



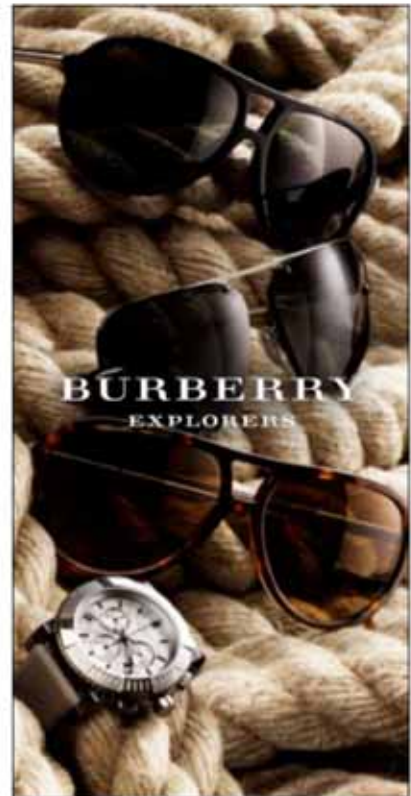
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## Agile tree pruner seeks sushi chef

By [Rachel Botsman \(/search/author/Rachel+Botsman\)](#) | 06 April 11



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Nowadays anyone can be an artist (<http://www.wired.co.uk/topics/art>) on Etsy (<http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive?p=292&page=456>) or a host on travel sites such as Crashpadder. The next step is to connect people who need a skill or task done -- from pruning a tree to designing a wedding invitation -- with those able to help. Online marketplaces such as Skillpages make it possible to match the "haves" with the "wants".

**Streetbank (/streetbank.com)**

UK-based hyperlocal "bank" for borrowing "things" and sharing skills. A typical post reads "Sushi (<http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2011-01/24/sushi-freezing-teeth>) expertise needed: I am organising a hen do for a friend who is half-Japanese (<http://www.wired.co.uk/topics/japan>), and need someone to teach us how to make sushi." Cofounder Sam Stephens, 31, designed the platform to "bring communities (<http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2010-05/25/nokia-instant-community-project-announced-tested>) together".

**Skillshare (/skillshare.com)**

Community marketplace where you can learn anything. Its cofounder, 29-year-old New Yorker (<http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2010-06/28/futurama-in-lego>) Michael Karnjanaprakorn, believes the key to making

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skill-sharing go mainstream is "convincing people they have something valuable to teach others". Skillshare uses [social networking \(http://www.wired.co.uk/magazine/archive/2011/02/features/social-networks-drive-commerce\)](#) to enable people to share their talents face-to-face.

**Hey Neighbor (/heyneighbor.info)**

Hyperlocal network to connect people based on their proximity, so they can exchange services, skills and information. New York-based founder Barbara Pantuso, 32, aims to address the problem of people not knowing their neighbours ([http://www.wired.co.uk/magazine/archive/2009/11/features/digital-cities-your-neighbourhood-is-now-facebook-live](#)). "A knock on the door can feel intimidating. Technology provides a virtual knock on the door," says Pantuso.

**Skillpages (/skillpages.com)**

Matches people who need a specific skill with people who have that skill, in an environment where you can see mutual friends and connections. More than 100,000 people from some 160 countries use Skillpages. "People can tell the world what they're good at, then get paid for it," says its CEO, Dublin-based Iain MacDonald, 33.

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