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Trending This Week...

This week, Facebook announced that Facebook Messenger users in the U.S. could make [P2P payments by adding their debit cards](#). The money goes straight from checking accounts to the recipient's checking account and sending money is done by simply tapping on the "\$" icon within a conversation.

Also this week, as PayPal readiness to spin-off from eBay, they announced the [acquisition of online international cash transfer business, Xoom, for \\$890 million](#). This acquisition follows closely on the heels of PayPal's purchase of Paydiant and shows the company's acquisition spree is not going to let up anytime soon.

Don't forget to check out TSG's & ETA's Infographic - [Why are Electronic Payments Important](#).

Other highlights include:

- [Banks: Card Breach at Trump Hotel Properties](#)
- [Square Launches Payroll Product for Small Businesses](#)
- [Greeks are Rushing to Bitcoin](#)
- [U.S. Banks Pump \\$16.6 Billion into Digital Transformation](#)

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**This Day
in History: 1964**

**Johnson Signs Civil
Rights Act**

On this day in 1964, U.S.
President Lyndon B.
Johnson signs into law the

WHY ARE ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS IMPORTANT?



The Strawhecker Group (TSG), in coordination with the Electronic Transactions Association (ETA), has re-released an updated, and enhanced infographic entitled - Why Are Electronic Payments Important?

[Click here for the infographic.](#)

The purpose of ETA is to influence, monitor and help shape the Electronic Payments Industry by providing leadership through education, advocacy and the exchange of information.

This communication piece illuminates the crucial role that the industry plays in driving healthy economic growth and sustainability throughout the U.S.

Facebook Messenger Rolls Out Payment Service Across The U.S.

6/30/15 Forbes

Facebook announced that a new payment feature is now available for Facebook Messenger users in the U.S. Now you can make person-to-person payments by adding your debit card through Facebook Messenger in just a few taps. The money goes straight from your checking account to the recipient's checking account, said Facebook's head of messaging products David Marcus in a status post. The Facebook Messenger app is required to use the payments service. After adding your debit card information, you can send a payment to a Facebook Messenger friend by tapping on the "\$" icon within a conversation.

PayPal's Acquisition of Xoom Shows it's Single and Ready to Mingle

7/01/15 Quartz

As PayPal readies to spin off from eBay this month-flush with \$5 billion in cash and no debt-it's becoming clear the company's acquisition spree is not going to let up anytime soon. PayPal CEO designee Dan Schulman on Wednesday announced it would acquire online international cash transfer business Xoom (think a modern version of Western Union) for \$25 a share. It's a big deal because Xoom, which went public in 2013 for \$509 million, has been making strides in the \$440 billion global money transfer market.

Beware Short-Term Headwinds Facing Payment Processors

6/30/15 Seeking Alpha

It has been no secret that payment processing firms have taken off since the financial crisis, especially the "pure" payment processors Visa and

historic Civil Rights Act in a nationally televised ceremony at the White House.

In the landmark 1954 case *Brown v. Board of Education*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation in schools was unconstitutional. The 10 years that followed saw great strides for the African-American civil rights movement, as non-violent demonstrations won thousands of supporters to the cause. Memorable landmarks in the struggle included the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955- sparked by the refusal of Alabama resident Rosa Parks to give up her seat on a city bus to a white woman- and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I have a dream" speech at a rally of hundreds of thousands in Washington, D.C., in 1963.

As the strength of the civil rights movement grew, John F. Kennedy made passage of a new civil rights bill one of the platforms of his successful 1960 presidential campaign. As Kennedy's vice president, Johnson served as chairman of the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunities. After Kennedy was assassinated in November 1963, Johnson vowed to carry out his proposals for civil rights reform. [Click here to read more.](#)

MasterCard. Both of these companies have seen sustained double-digit top and bottom line growth, which has translated to high trading metrics and above-market returns for investors. At a quick glance, both of these companies are well positioned to continue their growth by capturing market share in both emerging and developed markets in the future.

[Banks: Card Breach at Trump Hotel Properties](#)

7/01/15 Krebs on Security

The Trump Hotel Collection, a string of luxury hotel properties tied to business magnate and now Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, appears to be the latest victim of a card breach, according to data shared by several U.S.-based banks. Contacted regarding reports from sources at several banks who traced a pattern of fraudulent card charges to accounts that had all been used at Trump hotels, the company declined multiple requests for comment.

[Square Launches Payroll Product For Small Businesses, Pricing Starts At \\$25/Month](#)

6/30/15 TechCrunch

Mobile payment startup Square has been gradually building out the products it offers to small businesses to position itself as a one-stop shop for their various front-of-house and back-office needs. Today sees the latest development on that theme: the company has launched Square Payroll, software for businesses to pay and track taxes and other costs for both hourly and salaried employees. The product, initially available only in California, is priced at \$20 per month, with \$5 per employee on top of that.

Related: [Introducing Square Payroll: A Quick and Easy Way to Pay Your Employees](#)

[UK Payments Regulator Calls for 'Pipes and Wires' Innovation](#)

6/29/15 Finextra

Speaking at a conference in London, Hannah Nixon cited Paym, Apple Pay and Barclaycard's new bPay as examples of innovations that are making payments quicker and simpler for consumers and merchants. However, while acknowledging the introduction of Faster Payments, the PSR chief told her audience that "little innovation is happening around the underlying infrastructure. Few new and viable alternatives to the status quo have emerged."

[EMV Confusion Helps Lift Encryption to Top of Merchants' Security-Tech List](#)

6/29/15 Digital Transactions

Encryption technologies, which mask sensitive card data with mathematically derived characters and numbers, appear to be the security method that resonates best with merchants. That's the result of a Digital Transactions News survey that asked about EMV, tokenization, and encryption. Forty-five percent of respondents cited encryption, followed by tokenization, 30%, and EMV, 25%. That may indicate many merchants continue to be confused about EMV chip payments, despite the payment card industry's education and marketing efforts.

Meet the minds behind Digital Currencies,
Regulatory institutions + Bankers

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Mobile Payments & Bitcoin

TSG Quick Poll

With Apple pushing further into Payments, do you think they will become the next major card network?



[Complete the poll here.](#)

Codename Citicoin: Banking Giant Built Three Internal Blockchains to Test Bitcoin Technology

7/01/15 International Business Times

Citigroup, the global advisor of multi-nationals and governments, has been using its scale and reach in some surprising ways, such as conducting transactions on mobiles without bank accounts in Kenya, and developing blockchains within the bank and test-coins to run across them. Ken Moore, head of Citi Innovation Labs told IBTimes UK during a technology briefing that the bank has been looking at distributed ledger technology for "the last few years" and has amassed a skilled team.

Greeks Are Rushing to Bitcoin

6/29/15 CNN Money

With bank doors slammed shut, frantic Greeks are turning to online trading platforms to see if the digital money Bitcoin is a better bet than the euro. The world's largest Bitcoin exchanges tell CNNMoney they've seen a surge of business from Greece. Ten times as many Greeks are registering to trade bitcoins on the German marketplace Bitcoin.de than usual, according to CEO Oliver Flaskaemper. Bitcoin trades from Greece have shot up 79% from their ten-week average on Bitstamp, the world's third-largest exchange.

Related: [Morning News: With Greece in Arrears, New Travel Advice](#)

Pinterest's Buyable Pins Only Let You Buy One Item at a Time

6/30/15 Mashable

You can finally make purchases directly on Pinterest, but going on a crazy shopping spree will be tougher than you think. The social network on Tuesday began rolling out Buyable Pins, essentially items for sale, to iOS users nearly one month after the feature was announced at a company event. Buyable Pins will be easy to pick out in your feeds and searches. Each pinned item eligible for purchase now sports a blue price tag.

Microsoft, Paycorp Enter mPOS Partnership

6/29/15 IT News Africa

ZipZap, the mobile POS (mPOS) solution from Paycorp, has partnered with Microsoft Mobile to offer businesses and retailers a mobile solution that enables them to accept payments from customers wherever they are, transacting anywhere, anytime. "Microsoft is committed to

reinventing productivity and business process, and this extends to the important collaborations embarked on with Business-to-Business partners, like Paycorp.

KFC China Restaurants to Accept Alipay Mobile Payments Next Month

6/30/15 NFC World

Nearly 5,000 KFC China fast food restaurants will accept Alipay mobile payments next month, following in the footsteps of Walmart which is rolling out support for the service in all of its Chinese stores by the end of this year. Some 700 KFC outlets in Shanghai and Hangzhou, Zhejiang province have already linked up their payment systems to accept the mobile payment solution. All KFC restaurants in the country only accepted cash payments before this collaboration.

Barclays Expands Contactless Wearables

6/29/15 The Guardian

British shoppers could soon be paying for cups of coffee or trips on public transport by waving a keyfob or sticker, as contactless payment moves into newer wearable devices. Barclays, which launched payment wristbands last year, is launching key fobs, an updated wristband and stickers that can be attached to any flat surface, including a mobile phone.



Regulation & Security

Payment Card Industry Council Advances Point-to-Point Encryption Standard

6/30/15 BusinessWire

The Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council (PCI SSC) published an important update to one of its eight security standards, simplifying the development and use of Point-to-Point Encryption (P2PE) solutions that make payment card data unreadable and less valuable to criminals if stolen in a breach. The updated standard is documented in PCI Point-to-Point Encryption Solution Requirements and Testing Procedures Version 2.0. It provides more flexibility to solution providers and to companies that provide P2PE components, services that fulfill specific P2PE requirements and can be integrated into P2PE solutions.

Twins Plead Guilty to Hacking Schemes

6/30/15 Bank Info Security

Twin brothers, who were once considered computer prodigies, pleaded guilty in federal court June 26 to a range of identity theft and hacking-related charges, including an attempted State Department hack. Muneeb and Sohaib Akhter, 23, admitted that they had used their positions as government contractors to help carry out hack attacks, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Why the Battle Over Dodd-Frank Will Never End

7/01/15 American Banker

Five years after its passage, the Dodd-Frank Act remains a political

Rorschach test for the banking industry. Depending on who you ask, it is either a landmark law that reined in the biggest banks by heightening capital requirements, requiring stress tests, mandating living wills and giving regulators sweeping new powers, or an economy-crippling overreach that burdened small institutions and won't prevent the next financial crisis.

JPMorgan Reassigns Security Team Leader a Year After Data Breach

6/30/15 Bloomberg

The executive in charge of protecting JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s computer network from hackers has been reassigned, after a year on the job that included controversy over his handling of a massive data breach and the departure of several top security team members. Greg Rattray, a former U.S. Air Force commander for information warfare and a cyber-expert at the National Security Council under President George W. Bush, no longer works as JPMorgan's chief information security officer, according to an internal memo sent June 11.

FFIEC Releases Cybersecurity Assessment Tool

6/30/15 FFIEC

The Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC), on behalf of its members, today released a Cybersecurity Assessment Tool (Assessment) to help institutions identify their risks and assess their cybersecurity preparedness. Financial institutions of all sizes may use the Assessment and other methodologies to perform a self-assessment and inform their risk management strategies. The release of the Cybersecurity Assessment Tool follows last year's pilot assessment of cybersecurity preparedness at more than 500 institutions.



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Economy

Economy Adds 223,000 Jobs in June; Unemployment Rate Drops to 5.3 Percent

7/02/15 The Washington Post

The U.S. labor market added a solid 223,000 jobs in June, according to fresh government data released Thursday morning, signaling an economy that is regaining some stability after a sputtering start to the year. The unemployment rate fell to 5.3 percent, the lowest mark in the long recovery from the Great Recession. The jobs growth in June adds a somewhat reassuring note about the biggest player in the global economy, and indicates that the United States has brushed off an early-year slowdown that stemmed in part from a port strike, a strong dollar and a nasty East Coast winter.

The Economy's Missing Metrics

7/01/15 The New York Times

Over the course of the month, 80,000 prices are entered into tablets throughout the country, and the data flow to Washington for processing. Parsed and analyzed by economists, that information determines the official United States government inflation rate: arguably the most

influential bit of data in the world, determining whether new factories are built, new employees hired.

Why Aren't the Markets Freaking Out More About the Greek Crisis?

6/29/15 *The Upshot*

These three things are true: The likelihood that Greece would leave the eurozone, devalue its currency and repudiate its debts increased significantly over the weekend. The possibility of that event had sent tremors of fear through global financial markets from early 2010 through the middle of 2012, creating wild swings in stock and bond markets. And on Monday, the market reaction to seeing Greece finally reach the edge of default was pretty quiet, as these things go. European stocks fell 3 percent.



Payments Press

US Banks Pump \$16.6bn into Digital Transformation

7/01/15 *Finextra*

American retail banks will spend \$16.6 billion on "digital transformation initiatives" this year, according to research from IDC Financial Insights. As the retail banking delivery model is upended, financial institutions will increasingly focus their budgets on digital transformation, with spending growing at a compound annual growth rate of 10.4% into 2019, predicts IDC.

EBay And PayPal Formally Split On July 20

6/29/15 *TechTimes*

The partnership between eBay and PayPal officially ends next month after eBay's board of directors agreed on the completion of separation of both businesses. After July 17, eBay and PayPal will act as two independent publicly traded companies and the first day of regular trading, as distinct companies, will be on July 20, according to an official press release. Following the official split of the companies, eBay stockholders expect to receive one share of PayPal common stock for every share of eBay common stock held as of July 8.

NCR Turns to the Cloud for Less Invasive Point of Sale Overhauls

6/29/15 *ISO & Agent*

Retailers increasingly prefer software to execute fast point of sale updates, leading longtime hardware provider NCR to use a centralized digital hub to help merchants avoid the cost and time of 'rip and replace' projects. Called Retail One, the software hub enables retailers to use a single technology source to implement payments and manage transactions across different channels. Many retailers currently use separate systems for tasks such as payments processing and transaction management.

Sen. Mike Rounds a Tour of the Nexus Smart Pay Complex

6/29/15 *KOTA*

U.S. Senator Mike Rounds got a tour of the [Nexus Smart Pay](#) complex on the School of Mines campus today. Nexus Smart Pay is exclusively in Rapid City with over 50 retailers in the Black Hills participating. It is the first 4G biometric payment system that allows people to use their fingerprints to buy items.

Related: [Peters, Rounds, Carper and Isakson Announce New Senate Payments Innovation Caucus](#)

[Interactive Data Corp Taps Banks for Sale or IPO](#)

6/30/15 Reuters

Interactive Data Corp, one of the world's largest financial data providers, has hired banks for a potential sale or an initial public offering that could value it at more than \$5 billion, including debt, people familiar with the matter said on Tuesday.

[MasterCard Will Approve Purchases by Scanning Your Face](#)

7/01/15 CNN Money

This fall, MasterCard will start experimenting with a new program: approving online purchases with a facial scan. At checkout, you'll be asked to hold up your phone and snap a photo. MasterCard's thinking? It's easier than remembering a password. "The new generation, which is into selfies ... I think they'll find it cool. They'll embrace it," said Ajay Bhalla, who's in charge of coming up with innovative solutions for MasterCard's security challenges.

[MasterCard and Parkeon Unlock Parking Meters for Hyperlocal Offers](#)

6/30/15 MasterCard

At the International Parking Institute annual conference, MasterCard and Parkeon today announced the launch of "City Connector", a unique couponing platform that delivers offers and services from local businesses via on-street parking meters. The solution, powered by the Enterprise Offers Platform from MasterCard, turns traditional parking meters into connected devices to engage consumers, providing cities with a smart way to connect local businesses with citizens and visitors.

[Apriva and Amano McGann Bring EMV to Parking Payment Systems Nationwide](#)

6/29/15 Yahoo! Finance

Apriva, the leading provider of secure end-to-end wireless transaction and information solutions, announced a partnership with Amano McGann, the leading provider of parking automation in North America. Through this partnership, Apriva will be enabling integration of their EMV-ready Apriva Gateway into Amano McGann's parking solutions for both attended and unattended parking systems across their network of more than 5,000 locations.

[Cayan Is Now Level 2 EMV Certified](#)

6/27/15 Cayan

Cayan, The Payment Possibilities Company™, announced its official Level 2 EMV certification listing on EMVCo. EMVCo is the industry's leading governing body for EMV (Europay, MasterCard and Visa) specifications and interoperability issue management. With this confirmation, Cayan becomes one of the few American companies to earn Level 2 EMV certification.

[Intuit Laying Off 5 Percent of Staff Worldwide](#)

6/29/15 Dallas Business Journal

Intuit Inc., which has a large presence in Plano, has laid off 399 employees across business globally, about 5 percent of its 8,000 person staff. TechCrunch broke the news about the Mountain View headquartered software company's layoffs to Friday, saying it was part of a company re-alignment. Intuit confirmed the cuts to the Business Journal on Friday.

TSYS Extends Relationship with INVEX

6/30/15 TSYS

TSYS announced that it has extended its payments agreement with Mexico's Banco INVEX S.A. "We look forward to continuing our business relationship with TSYS, and are excited about consolidating our consumer line of business onto the more robust TS2® platform," said Jean Marc Mercier, head of the Card Business for INVEX. "We feel this will position INVEX for future growth while offering our cardholders increased product options."

Jory, a Cloud-Based Business Management System, Integrates with USAePays Payment Gateway Solutions

6/30/15 WTRF

Jory is a cloud-based business-management ecosystem for SMB's that helps merchants engage, transact, and operate both the front and back of house. A powerful mobile point of sale, coupled with extensive business management tools, give merchants complete control over every aspect of their operations. By partnering with USAePay, Jory enjoys the ability to stay processor agnostic and appeal to a greater number of acquirers, as well.

Newtek Small Business Finance, LLC Announces Signing of Lease for Over 30,000 Square Feet of New Office Space

6/29/15 PR Newswire

Barry Sloane, President, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Newtek Business Services Corp. said, "We are pleased to announce the signing of this new lease, signifying the anticipated further expansion of our lending business, growth of our other portfolio companies and potential future acquisitions. Acquiring this space furthers our goal of housing all of our service offerings in a central location in order to sell and cross-market our products and services in a more efficient and effective manner."

Santander Forms Fintech Joint Venture with Monitise

7/01/15 Reuters

Spanish bank Santander and British mobile banking software provider Monitise have launched a joint venture to invest in fintech businesses, they said on Wednesday. The venture will invest in firms with the potential to "redefine and support financial services globally", Santander and Monitise said.

Charge Anywhere Launches Miura Shuttle EMV mPOS and Retail POS Products in the U.S.

6/30/15 EON

Businesses owners and stakeholders wanting to deploy a comprehensive and versatile EMV solution for payment acceptance at the point of sale will be able to leverage Charge Anywhere's infrastructure, experience and technology to deploy a low cost EMV solution in two configurations; a three in one configuration (Chip, PIN Debit and Magnetic Swipe), and a four in one configuration (Chip, NFC, PIN Debit and Magnetic Swipe).

FIDO Alliance Equips U2F Protocol for Mobile and Wireless Applications

6/30/15 Visa

The FIDO (Fast Identity Online) Alliance, an industry consortium launched in 2013 to revolutionize online security with open standards for simpler, stronger authentication, today introduced additions to the FIDO 1.0 specifications with new transport protocols for FIDO U2F – Bluetooth Classic and Low Energy (BLE), and Near Field Communication (NFC). With these new transport specifications, FIDO U2F is appropriate for mobile and wireless applications, and devices that do not have a USB port.



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