

# Steven Johnson

## Quotes

*Ideas, People, Innovation, Inspiration, Water, Memories, Mean, Meetings, Play,  
Internet, Motivation, Design, May, Smart, Thinking, Decision, Intellectual, Art,  
Mind, Writing*

The fusion of art and technology that we call interface design.

~Steven Johnson

Chance favors the connected mind.

~Steven Johnson

The adjacent possible is a kind of shadow future, hovering on the edges of the present state of things, a map of all the ways in which the present can reinvent itself.

~Steven Johnson

If you look at history, innovation doesn't come just from giving people incentives; it comes from creating environments where their ideas can connect.

~Steven Johnson

Being right keeps you in place, being wrong forces you to explore.

~Steven Johnson

The trick to having good ideas is not to sit around in glorious isolation and try to think big thoughts. The trick is to get more parts on the table.

~Steven Johnson

Those that regularly come into contact with people having diverse interests and viewpoints are more likely to come up with innovative ideas.

~Steven Johnson

When you don't have to ask for permission innovation thrives.

~Steven Johnson

Every childhood has its talismans, the sacred objects that look innocuous enough to the outside world, but that trigger an onslaught of vivid memories when the grown child confronts them.

~Steven Johnson

We need to play each others instruments.

~Steven Johnson

As much as we sometimes roll our eyes at the ivory-tower isolation of universities, they continue to serve as remarkable engines of innovation.

~Steven Johnson

That strange new zone between medium and message. That zone we call the interface.

~Steven Johnson

If you look at where innovation - defined as ideas, not as commercial product - tends to live, the university system is remarkably innovative.

~Steven Johnson

The problem is, there are definitely some genuinely lame things on television, and there's more at the bottom of the barrel, because the barrel in a sense has gotten bigger.

~Steven Johnson

Most of the time, criticism that takes pop culture seriously involves performing some kind of symbolic analysis, decoding the work to demonstrate the way it represents some other aspect of society.

~Steven Johnson

I love those stretches where I've just been a writer - when I haven't been doing Internet start-ups - where I pretty much eliminate meetings from my life.

~Steven Johnson

Silicon-based life may be impossible for one other reason: silicon bonds

readily dissolve in water.

~Steven Johnson

When it's a sharing and improvisational meeting, where you're riffing off other people's ideas, that actually can be productive.

~Steven Johnson

Nothing really says ... interactivity - which was so exciting and captures the real, the Web Zeitgeist of 1995 - than 'Click here for a picture of my dog.'

~Steven Johnson

We are often better served by connecting ideas than we are by protecting them.

~Steven Johnson

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