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Trending this week...

IPOs are all the rage these days! According to people with knowledge on the matter, [First Data is planning to seek at least \\$2.5B in what would be the biggest U.S. IPO this year.](#)

It was also said that the stock could start trading by the end of this month. Following the IPO, KKR will retain majority ownership of First Data.

According to sources, [Square is planning to hold its IPO in the fourth quarter of this year](#), despite the uncertainty of Jack Dorsey, who is currently serving double-duty as the interim CEO of Twitter.

In mobile news, [Apple Pay competitor Android Pay finally launched yesterday.](#) Android Pay initially works at millions of locations including Best Buy, McDonald's, Macy's, Walgreens, Subway, Whole Foods, Toys R Us, and more.

Other highlights include:

- [Visa, Citigroup, Nasdaq Invest \\$30M in Blockchain Startup Chain.com](#)
- [Gemalto Releases Findings of First Half 2015 Breach Level Index](#)
- [Discover Announces Apple Pay Availability](#)
- [Sam's Club Locations to Accept American Express Cards](#)

TSG's Payment Gateway Directory

TSG's Payment Gateway Directory ([Preview](#)) offers a look into 28 leading gateway providers, covering 56 data points on

[Economy](#)

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Breach](#)

This Day in History: 2001

Attack on America

At 8:45 a.m. on a clear Tuesday morning, an American Airlines Boeing 767 loaded with 20,000 gallons of jet fuel crashes into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. The impact left a gaping, burning hole near the 80th floor of the 110-story skyscraper, instantly killing hundreds of people and trapping hundreds more in higher floors. As

functionality and company information.

[Click here to purchase.](#) Priced competitively at \$2,900.



Featured

[First Data Said to Seek \\$2.5 Billion in Year's Biggest U.S. IPO](#)

9/09/15 Bloomberg

First Data Corp., the payments company with investors led by KKR & Co., plans to seek at least \$2.5 billion in what would be the biggest U.S. initial public offering this year, according to people with knowledge of the matter. The stock could start trading by the end of this month, according to the people, one of whom described it as an acceleration of earlier plans. The price and timing are subject to change depending on stock-market volatility and how investors react to a pending roadshow, the people said. First Data filed in July to sell stock, without specifying a fundraising target or timing.

[Square Plans to IPO in the Next Few Months, Despite Uncertainty About its CEO](#)

9/09/15 Business Insider

Square has plans to IPO within the next four months, according to a new Bloomberg report. The report of Square's planned initial public offering comes as the markets have been rocked by volatility amid signs of a slowdown in the Chinese economy and other macroeconomic concerns. Square also appears to be moving forward even as founder and CEO Jack Dorsey is serving double-duty as the interim chief executive at social network Twitter, another company he cofounded.

[Android Pay, Google's Apple Pay Rival, Arrives](#)

9/10/15 TechCrunch

Google's new payments platform Android Pay, a rival to both Apple Pay and Samsung Pay, is starting to roll out, the company is announcing today. The system allows consumers to make purchases at point-of-sale using NFC technology, as well as pay for in-app purchases on Android devices.

At launch, the payments technology will work at millions of locations around the U.S., including big-name brands like Best Buy, McDonald's, Macy's, Walgreens, Subway, Whole Foods, Toys R Us, and more.

Related: [Tap. Pay. Done.](#)

[Visa, Citi, Nasdaq Invest \\$30 Million In Blockchain Startup Chain.com](#)

9/09/15 Forbes

In another sign that Wall Street sees potential in Bitcoin technology, Visa, Nasdaq, Citi and other industry players invested \$30 million in Chain.com, a blockchain developer platform that serves an enterprise market. Additional investors include Capital One, Fiserv and French telecom Orange, the last of which hints at the potential for the blockchain to

the evacuation of the tower and its twin got underway, television cameras broadcasted live images of what initially appeared to be a freak accident. Then, 18 minutes after the first plane hit, a second Boeing 767-United Airlines Flight 175 appeared out of the sky, turned sharply toward the World Trade Center, and sliced into the south tower at about the 60th floor. The collision caused a massive explosion that showered burning debris over surrounding buildings and the streets below. America was under attack.

The attackers were Islamic terrorists from Saudi Arabia and several other Arab nations. Reportedly financed by Saudi fugitive Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda terrorist organization, they were allegedly acting in retaliation for America's support of Israel, its involvement in the Persian Gulf War, and its continued military presence in the Middle East. Some of the terrorists had lived in the United States for more than a year and had taken flying lessons at American commercial flight schools. Others had slipped into the U.S. in the months before September 11 and acted as the "muscle" in the operation. The 19 terrorists easily smuggled box-cutters and knives through security at three East Coast airports and boarded four flights bound for California, chosen because the planes were loaded with fuel for the long transcontinental journey. Soon after takeoff, the terrorists commandeered the four planes and took the controls, transforming the ordinary commuter jets into guided missiles. [Click here to read more.](#)

power mobile payments. The company also announced that former American Express CEO Jim Robinson III has joined Chain.com's Board of Directors.

[Gemalto Releases Findings of First Half 2015 Breach Level Index](#)

9/09/15 Gemalto

Gemalto, the world leader in digital security, released the findings of the Breach Level Index for the first six months of 2015, revealing that 888 data breaches occurred, compromising 246 million records worldwide. Compared to the first half of 2014, data breaches increased by 10% while the number of compromised data records declined by 41% during the first six months of this year. This decline in compromised records can most likely be attributed to that fact that fewer large scale mega breaches have occurred in the retail industry compared to this time last year.

[Behind The Scenes At MasterCard's Investor Day](#)

9/11/15 Pymnts

During MasterCard's Investment Community Meeting on Wednesday (Sept. 9), the remarks from CEO Ajay Banga and his executive team gave a pretty good indication into how MasterCard views its role in the fast-moving digital payments ecosystem. Starting with his "three concentric circles" theme (to underscore the core value of MasterCard) as he does at similar meetings, Banga kicked off his comments by focusing on electronic payments in general.

[Moneris CEO Angela Brown Fights to Keep Ahead of Payment Technologies](#)

9/07/15 The Globe and Mail

Some executives talk about building a business that straddles borders. Angela Brown has built a life that does. As chief executive officer of Moneris Solutions Corp., Canada's largest processor of credit- and debit-card purchases, Ms. Brown spends her days focused on finding ways to improve the payment process from the company's headquarters in Toronto. On weekends, she often flies back to her home in Lake Mary, Fla., which she describes as a bedroom community north of Orlando where you have to watch out for black bears.



[Mobile Payments & Bitcoin](#)

[Discover Announces Apple Pay Availability](#)

9/09/15 Business Wire

Discover announced that on September 16, cardmembers will be able to add their Discover cards to Apple Pay, the easy, secure and private way to make contactless payments in participating stores. We are excited for Discover cardmembers to have the ability to use Apple Pay. Rewards have always been important to our cardmembers, and we want to make sure they receive a generous offer for shopping with Discover and Apple Pay," said Heather Roche, vice president of rewards at Discover.

[Facebook Signals Deeper Push Into eCommerce with](#)

Pages Redesign

9/09/15 *ComputerWorld*

Facebook is making changes to its Pages service to attract more businesses, in part by giving them a new way to showcase their products. The company has revamped the way Pages appear on mobile devices, giving businesses more ways to interact with customers using smartphones and tablets. Among the changes, some businesses will be able to add a Shop section to their Facebook Page, potentially allowing users to buy goods directly. In a Services section, businesses can list the services they offer.

Enter Samsung Pay? Smartphone Giant Seeks Mobile Payments Spark

9/08/15 *Reuters*

In a new Samsung Electronics Co ad, a mysterious monk strides through a supermarket to a hip-hop beat using his staff to wizard groceries into a cart. At the checkout, an acolyte whips out a smartphone to settle up using Samsung's new mobile payment system, as if by magic. The tongue-in-cheek nod to martial arts movies is a plug for Samsung Pay, a technology to be rolled out in the United States later this month that allows customers to pay for goods by simply placing their handsets on or next to a point-of-sale terminal.

Contactless Payments Will Grow by 100% in 2015

9/07/15 *Fortune*

Apple CEO Tim Cook has said that Apple Pay will be accepted by 1.5 million locations in the U.S. by the end of 2015. During Apple's earnings call in January of this year, Cook revealed that Apple Pay made up two out of three dollars spent on purchases using contactless payments across the major credit card companies, including Visa, MasterCard, and American Express.

VocaLink Study Finds Mobile Payment Market is "Still Anyone's Game"

9/09/15 *Mobile World Live*

A new study by VocaLink, the UK payment infrastructure provider, found 19 per cent of smartphone users make point-of-sale payments on their device, an activity the company admits is still "relatively nascent". That figure is a significant advance from just six per cent in VocaLink's last survey in 2013. However no definition is offered for what is a mobile payments user (once a day, month or year etc).



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Regulation & Security

Excellus BlueCross BlueShield Hacked

9/09/15 *Bank Info Security*

The healthcare sector has been hit by yet another massive hack attack. Health insurer Excellus BlueCross BlueShield says a cyber-attack that began in December 2013 wasn't discovered until Aug. 5, 2015. In the case of the Excellus breach, the 10.5 million affected individuals include 7 million health plan members and 3.5 million individuals whose data was

contained in systems of Excellus' holding company, the Lifetime Healthcare Companies, a Excellus spokesman says.

High Value Contactless Payments Available Across Europe in 2017

9/08/15 NFC World

Consumers will be able to make contactless transactions for high value payments above the current limit at all contactless terminals across Europe by 2017, MasterCard has announced. The move follows the payment network's confirmation that all point-of-sale terminals across the continent will be able to accept contactless transactions by 2020. The contactless limit increased from £20 (US\$30) to £30 (US\$46) in the UK this month.

Atlanta Gets Fintech Task Force

9/10/15 Finextra

The city of Atlanta is getting a new financial technology task force as it bids to become a hub for the fast-growing fintech industry and attract investment and jobs. Launched by the Metro Atlanta Chamber (MAC) and the American Transaction Processors Coalition (ATPC), the task force will develop a strategy to attract and grow companies in the fintech industry, develop a skilled workforce, and promote innovation.

Australian Parliament and Police Call on Banks to Create 'Opt-in' Function for Contactless Cards

9/07/15 Finextra

Australian banks may have to create an 'opt-in' function that requires customers to consent to the activation of contactless payment technology following complaints by police about a rise in low-value payments fraud using stolen cards. The recommendation comes from a Parliamentary Joint Committee into financial-related crime, which criticised banks for introducing new technologies without first consulting with law enforcement agencies.

The Future of FinTech is Here.
Let's Get Started.



Economy

The Top 10 Best American Cities to Work in Tech in 2015

9/07/15 SmartAsset

It's a good time to be a tech worker. Between 2013 and 2014, even as job and income growth in the rest of the economy was sluggish, overall employment in technology grew by 3.7% and average annual technology incomes increased by 2.4%. Today, there are 3.8 million tech jobs in the United States, paying an average of \$83,970 annually.

U.S. Middle Market Companies Optimistic about Business Prospects and the Economy, According to New American Express Survey

9/09/15 American Express

U.S. middle market companies have a rosy outlook on both their business prospects and the economy, according to the American Express Survey of Mid-sized Companies, which interviewed companies with

revenues of \$10 million to \$1 billion annually. Nearly three-quarters of financial decision makers (73%) in the U.S. middle market expect the economy to grow over the next twelve months and a similar number (75%) expect the economy will have a positive impact on their company's business prospects.

Bank of the West Small Business Growth Index

9/09/15 American Express

As the overall U.S. economy continues to grow, it's having a positive impact on the outlook for many small business owners today. Our survey found that 78% of small business owners invested in their companies in the past year, and 72% plan to invest in the coming year - a sign of American business confidence and optimism about the future. In addition, both profitability and revenue in the last year were up for approximately 40% of the surveyed businesses.

Call Cease-Fire in the War on Cash

9/07/15 Bloomberg

Last summer, London buses stopped accepting money To pay your fare, you now have to wave either a prepaid Transport for London Oyster card or a contactless payment bank card at a receiver. For some, not having to dig out a handful of coins is a welcome relief. For others, though, the disappearance of cash represents a dangerous threat to our liberty. A Google search for "war on cash" produces 109 million results ranging in negativity from skeptical to outraged. But in Britain, at least, physical currency is losing the so-called war.



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Payments Press

Visa Hires 1,000 Tech Professionals, Reduces Reliance on Outside Contractors

9/10/15 The Wall Street Journal

May require subscription. Visa Inc. has joined the growing ranks of companies that are developing more of their own software, which is seen as the key battlefield where companies define their competitive advantage. Visa is about halfway to hiring the 2,000 technology professionals it intends to add by 2017. Visa sees competitive advantage in bringing technology talent in-house rather than using contractors,

Sam's Club Locations to Accept American Express Cards

9/10/15 American Express

American Express announced that Sam's Club, the eighth largest U.S. retailer and a leading membership warehouse club for small businesses and consumers, will accept American Express cards as a form of payment starting October 1, 2015. The acceptance of American Express throughout the more than 650 Sam's Club locations in the U.S. and Puerto Rico will provide Card Members with access to high quality-products, brands and services at a great value.

Vantiv Launches OmniShield Assure(TM), a New Payments

Security Suite to Protect Small and Medium-Sized Businesses

9/08/15 Vantiv

Vantiv, Inc., a leading provider of payment processing services and related technology solutions for merchants and financial institutions of all sizes, announced the launch of OmniShield Assure, a security bundle designed to assist in protecting consumer card data, significantly reduce the chance of counterfeit fraud and enhance payment processing security to help merchants with PCI 3.1 compliance requirements.

Google Will be Joining MasterCard Digital Enablement Express Program to Speed Go-To-Market for Android Pay

9/08/15 MasterCard

MasterCard announced that Google will be among the first digital partners to participate in its Digital Enablement Express program, which the company launched with support from several leading banks. Through its participation in Express, Google will have a streamlined onboarding process to engage with all participating MasterCard issuers around the globe, accelerating consumer access to Android Pay.

JPMorgan Chase Cuts Fees To Stay Competitive

9/08/15 PYMNTS

JPMC is bringing down the cost of cards for some of its customers - made possible by a network agreement with Visa struck last year. Chase, on average, racks up \$3.6 billion in revenue from the swipe fees merchants pay to accept its cards. Chase is almost the very definition of "the big bank" but are facing an increasingly competitive landscape - both from other major financial services players like Citigroup and from the ever-proliferating army of Silicon Valley startups bent on disrupting the game.

Swipely CEO: We Want to Provide the Operating Platform That Restaurants Run On

9/09/15 StreetFight

After six years of slugging it out in the small business market, Providence-based Swipely is starting to really feel the wind behind it. The company provides a payments-centric data analytics platform specifically aimed at restaurants, and CEO Angus Davis says the company's aim is to help restaurants use their own data to "make better decisions, to help them to make more money at the end of the day."

Global Payments Announces Full Support for Android Pay in the U.S.

9/10/15 EON

Global Payments Inc., a leading worldwide provider of payment technology services, is pleased to announce that it will offer its merchants in the United States the ability to accept Android Pay™, which will offer a range of choices for Android mobile users.

Fifth Third's Chief Strategy Officer to Join Vantiv, Successor Hired

9/08/15 ISO & Agent

Fifth Third Bancorp in Cincinnati has tapped a new chief strategy officer to replace Dan Poston, who will leave the bank to join the payment processor Vantiv. The \$142 billion-asset Fifth Third hired Timothy Spence to succeed Poston. Spence will join the company on Sept. 11 and will report to Greg Carmichael, the incoming chief executive. Spence was previously senior partner in the retail and business banking practice at

40% Increase Month-to-Month of MasterPass Transactions in Europe

9/10/15 The Paypers

MasterCard's MasterPass solution, launched in February 2013, is now accepted at over a quarter of a million retailers around the world, and the number of MasterPass transactions in Europe have increased at an average of 40% every month from March, 2015.

VAI and Verifone Partner to Offer EMV-Ready Payment Solution

9/10/15 BusinessWire

VAI, a leading ERP software provider, in conjunction with Verifone, announced the availability of S2K Point, a new solution from VAI backed by Verifone Point-Verifone's North American Payment as a Service offering, which is certified for VAI's S2K point of sale (POS) software. S2K Point will include Verifone's EMV and NFC-enabled payment devices supported by Verifone's Payment as a Service platform.

Monitise Announces Chief Executive's Departure

9/09/15 FT

Monitise, the ailing British mobile group buffeted by a string of revenue warnings, has announced the departure of its chief executive and revealed a big rise in losses. The company said chief executive Elizabeth Buse was stepping down and reported a pre-tax loss of £227m for the year to June 30, up from £63m a year earlier. Revenues fell 6 per cent to £88m, from £95m last year.

SaaS Fraud Protection Startup Feedzai Hooks Up With Socure for Online Identity Verification

9/10/15 SiliconAngle

Fraud protection startup Feedzai, Inc. has announced a new partnership with online identity verification firm Socure, Inc. that will see the two offer a joint fraud protection solution for financial institutions. The new product is described as a "plug-and-play" solution that combines online and social data-based authentication with fraud risk scoring and sees Feedzai incorporating Socure's Social Biometrics Platform as part of its Fraud Prevention That Learns software to deliver what is said to be ultra-fast processing of Big Data to minimize fraudulent transactions and to reduce manual reviews costs for financial institutions.

As Traffic Heats up, the ACH Continues To Expand at 5%-Plus Rate

9/09/15 Digital Transactions

Transactions on the automated clearing house network grew 5.4% in the second quarter, the second straight period of 5%-plus expansion for the 40-year-old system, which reaches virtually every financial institution in the country. That's according to numbers reported by NACHA, the organization that regulates the ACH. The stepped-up growth comes after a comparatively languid 2014 in which the ACH's best quarterly performance saw transactions increase by 4.7%.

Alpha Card Services Appoints New Director of Payroll Solutions

9/09/15 Yahoo! Finance

Alpha Card Services announced today that Kevin Costello has joined the organization to further develop their growing portfolio of customers for

their payroll solutions division. With more than thirty years of industry experience, Kevin brings with him the expertise to ensure that Alpha continues to offer clients the leading-edge technologies that allow them to move their business forward.

Rabobank N.A. Chooses Vantiv to Grow its Merchant Services Division

9/10/15 Vantiv

Vantiv, Inc., a leading provider of payment processing services and related technology solutions for merchants and financial institutions of all sizes, announced that Rabobank N.A. has selected Vantiv as its merchant services solution provider. Rabobank N.A., a \$15-billion unit of Rabobank Group, offers a complete range of financial products and services for individuals, businesses, and agricultural clients in California, where it operates more than 100 branches and financial service centers.

Lendmark Financial Services Exceeds Customer Expectations with ACI Worldwide

9/08/15 MarketWatch

ACI Worldwide a leading global provider of electronic payment and banking solutions, announced that Lendmark Financial Services has selected its UP Bill Payment Solution to increase consumer convenience and reduce payment processing costs, as more of its customers use debit cards to make payments.

National Benefit Programs Adds Grand & Toy for Canadian Merchants

9/08/15 The Green Sheet

National Benefit Programs (NBP), which partners with ISOs and processors to offer value-added benefits to small and medium-sized merchants at highly discounted prices, today announced it has entered into an agreement with Grand & Toy to provide office products, services and solutions to its Canadian merchants. Grand & Toy, an Office Depot Company, is the latest vendor added as NBP continues to expand into the Canadian marketplace, helping members reduce operating costs and improve cash flow.

ING Acquires 12-Person Loyalty Startup Qustomer; Opens Innovation Studio

9/09/15 Finextra

ING has acquired the Belgian digital loyalty platform Qustomer as it looks to further its mobile payments strategy by working with smart startups. With Qustomer, users can collect and redeem loyalty points from shops and other retail outlets using a physical card with QR code technology or via the Qustomer application on their smartphone.

Bitcoin-to-Cash App Abra Raises \$12 Million Series A

9/10/15 Coindesk

Abra, the startup developing a bitcoin powered remittance app, has raised just over \$12 million in new funding. The Series A round drew support from a large number of investors including Arbor Ventures, RRE Ventures and First Round Capital. Combined with previous capital raised during a seed round, the startup has netted more than \$14m in investment to date.

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