

NewsFilter

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THE STRAWHECKER GROUP

The Trusted Advisor To The Payments Industry



Jan. 2nd, 2015
Edition #435

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Trending This Week...

Happy New Year!

As we start 2015, there are reports of a data breach at [Chick-fil-A](#) to end 2014.

Following spotty reports in November, it has been reported that FI's have traced a pattern of credit card fraud to locations concentrated in five states from December 2013 to September 2014. Who will be the first big breach of 2015?

In other news, over the holidays, [Google wacked Visa and MasterCard with a lawsuit](#) accusing the Card Brands of violating federal antitrust law by charging "supracompetitive" interchange fees.

Other highlights include:

- [7 Venture Capitalists Predict What Will Happen in 2015](#)
- [Tougher to Use Bitcoin for Crime?](#)
- [Small Business Economy Continues to Grow Modestly](#)

NewsFilter will be back next week with much more Payments Press, as companies begin to release a slew of news to kick-off 2015!

Featured

[Banks: Card Breach at Some Chick-fil-A's](#)

12/30/14 KrebsOnSecurity

Sources at several U.S. financial institutions say they have traced a pattern of credit card fraud back to accounts that all were used at different Chick-fil-A fast food restaurants around the country. Chick-fil-A told KrebsOnSecurity that it has received similar reports and is working with IT security firms and law enforcement in an ongoing investigation.

[Bankers Look Beyond Apple Pay for an Answer to Mobile Commerce](#)

[Acquisition Multiples & Attrition Summary](#)

[Merchant Aggregation](#)

[Acquirer Strategic Assessment](#)

[TSG MPPS Benefits](#)

[MPPS Example Report](#)

[ETA/TSG Economic Indicators Report](#)

[Case Study: Driving Value Through Competitive Bidding](#)

[Should Traditional Merchant Acquirers "Beware of Square"](#)

[What Benefits Me By Paying a Credit Card Swipe Fee?](#)

[Use a SmartPhone to Buy Things!](#)

[The Top Ten Ways Acquirers Can Block the Breach](#)

[Analysis: Vantiv's Acquisition of Mercury](#)

This Day in History: 1980

U.S.-Russia Detente Ends

On this day in 1980, in a strong reaction to the December 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, President Jimmy Carter asks the Senate to postpone action on the SALT II nuclear weapons treaty and recalls the U.S. ambassador to Moscow. These actions sent a message that the age of detente and the friendlier diplomatic and economic relations that were

12/31/14 *BTN*

As new technologies like Apple Pay spark fresh interest among consumers in using smartphones for payments, and more banks throw their support behind Apple's payment model - SunTrust, Barclaycard, USAA, TD Bank North America, and Commerce Bank are among the latest wave of adopters - bankers are keeping their mobile payment options open.

Google Sues Visa And MasterCard Over High Interchange Fees

12/29/14 *PYMNTS*

Google hit Visa and MasterCard with a new lawsuit in federal court last week, accusing the payment card brands of violating federal antitrust law by charging "supracompetitive" interchange fees, Law360 reported. According to Google's complaint, between Jan. 1, 2004, and Nov. 28, 2012, Google accepted payments from customers using MasterCard and Visa credit and debit cards, both of which required Google to pay interchange rates above what a competitive market would allow.

7 Venture Capitalists Predict What Will Happen In 2015

12/31/14 *TechCrunch*

From cloud wars to the certainty that there will be hacks, venture capitalists believe that 2015 will be a year of tumult and (in public markets anyway) triumph for the startup world. Here are the visions that the general partners, managing directors and partners from firms such as NEA, IVP, Cue Ball Group, General Catalyst Partners and MDV have when they gaze into their crystal balls.

The Tally of Payment Cards Compromised in Data Breaches Grew 38% in 2014

12/31/14 *Digital Transactions*

The number of credit and debit cards compromised in data breaches hit 64.4 million in 2014, up 38% from 46.6 million in 2013, according to preliminary figures from the Identity Theft Resource Center, a San Diego-based non-profit that tracks breaches. Some 133 of 2014's breaches involved payment cards, up 39% from 96 breaches in the prior year.

A Handful of Blockbuster E-Commerce Acquisitions That Could Happen in 2015

12/29/14 *Recode*

It's rare to see a billion-dollar M&A deal in the e-commerce industry, but there's a chance we could see more than one in 2015 thanks to a confluence of events. Alibaba, flush with valuable stock following the biggest IPO ever, is poised to make big moves. The planned separation of eBay and PayPal could make both acquisition targets. And a group of giant but slow-growing startups could decide their best bet is to be bought by a major industry player.



Mobile Payments & Bitcoin

established between the United States and Soviet Union during President Richard Nixon's administration (1969-74) had ended.

Carter feared that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, in which an estimated 30,000 combat troops entered that nation and established a puppet government, would threaten the stability of strategic neighboring countries such as Iran and Pakistan and could lead to the USSR gaining control over much of the world's oil supplies. The Soviet actions were labeled "a serious threat to peace" by the White House. Carter asked the Senate to shelve ratification talks on SALT II, the nuclear arms treaty that he and Soviet Premier Leonid Brezhnev had already signed, and the president called U.S. ambassador to Moscow Thomas J. Watson back to Washington for "consultation," in an effort to let the Kremlin know that military intervention in Afghanistan was unacceptable. [Click here to read more.](#)

[NYC Considers Bitcoin, Apple Pay as Options to Pay Parking Fines](#)

12/31/14 GigaOM

You can buy an increasing number of goods or services with cryptocurrency Bitcoin and Apple's new mobile payments platform Pay, but soon their reach could expand to fines as well - specifically parking tickets. New York City is contemplating a mobile service that will let parking scofflaws pay their tickets right where they are issued using a number of different mobile payment methods, according to MarketWatch.

[Tougher to Use Bitcoin for Crime?](#)

12/30/14 Bank Info Security

The relative anonymity afforded by using the cryptocurrency known as Bitcoin appears to be in jeopardy, making it potentially less attractive for use in connection with cybercrime. Three University of Luxembourg researchers say they have identified techniques that can be used to determine the identity of anonymous Bitcoin users for between 11 percent and 60 percent of all Bitcoin transactions, "depending on how stealthy [the] attacker wants to be."

[Chevron to Integrate Apple Pay at Gasoline Pumps in Early 2015](#)

12/29/14 MacRumors

Oil company Chevron has plans to expand its use of Apple Pay to gas pumps in the new year, according to a tweet the company sent out to a customer earlier today. In the message, Chevron says that it is working with Apple to bring Apple Pay payment solutions to pumps by early 2015. Chevron is an early Apple Pay partner, and was listed as one of Apple's supporters when the service first launched on October 20.

[Regulation & Security](#)

[Retail Groups Take Banks to Task Over Data Breach Responsibility](#)

12/29/14 FierceRetailIT

Several retail trade organizations including the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) and the National Retail Federation (NRF) have sent a letter identifying what they term "the shortcomings in the financial services' recent arguments about card security." The document seeks to correct any falsehoods in recent comments from the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA).

[Sony Hack: Business Continuity Lessons](#)

12/31/14 Bank Info Security

New comments from the CEO of Sony Pictures Entertainment about the film studio's response in the immediate aftermath of a massive cyber-attack highlight the need for all organizations to ensure their business continuity plans specifically address cyber-attack risks. In a new interview with the Wall Street Journal, Sony Pictures CEO Michael Lynton says that following the attack, senior executives developed a communications network using a phone tree where updates on the hack were relayed from one person to another.



Economy

Small Business Economy Continues To Grow Modestly

12/29/14 *Newtek*

Newtek Business Services Corp., The Small Business Authority®, announced the release of the SB Authority Index of small business indicators for November 2014 which reached 129.50 points. Approved SBA lending volumes, the Russell Microcap Index and retail sales led the increase. The SB Authority Index is up 0.09% from October 2014. On a year-over-year comparison, the SB Authority Index is up 4.88%.

U.S. Jobless Claims rise, But Labor Market Still Firming

12/31/14 *Reuters*

The number of Americans filing new claims for jobless benefits rose more than expected last week, but the trend remained consistent with sustained strength in the labor market. Initial claims for state unemployment aid increased by 17,000 to a seasonally adjusted 298,000 for the week ended Dec. 27, the Labor Department said on Wednesday, after four straight weeks of declines.

Government Spending, Edging Up, Is a Stimulus

1/01/15 *The New York Times*

For a long stretch, government spending cutbacks at all levels were a substantial drag on economic growth. Now, finally, relief is in sight. For the first time since 2011, local, state and federal governments are providing a small but significant increase to prosperity. "There's not a lot of positive contribution coming from the government sector, but when you're talking about economic growth, less of a negative is a positive."

Americans saved \$14B as Gas Prices Fell in 2014

12/31/14 *MarketWatch*

Here's your share of this year's fall in gasoline prices: \$43.75. The slide in gas prices saved Americans an estimated \$14 billion in 2014 versus their 2013 gasoline tab, according to the automobile and travel group AAA. Given that 320 million people live in the U.S., that's \$43.75 for every man, woman and child, or about \$115 per household.



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