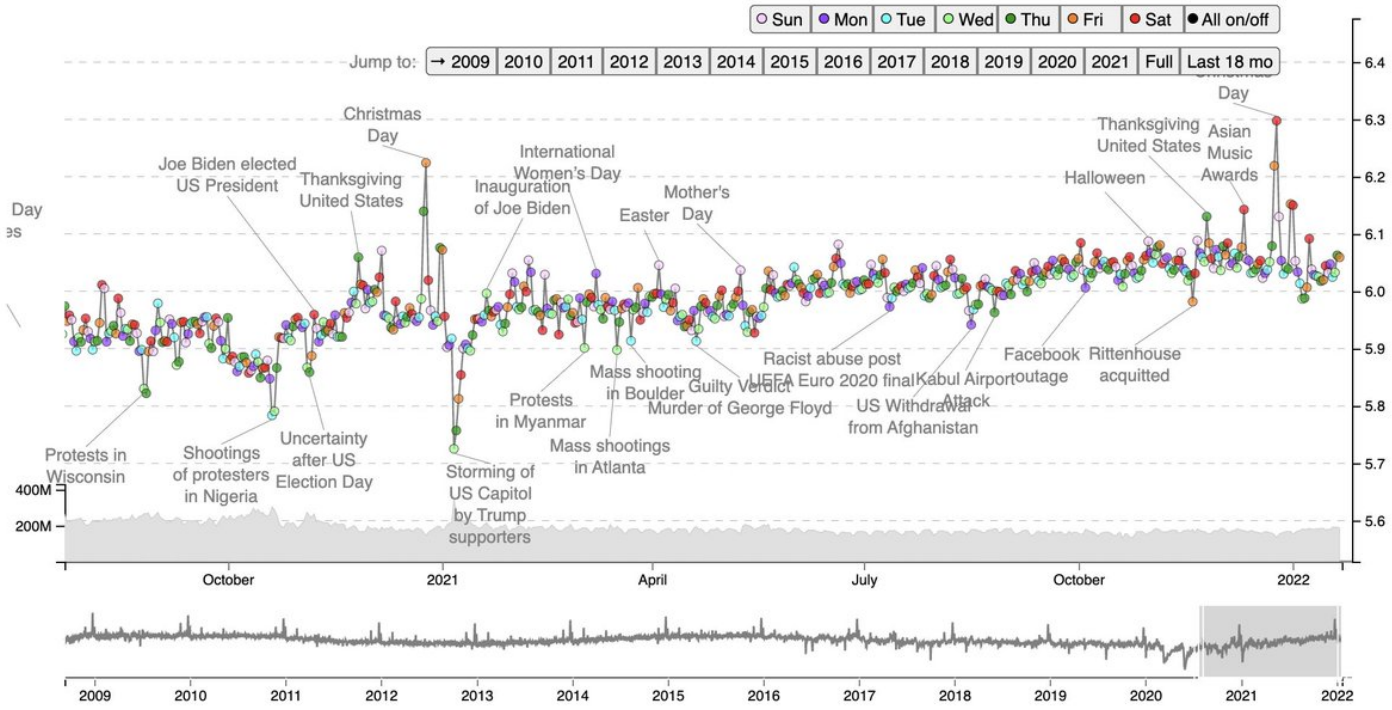
5. Can you measure pessimism through time?

The @hedonometer tracks the happiness of Twitter, through sentiment analysis.

When were we happiest?

Apparently, 2015.

https://t.co/6sEYoatEM3



> When did global happiness peak? Based on an analysis of tweets by @hedonometer: 2015
> pic.twitter.com/le5b9yf88g
>
> — David A. Sinclair (@davidasinclair) October 29, 2020

6. Speaking of happiness, there's one thing that has a 99% correlation with mine.

It's food.

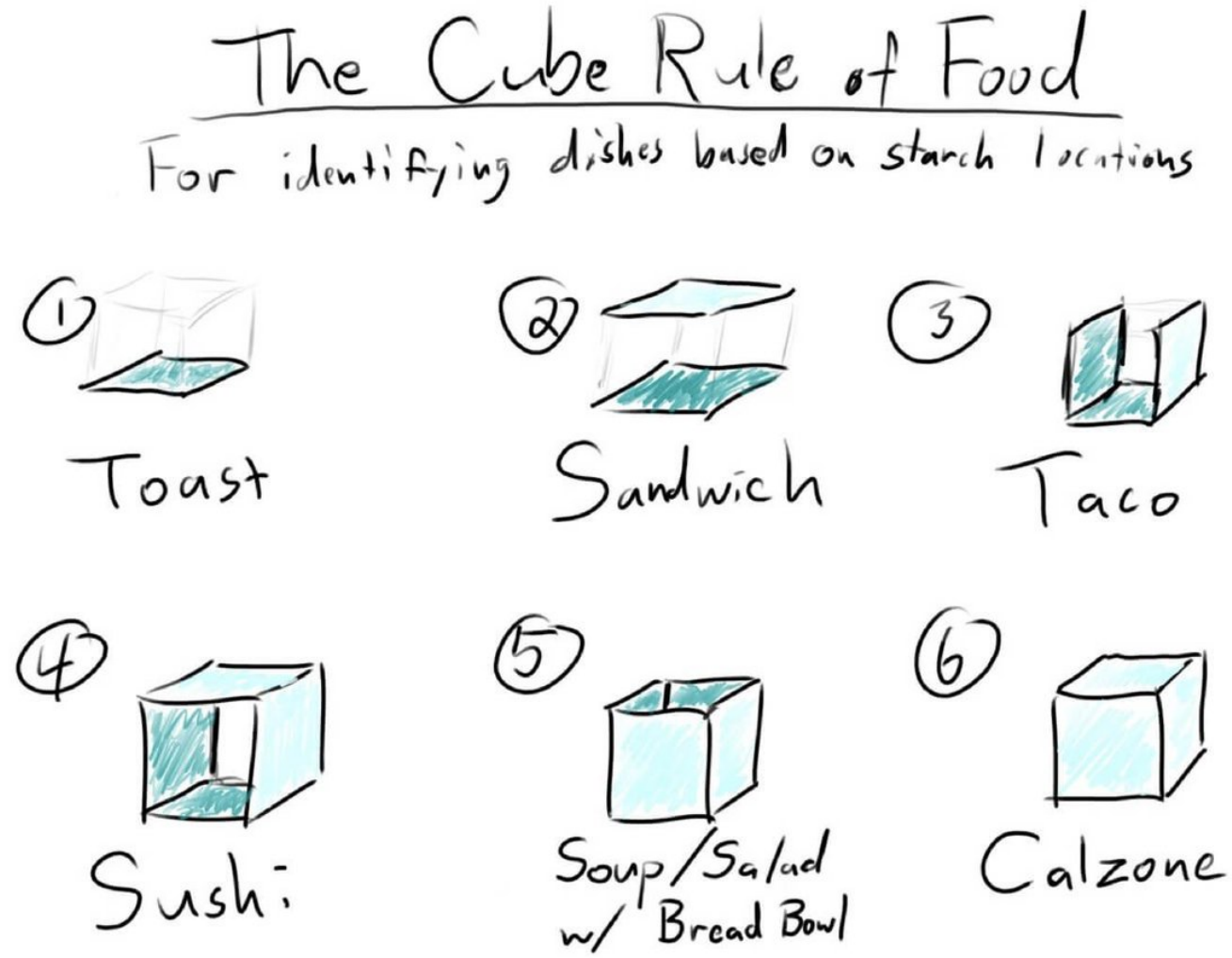
The https://t.co/A1tiZSkw4y is a wonderful tool that documents when foods were discovered, from the ■ to the test tube ■.
https://t.co/Wp2UgZjNqs

7. If you've ever wondered WTH constitutes as a sandwich, The Cube Rule has you covered.

The jury has spoken:

- A quesadilla is a sandwich
- A slice of pie is a taco
- Cheesecake is a quiche
- A dumpling is a calzone
- Mashed potatoes are a salad

https://t.co/guZez4Tiqe



> If you're also exhausted from a wild week of digital discourse... here's a new internet rabbit hole for you to go down \U0001f643
>
> (a much more fun one)https://t.co/UgeLtNTQaZ pic.twitter.com/ONU5lcXwtE
>
> — Steph Smith (@stephsmithio) November 8, 2020

8. For another site that gives perspective, I'll share something that I built!

A site of 500+ untranslatable words.

A couple favourites:
Abendrot ■■: The colour of the sky during sunset
Petrichor ■■■■■■■: The smell of earth after rain

https://t.co/EVStUNi6Db

9. Finally, one more site that gives perspective... from above. ■

The yearly drone awards, honoring categories including from urban, wildlife, sport, people, nature, and more.

Do yourself a favor and check it out.

https://t.co/c5bC5VBMmx

> 2021 drone awards are absolutely insane pic.twitter.com/Lc1V1DpnZr
>
> — Steph Smith (@stephsmithio) October 12, 2021

10. Onto sites that you can play with.

We'll start with https://t.co/XgkFdWCblT

This site challenges you to see what you can make with 140 characters of Javascript.

The results are INCREDIBLE.

And they're also surprisingly easy to create.

https://t.co/8dGPyhPM5b

11. Another one that'll boggle your mind: this fluid simulation tool.

I challenge you to not play with this for at least a few minutes.

Works on mobile too.

https://t.co/31Z94NH26v

> Okay - this is unbelievably cool. Try interacting with the page using mouse or touch --> https://t.co/n2kozd5u8s @PavelDoGreat pic.twitter.com/20mFqF1Rzo
>
> — Jen Gentleman \U0001f33a (@JenMsft) August 27, 2019

12. If you're bored of looking out the same window every day, you can adopt another with @windowswap.

And if you don't like that one, just shuffle to another.

Travel the world, without the airport security. ■

https://t.co/TtMCxRQpKS

> A friend introduced me to WindowSwap, where you can peer outside someone's window, somewhere in the world. And when you're ready, shuffle to a new one.
>
> No substitute for fresh air, but it's strangely calming. \U0001f486\U0001f3fb\u200d\u2640\ufe0fhttps://t.co/yoY74WZK8s pic.twitter.com/0WVmSR5P0u

— Steph Smith (@stephsmithio) May 19, 2021

13. While you're at it, might as well learn a language.

Instead of having to commit to learning goals that you'll never stick to, @JoinToucan lets you learn languages passively while you're browsing.

It's very bueno.

https://t.co/K34oMGHmBA

> The combo of too much Narcos screentime and living closer to Mexico than ever before has made me want to learn Spanish (for like the 8th time).
>
> Recently discovered @JoinToucan and it's pretty cool. It replaces words natively in your browser, so that you learn words contextually. pic.twitter.com/x5sPb88k5I
>
> — Steph Smith (@stephsmithio) March 15, 2021

14. Onto data tools. To start, I want to slip in a friendly reminder:

Take a minute to understand how many FB third-party sites are tracking you. (A lot)

If you want, turn them off with a click.

The thread shares the same for Google & Twitter.

https://t.co/Mpy2bHgGPX

> Friendly reminder that you can see how many third-party sites FB is tracking you through, by going to:https://t.co/hZXXuRaLrT
>
> You can not only delete the history, but turn it off moving forward.
>
> Goodbye to 1236 trackers (for me)...\U0001f44b\U0001f44b\U0001f44b pic.twitter.com/Kno5WwugN3
>
> — Steph Smith (@stephsmithio) August 5, 2021

15. Everyone uses Google. Almost no one uses Google Ngram.

Ngram indexed text from a huge # of books, printed from 1500 to 2008.

Use this data to understand how the frequency of words have changed (like priority vs priorities)...and also shaped society.

https://t.co/e8xIsxdS7d

> As you plan for 2022, remember one thing:
>
> If everything is a priority, then nothing is.
>
> The plural form "priorities" only emerged around 1940, despite the singular "priority" literally meaning that which comes before everything else.
>
> What is your #1 priority for 2022? pic.twitter.com/GCpK8L5wOC
>
> — Steph Smith (@stephsmithio) December 31, 2021

16. If we're talking data, we HAVE to talk Reddit.

As a top 20 site, the amount of value on the platform is insane.

To start, here are some of my favourite subreddits.

If you go explore one, make it r/dataisbeautiful.

https://t.co/mWGFe9A8Zp

> Some of the best subreddits:
>
> r/dataisbeautiful (15.9m subs)
> r/natureIsfuckinglit (5m)
> r/animalsbeingbros (4.2m)
> r/nevertellmetheodds (2m)
> r/assholedesign (1.8m)
> r/mapporn (1.5m)
> r/financialindependence (.9m)
> r/theydidthemath (.8m)
> r/ofcoursethatsathing (.7m)
>
> What's missing?
>
> — Steph Smith (@stephsmithio) June 21, 2021

17. If you have a favourite subreddit, dump it in Subreddit Stats.

It'll allow you to sift through the noise and see what the best posts of all time were.

You'll also be able to see:
• How quickly its grown
• Popular keywords
• Related subreddits

https://t.co/u0UjM5S629

1/ Reddit is in the top 20 sites worldwide (430m active users!)

Meaning it has info on nearly every topic.
The quickest way to surface interesting things?

1. Drop a niche subreddit in https://t.co/popbL3RNtu
2. Explore \u201ctop submissions\u201d
3. Notice things you *haven't* heard of pic.twitter.com/PXjW6B2OPl

— Steph Smith (@stephsmithio) May 19, 2021

18. Speaking of subreddits, this might be my favourite tool on the web ■

It allows you to visually see the how subreddits relate.

Try something like "r/herbalism" and you'll find all types:
• r/mushroom-hunting
• r/drugnerds
• r/babywitch

https://t.co/jfnChgUBTg

Coolest tool I've seen in a while: https://t.co/FRVPd4R0Mp

\U0001f4a1Discover related subreddits but also learn about society

Ex: digital nomad -> 3 themes
\U0001f4bb Work: Freelancing/startups
\U0001f392 Travel: backpacking but also "IWantOut"
\U0001f4b8 Financial Independence: FIRE, investing, minimalism pic.twitter.com/xPPJvHn2vZ

— Steph Smith (@stephsmithio) January 17, 2019

19. Going down these Reddit rabbit holes will often surface the most interesting things.

For example, one of my deep dives surfaced this list of 27k open salaries (and growing)

Side note: someone sign me up for turnip farming...

https://t.co/YE9HywWaIO

Found a spreadsheet w 27k+ salaries.

On top of the classics, some gems:

Turnip farmer: $500k
Orthopedic surgeon: $378k
Ceramic artist: $300k

Epidemiologist: $130k
Rabbi educator: $68k
Sail instructor: $42k
Lead zookeeper: $38k
PT "yarn wrangler": $21khttps://t.co/uXQo1OqD5p

— Steph Smith (@stephsmithio) November 3, 2021

20. A similar tool also exists for podcasts!

Use @getrephonic to find new podcasts that are tangential to the podcasts that you already know and love.

https://t.co/dn2B3SpyMk

Such a neat podcast discovery tool by @getrephonic

If you're a listener, find new pods to listen to.
If you're a podcaster, find new pods to partner with.

Create your own \U0001f578: https://t.co/p7qYlt05Vj pic.twitter.com/D1phxuXp18

— Steph Smith (@stephsmithio) October 13, 2021

21. If you like data, you're probably also obsessed with moving infographics.

There are several sites that let you make these on your own, like @f_l_o_u_r_i_s_h

https://t.co/myHbtIaLG9

RIP ringtones pic.twitter.com/CYzRBbhdhn

— Steph Smith (@stephsmithio) May 15, 2021

22. Since we're talking data, I encourage you to bookmark @OurWorldInData.

One of the premier sources of high-quality information, curated in a digestible way.

Their work really puts things into perspective...

https://t.co/ooXaf6eicG

World literacy rate has gone from...

21% in 1900 to
36% in 1950 to
85% in 2010

> Truly incredible. pic.twitter.com/MSQJrhdzUW
>
> — Steph Smith (@stephsmithio) January 17, 2022

23. Onto the final section: tools for creators

Let's start with the harsh reality that most creators fail.

But, it's the "successful" ones that get back up.

I love @Shpigford's page that shares all 62 of his creations since 2003 and where they went.

https://t.co/b4wa2LUSPD

> Another gem: @Shpigford shares 62 projects he's built since 2003 (19y ago \U0001f631)
>
> The best part is how transparent he is with each outcome, ranging from:
> \u2022 Active/Inactive
> \u2022 Shut it down (33)
> \u2022 Sold 1y later for $200
> \u2022 Sold 7y later for $4m (Baremetrics)https://t.co/l4sZweOfGw pic.twitter.com/pyQ5QKdG5O
>
> — Steph Smith (@stephsmithio) January 22, 2022

24. If you're just starting to create online, take a deep breath and remember:

Even the biggest companies in the world started somewhere.

@FirstVersions is a great site that showcases the early days of sites from Nike to Amazon to Coca Cola.

https://t.co/KMaht9LUb1

> Everything starts somewhere.
>
> Amazon, Twitter, Google, and Youtube, before the whole "billions of users" thing: pic.twitter.com/dNtIuY2Cwc
>
> — Steph Smith (@stephsmithio) June 23, 2021

25. Remember, building products should be fun.

If you're looking for a lol, check out the https://t.co/oGgNu5AhS0

This site takes "ideas are worthless" to a new level. ■

Your million dollar product idea is...

Grass Fed Probiotic Powder

I want another bullshit idea.