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Payments 2006: A tumultuous, tantalizing mix

rom a temblor-like shakeup of card Association foundations to an enigmatic, grand-scale security breach, 2006 relandscaped the payments world.

As the card Associations shed old habits, national merchants and consumers alike tested new payments *modi operandi:* card waving instead of swiping; lattes bought on credit; Google as a payment vehicle; and loyalty cards multiplying like rabbits in wallets.

Changes were apparent in terminology, too. MasterCard International became MasterCard Worldwide and morphed into a corporation by taking itself public in May.

In October, Visa International said it would follow suit, announcing plans to unify its continentally partitioned organization and dissolve its current member-bank structure to become a corporation. Once this occurs, the term "Association" will be industry history.

Bleak house of bankcards

A class-action lawsuit filed by a coalition of convenience stores, drug stores and community grocers against card Association interchange fees lurched along. Pumped into action, Congress heard merchants' complaints and convened committees. But lacking the political will to legislate interchange controls, representatives and senators simply harrumphed their views on rate-setting.

A sparsely attended post-Valentine's Day House subcommittee session on interchange was anything but a love-in. "The success of the banks' legally suspect practices has given them tremendous market power," said Edmund Mierzwinski, Consumer Program Director at U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

Expressing the contrary view, lobbyists for the Electronic Payments Coalition and others urged lawmakers not to impose rate controls.

In July, bipartisan members of the Senate Judiciary Committee messengered engraved invitations to the legal counsels of Visa and MasterCard for a hearing on interchange policies.

Senators expressed displeasure with merchants' powerlessness over bankcard acceptance terms and then held the attorneys' feet to the fire.

While no legislative action was forthcoming, Congress' sudden interest in rate-setting had the desired effect: The Associations did an about-face on some policies, making their interchange rates public shortly thereafter.

The long, unwinding road

In April, merchants added debit cards to their class-action lawsuit against Visa and MasterCard credit card interchange fees.

The Associations see unwinding their member board structures as a way to preempt future liability from merchant lawsuits. They will then strive for shareholder profits over bank revenue, liberating rate-setting in the process.

While most ISOs looked for cover in the spat between retailers and the card Associations, a few championed

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NotableQuote

"If you don't like someone else earning a little something for making an introduction for you, you are in the wrong business."

See story on page 90



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resorted to burning his dead leads from the past few months.

Wanted: More articles about women

I speak with agents all day long, and there seems to be a common concern among the women agents.

It seems that historically, women were predominantly the minority in this business, but their participation has greatly increased. I think a lot of them would like to see some articles on women in the business and how they found success.

I think if you looked at your subscription list, you would see that there are a lot of women who read *The Green Sheet* and look to you as a resource. Maybe you have done something in the past, and I missed it. But, in general, women in the business seem to feel left in the wings and not taken seriously [by] ISOs. Some feel intimidated a bit.

I think knowing that they are no longer the minority would be helpful to them. I don't know if you have heard that or not, but thought I would pass it along.

This week I have spoken to three agents who have made comments to me about this. ... Let me know if you have done something on this in the past, and I can direct the gals to it. Thanks.

> Emily Karawadra Executive Vice President Impact PaySystem

Emily,

You are correct. There are many, many women in the payments industry making significant contributions. We last addressed this topic in "Women are making payments happen," The Green Sheet, July 12, 2004, issue 04:07:01. We also continue to profile women in our Industry Leader and AgenTalkSM features.

Some recent articles in The Green Sheet that may interest you include:

- AgenTalk: "She makes hay while the kids play," Nov. 13, 2006, issue 06:11:01
- AgenTalk: "Dreams that take wing," Sept. 11, 2006, issue 06:09:01

• Industry Leader: "A sweet, successful second chapter," June 26, 2006, issue 06:06:02

• Industry Leader: "Born into the financial services industry," Jan. 23, 2006, issue 06:01:02.

In addition, the nonprofit organization Women Networking in Electronic Transactions (W.net)

was formed last year. You can learn more about this group by visiting www.w-net.biz . I also suggest using Fast Finder to search for "W.net" on GS Online. We have reported on W.net a number of times since August 2005.

Thanks for suggesting this topic. It may be time for us to cover it again in depth. And do not hesitate to get in touch whenever you have an idea that might be appropriate for us to pursue.

Editor

MLS Forum member irnps

Seeking MasterCard interchange rates

Where can I get a copy of the most recent MasterCard interchange rates?

www.mastercard.com/us/merchant/how_works/interchange_

Irnps:

rates.html .

MasterCard Worldwide has posted its interchange rates, along with detailed information about authorization and magnetic data requirements, authorization variances, additional qualifying criteria, and a glossary of terms in a 72-page document on its Web site at

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Wireless Solution Way System w/wireless printer Hand Held, Wireless, Smart Card enabled terminal



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Cover Story



Short on time? This section of *The Green Sheet* provides a quick summary of nearly all the articles in this issue to help keep you up to date on the latest news and hot topics in the payments industry.



From a temblor-like shakeup of card Association foundations to an enigmatic, grand-scale security breach, 2006 relandscaped the payments world.

Page 1

Payments issues go to Washington

View

View

It's time to dispel any notions that companies in the retail payments space are immune to legislative and regulatory oversight. Issues receiving attention recently are industrial loan companies, data security, electronic check collection fees and small-ticket purchases.

Page 26

The truth of transience

Everything in life is transient, including the payments industry. Accepting that can combat complacency and position us all to jump on the many opportunities that come our way.

Page 30

Industry Leader

A founding father of ISO fortune

Dick Draper is not the type of guy who will blow smoke or speak in marketing lingo. He's someone who will tell you how it is and be your friend before and after the deal. He has enjoyed successes and suffered setbacks. And his knowledge, skills, dedication and work ethic have made him a leader.

🐌 Page 34



AgenTalk^s 2006: A retrospective

News

Once a month in *The Green Sheet,* we publish an interview with an MLS. Our goal is to capture the ambitions, struggles and triumphs of the feet on the street: those working day in, day out to make the sale. Read AgenTalk highlights from 2006.

Page 44

C-stores and gas stations: Untapped potential

Maybe there is such a thing as a free lunch. Impact PaySystem, an ISO catering to gas stations and c-stores, hosted a free webinar for all MLSs in the industry. The company covered how to approach merchants, what questions to ask them, how to advise about chargebacks and how to build referral partners.

Page 55

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QSGS

The National Association of Payment

NAOPP elects 2007 board

News

News

News

Professionals (NAOPP) announced new officers for its 2007 board of directors. They bring to the organization 40 years of combined payments industry experience.

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RodsandWheels: Speeding into a new realm

What do hot rods have in common with The Green Sheet Inc.? They share a driver. In July, Paul H. Green, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Green Sheet, launched a new Web site for car clubs and enthusiasts: *RodsandWheels.com*.

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2007 calendar of events

Which industry events will you attend in 2007? Start making plans now. Many organizations offer discounts for registering early. Our calendar lists all the major 2007 events, from January to November.

Education

Street Smarts^s": The ins and outs of ISOship - Part II

There have been many posts lately on the GS Online MLS Forum pertaining to ISO registration, and this article will attempt to sum up much of the discussion. Questions addressed include, Should I register or not? What's what in MLS programs? and What are the registration requirements?

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Education

Education

The why, what, how and when of goals

Every motivational book or sales training manual has a section on goals. Every selfmade millionaire has a list of goals. Do you? Is it current? How quickly could you recite your goals if asked? Precise goals with a clearly defined purpose for their achievement will empower you beyond measure.

Page 82

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Descriptors decoded

Merchants want to know how to get a specific phrase on cardholder statements to reflect the transactions that occur between them and cardholders. The answer is use a descriptor. Learn how to help merchants maximize the value of their descriptors.

Why Our Agents Make More Money...

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- FREE Equipment
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- Pay-at-the-Pump
- + 80% Rev Share
- + 1-Hour Approvals



Education

Who gets a bite of your biz?

Everyone in the merchant acquiring business earns a living from commissions. A challenge for all industry participants is to discern when paying a commission is a sensible cost of business and when it is an abusive or illegal detriment to success.

Let's talk spam

Education

You've learned how to prevent your newsletters and mailings to merchants from being discarded by spam filters. Now it's time to look at the other side of spam and discuss options to help you staunch the spam battering your inbox.

Calling all ISOs: Your data matters

Feature

The Green Sheet Inc. needs your help. In partnership with Morgan Stanley, we're conducting a study of the ISO channel. We're looking for your insights on topics such as merchant types, transaction volume, pricing, merchant attrition, customer service and POS equipment.

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Inspiration

Meeting success

All meeting organizers want to have productive meetings. But how do you host events that will both engage attendees and extract as much information from them as possible? How do you make meetings worthwhile for participants and organizers alike? You need s-u-c-c-e-s-s-ful components.

Page 111

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QuickBooks Quicken TurboTax

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IndustryUpdate

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NEWS

Hey, big spender

Men reported spending more than women on gifts and entertaining over the holiday season, according to a **Visa U.S.A.** survey. Men said they spend an average of \$1,288 for the holidays, whereas women report spending \$1,186.

Visa to offer PCI financial incentives, levies \$4.6 million in fines in '06

Visa will offer \$20 million in financial incentives and create new sanctions to further merchant compliance with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard.

Visa will create an incentive fund payable to the acquiring financial institutions (FIs) of the largest U.S. merchants who validate PCI compliance by Aug. 31, 2007, and have not been involved in a data compromise. Called the PCI Compliance Acceleration Program, it is the first of its kind to provide positive reinforcement to the industry's traditional, fine-only approach.

Additionally, Visa will link the benefits of tiered interchange rates to PCI compliance. Effective Oct. 1, 2007, acquirers whose transactions qualify for lower interchange rates available in the Visa and Interlink tiers must ensure that merchants are PCI compliant in order to receive this benefit.

Acquirers must demonstrate the establishment of a

comprehensive compliance program for levels 3 and 4 merchants. In 2006, Visa levied \$4.6 million in fines, up from a 2005 total of \$3.4 million. Additionally, Visa is adding new fines to acquirers whose level 2 merchant customers retain full-track, Cardholder Verification Value 2 or PIN data after the transaction authorization.

Americans putting small payments on plastic

More than 67 million Americans had used a credit or debit card for a purchase of less than \$5 in the previous 30 days, according to a November survey conducted by **Ipsos Insight** and **Peppercoin Inc.**

Single-merchant gift cards more popular

About eight out of 10 (78%) Americans responding to an online survey purchased or received a gift card in the previous 12 months, and nearly half (43%) did both, according to a study commissioned by **First Data Corp**.

The study also indicates that single-merchant gift cards are more frequently purchased, with an average of 4.7 cards per purchaser. However, multimerchant gift cards, averaging 2.6 cards per purchaser, are increasing in popularity as choice and convenience drive the market.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Teen card wins innovation award

Allow Card of America Inc.'s Allow Card, a



- The number of people traveling 50 miles or more this holiday season is up 2.2%, from 63.5 million last year. Most travelers – 52.6 million, or 81% – plan to drive, according to **AAA**. The average price nationwide of regular gasoline is hovering at \$2.29 a gallon, after climbing \$0.066 a gallon from the middle of November.
- Estimated U.S. retail and food services sales for November were up 5.6% from November 2005, according to the **Commerce Department**. Retail trade sales were 5.3% above last year.
- Restaurant sales are expected to reach \$537 billion in 2007, a 5% increase over 2006 sales, according to the **National Restaurant Association**. Forty-six percent of Americans say they are likely to use customer-activated ordering and payment terminals, if available in their favorite table-service restaurant.

Moving Merchants Forward in 2007

ADVANCED wants to join forces with YOU, LOOK at what we have to offer!

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Jason A. Felts President / CEO

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IndustryUpdate

stored-value card for teenagers, was awarded the Oscards award, sponsored by France's Publi-News. The annual award honors the most innovative credit, debit and stored-value cards.

Gateway issues Verified Merchant Seal

Authorize.Net Corp. launched its Verified Merchant Seal, which confirms to consumers that Web sites displaying the seal are verified Authorize.Net merchants. The seal is available free to the company's 158,000 merchants for display on their Web sites.

Co-Op Financial certifies its ATM check system

Co-Op Financial Services has certified all of the components required to support ATM check imaging, offering member credit unions a complete solution to capture, proof and clear digital check images from the ATM.

The system was beta-tested at California Center Credit Union, where staff visits to remote ATMs to retrieve checks have been reduced to twice a month as a result, according to CCCU.

Debitman becomes Tempo Payments

Debitman Card Inc. changed its name to Tempo **Payments Inc.** The company intends to build visibility for the Tempo Payment Network. Retailers will be able to issue their own branded cards with a unifying Tempo logo, according to the company.

FAC offers referral program incentives

First Atlantic Commerce Ltd. is an e-commerce payment solutions provider for merchants seeking direct banking relationships in the Latin America-Caribbean Region, Bermuda and Europe.

The company is offering its referral-program marketing representatives protection from merchant attrition, immediate income with sign-on bonuses, and lifetime, profit-building residuals in multiple currencies.

Leaders adds outside sales agents

Leaders Merchant Services, an ISO/merchant service provider for JPMorgan Chase, introduced an outside sales agent program, supplementing its traditional model of acquiring merchants through an inhouse sales force.

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WAY Systems has the exclusive license to the Accessor TM technology and granted patents (PCT application W09966752) belonging to Mobile VPT, Ltd. for the Pocketsized Mobile POS market. Mobile VPT, Ltd. is a payment systems leader with numerous granted patents around the world for Mobile Commerce and Mobile Payments.



IndustryUpdate

NFC Forum tops 100 members

The **NFC Forum**, a nonprofit advancing the use of near field communication technology, announced its membership has grown to over 100 organizations. Among the new members are AuthenTec Inc., ecash corp. and Ingenico.

NOVA enhances electronic check service

NOVA Information Systems, a subsidiary of U.S. Bancorp, has enhanced its electronic check service to meet the needs of multilane retailers, combining realtime check authorization and risk-mitigation services with back-office image uploads.

NOVA leverages three hosted processing methods: direct demand deposit account access, automated clearing house processing and a banking network adhering to Check 21.

PayChest launches online gateway products

PayChest Inc. launched its online payment gateway products: PayChest ACHnet, PayChest E-Check, PayChest RD21 and PayChest Credit Card Processing. In addition, PayChest will offer a turnkey online



solution for prospective e-commerce businesses, comprising the setup of a Web site, an e-commerce shopping cart, Web hosting, e-mail server solutions and merchant services.

UBC licenses marketing e-book

United Bank Card Inc. purchased a license for unlimited downloads of the e-book *Marketing Secrets of Gift & Loyalty Cards*, by author Jay Stuart, for UBC's agents. The book can be found at www.giftcardmarketingnet.com.

Visa announces test requirements for cards

Visa announced a new set of test requirements to help card manufacturers ensure that emerging card technologies, such as battery-powered and display cards, meet Visa standards for security and interoperability.

PARTNERSHIPS

Meijer joins Discover's Cash Over program

Meijer Inc. joined **Discover Network**'s nationwide Cash Over program and now offers cash over the amount of purchase for customers paying with a Discover Network credit card at all of its 176 locations.

ReadyLink launches at Safeway

Visa partnered with Blackhawk Network, a subsidiary of Safeway Inc., to introduce ReadyLink, Visa's prepaid load network, to Blackhawk's alliance partner stores. Safeway stores will be Blackhawk's first implementation of ReadyLink. The service allows consumers to add funds to reloadable Visa prepaid cards. Fifth Third Bank will serve as the acquiring FI.

Retailers renew with Fifth Third Processing

Abercrombie & Fitch Co., Belk Department Stores and Stein Mart Inc. have renewed merchant contracts with Fifth Third Processing Solutions.

Software developers integrate Heartland's Express Funds

CodePartners, the software division of Terrell & Terrell CPAs LLP, is integrating **Heartland Payment Systems**' Express Funds remote deposit capture service with major mid-market accounting programs to bring the service to businesses nationwide.

WAY Systems certified on two more networks

Comstar Interactive certified the **WAY Systems Inc.** family of Mobile Transaction Terminals (MTT) on the Comstar Payment Gateway, for credit, offline debit and

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PIN debit transactions. Wireless solution provider **Apriva** also certified the MTT on the Apriva Intelligent Gateway; WAY Systems and Apriva also became reseller partners.

Credit unions partner with Co-Op Financial Services

New England Credit Union Services LLC, a partnership owned by the Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island credit union leagues, has partnered with **Co-Op Financial Services** to promote the sale of network memberships in the greater New England market. The agreement gives members access to Co-Op's 25,000 surcharge-free ATMs throughout the country.

Polish post offices install VeriFone equipment

EService, the acquiring arm of PKO Bank Polski, will use **VeriFone**'s Vx 510 payment platform and PIN pad 1000SE to deliver cash-advance and electronic bill-payment services at post offices in Poland.

Pharmacists endorse HealthCard Systems

The **New Jersey Pharmacists Association** endorsed **HealthCard Systems** as its transaction-processing partner of choice for itself and its members.

Rapattoni software users to access JetPay network

Users of **Rapattoni Corp.**'s Magic real estate association management software may now transact electronic payments on the credit card authorization and settlement system from **JetPay Merchant Services LLC**.

RBS Lynk completes Discover processing integration

RBS Lynk Inc., the U.S. payment processing division of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group, has completed the rollout of direct **Discover Network** card processing.

New Bangkok airport chooses Hypercom

Thailand's **Suvarnabhumi International Airport** in Bangkok has chosen **Hypercom Corp.**'s Optimum T2100 payment terminal for its retail shops.

ACQUISITIONS

First Data completes acquisition of Argencard

First Data International completed the acquisition of **Argencard S.A.**, a leading processor of payment transactions in Argentina and Uruguay. The business will operate under the name First Data International.

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IndustryUpdate

Guillermo Laje will continue to lead the business as part of the First Data team. The acquisition establishes First Data's presence in South America, according to the company.

Pay By Touch fills green stamp booklet, redeemed for century-old S&H

Pay By Touch has acquired **S&H Solutions** and its parent company, **S&H greenpoints**, for more than \$100 million in cash and stock. In connection with the acquisition, **J. Stuart Moore**, a Director of S&H Solutions, will join the Pay By Touch board of directors. Moore is also Co-Founder and Director, and formerly Co-Chairman and Co-CEO, of Sapient Corp.

S&H Solutions provides customer-based loyalty marketing and retail solutions. With the purchase, Pay By Touch acquires the greenpoints Rewards Program – a digital reinvention of the Sperry & Hutchinson Co.'s Green Stamps loyalty marketing program begun in 1896 – in which merchant patrons received stamps redeemable for household products.

At one time, the company reportedly printed three times as many stamps as the U.S. Post Office, and the S&H catalog was the largest publication in the country.

APPOINTMENTS

Hypercom reorganizes Multi-Lane Systems Group

Hypercom has strengthened its Multi-Lane Systems Group with the appointment of **Gary Franza** as Vice President and General Manager of the team. His experience includes over 15 years of global sales and management at WatchGuard Technologies Inc., Insight Enterprises Inc. and Hayes Microcomputer Products.

Robert De Bona was named Vice President for National Multi-Lane Sales. He has been with Hypercom for almost three years and served at Symbol Technologies for 14 years.

In addition, **Russ Dhooge** was named Vice President of Operations for the group. He previously held management positions at Ingenico SA and Chase Paymentech Solutions LLC.

WRG promotes Griffis

ATM provider **WRG Services Inc.** named **Jeff Griffis** Total Quality Manager. He began his career with WRG in 2002, serving most recently in the quality department.





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IndustryUpdate



Han joins Panini North America

Panini North America appointed **Kevin Han** Vice President of Sales. Previously, Han was Senior Vice President of Business Development and Marketing for VoEx Inc.

Henry steps aside, Euronet hires three

Euronet Worldwide Inc. announced that at the end of 2006 **Daniel R. Henry** will step back from his day-to-day role in the company as President and Chief Operating Officer.

He will continue as a Director for at least the remainder of his three-year term ending in 2009. The company does not plan to replace Henry immediately and will divide his daily responsibilities among CEO Mike Brown and other key executives. During the first quarter of 2007, Henry will assist with the transition.

Euronet also announced the appointments of **Larry Fogelson**, **Steve Adams** and **Karyn Clewes Zaborny**. Fogelson was named Managing Director of Euronet's Veloz money transfer business. He spent 20 years with First Data in senior management positions at Western Union Financial Services and First Data Merchant Services.

Adams joins as Director of operations of Euronet's Europe, Middle East and Africa EFT business segment, overseeing ATM and POS networks. Most recently, he was Chief Operating Officer of Barclaycard's international division.

Clewes Zaborny is Senior Vice President of Human Resources. She joined Euronet from Swiss Re.

TransFirst names Sheridan VP of FI sales

Thomas Sheridan has been named Vice President, FI Sales, for **TransFirst**. Previously, he was Vice President, Domestic Bank Sales, for First Data. He also served in sales and management at Hypercom, CES-Card Establishment Services and Citicorp Establishment Services.

McAfee exec joins TriCipher

TriCipher Inc. named **Vatsal Sonecha** Vice President of strategy and business development. He joins TriCipher from McAfee Inc., where he was Vice President of market development.

Wheeler is ExaDigm VP of sales

ExaDigm Inc. appointed **Randall R. Wheeler** Executive Vice President of Sales. Wheeler previously held executive positions with Lipman USA Inc., MasterCard Worldwide and Diebold Inc.



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View

Insider's report on payments

Payments issues go to Washington

By Patti Murphy

The Takoma Group



t's time to dispel any notions that companies in the retail payments space are immune to legislative and regulatory oversight.

And while we're at it, let's get real about interchange. It isn't the big bugaboo it's been made out to be. True, retailers for years now have been grousing about interchange pricing, and this year they actually managed to get some members of Congress to hold hearings on the topic.

But for the most part, those hearings dwelled on the connection between interchange and oil prices. Now that the spiral of increasing gasoline costs has slowed, it seems unlikely Congress will return to issues related to interchange anytime soon.

Besides, retailers don't exactly enjoy favored status with many of the ranking Democrats who will be running things in Congress beginning in January.

Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), the presumed new chair of the House Financial Services Committee, has announced his priorities for the next Congress: Interchange isn't on

Most forms of gambling are banned in the United States, but many Internet companies have been able to circumvent the prohibitions by physically locating outside the country.

the agenda. What does rank high on Frank's agenda is legislation closing the loophole in banking law that allows retailers to own special-purpose banks known as industrial loan companies (ILCs).

Long-standing federal banking law prohibits nonbank commercial firms from owning federally chartered financial institutions. ILCs are state-chartered with oversight from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC). The appeal to retailers is that ILCs can be used for issuing and/or processing credit cards. To date, several dozen ILCs have been chartered in seven states, including one that's owned by high-end retailer Nordstrom Inc. and one owned by Nissan Motor Co., the automaker. The loophole had existed for decades, but nobody in Washington paid much attention until last year when Wal-Mart Stores Inc. applied to own an ILC in Utah.

Wal-Mart says it wants an ILC so it can handle its own credit and debit card processing. Its application has been in limbo now for more than a year.

Earlier this year, Frank introduced a bill that would place a permanent ban on ILC charters and impose strict oversight of those chartered in the past. On Dec. 7, he led a bipartisan delegation of 107 House members in urging the FDIC not to approve any ILC applications until Congress takes action.

Congress takes on data security, Internet gambling

This year Congress took on two controversial issues related to payments: data security and Internet gambling.

Most forms of gambling are banned in the United States, but many Internet companies have been able to circumvent the prohibitions by physically locating outside the country.

With Americans wagering an estimated \$6 billion a year online, Internet gambling had become a large and lucrative trade for some American businesses.

That is, until Congress passed a law prohibiting banks and other payments companies from processing or transferring transactions that involve Internet gambling. The prohibition was signed into law in mid-October.

By early November, experts familiar with offshore enterprises were reporting massive layoffs at companies servicing gambling-related Web sites.

The results of the get-tough stance Congress has taken on data security have been less compelling. No fewer than five data security bills were considered in the House and the Senate this year, but none made it to the President's desk.

One of the most sweeping bills – introduced by Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) and Bob Bennett (R-Utah) – called on all





View

entities that touch consumer data (financial institutions, retailers and others) to better protect data they hold, to quickly investigate any breaches of data they control, and to promptly notify government and the public "when there's a real risk of harm," according to Carper.

These, along with scores of other bills, were left on the table when Congress adjourned earlier this month. However, Washington insiders say it's a safe bet that data security legislation will resurface in the new Congress.

Federal Reserve and Reg E

As the year draws to a close, the Federal Reserve has issued a new final rule regarding electronic payments that should signal relief for some companies.

And in a related move, the Fed has asked the industry and the public to weigh in on a proposal to eliminate consumer receipt requirements for certain small-dollar electronic payments.

The proposal, announced in late November, would exempt POS debit transactions of \$15 or less from receipt requirements under Regulation E. Reg E is the body of rules implementing federal electronic funds transfer laws. "The proposed exception is intended to facilitate the ability of consumers to use debit cards in retail environments where the receipt requirement may not be practical or cost-effective," the Fed said.

The Fed has requested public comments on the proposal by early February.

The Fed's new final rule addresses the authorization required to collect fees when consumer checks converted to electronic automated clearing house (ACH) transactions are returned unpaid.

It makes clear that it is the merchant's responsibility to provide fee notices to consumers who tender checks at the POS that subsequently get converted to ACH debits.

Specifically, the rule requires conspicuous notices posted at the POS and on customer receipts explaining that the merchant reserves the right to collect fees (such as NSF charges) electronically. Most aspects of the rule change are effective Jan. 1, 2007.

Patti Murphy is Senior Editor of The Green Sheet and President of The Takoma Group. E-mail her at patti@greensheet.com .



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View

The truth of transience

By Biff Matthews

CardWare International

ob Dylan penned the phrase "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows." That's true. But everyone in our industry knows our prevailing winds are those of transition. The way we do business and the mix of products and services we offer are constantly evolving to serve a dynamically growing and ever-changing marketplace.

We face myriad state and federal regulations. Transactions are growing in number and complexity. And the hardware and software we use to process them are becoming more sophisticated and specialized. The list goes on.

Out with inventory

Let's first look at the trend toward outsourcing by card service providers. On the acquiring side, some organizations still stock POS devices, printers, paper supplies and other related products. When an order from a merchant comes in or a new merchant is boarded, the acquirer ships the necessary products.

This may be appropriate in certain situations, but I look at things the way a manufacturer views just-in-time deliveries on raw materials. By having materials arrive only as needed, the lean manufacturer saves on warehousing, inventory and financing costs.

Well, if it works for the manufacturing sector, there's no reason why lean merchant service providers can't also achieve the efficiencies offered by zero inventory investment.

Many of our customers are already finding this to be an effective practice. The trick is to provide a level of customer service that makes it appear seamless to merchants.

Out with training

Training is another area in which outsourcing can benefit our customers. At CardWare, we offer a training program, and most of our customers use it as their instructional solution. Yet, we still have customers who use their own sales staff to train merchants on new technology after signing new merchant accounts or upselling new or additional services.

The customers who do this say they want to maintain control over the training process and the relationships with their merchant customers. My view is that they actually *gain* control by outsourcing training because the quality, continuity and reliability of the instruction by people who do it all the time is highly effective. Besides, shouldn't salespeople be out doing what they really do best?

Down with paper

Another change is the continuing trend toward paperless transactions and a different mix of transaction types. Steven E. Dawe, President of Financial Transaction Services LLC, said "Paper forms of payment continue to shrink. Cash and checks are being replaced as forms of payment."

This means cards overall are being used more, and the onus of recording and storing transaction data falls on payments professionals.

For decades, credit cards were the norm. But electronically sophisticated POS equipment and industry-specific software improved card processing. This opened the doors for consumer debit cards and prepaid gift cards.

According to Annette Herndon, recently the Operations Manager for a New York-based acquirer, "The debit card is the fastest-growing segment of our industry. A few years ago, it was the prepaid gift cards, but growth in that segment has slowed."

Interestingly, both of these card types are popular even though their users do not receive the same protections against fraud or loss that they enjoy when using common credit cards.

In any case, merchants have had to gear up for these changing trends by purchasing or upgrading the software and equipment that lets them process debit and prepaid gift card transactions. This is a win-win situation for merchants, acquirers and those of us who serve them.

In with information

Luke Wigley, President of Security BankCard Center Inc., recently told me the technology involved in processing a transaction has increased many hundredfold in recent years.

"Data storage requirements have gotten bigger," he said. "Terminals are quicker, with more memory and more transaction storage capability. Increased transaction volume and the information gathered per transaction can be used to track consumer patterns and preferences."

Talk about a marketer's dream. The amount and detail of information available from each transaction is a mother lode of data to be mined by those who have the equipment and technology to collect and analyze it.

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View

From giant Madison Avenue agencies preparing ad campaigns to mid-level product managers moving new products to market, all marketing efforts are facilitated, in part, by the data our industry supplies.

In with biometrics

The industry changes I've mentioned so far have already happened or are happening. Now here's some food for future thought: biometric techniques for cardholder authentication. Technologies that read cardholder fingerprints, retinal patterns, or DNA already exist and are being tried or considered on a limited basis in some markets.

Our industry's entire business model depends on consumer confidence, protection against merchant fraud and cardholder security. That's why Dawe believes "It's not a matter of *if*, but *when*" biometric technologies become commonplace in the United States.

Herndon agreed, though she cautioned that Americans are "very wary of Big Brother technologies." She said security laws protecting consumers in this country are neither binding nor applicable to those who hold cards issued in foreign countries. Given the increasing globalization of the world's economy, the proliferation of foreign tourism and the dark veil of terrorism, it's easy to see why biometric authentication may yet become the global standard.

But there is another factor that may slow the adoption of biometric authentication: the prohibitive cost of equipment supporting biometric technologies.

As Wigley said, "A mom-and-pop merchant will not be able to afford the investment necessary for biometrics. The level of fraud is higher than it used to be, but the cost of these emerging technologies still outweighs the threat of fraud."

Everything in life is transient, including the payments industry. Accepting that can combat complacency and position us all to jump on the many opportunities that come our way.

Biff Matthews is President of Thirteen Inc., the parent company of CardWare International, based in Heath, Ohio. He is one of 12 founding members of the Electronic Transactions Association, serving on its board, advisory board and committees. Call him at 740-522-2150 or e-mail him at biff@13-inc.com .



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IndustryLeader

A founding father of ISO fortune

ertain adages are universally accepted: "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is," "Trust your instincts" and "Get it in writing" are just a few. We can all remember a time or two when we didn't follow advice such as this. And, though we survived, we have a few battle scars as a result.

Dick Draper, President and Chief Executive Officer of thermal-print innovator Peripheron Technologies Inc., listened to a trusted friend as well as to his instincts and "got it in writing" years ago while working as an independent distributor for VeriFone. Securing a written contract made all the difference in the success of Draper's business at the time, Stone-West Inc.

Draper has founded a number of companies in the financial services and construction industries. He has enjoyed successes and suffered setbacks. And his knowledge, skills, dedication and work ethic have made him a leader.

If you're looking for someone to blow smoke or speak in marketing lingo, he's the wrong guy. If you're seeking someone who will tell you how it is and be your friend before and after the deal, Draper is your man.

Entrepreneur in training

Draper has logged in many hours at the office, but he has also worked hard in the true sense. While growing up, he helped out on family dairy farms in New York state, some of which had no electricity. Between his freshman and sophomore years at Cornell University, he worked as a deck hand on the Brigantine Yankee for Windjammer Cruises.

His college education was partially funded by a Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps scholarship and through his jobs washing pots and working summers as a stonecutter, which isn't exactly taking the easy route.

Upon earning a degree in marine biology in 1964, Draper entered the Navy's Basic Underwater Demolition/Sea Air and Land (SEAL) training. He graduated the following August and served as an officer until October 1967.

In recalling this period of his life, Draper said, "No mat-

ter how much money I have made or what success I have enjoyed, completing this training and serving with these men was the crowning achievement of my life and defined all subsequent activities."

Unstoppable initiative

Draper has experienced numerous business vicissitudes. After the Navy, he spent 15 successful years building two construction companies: Alexander and Draper Inc. and Stone-West.

He worked mainly in sales and installation of granite and marble for office buildings. Unfortunately, his business did not survive the recession of the early 1970s. "I went broke and went to work for others as a General Manager of construction operations," he recalled.

Drawing on the persistence he acquired in SEAL training, Draper took another shot at running his own business. This time he chose the financial services industry. In 1982 he resurrected the Stone-West name and met Bill Melton, who was then the President of VeriFone. Draper described Melton as "the true visionary of our industry."

Draper became VeriFone's sales agent for 10 Midwestern states. "It was a rough beginning," he said. "But eventually we achieved great success with the help of many who continue with distinction in the industry today, including Mark Dunn, Dan Debraal, Bill Biwer, Sue McGrady, Dan Lewis and Scott Rutledge."

A rewarding run

Draper and his team signed significant accounts, including First National Bank of Omaha, Discover Financial Services LLC, Secure Payment Systems Inc., Harris Bank "and nearly every other POS equipment provider in the Midwest."

Draper was the only independent agent to sign a contract with Melton and VeriFone. It was a simple one-page, twosided document outlining a one-year contract, with 10 one-year extensions.

"All the guys [other distributors] were independent contractors, like me, but none had contracts," he said. "As soon as VeriFone did well, they got absorbed or canceled out, and we persisted until we were the only independent left."

Draper credits this decision to get a signed contract to his background in construction. "The construction business

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IndustryLeader

During his association with VeriFone, he set records and headed the company's most successful sales region. In a sense, he blazed the trail for modern-day ISOs. Acknowledging his contributions to the industry, the Midwest Acquirers' Association honored him with its Lifetime Achievement Award in July 2006. sense, he blazed the trail for modernday ISOs. Acknowledging his contributions to the industry, the Midwest Acquirers' Association honored him with its Lifetime Achievement Award in July 2006.

As his contract with VeriFone was ending, Draper and his team started another business, Direct Data Inc. "We knew the contract [with VeriFone]

teaches you the importance of documentation," he said. "It's important to get things in writing ... especially with your friends."

Draper stayed with VeriFone through its first initial public offering in 1990, leaving in 1994. He remembers the time fondly. "It was a great 10-and-a-half-year run, and perhaps my proudest achievement was being able to share my stock options with my employees when VeriFone went public," he said. "It was a unique opportunity and one I am happy I didn't miss."

Triumph and truncation

During his association with VeriFone, he set records and headed the company's most successful sales region. In a



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would not be extended, so we started Direct Data to carry on," Draper said.

VeriFone experienced such rapid growth in its early stages that it had difficulty getting software developed and certified. Keeping this in mind, Draper took a different route with Direct Data.

"We hired our own programmers and did our own application development," he said. "We had in-house engineers, customer service people and the infrastructure for a working, functioning and efficient business."

Direct Data developed a low-cost check reader, the Cheq'R, and began working on smart cards and low-cost, integrated terminals and thermal line printers.

In 1995, Draper sold Direct Data to U.S. Wireless Data Inc. (which was later purchased by Transaction Network Services Inc.), and it became a wholly owned subsidiary of U.S. Wireless. However, "Milberg Weiss, the famous class-action law firm, got U.S. Wireless Data in their sights and eventually destroyed Direct Data," Draper said.

As a result, Direct Data's projects were truncated midstream, U.S. Wireless was unable to fulfill its contract and Draper was forced to pay more than \$1 million to cover the debt.

Retirement rerouted

When the dust settled, Draper attempted to slow down and moved to Whistler, British Columbia. "I decided it was time to retire and concentrate on skiing, fly fishing and golf," he said. However, it didn't quite go as planned. Some friends convinced him to start yet another company to take advantage of some patents and technology he owned.

Draper was happy to oblige, and Peripheron was born. "My golf game will never be respectable, my knee injuries will limit my skiing and one can only do so much fly-fishing," he said. "I am happy to be back in the saddle."

Peripheron is a thermal print technology company that


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manufactures POS and mobile thermal printers. With the company, Draper has brought the RM2000 thermal line printer to market.

He also intends to successfully launch the RM2500 (a next-generation thermal receipt printer) and the Nomad (a mobile printing system) before "turning over the reins to younger, more energetic folks, and then fading into the sunset."

How can someone repeatedly launch successful businesses in a variety of industries? In addition to his SEAL training, Draper is quick to point out that his wife of 41 years, Loi, "has been my constant partner and essential contributor to whatever success I have achieved ... she's my rock. I would not have done much of anything without her constant help and support."

Newsworthy advice

Draper also credits the advice of his mentor, Jimmy Milne. "He told me, 'Conduct all your business like you were going to read about it on the front page of your local newspaper in the morning," Draper said.

Throughout his life Draper has lived by that credo. One of his career highlights was reading an article about him-

self in which an associate described him as honorable. "Nothing could have made me happier," he said. "They also said I was 'interesting' which I assumed was a polite way of saying I was outspoken, and there was little doubt where I stood on any given subject, or perhaps that I was simply full of it."

Draper shares his mentor's advice with others. He recommends that agents be honest and recognize that one's reputation for integrity is fragile and easily destroyed. "It's a very, very small world," he said.

"Be an advocate for your customers, and give them the best deal you can while maintaining a fair profit for your company. Never cut too good a deal for yourself."

He also predicted the POS industry will remain strong. "As long as people want to conduct transactions at the point of sale, we'll have a business," he said. "It's just a question of who and how."

Though Draper isn't going to exit the payments industry any time soon, his first attempt at retirement gave him a chance to review his career and achievements. "I've had a great time, made a few bucks and made a lot of good friends," he said. With that, he is content.

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Feature

Prepaid cards offer another link between consumers and ATMs

By Valerie Killifer, Reporter

ATMmarketplace.com

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ip-hop and clothing mogul Russell Simmons, Co-Founder of Def Jam Records, targeted a new market in 2005 when he launched two Visa U.S.A.-branded prepaid cards, the Baby Phat Prepaid Visa Card and Prepaid Visa Rushcard.

The cards are designed to reach African-American and Latino consumers without access to checking accounts and were launched after Simmons' company, Rush Communications, noticed that online orders for Phat Farm and Baby Phat clothes were being purchased by consumers who didn't have credit or debit cards.

"Financial empowerment is the last leg of the Civil Rights movement," Simmons said in 2005.

40 million unbanked and underbanked consumers. Of those that are unbanked. 46% are African-American; 34% Hispanic and other; and 14% Caucasian, according to Chicago-based The Center for Financial Services Innovation.

But, Simmons' cards have come under fire because of high activation and transaction fees. Critics have even accused Simmons of using a good cause to further fill his pockets.

Simmons, although an unlikely prepaid-card candidate, realized what financial-industry innovators have known: Prepaid cards can help underbanked and unbanked consumers build financial independence while helping deployers pull in commercial revenue.

According to MasterCard Worldwide, prepaid-card transactions are expected to reach \$275 billion by the end of 2009.

And in 2006, an estimated \$117 billion in purchases will be made using prepaid products, whether in the form of gift cards, payroll cards or renewable prepaid cards issued under the MasterCard and Visa brands.

Lock and (re)load

Prepaid cards also have opened an avenue for ATM-

transaction growth. "As long as growth continues in the prepaid space, like EBT, etc., the ATM will always be at the forefront," said Ben Psillas, President and Founder of the Allpoint network, now owned by Cardtronics Inc.

The Baby Phat and Rush cards, among other Visa and MasterCard-branded cards, can be loaded at ATMs, selfservice kiosks or by direct deposit.

Jennifer Tescher, Director of the CFSI, said there is now a broader array of kiosk and ATM providers offering issuance and reload services at the ATM. And as the market continues, so will the transaction opportunities provided by ATM manufacturers.

Burnaby, British Columbia-based Tio Networks Corp. recently launched its 100 E-Wiz financial-services kiosks in convenience stores throughout Texas. The kiosks provide bill-pay and prepaid-card load and reload functionalities.

In the United States, there are more than 🔅 "The real potential for these cards is as functionality increases for these products they really do become substitutes for bank accounts."

- Jennifer Tescher, CFSI

In addition, Monrovia, Calif.-based Green Dot Financial Network, a subsidiary of Green Dot Corp., launched in 2005 a network of prepaid reload stations at more than 35.000 locations.

"The real potential for these cards is as functionality increases for these products, they really do become substitutes for bank accounts." Tescher said.

"Nonbank prepaid card companies are using prepaid cards to tap into the market. Financial institutions are considering prepaid cards as a product to offer when someone doesn't qualify for a checking account."

Prepaid cards give unbanked and underbanked consumers financial flexibility. One Baby Phat user on www.prepaidcardforum.com, an industry blog, said she liked the card because there was "no credit check" involved.

"There is a lot of interest in using prepaid to build credit," Tescher said. "There's nothing like that at the moment, but credit bureaus are interested in the data."

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Feature

Workin' hard for the money

As prepaid-card popularity grows, issues such as activation and transaction-related fees will arise.

"Prepaid cards that are overly expensive don't make sense," Tescher said. However, she added that prepaid cards reduce the amount of cash in pocket and provide greater financial access.

One area where prepaid cards are making headway is in the payroll-card space.

"On the payroll side, there is significant potential; but for the most part, banks see this as a way to help their commercial customers solve a problem or reduce costs. They don't really think or know much about the end user," Tescher said.

Payroll cards utilizing the prepaid format have become increasingly popular among employers. Frank D'Angelo, President of Metavante Corp.'s Payment Solutions Group, a subsidiary of Milwaukee-based Marshall & Ilsley Corp., said the company began processing payroll cards because of their synergy with debit cards and market opportunity. "There are a lot of similarities between the normal debit and prepaid space," D'Angelo said. "When you look at the underbanked or unbanked, they don't have access to checking accounts. Prepaid cards give that underbanked consumer the same kind of flexibility."

According to CFSI, immigrants make up 32% of the total U.S. unbanked population. And unless those workers have Social Security cards, opening a bank account or even applying for a prepaid card is off limits.

So to further tap into the underbanked market, Metavante added bill-payment features to its payroll-card processing solution allowing consumers to pay bills, check account balances and order goods online.

D'Angelo suspects the industry will thrive over the next few years both in the United States and Europe.

"Security, flexibility and the cost of electronic transactions is easier," he said. "[Transactions] ride existing telephone lines and networks; you don't have to create anything new."

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AgenTalk[™]

AgenTalksm 2006: A Retrospective

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nce a month in *The Green Sheet*, in our AgenTalk feature, we publish an interview with a merchant level salesperson (MLS).

Our goal is to capture the ambitions, struggles and triumphs of the feet on the street: those working day in, day out to make the sale. Following are AgenTalk highlights from 2006:

"True sales means stepping up to the plate with confidence, falling in gutters and picking yourself back up over and over again. It means relying on yourself to make your career a success and correcting your mistakes while you learn from them. ... It comes from your gut, your mind and your willingness to take risks."

- Debra A. Aragon (06:09:01)

"The more products you can sell a customer, the better you can lock him in to long-term business."

- Jerry Compton (06:12:01)

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To ensure account retention, "I know of no magic potion. I can only recommend the common-sense things: Build value, keep in close contact during the sales process and get trial closes (agreements) to keep moving your deal forward. And ... ask where you stand and what it will take to close the business."

- Kelly Jaime (06:08:01)

"I ask myself throughout the day, If I had a boss and he was watching me right now, would he fire me or give me a raise? It keeps me focused on the activities that I know are productive."

- Robert McBeath (06:10:01)

"I approach each merchant and potential customer as I would any of my friends and neighbors."

- Larry McNamara (06:07:02)

At industry conferences, "not only are you able to network with colleagues from various facets of the industry, but you're able to learn about new technology, products and services. When I attend an event, I come back energized with a renewed determination to sell."

- Chris Perrine (06:02:01)

"There is no substitution for knowledge. Even if you are not the best salesperson, you can still provide excellent consultative input and get the sale. ... You [also] have to be committed to your product or service in order to sell it effectively. For me, it takes an emotional attachment to a product or service to truly believe in it. I live and breathe bankcard."

- Mike Rottkamp (06:03:01)

"All the books I read say that I should write down achievable long- and short-term goals But I only write down short-term goals for what I want to get done today or this week. For me, it seems that when you get the little things done each day, the big things tend to fall into line."

- Jonathan S. Saluk (06:06:01)

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"The main reason for sticking in this industry is residual income. It's a wonderful source of constantly growing income streams. You can be writing a new deal while making income from your already existing portfolio."

- Robert Sorrell (06:05:01)

"With a merchant I have never met before, I like the Columbo approach: 'Hey, why did you run that card like that and pay \$5 more than you had to?' This often leads to them asking questions, making you their consultant of choice at the moment. And if all goes well, they'll be asking you to stick around and check out their statements. This works better than walking in with a briefcase and tie."

- Harvey "Lee" Sullivan (06:01:01)

"I'm relentless. I never let a deal go. I will keep bugging the customer until they either tell me to stop calling or sign the deal."

- Lisa A. Toner (06:11:01)

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We would like to thank the MLSs who generously gave their time to help make this feature a success. We look forward to speaking with more hardworking salespeople in 2007.

Many top-notch agents have inspired others by sharing their perspectives in AgenTalk. Will you be next? If you'd like to participate, please send an e-mail to greensheet@greensheet.com.



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CompanyProfile



Q Comm International

ISO/MLS contact:

Tom Baker, Vice President, Sales Phone: 508-801-4263

Company address:

Q Comm International 510 E. Technology Ave., Building C Orem, UT 84097 Phone: 800-626-9941 Fax: 801-222-9555 Web site: www.gcomm.com

MLS benefits:

- Enhanced diversification with prepaid products
- Increased merchant loyalty
- Turnkey services
- Just-in-time delivery, reducing merchants' upfront costs
- Ongoing commissions on active accounts for agents and merchants

Prepaid provider embraces change with verve and nerve



hange is a given in the payments industry. Managing change can be the tricky part. Prepaid provider Q Comm International is on the move, but its moves are carefully mapped. Mike Keogh, Q Comm's President and Chief Executive Officer said, "If you don't look to the future, you can find yourself swept away by change rather than swept forward."

Q Comm has made impressive changes while positioning itself for the future: Externally it has more than doubled its merchant locations and increased its revenues from \$16 million in 2004 to \$47 million in 2005. And its first quarter 2006 revenue was up 58% to \$13.4 million from \$8.5 million for the same period in 2005.

"Internally, there was a lot of strengthening and restructuring to support continued growth. We made a lot of changes; we built a new management team and made some key hires. It was a lot of change, but at least in my perspective, we upgraded in every case."

- Mike Keogh

"Internally, there was a lot of strengthening and restructuring to support continued growth," Keogh said. "We made a lot of changes; we built a new management team and made some key hires. It was a lot of change, but at least in my perspective, we upgraded in every case."

Retooling for results

Q Comm faces the same challenges as many others in the industry: tooling and strategizing to be ahead of the curve - and profitable - in a low-margin, high-volume business with a constantly changing environment.

"The economic and ethnic changes our culture is going through right now all point to a great potential for prepaid products," Keogh said. "The technologies may change, but the market for prepaid products is not likely to go away."

Q Comm targets retailers that attract prepaid consumers. These include wireless dealers, convenience stores, gas stations, grocery stores, mass merchandisers, pharmacies, check cashers, postal shops, rent-to-own stores, pawn shops, dollar stores and auto supply stores.



CompanyProfile

"We view our terminals as a store within a store – in six square inches on your countertop," said Keogh. "Anything you can buy, you can buy prepaid."

In the last year, Q Comm has greatly expanded its product offering in both traditional prepaid products (like wireless and phone cards) and prepaid Visa and MasterCard debit cards, bill payments, and money transfer. It is something of a one-stop shop, providing all aspects of prepaid products – from product procurement to the electronic distribution of goods and services.

Its proprietary POS terminal, Q Xpress, and supported credit card process-



ing terminals can generate the entire range of products electronically on demand. This enables retailers to sell prepaid wireless or other prepaid services without carrying inventory.

Burgeoning benefits

With little to no upfront costs, a wider selection of retailers can sell such prepaid services as phone cards, wireless communications, prepaid debit cards, home phone service, prepaid Internet, bill payment and money transfer. Just-in-time electronic distribution of these products also reduces customer dissatisfaction due to out-of-stock products.

Only inactive products are displayed in stores, and POS terminals require a unique password for each employee. This creates an auditing trail that greatly reduces the possibility of internal theft, as well as the resultant time spent counting and reconciling hard inventory at the beginning of every shift.

The system's reporting capabilities are an additional benefit to retailers. They can access sales activity online 24/7. They can print reports directly from their POS terminals, and they can drill down to sales activity at individual locations by product, clerk, day and time.

Such specific data can provide valuable marketing information and be analyzed to determine the best product mixes for any given location.

The consolidation of over 100 prepaid products into one convenient – and space saving – platform is one of Q Comm's strengths. But Keogh believes Q Comm differentiates itself in many ways, and no one thing alone can ensure success.

"It's the total package," he said. "Pricing in this industry is all within a quarter point of each other. I think trying to position yourself in this market based on pricing alone is a road to nowhere.



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CompanyProfile

"We differentiate ourselves in several ways: We're very focused on customer service. Our platform has considerable flexibility.

"With some companies, what they offer is what they have, and you shoehorn yourself to fit their platform. But we can add other products – not only our own – to our platform, and make it work in a number of ways."

Keogh thinks differentiation goes right down to the smallest details. "Take, for example, our thermal cards," he said. "Our customers really like them even though they pay for them.

"They can use them for advertising of their logos, or whatever. Every sale produces a pocket-sized billboard to promote their business."

Safe, sound and profitable

Security is achieved through a three-tiered network architecture sporting redundant, clustered servers with no single point of failure.

Q Comm cites a better than 99.99% uptime rating. It also has an off-site data center and generator backups. And its system is scalable to quickly support increased transaction loads.

To protect merchants against fraud, Q Comm uses fraud-detection algorithms, secure password access at the POS and adjustable credit limits for transactions.

Keogh expects more changes ahead for the industry but said Q Comm's future will be steady and profitable. "There is a fair amount of consolidation taking place in the industry right now," he said. "Over the next five or six years we'll see even more. I think we'll see fewer people in the industry, but they'll be offering more products.

"Our first priority is to achieve profitability across the entire business, and we're on track for that. Our Canadian operations are profitable, our terminal counts are up, and we're engaged in efforts to increase terminal productivity. We're pleased with our results so far."

Keogh hinted there may be strategic acquisitions in Q Comm's future, suggesting the company is poised to integrate any future acquisitions seamlessly.

"While some aspects of the industry overall might not look so good, the potential for prepaid looks pretty doggone optimistic," he said.



Depressed? Suffering from ED?

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Studies have shown that giving away your products for free is bad for your health and can lead to a condition known as: Sudden Wimpy Sales Person Syndrome (SWSPS). Worse yet, if untreated, this condition can worsen causing ED (Economic Dysfunction). The condition is highly contagious!! There is one known cure, however, from a California firm specializing in the cure of SWSPS. The cure is a procedure known as Bankcard Warrior Inducement Therapy (WBIT) and is administered by professionals highly trained in this procedure. We interviewed the department head Mr. T.L. Lien GPPS (Gross Profit Performance Specialist), who shared these words about the procedure:

"What we do is we shock the patient back into reality. We show them how much money they're leaving on the table and how to get it. This provokes an immediate release of endorphins in the system, creating a euphoric and invulnerable state in the patient-known as IWTS (Immediate Warrior Transformation Syndrome). Once this state is achieved, we're able to exorcise any remaining SWSPS pathogens out of the subject. Interestingly enough, the effects of the therapy are long lasting, and we've cured many patients. There are unfortunately those we couldn't save, as the disease had already spread too deeply. Therefore it's good to catch it early and eliminate it."

This publication thanks Mr. Lien for his breakthrough research in the area. Symptoms of SWSPS include any combination of the following: Sweaty palms when asking clients for money, an uncontrollable desire to give things away, frequent shortness of rent, constant irritability, reduced sex drive and or ED (Economic Dysfunction).

If you're feeling the effects of this dangerous and lifestyle threatening disease, we urge you to contact the professionals at the Center for Wimpiness Control, otherwise known as the Center for Bankcard Warrior Inducement Therapy. Temporary relief may be obtained with doses of the drug: "F-it all", however this only relieves symptoms and is not a cure. For that, you must complete the WBIT-therapy.



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News

C-stores and gas stations: Untapped potential

typical retail merchant processes an average of \$8,000 in bankcard volume per month. Compare that to the \$65,000 in volume that a typical independent gas station handles during the same time period, said Dee Karawadra, President and Chief Executive Officer of the ISO Impact PaySystem.

The company, which caters to gas stations and c-stores, hosted a free webinar for merchant level salespeople (MLSs) Dec. 6. Representatives from First Data Corp. and Chase Paymentech Solutions LLC were also on the call.

Based on Impact PaySystem's portfolio, an MLS writing three gas station deals a month will produce the same processing volume as 24 retail deals in the same period, Karawadra said.

Landing an unbranded station or convenience store is not a walk in the park, he added. But many of these independent petroleum merchants are paying high rates, making them an ideal selling opportunity.

"Never go by an unbranded store without stopping by and asking for their business," Karawadra advised.

The webinar offered agents some basics of selling to the sector. Since 75% of petroleum merchants accept payment both inside and at the pump, MLSs should understand processing requirements for both, according to Brandy West, Vice President of Impact PaySystem.

The major fleet card brands include: MasterCard Fleet, Visa Fleet, Wright Express (WEX), Voyager, Fleet One and Fuelman.

When selling to gas stations, learn first whether your ISO can support the variety of fleet cards, West said. A station already taking fleet cards will require full support for them.

When approaching gas stations, some of the first things to ask are which bankcards and fleet cards they currently accept and what kind of pricing they currently get. If the station does not accept WEX and Voyager fleet cards, explain the lost sales opportunity from transportation companies relying on them, Karawadra said.

Later in the sales process, or after the sale, find out what

controllers, hardware and software they use; what communications technology (landlines, VSAT [very small aperture terminal], leased lines or frame relay) is already in use; what communications hub they connect through; and whether they will need a WEX number, West said.

Gilbarco is the largest pump manufacturer and distributor, followed by Tokheim, Schlumberger and Dresser/Wayne, West said. Popular controllers include: Trendar's Smart Lock, VeriFone's Ruby, Wayne's Nucleus AFP, GasBoy and Gilbarco's G-Site.

Addressing chargebacks

Petroleum merchants have been plagued by chargebacks since gas prices climbed. They are an issue partly due to unattended, pay-at-the-pump terminals, which are card thieves' favorite place to try out plastic. Addressing the causes of chargebacks is a critical objective of the petroleum MLS.

Primary reasons for gas-pump chargebacks are fraud (reason codes Visa 84 and MasterCard 37); nonreceipt of requested item (Visa 79 and MC 01); authorization issues (Visa 72 and MC 08); duplicate processing (Visa 82 and MC 34); and nonmatching account number (Visa 77 and MC 12).







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News

West provided a number of useful tips for reducing chargebacks and finding success in this market. She said many chargebacks can be prevented by remembering to do the following when setting up the merchant:

- Ensure the billing name matches the name on the store's external signage, so customers won't dispute the charge.
- Implement velocity check, which limits the number of times a particular card can be used at a location in a 24-hour period.
- Set cardholder-activated-terminal limits at \$50 to \$75 (the thresholds set by Visa and MasterCard, respectively, beyond which protection from some chargebacks is not covered).

If a Visa transaction exceeds \$75 but is not challenged by the issuer, it will nevertheless be downgraded. The most common downgrades on swiped transactions are on Visa consumer rewards cards, where the downgrade rate jumps to 1.7425% + \$0.10.

Other things to remember when setting up a gas station include:

- Providing Internet protocol-enabled communications to save the merchant monthly telecom fees
- Obtaining a WEX number, if a new one is needed
- Including PIN debit at the pump.

One of the best methods for learning if a branded c-store is planning to become an independent station is through local oil jobbers – the petroleum suppliers. "Get an alliance going, and get a list of their unbranded stations," West said.

It's important not to tempt branded merchants with low rates, because most are contractually required to process exclusively though their brand's processor.

For more information on selling card processing services to independent gas stations, e-mail West at *bwest@impactpaysystem.com* or call 877-251-0778.

NAOPP elects 2007 board

he National Association of Payment Professionals (NAOPP) announced new officers for its 2007 board of directors. They include:

- President: Steve Schwimmer
- Vice President: Craig Lesser
- Treasurer: Ty Rosean

- MLS Director: River Cohen
- Vendor Director: Wendy M. Zucker.

The new officers bring to the organization 40 years of combined payments industry experience.

Schwimmer, based in Syosset, N.Y., is a merchant level salesperson (MLS) with Renaissance Merchant Services. He also serves in various leadership roles with several community and charitable organizations including the Long Island Better Business Bureau Advisory Board and the Syosset Chamber of Commerce. He has 16 years of payments industry experience and is the former Treasurer of NAOPP.

Lesser, based in Waterford, Wisc., is an MLS with Business Payment Systems. He is involved with his local chamber of commerce and other networking organizations. Lesser is the former owner and President of a biomedical company and has eight years of payments industry experience.

Rosean is also an MLS with Business Payment Systems. Based in Billings, Mont., he has been in the payments industry three years. He is NAOPP's former MLS Director.

Cohen, an MLS based in Scottsdale, Ariz., writes for three



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ISOs and serves on United Bank Card Inc.'s Advisory Board. He also consults for ISOs on training and recruiting. Cohen has been in the industry seven years.

Zucker is the National Sales Director for New York-based Barclay Square Leasing Inc., which she joined in 2001. Prior to Barclay, Zucker worked for Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc. for 24 years. She was a First Vice President, overseeing a staff of 250 people in the Global Operations division. She also spent eight years as a Vice President in the company's Corporate Treasury.

The new officers take their positions Jan. 1.

NAOPP's 2007 board will continue to research, identify and offer additional benefits to members and strengthen its educational program, according to Vicki M. Daughdrill, NAOPP's Executive Director. This includes plans to offer four to six teleseminars in 2007, as well as presentations at the regional acquirer association meetings.

NAOPP is a nonprofit organization working to bridge the gap between MLSs and other segments of the payment processing industry through education. For information on joining NAOPP, visit www.naopp.com .

RodsandWheels: Speeding into a new realm

hat do hot rods have in common with The Green Sheet Inc.? They share a driver. In July, Paul H. Green, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Green Sheet, launched a new Web site for car clubs and enthusiasts.

The new site, *RodsandWheels.com*, reflects Paul's long-time passion for hot rods as well as vintage, classic and antique cars. It is focused on helping car clubs – large and small – build their own club experience on the Web. And it's updated daily by RodsandWheels staff.

Receiving an average of 25,000 hits a day, the site is quickly becoming *the* must-visit Internet source for the latest car club and industry news, events, resources and club management tools. Over 100 clubs across the United States have already registered.

RodsandWheels tools help club members develop, promote and manage their car clubs, so they can meet and greet, plan events and share information and photos ... all in one place. Site resources help them create a Web presence effortlessly; free up time spent on Web maintenance for other club activities; reach out to new members to help the club grow; and enhance the club's overall organization. Members can:

- Create photo galleries
- List their club in the directory
- Post club cruise-ins, meet and greets, and other events to the calendar
- Create a personalized club newsletter
- Establish both public and private forums
- Place classified ads for cars, parts, services etc., with up to four photos per ad
- And much more!

The site also offers the *RodsandWheels E-Magazine*, a weekly publication for car lovers. And it's *all* for free! Why? We believe car clubs are the backbone of the collector and specialty car world, and clubs will keep the spirit and love of classic vehicles alive in the next generation.

To stay abreast of RodsandWheels' latest happenings, tune in to Hot Rods & Heels Radio (formerly High Octane Radio) at www.radiofreenashville.org Tuesdays at 11:50 p.m. EST.

And be sure to visit www.RodsandWheels.com .



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News

2007 calendar of events

2007 event	Date
Western Payments Alliance: ACH Rules Implementation Workshop	Jan. 10, 11, 17, 18, 23, 24 ,25
National Retail Federation 96th Annual Convention & Expo	Jan. 14 - 17
NACHA Global Payments Strategies	Jan. 22 - 23
Electronic Retailing Association Mid-Winter Leadership Conference & Expo	Jan. 28 - 30
Contactless Payments Summit	Jan. 30 - 31
Northeast Acquirers' Association Winter Seminar & Outing	Jan. 30 - Feb. 1
Western Payments Alliance: Remote Deposit Workshop	Feb. TBA
Glenbrook Payments Boot Camp	Feb. 7 - 8
8th Annual ATM Industry Association Conference East	Feb. 20 - 23
Prepaid Card Expo	Feb. 26 - 28
Western Payments Alliance: Basics of ACH Receiving Workshop	March TBA
Merchant Risk Council 5th Annual Card-Not-Present Fraud Prevention Conference	March 12 - 15
Glenbrook Payments Boot Camp	March 13 - 14
Midwest Petroleum & Convenience Tradeshow	March 13 - 15
Southeast Acquirers' Association 6th Annual Conference	March 19 - 21
Field Guide for ISOs	TBA
Western Payments Alliance: ACH Origination & Risk Management Workshop	April TBA
Association for Financial Professionals Retail Forum	April 15 - 17
NACHA Payments	April 15 - 18
Women Networking in Electronic Transactions (W.net) Spring Meeting	April 17
Electronic Transactions Association Annual Meeting & Expo	April 17 - 19
Intele-Card Expo: The Prepaid Show	April 24 - 26
KioskCom Self-Service Expo - Las Vegas	April 25 - 27
ACA International's National Internet & Check Services Conference & Expo	April 25 - 27
NACStech	April 30 - May 2
Western Payments Alliance: ACH Self-Audit Workshop	May TBA
The FMI Show and Marketechnics	May 6 - 8
National Restaurant Association Restaurant, Hotel-Motel Show	May 19 - 22
Western Payments Alliance: Check: Paper & Electronic Workshop	June TBA
NACHA The Payments Institute West	June 3 - 7
Retail Systems ERI eXchange Conference & Expo	June 4 - 7
Internet Retailer Conference & Exhibition	June 4 - 7
Northeast Acquirers' Association Summer Seminar	June 12 - 14
NACHA The Payments Institute East	July 22 - 26
Midwest Acquirers' Association 5th Annual Conference	July 24 - 27
Field Guide for ISOs	TBA
ACA International 68th Annual Convention & Expo	July 25 - 28
Western Payments Alliance: Basics of ACH Receiving Workshop	Sept. TBA
Western Payments Alliance Payments Symposium	Sept. 9 - 11
ATM Industry Association ATM Security in the Americas	Sept. 11 - 13
Shop.org Annual Summit	Sept. 17 - 19
Women Networking in Electronic Transactions (W.net) Fall Meeting	TBA
Electronic Transactions Association Strategic Leadership & Networking Forum	Sept. 18 - 20
85th Annual Financial Women International Conference	Sept. 29 - Oct. 1
Electronic Retailing Association 17th Annual Convention & Exposition	Sept. 30 - Oct. 2
Western Payments Alliance: AAP Review Course	Oct. TBA
Western States Acquirers' Association 4th Annual Meeting	Oct. TBA
Field Guide for ISOs	TBA
Smart Card Alliance Annual Conference	Oct. 8 - 11
KioskCom Self-Service Expo - New York	Oct. 10 - 11
AAP Examination	Oct. 16
NACHA e-Check Conference	TBA
Western Payments Alliance: Hot Topic Workshop	Nov. TBA
Mid-America Payment Exchange Conference	Nov. 1 - 3
NACS Show	Nov. 6 - 9
BAI Retail Delivery Conference & Expo	Nov. 13 - 15
NACHA Institute of International Payments	TBA
Electronic Funds Transfer Association	TBA
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News

Dates, locations and contact information verified at press time. Consult event Web site for registration information. Also view the event calendar at www.greensheet.com/tradeshowschart.html .

_	Location	Phone number	Web site
	Varies	415-433-1230	www.wespay.org
	New York	708-486-0725	www.nrf.com
	Monaco	703-561-1100	www.nacha.org
	Miami Beach, Fla.	800-987-6462	www.retailing.org
	Miami Lakes, Fla.	800-882-8684	www.iqpc.com
	Mt. Snow, Vt.	603-692-2408	www.northeastacquirers.com
	Varies	415-433-1230	www.wespay.org
	Santa Clara, Calif.	541-301-0139	www.glenbrook.com
	Orlando, Fla.	605-428-5400	www.atmia.com
	Las Vegas	617-671-1145	www.prepaidcardexpo.com
	Varies	415-433-1230	www.wespay.org
	Las Vegas	206-364-2789	www.merchantriskcouncil.org
	Atlanta	541-301-0139	www.glenbrook.com
	Indianapolis	614-792-5212	www.m-pact.org
	Jacksonville, Fla.	800-325-1158	www.southeastacquirers.com
	TBA	262-966-2215	www.fieldguideforisos.com
	Varies	415-433-1230	www.wespay.org
	Seattle	301-907-2862	www.afponline.org
	Chicago	703-561-1100	www.nacha.org
	Las Vegas	N/A	www.w-net.biz
	Las Vegas	800-695-5509	www.electran.org
	Miami Beach, Fla.	800-883-8353	www.intelecardexpo.com
	Las Vegas	203-371-6322	www.kioskcom.com
	Las Vegas	952-926-6547	www.acainternational.org
	Nashville, Tenn.	703-518-4239	www.nacsonline.com
	Varies	415-433-1230	www.wespay.org
	Chicago	202-452-8444	www.fmi.org
	Chicago	312-853-2525	www.restaurant.org
	Varies	415-433-1230	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Scottsdale, Ariz.	703-564-1100	www.wespay.org
		617-527-4626	www.nacha.org
	Boston		www.retailsystems.com
	San Jose, Calif.	914-923-0912	www.internetretailer.com
	TBA	603-692-2408	www.northeastacquirers.com
	Atlanta	703-564-1100	www.nacha.org
	Cleveland	N/A	www.midwestacquirers.com
	TBA	262-966-2215	www.fieldguideforisos.com
	Chicago	952-928-8000	www.acainternational.org
	Varies	415-433-1230	www.wespay.org
	Las Vegas	415-433-1230	www.wespay.org
	Las Vegas	605-428-5400	www.atmia.com
	Las Vegas	202-661-3053	www.shop.org
	Palm Beach, Fla.	N/A	www.w-net.biz
	Palm Beach, Fla.	800-695-5509	www.electran.org
	San Juan, Puerto Rico	202-452-8444	www.fwi.org
	Las Vegas	800-987-6462	www.retailing.org
	Varies	415-433-1230	www.wespay.org
	TBA	760-243-7990	www.westernstatesacquirers.com
	TBA	262-966-2215	www.fieldguideforisos.com
	Boston	800-556-6828	www.smartcardalliance.org
	New York	502-241-7545	www.kioskcom.com
	Varies	415-433-1230	www.wespay.org
	TBA	703-561-1100	www.nacha.org
	Varies	415-433-1320	www.wespay.org
	Kansas City, Mo.	816-474-5630	www.mpx.org
	Atlanta	800-866-6227	www.nacsonline.com
	Las Vegas	405-947-6320	www.bai.org
	TBA	703-561-1100	www.nacha.org
	TBA	N/A	www.efta.org

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- Option #3 Hypercom T4100 (Multi-App, Dual Comm, IP-enabled) plus ViVOtech 4000 Contactless Reader Kit

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- Option #2 Hypercom T4100 (Multi-App, Dual Comm, IP-enabled) Magtek Check Imager – with Upfront Bonus
- Option #3 Hypercom T4100 (Multi-App, Dual Comm, IP-enabled) plus ViVOtech 4000 Contactless Reader Kit – with Upfront Bonus
- Option #4 Nurit 8000 GPRS Wireless Terminal

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Payments 2006 from page 1

the former. In September, Bob Carr, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Heartland Payment Systems Inc., debuted the Merchant Bill of Rights (www.merchantbillofrights.com).

And in November, Paul Garcia, Chairman and CEO of Global Payments Inc., suggested in a public forum that investors petition the card Associations "to drop interchange immediately."

Meanwhile, merchants waited to learn whether the federal government will devour a chunk of their \$3 billion proceeds from the Wal-Mart suit, settled in 2003. It threw out the card Associations' "honor all cards" rule. Negotiations between the plaintiffs and the government, which filed a claim at the beginning of 2006, were set to conclude Dec. 22.

Approximately 1 million settlement checks have been sent to date, but many of those were divvied up among multiple merchants, such as franchisees, according to Lloyd Constantine, Lead Counsel for the plaintiffs.

Payouts averaged \$1,000 per recipient, he added. Some have received millions of dollars, and 35,000 merchants are expected to receive less than \$5 apiece. The actual number of merchants involved could be as high as 2 million.

Discover plays its cards

Discover Financial Services LLC, a unit of Morgan Stanley now operating as a full-fledged bankcard brand, inked agreements in the latter half of 2006 with major processors. The deals enable ISOs to bring to merchants an integrated card-processing package including Discover.

The company's simultaneous agreement with JCB International means ISOs can deal a four-suit deck of bankcards through one processing arrangement: Visa, MasterCard, Discover and JCB. Talk about Texas Hold 'Em.

Carrots and sticks

While fighting for market share on other fronts, the card brands have teamed up on security issues. The aforementioned brands, plus American Express Co., make up the newly formed Payment Card Industry (PCI) Security Standards Council, which, as its first order of business, issued a tougher version of its standard.

The council's creation coincides with Visa's and MasterCard's tough-love approach to PCI: leveling fines this year for failure to secure the POS *before* breaches occur.

But it hasn't been all stick and no carrot. Visa announced

this month it will distribute up to \$20 million to the acquirers of level 1 and 2 merchants who validate PCI compliance by Aug. 31, 2007, without a breach. And Visa will link tiered interchange rates to compliance.

Data security breaches were on the minds of acquirers this year. The radioactive fallout from one or more 2005 breaches made the payments industry reach for its hazmat suits: CardSystems Solutions, now owned by Pay By Touch, settled with the Federal Trade Commission this year over a breach at that processor that reportedly put 40 million card accounts at risk.

Although he didn't name the company, Hector Rodriguez, Visa Director of Payment System Risk & Compliance, said in October that a huge processor breach has had a silver lining: It spurred compliance-assessment companies to get tough on their clients – something akin to biting the hand that feeds them – making merchants work all the harder to obtain PCI compliance.

A year after a retailer- or ATM-related PIN debit breach occurred, financial institutions (FIs) and the government still have released little information about it. In March, OfficeMax vehemently denied it was the source, as widely reported in the press.





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Yet its subsequent filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission acknowledge its connection to the matter being investigated by the feds and the company's stance that a processor was at fault: "While we have no knowledge of a security breach at OfficeMax, it is possible that information security compromises involving OfficeMax customer data, including breaches that occur at third-party processors, may damage our reputation."

The industry took note as several banks reissued debit cards en masse early this year on accounts deemed at risk from the breach.

Visa stepped up its communications efforts, frequently issuing alerts to merchants, cautioning them to protect their card data systems from hackers, thieves and unscrupulous employees. Recent alerts focused on Internet-protocol system basics: use of firewalls, passwords and encryption.

Risqué business

This year, high-risk processing became an ever-hotter potato. The industry took the lead in trying to curtail illicit activity funded through the card networks. In March, executives from 18 FIs formed the Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography, banding together with the goal of eradicating the scourge by 2008.

Also, Congress and the federal government cracked down on high-risk processing. In October, legislators enacted the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006.

Several processors immediately fled this business category, lest they get the treatment dealt David Carruthers, CEO of UK-based gambling Web site *BetOnSports.com*. Arrested en route to Costa Rica in July, while on layover at a Texas airport, he faces federal racketeering charges for accepting wagers from U.S. residents.

The feds also pursued a high-volume telemarketer of nutritional supplements, Berkeley Premium Nutraceuticals, filing an indictment in September against its executives for alleged credit card and bank fraud. The government seeks repayment of \$100 million. The telemarketer allegedly duped several processors into issuing merchant accounts time and again.

Payments: A widening definition

Perhaps the widest-impact change this year was the expansion of alternative payment networks, methods and form factors. Google made strides with its Checkout online payment service after its July launch, landing a few big retailers, such as Toys "R" Us.

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However, while it signed numerous smaller and boutique e-tailers, it failed to score most of the top, online apparel merchants or the brick-and-mortar leaders with strong Internet sales.

Debitman, now two years old, renamed itself Tempo Payments Inc. and landed a patent for its merchantbranded consumer debit card transactions settled via the automated clearing house (ACH) network.

FastLane, a driver's license-based payment, loyalty and gift-card system launched in April by Combined Payments Inc., also clears through the ACH.

Alternative payment systems made inroads: Bill Me Later, Google Checkout and PayPal are said to have accounted for 18% of online holiday purchases on Black Friday this year at GSI Commerce's partner sites using those services.

Threatened by these new payment venues, traditional bankcard brands did not stand still. In fact, MasterCard and Visa raced to seize the small-payments market.

In April, Visa tossed out its signature requirement for most purchases below \$25, to capture some of the \$750 billion in such consumer spending, half of which is still in cash, according to Visa.

Meanwhile, MasterCard pushed consumers toward its PayPass contactless credit and debit program, issuing 11 million PayPass devices by November. Some 36,000 merchant locations worldwide now accept PayPass.

Special initiatives introduced the readers to sports stadiums and put new form factors, such as wrist bands and watches, on the arms of event attendees.

Not to be outdone, Visa created a mini contactless card, small enough for a keychain.

In addition, the industry began buzzing with the phrases "near field communications" (NFC) and "mobile payments." Recent trials started issuing PayPass-equipped NFC cell phones to customers of some 7-Eleven stores.

NFC delivery of coupons to cell phones is on the horizon, too. And Bank of America Corp. began enabling contactless acceptance at vending machines and testing contactless payments via cell phone.

While widespread adoption of NFC and mobile phone

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- .
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And we'd like to announce a project that has gone from fledgling to flyer: The Green Sheet launched *RodsandWheels.com* in July.

payments remain in the distance, contactless is poised to take off now.

The hitching post

No look back at the year in payments would be complete without a mention of the marriages, divorces and remarriages of some of the industry's giants. ISO Verus Financial Management Inc., which put itself up for sale, exchanged vows with accounting-software giant Sage Group plc in January.

In May, iPayment Inc., struggling to maintain its stock price, took itself private – the corporate equivalent of getting itself to a nunnery.

In the wake of Sarbanes-Oxley rules for exchangelisted entities, some small, publicly traded companies are finding SOX's accounting requirements too great a burden to bear.

In a restaging of "Kiss Me Kate," VeriFone convinced its onetime rival Lipman Electronic Engineering Ltd. to join it for November nuptials, creating a supplier powerhouse with over half of the U.S. market for payment systems.

Known for its strong service, VeriFone got quite a wedding present: Lipman's assets in the wireless equipment arena, a hot spot for future growth.

NOVA Information Systems Inc. hoisted a ladder in March and eloped with First Horizon Merchant Services' processing portfolio, giving NOVA a combined total of 850,000 merchants representing \$150 billion in processing volume annually.

Bank of America Corp. and National Processing Co. parted ways in September. Predicted for months, the split left NPC ready for a new lease on life with Iron Triangle Payment Systems (now NPC), which acquired the ISO unit. In the process, NPC got back its maiden name, but BofA walked off with the dowry – a host of national merchant accounts.

Also in September, First Data Corp., father of the bride, spun off Western Union. The 155-year-old former telegraph company was finally deemed old enough to stand on its own two feet. It went public Oct. 4. All in all, a landmark year: WU discontinued telegraph service, completing its transformation to a financial services firm.

To see how the top five processors rank after the year's landscaping changes, see "Card payments under the microscope," *GSQ*, December 2006 (Vol. 9, No. 4).

A bang-up year

In rounding out this retrospective, we'd like to mention a few feathers The Green Sheet Inc. stuck in its cap in 2006. For a fifth straight year, the company received several APEX Awards for Publication Excellence.

Readership of the Web site, which received a Grand Award, has jumped at least 20%, getting an average of 3 million hits a month. The magazine adopted the tag line "Dedicated to the Education and Success of the ISO and MLS," to better describe our singular focus.

And we'd like to announce a project that has gone from fledgling to flyer: The Green Sheet launched *RodsandWheels.com* in July.

It's a Web site reflecting The Sheet Green President and CEO Paul H. Green's passion for hot rods and vintage, classic and antique cars. Designed as *the* Web portal for car clubs and enthusiasts.



RodsandWheels.com began to gain popularity in August among classic-car fans. It now gets as many 25,000 hits a day.

The site is updated daily by RodsandWheels staff. You can read more about the site in "RodsandWheels: Speeding into a new realm," in this issue of *The Green Sheet*.

You can also tune in to RodsandWheels' latest happenings on Hot Rods & Heels Radio (formerly High Octane Radio) at www.radiofreenashville.org Tuesdays at 11:50 p.m. EST. And be sure to visit www.RodsandWheels.com .

Thank you for relying on our resources through the twists and turns of the past year. And keep your seat belts on for the drag race that the payments industry is sure to be in 2007.


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To learn more about United Bank Card, contact: Brian Jones, Vice President Sales and Marketing: 800-201-0461 x 136 Jonathan Brandon, National Sales Manager East: 800-201-0461 x 145 Max Sinovoi, National Sales Manager West: 800-201-0461 x 219 or log on to www.isoprogram.com for more details





Education StreetSmarts[™]

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The ins and outs of ISOship – Part II

By Michael Nardy

Electronic Payments Inc. (EPI)

have seen numerous posts lately on the GS Online MLS Forum pertaining to ISO registration, and this article will attempt to sum up much of the discussion. There are really no right or wrong answers when it comes to registering – only an entirety of gray.

And, I can only draw on my knowledge of what my company, Electronic Payments Inc. (EPI), did when I got into the industry.

Some of this article will deal with real-world expenses involved in registration and day-to-day ISO operation. The article will also be speckled with commentary from Forum members who, like many others who post comments there, are enhancing the industry by sharing their experiences and knowledge with their peers.

To start, let's look at the recent comments by Forum members Coach Bob, Slick Streetman and ubc.

Should I register or not?

Coach Bob posted the following question: "How many of you would only deal through a registered ISO/MLS [merchant level salesperson] as opposed to just taking the best deal and service, regardless?

"I am very curious about the trust issue and also the issue of believing what you are getting price-wise as opposed to [being] swayed by the propaganda."

Knowing Coach Bob personally, I was happy to see him post this particular question, because, as many Forum members are aware from his comments, he is unregistered and looking into moving his business forward by registering. He has been in the industry for a long time and has submitted business to various entities over the years.

Coach Bob and others like him are wondering whether they would be seen as more authoritative and have a greater chance of earning the trust and resulting business

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of other ISOs and MLSs if they were registered. In a way, Coach Bob has answered his question just by posing it.

What's what in MLS programs

In college, I had tons of free time. I could count on one hand the number of textbooks I read cover to cover in those four years. And I didn't even need a hand to figure out how many papers I wrote before the night preceding the due date.

This afforded me the opportunity to begin what would later grow into EPI. I remember (and probably still have) the spreadsheets I created when comparing MLS programs.

Remember those? You would enter data for 20 different companies in an Excel spreadsheet and include their fees, bonuses, revenue splits and features in columns so as to compare them side by side and see which ISOs were the best. I know I did it, but I forgot that the things making ISO programs great or mediocre are not so easily defined.

Slick Streetman posted the following qualities he looks for in an ISO program:

- "Getting my split from true interchange
- Most competitive transaction/statement fee
- Fast approval and quick file builds
- Accurate, on-time residual payment
- Prompt, professional customer service
- AmEx signing bonuses (I understand that Discover's is now history.)

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When I speak of registration, I can only discuss what EPI did, whether it was at Provident Bank, Merrick Bank or in our new relationship at BancorpSouth. Nonetheless, the registration process is quite similar from company to company, though some might be a bit more formal in their compliance requirements.

Incentives like free (to me) terminals or bonuses on conversions based on their volume."

I agree that many of these features are quite important. But returning to Coach Bob, the key question he wanted answered was, Do the MLSs on the Forum trust registered ISOs and MSPs (merchant service providers) more than nonregistered ones? In other words, does registration imply that an ISO or MSP is stable and trustworthy?

The responses to the question were myriad. Ubc's response provides a nice overall summation:

"I think any MLS who sends deals to a nonregistered



ISO/MSP is crazy. ... There is credibility and stability with registration. It means a member bank, Visa and MasterCard have reviewed the ISO/MSP's financial statements (business and personal), reviewed bank statements, reviewed history in business and business plan.

"They have done a credit and criminal background check on the principals of the ISO/MSP. ...

"This does not mean every registered ISO/MSP is at the pinnacle of financial stability, has a brand they want to protect and overall is a credible organization. ... Regardless, that screening, however imperfect it may be, is still significantly better than flying blind and sending your deals to a nonregistered ISO."

I think many would agree. The fact that becoming a registered ISO/MSP is far more involved than just submitting a check for \$10,000 is the reason why registering isn't just done as a matter of course when someone enters this business.

What are the registration requirements?

When I speak of registration, I can only discuss what EPI did, whether it was at Provident Bank, Merrick Bank or in our new relationship at BancorpSouth. Nonetheless, the registration process is quite similar from company to company, though some might be a bit more formal in their compliance requirements.

Here is a list of items that are generally required from a bank when you register:

- Business plan, including business history, business projections and investor information
- Two years of corporate income tax returns
- Two years of personal income tax returns
- Two years of profit and loss statements
- Three months of business bank statements
- Current residual statements
- Profiles of corporate management.

As you can see, while most ISOs can produce this information, it is a lot of documents to assemble. And this still does not include the ISO agreement, Visa U.S.A. and MasterCard Worldwide registration forms and the on-site audit performed by the bank.

When registering, you can expect to submit these papers to the bank or ISO/MSP that is sponsoring your ISO to the card Associations. The process typically can take from four to six weeks to finalize once the bank submits your ISO agreement to the card Associations for review.

IMPACI PAYSYSTEM

Dear Agent:

IMPAC

One of the things that I hear a lot from Agents inquiring about our program is that most ISOs make the same or similar promises, but not many have delivered. Having started as an Agent, myself, I understand the everyday frustrations of an Agent's world. Eliminating those frustrations was the ideology used in forming

In order to earn your trust, we invite you to board a few of your merchants so that you can experience the difference for yourself. If for any reason you become unhappy with our service during the first six months, we will assist you in moving those merchants to the ISO of your choice with NO repercussions to you or your merchants.

OUR PLEDGE:

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- We will ensure accurate and timely residuals. We will offer you multiple platform availability and easy boarding processes.
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Come grow with us, we can make an IMPACT together!

Sincerely,

Dee Karawadra



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StreetSmarts

My shortlist of what to look for

The basics of this business are quite simple. Many of us know how to make money in the industry. But that's not the same as achieving registration and being capable of recruiting sales representatives under your own brand.

I would look for an ISO that is doing things that will help your office grow. This, of course, can come in many forms.

If you are signing with an ISO, consider whether it has bonus money available, a free terminal program to help you sign more deals or, perhaps, a path to registration with the ISO actually paying your registration expense once you reach that level.

What I would look for is the following (there may be similarities between Slick Streetman's punch list and mine):

- Competitive pricing \$0.03 to \$0.07 transaction fee and interchange pass-through
- Low or zero bank identification number fees
- Free equipment program(s)

- Competent and thorough technical and customer support
- Detailed online residual reporting (showing every category of interchange)
- A path to registration and more income, such as your ISO offering more volume, a greater split when you generate more deals and even paying your registration expense at a certain tier level
- An ISO that is on the cutting edge of programs offered to the ISO/MLS, for example, cash advances or loans to merchants, new equipment, or new technologies.

Doing business with a company that offers many of the benefits mentioned in this article is a good way to get your ISO off the ground and moving in the right direction.

Michael Nardy is Chief Executive Officer of Electronic Payments Inc. (EPI), a founding sponsor of the National Association of Payment Professionals and one of The Green Sheet magazine's Industry Leaders. EPI is one of the nation's fastest growing privately held payment processing companies offering ISOs and MLSs profitable partnership programs and cutting-edge tools to help their portfolios grow. To learn more about partnering with EPI, visit epiprogram.com or e-mail Michael at mike@elecpayments.com.



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Education (continued)

MILLIONAIRE IN YOU

The why, what, how and when of goals

By Jason Felts

Advanced Merchant Services Inc.

n 1999, I experienced a life-changing event. I had always heard about the importance of writing goals and had actually done so for many years. However, when I attended a conference led by motivational speaker and philosopher, Jim Rohn, I was inspired by a whole new perspective on goals, dreams and the purpose of life.

I came to realize that while I needed an income to support my family, and I had goals like, "write five deals this week," it wasn't enough. There was more to explore and understand.

Rohn said when he was getting started, his mentor asked to see his list of goals. He replied that he didn't have one. His mentor responded, "If you have no list, I bet I can guess your bank balance within a few hundred dollars."

Rohn asked, "Are you saying if I had a list of goals, my bank balance would be higher?" His mentor answered with one powerful word, "Drastically."

Get empowered

Every motivational book or sales training manual has a section on goals. Every self-made millionaire has a list of goals. Do you? Is it current? How quickly could you recite your goals if asked? Precise goals with a clearly defined purpose for their achievement will empower you beyond measure.

Perhaps the best words on success ever written are located within the Bible. Proverbs 29:18, states "without vision, people perish." What does that mean? Simply and easily stated, it means that without clear direction or guidance, failure is inevitable.

be accomplished. Last, decide when the goals are to become reality.

Purpose, on the other hand, is simply the why: Why does accomplishing the goal matter? What will it do to you, your family or your business when the goal is accomplished?

Sadly, often more time is spent planning your trips to the grocery store or vacation than planning your life. I have realized that thorough and well-defined goals are like a magnet. They pull you. The stronger they are and the more powerful and purposeful they are, the harder they will pull you.

Get motivated

For example, I recently talked with a new sales partner who was living with his in-laws. His goal was to have enough income to move his family to a new home. We discussed how many deals per week for a specific number of weeks he needed to be able to move his family into their own place.

Now, that is a specific goal with a specific time frame associated with it. He and his wife had a clear objective: moving out. One day, after being rejected 15 times in a row, he considered calling it an early day. But all he had to do was think about his mother-in-law, and he quickly remembered *why* he was working so hard.

We all need a driving factor in life. We all need a reward, something motivating us and moving us forward. This man was sick of having to consummate his marriage in the room right next to his in-laws. How many can relate?

I can usually tell in one quick conversation who understands his or her purpose and has a solid list of goals, and who does not. The evidence is very clear. Without goals,

Wouldn't you like to have a simple definition of both your goals and purpose? Wouldn't you like to 🜔 Bottom line, sales success is based on bring clarity to what you want to accomplish today?

It's all about what, how and when. To have accuracy in your goals, you need to first identify them. This becomes your what. Next, determine how they're going to

dollars generated. There are certainly several additional organizational contributions that any merchant level salesperson can and should make. But when determining a salesperson's value, sales results are primary. And results are best achieved when goals are formalized (no epiphany here).

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Education

a bad day can overwhelm you. Without clear direction, a bad week can take you out of the game.

Disaster will almost always swallow up people who have no clear purpose because they have nothing on the other side pulling them through the storm. I acknowledge that storms will come and winds of destruction will blow. But they can never snuff out my career candle because I have charted my path, and I know my why.

Another important component in achieving your goals is specifics. You need to identify exactly what your goals are. Goals are measurable: how much, how big?

Once identified, get specific about a clear plan of action. Create a roadmap to take you where you want to go. This becomes your clearly defined how. To accomplish your goals, you must plan the work.

Get committed

Lastly, goals must have a deadline. Get specific about when you will accomplish each of your goals.

Bottom line, sales success is based on dollars generated. There are certainly several additional organizational contributions that any merchant level salesperson



(MLS) can and should make. But when determining a salesperson's value, sales results are primary. And results are best achieved when goals are formalized (no epiphany here).

So, commit now to winging it no longer. Don't allow yourself to say, "What happens, happens; I'll just do the best I can."

Don't listen to those who suggest goal planning is fluff, even if those telling you so are successful in sales. All else being equal, the sales professional who formally sets performance goals is the one to bet on. Leave failure to your competitors. Formal goal setting is a good investment of your time. Make sure you get it done.

If you've not had the opportunity to formally set your goals for the coming month, quarter or year, consider using the following goal-setting guidelines. Because sales environments, processes and organizations can differ significantly, you may need to rework some of the points.

Use what you like and toss what you don't, but make sure you do it in writing or you'll always be subject to your environment. Don't be a boat adrift, hoping the current will bring you safely into the harbor. Take the helm and navigate your goals.

Follow guidelines

Here are specific suggestions for establishing sales-oriented goals. Often what we need to achieve our goals is to simply understand the work required to attain them. The idea of just aimlessly wondering and hoping for the best is a sure recipe for failure.

• **Desired results:** First, determine what you want your income to be, and set a target, for example, \$100,000 annually. Next, compute your average commission or bonus, plus estimated residual per sale. Evaluate upfront exactly what you average, as well as per-merchant, per-month, to determine how many merchants it will take to deliver your desired results.

• **Requirements:** Find out how many merchants you need to sign per week, month and year.

Let's estimate the average merchant is worth \$700 to you per year, including the upfront revenue. Therefore, an income of approximately \$100,000 requires an annual target of 143 new merchants.

Divided by 12 months, your monthly merchant sales target is 12 applications. Divided by 50 weeks (assuming a two-week vacation), your weekly merchant sales target is three applications.



Education

• Activities: Determine what you are doing now to reach your merchant target. Assess your:

- Average outbound calls per day, week and month to engage an initial sales interview/presentation, along with method typically used: phone, in person, etc.
- Average number of initial sales interviews or presentations per day, week and month to find a highly qualified prospect where a contract or proposal will be developed and delivered
- Average number of contracts or proposals delivered per day, week, month and quarter to close a deal.

• Activity/results formula: Using your activity averages and targeted results, compute your:

- Outbound-call target per day, week and month
- Outbound initial sales interview target per day, week and month
- Outbound contracts or proposals delivered per day, week and month.

• **Professional development:** In addition to meeting sales targets, take the following steps to sharpen your professional skills:

• Target your future position or professional status, and determine a time frame for achieving it.

• Target the number of professional development classes or seminars to attend during the next month, quarter and year.

• Target the number of professional development books, audio tapes or videotapes to complete during the next month, quarter and year.

- Target the number of professional events to attend during the next month, quarter and year.
- Target the number of comfort-zone challenges to meet in the coming month, quarter and year.
- List any additional targets that apply to your professional situation.

Eye the future

All of you have heard the expression "the light at the end of the tunnel." Make sure you have your eyes on the light before you get into the tunnel.

Sometimes, with one phone call, you are forced into the

middle of the tunnel, and, believe me, it feels very dark if you look around and find nothing to give you momentum. So, let the goal pull you through. Here's how:

- Make sure your greatest focus is on the future. Don't waste time complaining about the past.
- Dream big. Goals are like magnets. They pull. The stronger, bigger, more purposeful and more distinct they are, the more they will pull you toward your objective.
- Have excellent, concise goals with a crystal clear purpose for achieving them. With a strong vision, you can surmount all kinds of obstacles.
- Write down your goals. Divide them into short-term (one to two years), mid-range (three to five years) and long-range (five to 10 or more years) goals. Then put together a plan of action for achieving them.

A bad day, a bad week or any of life's inevitable obstacles will shut down the average person.

However, the person with a strong, clear plan will always push through the difficulties that arise.

Bag it

My wife, Kelley, and I have a goal to invest significant time teaming with 100 very motivated sales partners and, together, create 100 millionaires in the next 10 years. Ten years and 100 millionaires – together the dream becomes reality.

My suggestion: Join a company with a BAG. That's right. A big audacious goal. A successful MLS working with an organization that has cast a clear vision for the future is a winning combination.

Remember, what you will become by achieving your goal is often more important than the goal itself. Make a goal to become a millionaire, not for the million dollars, but for who you will become by achieving it. The journey is as important as the destination.

Best wishes for a goal-oriented, million-dollar New Year.

Jason A. Felts is the Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of Florida-based Advanced Merchant Services Inc., a registered ISO/MSP with HSBC Bank. From its onset, AMS has placed top priority on supporting and servicing its sales partners. The company launched ISOPro Motion, its private-label training program, to provide state-of-the-art sales tools and actively promote the success and long-term development of its partners. For more information, visit www.amspartner.com, call 888-355-VISA (8472), ext. 211, or e-mail Felts at jasonf@gotoams.com.



Education (continued)

Descriptors decoded

By Ross Federgreen CSRSI

any merchants ask me, "How do I get a specific phrase on cardholder statements to reflect the transactions that occur between cardholders and me?" The answer is use a descriptor.

.....

A descriptor is an identifying phrase, telephone number or some combination thereof that appears on cardholder statements. Once merchants grasp this, their next question often is, "How can I maximize the value of my descriptor?"

Descriptors delineated

Descriptors are meant to remind cardholders of

maximum benefit when descriptors are clearly connected to transactions and when they contain a phone number where merchants can be reached.

specific transactions and offer sites into multiple departments or stores with unique descriptions and customer support lines. Thus, merchants (and cardbolders) obtain Is there any legitimate argument These are posted on the store of the s for omitting descriptors on a cardholder statement? The answer is no. A merchant's job is to receive and retain payments. ISOs and merchant level salespeople need to educate merchants to help them achieve maximum profitability. A descriptor is a proven and powerful tool in this regard.

Many merchants ask if having a descrip-

tor will protect them against chargebacks. Well-planned descriptors should offer merchants additional protection from chargebacks if they make reported transactions easy for cardholders to recognize and if they provide a working telephone number to call for customer service.

However, under no circumstances do descriptors guarantee against chargebacks. The notion that descriptors provide such a guarantee is a widely held misconception that needs to be corrected immediately whenever it is voiced.

Is there any legitimate argument for omitting descriptors on a cardholder statement? The answer is no. A merchant's job is to receive and retain payments.

ISOs and merchant level salespeople (MLSs) need to educate merchants to help them achieve maximum profitability. A descriptor is a proven and powerful tool in this regard.

Descriptors divided

There are two major categories of descriptors: static and dynamic. Static descriptors, sometimes called hard descriptors, are chosen by merchants. They change only upon merchant request. Changes affect all transactions associated with a specific merchant and merchant identification number.

Alternatively, dynamic descriptors are used when merchants elect to alter descriptors on a per-transaction basis. These are sometimes called soft descriptors.

Dynamic descriptors enable merchants to submit distinct merchant descriptors and toll-free support numbers for each transaction. They can be tailored to particular products or departments within a storefront.

This enables retailers to subdivide merchandising

cardholders' statements for clarification and resolution purposes.

Descriptors are driven by a number of factors. Most important is the number of characters that

can be put in a given descriptor field. Although there is some variability, it is

fair to use the number 22 as a guide.

This means the length of the descriptor, including lettered and numbered characters, typically cannot exceed 22. Sometimes a different number is set by the processor involved.

Once a processor accepts a descriptor, merchants face additional challenges: First, not all middleware or universal transaction gateways have the ability to pass on the information.

Second, not all issuers can accept all descriptor formats for inclusion in their cardholders' statements. This tends to be more of a problem with dynamic descriptors than with static descriptors.

Descriptors deliberated

Working with merchants in choosing descriptors can be a very important relationship-building tool.



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It's critical to emphasize to merchants that clarity is key and that an 800 number to customer service should (and in the author's opinion must) be included. This will typically take up 10 characters.

When determining a descriptor name to fill the approximately 12 remaining characters, think about the name by which customers will recognize the merchant.

Do not try to be clever. For example, if the company sells a product line called 1234, and if the company's legal name, ABCD, is unknown to customers, it would be most beneficial to use 1234 in the descriptor, not ABCD.

Placing the name before the telephone number in a descriptor is critical. Few, if any, customers are more likely to recognize a telephone number than a name. It is also prudent, where possible, to obtain a telephone number that reflects the name or a key component of the product.

When creating dynamic descriptors, exercise care. It may make sense from a merchant's perspective to label different areas within the business with terms used internally. But it is of little use – and could even be detrimental to the merchant – if customers cannot immediately recognize the terms.

Descriptors discerned

Finally, remember to help merchants understand how to determine descriptor content. For each merchant account, know the required character length for the applicable descriptor field.

Find out if any specific middleware is capable of transmitting a static or dynamic descriptor to the processor being used.

Verify the accuracy of descriptor information with merchants, and clearly inform them that their customer service numbers must be active.

As ISOs and MLSs, you can use these tips to resolve difficult issues pertaining to descriptors and further enhance your working relationships.

Passing on such knowledge demonstrates to merchants that you bring much more to them than this week's "best price" on processing services.

Ross Federgreen is founder of CSRSI, The Payment Advisors, a leading electronic payment consultancy specifically focused on the merchant. He can be reached at 866-462-7774, ext. 23, or rfedergreen@csrsi.com.



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Education (continued)

Legal ease

Who gets a bite of your biz?

By Adam Atlas

Attorney at Law

hat makes you work hard? If you are an ISO or merchant level salesperson (MLS), chances are it's the expectation that your efforts will lead to correspond-

ingly healthy residuals.

When someone you do not know offers to introduce you to a new business partner in the merchant acquiring business, always pause to consider what's in it for the matchmaker. Make no mistake, I am all in favor of referral fees, commissions, kickbacks and the like, but I am even more in favor of participants in our industry knowing when these kinds of payments are being made on their portfolios.

Here are points to keep in mind concerning these payments when establishing new relationships in our industry:

Get used to kickbacks

If you don't like someone else earning a little something for making an introduction for you, you are in the wrong business. By the time a merchant begins processing with a given acquiring bank, there can be as many as a dozen different entities collecting some kind of commission directly or indirectly from the merchant business.

You should never expect these kinds of payments to disappear because, like them or not, they drive our industry, and they're here to stay.

Push for transparency

No matter where you are in the merchant acquiring hierarchy, it is in your interest to know who is being paid what. "Knowledge is power," the old saying goes. In all of your negotiations, make some effort, overtly or subtly, to at least get a feel for how much the parties involved are being paid.

Be diplomatic

Many people who receive commissions to provide introductions would rather that you not know they are earning commissions. So, be diplomatic and cautious when inquiring about what other people are earning. It can often do more harm to your business relationships to inquire about commissions for referrals than the information is actually worth. Before asking a lot of big questions, think about how important it is for you to know what people are earning.

Monitor professional ethics

Lawyers are legally bound by codes of ethics obliging them to disclose conflicts of interest to clients. As such, if your lawyer introduces you to a new business relationship, the lawyer is obliged to disclose to you any conflicting relationships that he or she may have that could cloud his or her judgment.

For example, if Larry Lawyer introduces you to Peter Processor, and Peter Processor is going to pay Larry Lawyer a percentage of his revenue on your accounts, Larry Lawyer is obliged to disclose this conflict of interest before making the introduction. That conflict of interest may lead you to decide you would rather not work with Larry Lawyer or Peter Processor.

Individuals who are not either lawyers or other professionals with binding codes of ethics are not bound by such disclosure obligations.

Put it in writing

Any relationship from which you expect to earn material revenue is worth documenting in writing. Some informal commission relationships rely on good faith between people who know each other. The payer of a commission may be put off by being asked to make a written promise to pay the commission.

Pay your taxes

Commission income is still income. Make sure you declare all income you should declare for tax purposes. Consult an accountant to help you make the best characterization of your income. Some people think of commission payments as separate from their regular income. While it is distinct, it is still a form of ordinary, taxable income.

Respect confidentiality

Before asking too many questions about compensation packages, remember the people with whom you are negotiating may be bound by confidentiality provisions preventing them from telling you what they earn from your deals.

By asking people what they are earning, you may be enticing them to breach the same agreements by which they are being paid.

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Education

Some informal commissions are blatant breaches of contract and could even be characterized as illegal bribes. Be careful not to get caught up in receiving or paying commissions that have the slightest risk of being in this category.

Examine assumptions about liability

Individuals who receive commissions rarely expect to be liable if there is fraud in the accounts on which they are earning commissions. However, some payers of commissions expect to collect something from the people receiving commissions when accounts cause liability.

Keep it legal

Some informal commissions are blatant breaches of contract and could even be characterized as illegal bribes. Be careful not to get caught up in receiving or paying commissions that have the slightest risk of being in this category.

For example, if Peter Processor initially declines a merchant application but says he will accept the deal in consideration for a payment "on the side" of some of the revenue on the account, Peter is doing something his bosses would not like. There is great temptation among underwriters at banks and processors in our industry to stretch or even go beyond the limits of their entitlement in order to earn some extra money.

If people working at processors or banks want you to pay them something directly (as opposed to making a payment to the institution for which they work), you should know something is fishy.

Everyone in the merchant acquiring business earns a living from commissions. A challenge for all participants in the industry is to discern when paying a commission is a sensible cost of business and when it is an abusive or illegal detriment to success.

In publishing The Green Sheet, neither the author nor the publisher is engaged in rendering legal, accounting or other professional services. If you require legal advice or other expert assistance, seek the services of a competent professional. For further information on this article, e-mail Adam Atlas, Attorney at Law, at atlas@adamatlas.com or call him at 514-842-0886.

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Education (continued)

Let's talk spam

By Joel Rydbeck

Nubrek Inc.

reviously, I wrote about how to prevent newsletters and mailings from being discarded by spam filters. This month I am going to look at the other side and discuss spam filter options to help you staunch the spam battering your inbox.

Spam filters assign each incoming e-mail message a spam probability number. Many filters assign this probability to distinct words, phrases and attributes of an e-mail. Phrases that involve getting rich quick or free products tend to rank high and are routinely discarded.

Filters will reduce your spam. However, they tend to make arbitrary decisions, which is why having a great spam filter is a must.

Filter flavors

With all of the spam being passed around, it shouldn't come as a surprise that there are several kinds of spam filters available. I split them into three categories – painfully effective, industry standard, and silent and quiet:

Painfully effective

Permission-based or response-based spam filters are the strictest of all. People sending e-mail to a recipient with this type of filter will receive an e-mail response asking them to confirm that they are, in fact, the message's sender. In a short online form, they are asked to identify who they are and, perhaps, answer a question.

The recipient then receives the request, approves it (if it is valid) and is thereafter able to receive e-mail from that sender. If the request is not approved, no mail from that sender will get into the recipient's inbox. This type of solution is ideal if the majority of your e-mail comes from the same pool of people.

This technology eliminates virtually all spam because the process requires senders to verify that they actually wrote you. On the downside, this solution is cumbersome. It puts a fair amount of work back in the hands of the sender.

Ironically, there is also an abandonment rate because some requests for confirmation may be blocked by the initial sender's spam filter. So, some people you might want to hear from just might not get through to you.

Industry standard

The most prevalent industrial spam filters use a Bayesian algorithm to identify spam. Basically, this means they assign probability values to various phrases in an e-mail message. This is effective for the most part, but it does result in some false positives (e.g., e-mail from your best friend might not make it to you) and false negatives (which might explain those unsolicited stock tips you're still receiving).

> At Nubrek, we use a spam filter with this technology, hosted by AppRiver. Every morning I receive an email report telling me just how much junk mail was blocked from my inbox.

Yesterday, it indicated 286 messages were blocked. But one of those shouldn't have been snared. In the report, I was able to select the snagged message and add it to my approved sender list. Unfortunately, three spam messages had evaded the blocker. By right-clicking on those messages, I was able to add them to my blocked-sender list.

Silent and quiet

For many years I used to have two e-mail accounts: one that I provided when signing up for services and one (personal) that I only gave to friends and colleagues. My personal e-mail account stayed fairly clean, and I really didn't have to worry about spam.

Now that I distribute my e-mail address publicly, this type of filtering really isn't an option. Web crawlers grab my *joel@nubrek.com* address from articles like this one, which are published electronically as well as in print. Consequently I receive a lot of spam.

This approach probably isn't appropriate for your business e-mail account. It is unlikely to scale as you add employees to your business. It could, however, work with your personal account.



Education

Imperfect solutions

Deciding which spam-filtering technology to use can be difficult. Would you rather deal with false positives and negatives or force the folks e-mailing you to prove they are a person and not a spambot?

Many people, including technology guru Walter Mossberg at *The Wall Street Journal*, prefer the painfully effective option, putting the burden of proof on the sender. The majority of organizations and businesses I have dealt with, however, favor the industry-standard option.

It's important to make certain users have a way to authorize individual senders and dig into problematic e-mail transmissions. When users are waiting for important messages, they should be able to check whether the messages are in the clutches of spam filters.

Some available spam filters to look into include:

- AppRiver (www.appriver.com)
- OnlyMyEmail (www.onlymyemail.com)
- CA Anti-Spam 2007 (www.qurb.com)
- ChoiceMail Free (www.digiportal.com)
- Spamihilator (www.spamihilator.com)

• McAfee SpamKiller (www.spamkiller.com).

I have not tested all the products on the market, nor is this article meant to provide product reviews. Use some filters on a trial basis until you find a solution that comfortably fits your business and style.

Taking control

Here are some things to keep in mind when evaluating spam filters:

• Make sure the spam filter you select provides virus signature updates. According to our November 2006 domain statistics report, Nubrek e-mail addresses were sent 51 viruses that month, alone.

• Strong reporting is important. You should be able to tell what your spam filter is doing and how well it's performing. In November, Nubrek.com received 12,992 spam messages. That's a lot of productivity our employees would have lost had the filter not caught those messages.

• Host your spam solution at the domain level instead of on each user's computer. Desktop-based solutions are effective if you're a one-man show, but as soon as you have an office with three or four people (many of





Education

whom may not want to spend time fixing their e-mail) I recommend a domain-level solution.

• Keep a Gmail, Yahoo or Hotmail account available in case you can't get a message through your spam filter.

Managing the flood

Microsoft Outlook's XP and 2003 versions have simple spam filtering abilities. These aren't advanced and will fail to catch a lot of spam, but they can help if you don't have a better option. Outlook's Junk Mail feature is enabled by default in Outlook 2003. If you use Outlook, you've probably already noticed your Junk Mail folder collects mail.

Outlook also provides rules-based filtering and sorting. Since I read much of my e-mail on my BlackBerry, I have Outlook sort a lot of my nonpersonal e-mail into folders. I'm on several active mailing lists, and it's not important that I always read each message right away.

To get a jump-start on Outlook's rules, right-click on an e-mail and select Create Rule. From there, you can tell Outlook what to do with all mail from that e-mail address. Along with the barrage of spam, other types of unsolicited communications inundate us. While you are trying to trim back the junk e-mail you receive, why not take steps to reduce your postal junk mail as well? Go to *www.stopthejunkmail.com*. It will put a stop to your junk mail for a fee ranging from \$19.95 to \$89.95 per month, depending on how large your company is.

And while you are at it, you can quell marketing calls to your residence and cell phones by registering with the National Do Not Call Registry at *www.donotcall.gov*. If telemarketers call your numbers after they have been registered for at least 31 days, you can file a complaint. Registration is effective for five years.

I wish you the happiest of holidays and hope only personal holiday greetings make their way into your inbox.

Joel Rydbeck, Chief Technology Officer of Nubrek Inc., brings his strong background in e-commerce and business process automation to the merchant services industry. Nubrek offers eISO, a Web application for ISOs that tracks leads and provides automated residual and commission reports. For more information on eISO or to view a free demo, visit www.nubrek.com/eiso.html . E-mail Rydbeck at joel@nubrek.com .



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Calling all ISOs: Your data matters

he Green Sheet Inc. needs your help. In partnership with Morgan Stanley, we're conducting a study of the ISO channel, an important driver of electronic transaction growth. We're looking for your insights and data on topics such as merchant types, transaction volume, pricing, merchant attrition, customer service and POS equipment. Following is a short-answer questionnaire. All you'll need are a pen and some scissors.

The information you share will keep us abreast of industry trends, which we will report on in future issues.

Fax your completed questionnaire to us at 707-586-4747 or mail it to: The Green Sheet, 6145 State Farm Drive, Rohnert Park, CA, 94928. You may also fill it out and submit it online at *www.greensheet.com*. Thanks in advance for participating.

Your company information (optional):

Name of organization _____

City and state _____

Sponsor financial institution _____

PART 1. OVERVIEW

1. How much in transaction volume per year do you process for merchant clients?

- ❑ Less than \$1 million
 ❑ \$10 million to \$1 billion
 ❑ \$1 million to less than \$5 million
 ❑ More than \$1 billion
 - \$5 million to less than \$10 million
- 2. How many merchant locations do you process for?
 - □ Less than 1,000 □ 10,001 to 20,000
 - □ 1,000 to 5,000 □ More than 20,000
 - □ 5,001 to 10,000

3. Approximately how many employees are in your organization?

4. When was your business founded? Month _____ Year _____

5. Sales organization:

a. How many 1099 agents does your organization have?

b. How many W-2 agents does your organization have?

c. What is the average number of accounts added per month

at your organization, over the last year?

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Feature

6. What percent of your mercha	nt base is:	
Online?		QSR?
Brick & mortar?	_	Petroleum?
High-risk?		Hotel/lodging?
7. In a given year, what percent	of your merchant client b	ase on Jan. 1 is still part of your client base
on Dec. 31?		
8. If you lose a merchant as a c	lient, what is the primary i	reason, most often?
Pricing	Better technology from the second	om another ISO
Merchant closes down	❑ Other (explain)	
PART 2. TRANSACTIONS	OVERVIEW	
9. In 2006, how many transaction	ons of each type did you p	process?
a. Credit card?		e. ACH check conversion?
b. Offline (signature) debit ca	rd?	f. Gift and loyalty card?
c. Online (PIN) debit card? _		g. EBT?
d. Paper checks?		h. ATM?
10. For 2007, what type of credi versus 2006?	it card transaction growth	do you expect to record,
Less than 0%	□ 10.1% to 15%	
□ 0% to 5%	□ 15.1% to 20%	
□ 5.1% to 10%	Above 20%	
Does this forecast include acquisiti	ons? If so, what do you expe	ect it to be, excluding any acquisitions?
11. For 2007, what type of onlin versus 2006?	e (PIN) debit card transac	tion growth do you expect to record,
Less than 0%	□ 15.1% to 20%	
□ 0% to 5%	□ 20.1% to 25%	
□ 5.1% to 10%	□ 25.1% to 30%	
□ 10.1% to 15%	□ Over 30%	
Does this forecast include acquisition	ons? If so, what do you expe	ect it to be, excluding any acquisitions?

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Feature

12. For 2007, what type of offline (signature) debit card transaction growth do you expect to record, versus 2006?
□ Less than 0%
□ 15.1% to 20%

□ 0% to 5%	□ 20.1% to 25%
□ 5.1% to 10%	□ 25.1% to 30%
□ 10.1% to 15%	□ Over 30%

Does this forecast include acquisitions? If so, what do you expect it to be, excluding any acquisitions? ____

PART 3. PROCESSORS OVERVIEW

13. Who is your primary merchant acquirer/processor?		
Do you have an exclusive contract wi	Do you have an exclusive contract with this company?	
14. How long have you used this processor?		
15. What is the top reason for using your primary processor?		
Lowest price	Robust technology	
Service/sales force quality	Product breadth	
Other (explain)		
16. How would you describe your current level of satisfaction with your primary processor?		
Extremely satisfied	Actively in negotiations to leave	
Somewhat satisfied	Not satisfied	
Other (explain)		
17. Versus this time 12 months ago, how has per-transaction pricing for merchant acquiring and		

processing changed for your organization?

□ 0%	□ -15.1% to -20%
□ -0% to -5%	□ -20.1% to -25%

- □ -5.1% to -10% □ -25.1% to -30%
- □ -10.1% to -15% □ Over -30%

What do you expect over the next 12 months?

□ 0%	□ -15.1% to -20%
□ -0% to -5%	□ -20.1% to -25%
□ -5.1% to -10%	□ -25.1% to -30%
□ -10.1% to -15%	□ Over -30%

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Feature

18. In overall customer satisfaction, how would you rank the following processors? (1 = best)

For processors you don't deal with, please enter nothing.

BA Merchant Services (Bank of America)	Heartland Payment Systems Inc.
Chase Paymentech Solutions LLC	iPayment
Fifth Third Bank Processing Solutions	National Processing Co.
First Data Corp.	NOVA Information Systems
First National Merchant Solutions	Wells Fargo Merchant Services
Global Payments Inc.	Other (please list)
19. For the company you ranked #1, could you briefly ex	xplain why?

PART 4. EQUIPMENT OVERVIEW
20. What percentage of equipment do you:
a. Sell
b. Lease
c. Give away
21. How many wireless terminals have you deployed?
22. How many Internet protocol (IP)-enabled terminals have you deployed?
23. How many contactless products (such as readers) have you deployed?
24. Do you purchase terminals direct or through a distributor? From whom?
25. Do you lease terminals? Which leasing companies do you use?
Thank you very much for your participation!
Your name and contact information (optional):
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My Vision X single-document check scanner

Panini: Much more than a meal

Product: My Vision X single-document check scanner *Company: Panini North America*

e think of panini as compact Italian sandwiches usually filled with cheese, salami and butter. One look at the My Vision X single-document check scanner from Panini North America, and you'll know the company name is apt. Panini's scanner is compact, yet designed to be ergonomic and robust.

Measuring 7 by 5.5 by 10.5 inches, the unit weighs 5.5 pounds. It has a triple-mode feeder: single document; batch mode, for up to 30 checks, inserted with one hand; and batch mode, for up to 100 checks, inserted by manually adjusting the pressure plate.

Introduced in September 2006, the scanner was recently added by TASQ Technology, a subsidiary of First Data Corp., to its solution for remote deposit capture. TASQ supplies the scanner through purchase, rental and lease options.

Suitable for merchants, the scanner is designed for low-volume check processing and features:

- Infrared double-document detector
- Auto-adjust separator rollers that enable processing a range of documents with different thicknesses

- Universal Serial Bus (USB) 2.0 port
- RS232 port
- Panini MICR Plus proprietary technology
- Rear ink-jet endorser capable of imprinting characters, logos and other bitmaps.

It is available in three processing-speed versions: 30, 60 or 90 documents per minute. To guarantee that batched checks stay in the appropriate order, the My Vision X provides a single pocket, capable of holding up to 100 documents and adjustable to accept documents of different lengths.

Up to four images - two front and two rear - in any



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NewProducts

combination (grayscale and bi-tonal) can be captured at either 100 or 200 dots per inch for each document. Panini's ICR Vision function allows for the definition and management of up to 10 image snippets.

The unit reportedly opens easily, without the use of tools, for cleaning or service; it provides total track accessibility for maintenance. The scanner is only available through resellers, such as BankServ and TASQ.

Panini North America

937-291-2195 www.paninina.com/home.php

A POS keystone to smooth IP integration

Product: VersaKey POS keyboard

Company: ID Tech



s more retailers move to Internet protocol-based systems, PCs are becoming more common at the POS. These computers need an effective way to acquire mag stripe data. POS keyboards with built-in readers are a timely solution.

The VersaKey POS keyboard incorporates a full-featured mag stripe reader into its upper left corner. The unit conforms to the enhanced Windows keyboard layout and is designed for Windows operating systems.

Having both card reading and keyboard functionality integrated into one unit provides space-saving convenience for electronic cash registers, loyalty database computers, health-care terminals and customerservice applications.

The reader output is programmable to provide data characters in application-friendly formats. The output string can include control characters, such as tabs, that step through separate application data input blocks and input the mag stripe data. (But merchants must guard against storing full mag stripe data, a violation of the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard.)

The card slot design and the reader electronics enable swiping in both directions.

The keyboard's cable to the PC also provides communica-






NewProducts



tions for the mag stripe reader, eliminating an extra cable typically found in conventional retail configurations. The VersaKey comes with either a USB or PS/2 communications interface. For convenience, the USB version also comes with a USB two-port hub for connecting scanners or PIN pads.

The keyboard layout provides separated function keys, control keys, curser keys and a full numerical input keypad. Country-specific keyboard layouts are available for Brazil, Japan, Korea and the United Kingdom.

Features include:

• 3- or 2-track magnetic stripe reader, with full data-editing capability

• Operating life exceeding 1 million card swipes

• Guarantee of 20 million keystrokes

• Full-size standard Microsoft keyboard layout with LED indicators.

The unit comes in black or beige. The standard warranty is three years.

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- FirstView[™] Online Merchant Reports
- FirstFund[™] ACH Processing Software
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Meeting success

t the dawn of a new year, many of us take a fresh look at our goals. In doing so, we often see the need to work more effectively with others to attain common objectives. This requires productive meetings, whether attended by just a few or hundreds of individuals.

But how do you host events that will both engage attendees and extract as much information from them as possible? How do you make meetings worthwhile for participants and organizers alike?

S-u-c-c-e-s-s-ful components

Following are some tips to help you get your meetings off to a fresh start in 2007 and keep them on track throughout the year.

Set parameters: While planning the meeting, determine specific start and stop times and then communicate them to invitees. Make it clear whether the meeting will end on time even if the meeting's goals are not attained. And if so, explain what will happen next.

For example, if an unmet goal is to determine a timeline for opening a new office, you could decide the executives in charge will be free to determine the timeline without approval from others.

<u>Urge</u> invitees to **RSVP**: Send potential participants invitations via e-mail. Get commitments from attendees. And don't schedule the meeting if you don't have enough people signed on, or if key people are unable to attend. Also, offer food or drinks to bolster attendance. But, choose wisely. Resist serving rich foods that could cause lethargy or cuisine that cannot be eaten easily while taking notes. Also, don't serve anything that might cause disruption, such as sticky items that would necessitate a trip to the restroom to wash one's hands.

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Inspiration

Check your space and materials: Before the meeting, verify that the meeting space you have in mind has enough room, tables, chairs, etc., to accommodate your attendees. Plan where tables will be placed to make sure all attendees can see one another. Have all whiteboards, monitors and video screens easily visible from all parts of the room.

Commence on time: Start the meeting on time, even if all invitees are not yet present. Do not reward late arrivals by waiting for them, or by repeating information they may have missed. If you do so, it will irritate those who have made the effort to be on time and encourage them to be tardy next time.

Encourage everyone's involvement: Name one person as the secretary to record pertinent data. Select another person to watch the clock, periodically letting people know how much time is left and what remains on the agenda. You could even put someone in charge of monitoring how long individuals speak, alerting them when they have used up their allotted time.

Choose another attendee to write key points on a whiteboard. Getting attendees involved gets them invested in the meeting's outcome. And they pay closer attention to the speakers because they are now part of the process. **Supply an agenda:** Before the meeting, distribute an agenda to all invitees that includes the purpose of the meeting, who is invited and the meeting's goals. Encourage attendees to come with ideas to share, as well as an open mind. If people have time to form thoughts beforehand, they may be less fearful of appearing stupid and more likely to share their ideas with the group.

<u>Sum</u> up: At the end of the meeting, recap what transpired and briefly delineate the next steps you propose. Thank all for attending and actively participating. Within a few days, distribute minutes outlining what the meeting covered, and include a list of actions to take, along with the party responsible for each one.

Remember, as the coming year unfolds, any business can buy new equipment or invest in new technologies. But, it is employees and partners who make each enterprise unique. It takes time and effort, but if a company is able to assemble and harness all its creative energy in one room, it can make meetings an extraordinarily fertile avenue to success.

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Visit www.greensheet.com/tradeshows.htm for more events and a year-at-a-glance event chart.



National Retail Federation

ns 96th Annual Convention & Expo

Highlights: Setting retail in motion is the objective of "Retail's Big Show 2007," which offers networking, fun and entertainment, as well as a products expo.

Featured speakers include:

- Steven Ballmer, Chief Executive Officer, Microsoft Corp.
- Kenneth D. Cole, Chairman and CEO, Kenneth Cole Productions Inc.
- Dr. Hans-Joachim Körber, CEO, Metro AG
- Kay Krill, President and CEO, Ann Taylor Stores Corp.
- Kevin Plank, Chairman, CEO and President, Under Armour
- Philip J. Schoonover, Chairman, President and CEO, Circuit City.

Study tours of New York City retail stores, led by company representatives, are offered Jan. 13 and 17; a Port tour is also offered on those dates. Other special activities include a networking roundtable lunch, a party at Gotham Hall, the annual retail industry luncheon and a silent auction.

On the expo floor, the NRF will introduce "The studio: Design for the senses," which targets customers' five senses. Visitors will learn how creating such an environment helps drive sales, productivity and profitability.

The 5-Senses studio exhibit will feature educational sessions on store design and store planning, as well as case studies presented by industry leaders from both the retail and design communities.

When: Jan. 14 – 17, 2007
Where: Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, New York City
Registration: Visit www.nrf.com or call 708-486-0725.



Electronic Retailing Association

2007 Mid-Winter Leadership Conference & Expo

Highlights: Social networking and mobile marketing are not fads but trends marking the beginning of a fundamental shift in marketing power from top-down to bottom-up. And consumers are in control over how, when and where they are marketed to. Hundreds of retailers plan to incorporate mobile marketing by the end of 2007.

The 2007 conference and expo will help senior-level marketing executives, and the advertisers that wish to reach them, make critical connections between the many multichannel marketing disciplines.

The event represents the convergence of online and offline social networking. Participants will learn why they should care

about these communication channels, learn how to integrate traditional and new media, and gain hands-on experience. Speakers include:

- Kay Luo, Vice President of Corporate Communications for LinkedIn.
- Jonathan Starets, Director of Channel Development for SmartReply.
- Joe Lichtenberg, Vice President, Marketing and Business Development for Eluma.

When: Jan. 28 - 30, 2007

Where: Loews Miami Beach Hotel, Miami

Registration: Visit www.retailing.org or contact Jodi LeBlanc by e-mail at *jleblanc@retailing.org* or by phone at 800-987-6462, ext. 128 or 703-815-7374.



International Quality & Productivity Center

ants 2007 Contactless Payments Summit

Highlights: Contactless payment proponents say they bring new vigor to the mature card industry, making transactions easier for consumers and merchants. This event is geared specifically to retailers and will address building a business case for implementing contactless solutions. Presenters will include representatives from American Express Co., Discover Financial Services LLC, MasterCard Worldwide, Motorola Inc., the Smart Card Alliance, Visa U.S.A. and Wells Fargo & Co., as well as David Evans, the author of *Paying with Plastic*.

When: Jan. 29 – 31, 2007

Where: Don Shula's Hotel & Golf Club, Miami Lakes, Fla. **Registration:** Visit *www.iqpc.com* or call 800-882-8684.



Northeast Acquirers' Association

2007 Winter Seminar & Outing

Highlights: The event will kick off Jan. 30, with a networking cocktail reception and a Texas Hold 'Em charity poker tournament. The following day will provide opportunities between seminars for vendor visits. Session topics will include industry updates from card Associations, new rules for emerging markets, ISO capitalization, merchant cash advances, and a presentation sponsored by the National Association of Payment Professionals.

Greg Cohen, President of Moneris Solutions, USA, will present "MLS to mega ISO." Tim Cormier of VeriFone will present "IP boot camp," covering DSL, cable, voice over Internet protocol and router-enhanced communications.

Vendor exhibits will be on hand. Raffle prizes will be awarded before and after conference sessions. An evening party at The Barn will feature raffles, food, beverages, table games, dancing and karaoke.



DateBook

The final day is devoted to leisure activities, including skiing and snowmobiling.

When: Jan. 30 – Feb. 1, 2007
Where: Grand Summit Hotel, Mt. Snow, Vt.
Registration: Visit www.northeastacquirers.com or call 603-692-2408.



Glenbrook Partners Payments Boot Camp

Highlights: This intensive two-day boot camp provides an overview of the electronic payment systems landscape. It is ideal for 1) payment company managers who need to understand how other payment system developments impact their offerings; 2) product and sales managers who have responsibility for developing and selling products and services within the financial services industry; and 3) financial services managers who are new to the business or want a broader perspective.

The boot camp will address cards, checking, ACH, cash and wire transfer. It will also cover emerging payments and technologies, key trends, perspectives of different payment system users, and banks' changing role.

- When & where: Feb. 7 8, 2007, Santa Clara, Calif., and March 13 – 14, 2007, Atlanta
- **Registration:** Visit www.glenbrook.com or e-mail Carol Coye Benson at carol@glenbrook.com .



ATM Industry Association

8th Annual Conference East

Highlights: In 2007, ATMIA will celebrate one decade as a trade association. With a theme of "The new ATM generation: 10year forecast," the conference will focus on the industry's future but also reflect on the past. Among the event's distinguished speakers will be John Shepherd-Barron, who invented the ATM in 1967.

Two tracks – one for financial institutions and one for ISOs – will span two days. ISO track topics include speaking to the press, valuing your ATM portfolio, expanding your offerings to merchant services and getting involved with industry-related government affairs.

A special session will cover how ISOs and banks can work together on branding and outsourcing to increase revenues and decrease costs.

An ISO reception followed by the annual Global Industry Awards Banquet will take place the evening of Feb. 22. A supplemental ATM compliance boot camp and a Visa U.S.A. key management workshop will precede the conference on Feb. 20 and 21, respectively.

When: Feb. 20 - 23, 2007

Where: Caribe Royal Resort & Convention Center, Orlando, Fla. **Registration:** Visit *www.atmia.com* or call 605-428-5400.

Industry

Prepaid Media LLC 2007 Prepaid Card Expo

Highlights: This event includes four tracks – 1) corporate and consumer; 2) government; 3) unbanked, underserved and payroll; and 4) payments industry update. The payments track will provide an overview of the opportunities and challenges of prepaid and stored-value cards in the payments industry.

Vicente Fox, former President of Mexico; John Philip Coghlan, President and CEO of Visa U.S.A.; Tommy Thompson, former US Secretary of Health and Human Services; and Richard "Casey" Hoffman, Texas State Deputy Attorney General for Families and Children, will be among the keynote speakers.

Prepaid Media said anyone responsible for prepaid card initiatives should attend. This includes acquirers, processors, ISOs, consultants, law firms, payment networks, retailers and hardware manufacturers, among many others.

Registration will include admission to the 2007 CDHC Expo, which will be held in the same building and will cover the emerging consumer-driven health care (CDHC) industry.

When: Feb. 26 - 28, 2007

Where: The Rio, Las Vegas

Registration: Visit www.prepaidcardexpo.com or call 617-671-1144.



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