

The Green Sheet

The Financial Services Industry Source for Education, Inspiration and Actionable Advice

December 9, 2002 Issue 02:12:01

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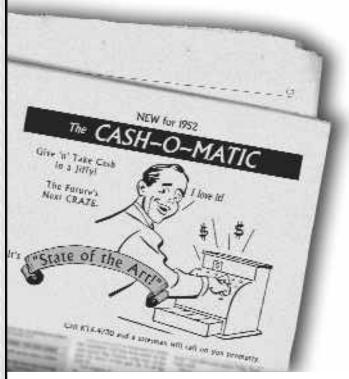
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This Isn't Your Grandfather's Payment Industry



am flattered that The Green Sheet has asked me to update this ancient series of "Knowledge Is Power" articles, first written in December 1997.

By Bob Cart

Of course, all of us are at different places in our lives than we were five years ago. I sure am. In 1997, after 10-plus years as a struggling ISO with 2,500 merchants processing a half-billion dollars of annual volume, we

partnered with a small bank in St Louis, and suddenly our business doubled and then doubled again and then doubled again. It has since doubled again and yet again – all in the last 64 months.

Those five-year-old articles arose in part because of my new exposure to the acquiring industry from a completely different perspective – as a highly regarded "member" vs. a low-life ISO. (That's how it was viewed by our association brethren – this too has changed!)

I shared a lot of my views and knowledge with Paul Green's devotees about how the system works. My approach to business was always to give as much information as possible to my sales organization, but now

thousands of Green Sheet readers were getting the same information.

See KNOWLEDGE on Page 6



Notable Quate:

With virtual offices and electronic files replacing paper and postit notes, it's much harder to uncover disorganization. Does that mean it's no longer a problem? Not hardly! Maintaining control over reams of data and computer files can be just as challenging if an effective management system isn't in place.

See Story on Page 47

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The Green Sheet

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DEBUNKING URBAN LEGENDS:









Getting Started

I am an experienced bank rep researching which entities to partner with in the future, so I am not an official ISO yet. If you know of someone who could give me unbiased recommendations, that would be appreciated. Thank you.

Karen

Karen:

The ISO Forum is a networking space for ISOs. While no recommendation would be "unbiased," it would be based on personal experience. Many hundreds of Forum participants have received valuable information and support from others in the industry who are striving to build their business.

Our mission statement is to provide education, inspiration and actionable advice for ISOs selling payment-processing solutions. The entire backlist of The Green Sheet (published bimonthly) is available online at no charge. Additionally, our quarterly publication, GSQ, is now available online in PDF format. The GSQ provides our annual in-depth reports on bankcard acquiring, equipment and the ISO marketplace.

Both of these libraries can be searched with our "Fast Finder." You can search by company name, product, keyword, etc. to find the payment-processing articles you need. For instance: A search with the term "merchant portfolio" found 1,667 total matches in four seconds within 126 pages. Each of these pages is then listed with links to the original article, a "highlighted version" of the article containing the search terms in highlighted text, and a PDF version.



The Resource Guide Online offers paid classified advertising with categories such as "Leasing," "ISOs Looking for Agents" and "Equipment," to name a few.

When you register for our free subscription to our print publications, you also will receive the user name and password to our "Preview Access Issue" and "Knowledge is Power" areas of the site. Additionally, we can send you a complimentary copy of Paul Green's "Good Selling." This book is the best sales training manual available specifically for our industry.

Good Selling! The Green Sheet Staff

From Paper to ACH

I first want to say I'm an avid reader of The Green Sheet. It's always very educational and informative.

I own a processing center that prints paper drafts for small businesses, and I'm also an agent that provides merchant card setup and electonic payment solutions. Here are my questions to you:

I want to upgrade from paper drafts to ACH processing to keep my company current with technology. What ACH software do you suggest that would facilitate this change? Whom would you recommend I talk to? I thank you in advance for your help and advice.

Teresa TNT Asset Resources APS

Teresa:

We went to Mike Gilchrist, Vice President, Western Payments Alliance for an answer to your question:

"To upgrade from paper checks to ACH processing, financial institutions need to implement new technology that can convert paper drafts into the appropriate ACH formats. This electronic file then can be processed through the Automated Clearing House, either by working directly with a major financial institution to originate these items or with a third-party processor. The Western Payments Alliance (www.wespay.org) can offer referrals to third-party providers of these services."





I believe the industry we have known for the past couple of decades is slowly being stood on its head, and a lot of folks aren't paying attention. Many of our industry observers are just plain wrong, in my view.

KNOWLEDGE from Page 1

Fundamental precepts like interchange, revenue

splits, processing costs, surcharging, monthly and transaction fees and other constructs previously hidden from salespeople were exposed to the sunlight. Many ISOs continue to resent me for having done this, but many of the portfolio-builders across America still thank me after all of these years.

The Green Sheet, to its significant credit, continues to be the honest broker of information to our industry, and I continue to be one of its biggest fans. I have read every single article and book that Paul Green has ever published, and that is saying a lot!

In the interest of continued full disclosure, I must say again that I come to this place and write this series of arti-

cles without an "open mind." There are a few writers in our industry who are independent and above the fray. I am not one of them. I am a writer who has been in the battle for many years and obviously cannot avoid being influenced by my experiences and self-interest.

With those caveats exposed, I begin this renewed series of articles with the same sense of excitement that I have been fortunate to experience several times in my career. For the past year, I have felt like a kid in a candy store – a kid who really, really loves candy!

Back in 1969, when the Bank of Illinois hired me to "get in the computer business," there were so many applications to develop that we couldn't possibly do all of the ones that we could justify. We chose automating our DDA system (going to daily interest and eliminating the passbook for savings accounts), payroll processing for bank commercial customers and telephone billing for America's remaining rural telephone companies.

We took a pass on becoming the Midwest processor for that newfangled BankAmericard that B of A was taking across the country, charging 3% discount fees to merchants! Decisions like this had to be made because the new IBM 360 family of computers opened so many new opportunities to cost-effectively automate the business world.

In 1979, when Radio Shack was rolling out 32K desktop computer systems for \$1,500, the opportunities to create small-business solutions were enormous. Some guys, like Bill Gates, did a lot better job of taking advantage of this opportunity than I did, but it was fun to be able to choose from so many alternatives to increase the productivity of American business. (Ever heard of the "Electric Pencil?")

Now as 2002 comes to a close, history is repeating itself. The payment industry is ripe for more innovation than it has ever seen. Just look at The Green Sheet every couple of weeks. The ideas and opportunities are just overwhelming. Yes, many of them are ill-conceived solutions looking for real merchant pain and don't make a lot of sense in the marketplace. But it has always been this way in the world of hardware and software product development. Today is no different.

I believe the industry we have known for the past couple of decades is slowly being stood on its head, and a lot of folks aren't paying attention. Many of our industry





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As has been true since John von Neumann constructed the first working, stored-program digital computer (in the basement of an Institute for Advanced Studies building on Olden Street in Princeton, N.J., in 1947), new tools placed into the hands of intelligent, motivated leaders can change the world!

observers are just plain wrong, in my view, about such conventional notions as:

- The payment industry will be comprised of two or three players who will be left standing after "the consolidation."
- Processing is a commodity business, just like electricity or natural gas.
- Scale is the primary driver of profitability.
- Margin compression rules the day.
- The cost of entry into the acquiring business is prohibitive.
- Merchants won't buy new terminals because the old stuff still works.

As has been true since John von Neumann constructed the first working, stored-program digital computer (in the basement of an Institute for Advanced Studies building on Olden Street in Princeton, N.J., in 1947), new tools placed into the hands of intelligent, motivated leaders can change the world! These new tools and capabilities already have arrived on today's scene. Here are 10 that get me excited:

- **1.** Technology that allows for long-distance telephone calls to cost less than three cents a minute billed in one-second increments.
- **2.** Cheap, multi-application POS devices with fast modems. A four-megabyte, multi-application POS device in which the processing power can be sliced into numerous integrated or independent applications now costs less than \$400!
- **3.** Universal availability of debit cards to provide real solutions to the unbanked and financially challenged consumer with virtually no risk to the merchant.
- **4.** Internet delivery of real-time transaction data on the fly.
- 5. Client/server authorization cen-



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ters that cost less than \$2 million.

6. Real-time file builds and download file maintenance systems.

7. Digital to voice to digital conversion of messaging.

8. Storage Area Networks that can store the equivalent of all the material in the Library of Congress for less than \$1 million.

9. Biometrics.10. Smart cards.

Bob Cart

These technologies are being rolled out today by nimble, technology-savvy companies in niche markets. Yet the majority of the 25-plus billion transactions processed in today's U.S. payment industry are authorized, captured and settled on systems designed in the 1980s and '90s.

Many of these old architectures are dressed up with GUI interfaces and pretty Internet delivery of reporting. Yet, fundamentally, they continue to be slow, asynchronous front ends and inefficient, labor-creating, BET table-driven back ends with software architecture designed before we ever heard of SANs and card-not-present interchange levels, not to mention the recent caving of the telecom industry's pricing models.

This series of articles will focus on updating the original

"Knowledge Is Power" series. It also will focus on defining the tectonic movements that I believe will fundamentally change the economics as well as the products and services offered by our industry before the end of this decade. This isn't going to be your grandfather's payment industry for very long.

Bob Carr is the Founder, CEO and Chairman of Heartland Payment Systems, the nation's largest privately owned merchant acquirer and ninth largest overall, with annual revenues exceeding \$300,000,000. Heartland was recognized by INC Magazine as the 57th fastest-growing private company in America and is one of the 10 largest INC 500 companies. Bob was a Founder and Vice President from 1988 to '90 of the Bankcard Services Association, which has since become the ETA.

Before entering the bankcard industry in 1986, he developed computer software systems for unattended fuel pumps and created the first integrated accounting applications for PCs. He also started the computer department at the Bank of Illinois and served as the Director of the Computer Center and as a mathematics instructor for Parkland College. He earned degrees in mathematics and computer science from the University of Illinois in 1966 and 1967.

To learn more about Heartland, visit www.hpsteammates.com or www.heartlandpaymentsystems.com, or send an e-mail to Bob at Bob.Carr@e-hps.com.



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Released Documents Tell of Fight against Online Debit, 'War' against Regional Rivals

he numbers give an inkling of the scope:
One class-action suit.
Two credit card issuers. More than 10 years.
Thousands of pages of documents. Four million retailers.
\$13 billion in potential damages. Millions of consumers with debit cards.

Documents unsealed and released in the antitrust suit brought by retailers against Visa USA and MasterCard International, Inc. allege the two card issuers spent more than a decade discouraging competition and driving up costs to merchants.

The documents seem to support what participants, led by Wal-Mart and including most of the retailers in the U.S., allege in the suit. According to the documents, both credit/debit giants used a variety of tactics to undercut rival



The documents seem to support what participants, led by Wal-Mart and including most of the retailers in the U.S., allege in the suit. According to the documents, both credit/debit giants used a variety of tactics to undercut rival card issuers and undermine alternative forms of payment to ensure market dominance.

card issuers and undermine alternative forms of payment to ensure market dominance. These tactics included throwing their considerable market weight around, making big cash payments, some in the tens of millions of dollars, to banks for curtailing business with regional networks and slowing the distribution of PIN pads to merchants.

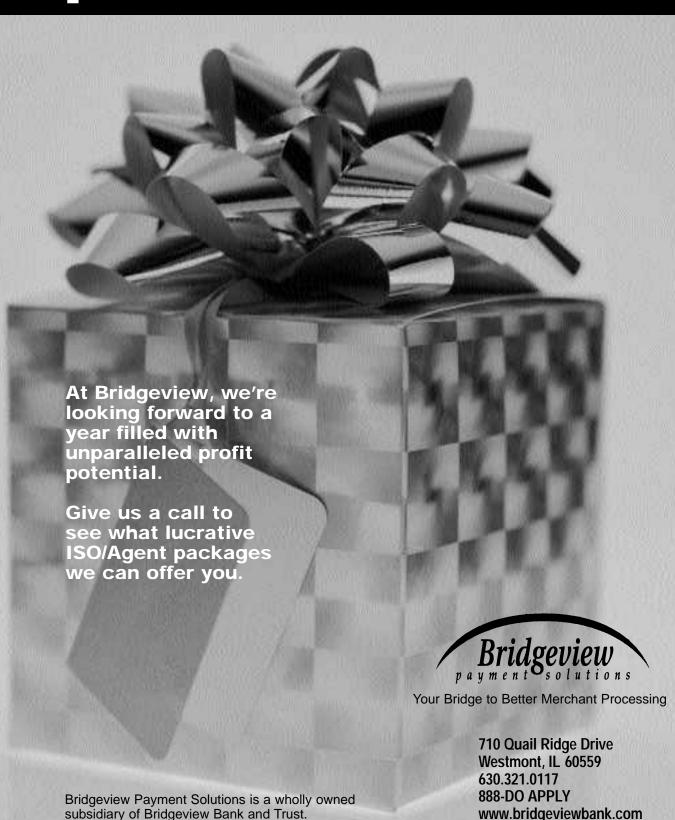
As consumers increasingly have used debit cards to make purchases, documents show Visa and MasterCard set out to force merchants into accepting signature-based offline debit cards, which result in higher transaction fees than online PIN-based cards. One internal Visa memo says, "Visa would like to see online disappear. Much bigger threat than AmEx." Another Visa strategy document from 1997 said, "It's time to declare war" on regional debit rivals; still another lists "Visa objectives" including "Prevent consolidation of debit business [and] block or disrupt formation of super-regional networks that may undercut Visa's brand dominance."

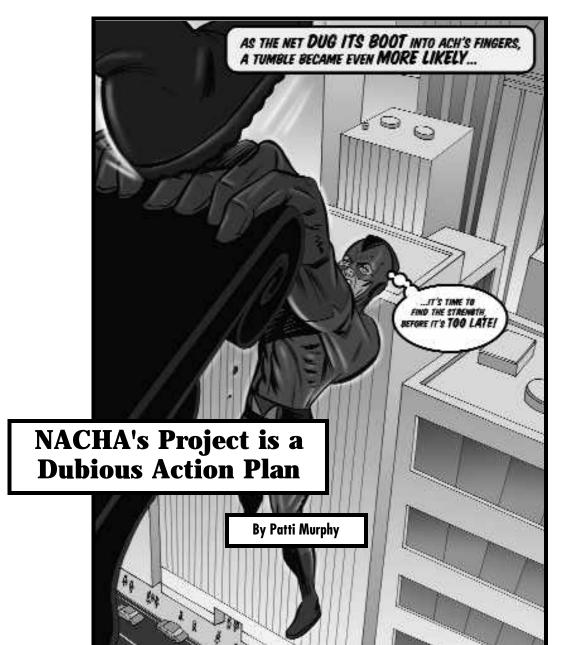
According to the documents, other card companies and merchants weren't the only targets. The documents allege the two card issuers also intentionally exploited consumer confusion about the branded debit cards and encouraged them to use signatures for transaction authorizations when using them.

Originally filed six years ago in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, the suit was approved for class-action status by the Supreme Court in June 2002. The suit seeks an injunction against Visa and MasterCard to prohibit them from engaging in alleged antitrust violations as well as recovery of triple damages for the alleged excess fees paid on credit and debit transactions, which could total \$13 billion. The trial is set to begin in April 2003.

The class includes any business that accepted Visa- or MasterCard-branded cards from October 1992 to the present. Retailers who wished to opt out of participation had until midnight Nov. 14. 2002 to request in writing removal from the class.

Wishing you a prosperous New Year.





versations I've had with others, I don't think alone.

Project ACTION (for ACH Credits Initiated Online) was launched by NACHA in the spring of 2001, when the Internet bubble already was a bit frayed around the edges, to carve a place for the ACH in the Internet payments space.

Nearly a year and a half later, I had practically forgotten the project existed until I received a press release this announcing that NACHA's board of directors (all representatives of banks and bank associations) had approved a "proof of concept" phase for the project. Translation: NACHA building prototype a Internet payment system that uses the ACH in lieu of card-based accounts.

NACHA says it will form a limited liability company to build ACTION and recruit financial institutions as owners of the corporation.

I don't get it. The hold banks have on the payments space these days is tenuous at best.

Why would bankers want to further fragment the market by creating a new payment system?

NACHA offers several reasons, but none is too convincing. Consumers and businesses want more privacy and security when buying online, and banks are a trusted party, explains NACHA. Businesses would benefit from real-time payment guarantees; ACH credits are irrevocable and generally settle in a day or two. And banks would get to tap into a new source of interchange and related revenues, which could total \$1 billion the fifth year out, by NACHA's reckoning.

"ACTION puts the financial institution's brand at the center of its customers' e-commerce transactions and is a new income opportunity for depository financial institutions

redit cards are the most popular form of payment for Web purchases. Depending on who's doing the guesstimating, 80-90% of online purchases (certainly all consumer-initiated Internet sales) are completed by credit card. It's a situation based largely on perception: Consumers perceive credit cards as relatively risk free because of the liability limits for fraudulent or disputed transactions. Merchants buy into it because credit cards enjoy mass consumer appeal.

Now, two years into the era of the post-Internet bubble, NACHA has a plan for a new Internet payment, a transaction it calls ACTION. It seems to me this plan is too little too late to have broad-based appeal, and from the con-

weep



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of any type and size," says Charles Bretz, the Compass Bank Senior Vice President who chaired the first phase of Project ACTION.

What differentiates ACTION from other payment models, NACHA explains, is that buyers using this option on the Internet would initiate payment via their own financial institution – it's called a "credit-push" payment model. Consumers choosing ACTION instead of a credit card button at an Internet checkout select their financial institution from a drop-down menu that links them to the financial institution's Web site.

The financial institution then authenticates the buyer and asks to confirm the payment amount. Once the amount is confirmed, the financial institution sends a guaranteed ACH credit payment to the seller's bank along with notification to the seller that the payment is forthcoming.

In theory, it sounds logical. Just about every financial institution in the country is linked to the ACH, so it shouldn't be difficult routing payments. Trouble is, participation in ACTION is voluntary, so there's no guarantee that online buyers selecting this payment option will be able to find their bank on the drop-down menu.

There always will be at least some banks that choose not to participate in ACTION, for whatever reasons. So if NACHA and its bank sponsors were to pursue this course, it could be perceived as an effort to bias consumers toward dealing with an "elite" set of banks. And what if all banks were to participate? Well, considering the thousands of financial institutions that serve folks in this country, buyers might be overwhelmed by the selection process.

More to the point, though, ACH payments have a rather limited adoption curve (remember e-checks?), and the NACHA rulemaking process poses huge obstacles to reversing that trend.

It's been five years since Internet storefronts began converting in-store shoppers to online buyers, and credit cards have made significant inroads during those years despite some security and privacy compromises. For NACHA to come along now with a new option seems an unnecessary duplication of industry resources.

Folks I've talked with who have looked at the Project ACTION business case estimate it will take at least five years before anyone sees a dime of revenues from the project, and that's under the best of circumstances. In

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today's market, with companies under pressure to produce nearly instantaneous revenue streams, five years is simply too long to wait for a new trickle of fee income, especially if there's an upfront investment required.

According to published reports, the cost of rolling out Project ACTION could total \$8 million. That, of course, doesn't include costs associated with reengineering, product development, training, etc. that would be necessary on the individual participating-bank level.

Don't get me wrong; it's not that I don't think there's a place for ACH payments on the Internet. I just don't think banks should squander capital on yet another Internet payment system that competes with payment systems they already operate, such as the debit and credit card systems.

I also find it curious that the Federal Reserve is not involved in Project ACTION. While NACHA has done much to promote and expand the ACH, the fact is that the ACH would not be what it is today – a payment system handling billions of consumer and business transactions a year – had the Fed not spent decades subsidizing it with low-cost processing services.

Bankers like to make a lot of noise about getting the Fed

out of the business of competing for payments, but the plain fact is that had the Fed not subsidized it for all those years, the ACH might never have evolved to the point it's at now – a payment system that handles in excess of 6 billion electronic transactions a year.

If it's more privacy and security that banks (and their customers) are looking for in Internet payments, they should take a look at what SVPCo is doing through its Electronic Payments Network (EPN) operation. SVPCo is a bankowned company with ties to the New York Clearing House. EPN processes ACH transactions in competition with the Fed and handles roughly one out of every three ACH transactions in the country.

Earlier this year, EPN rolled out a program called UPIC (for universal payment identification code). UPICs, assigned to e-commerce participants by their banks, function like a check-routing and transit number (masking confidential account numbers) and accompany payment instructions as they are routed over the Internet.

This is certainly much more logical than creating a new payment product from scratch.

Patti Murphy is Contributing Editor of The Green Sheet and President of The Takoma Group. She can be reached at patti@greensheet.com

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►►► WHITE PAPER

Wireless and Mobile Sales Force Solutions

Author: Aether Systems, Inc.

Date: January 2002 **Size:** 8 pages

Relevance Rating: Medium-high

Web Address: www.aethersystems.com/webfiles/aboutaether/whitepapers

By Eric Thomson

Executive Summary

Sales Force Automation (SFA) is the process of increasing the effectiveness of one's sales force through technology. This is a topic to which more and more ISO organizations are going to be giving serious consideration as they face automated competitors better able to explain the more complex payment and non-payment services, deliver personalized quotes and instantaneously close sales.

This white paper describes how mobile and wireless solutions developed by firms like Aether serve to create sustainable competitive advantages – advantages created for sales associates who are better prepared to educate merchants and answer questions, verify inventory, commit to delivery and close business on the spot.

This document details how direct-sales companies are justifying Sales Force Automation from a combination of sources:

• Quicker sales cycles by:

- > Referring phone-in prospect leads directly to local field-sales associates.
- > Demonstrating real-time services such as Electronic Receipt Capture.
- > Delivering customer credit information to the fingertips of a salesperson.
- > Showing consistency in promotion and merchandising campaigns.

• Reducing the cost of the sale by:

- > Eliminating unnecessary paperwork via electronic forms.
- > Lowering inventory costs.
- > Making fewer calls to close a sale based upon access to information needed to overcome objections.
- > Using electronic order entry and fulfillment track-

ing to reduce back-end costs.

• Higher customer loyalty driven by:

- > Enhanced product knowledge.
- > Improved response time.
- > Faster delivery and installation times.
- > Improved cash flow and reduced credit risks by supplying current billing data.

• **Productivity gains:** more sales from a smaller sales force.

We all are reminded daily of examples of how companies are using wireless technology to deliver their products and services. FedEx and UPS rely on wireless for shipment tracking and delivery confirmation. A growing number of small businesses rely on eBay to find buyers and provide access to bidding, searching and auction updates using cell phones and wireless devices.

In our digital economy, it has become table stakes for successful sales organizations to use information intelligently and manage sales-force communications effectively. Aether starts this document by citing a Gartner Study that lists the technologies typically making up an SFA solution: laptop computers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), ease-of-use access to contact databases, interactive-selling software applications and secure wireless hosting services.

While there is a clear upside to the use of wireless, there also are widespread barriers to its adoption. Cell phones and handheld PDAs are very different devices than laptop computers, both in terms of functionality and cost. Handheld devices have small monochrome displays, tiny keyboards and very limited capacity for software or multimedia.

A sales force requires constant communications with the home office for sales leads, contact information, invoicing, inventory tracking and order fulfillment. Typically, this is accomplished by cell phone or through a connected laptop, and both methods have their disadvantages. Cell phones have been practical for only voice communications, and laptops must physically be connected to the Internet through corporate dialup.

During the past few years, experimentation has been going on to create devices tailored to different applica-

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tions, and SFA has gotten a large portion of those R&D dollars. Revenue-driven events take precedence over any other processes, and the ability to make the right sales decisions quickly can determine the success or failure of a business. Integrated solutions are now coming to serve this market in the form of user-friendly Internet-capable offerings on smart phones and Palm computers.

The Aether white paper provides a high-level overview of the various software packages being deployed as SFA becomes a mainstream application: contact management for targeted prospects, account management for protecting client relationships, forecasting and pipeline management, sales-campaign management, product-information databases, service-request history and integration tools to legacy accounting/inventory systems.

The remainder of this report contains sections on how wireless solutions can be exploited for sales force process improvement.

Customer Communications: Wireless Web access to central client contact information can offer salespeople advantages such as:

- Arriving at a sales call on time by accessing address and direction information.
- Personalizing interaction through detailed historical contact history.

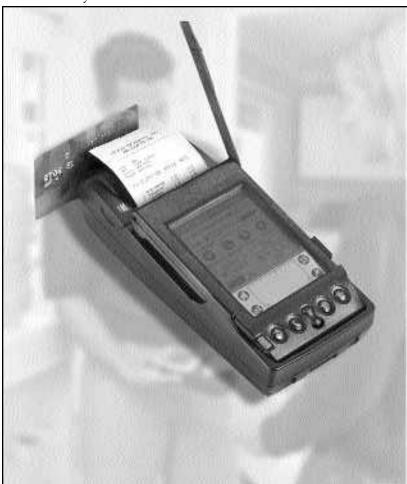
- Up-selling and cross-selling through business needs real-time analysis.
- Understanding current developments through installation and service status alerts.

Product Information: The complexity and expanded range of ISO products continues to increase. The training and access to product handouts is reaching overload conditions that realistically can be addressed only by real-time access to electronic product information. Beyond this fact of life, the white paper also describes how product information can serve to facilitate:

- Referencing customer-specific price and order lists.
- Accessing configuration systems to assemble components, pricing and finance options.
- Retrieving up-to-date promotional and discount information.

Product Availability/Order Fulfillment: Understanding which services are appropriate or available to individual retailers based upon their transaction volume, credit rating or operational characteristics can be more than a competitive advantage. Having point-of-need access to information for screening retailer criteria during a sales meeting will translate directly into improved credibility and customer loyalty.

In addition to ensuring that the service/lease contract is



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right for the customer, wireless tools enable the sales associate to place the order immediately and start the build, ship and billing processes.

The white paper closes with a brief overview of the technologies and services companies needed to define a wireless SFA solution appropriate to them. Aether puts forth the following questions for company officials to ask themselves as they seek a solution:

- Which device do I use and what should the interface look like?
- What is the best way for mapping the device database to my enterprise applications?
- What are the database-synchronization options, and how do I make the optimal choice?
- How do I implement the wireless component of the solution?
- What are the criteria for selecting a wireless carrier?
- How do I ensure security of my data?
- How do I use data compression as a means for reducing operating costs?
- How do I manage mobile and wireless devices and application upgrades? ■

focuses upon ROI justification for wireless deployments.

www.palm.com/enterprise/deploymobileforce.html

Palm has a site dedicated to sales-force automation, including a few excellent white papers.

www.sprint.com/whitepapers/index.html?refurl=cio txtlink

Sprint is another national wireless processor that has recognized the importance of SFA.

www.participate.com/research/whitepapers.asp

This is an SFA research and solution provider with an excellent set of white papers on the power of integrating the correct information to the sales process. Definitely a high-end offering.

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An example of how quickly and low cost the deployment of SFA can be for those of you who want to get started and then refine later.

www.infoworld.com/articles/se/xml/02/02/04/020204sesalesnet.xml
An interesting article on a successful SFA case study.

Eric Thomson is Executive Vice President of Profit Source Advisors. He can be reached at etprosc@attbi.com.

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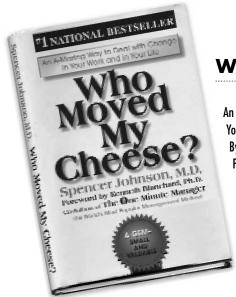


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▶ BOOK REVIEW

Embracing Change in Your Work and in Your Life



Who Moved My Cheese?

An A-Mazing Way to Deal with Change in Your Work and in Your Life By Spencer Johnson, M.D. Putnam Publishing Group, New York, 1998 ISBN: 0399144463 94 pages Price: S11.97

e've all heard the saying, "the only thing constant is change." Change may be persistent, but it isn't always welcome. When we're content with various aspects of our work and our lives and change occurs unexpectedly in one of these areas, we may find ourselves unprepared, even thwarted.

Dr. Spencer Johnson, in his best-selling book, "Who Moved My Cheese?", uses a simple allegory to present an effective solution for embracing, adapting to and even enjoying change.

The story of "Who Moved My Cheese?" is set in a maze and depicts the lives of four small beings dealing with unexpected change: Sniff and Scurry, two mice, and Hem and Haw, two "littlepeople." The group shares a great supply of delicious cheese located in a special place in the maze. But then one day the cheese disappears, and the characters are left to find new cheese or starve.

The cheese in the story is a metaphor for what you want in life – perhaps a good job or successful business, money, a loving relationship, a certain possession, health, or spiritual peace of mind. The maze represents the place where you look for what you want – a business or organization, your family or community.

"Who Moved My Cheese?" presents different ways in which the characters handle the dilemma of finding new cheese. The mice are simple and efficient; they don't overanalyze the situation. They simply head off into the maze to find new cheese. The littlepeople are not so quick to respond. Haw takes many, many days to work up the courage to head out into the maze, and Hem chooses to stay behind, hoping the cheese reappears.

While hunting for new cheese in the maze, Haw has several moments of insight, such as "the more important your cheese is to you, the more you want to hold onto it," and "movement in a new direction helps you find new cheese." Haw also learns that "the quicker you let go of the old cheese, the sooner you find the new cheese" and "when you move beyond your fear, you feel free."

Along the way, Haw pauses to record his knowledge on the walls of the maze, which becomes literally The Handwriting on the Wall. Haw hopes Hem and others will benefit from what he has learned. He believes that once Hem realizes the old cheese isn't coming back, he will venture into the maze and use Haw's words to lead him to the new cheese.

As a reader in search of cheese, you also might benefit from Haw's Handwriting on the Wall, by applying it to either your work or personal life.

For example, if you are an ISO, you know that change is a given in the payment industry. With mergers and acquisitions and the frequent introduction of new products and services and new competitors, you must be always on alert. If someone takes your cheese away, it's up to you whether you are willing and able to move with the cheese and enjoy it!

For more information about "Who Moved My Cheese?" and Dr. Spencer Johnson, visit the Web site, www.whomovedmycheese.com, or phone 1-800-851-9311.





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ISO contact:

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Company address:

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ISO benefits:

- Comprehensive suite of e-commerce payment solutions.
- Enables merchants to accept small payments that previously haven't been available and works within system to aggregate those payments.
- Inexpensive, with fast turnaround time.
- Yaga Access is ideal for ISO channel because it is designed for small merchants.
- Offers high level of content security.

Making e-Content and e-Commerce Pay

n the Hindu language, "yaga" means moving from the physical to the spiritual. In the payment-processing language, Yaga means a new opportunity for advanced payment services. Formed in 2000 by two established entrepreneurs, Chris Kitze and Vijay Vaidyanathan, Yaga, Inc. was created as a digital marketplace, sort of an eBay for digital content.

They started out in a small office with personal funding and focused on mainstream industries such as publishing, music, video and software. They quickly discovered that the potential for success was in payments and brought in outside investors and major talent – the talent being veteran payment-processing leader Steve Elefant.

"When I came in as an advisor in January 2002, the philosophy of Yaga changed," says Elefant, now President of Yaga. "They had put together a tool for digital, but it was not being used to its best application. The marketplace has changed, and Yaga needed to become a payments company. I started full time in April, and the company has been reinvented since then. I've taken it in a different direction."

That direction is a comprehensive suite of payment solutions, including content access control, digital rights management, payment and accounting services, billing services and selling plans, account management and reporting, and file delivery and hosting.

Recognizing the emerging need for cost-effective and flexible management of online business transactions, Yaga offers advanced ASP and enterprise payment platforms to businesses eager to cash in on ecommerce revenue. To date, Yaga's technology has processed more than 50 million transactions across 11 million accounts.

"In reality, there are no other companies who provide ASP solutions for managing and delivering content for transactions at an affordable price," says Elefant. "Their seven-figure solutions take months to put together. Our solution is much less expensive and takes a lot less time. The economy is tight and expenditures are being cut back. We are finding we are in the right place at the right time with the right solution."

Customers are finding Yaga as well. In a recent bake-off with 12 other providers, including VeriSign and PayPal, Yaga was selected to provide Time.com with payment services. Elefant attributes that coup to the quality and uniqueness of Yaga's offerings.

Yaga Access and Yaga Access Plus are the flagship products. Yaga Access is designed for smaller merchants. A self-service product, Yaga Access supports basic Web subscriptions with solid security. Yaga Plus goes to the next level for larger merchants who require digital rights management, royalty accounting, tracking and related wireless solutions. It also provides for micropay-



ments, an area to which Yaga pays particular attention.

"The market is changing from formerly free models to small fees," says Elefant. "Yahoo is now charging, and advertising alone is not enough to support online digital merchants who want to expand revenue and offer premium content. Micropayments come into play. Merchants can now accept small payments that haven't been available before us. Companies have tried before by creating their own currency and going around credit card systems. We are not upsetting that system. We are working within it."

Yaga works within the system by offering aggregation of micropayments. Small transactions are stored in the Yaga system, and when the total gets to a certain dollar amount the system will initiate authorization, thus saving fees. Yaga believes this is a much more economical way to do business. That same system also supports stored value.

According to Elefant, several dozen merchants already are taking advantage of this economic opportunity, with 150 in the pipeline ready to save fees and increase revenue. Yaga boasts that the transition is relatively painless. There are no special hardware requirements or additional equipment needs on the part of the merchant. Yaga's software purports to easily integrate with all existing platforms.

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The cost and turnaround time for Yaga's product is equally appealing. "Access is meant to be inexpensive," says Elefant. "The cost ranges from \$19.90 to \$199.95 based on transaction volume. Plus is still relatively inexpensive with a \$5,000 setup fee and percentage of transactions, which is considerably less than enterprise solutions. Depending on the sophistication of larger merchants, it could take a few days to a few weeks, and we assist in the deployment. Access can be deployed in minutes."

Elefant says there is as much appeal for the ISO community as there is for the merchant marketplace.

"The ISO community is very important to us. We created the Access product for the ISO channel since they tend to deal with smaller merchants. We sell the service to the ISO at a discount, so it makes money like on a terminal. They have additional revenue coming in from merchants using Yaga solutions. We give the ISOs another arrow for their quiver."

According to Elefant, a couple dozen leading ISOs are in the process of ramping up and expanding their arsenal with Yaga. "We are the leading edge, but it takes education and training on our part to show them it can be valuable," says Elefant. "They've not been in this marketplace before, but the reaction has been very positive. We're looking for companies that can be open to new products, new ideas and have an effective sales force. The only prerequisite is that they need to be working with merchants with digital content."

Under Elefant's guidance, when it comes to optimizing its sales, it would appear Yaga's strategy is working. "Qpass was in this space but did not work with the ISO community at all in setting up merchant accounts," says Elefant. "We felt very strongly that was one of the mistakes made. Our key focus from the beginning is to work with ISOs, not against them."

Yaga already has partnered with Payment Processing, TransPay Processing and Electronic Merchant Services, to name three independent sales organizations. They share a commonality in their opinion of this unique solutions provider.

A self-proclaimed "larger but under the radar ISO" based in Fremont, Calif., Payment Processing selected Yaga because it is "the only micropayment product we looked at that works and works well," says Chuck Smith, President of Payment Processing. "It's a good product. Their leadership with Steve is also good, and CEO Chris Kitze knows what he's doing as well. We don't just look at the product. We look at leadership and financial stability. We want to make sure our partners are going to be there."

Smith adds, "It's working great. We have a unique business model and approach. We see application for Yaga in a number of those approaches. It's not for everything we



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do, but certain clients can put the Yaga products to good use."

TransPay Processing, a Paymentech ISO based out of Indian Wells, Calif., chose Yaga after discussions with Elefant.

"Steve is well known in our industry as a good guy," says Emil Billman, CEO of TransPay Processing. "We realized they have something very unique to offer merchants. Their technology is cutting edge. There is a definite market for large-volume merchants doing small-ticket transactions cost effectively. Yaga has come up with the only solution in the industry. There is no other, and they do it in a fast and efficient way."

Billman is especially pleased with the sharing of information as a result of TransPay's alliance with Yaga.

"They have used us in all facets of our processing knowledge and discussions with clients," says Billman. "Giving us access to discussion with clients makes it all run smoothly. It has been a great experience so far. They are a great company to work with. They have really intelligent people working there, which is strange to have in this industry. It's a pleasure to work with something different."

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Independence, Ohio-based Electronic Merchant Systems is another ISO that has welcomed the opportunity to finally answer the needs of its micropayment merchants.

"Yaga brings a needed solution for merchants who process lots of small transactions and find that the traditional solutions are cost-prohibitive to them," says Merrell Sheehan, Director of e-Business Development for EMS. "They are the first I am aware of to do this. There have been other solutions before that attacked the problem, but they have come and gone."

Sheehan cites Yaga's management as another key component to the mix. "We are glad to be working with Yaga because Steve Elefant has always been a leader in the payment industry and has brought technology solutions that maximize the efficiency of processing," says Sheehan. "We're pleased to be partnering with Yaga. There is a market segment we weren't able to go after. With a solution like Yaga, we can now attack that market."

Yaga is just as excited about these alliances. "We are very happy to be working with these companies," says Elefant. "They have stepped up to the table and made significant commitments by buying licenses up front and fully supporting and implementing our solutions. Yaga provides a way for ISOs to reach the untapped market of merchants with digital content and making micropayments economical. They will make money, and that's their bottom line."

In addition to adding ISOs to its roster, Yaga is also on the lookout for acquisitions to enhance its offerings. It already has acquired three companies, including Air-Tunnel, a wireless company that gave Yaga access to more than 300 wireless devices.

"We can automatically discriminate between cell phones, pagers or Blackberry and deliver content through these devices to the Yaga system," says Elefant. "We are actively looking for others that are within our realm that can enhance Yaga products."

What also has enhanced Yaga products is its recent Visa CISP certification. This program provides for ASPs to be certified to handle all credit card and security information.

"Surprisingly, we received this certification through audit by a third-party company," says Elefant. "They spent a week going through our firewalls, our security, our badges, etc. It is a quite costly undertaking. We recently completed it and passed with flying colors. They told us we were the most secure they have ever seen. In fact, Visa is working on a case study about us and how we implemented all this."

Does this certification have any bearing on the ISO market? You bet it does. "This is important to ISOs because banks require they deal with vendors with this certifica-



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tion," says Elefant. "Somebody has to store all this data, all that credit card info. It requires redundant systems, multiple locations for Internet services. That is the infrastructure that we spent lots of time and money creating and maintaining."

Another area Yaga spent time and money on is in digitalrights management – the ability to offer merchants the protection of their content.

"If you have content that you want to specify whether it can be copied or written to disk, our digital-rights management solution allows merchants to do that," Elefant says. "As more content gets published, the merchants need that content protected."

Elefant sees this evolving market as one of the biggest challenges facing the industry.

"The payment industry is just starting to realize that digital-content merchants are a very good source of additional but as yet untapped revenue," he says. "For us, the challenge is getting the word out that our type of service exists. The challenge is educating the ISO channel that we are a value add to offer their customer base."

He adds, "We are finding that there are so many opportu-

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We accept CCD, Cashlers Check, Visa, Master Card, American Express, and Discover. user name:zonjr password:166831 nities, particularly with high-profile merchants jumping on board. The small to midsize merchants are now learning there is a way to commoditize their content. There are many Web sites that have lots of traffic but were formerly on advertising models. Now we are showing them they can take premium content and market that for traffic, creating a signification source of revenue."

Where is all this leading Yaga? "We are heading straight down the path to modernize digital content, micropayments and regular payments," says Elefant. "We are expanding internally as well. We are adding more people as we grow. We are one of the few tech companies that is growing rather than shrinking."

Yaga Board Adds Marketing Leader

aga, Inc. announced it has appointed Michael A. Beindorff to its Board of Directors. Beindorff has several decades of experience in consumer payments, marketing and e-commerce with lengthy stints promoting some of the most well-known brands in the world – Visa and Coca-Cola.

Beindorff spent five years at Visa, serving as CEO of eVisa, the Internet and e-commerce arm of Visa, and also serving more than four years as Executive Vice President of Marketing and Product Management. He helped lead the development and rollout of the Visa Platinum card, Visa Signature card and the Visa Check card.

Before joining Visa, Beindorff spent 15 years with The Coca-Cola Company, where he held a variety of marketing and management roles, including Vice President, Director of Marketing, Coca-Cola USA, and Vice President of Advertising. While under his direction from a national rollout in 1984 to 1991, Diet Coke was named "Brand of the Decade" for the 1980s by Advertising Age.

Beindorff was named U.S. Advertising Executive of the Year in 1989, and Advertising Age named Beindorff one of the Power 50 Marketers in America every year from 1996-99.

Beindorff is a principal of San Francisco-based GreenTree Marketing Group, a marketing and branding consultancy. Before founding GreenTree, he served three years as President and later CEO and Chairman at PlanetRx.com, formerly an online drugstore.

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Alice Kong 800-778-4804, ext. 67133

Southwest

Rob Francis 480-699-7739

Retail ATM Program

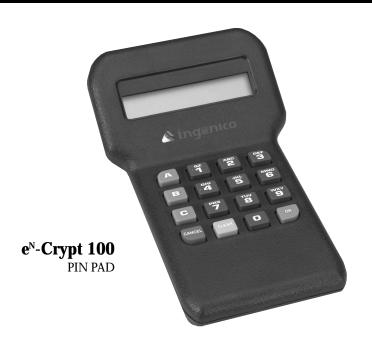
Todd Clark 806-457-2712

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COMPANY PROFILE 4 4



TrueAdvantage, Inc.

Company address:

30 Lyman Street Westboro, MA 01581 Phone: 508-389-9400

Fax: 508-389-1706

Web site: www.trueadvantage.com

ISO benefits:

- A one-stop source of research on millions of companies throughout the U.S. for smarter sales prospecting.
- Patented Web crawler gathers information on events and activities such as company acquisitions or changes of address to help you generate ideas for new business.
- Registered subscribers get access to the patented database and receive daily e-mails with updated lead information.
- Aggregated information can be tailored to your specific focus.

Dig into a Mine Full of Leads

inding quality leads for new customers is both a necessity and a challenge for any salesperson. How do you know if you're finding the right people? How do you know if you're finding the best leads? How do you know if you're being creative enough in your search? Do you have enough time to keep up with all of that?

TrueAdvantage, Inc. is an answer to each of those questions. Its sales intelligence and lead-generation services help all sorts of companies identify and close new business. It specializes in gathering information and then tailoring it for each of its clients, based on industry focus as well as products and services.

In short, TrueAdvantage helps companies transform information into intelligence, which allows salespeople to target prospects who are more likely to buy. Its lead-generation services are customizable to meet the needs of any business, from small ones to Fortune 500 companies.

These days, sales organizations across the board need to focus their prospecting efforts on companies that "are more likely to buy" products and services. How a company identifies these prospects gives it a strategic advantage over the competition. Companies are realizing their biggest opportunity for success lies in how they sell.

Salespeople have had to adapt, too, using new ways to find prospects, qualify them, develop the opportu-

nities and manage the ensuing relationships. The Internet and other electronic resources, for example, provide a wealth of background information for researching potential customers.

In the past, people have bought prospect lists based on a potential customer's profile, which, in turn, is based on revenue, industry or number of employees. Using these lists, salespeople needed to make hundreds of phone calls to unqualified prospects.

TrueAdvantage's Sales Intelligence Data Base and Customized Lead Generation Programs take a lot of that guesswork out of the process and provide some creative ways to generate business for yourself or your organization. By aggregating data into one database to give a "one-stop shop" approach to prospecting leads, TrueAdvantage puts salespeople in the right place at the right time.

"About four years ago, Jaret Christopher, TrueAdvantage's CEO and founder, was researching projects for his clients by calling on companies and going onto the Internet. He was searching out the information on his own and forwarding the information and leads to people," said Andrew Connelly, who oversees business development for TrueAdvantage. "He started a bigger business, got people to invest and developed a technology that turned into the information-mining systems that TrueAdvantage uses today."

Christopher's company patented a Web crawler and proprietary data-



base to locate and package the information.

"Millions of companies have been researched," Connelly said. "We started at the top, with Fortune 500 companies. We then looked into all publicly traded companies. We have now researched millions of businesses, including even the smallest businesses across the the entire United States."

The true advantage in using TrueAdvantage to search out sales lead information is not just the sheer volume of data the company is able to gather. It really comes from the variety of ways that information can be interpreted and ultimately used for generating solid leads.

"For each of the companies we've researched, an intelligence report will provide overview information, like who the principal clients, investors and partners are," Connelly said. Those intelligence reports are "sliced up" or tailored and grouped to each TrueAdvantage subscriber's particular business focus. "The first step in mining information is our patented Web crawler. The crawler and our research staff look for certain business events or trigger events."

Seven categories of trigger events then are recorded in the proprietary Sales Intelligence database and can help salespeople determine the health of a company and spot areas of industry growth or new trends.

"Every time an emerging company or any other company receives venture funding, we know," Connelly said. "We track new business deals, so when a company lands a contract or a business is seeking contracting help, we know that. We know about any in-person or online filings for new incorporations. Any time a business relocates, signs a new lease or files for building permits, we know that, too.

"Our 'hiring hound,' or hiring intelligence, tells us which companies in the U.S. are hiring in a variety of positions. Any management changes – who has been appointed to which position at which company – are also tracked. Any mergers and acquisitions that happen in the U.S. are noted also."

Before the information is posted to the database, it goes through a quality-control approval process, Connelly said. Each event has a date as well as up-to-the-second time listed so that subscribers know how current the information is.

"We aggregate information from many sources," Connelly said, "prospecting databases across various industries. For example, we can capture information on company relocations based on orders placed for furniture or telecommunications services. Then we go and research that company."

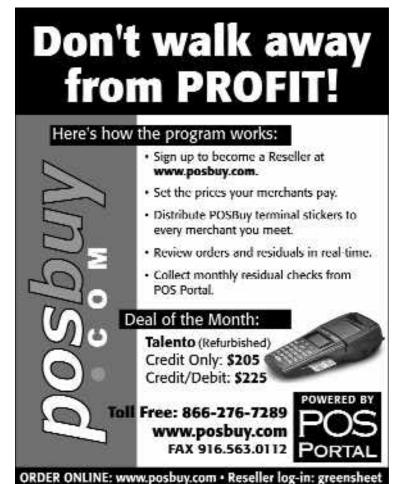
Along with the Web crawler and database, TrueAdvantage also utilizes old-fashioned man/woman power. It has a staff of almost 100 that spends time on the Internet mining information on companies. TrueAdvantage also partners with third-party vendors.

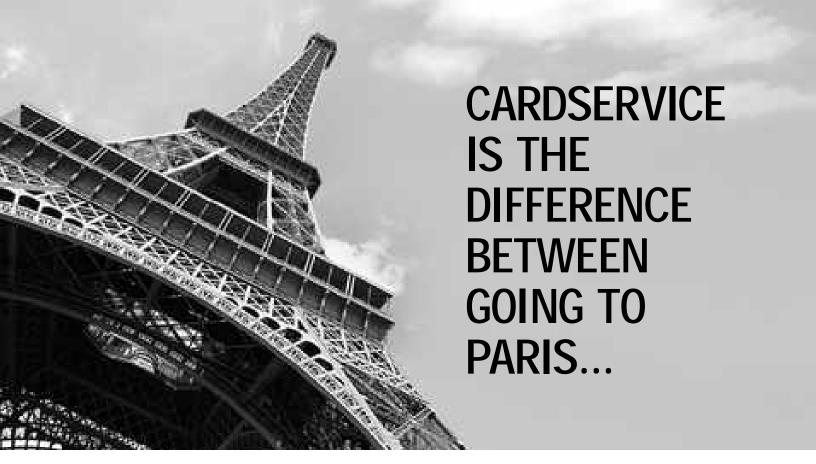
"We have a lot of different relationships. We have 150 different content partners who may be able to find information we haven't come across, that we may be able to license, purchase or promote," Connelly said.

On the TrueAdvantage Web site, subscribers can do broad searches or pinpoint certain industries and companies for narrowing prospects. Different sections of the site store archived information for tracking buying trends; a prospect manager for tracking contacts helps follow up with prospects and accounts. Connelly said the database gets updated with improvements for better mining about every two weeks.

Subscribers also receive daily e-mails with updated leads and information on any industry, company or trigger event. Connelly said there is a training department to show new subscribers all of the features of the service.

For salespeople who would like to branch out and broaden their business horizons, subscribing to TrueAdvantage makes sense. As Connelly said, "We're not just loading up information. We're making prospecting smarter."







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talians are known for producing quality goods such as leather products, wool and even race cars, but have you considered check-processing products? Seac Banche S.p.Ais a Florence, Italy-based company that provides data- and image-capture solutions to banking and financial institutions around the world. More than 400,000 of its units are installed on five continents. The company has an R&D department and manufacturing facility in Italy where it designs and manufactures image-capture products.

Seac Banche recently introduced the SB 1500 and SB 1600, personal document processing systems designed for front-office counter use at teller windows and point-of-sale locations.

Both devices offer code-line reading and gray-scale imaging, voiding and endorsing options, and an output stacker with a holding capacity of 25 documents. The SB 1600 has the same specs as the SB 1500 except that it also offers color imaging.

Users process checks manually, feeding each document through the scanner one-by-one, while a photo sensor detects the check's presence and continues with the document processing. Check images are captured clearly and with a sharp definition in Bitmap (.bmp), Jpeg (.jpg), or Tiff (.tif) formats.

The devices' MICR functionality reads magnetic fonts CMC7, CMC0 and E13B code lines. The SB 1500 has a built-in system for reading machine-printed text, allowing it to decode a variety of fonts with accuracy and reliability.

NEW PRODUCTS ◀ ◀ •

Optional features are available for both the SB 1500 and SB 1600, such as an inkjet printer for printing data on the rear side of the document, a customizable self-inking front stamp for voiding documents and a magnetic card/badge manual-swipe reader.

The SB 1500 and SB 1600 are available in the United States.

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Gift Cards for Merchants on a Budget

Gift Card Applet

Smart Transaction Systems, Inc.

o you know of a merchant using the VeriFone Tranz 330, Tranz 380 or Tranz 460 credit card terminals or any Thales Talento terminal? And do any of those merchants want to implement a gift card program, but they have not done so because of the cost?

If so, Smart Transaction Systems, Inc. has a solution. The company has developed a gift card applet, a software application that adds gift card capabilities to certain VeriFone and Thales terminals, allowing merchants to process gift card transac-

tions using their existing equipment.

Smart Transaction Systems' software loads onto a terminal function key similar to the way check service software loads onto a terminal function key.

The gift card software runs on the same terminal as the credit card software, so there is no need to buy a separate point-of-sale terminal for gift card transaction processing. Suddenly, a gift card program becomes more affordable.

The system allows merchants to track transaction activity on individual terminals or across the entire company.

Smart Transaction Systems' e-gift program provides merchants with all of the products and services they'll need to get their gift card programs up and running quickly. The company even offers a way for merchants to select a gift card design "on the spot."

Check out the gift card gallery of designs on their Web site. Or, if merchants prefer to create their own gift card designs, Smart Transaction Systems will provide the information to get started.

Some of the companies using Smart Transaction Systems' software include Houston-based Mancuso Harley-Davidson, Grinders Above and Beyond restaurants, and Christopher Michael Salon & Spa in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Smart Transaction Systems, Inc.

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MasterCard Growth Strong

MasterCard International continues to take on cash and checks with its payment programs. The company reported growth across all regions for the nine months ending Sept. 30, 2002.

MasterCard showed a 15.6% increase over the same period in 2001 in the number of cards issued. The company's 25,000 member financial institutions issued nearly 578.8 million MasterCard-branded cards.

Cardholders around the world made more than 9.84 billion transactions using their MasterCard cards, generating a gross dollar volume of \$831.7 billion, a 16.1% increase over the same period last year.

Purchase volume rose 14.4% to \$580.3 billion. MasterCard said its strong growth in the first nine months of 2002 was fueled by growth in both credit and debit programs. Gross dollar volume for MasterCard offline debit programs rose 21.6% to \$141.1 billion.

Concord Repurchase Plan at \$500 Million

Concord EFS, Inc.'s Board of Directors announced another stock-repurchase plan of Concord's common stock beyond the \$400 million previously approved – this time for an additional \$100 million. The Board's approval brings the total potential repurchase amount to \$500 million. In August 2002, Concord's Board approved the repurchase of \$250 million, and in November it approved another \$150 million.

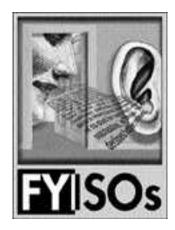
Chapter 11 for NextCard

NextCard Inc. has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Wilmington, Del. In its filings, the company cited total assets of \$18 million and total debts of \$5 million as of Sept. 30, 2002, excluding a \$140 million disputed claim of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. FDIC is the receiver for NextCard's Nextbank N.A. unit, which was closed in February by the U.S. Department of Treasury's Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC).

NextCard also recently filed a collections suit against its former CEO John Hashman regarding a loan to Hashman that was to be repaid on Sept. 3 and is worth \$132,500, including interest.

Q3 E-Commerce Sales Grew

Online retail sales continue to grow, according to the **U.S.**



Department of Commerce's latest U.S. Census Bureau quarterly report on e-commerce statistics. The report shows online retail sales totaled \$11.1 billion in the third quarter 2002, a 7.8% increase in spending from the second quarter 2002 and a 34.3% increase over the same period last year. Q3 2002 e-commerce sales accounted for 1.3 percent of total retail sales in that quarter, which were \$827.5 billion, up from Q2 2002 overall retail sales of \$825 billion.

CIBC Closing U.S. E-banking

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) announced it is pulling the plug on

its U.S. electronic banking operations. The move affects CIBC National Bank and Amicus FSB, neither of which was meeting financial expectations, CIBC said in a statement.

CIBC National Bank provides financial services under the Marketplace Bank brand, and Amicus FSB provides financial services under the Safeway SELECT Bank brand. CIBC said customer deposits with a balance of \$1,000 or more on the date of closing will be transferred to E-TRADE Bank, subject to regulatory approval.

NCR Announces Layoffs

NCR Corp. announced it will eliminate 1,500 jobs globally – nearly 5% of its work force – over the next six months beginning Nov. 19, 2002 in an effort to streamline operations. NCR has 30,500 employees worldwide.

B of A Employees Test New Card Program

Bank of America Corp. is testing a new program with 10,000 of its employees at 24 restaurants and shops located near its headquarters in Charlotte, N.C. The program, called QuickWave, uses equipment installed by B of A and allows B of Aemployees to pay for their purchases by waving a small card on their key chain over a blue-sensor pad.

QuickWave is neither a traditional debit nor credit card, so no swiping, signing or PIN-punching occurs; however, the card is linked to the employee's bank account, so charges are deducted moments after an employee waves it over the pad. The pilot program will run through Dec. 31, 2002. If B of A decides the program is a success, it will expand it nationally to B of A credit and debit cardholders ("New Look for Credit Cards," The Green Sheet, Oct. 28, 2002, issue 02:10:02),

Is 7-Eleven in the ATM Business?

7-Eleven, Inc. announced it is rolling out 49 **Vcom** machines in Orlando, Fla., as part of an initial 1,000-store rollout taking place through the second quarter of 2003. Vcom is 7-11's own self-service machine offering ATM

capabilities such as the ability to conduct American Express ATM transactions, purchase Western Union money orders and money transfers, pay bills through Western Union's Quick Collect payment service and cash checks through Certegy Check Services, a division of Certegy, Inc. Customers can pay for services with cash by inserting as many as 30 bills at a time into a bunch-note acceptor on the Vcom machine.



CrossCheck Certified by RDM

CrossCheck, Inc. announced its check authorization system has been certified on **RDM Corp.**'s EC5000 line of imagers. Thus, merchants using CrossCheck's services may use the EC5000 for check imaging.

The company also announced **MerchantWarehouse.com** has added CrossCheck, Inc.'s check guarantee services to its merchant offerings. MerchantWarehouse.com provides payment-processing services to retail, Internet and phone-order merchants nationwide. The company will market CrossCheck's services through its nationwide sales force.

Wanted: Card Processors

The National Association of Bankcard Corporations (NABCo), an association of bankcard processors, was formed recently. The association's intent is to "enhance the value of its member portfolios with competitive pricing and industry-leading products and services." NABCo says it is positioned to assist small- to medium-size card-processing organizations in their expansion plans while also increasing their income and market value. NABCo is seeking partners interested in a long-term relationship versus a quick portfolio sale.



Livin' Lavinna L100

Ingenico will supply Concord EFS, Inc. with 25,000 Lavinna L100 terminals over the next year to be used with Concord's IDLogix identification and age-verification service. Restaurants and other merchants use the Lavinna L100 terminal to verify age by swiping a customer's driver's license or other ID through the hand-held unit.

Vital Extends Network

Vital Processing Services has signed a multiyear agreement with **Transaction Network Services**, **Inc.** (TNS), adding a new data communications service provider to its existing network in order to deliver POS transaction network services. Vital says having service-provider

alternatives allows it to ensure seamless processing.

SPS Wins Chittenden's Business

Chittenden Bank will offer Secure Payment Systems, Inc.'s check conversion and gift card services to merchants via its branch banking locations and direct sales force. Chittenden, a subsidiary of Chittenden Corp., is a full-service bank with more than 60 offices throughout Vermont. Chittenden has been a credit card processor for more than 30 years.

DAS Announces New Partners

Diversified Acquiring Solutions (DAS) and **Province Bank**, a \$26 million institution owned by **Donegal Mutual Group**, have formed a merchant transaction processing partnership. Through an Agent Bank Program, Province Bank will identify merchant processing opportunities and assist merchants with the application process and pricing. DAS will handle the credit underwriting.

DAS also announced a partnership with Metropolitan Bank whereby Metropolitan Bank will refer new merchant business and non-traditional merchant business to DAS, which will oversee the sale, setup and servicing of the processing relationships. Metropolitan Bank will receive a referral fee and residual income for each approved merchant account.

NPC Processing for Sodexho

National Processing Co. (NPC) signed a multiyear credit card processing agreement with Sodexho, a food and facilities management services company in North America. Sodexho provides outsourcing solutions in food service, housekeeping, groundskeeping, plant operations and maintenance, asset and material management, and laundry services to corporations, health care and long-term care facilities, retirement centers, schools, college campuses and military and remote sites.

NPC will provide authorization and settlement services for MasterCard and Visa transactions. NPC previously had a long-term processing relationship with Marriott Management Services, which was acquired by Sodexho two years ago.

Triton and CashWorks Make ATM Waves

CashWorks Inc. and Triton have partnered to provide automated cashing of government and payroll checks as well as money-transfer services and wireless phone minutes as part of a new package of ATM services called Triton Waves. The check-cashing services will allow merchants to create additional revenue sources from Triton ATMs.

LML Check Services at the Grocer

Vancouver, B.C.-based LML Payment Systems Corp., a



financial payment processor that is a subsidiary of LML Payment Systems Inc., announced it has implemented electronic check and traditional recovery services to **Grocers Supply Co. Inc.**'s stores in the Houston area. LML will provide the stores with electronic check verification, electronic check recovery, payroll check cashing and traditional check recovery services.



ACQUISITION

Fiserv Acquiring CNS

EDS Corp., an information technology services company, and **Fisery**, **Inc.** announced a definitive agreement whereby Fiserv will acquire EDS' Consumer Network Services (CNS) unit for approximately \$320 million in cash. Fiserv is a full-service provider of data processing and information management systems to the financial industry. CNS is an electronic funds transfer transaction processor and ATM operator that processes more than 2.4 billion EFT transactions annually and operates 13,170 ATMs. When the deal closes, Fiserv will then process approximately 4 billion electronic, ATM and POS transactions annually.

EDS has been cutting costs since it announced its September 2002 third-quarter earnings would be 80%

lower than expected. The company also recently announced plans to move 700 call-center jobs to India.



NPC Adds Sales Exec

National Processing Co. (NPC) has named Catherine A. Nelson Vice President of Business Development. Before joining NPC, Nelson held sales-leadership roles at MedUnite, Inc., Pointshare Corp. and ENVOY Corp. Nelson brings more than 15 years of experience, specializing in clearinghouse work and sales, to national payers and vendors within the health care industry. NPC attributes Nelson's arrival to the company's "increase in momentum and marketplace traction."

Datawire Appoints CFO

Datawire Communication Networks Inc., a provider of Internet-based transaction delivery, has appointed John "Jack" H. Nichols III to the positions of Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer, based out of Datawire's U.S. headquarters in Atlanta. Most recently, Nichols served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Incanta, Inc.





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INSPIRATION ◀ ◀

The Art of Organization



t used to be easy to spot the disorganized salesperson. The cluttered car. The desk hidden under huge stacks of papers and files. Post-it-notes covering every inch of the computer screen and calendar. But today, with virtual offices and electronic files replacing paper and post-it notes, it's much harder to uncover disorganization. Does that mean it's no longer a problem? Not hardly! Maintaining control over reams of data and computer files can be just as challenging if an effective management system isn't in place.

If you feel the need to improve your organization and information-management skills, the following tips can not only give you the appearance of success, they'll help you succeed:

- Take Hold of the "One-touch" Concept. The smart paper-pusher handles each piece of paper only once. Don't toss it aside with the intention of following up at a later date. Make the decision right there and then to act on that document or phone message or note.
- Trash It. Keep a wastepaper basket by your side every time you open your mail. Lose the junk mail. Toss the torn envelopes.
- Take a Note. Rather than scraps of paper, use a bona fide notepad to take down important data. You'll lessen the risk of losing a valuable phone number or name by

recording it in a secure and easily accessible place. And when you've finished filling each page with information, it easily can be filed.

- Stick to One A Day. Use only one calendar for all of your appointments. Choose what works best either a Palm Pilot, Day Runner or computer calendar program ... and stick to it.
- **Avoid a Vacuum.** Don't fall into the trap of labeling files "Miscellaneous" or "Pending." These become black holes of paperwork.
- Schedule Study Time. The surefire way to get out from under those mounds of trade magazines, periodicals and newspapers is to set aside at least 20 minutes each day to read. You'll not only stay on top of what's happening in your market, but you'll be making a positive contribution to your recycling center.
- **Keep coordinated.** Do your paper files match your computer files? Your file drawers should mirror your PC file directory.



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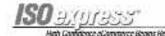
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When: Starting a Successful e-Commerce Solution – Part 1, Wednesday, January 15, 2003, 2:30 p.m. CST; Starting a Successful e-Commerce Solution – Part 2, Wednesday, February 12, 2003, 2:30 p.m. CST.

Registration Fees: Per call-in site and per conference date, members: \$99; non-members: \$199

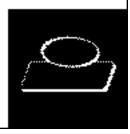
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While You Were Out ...

t never fails. You've worked diligently on the perfect presentation for that all-important prospect. You've made the proper introduction at your first meeting. You leave the merchant with a positive impression and have a handshake agreement for a callback. It comes ... and are you in your office to get it? Of course not! The prospect calls at the exact moment you've dashed out for a late lunch.

Don't lament. Even though the prospect may call a competitor who might be in, you'll win points by returning that call ASAP. In addition to wasting no time in returning merchant calls, here are some additional tips to keep in mind the next time a prospect or even a customer calls you when you're out:

- Never let your receptionist or even your answering service ask the person to call back. They've used their dime to make contact. Show them the same courtesy by taking responsibility for returning the call.
- Train your staff to ask the appropriate questions. And those questions are: name, company, phone and the most convenient time for them to receive your return call. If you have voicemail, specify the same request on the recording.
- **Keep your system simple.** If a prospect has to maneuver through your company's automated voicemail service with the same agility as if they'd entered an obstacle course, they'll hang up and call a competitor for sure.
- Even if you have the most extraordinary answering system, it won't replace inaccessibility. In today's world of pagers and cell phones, you should be able to be reached at all times. If the caller doesn't want to place a second call to your cell phone or pager, make sure your staff or your system does.
- Whether it be a live person or a recording, make sure your prospect hears delight on the other end of the line when they call. Indifference or even worse impoliteness will quickly translate to a potential sale gone sour. The prospect just as easily could have chosen to call another provider ... and still can.

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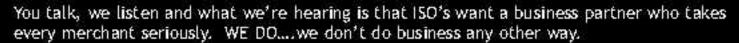
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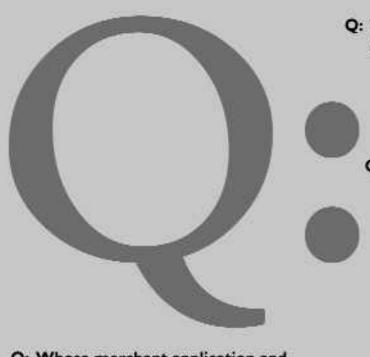
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