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Trending This Week...

This week, NewsFilter is being delivered early due to Independence Day. Despite the short wick (I mean week), the news has still been abundant!



Bitcoin continues to be a hot topic as the [Bitcoin Foundation](#) tells regulators in California they have no jurisdiction over them, while the [Winklevii launch Winklevoss Bitcoin Trust](#) designed to operate like an exchange-traded fund.

In M&A news, [Thoma Bravo](#) is set to acquire Intuit's financial service unit for \$1.025 billion, while [TSYS completes the acquisition of NetSpend](#) following a brief snafu last month.

Other highlights include:

- Square Mastering PayPal's ["Don't Tell Store Associates And See What Happens"](#) Strategy
- [EMV Migration Forum](#) Issues Statement on U.S. Transition
- [Braintree Reaches \\$10 Billion Transaction Milestone](#)

Enjoy the holiday!

Merchant Acquiring for Dummies

TSG has just released the **U.S. Merchant Acquiring Industry Overview** report. This report highlights the merchant acquiring industry focusing on several key topics including: electronic

[Transaction Advisory](#)

[Acquisition Multiples & Attrition Summary](#)

UPDATED [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 Smart Phone to Buy Things!](#)

This Day in History: 1863

Battle of Gettysburg ends

On the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, Confederate General Robert E. Lee's last attempt at breaking the Union line ends in disastrous failure, bringing the most decisive battle of the American Civil War to an end.

In June 1863, following his masterful victory at the Battle of Chancellorsville, General Lee launched his second invasion of the Union in less than a year. He led his 75,000-man Army of

payments growth, the acquiring market landscape, and the impact of mobile payments on incumbent merchant acquirers. [Click here for a preview of this report.](#) The full report is 38 pages, [you can order it here](#) for \$1,950.

Featured

Bitcoin Group to California: You Have No Jurisdiction Over Us

7/02/13 American Banker

A group that promotes the digital currency Bitcoin has thrown down the gauntlet with regulators, telling California officials that selling the digital currency does not require a state money transmitter license. In a July 1 letter to the California Department of Financial Institutions, lawyers for the Bitcoin Foundation also clarified that the nonprofit does not itself sell bitcoins to consumers or run an exchange.

Winklevoss Twins Plan First Fund for Bitcoins

7/02/13 NBC News

If you've been missing the Winklevoss twins (and who hasn't), they're back in the news again with a plan to offer shares to the public that would give investors exposure to the value of digital currency Bitcoins. Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss, who alleged that Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg stole their idea for the website, have amassed nearly \$11 million worth of Bitcoins, according to a report in the New York Times in April. The Winklevoss-Zuckerberg feud was portrayed in the 2010 film "The Social Network."

Sale of Financial-Service Unit Narrows Intuit's Payments Focus on Acquiring, Mobile POS

7/02/13 Digital Transactions

Intuit Inc.'s sale of its financial-services division, which it announced on Monday, will likely narrow the Mountain View, Calif.-based software giant's focus in the electronic-payments business, leaving it with an established stake in merchant processing and mobile acceptance. Intuit agreed to sell the financial division to private-equity firm Thoma Bravo for \$1.025 billion and also said it plans to put its Intuit Health Group on the block. The health unit manages billing and other functions for clinics.

Ron Klein, Inventor Of Credit Card Strip, Made Little Money From The Invention

7/02/13 Huffington Post

"I think the statistics today talk about 609 million credit cards that are in existence, just here in the U.S.," says Ron Klein, the inventor of the magnetic credit card strip. "When I hear those kinds of numbers, I almost have to be apologetic." Even though his invention changed credit cards forever, he said he never made much money off the patent. Like any good inventor, Klein identified a problem and created a solution.

Paid via Card, Workers Feel Sting of Fees

7/01/13 The New York Times

A growing number of American workers are confronting a frustrating predicament on payday: to get their wages, they must first pay a fee.

Northern Virginia across the Potomac River, through Maryland, and into Pennsylvania, seeking to win a major battle on Northern soil that would further dispirit the Union war effort and induce Britain or France to intervene on the Confederacy's behalf. The 90,000-strong Army of the Potomac pursued the Confederates into Maryland, but its commander, General Joseph Hooker, was still stinging from his defeat at Chancellorsville and seemed reluctant to chase Lee further. Meanwhile, the Confederates divided their forces and investigated various targets, such as Harrisburg, the Pennsylvania capital.

[Click here to read more.](#)

For these largely hourly workers, paper paychecks and even direct deposit have been replaced by prepaid cards issued by their employers. Employees can use these cards, which work like debit cards, at an A.T.M. to withdraw their pay.

Mobile Payments

Square Mastering PayPal's "Don't Tell Store Associates And See What Happens" Strategy

7/02/13 StorefrontBacktalk

A Reuters story the other day spoke of Square shutting down its gift card service less than a year after it was launched. The move itself is not especially interesting in that it was a niche offering that didn't fit well with the typical retailers that used Square. (The only major retailer to work with Square-Starbucks-has its own giftcard program.) No, the interesting part was buried near the end of the story.

Why Smartwatches are the Real Future of Mobile Payments

7/01/13 Venture Beat

It's no secret that while smartphone adoption in the U.S. continues to rise - now accounting for 57 percent of the mobile market according to comScore - rollout of in-store mobile payments has been slow and fragmented. Some experts attribute it to infrastructure challenges or hesitancy on behalf of consumers due to security risks. Others suspect the market just isn't ready.

iZettle CEO Jacob de Geer: 'Mobile payments? They're About the Experience'

7/01/13 Wired

"[Mobile payments are] not about hardware or the transaction," warns iZettle CEO Jacob de Geer. "It's about [the experience] of becoming a customer". In Europe today, 20 million companies do not accept card payments. "These companies are small in terms of turnover, typically they have between 1-3 employees," says de Geer. "Accumulated they account for 20 percent to 30 percent of GDP in any European market".

Regulation & Security

The Clearing House to Pilot New Digital Payment Standard

7/02/13 Mobile Payments Today

The Clearing House, the oldest banking association in the U.S., is hoping to provide a solution for some of the newest issues facing payments, namely, how to handle consumers' information in a world of digital wallets. TCH announced it will be developing a "dynamic credentialing solution" aimed at protecting account and payment data by "reducing storage of sensitive information, such as a customer's card number, across multiple retailers, virtual wallet providers and others."

Retailer Files Lawsuit Against Visa over PCI Data Breach

7/02/13 Switch Commerce

The recent lawsuit filed by a global retailer will be the first to dispute credit card company fines based on the PCI-DSS, or Data Security Standards set by the Payment Card Industry. The largest credit card companies got together in 2004 to set these standards up, and within

them, merchants are required by contract to keep the data of card holders safe if they accept either debit or credit cards. In addition, there are a range of information security plans and requirements, such as keeping an information security plan on paper, creating and maintaining encryption, anti-viral software, an incident response plan, and training in security for employees.

EMV Migration Forum Issues Statement on U.S. Transition

7/02/13 The Green Sheet

Following its June meeting, the EMV Migration Forum has issued the following statement on EMV debit implementation in the United States: "The merchant, issuer, merchant acquirer, and issuer processor members of the EMV Migration Forum came together and jointly recommended principles for implementing EMV debit in the United States.

OCC: Cyber Threats Among Top Risks

7/03/13 Bank Info Security

One of the top U.S. banking regulators has for the first time named cyber-threats as a major factor heightening banks' operational risks. And banking security experts say this is a sign that greater regulatory scrutiny will come. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, in its spring 2013 Semiannual Risk Perspective report, points out that cyber-threats continue to grow, and are increasingly more sophisticated.

Economy.

2013 is Halfway Over! This is How the Economy is Doing, in 11 charts

7/02/13 The Washington Post

We've reached the halfway point of 2013. We are nearing the five-year anniversary of the most intense phase of the great financial crisis, and are now at the four-year anniversary of the beginning of the recovery from the Great Recession. So, as Ed Koch might ask, how're we doing? The answer, as always on Wonkblog, can be found in the charts. Here are the 27 charts that show how the economy is doing as the second half of the year begins.

State of The American Dream is Uncertain

7/03/13 CNBC

Ah, the enduring American Dream. The idea that anyone who works hard enough can climb the ladder and achieve success: a lovely home in the suburbs, luxury cars in the garage, the kids off to a good college and the retirement in a sunny locale. The reality is more complicated. Although the economy is slowly improving, experts say the deep recession and weak recovery may have exacerbated decades-long trends that were already making it tough for Americans to move up the ladder and, perhaps, achieve the American Dream.

U.S. Jobless Claims Fall to 343,000 in Week

7/03/13 Nasdaq

The number of U.S. workers applying for first-time unemployment benefits fell last week, signaling steady if still slow improvement in the labor market. Initial jobless claims, a proxy for layoffs, decreased by 5,000 to a seasonally adjusted 343,000 in the week ended June 29, the Labor

Department said Wednesday. Economists surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires had forecast 350,000 new applications last week.

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Payments Press

TSYS Completes \$1.4 Billion NetSpend Acquisition

7/01/13 BTN

Total System Services closed its \$1.4 billion acquisition of NetSpend on July 1, in line with its previously disclosed schedule for closing. TSYS will pay NetSpend stockholders \$16 per share in the all-cash transaction, or nearly \$1.16 billion for the nearly 72.45 outstanding shares of NetSpend stock. TSYS will also pay \$240.6 million to acquire unvested shares of NetSpend stock.

PAI Provides a Payment Processing Option for Gun-Sellers

7/01/13 Retail Customer Experience

Recently, retailers who sell guns have been caught in the crossfire of an impassioned Second Amendment debate. And whether it's due to conscience or community pressure, many traditional payment processors are bowing out of relationships with retailers engaged in the legal trade of firearms. However, Payments Alliance International has reaffirmed its commitment to merchants in the shooting sports industry through the PAI Shooting Sports Payments Package.

Braintree Reaches \$10 Billion Transaction Milestone

7/03/13 Finextra

Braintree, the global payment platform behind many of the best next-generation online and mobile purchasing experiences, today announced more international momentum with the addition of Sweden-based Mojang, maker of the popular games Minecraft, Scrolls and Cobalt. Mojang joins a growing list of international companies, such as AVG Technologies, The Economist and Rovio/Angry Birds, using Braintree as their payment platform.

Acardo and CorFire™ to Bring NFC-Enabled Vouchering to Market

7/01/13 Corfire

CorFire, the mobile commerce business of SK C&C USA and the industry-leading mobile commerce technology, today announced a strategic partnership with marketing and IT services leader acardo group AG. The partnership will enable acardo to incorporate its digital vouchering solution "open wallet" into the CorFire Wallet product platform.

Monitise and Telefonica Enter Mobile Money Partnership

7/01/13 Yahoo! Finance

Monitise plc announces it has become the preferred Mobile Money technology partner for Telefónica Digital to develop and manage new and

existing mobile payment and commerce services for its customers. The agreement comes as the strategic and commercial merits of Monitise's proven and established platform technology enabling consumers to bank, pay and buy via mobile.

LevelUp Integrates With pcAmerica to Bring Mobile Payments to More Locations

7/02/13 The Wall Street Journal

pcAmerica, an award-winning retail and restaurant point of sale (POS) software developer, today announced an agreement to integrate the LevelUp mobile payment and loyalty solution into its Restaurant Pro Express and Cash Register Express POS software. This agreement gives more than 50,000 restaurants, liquor stores and convenience stores another way to accept mobile payments and market to their customers.

OpenCoin Extends Ripple Network to Include All Bitcoin Merchants and Users

7/02/13 MarketWired

OpenCoin announced at Bitcoin London that Ripple users can now make payments to all Bitcoin addresses directly from the Ripple client. As a result, Ripple users now have access to over 8,500 Bitcoin merchants and the entire Bitcoin economy. The Bitcoin Bridge allows Ripple users to send a payment in any currency to a Bitcoin address, and the Bitcoin address will receive it in Bitcoins.



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