

# Release 2.08

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"A year after *Release 2.0* first looked at what financial markets and web markets have to teach one another, it can seem like the two groups are still talking past each other. But we're seeing early signs of how Wall Street and Web 2.0 can work together—and deepening evidence that the two may become inextricable."

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executive editor

Tim O'Reilly tim@oreilly.com

edito

Jimmy Guterman jimmy@guterman.com

publisher

Sara Winge sara@oreilly.com

art director

Mark Paglietti markp@oreilly.com

copy editor Steven Sloan

contributing writers

Brady Forrest Marc Hedlund Jerry Michalski Sarah Milstein Peter Morville Nathan Torkington David Weinberger

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subscription information

Release 2.0 PO Box 17046 North Hollywood, CA 91615-9588 http://r2service.oreilly.com

customer service 1.800.889.8969 1.707.827.7019 r2@oreilly.com

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Jimmy Guterman is the editorial director of O'Reilly's Radar group and editor of *Release 2.0*.

## Money 2.0

One year later, the connections between Wall Street and Web 2.0 are getting stronger and moving in surprising directions.

One year ago, we published an issue of *Release 2.0*, entitled "When Markets Collide," in which we considered what Wall Street and Web 2.0 might have to teach one another. Quite a bit, it turned out: the key parallels we uncovered include latency (both have to do their jobs more or less instantly), connectivity (that's the liquidity of Web 2.0), sensors and actuators (and how to use them), and reputation (stockbrokers are no longer curators—they're rated, in public).

Since the publication of that issue, we've seen a tremendous amount of activity as Wall Street and Web 2.0 size up one another, culminating in our inaugural Money:Tech conference, intended to bring the two sides together in the same room, which we held in February. So it's a ripe time to consider the status of the relationship. What's new? What's changed?

On one level, there's nothing new about Wall Street looking to new data sources to discover alpha, an edge. In *No Bull: My Life In and Out of Markets*, hedge-fund legend Michael Steinhardt notes that long ago, in the early 1980s, he "constructed my own New York City taxi index relating the percentage with 'available' lights to those occupied, hoping for more to be 'available,' thereby signaling a slowdown in demand." He discovered a proprietary economic indicator around the availability of taxis and traded on it. And Peter Lynch, manager of the Magellan mutual fund for Fidelity Investments, famously suggested that individuals buy stocks based, in part, by what they could see for themselves: in particular, how full a store's parking lot was.

But Lynch didn't limit himself to anecdotal data sources. As portfolio manager Omid Malekan writes, "Lynch also looked at all sorts of fundamental and technical information on top of how full a store's parking lot looks."



Our original coverage of the collision between financial markets and web markets can be found at <a href="http://downloads.oreilly.com/radar/r2/issue2.0.2.1.pdf">http://downloads.oreilly.com/radar/r2/issue2.0.2.1.pdf</a>. You can find out more about the inaugural Money: Tech conference at <a href="http://en.oreilly.com/money2008/public/content/home">http://en.oreilly.com/money2008/public/content/home</a>. The second one will take place in New York on February 5–6, 2009.