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Accelerating cash advance

he merchant cash advance industry has evolved dramatically since *The Green Sheet*'s initial lead story on the phenomenon just over two years ago ("Merchant cash advances open doors," Oct. 10, 2005, issue 05:10:01). The basic concept is simple: The cash provider buys future credit card receivables, which the merchant provides as a daily percentage of those revenues.

"Say a merchant desires 100K in working capital," said Marc Gardner, President and Chief Executive Officer of North American Bancard. The merchant "would sell 135K in future credit card sales. Twenty percent of the merchants' daily deposit is split-settled to fund the receivables which were purchased."

North American Bancard has four cash advance options, so not every transaction would be identical to this, but this is an indicative example.

While cash advances on receivables is not a new concept, advancing cash for credit card receivables of goods or services not yet purchased was rare before the turn of this century, mostly because it was risky for cash providers.

And that risk is what most providers cite when explaining the fairly hefty fee that accompanies this type of transaction – the equivalent of 35% if it were a loan in the same amount as the advance.

But the fairly simple concept of taking a split off the top as the credit card payments are processed makes the repayment of the advance simpler and slightly less risky.

It was this concept AdvanceMe Inc. attempted to patent in 1997. Its patent was overturned in a court ruling in August 2007. An appeal is pending.

Funders in, funders out

"I think larger, more conservative companies were sitting on the fence, waiting to see how that court case played out before entering the market," said David Goldin, President and CEO of AmeriMerchant Inc. "I think in the next year or two we'll see larger ISOs and even banks entering this market."

Woochae Chung, American Microloan Managing Director, said once the court ruled against AdvanceMe's patent "the floodgates opened. We saw at least a dozen new companies enter the market."

See Accelerating cash advance page 63





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NotableQuote

Although a contactless card transaction is measurably faster than a cash transaction, this is essentially meaningless - both forms of payment typically involve opening a wallet, removing the card or cash, interacting with a store employee, placing of change and receipts back into the wallet and placing purchased items into a bag.

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I put my portfolio up for sale on craigslist, and this guy called to ask me if I'll trade for a motorcycle and a box of washing machine parts.

Copy, please

What is your policy on reprinting an article that appeared in a recent issue of *The Green Sheet*?

Ted Bullen Team Revenue LLC

Ted,

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Another option is to purchase reprints, which are reasonably priced. To learn more about this, please contact Rita Francis, Account Executive, 866-429-8080. She'll give you all the details.

Editor

Cut me in

What is your deadline for Electronic Transactions Association Annual Meeting & Expo news? We want to be sure to get news to you in time to be included in issues of *The Green Sheet* being distributed at the event, which will be held April 15 to 17, 2008.

Lila Overby Card Zone PR

Lila,

We have editorial deadlines for our writers and advertising deadlines for our advertisers. We don't have deadlines for people sending in news, which mostly comes via press releases.

Throughout each business day, we post press releases we receive if they pertain to the payments industry. They appear under News From The Wire on the left hand side of our home page. We'll make every effort to post releases you send us shortly after they arrive here.

Most of the items we print in our Industry Update section, as well as many ideas for news stories, come from information sent to us in press releases. Typically, we finish the writing, editing and layout of an issue 10 days before it is mailed to our subscribers. That means we must receive news well before that in order to consider it for follow up in a given issue. However, due to the volume of press releases we receive, sending us news of something does not guarantee it will make it into one of our print issues

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Editor

Call us, write us

Would you like us to cover a particular topic? Is there someone you consider an Industry Leader? Did you like or dislike a recent article in *The Green Sheet*?

What do you think of our latest GSQ? E-mail your comments and feedback to *greensheet@greensheet.com* or call us at 800-757-4441.



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If you charge one you share in it!

With NAB, You Get a <u>True</u> Interchange Revenue Split up to 65%

Unlike other programs, we don't charge 3 to 6 basis points off the top disguised as a "Reserve Fee for Hidden Losses" or something called a "Bin Sponsorship Fee."

Up to \$750 Conversion Bonus!

Get paid 1.5% of the actual monthly processing on every merchant. If the merchant processed \$50,000, then you receive a \$750 bonus. !!!Paid Daily!!!

\$200 Approval Bonus

For each retail merchant approval and card-not-present merchant approval. !!!Paid Daily!!!

Don't Need Free Equipment?

Get an additional \$100 Bonus!

\$3,000 Signing Bonus

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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.

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Cover Story

Accelerating cash advance

The merchant cash advance industry has evolved dramatically since *The Green Sheet*'s initial lead story on the phenomenon just over two years ago. The concept is simple: The cash provider buys future credit card receivables, which the merchant provides as a daily percentage of those revenues. This article examines the cash advance market-place's current status and potential.

View

24

Cool not enough to propel contactless

A new report from Aite Group LLC counts contactless terminals at about 40,000 merchant locations; most of those are operated by large multistate retailers. However, while these cards have allure, there doesn't seem to be enough motivation for merchants or consumers to augment use of mag stripe cards and terminals with contactless alternatives.

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Feature

A glowing payments gem

We hear it all the time: Life is about balance. The key to happiness and good health is finding a way to level your responsibilities as an employee, parent, spouse and friend. Marla Knutson, President of TransFirst's Financial Institutions division, uses this to her advantage. In this profile, this payments veteran opens up about her philosophy, priorities and concerns.

Feature

Beacon shining on MLSs

Laws and regulations governing financial services are in flux, and new technologies are debuted at warp speed. The National Association of Payment Professionals aims to help merchant level salespeople (MLSs) stay a few steps ahead of the payments curve by educating them and keeping them up-to-date on changes happening within the industry.

News

On track with a new SAQ

The payments industry's focus on data security has caused significant grumbling about the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard (DSS), but a new set of questionnaires for merchants to use with PCI self-assessments could alleviate some of the irritation. Here are some facts about the revamped Self Assessment Questionnaire.

News

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Turbulent negotiations for Hypercom, Ingenico

In an exchange of publicly disclosed letters, Phoenix-based Hypercom Corp. and Ingenico, headquartered in Neuilly sur Seine, France, are maneuvering over a possible merger. And despite rocky communications thus far, negotiations are still open.

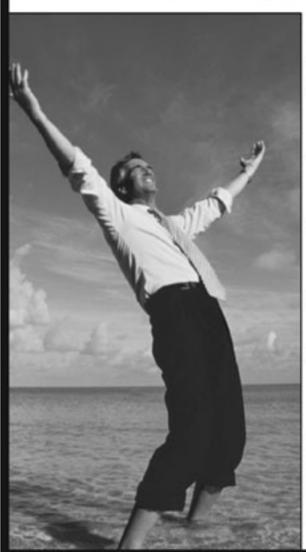
How to Succeed in Today's Marketplace

A Great Opportunity for You to Grow

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News

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RevolutionCard, Fifth Third stir the processing pot

RevolutionCard recently signed its first merchant-processing agreement with Fifth Third Processing Solutions. The RevolutionCard, a PIN-based interchange-free card, can now be accepted by Fifth Third Processing Solutions' merchant customers across the United States, through Fifth Third's Jeanie network. What does this portend for the industry?

News

51

State bill clarifies breach obligations

California merchants and their ISOs must adhere to the PCI DSS. But they may soon have to contend with Senate Bill 364 as well. On Jan. 31, 2008, the state moved closer to strengthening its data breach notification law; defining what information merchants must make publicly available if consumers' personal data are compromised in a breach.

Education

70

Street Smartssm: Back to basics

Being an MLS requires discipline, but over time, many lose their initiative and form bad habits. Knocking on doors, keeping a business-card file, following up, traveling to fresh locales and getting referrals are tasks every ISO and MLS should do routinely. So buckle up, and get back to the basics.

Education

74

Merchant tutoring time

Offering a good rate, cash advance and equipment is no longer enough to push forward the growth, expansion and viability we, as ISOs and MLSs, seek. In today's market-place, we must become knowledgeable industry experts to gain business and keep merchants. This article gives advice on how this can be done.

So, you're comfortable with your residual stream, huh?

Just how big of a bite is your ISO taking?



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- High-Multiple Exit Strategy



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Education

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Recruiting is an art form

Competing for qualified MLSs has led many businesses to become pathetic versions of auto salespeople: cooing promises, painting scenes of workplace paradise and running as many cheesy ads as the budget can handle. But you can effectively recruit capable MLSs by following some no nonsense instructions.

Education

80

Portfolio sale pitfalls

Most of you, as ISOs and MLSs, intend to sell your merchant portfolios at some point. And even those who are quite content to continue prospecting and pitching to win more accounts fantasize about how much their residual stream could fetch on the market. This article contains eight situations to avoid when selling a portfolio.

Education

ISO compliance challenge

84

Payments professionals and their merchant customers must protect personal identification information at every step of the transaction processing chain. Beyond PCI DSS, this article details certain governmental and legislative requirements that must be adhered to so as to avoid significant sanctions.

Inspiration

101

The art of charm

An MLS might wonder why a rival is closing all the big deals, leaving the competition in the dust. What's that person's secret? It may be the subtle art of mimicry. Comedians use it to poke fun of others, but if used skillfully in sales presentations, it can help cinch deal after deal.

Are you ready to take your career to the next level? With Electronic you'll discover to With Electronic Merchant Systems you'll discover that while other processors make big promises, EMS has the ISO program that delivers. If you're looking for a better opportunity with a brighter future, the choice is clear. The EMS Advantage As an Agent for Electronic Merchant Systems, we'll provide you with the tools you need to increase your income and build your career. We offer one of the best ISO / Agent programs in the credit card processing industry, including: + Free Starter Kits Interchange + 8 cents Up to 80% Split Program Guaranteed Fax Leasing Vested Lifetime Residuals Online Portfolio Management Portfolio Lending / Portfolio Acquisition Gift & Loyalty Programs No Liability / No Risk to Agent Check Guarantee Program \$8,000 Signing Bonus eCommerce Solutions Up to \$500.00 Conversion Bonus Cash Advance Programs Fast Approvals Income from ALL revenue streams What are you waiting for? 800.726.2117 Call Fred Couch at 800.726.2117 or email fcouch@emscorporate.com

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-Michael Mucciacciaro, Baltimore

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Scott Hausmann, Minneapolis



"It's often difficult to get prospects to listen to my sales pitch when you're like everyone else. The QuickBooks and Intuit brands give me immediate credibility when

> dealing with merchants and larger referral partners like banks, accountants and associations. It has really made a difference in my entire business approach."

> > Todd Eichner, Los Angeles

"They have the best programs for small businesses, which really helps me close more deals, and makes me feel like I'm helping them with their finances."

- Keith Pollins, San Diego

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IndustryUpdate

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NEWS

Alliance Data drops lawsuit

Alliance Data Systems Corp., provider of marketing, loyalty and transactions services, dismissed its May 2007 lawsuit against Aladdin Solutions Inc. and Aladdin Merger Sub Inc., the acquisition entities formed by affiliates of The Blackstone Group LP.

In light of Blackstone's confirmation of its commitment to work to consummate the merger, ADS withdrew its lawsuit without prejudice on Feb. 8, 2008.

Discover sells Goldfish, leaves U.K.

Barclays Bank PLC signed an agreement to acquire **Discover Financial Services**' Goldfish credit card business, which is based in the United Kingdom.

Under the agreement, Barclay's will acquire the card portfolio consisting of 1.7 million Goldfish and affinity card accounts with approximately \$4 billion of receivables; the Goldfish brand; its operating facilities; certain legal entities; and staff.

The transaction is expected to close by the end of Discover's second quarter, subject to regulatory approvals in the U.K. and to other closing conditions.

NACHA tightens risk management

NACHA – The Electronics Payment Association, approved a rule that requires companies originating transactions to identify themselves with names their customers will recognize. The new rule, effective June 20, 2008, carries penalties for noncompliance spelled

out in NACHA's national system of fines. First offenses will draw a warning, while a recurrence will warrant a \$1,000 fine.

As part of the rule, which is formally known as the Company Name Identification Rule, NACHA is also requiring that the name of the actual originator, not a third party, be the one used in the transaction file. This is intended to guard against processors that might identify themselves as the originator, rather than use the names of their merchants or billers.

Wal-Mart prepaid card shows promise

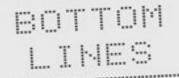
Wal-Mart Stores Inc.'s prepaid debit card appears to be making headway eight months after it was introduced. Wal-Mart said it has plans to more than double the number of its stores selling the MoneyCard this year to 1,000. Analysts said the MoneyCard is likely to compete with firms that offer financial services to consumers without traditional access to credit and the banking system.

Consumers surveyed said they liked the MoneyCard mostly because it could be refunded if lost or stolen; it is easy and inexpensive to reload; and Wal-Mart's \$4.94 monthly maintenance fee is low.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Web site launched for smaller enterprises

Chase Paymentech Solutions LLC launched a new Web site designed to help small and medium-sized businesses affordably accept credit card payments. The site allows businesses quick access to experts who can customize a program to each company's requirements. These programs feature reliable terminals, low inter-



HEADLINES FROM THE RETAIL WORLD According to the National Retail Federation, it would take more than 86 hours for a shopper to spend 10 minutes in every store in the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn.

 Market analysis firm In-Stat recently predicted 8 to 12 million people in North America will be using near field communication contactless payments by 2012; more than 34 million cell phones could be used for other financial applications.

 According to a study conducted by Vertis Inc., 47% of Americans cited inserts and circulars as the most effective type of advertisement, surpassing television ads (43%).





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change rates and custom gift card programs. "Our new site makes payment processing, merchant account setup, and the entire process of accepting credit cards easy and accessible to the small business community," said Mia Shernoff, Executive Vice President of Marketing for Chase Paymentech.

Comstar takes charge of Palm TREO

Comstar Interactive, provider of secure mobile payment solutions and electronic payment services, has released Charge Anywhere v2.0 Secure Mobile Payment solution for merchants using Palm TREO smartphone devices. Charge Anywhere is Payment Application Data Security Standard – formerly Visa Payment Application Best Practices – validated and specifically designed to empower mobile payments for businesses seeking a comprehensive mobile payments solution.

The software reportedly transforms Palm TREO smartphones into secure mobile POS terminals and is compatible with the latest generation of TREO smartphones. It can be installed on the Windows Mobile 5.0+ operating system.

Remote capture comes to Jersey shore

Fundtech Ltd., provider of electronic payment, set-

tlement and cash management solutions, has signed an agreement with **Wausau Insurance Cos.**, enabling Fundtech to offer Wausau's Remote Corporate Capture (RCC) solution to its clients. It is designed for the remote capture of deposits and payments. Fundtech anticipates its merchants can expand their cash management services businesses by providing RCC to their corporate customers. The RCC solution allows clients to process deposits and payments without leaving their place of business.

MasterCard, USA Technologies expand PayPass

MasterCard Worldwide and USA Technologies Inc. are expanding ePort cashless payment terminals to 17,500 vending machines nationwide, adding more than 4,000 new locations that accept MasterCard PayPass contactless payments.

Positive feedback from consumers, vending operators and soft drink bottlers, as well as increased sales at contactless payment machines, drove the move to expand cashless deployment in vending machines. "Surveys of our customers are showing that, on average, consumers' card purchases are 30% higher than cash purchases in our deployments that accept MasterCard PayPass," said



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George Jensen, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of USA Technologies.

Optio Solutions opens shop

Optio Solutions LLC, a new accounts receivable management company and subsidiary of **Cross Check Inc.**, opened new headquarters in Rohnert Park, Calif. in February 2008. Optio Solution's services are marketed nationally through resellers, partners and in-house sales consultants. An Online Client Portal (OCP) lets clients manage their receivables program online while utilizing the company's expertise and technology.

The OCP allows the client to start and stop account activity, track payments and view reports. "Our goal is to bring a quality-based approach to accounts receivable management and provide our clients with easy-to-use and cost-effective tools for their slow-paying accounts," said Chris Schumacher, Optio Solution's President and CEO.

PARTNERSHIPS

Accertify, iovation to prevent fraud

Accertify LLC, a provider of credit card fraud preven-

tion solutions to online merchants, and **iovation Inc.**, a real-time devise-based fraud management service, have partnered to help online merchants fight credit card fraud.

Under the partnership, Accertify will offer iovation ReputationManager as a part of its Interceptas solution. "Stopping fraudsters requires a flexible solution that incorporates the most advanced fraud-fighting tools as quickly as they become available," said Jeff Liesendahl, CEO of Accertify.

Brothers-in-arms for PCI

American Credit Card Processing Corp. has partnered with ControlScan Inc., an approved scanning vendor, to help its e-commerce merchants meet mandatory security requirements under the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard (DSS).

This partnership will provide ACCPC's merchants with ControlScan's comprehensive PCI compliance solution, which includes on-demand security scanning and the PCI Self Assessment Questionnaire.

EDebit Pay carries a heavy ConveniaLoad

EDebitPay LLC, partnered with ConveniaLoad, a sub-

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sidiary of **Western Financial LLC**, to bring more card loading options to customers' prepaid debit cards. This new feature will allow its customers to add value to their cards at over 10,000 bank locations including Wells Fargo & Co., Bank One Corp., U.S. Bancorp and Wachovia Corp.

EDebitPay cardholders will be provided with access to register for this new feature and order a bank deposit booklet. They can use this booklet to go to the bank of their choice and load their prepaid debit card with cash, allowing them to use their card throughout the world.

Gemalto becomes Taiwan Mobile's chosen one

Gemalto N.V., a provider of end-to-end digital security solutions, was chosen by **Taiwan Mobile Co. Ltd.**, a telecommunications service company, to distribute the world's first commercial near field communication (NFC), subscriber identity module-based mobile contactless system.

It is designed to remotely manage the life cycle of any type of contactless service within a mobile phone environment, especially payment applications that mandate high security levels. Gemalto successfully developed a secure solution fulfilling the specific needs of its partners and end-users. It will allow Taiwan Mobile to register, issue, manage and terminate mobile NFC services over the air.

ACQUISITIONS

FundTech acquires Accountis

Fundtech Ltd., provider of software solutions and services to financial institutions, has acquired **Accountis Ltd.** of Bangor, Wales, a supplier of electronic invoice presentment and payment systems. This acquisition further expands Fundtech's product suite in the corporate banking financial supply chain.

Accountis' electronic financial document exhange and payment solutions reportedly saves corporations up to 80% of administrative costs by eliminating the costs associated with traditional billing.

SDC, eN-Concert in sync

Southern DataComm Inc. completed its acquisition of **eN-Concert**, formerly a technologies division of **Ingenico Inc.**, a provider of secure transaction and payment solutions. EN-Concert develops, maintains and



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services proprietary electronic payment software and back office applications. The acquisition represents a move by SDC into the tier-one, multilane retail market and expands its end-to-end suite of products and services to a broader customer base.

APPOINTMENTS

i2c goes to Bolivia

Kelly Bolivia joined i2c Inc., a provider of transaction processing and stored value card management solutions, as a Lead Account Advocate. Bolivia has extensive background in account management and has managed over 400 corporate and individual accounts. Bolivia's primary role is to develop relationships with senior decision makers within client organizations and to maintain an understanding of i2c's business in terms of current performance and future strategies.

ICT appointment a Dundon deal

Innovative Card Technologies Inc., developers of the ICT DisplayCard security device for e-banking, e-commerce and data access, appointed **Dan Dundon** as the company's Director of Quality Assurance and Logistics. Dundon brings a 15-year track record of smart card sup-

ply chain, manufacturing, and delivery systems integration and optimization to the company. During his tenure with Gemalto Corp., Dundon supervised the successful merger of that company's two U.S.-based manufacturing plants into one, as well as the implementation of a new \$30 million smart card personalization project.

Henry succeeds Savard at NetSpend

NetSpend Corp., provider of prepaid reloadable debit cards with more than 20,000 retail locations, named **Daniel R. Henry** as its new CEO. Henry, a member of the company's board of directors, succeeds Richard J. Savard, CEO since June 2004. Henry said NetSpend Corp., headquartered in Austin, Texas, is committed to a continuing expansion program over the next few years.

Tucker joins Money Tree

Money Tree Merchant Services named **Scott Tucker**, former Executive Vice President of Redwood Merchant Services, a division of Westamerica Bancorp., as its new National Sales Manager.

Tucker, who has over 20 years' experience in the financial services industry, will oversee and direct the expansion of Money Tree's merchant bankcard program.



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Insider's Report on Payments

Cool not enough to propel contactless

By Patti Murphy

The Takoma Group

ontactless cards have allure. Apart from that, however, there doesn't seem to be enough motivation for merchants or consumers to augment use of mag stripe cards and terminals with contactless alternatives.

A new report from Aite Group LLC counts contactless terminals at about 40,000 merchant locations, and the lion's share of those (83%) are at stores operated by large multistate retailers. Among them: McDonald's Corp. (with by far the largest number of tap-and-go terminals), CVS Caremark, BP PLC gas stations, Walgreen Co., Jack in the Box Inc. and Petco Animal Supplies Inc.

Consumers who have contactless cards or key fobs number about 19 million, Aite noted. To put this number into perspective, Aite estimates that 3% of all debit cards in the hands of consumers today are contactless; among credit cards, contactless cards/devices account for less than 1% of the total.

Despite the meager penetration of contactless devices, Aite sees a future for contactless payments. Nick Holland, Analyst and author of the report (Contactless Payments and NFC in the United States: Beyond Science Fiction) expects growth in merchant acceptance points, albeit at a somewhat slower pace than champions of the cause would like.

He predicts 217,000 contactless-enabled merchants by 2014, which would increase merchant penetration to 2.5% from 0.7% today.

That seems a bit optimistic; it works out to just under 30,000 new terminals a year. During a presentation at the Northeast Acquirers Association's Winter Seminar (in chilly Vermont) in January 2008, an informal audience poll found only about four individuals offering merchants wireless solutions.

In a survey of acquirers, conducted separately by Aite in the fall of 2007, none of the firms queried ranked contactless functionality an important merchant offering. Adil Moussa, the Aite Analyst who spearheaded that survey, said he found acquirers saw offering contactless payment functionality "as a neutral benefit at best."

Research conducted by First Annapolis Consulting and presented at the NEAA event mirrors closely Aite's findings. Referencing the terminal giveaway trend, First Annapolis Consultant Ramsey Mark Elias warned that

contactless functionality may become a competitive necessity for acquirers and their partners.

"You have to have contactless terminals in your arsenal. If you don't, someone will be there to give it away for free," Elias told the group.

Although the current model for contactless payments may not survive long term, Elias suggests that near field communication (NFC) technology could become the foundation for a new contactless payments model.

NFC is a short-range, high-frequency wireless technology that is being integrated into new generations of mobile telephones. First Annapolis forecasts as many as 100 million NFC mobile phone devices could be able to support payments by 2012.

Speed, convenience, cost

The chief selling points for contactless payments are speed and convenience. And the data, on its face, seems compelling.

Aite broke down the time intervals needed to complete various payment transactions. This is in keeping with other industry data, and it's good to have at hand when discussing payments with clients and prospects.

It takes 12.5 seconds to complete a contactless card transaction, 28.5 seconds for cash, 64 seconds for checks, 48.4 seconds for credit/signature debit, 44.4 seconds for PIN debit and 15.6 seconds for biometrics-based payments.

The numbers that count most for this discussion are contactless and cash, the tender that contactless cards are supposed to replace.

Sixteen seconds, of course, is no small gain. But how much of that time savings is truly attainable for the typical merchant?

"Although a contactless card transaction is measurably faster than a cash transaction, this is essentially meaningless – both forms of payment typically involve opening a wallet, removing the card or cash, interacting with a store employee, placing of change and receipts back into the wallet and placing purchased items into a bag," Holland wrote.

"The actual speed and/or convenience of the transaction is clouded by all of the peripheral activities. This equally applies to convenience and security – consumers and merchants are unlikely to notice the advantages of a card

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transaction over other forms of payment unless explicitly pointed out to them."

Training is another critical consideration. I still cringe over the experience a colleague had trying to use a contactless terminal at a nearby QSR that apparently had not yet trained all of its employees on the new devices.

There also are hard-dollar costs to accepting contactless payments: terminals and interchange.

Holland believes terminal prices will drop to below \$100, which could prod some adoption. He and Elias both agree interchange concessions aren't likely. "The issuers won't go for it," Elias said.

I'd have to agree. With all the legal and PR attacks on interchange, neither card issuers nor the card companies are apt to accept pricing concessions.

Let's get real: If the card companies really wanted contactless card payments to take off, they would've lowered the price of entry already.

In fact, it can be argued that the card companies are undermining the case for contactless, either unwittingly or intentionally. Have you seen those Visa Inc. commercials depicting a checkout line moving swiftly and smoothly as customer after customer uses a "contactless" Visa card, until someone comes along with cash and holds up the line? As Holland pointed out during an interview, the cards in those commercials all have mag stripes.

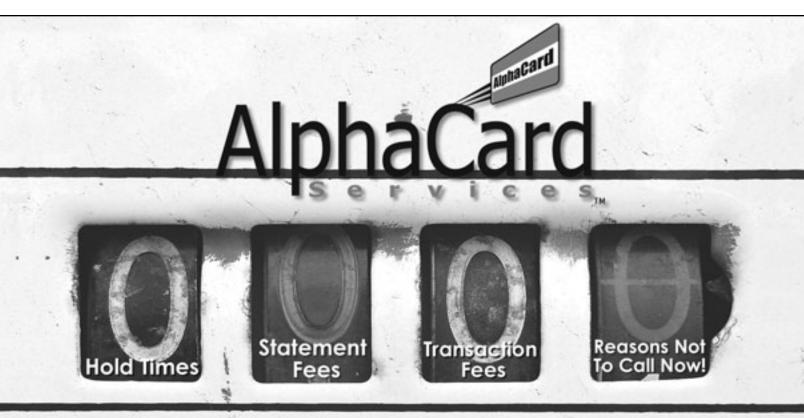
And what about the companies' decisions to implement signature waiver programs for low-dollar credit and debit card transactions?

"The negligible difference in time between tapping and swiping a card negates the speed value proposition for contactless cards," Holland wrote. "Furthermore, consumers are not encouraged to develop new patterns of behavior at the point of sale, instead falling back on time-tested swiping habits."

So here's the bottom line on contactless payments: They're hip, but growth will be slow.

And if you want to be a full-service partner with your merchants, include contactless terminals on your menu of offerings.

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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Feature

NCR debuts SelfServ ATMs

By Tracy Kitten, Editor

ATMmarketplace.com

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CR Corp.'s new ATM is touted by NCR executives for its ability to "heal" itself. Last week, the company announced the launch of its SelfServ ATM, a new line that features increased functionality, an upgraded Intel dual core processor, the ability to accept bulk-check deposits, and so-called self-healing technology.

The release marks NCR's first new ATM in a decade.

"We're going on about 10 years now since the release of the Personas range," said Brian Bailey, Vice President of Financial Marketing for NCR. "The good news was that range was one of the most successful deployed. We have nearly 500,000 of those ATMs installed worldwide."

Bailey said NCR hopes the SelfServ family will build on the Personas line's success.

Automatic reboot

One of the SelfServ's core features, the ability to self-heal, is its ability to recover from a system failure.

"We believed we could improve and increase both the availability and the reliability of the ATM, so what we spent a lot of time doing was looking at what causes downtime," Bailey said.

The primary culprit of downtime, he said, is software failures, which could often be repaired through a simple reboot. As a result, the new SelfServ family has been equipped with an automatic failsafe mechanism that can detect when an ATM is malfunctioning and cause that ATM to reboot.

"Several of the vendors have spent time on management tools and preventative maintenance, but what we're talking about here is a little different," Bailey said. "We're giving the ATM a chance to know that it's down, before a tech would even have to come out. Actually, we're taking it one step further – to eliminate any remote intervention needed."

Bailey said the self-healing technology can significantly reduce downtime related to "soft" failures such as blue screens.

"Some soft failures can take between three and four hours

to repair," he said. "With self-healing technology, we can cut that time to between 10 and 20 minutes."

Increased functionality

The SelfServ also features a host of progressive functionalities, Bailey said. SelfServ ATMs can be configured to offer services such as bill payment, funds transfer, mobile phone top-up, and the dispense of coupons, vouchers and mini-statements. It uses dual-sided thermal-receipt technology and offers a dual receipt-roll option, all in response to the ever-growing consumer demand for proof of deposit, Bailey said.

But how unique is the new SelfServ line?

It is a new full ATM line designed for a global banking and retail market, and it is the first ATM line NCR has introduced in 10 years. But NCR competitors Diebold Inc. and Wincor Nixdorf International also have in recent years introduced new lines that purport to offer similar advantages.

Last week, executives from Diebold celebrated the fifth anniversary of Diebold's Opteva ATM family, an ATM line

that Diebold executives say has stood the test of time.

"When we designed Opteva, we designed it with the globe in mind," said Ken Justice, Diebold's Vice President of Global Product Marketing and Management. "Diebold had made several acquisitions in the late '90s/early '00s, and in many of those countries, the companies had their own ATM products.

"We had to work through all of that to make a single offering for all of our customers – so we had to come up with something that was globally appealing.

"We also used a 2.0 platform that allowed us to bundle what we could offer for any country, and that allowed us to be flexible and grow."

Justice said Opteva's open architecture made it appealing to customers because of the ease it offers for upgrades and adoption of emerging technologies.



NCR SelfServ 22



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"The variability in how you can configure it has allowed us to penetrate and work with customers [in other countries] we hadn't previously been able to sell to," he said. "In the U.S. five years ago, bankers were thinking about how to improve their operational efficiencies, trying to figure out how to migrate transactions from the teller line to the self-service line.

"We knew at the time that there were regulatory changes, like Check 21, that were taking place that related to truncating checks, so we were able to incorporate scanning into the environment and combine what customers wanted. In China and other parts of Asia-Pacific, cash recycling took off pretty quickly.

"Cash-recycling hasn't taken off here yet, but I think it will. And when it does, we'll be ready for that, because we prepared for it in China. So we have the capabilities to meet some geographies now and then meet some needs later."

Wincor Nixdorf shares similar sentiment for its ProCash ATM line, part of its ProClassic Enterprise suite, released in 2000.

The company continues to build on its open architecture, which it said continues to garner attention and attract new customers throughout the world.

At Wincor World this week, Wincor Nixdorf said it continues to build on its ProClassic suite, bringing in and incorporating new channels, such as the mobile channel, with the ATM and the branch.

Again, Wincor pushes its multivendor capabilities, which some experts in the



market say will give it a marketing edge as it works to compete with NCR and Diebold on a global scale.

Alenka Grealish, Managing Director of Banking for Boston-based Celent LLC, would not compare NCR's technology with that of Diebold and Wincor, but she said all the bells and whistles of the new line pale in comparison to the simple fact that it offers bulk deposits – technology that isn't necessarily unique.

Both Diebold and Wincor have similar technology; NCR also offers bulk deposit/intelligent deposit on its Personas ATM line.

"It is the bulk-check acceptor which enables a whole segment of branch visitors – small businesses and single owner/operators who receive as payment checks and normally have to stand in line or have to dash before the branch closes – to be able to switch from that to self service via the ATM," she said.

But Bailey said he expects the new line to offer much more than mere check or bulk-note deposit, and he expects its diverse abilities to prove advantageous over time.

"This is not a product release for one specific market," he said. "This is a globally deployable range that has many options. NCR is really focused on delivering selfservice transactions across all industries, and we are seeing more and more interest outside the financial industry.

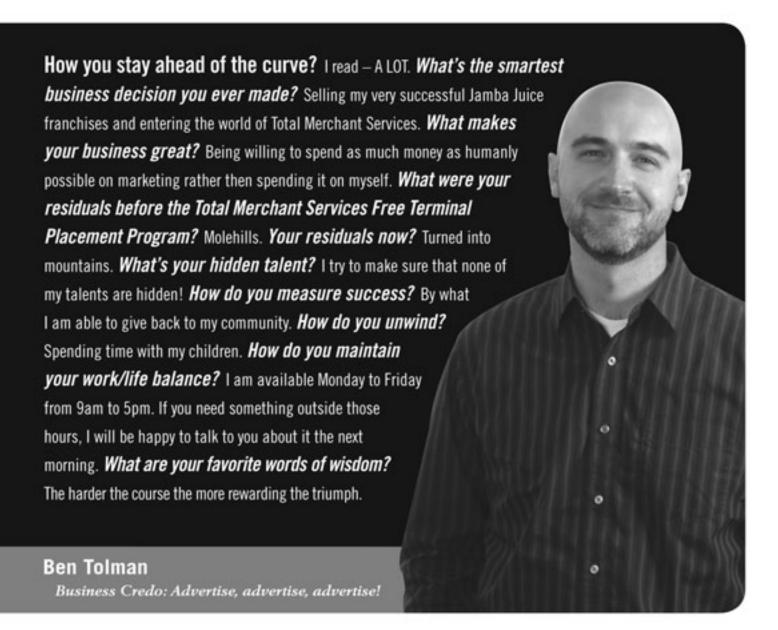
"One of our customers is a telecommunications customer who is using billpay and intelligent deposit to serve its customers. We want to broaden our reach, and with this new line, we can meet the needs of many customers."

Note: Travis K. Kircher contributed to this article.

Link to original: http://atmmarketplace.com/article.php?id=9616&na=1

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A glowing payments gem

e hear it all the time: Life is about balance. It believe you must have integrity and The key to happiness and good health is finding a way to level your responsibilities as an employee, parent, spouse, friend and so forth. Marla Knutson, President of TransFirst's Financial Institutions division, uses this to her advantage.

Knutson has more than 24 years' experience in the banking and financial services industry. She specializes in product and sales management and marketing development. At TransFirst, she is responsible for developing and implementing business growth strategies and industry partnerships, as well as managing the national sales team and all national sales and distribution points with financial institutions.

In April 1999, Knutson started at TranFirst as the Vice President of Sales. She has been at the helm of financial institutions since 2002. When she first started with this company, her job was more on a regional level. Now, she's a national player.

The transition from one tier to the other was smooth for Knutson. "Sales is where it's at," she said. Business is about retaining customers or expanding to gain new customers. Knowing this, she feels her background helps her achieve business goals.

Along with her extensive experience, getting customers to understand business is part of her job's charm. "I love working with people," she said.

Knutson's people personality has sprouted efforts outside of TransFirst. She is a volunteer and industry activist, serving on the retail banking committee for the New York Bankers Association of New York State. She is also a member of the Women Networking in Electronic Transactions board of directors.

Earlier this year, Knutson received the Electronic Transactions Association Member of the Year award. She is very active in ETA, serving on several committees such as government relations, industry relations and finance. She also chaired ETA's Strategic Leadership Forum and has been a member of the board of directors for the past four years.

It can be difficult for Knutson to make time for all these efforts, as well as carry out her duties at TransFirst. But the ability to collaborate with people from all walks of life, backgrounds, with varying personalities. You have to be a strategic thinker and innovative with the selfassurance to go against the norm and not do something everyone else is doing."

> - Marla Knutson President of TransFirst's Financial Institutions division

she enjoys the constant rush of moving from one act to another. "I make the time," she said. "The job always comes first. The company is supportive of those entities and encourages us to take part as well."

Calling answered

Knutson didn't always want to be in the banking industry. In fact, her mind was far from it. "I was going to be a veterinarian," she said. During her freshman year at Iowa State University, she set out to fulfill her high school dream.

The shift to business began when Knutson found herself enjoying business and marketing classes more than science. So, she changed her career path and earned a bachelor's degree in finance with a minor in marketing.

Directly out of college, she found a job as a loan officer trainee for a small bank in Iowa. "I was kind of excited because I earned my officer status right out of college, which was a rarity back then," she said. She got involved in the card industry by approving credit card applications.

Balancing act

With all of the extracurricular activities based on her career, where does Knutson's personal life fit in? "It's tough, but I'm fortunate to work for a company that understands both work and personal time is important," she said.

Knutson has two sons, one in college and the other in high school. Since her children are older, having time for family while working is "at an easier point." But, she doesn't congratulate herself on being a working mom.

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"I don't think just women have to juggle work and family," Knutson said. "I think everyone has to juggle work and family." Granted, it was more difficult to find time when her children were younger, but many homes consist of working parents.

"I try to balance my time by setting priorities and following through on them," Knutson said. "Sometimes a business matter may take precedence over a personal matter and vice versa."

When work beckons, it can call Knutson away from home. She spends 50% to 70% of her time on the road. "Jets and hotels, they're good friends of mine," she said.

Measuring up

While some gauge accomplishments in dollars or square footage, Knutson has a different yardstick. "If you are able to do your best and give 100%, then you are a success," she said.

Knutson also recognizes that treating customers well and being able to meet their needs is on the direct path to achievement. "Each time you keep your customers happy and deliver great results, it's a success," she said. While learning new skills can help one become more successful, there are some attributes that can't be taught, according to Knutson.

"I believe you must have integrity and the ability to collaborate with people from all walks of life, backgrounds, with varying personalities," she said. "You have to be a strategic thinker and innovative with the self-assurance to go against the norm and not do something everyone else is doing."

Staying positive

Knutson has endeavored to improve the industry and is quick to acknowledge others' efforts. "I think the industry has evolved with a lot of work and innovation by a diverse share of individuals," she said. "The market drives change. As business and technology changes, we will continue to change with it." For example, Knutson has worked with the ETA to create training programs and set policies.

Knutson believes the industry is sufficiently regulated; she is concerned about the potential involvement of government and regulatory entities but has faith in industry implemented regulations.

"I believe the card Associations have done a good job in creating standards and have the best understanding of our industry," she said.

With the ETA, Knutson and others are striving to ensure the government and regulatory entities understand our industry, and she is optimistic. "The good news is that they've been open to the education process," she said.



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Searching for talent

It takes more than industry knowledge to get hired by Knutson or become her partner. "I look at personality traits to define who someone really is," Knutson said. "It is more important to me that they provide eye contact, have enthusiasm and have the ability to work with people. Personality traits are hard to change, where industry knowledge can be taught."

Knutson suggests companies review potential employees' skills as they relate to the open position. If sales agents are happy and successful making sales calls in the field, they may not be satisfied or last long sitting at a desk day in and

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day out. The same applies to those looking for partners.

"What I look for in a business partner is someone who wants to work with you toward the same goal and objective – improve their business or to help them grow – and will be open to your expertise and consultative approach in the merchant business," Knutson said.

Looking back

Knutson's time in the industry has afforded her the chance to see advancements in the payments industry. "When I started, everything was on paper, and we were just starting to move merchants to electronic processing," she said.

"There were very few levels of interchange, and the technology was in its infancy. ISOs were new, as most merchant business was sold by financial institutions."

Another example is hardly any women held senior positions at banks 25 years ago. Knutson has seen many doors open for women to move up in the banking ranks. "I think there are definitely a lot more women in the industry," she said.

Knutson's theory for women finding a place in the industry is the ability for payments to branch out.

"The [payments] industry has separated itself from banking and become its own industry," she said. "It provides opportunities for anyone wanting to persevere."

Knutson is proud of the accomplishments she's racked up in her career. "Anyone can do it if you have a passion for the industry and work hard," she said. She's not afraid to do something different. In this business, she says finding a niche is part of survival.

Recalling the beginning of her career and how the industry has developed, Knutson paused for a moment. "I sound like a fossil," she said. Others would just call her a jewel.

CompanyProfile



myARCworld Inc.

ISO/MLS contact:

Business Development Division Phone: 877-ARC-6500 (877-272-6500)

Fax: 877-ARC-6595

E-mail: info@myarcworld.com

Company address:

360 McKenna Ave. New Braunfels, TX 78130 Phone: 877-ARC-6500 Fax: 877-ARC-6595

Web site: www.mvarcworld.com

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One company, one source

usinesses are conceived in a variety of ways and shaped by a multiplicity of influences. But sometimes *the* idea, the big one, presents itself organically. For example, Zach Godfrey and Brad Yuchinski founded All Resources Consulting Group LLC in 2004 and they soon learned merchants wanted them to supply more than just credit card processing.

Clients trusted Godfrey and Yuchinski enough to ask them if they knew anyone who could sell them computers, handle information technology, design logos, supply print products, create radio spots, and provide promotional products and banners. Though their company didn't sell any of those items at the time, Godfrey and Yuchinski cared about their clients and wanted to do more.

Also, both men realized they were leaving significant money on the table by not addressing needs beyond processing. So in late 2007, myARCworld Inc. was formed to better reflect their desire to expand commitments to clients and prospects. "After over 20 years in the consulting industry, we decided to start bringing the product and service in-house to start earning revenues off of them," Godfrey said.

ARC is an abbreviation of All Resources Consulting and stands for "bridging a gap." MyARCworld was created to be an all encompassing solution for businesses; its scope goes beyond traditional

merchant services. Godfrey is the company's President and Chief Executive Officer, and Yuchinski is Chief Operating Officer.

Disappearing gap

MyARCworld is designed to bring new products, services and technology to merchants through its "one company, one source" full business solution. Godfrey and Yuchinski tapped their own expertise to provide a complete array of equipment and technical support to help merchants get their businesses up and running smoothly.

And after 20 years of working in the merchant services, consulting and wireless industries, Godfrey has found his calling. "What a great feeling it is to be doing what you believe you were meant to do: making an impact in helping your customer's succeed," he said.

In addition to PC software and ecommerce solutions, automated teller machines, and card processing terminals, myARCworld offers a variety of other services and products, including:

- Cash registers
- Web design and hosting
- Graphic design and printing services
- Office furniture
- Security systems
- Custom gift cards
- Discount drug benefits cards
- Refurbished computers
- Cell phone accessories

CompanyProfile

Under this umbrella, myARCworld provides competitive volume pricing. According to Godfrey, the company's technological advances effectively harness the growing demands for an industry seeking comprehensive business solutions, allowing the company to provide needed products and services to nearly every vertical market.

MyARCworld's complete solution may benefit not only the merchants but also the agents who serve them. "By being a total business solution to our clients, myARCworld experiences repeat business throughout the year, creating relationships and recurring revenues for our direct agents on all products and services," Godfrey said.

Innovative edge

Rather than offer what he considers superfluous items, Godfrey is determined to provide merchants with the tools necessary to best benefit their businesses.

In fact, it was Godfrey's competitors who inadvertently helped him with the idea. Like many others in the industry, he noticed the recent trend of companies offering free products to entice agents and merchants to work with them. Godfrey received ads for free terminals, accounting software and even vacations.

Godfrey disagreed with this approach. When he received a postcard promoting a free cruise, he thought, "If you are starting a new business, do you need to be going on vacation?"

MyARCworld strives to keep prices competitive through its national outsourcing relationships with major vendors as well as its in-house services. The company has negotiated national pricing based upon overall volume, not by the size of each order. The savings of paying national prices versus retail are passed on to clients, allowing all parties to compete with larger entities.

MyARCworld does not, however, outsource information. "We are all about educating our customers," Godfrey said. "If you give them the proper tools and information, they will never leave. I tell them exactly what our margins are and how we can charge this low rate and still be profitable. They appreciate the upfront honesty."

In 2006, myARCworld relocated from San Antonio to New Braunfels, Texas, to be more centrally located. As a national company, this was paramount to Godfrey. "This new location is also in the heart of one of the fastest growing regions in the country: the San Antonio/Austin corridor," Godfrey said.

"In addition to national agents served, this location allows myARCworld a strong base of several million people to market on a direct basis," he added. The next phase of growth will come from attracting ISOs and merchant level salespeople (MLSs) on a national level. MyARCworld plans to do this by providing higher immediate income and recurring revenue streams for its new partners. New headquarters have just been renovated, and over the next year the company plans to add 50 to 75 new team members.

Establishing ample new headquarters in New Braunfels' storied Rivermill development is part of myARCworld's master plan for the next three to five years, which also includes creating a space for incubator businesses. With the first phase of renovations just completed, myARCworld has moved into its new digs.

Rockin' opportunity

MyARCworld sells direct through ISO and MLS channels, associations, franchises, and banks. Its staff comprises self-motivated people who have an entrepreneurial spirit. They work with MLSs who appreciate how technology can enhance an agent's business.

MyARCworld is designed to be a viable option for MLSs who wish to provide merchants additional services and boost their current and recurring revenue. And it aims to help MLSs profit by accommodating merchants who may need Web design and hosting, graphic design, e-commerce solutions, financing, printing, promotional products, insurance, or just about anything else.

"Agents can enhance initial income and return to old customers for the sale of other needed business and marketing products and services required on a recurring basis," Godfrey said.

MyARCworld's MLSs are compensated with buy rates. The company pays commissions, as well as ongoing residuals. Since Godfrey himself was a sales agent, he understands some of the frustrations MLSs encounter. MLSs don't have time to waste, so Godfrey streamlined his process to avoid aggravation.

"That is why we spent so much money on the back-end of our operating systems to make sure agents don't have the headache," Godfrey said. "We take care of our partners."

MLSs can choose how involved they wish to be in the sale. The onus is on them to determine how much money they make. Agents who prefer not to sell services earn a straight 10% referral fee. In addition, myARCworld can provide free POS terminal programs for its ISOs and MLSs.

To assist merchants who are interested in more commitment, ISOs and MLSs can become affiliates or partners and have co-branded or myARCworld-branded Web sites. ISO and MLS partners earn up to 30% of the suggested retail sales price of most commodities and services. ISOs and MLSs also earn up to 70% on credit card processing, depending on volume.

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All MLSs have access to myARCworld's interactive Web site, www.myarcworld.com. The site provides real-time reporting of jobs, clients and residuals. Agents can also use the site to instantly communicate directly with myARCworld departments.

While it is not required that MLSs are exclusively myARCworld agents, Godfrey said, "We would prefer to have credit card processing also. That is the ideal situation. We prefer they join up with us and be a partner so we can pay them more."

Back-end bonanza

MyARCworld also provides financing services. "Even though we had suppliers and could provide all these services, it kept coming back to cash," Godfrey recalled. He wondered how a new business, low on cash and capital, would be able to afford to get started.

Then, one morning about 2 a.m., he remembered the advertising mailer that offered a free cruise and recalled how off target it was for his audience. He started myARCworld to cater to the goals and aspirations of his clients with solutions specifically tailored to them. "It is in our best interest to make the business owner's visions and dreams come true," he said.

So, Godfrey found a way to get businesses the funds necessary to purchase the services they need. "An average \$99 lease for 48 months will fund about \$3,200, but those kinds of leases are now rare," Godfrey said. "Once the lease was approved and the contract confirmed, the MLS received a lump sum payment from the leasing company after the first merchant billing cycle.

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"The MLS put that \$3,200 in their pocket, and the sale was closed. Now, myARCworld's financing enables clients to secure the monies required for other necessities, giving them the equivalent of that \$3,200 back to spend on custom pens, T-shirts, Web site design, banners, business cards, radio ads, whatever they need to get their business up and running.

"And our company, along with agents who partner with us, can assist them with all of those items, and the residual stream is several times higher on the back-end. Why shouldn't a client take advantage of tangible assets to capture the additional money their business needs?"

Passionate dedication

Godfrey's career began as it does for many merchant services professionals, earning income from terminal sales.

Though he quickly became the leading sales rep in his state, he found a downside. "I was moving 40 to 60 units a month, and I was paid an average of \$350 per terminal," he said. "But I had no clue about residuals."

While it may seem that Godfrey was destined to start myARCworld, this doesn't mean it didn't take a significant amount of time and energy. "It's not easy," Godfrey said. "It didn't come together overnight. We have spent four-and-a-half years putting this together. I've got an incredible team around me."

MyARCworld aspires to provide quality merchandise and customer support in a cost-effective and timely manner. For now, Godfrey and Yuchinski are focused on their clients and agent partners, but they believe the effect of myARCworld will be felt throughout the industry.

"MyARCworld is changing the way everyone is thinking," Godfrey said. "We are doing what everyone has talked about for a long time. I am living my dream now, making my clients' visions and dreams a reality."

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NAOPP

Beacon shining on MLSs

he payments industry is always evolving. Laws and regulations governing financial services are in a state of flux and new technologies are debuted at warp speed. It seems that once a merchant level salesperson (MLS) obtains any sort of mastery, the landscape changes, making it difficult to stay abreast.

The National Association of Payment Professionals (NAOPP) aims to help members stay a few steps ahead of the payments curve by keeping them up-to-date on changes happening within the industry. "Wherever payments happen, that's where we want to be," the association's Web site declares.

Founded in 2003, NAOPP's mission is to provide education, benefits, representation and certification to sales professionals, particularly MLSs, in the United States and Canada. According to Craig Lesser, President of NAOPP, the association was constructed with the interest of helping an estimated 15,000 MLSs in the industry.

"We are a professional organization dedicated to promoting education and ethics of the industry," Lesser said.

The association's Web site is equipped with a list of upcoming events, along with downloadable content in the membership area. Those with access are able to view and print out past presentations given at various industry conferences. The Web site appears to be a necessity for NAOPP members. In 2007, it received roughly 210,000 hits.

Certified fresh

NAOPP aims to stand apart from other associations with the creation of an MLS certification program. The association's objective is to attract membership by developing valuable training programs and ultimately create and administer an MLS certification program.

"We are the only [association] that is looking to educate from a professional standpoint and to move toward a certification program," Lesser said. "All the others are geared toward the registered ISO. No one is for the street level sales merchant."

NAOPP's vision is to produce training modules that lead to a certification test to earn MLS credentials. Agents would then be able to approach prospects and say they are certified MLSs. Although the program is in the preliminary stages, Lesser said the project is progressing.

In December 2007, NAOPP conducted a membership survey to determine what types of training members wanted and preferred. Through an analysis of those results, the association created four interactive modules. Working in conjunction with the regional acquirers associations, these will be presented throughout 2008 and 2009.

The first module, entitled "What do I need to know to be a legal sales rep in the industry," will be presented at the Midwest Acquirers Association's annual conference July 21 to 25, 2008.

Each module will culminate in an MLS certification exam, which the NAOPP board projects will be presented and administered at an Electronic Transactions Association event in 2009.

Sneak peek at perks

NAOPP does not hold member meetings, but it does offer benefits with each membership. These include:

- Educational opportunities at each of the regional acquirers association meetings
- Traditional health insurance at group rates with savings of up to 60%
- Health savings and tax-advantaged accounts
- Discounted legal advice and counsel from industry experts
- Retirement investment plans
- Discounted registration to industry events

Membership privileges are divided into five categories: MLSs, individual ISOs, organizational ISOs, correspondents and vendors. The annual membership fee is \$99.

MLSs of all experience levels can benefit from the educational opportunities NAOPP provides. Through webinars, hands-on learning experiences and seminars, NAOPP members gain access to some of the payments industry's leading marketing and legal minds.

NAOPP is constantly looking for deals to offer its members. Starting in June 2007, members will be able to receive cash rebates on equipment leasing through Barclay Square Leasing Inc. Barclay will issue a \$25 rebate for every lease funded by a NAOPP member.

The association also has arrangements with the ETA to provide the following to NAOPP members: ETA's member pricing when registering to attend ETA University, which offers classes that address key facets of the industry



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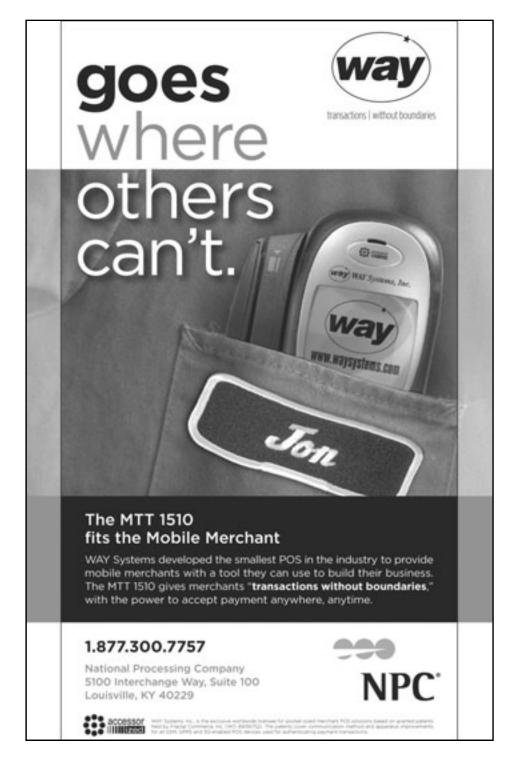


Feature

to expand knowledge and expertise; discounts to fee-based regional acquirers associations; one-year subscription to *Transaction Trends*; and a discount on the ETA's Encyclopedia of Terminology.

All agents can benefit from having an experienced legal eye review their contracts with ISOs, banks and processors. Members receive discounted legal representation from industry expert, Paul A. Rianda, who has more than a decade of experience. NAOPP recognizes it can be difficult for smaller agent offices to advertise their services and compete with larger organizations.

Therefore, the association has teamed with Nancy Drexler to offer members



a free marketing consultation. Drexler, Vice President of Marketing for SignaPay Ltd. and a member of the NAOPP board of directors, has more than 25 years of marketing experience and can assist MLSs as they prepare ads, brochures and sales materials.

All members are eligible to receive a complimentary review of a marketing piece. Health coverage might be hard to obtain when running your own business, especially during the startup phase.

In addition to offering group rates, members have access to supplemental insurance through Hewitt & Associates Inc. and underwritten by Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Co. Members also have access to other insurances covering cancer, short-term disability and life.

Dental insurance is offered through Long Island Planning Group Ltd. and underwritten by Aflac. Policies can cover basic, preventive and major dental benefits.

Is this for you?

NAOPP strives to create opportunities for education and enhancement, as well as access to topnotch networking opportunities, and it does it all as a nonprofit organization.

The association officers are volunteers who give their time, energy and expertise because they believe in the value and future of MLSs.

With so many regulations to keep up with, MLSs need an extra eye to watch out for evolving issues. NAOPP wants to be that additional guide in an effort to keep MLSs on top of their game, thus giving the merchants reassurance that their businesses are in good hands.

NAOPP encourages MLSs interested in learning more about the association to browse the Web site at www.naopp.com.

For additional information, call Lesser at 262-613-4142 or e-mail him at calesser@naopp.com.

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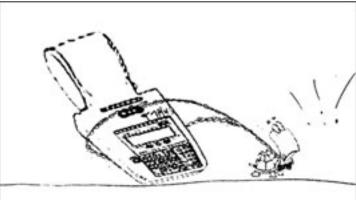
On track with a new SAQ

he payments industry's increasing, and necessary, focus on data security has caused significant grumbling about the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard (DSS), but a new set of questionnaires for merchants to use with PCI self-assessments could alleviate some of the irritation.

The PCI Security Standards Council (SSC), which is charged with managing the PCI DSS, PCI PIN Entry Device Security Requirements and the Payment Application (PA) DSS, has updated its Self Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ).

The SAQ is an essential validation tool used by merchants and service providers to demonstrate compliance with the PCI DSS.

The revamped SAQ is designed to simplify and streamline the assessment process and aid small and mid-size merchants who are not required to have on-site PCI compliance assessments. The new SAQ comes in four updated versions tailored specifically for different categories of



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card acceptors. The upside is that many merchants will no longer have to answer questions about card processing and security systems that don't apply to them.

Conversely, the questions probe harder for weak spots in payment processing software applications – a vulnerable area that some experts believe hasn't received proper attention thus far.

The updated SAQ also aims to bring self-assessments in line with version 1.1 of the PCI standards.

"Inconsistencies between the SAQ and the DSS 1.1 have been addressed," said a PCI SSC representative.

PCI SSC General Manager Bob Russo said with the introduction of the updated SAQ, "merchants will now have a better understanding for the steps necessary to secure their payment data and comply with the PCI DSS." The new SAQ is available now at www.pcisecuritystandards.org/tech/saq.htm. Its four distinct versions include:

- **SAQ A:** Designed to address requirements applicable to merchants who have outsourced all of their payment card data storage, processing and transmission functions
- **SAQ B:** Created for merchants who still process card transactions with imprinters or use standalone, dial-up terminals only
- **SAQ C:** Constructed to focus on merchants whose payment application systems are connected to the Internet
- **SAQ D:** Designed to address requirements relevant to all service providers defined by a payment brand as eligible to complete an SAQ and those merchants who do not fall under the types addressed by versions A, B or C.

The PCI SSC's Web site also contains comprehensive guides and a list of links to help merchants and their service providers better navigate through PCI's murky waters.

Turbulent negotiations for Hypercom, Ingenico

n an exchange of publicly disclosed letters, Phoenix-based Hypercom Corp. and Ingenico, headquartered in Neuilly sur Seine, France, are maneuvering over a possible merger. The rival POS equipment manufacturers are titans, ranking just behind industry leader VeriFone.

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On Feb. 5, 2008, Philippe Lazare, Ingenico's Chief Executive Officer, sent a letter to Hypercom's board of directors, offering to acquire Hypercom for \$6.25 per share in cash, reportedly worth approximately \$332 million in total. But the offer was conditional on Hypercom's abandonment of its attempt to acquire POS terminal maker Thales e-Transactions S.A., a subsidiary of French aerospace and information technology giant Thales.

On Feb. 8, 2008, Ingenico made the letter public. In addition, Lazare issued this statement:

"We believe our offer [to Hypercom] provides a compelling value proposition for the Hypercom shareholders.

"Unfortunately, even though we have provided the company with evidence of our ability to finance the transaction and requested customary due diligence, Hypercom has been uncooperative with regards to a reasonable path forward.

"We are prepared to move quickly to execute on a transaction, but are not interested in proceeding if Hypercom consummates its proposed acquisition of Thales.

"We believe that a transaction between Ingenico and Hypercom would create significant value for the shareholders of both companies and urge the Hypercom board of directors to consider it carefully."

In response to Ingenico's letter, Norman Stout, Chairman of the Board of Hypercom, sent a letter back to Lazare on Feb. 11, 2008, stating:

"We are disappointed with your letter today, especially since we discussed our position with you over the weekend, agreed to begin negotiations, forwarded a draft confidentiality agreement to you, sent preliminary terms of a deal with the draft agreement, and expressly made ourselves available to you throughout the day. We heard nothing from you until you issued your letter at the close of market.

"Your insistence on behaving as if this were a hostile overture and playing this out in the public arena causes us to question your motivations in making this proposal."

Stout's letter went on to state that Ingenico had "already filed suit against our financing partner to attempt to block our acquisition of Thales S.A.'s e-transactions business."

The letter referred to the December 2007 announcement that Hypercom had entered into negotiations to buy Thales e-Transactions, a deal reportedly worth \$120 million. According to the letter, Hypercom has put down a \$10 million deposit to secure the offer.

"The potential harm to our shareholders of our failing to pursue the acquisition of the e-transactions business

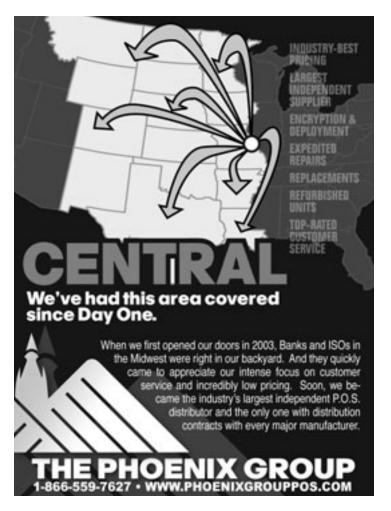
could not be more real," Stout said. "We received a letter from Thales today [Feb. 11, 2008] stating that they may abort our transaction, retain our deposit and seek other remedies if we do not sign the Stock Purchase Agreement by 8 p.m. Phoenix time on Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008.

"Unless we sign this agreement by then, we are in jeopardy of losing our \$10 million and exposing ourselves to litigation."

Stout added that in discussions with Ingenico, his company's intent has been clear. "We want to maximize value for our shareholders. ... The e-transactions business has significant strategic value to our shareholders, and we would only put it in jeopardy if there was certainty of an agreement that had greater value. The e-transactions acquisition is certain. The Ingenico conditional inquiry is far from certain.

"We want you to remove the threat of suit your counsel has made against Hypercom, not because we believe there is merit in the threat, but because it is a barrier to healthy and productive discussions."

Despite rocky communications thus far, Stout said Hypercom is open to further discussions with Ingenico.



RevolutionCard, Fifth Third stir the processing pot

evolutionCard, launched by Revolution Money in September 2007, recently signed its first merchant-processing agreement with Fifth Third Processing Solutions.

The RevolutionCard, a PIN-based interchange-free card, can now be accepted by Fifth Third Processing Solutions' merchant customers across the United States, through Fifth Third's Jeanie network.

"Fifth Third is particularly relevant to us now for two reasons," said Jason Hogg, Chief Executive Officer and founder of Revolution Money. "First, they are a very innovative organization. And they provide us the foundation to rapidly increase our merchant base and to work with other acquirers and large independent retailers."

RevolutionCard is accepted by over 150,000 retailer sites, but the company's goal is to reach 1 million by the end of 2008, Hogg said.

"One of the keys to rapidly expanding our base is our ability to seamlessly integrate with our partners," Hogg said.

"When I say 1 million merchants, that's not a pipe dream. We are well on our way. Our partnership with Fifth Third Processing Solutions was the first critical step."

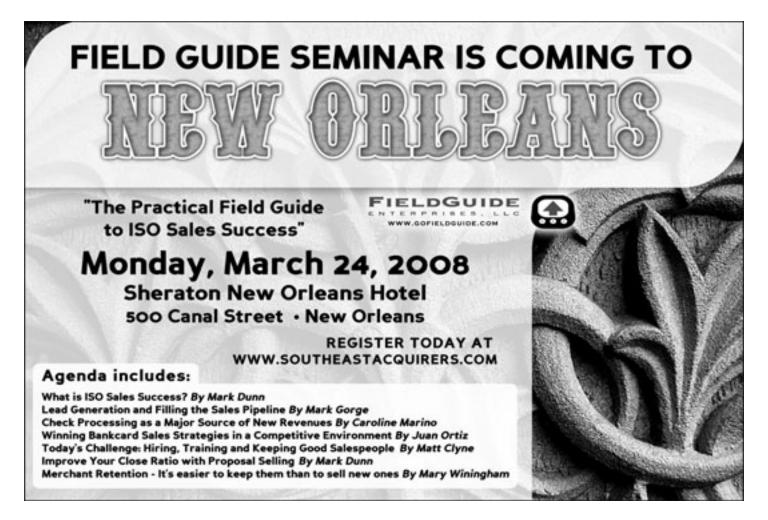
Under the agreement, Fifth Third will provide gateway processing services that will enable other merchants and ATM processors to also efficiently connect to Revolution Money and to offer the RevolutionCard to their merchant customers.

RevolutionCard has unique attributes. "This is MasterCard meets PayPal without the charges," Hogg said.

"I saw three pressure points in the industry," he added. "From a consumer's standpoint there was a growing concern about identity theft.

"From a merchant's standpoint there was great and growing frustration by interchange increases – increases of 300% – and that frustration was shared by both online and offline retailers.

"And third, there was a lot of payment fragmentation. You used to have to have one debit card and one credit



card and a PayPal account and another stored value card. It seemed obvious that there was a need for one thing to address all those needs."

According to Revolution Money, its product reduces merchants' credit card fees by up to 80%, and its PIN-based system reduces unauthorized transactions.

RevolutionCard charges merchants 0.5% of the sale price per transaction processed – much lower than the 1.9% average charged by traditional credit card companies.

The customer name and account number is not embossed on the card which, the company said, helps prevent identity theft. Consumers can preload their cards with up to \$15,000 (loaded electronically from the user's bank account), and interest rates are pegged to the cardholder's credit rating.

Other cards charge 2% to 8% for online transfers of money; RevolutionCard online payments are free, according to the company.

Revolution Money receives no income from person-toperson payments but sees this service as a way to win users. "The free money exchange for peer-to-peer transactions will help gain rapid proliferation of people on the platform," Hogg said.

He would not reveal the number of Revolution cardholders but said the company has experienced "significant rapid consumer acceptance."

Hogg reported that RevolutionCard has a number of deals in the works with vertical market partners to offer incentives to users. He cited a pending cable company partnership that may offer consumers free premium services in exchange for paying their monthly bills with the RevolutionCard.

Revolution Money is a subsidiary of Revolution LLC, which is headed by Steve Case, the founder of America Online Inc. Another AOL alumnus, Ted Leonsis, is Revolution Money's Chairman.

Board members include former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers; David Pottruck, the former CEO of Charles Schwab Corp.; Franklin Raines, the former CEO of Fannie Mae and former Director of the Office of Management and Budget; and Jason Hogg's father, Russell Hogg, the former President and CEO of MasterCard Worldwide.

Revolution Money is also backed by \$50 million in venture capital from financial powerhouses like Citigroup, Morgan Stanley, and Deutsche Bank AG.

Hogg said the timing of its September 2007 launch was "fortuitous, given the state of the economy. Many

merchants will find that interchange-free payment solutions have a positive and significant effect on their bottom line."

Revolution Money plans additional partnerships with acquirers in the near future.

State bill clarifies breach obligations

alifornia merchants and their ISOs must adhere to the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard. But they may soon have to contend with Senate Bill 364 as well.

On Jan. 31, 2008, with a 30 to 7 vote on the floor of the California State Senate in favor of SB 364, the state moved closer to strengthening its data breach notification law.

It defines what information merchants must make publicly available if consumers' personal data are compromised in a breach.

SB 364 is meant to set data security standards for merchants to follow, and to then make required information



available to consumers and state agencies as well, including law enforcement, to track and halt possible patterns of abuse.

California passed the initial security breach notification law in 2002, a combination of two bills – SB 1386 and Assembly Bill 700 – authored respectively by State Senator Steve Peace, D-El Cajon, and State Senator Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto. That law went into effect on Jan. 1, 2003.

"The law has worked surprisingly well because it is simplicity itself," said Simitian in a speech on the floor of the Senate before the SB 364 vote on Jan. 31, 2008.



"It says that whether a governmental entity or a business holds your data [and then] loses that data, it has to tell you so you can take steps to protect yourself.

"That simple tool has meant that millions of American consumers have known when their personal had been disclosed and they were at risk.

"Also it means there has been a powerful incentive on both government and business to improve their data security."

But the law failed to address what specific information public agencies, businesses or persons subject to that law needed to make public to consumers possibly affected by a security breach.

Thus, breach notification letters often lacked important information, such as the date of the breach or type of information that was compromised, leaving consumers in the dark about how to respond to the breach or what to do to protect themselves from identity theft.

Furthermore, there was no centralized location for the reporting of security breaches, meaning there was no way to assess or improve existing California security breach laws based on patterns of criminal activity or changing consumer practices.

SB 364 is designed to:

- Establish what security breach information must be divulged to affected consumers
- Direct the Office of Information Security and Privacy Protection at the Department of Consumer Affairs to collect, maintain and report security breaches to the California legislature
- Require public agencies, businesses and others to submit sample copies of their breach notification letters to OISPP

According to Simitian, the bill:

- Gives consumers more information to protect themselves from identity fraud
- Gives businesses greater clarity about what their obligations are when making a data breach notification to consumers
- Through the central repository of data breach information, gives law enforcement another tool for the fight against identity theft

Lawmakers removed the provision that would have information about every breach publicly posted on a Web site. It was reportedly not economically feasible in California's current budget crisis. Merchants will only have to supply OISPP with sample data breach notification letters. Actual data breach notices will not be posted.

With the successful passage of SB 364 in the California State Senate, the bill now moves to the Assembly, where SB 364 will be further debated and voted upon. If it passes the Assembly with a majority vote, the bill will then go to the governor's desk, where it will either be vetoed or signed into law.

Similar changes to data breach notification laws have already been made in Michigan, New Hampshire, North Carolina and New Jersey.

Mobile moves up payments line

lastic cards are starting to lose their grip on the payments world. According to Juniper Research LLC, mobile phone users will reach over 612 million and generate more than \$587 billion financial transactions in 2011, with mobile payments generating \$22 billion of that amount.

The report, released in January 2008, found that mobile phones have extreme potential as financial services tools. "A combination of increased user demand and a desire from all sections of the ... ecosystem to deliver intelligent applications and services has created an atmosphere that is both creative and pragmatic," said Alan Good, the report's author.

An ABI Research study found that more than 419 million near field communication (NFC) chipsets will be shipped by 2012. It also stated that NFC mobile transactions are becoming more attractive to the public transportation arena.

In addition, according to a recent Aite Group LLC report, 2.5% of merchant locations in the United States will be contactless-enabled by 2014, steadily climbing from 0.5% in 2008.

However, Aite predicts cash will remain the dominant form of payment in the United States for at least the next six years. "This is attributable largely to merchant trepidation of interchange costs on low-value transactions," the report stated.

Jazz up your game at SEAA

f you are in the electronics payments industry and would like to sell to, learn from or network with the feet on the street, the Southeast Acquirers Association aims to help you do that and more at its annual meeting.

The two-day conference will be held March 24 to 26, 2008, at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel in New Orleans. The goal of this year's event is three-fold: to address hot topics causing anxiety and ire within the industry, help some Katrina victims and have fun.

The SEAA, founded in 2000, is an independent association open to all acquiring bankcard professionals. It was established to educate the ISOs and merchant level salespeople (MLSs) by keeping them informed about the industry's



latest trends and regulatory changes.

The SEAA conference is designed to be a venue where exhibitors can get the word out about their products and services. Over 70 vendors will participate.

Dee Karawadra, the founder of Impact PaySystem in Memphis, Tenn., and newest SEAA board member, spoke about this year's conference site. "There are several reasons we chose New Orleans, but the number one reason, of course, was to give back, to do some kind of service for the city," he said.

On the last day of the seminar, March 26, volunteers will have the opportunity to paint a school or clean up a city park. "We'll provide lunch and snacks," Karawadra said. "It's a great mingling factor, and a great chance to get away from the showroom, give people a chance to talk one-on-one and do some real networking."

Karawadra said he is a perfect example of why this show is so helpful. He didn't have industry knowledge or relationships with the right vendors before he attended his first SEAA conference. "I went to that show 5, 6 years ago and met so many people in the industry," he said. He still relies on each of the vendor relationships he formed then.

Each year, the SEAA's advisory board members, who represent all facets of the payments industry, suggest topics that are ripe for discussion. The spotlight this year is on Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard (DSS) compliance. "PCI used to have the mentality that it only affects the larger merchants, but that's not the case anymore," Karawadra noted. Getting the word out to mid-size merchants is a conference priority.

Breakout sessions are charged with offering fresh insights that will lead to better-educated MLSs who are able to produce more merchant accounts. Cash advance and interchange will also be covered, and forums will convene at which MLSs can air concerns and get questions answered.

In addition, the National Association of Payment Professionals, an organization that caters exclusively to MLSs, will conduct a town hall meeting that addresses issues raised from a survey of 300 industry professionals.

As for Karawadra, he can't wait to return to New Orleans. "The night life is awesome, from jazz bands to every kind of club you can imagine," he said. Regarding the service portion of the seminar, he said, "A lot of people in this industry have made a lot of money, so it's kind of time to give back."

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10 years ago in The Green Sheet

Issue 98:02:02 The Green Sheet News and Advisory Service for ISOs in the Financial Services Industry Enthusiasm and impedements to ISOs' voices being. Optimism-a brard, leaving them feeling discrefranchised from much of what is Fresh Wind happening in the industry. Blowing Among This diletern lead to the sec-Inside This ISOs ond element of the seminars—to create a healthy discourse among Issue Having just completed the third of several Green Street sentimes planned for early 1998, I am blove away by the attenders. This is facilitated by bringing together opposing views and products, and by scheduling as much content as possible into this the energy that filled bese rooms one day, including a working lunch and the excitement of the people and endless discussions after the event. In addition, there is a very who attended. While it is true that the subject matter and direction of aggressive Q-& A process throughthis nine-hour event is strongly influenced by requests from new on YOK ISOs and these who are new to the What some of the attendees industry, the conference attendance are saying about "Creating Wealth as an ISO" has been an equal percentage of new players and experienced old "This was one of the best run When one comides the me ketplace for 1998 and beyond, it is

really not that difficult if you have been an ISO who has been in the business for a decade or so) to realize a lot of competition custs today. Banks are back in the bankcard acceptance business in a very serious way; they are reacting aggressively to the loss of customers and the fact that residual incomes are more difficult to mammin than every before. While these detersents are real, it is also true that many new doors are opining. This new direction is the sub-

ject of The Green Sheet, Inc.'s "Creating Wealth as an ISO" seminat, and it began with the creation of the seminar itself. Imagine creating a low-conceiver and taking it to seven cities in a four-month period. to that it can reach as large a numher of ISOs as possible. Previously.

most staffel one-day meetings I have ever attended. Major league good job!

"The Green Sheet did a great jub in paining this together. The indus-try needs organizations like this."

"The program control was extremely valuable."

The presentation monast is fan-

Int. Hope to come back next year." "I see your seminar as one of the

I see your summar as one of the must heneficial vehicles affered to the ISOs. Merchant Banks, etc. I have ever witnessed. . This semi-nar is a wonderful tool. I see that join are bringing a cohesiveness to this business that has never been

We will be experimenting with the format and the speakers throughout this series to my and push the burriers for what will work and what can be done better. As a whole, I find the direction for

bunkowsk, debit, smart co checks a filling meal. Add to that annouscements of new POS equipment drection and players, as well as Interest commerce and a manber of selling opportunities and niche marketing ideas, and you have the icing on the cake.

noding "Creating Wealth as an ISO' may be just the thing you need to jump-start your endusiasm about our industry or perhaps you can invitinte someone else. In any event, I hope to see you in one of the upcoming cities.

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"The addition of NeoModia Technologies' secure document sechnology and associated soft-

- Concerns about Y2K prompted the Nevada Legislature to pass a law defining the software-related problems of accounting for the years 2000 and beyond as an "Act of God."
- Medic Computer Systems tested a way for health care patients to make their insurance co-payments with a credit card.

Medic's goal was to eliminate the \$1.8 billion in annual bad debt accrued by Medic's health care providers.

International Verifact Inc. merged with Checkmate Electronic Inc. to become IVI Checkmate Corp., making the entity North America's third largest electronic payments company.

Among IVI's subsidiaries was IVI-Ingenico Inc., a Latin American distribution company jointly owned by France-based Ingenico, which was expected to become the principle shareholder in IVI.

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CoverStory

cash advance from page 1

But while the court case freed companies from the threat of litigation or paying patent royalties, the liquidity crisis drove others out.

Glenn Goldman, CEO of AdvanceMe, said there are more competitors in the market than there were two years ago and fewer than six months ago. "Cash providers are squeezed from both sides," he said.

"When they suffer defaults, they lose cash flow, and as a result, their funders charge more, require they put up more capital themselves or take away funding altogether," he added. Thus, providers that do not have their own capital have probably met with difficulty.

Significantly, experiences with the economic downturn in the last 90 to 120 days have negated perceptions that the industry has wide margins and plenty of room for error.

Recession wins, recession woes

Given current economic conditions, it's likely organic business growth – which occurs when existing customers prosper and grow – will not be particularly robust in 2008.

"As a result, we are seeing our processing partners look to our product to create what we call footprint growth: generating more revenue from existing customers," Goldman said. "We generate more income for our partners – their commissions – but also, with our product, merchants must stay with their processing partner for the duration, averaging 27 months, which greatly extends the average processing life."

Goldman said AdvanceMe has seen a marked increase in applications, but simultaneously, the company's approval rate has dropped a few percentage points. "You would expect approval rates to drop in this kind of economy," he said.

AdvanceMe funds merchants with a Fair Isaac Corp. (FICO) score as low as 411 or as high as 817. "The recession won't change that on the lower end, but we are seeing more merchants with high FICOs applying," Goldman said.

Goldin expects the recession will spur increased demand for cash advance services. "Merchants who could take out loans against the value of their home will have a harder time getting needed cash that way, and they'll turn to merchant cash advances," he said. "They'll be better credit qualified applicants.

"But there will also be merchants who are hurt by the recession that will be higher-risk and will take longer to repay or even be driven out of business. Hopefully, those two trends will balance each other out, but it's a crapshoot."

In addition, the subprime lending industry crisis has driven a large number of former subprime mortgage brokers into the industry.

"I get calls every day," Goldin said. "We want to be sure that people entering the industry aren't motivated just by a quick buck.

"We are already starting to see some of these brokers who can't find a funding company to still work with them after a couple of months because the bad debt on their paper is so high."

The adolescent merchant cash advance industry is grappling with growth issues, too.

"During 2007 we saw a bidding war between merchant cash advance companies to attract new sales agents and ISOs to resell their product," Goldin said. Many of those new cash advance companies were inexperienced and had a steep learning curve.

"After factoring in the bad debt associated with the product and the quality of deals submitted by certain agents, many merchant cash advance companies have come to the conclusion they can't make money by paying the ISO commissions they were paying," Goldin noted.

"So I expect we'll see lower commissions during 2008. You can't stay in business funding bad deals.

"In the second and third quarters of 2007, we walked away from a lot of business because we couldn't rationalize the terms being offered merchants. That discipline paid off in the fourth quarter when we grew 75% and closed out a record year."

Changing economic conditions have led American Microloan to change its commission structure; it lowered its referral commission from 4% to 3% and dropped its residual commission from 0.2% to 0.08%. "We monitor our accounts diligently, and we've tightened our underwriting," Chung said.

Gardner said he saw many companies trying to "buy business with high upfront compensation. But I don't think they realized what they were getting into, and over the last few months, we've seen several competitors who didn't have their own capital close down."

North American Bancard hasn't changed its compensation structure. "But we always rewarded against on both the front- and the back-ends," Gardner said. "The agents get the majority of their compensation, of course, on activation.

"But they also received something on completion. We're not talking about 30-year mortgages here. On average the

CoverStory

window is six months. That way our agents share in our long term success."

Stephen Sheinbaum, CEO of Merchant Cash & Capital, has observed a "groundswell" of funders who offer more reasonable commissions and demand a better quality application.

"And the smarter ISOs are taking more of a long-term approach," he said. "Is it better to earn \$1.50 now, but the funder goes out of business, or take \$1 now and know you'll still be working with the funder in three years?

"A fair allocation of risk and reward is simply better all the way around."

Fraud expansion, fraud detection

Chung has also seen two or more funding companies overlap funding for the same merchant. "No one can sustain that level of debt," he said. "Eventually it will bankrupt the merchant.

"Funding companies have to be on the lookout for that and check to be sure that the previous funding has been repaid. It's not good for the merchants; it's not good for the funders. Sooner or later it will go bad for everyone." Application fraud is already on the rise. "From an underwriting standpoint, you really need to be utilizing your 'A' game," Gardner said. "You can really take a loss if you don't successfully filter out fraud."

North American Bancard instituted a number of fraud detection procedures that include sending stealth shoppers equipped with camera phones to do random checks of inventory or count the number of POS terminals. The company also has a rigorous identity fraud detection process.

The growing understanding of the merchant cash advance business has made it easier to sell because merchants no longer need much explanation of how it works. But it has a downside.

"Unscrupulous agents have been coaching merchants on how to abuse the system: installing two or more terminals and running only a fraction of the purchases through the designated terminal, for example," Sheinbaum said.

Loans denied, cash approved

A number of cash advance providers have come to believe that the agents who thrive are those who lead with cash advance rather than processing.



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CoverStory

"It's a fabulous way to prospect," Gardner noted. "Imagine a restaurant owner who does not have access to bank financing, and you ask for the opportunity to meet with them by providing a free terminal or a lower rate in comparison to providing a 100K in working capital? Which offer do you think will open that door faster?"

Gardner also cited an 80-plus percent renewal ratio, which fosters low attrition and more incremental revenue.

Sheinbaum added that while the feet-on-the-street approach still works, many of the most successful agents also either develop relationships with channel partners or invest in direct marketing, online lead generation, and search engine optimization techniques.

"The most successful are those who understand their customers, and understand their customers businesses," Goldman said. "I know it's not sexy, but that is still fundamental for success."

The biggest criticism the industry faces is the very high cost merchants pay for cash. And those who are eligible for traditional bank loans would probably be better off going that route.

But traditional banks are not meeting the needs of small businesses that might have few material assets but healthy receivables – mostly pledged through credit card debt.

And retailers with strong but seasonal sales may prefer a merchant cash advance because traditional loans are paid back monthly in even amounts, whereas with a cash advance, merchants' payments are proportional to their sales. They pay more in strong sales months and less in weak ones.

"No one is denying that this is expensive capital," Gardner said. "The point is for some merchants, it's the only capital they may be able to get. It's a fraction of the cost of a consumer payday advance."

Gardner has a repeat customer that obtained cash advances to expand his pizza franchise. "He told me that he considered it much less expensive than his previous friends and family funding," Gardner said. "When you fund that way you often give away a piece of your business. The 35% he gets here can be bought out in time, and he still owns 100% of his business. Independence is important to entrepreneurs."

2008 practices, predictions

American Microloan's growth has remained steady, and strong, at 50% a year. Chung doesn't anticipate that changing in 2008, though he said the default rate for the industry on the whole has risen sharply over the past couple of years. He anticipates the funders that survive the recession will be

those that underwrite carefully and monitor their accounts consistently.

Sheinbaum said he is "bullish" on 2008 for Merchant Cash & Capital, but "it could get a little Darwinian for the industry. And that's probably a good thing overall."

"It takes a challenging economy to weed out the stronger players and test their business models," Goldman noted.

Goldin said 2008 "could go either way, but I think overall it will be a positive year for the merchant cash advance industry. Demand for the product will continue to grow, especially with the recent credit crunch.

"It may be harder for agents to get deals approved and some small, inexperienced companies may go under or be acquired.

"But in the long term it will be more beneficial for both the sales agent or ISO and the merchant cash advance industry."

Goldin and other industry leaders are forming a nonprofit trade association for the merchant cash advance industry, which they hope to debut soon. They are in the process of establishing best practices to protect merchants and cash providers.

"It's important for the industry for cash advance companies to have a 'MATCH list,' to combat the serious problem of fraud," Sheinbaum said. MATCH derives from the Member Alert to Control High-Risk database. It contains information on merchants who have been terminated for cause.

"Successful cash advance providers must have three things: access to competitively priced funds; solid scoring and underwriting models; and the most critical of all, a fundamental understanding of best practices," Goldman said.

"You must know your customer; understand his business; and never, ever, supply more capital than they can support ... and not one dollar more."

AdvanceMe created and posted a white paper on best practices entitled Know Your Customer and Other Guidelines for Responsible Merchant Cash Advance Providers at www.mcabestpractices.com/documents/WhitePaper_June2007.pdf.

Cash advance is clearly a growing trend in the payments industry. But, down the road, will cash advance reach a saturation point at which the value proposition to ISOs and MLSs is no longer a winning proposition?

If so, a different trend will likely take hold, and time will tell what that will be. ■

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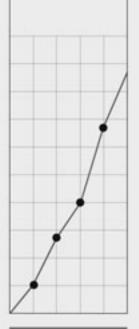
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Education

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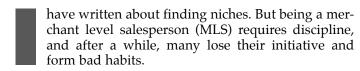
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Back to basics

By Dee Karawadra

Impact PaySystem



Knocking on doors, keeping a business-card file, following up, traveling to fresh locales and getting referrals are tasks every ISO and MLS should do routinely.

Mike Anderson, imhogwyld on GS Online's MLS Forum, stated, "Treat it like the opportunity it is; work it like a job (something I think far too few do)."

So buckle up, and let's go back to the basics.

Knock on doors

I used to get nervous on sales calls. My palms would sweat, and I would stumble over my words. I found the key is to get a merchant's attention in the first few seconds. I always had some cheesy line to break the ice. Establishing rapport right away usually makes it easy to lead into credit card processing questions.

Knocking on doors is the best way to fill your pipeline. When I used to sell door-to-door, if I skipped a week of knocking, I could always tell because lackluster results would reflect my neglect. I'm often asked whether it's possible to still write 20 deals a month. The answer is yes.

Are you going to be able to close a deal in one visit? Not always. But you will build your pipeline. It may just trickle initially, but as time goes on, the flow of deals will surge.

Follow up

The key to closing deals is following up. I always went

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through business cards I collected and followed up weekly until I got a firm yes or no.

For each phone call or visit, I would make notes on the back of the prospect's card. I would note any information I got (business owner is off because it's her birthday, on vacation, kids baseball tournament, funeral).

I would then use that information when I finally reached the owner. After a few calls, you usually start building rapport with decision-makers and get closer to closing deals.

Following up is the most important part of a sales cycle. Credit card processing is often the least of merchants' concerns. Many other day-to-day factors occupy their minds. It is our job to remind them just how crucial selecting the right credit card processing partner is to their prosperity.

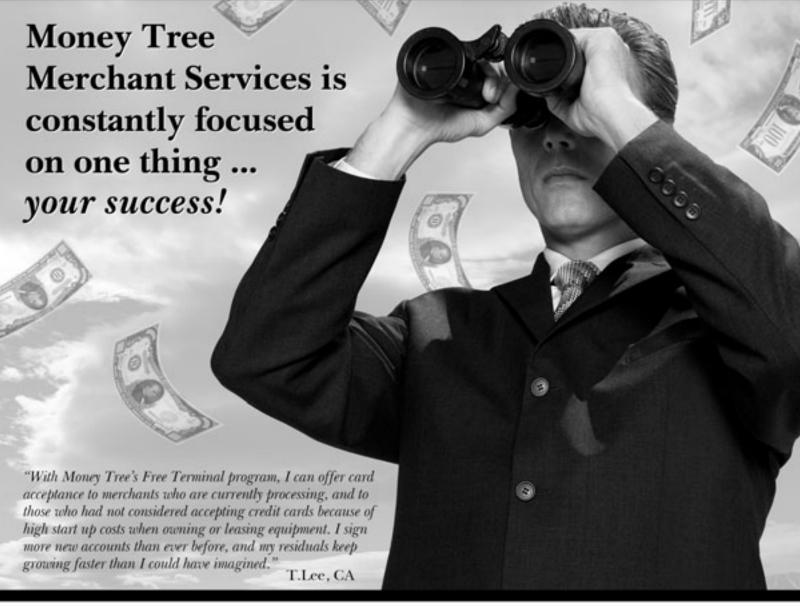
You don't have to be a pest. Just calling and letting them know you are checking on them helps close deals. And once a deal is ready to close, don't talk your way out of it. Start the application process right away.

MLS Forum member Alexs stated, "One of my first accounts, the guy had to tell me to start filling out the app. You have to always assume the sale is going forward."

Get referrals

This is something so many MLSs don't do. It is amazing how many merchant accounts I have signed because I

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🔅 It is amazing how many merchant accounts I have signed because I asked for referrals. There are shopping centers where I have every merchant except the anchor grocery store. This is as a result of asking for referrals.

asked for referrals. There are shopping centers where I have every merchant except the anchor grocery store. This is as a result of asking for referrals.

Sometimes you have to say something like, Do you know who owns the video store next door? This spurs their thinking and usually provides a few good leads.

And remember, when following up on the leads, mention the person who referred you to them, as well as the fact that your mutual friend just signed up with you. By creating a "keeping up with the Joneses" effect, you are more likely to close deals.

Travel

Are you tired of working the same area again and again? Then travel. Within an hour's drive from Memphis, there are plenty of small towns to visit, and they don't get swarmed by salespeople. I have signed accounts all over, because I travel. In addition, on every vacation, I attempt to get at least one account. I have sold on cruises and airplanes; at dinner parties, bars, and my kids' cheerleading practices and competitions; in doctors' offices and restrooms - the list goes on and on.

You have to be in sales mode all the time. Stop at every banner that reads "coming soon" or "under new management." Hunt for sales everywhere. Most MLSs can write business anywhere. And geographic diversification strengthens portfolios.

When I asked MLS Forum members what they considered to be their basics, I got thoughtful responses. Coach Bob Schoenbauer of Capitol Payment System stated, "Good shoes."

"Basics, as they say in baseball, are pitching and catching," Jeff Fortney wrote. "You need to remember the steps that generate business, prioritize those steps and execute them every day. ... Stop chasing windmills. Concentrate on the bread and butter of your business."

George "C" Ciubotaru advised, "Never speak badly about your competitors. ... Establish an interpersonal relationship with your potential client before discussing business. ... Educate your potential clients even if you know that you are not going to get the sale at that moment. ... Never think about how much you are going to make before walking into the appointment. ... Answer your phone. ... Call customers back, and follow-up. ... Look the part."

No matter what your approach, don't lose your basics. The basics will help you thrive. The beauty is you can pick, choose and customize your own basics. Use some of the ideas above, and create your own - if you don't already have them in hand.

Safari Njema. Safe journey.

Dee Karawadra is the founder, Chief Executive Officer and President of Impact PaySystem, based in Memphis, Tenn. He and his team have a wealth of knowledge on the merchant services industry, with a niche in the petroleum market. Dee's experience on the street as an agent has guided him in laying a foundation for an agent program that is both straightforward and lucrative for his agents. Contact him at 877-251-0778 or dee@impactpaysystem.com.



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Education (continued)

Merchant tutoring time



By Ted Svoronos *Group ISO*

he industry is going through a drastic change. Offering a good rate, cash advance and equipment is no longer enough to push forward the growth, expansion and viability that ISOs and merchant level salespeople (MLSs) are striving for.

As ISOs and MLSs, we have to do something different to stand out; we need to bring a more complete meaning to the term ISO.

ISOs and MLSs have to become knowledgeable industry experts to gain business and keep merchants. Not only should industry professionals give merchants either the possibility of accepting credit cards or better rates, but they should also be consultants to their merchants and assist them with their business needs whenever possible.

Merchants greatly appreciate the value of extra attention. This, in turn, cements loyalty that cannot be fractured by cheaper rates from other ISOs or MLSs.

Offering a less expensive deal is not enough to significantly grow any business today; it doesn't impress merchants like it used to. Merchants are demanding more. ISOs need to add value to their offerings and drive it to the MLSs, all the way down to the merchants.

So, old practices aside, what is the variable that ISOs and MLSs need to attract merchants? This complex equation has only one solution: additional education.

Learning curve

The industry has been talking about educating merchants in many different arenas. Today, a good portion of seasoned merchants are well-educated when it comes to rates, services and what they are looking for because they are being solicited by countless organizations. So, now we have to set the bar higher.

As payments professionals, we have to build an arsenal of value added services to educate our agents, partners and merchants on how the ecommerce food chain functions.

So, when we sign merchants, we should take the time to truly teach them about anything having to do with e-commerce and business. This could range from Web site design, security, compliancy, regulations, processing, chargebacks and so forth.

When we do this, merchants will know who to call if they have any questions, comments or concerns regarding their general business or processing operations. And, they will be able to better understand the e-commerce and processing space, as well as everything attached to it.

Education is enlightening. Merchants will begin to truly comprehend why they need to do certain things, what compliancy is and how it works to their benefit. Being proactive is the best way to drastically minimize any challenges that may arise, and teaching merchants can be seen as

a safety measure to keep business flowing smoothly.

Extra credit

Our merchants not only look at us as payment providers but as their confidants. They need MLSs who will give them consultancy and advisory services, and put their troubles at ease. They should be able to contact us at any time, and when they do, we should assist them in instituting the best practices for their businesses.

A well-constructed risk department that constantly monitors portfolios and signals a corresponding agent when an issue or challenge arises can be instrumental to assisting merchants. Risk departments have been very well-accepted by merchants: They want knowledgeable industry professionals in these areas to tell them what to do and how to execute it so as to keep their businesses viable and profitable.

The payments industry as a whole should be heading into the era of education. As industry professionals, we need to raise our standards. There should be a desire to teach merchants more to help them bring in substantial business. A high level of commitment to education truly is the key to bringing a merchant on board.

As regulations, methods of payment, rates and products evolve, this message should be clearly conveyed from the ISO all the way to the merchant. MLSs can no longer rely on state-of-the-art equipment and cash advances. To have a brighter payments future, a little education will go a long way.

Theodore Svoronos is a certified e-Commerce Consultant and certified Fraud Examiner for Group ISO. He has been in the e-commerce industry for eight years. Contact him at ted@groupiso.com.



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Education (continued)

Marketing 101

Recruiting is an art form

By Nancy Drexler

SignaPay Ltd.

ost ISOs, acquirers and processors know their business is only as good as their feet on the street. Unfortunately, competing for qualified merchant level salespeople (MLSs) has led many businesses to become pathetic versions of auto salespeople: cooing promises, painting scenes of workplace paradise and running as many cheesy ads as the budget can handle.

The result is an industry inundated with MLSs who don't understand what they are selling and make false assurances to merchants. Then they disappear into other industries, leaving behind disillusioned, angry merchants who are crying for regulation.

We, as payments professionals, can begin to change this right now simply by understanding that recruiting is marketing. Recruiting good sales reps means understanding what kind of people will succeed in our industry and then finding them. You are targeting a select market. You are looking for qualified candidates to notice your opportunity, understand it and respond to it.

Recruiting is competitive. You have to be willing to invest money and time to find choice candidates. You have to identify the best places to reach these candidates and make your company and your message stand out.

Branch out

Monster.com isn't the only bigwig in town. Here are alternatives to consider when advertising open positions:

- Your company's Web site
- Local newspapers
- Job fairs
- Professional associations
- Universities
- Craigslist (www.craigslist.net)
- LinkedIn Corp. (www.linkedin.com)
- Meetup Inc. (www.meetup.com)

Usually, the best MLSs will be inherently good networkers, and there are countless networking opportunities today that can help you find them. Online networking Web sites such as MySpace.com, Facebook and ClassmatesOnline. com are a few potential places to look.

Also, take advantage of your employees; they can be a great resource. Each one is connected in various ways

to different groups of people, all of whom make up potential employee or referral groups. Current employees know the ins and outs of your business and what it takes to succeed.

This makes them best qualified to communicate this information to others. Make it rewarding for them to recruit other employees by offering incentives such as cash bonuses.

When I talk to sales offices about recruiting MLSs, most of them mention Monster as their top choice, followed by craigslist. Interestingly, although many companies have found Monster very helpful, there are quite a few who haven't received satisfying results from the employment search engine. How can Monster work so well for some and so poorly for others?

It isn't Monster that doesn't deliver results – it is your advertising. A good recruitment ad must:

- Attract attention
- Stand out
- Deliver benefits
- Give pertinent details
- Earn a response

Make it catchy

Look at how your company presents open positions to internal and external candidates. Would you take this job? Would you want your spouse or child to take it? Do you sound like any insurance company or mortgage broker or, even worse, some kind of pyramid marketing scheme?

Look closely at your job description. Most ads are filled with nonsensical words that can be a complete turnoff for great candidates; they are written in stilted language that can confuse readers about what the company is looking for. Or, they overstate the obvious like, "good communication skills are crucial."

Have you ever seen a job description that asked for poor communication skills?

Good job descriptions showcase companies and the opportunities they present in ways that instill excitement. At the same time, they must be genuine. The better you understand your candidate pool and your ideal prospect, the better you will be able to write job descriptions that appeal to the applicants you want.

Remember, other recruiters are trying to reach the same

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Education

people, and most candidates are seeing multiple job opportunities with little information about why they should work for one company instead of another.

Be bold

Headlines for any type of advertisement should be attention-getting, create an interest in the opportunity and motivate the reader to act.

If the headline is clever, it will make your position stand out and provoke potential employees to read the body of the ad. The most effective way to grab your targets' attention is by getting them excited.

If you want candidates to apply in person, send résumés, click on a link or send references, motivate them to do so. Create an immediate urge to act by appealing to emotions. Headlines that provoke feelings of curiosity, urgency or excitement get the best responses.

Carefully choose your headline's language. Your goal is to quickly grab attention and make people want to read more. The best headlines are short and direct; limit them to 10 words or less.

Once you've generated interest, describe the benefits of the position. People always want to know what's in it for

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them. Try to answer these questions:

- What will candidates gain?
- Why should they take action?
- Should they e-mail or fax résumés?
- Are there opportunities for advancement?
- Are there health benefits and a 401(k) plan?

Also, in a positive way, address the downsides of the open position. We all know that effective MLSs must be good at handling rejection, overcoming negativity and establishing relationships with busy people who brush them off at first. If there are quotas or costs involved, make that clear upfront rather than face a disheartened, angry MLS after two months of training on the job.

Seek perfection

An online ad containing only three sentences and contact information is a complete waste. Your ad needs to provide concise, compelling information about the position and the opportunity.

However, don't write a novel. If readers find one thing that turns them off (which could be the fact that you talk too much), they're gone. Remember, you are describing an environment in which your candidate will spend a good deal of time.

Forget about graphics; you don't need to make your ad fancy. The only eye-catcher you need is the headline. But *please* proof your ad carefully, and have someone else look over it, too. Typos, spelling errors and grammatical mistakes are unprofessional; candidates will question the viability of your company if your ad is riddled with mistakes.

The success of advertising is often a factor of repetition. Saying something once is not as powerful as saying it three or more times. Most advertising sites offer volume discounts; take advantage of these.

Think about forming an advertising co-operative. SignaPay Ltd., for instance, buys a variety of ad space in bulk and makes it available to our ISOs at the discount cost. (Their growth, after all, is ours.) They also let us know which ads have been most successful, and we share this information with our ISO partners. Lastly, we run our own national recruitment ads and pass on good candidates to the appropriate local ISOs.

Obviously, the more ads you run, the better your chance of success. But running more ads does not make up for running poor ads. Use marketing savvy to recruit MLSs, and your efforts will be much more fruitful.

Nancy Drexler is the Vice President, Marketing for SignaPay Ltd., an ISO headquartered in Dallas. Reach her at nancyd@signapay.net.

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Education (continued)

Legal ease

Portfolio sale pitfalls

By Adam Atlas

Attorney at Law

ost of you, as ISOs and merchant level salespeople (MLSs), intend to sell your merchant portfolios at some point. And even those who are quite content to continue prospecting and pitching to win more accounts fantasize about how much their residual stream could fetch on the market.

In the course of representing both buyers and sellers of portfolios, I how it sees those assignments actually working.

2. Just window-shopping: For buyers, the most frustrating part of looking for portfolios is meeting sellers who act like they want to sell, but when it comes time to start negotiating in earnest, it turns out they're just looking for an objective evaluation of their portfolio.

Some sellers also have an inflated perception of the value of their portfolios. This ultimately gets in the way of them ever selling whenever possible. When negotiating a sale that would require moving merchants, as an alternative, consider also negotiating a sale of your residual stream.

If you factor in the number of merchants you would lose when moving the portfolio, you might find that the two transactions are more similar than you previously thought.

4. No plan of deconversion: In an ideal world, an ISO moving merchants from one bank to another would have a face-to-face meeting six months before closing the deal with the outgoing bank, the incoming bank, and each of their processors and gateways to establish a plan of deconversion.

In the real world, there often is no time for that luxury. So, do as much planning as possible before you move a single merchant. Do testing.

Everything will take longer than expected, and complications will always arise. All parties should act reasonably and accommodate the time needed to move the portfolio in question.

5. Change of deconversion plan: Sometimes, after agreeing upon a plan of deconversion, the parties learn that it is useless in the field.

Here, the parties need to be reasonable and accommodate the needs of the party selling the portfolio to either allow more time to execute the existing plan or otherwise amend the plan to accommodate actual conditions.

Parties that are intransigent at moments of crisis will simply

All parties should act reasonably and accommodate the time needed to move the portfolio in question.

have seen the numerous pitfalls that arise in many portfolio sale transactions. I'll describe eight of these in the hopes that my efforts will help you avoid them.

1. No sale permitted under the contract: Some ISOs and MLSs are shocked to learn, after years of toiling to build a residual stream, that their agreement does not permit them to assign or otherwise sell the value they have built up.

Most processors will agree to some kind of permission to effect an assignment, but such negotiations can take a long time and can end up costing the seller in terms of exit fees the outgoing processor may wish to charge.

To be safe, make sure your ISO agreement has some rights of assignment of residuals or merchants, and periodically discuss with your processor

out. And some buyers are merely fishing for information and lack the intent or ability to accomplish a buyout.

Whether you are a buyer or seller, don't mislead other parties into thinking you are more serious than you are. The industry is a small community, and acting in anything less than a forthright manner might diminish the value of your business.

3. Moving merchants instead of residuals: While many ISOs seek the right to actually deconvert merchants and move the corresponding merchant identification numbers to another acquiring bank, it is often better to simply sell a residual stream to an ISO that is already selling for the bank wishing to acquire the portfolio.

Moving merchants from one bank to another should be avoided Tribul Merchant Services LLC...has the power to Make your Business Worth the Change!













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damage their goodwill in the industry, not to mention possibly do wrong by ISOs that have serviced them for years.

6. Attrition during deconversion: Imagine that an ISO walks into Bob's Auto Body and says, "Bob, I'm moving my business to a new bank; I'd sure like to bring your account with me." Bob replies, "You wish! Get lost. I'll be glad to work with someone else."

Inevitably, a portion of the merchants you wish to move won't follow you. Having a good relationship with them and pitching them on the advantages to the move will help any ISO retain a greater percentage of merchants during this kind of transition.

7. Nonsolicitation obligations violated: Anyone who pays a significant sum for your merchants will not want you to solicit those merchants to end their processing agreements after the sale. This is common sense. But unscrupulous sales organizations sell portfolios only to try to take back what they have sold.

Needless to say, intentionally moving merchants in blatant violation of a nonsolicitation obligation is a "capital crime" in our industry.

Despite the seriousness of the offense, this kind of wrong happens all too often. An ISO that is in blatant and intentional violation of its nonsolicitation obligations will not get much mercy from the aggrieved processor – or from the courts.

8. Delays in payment: If your selling price is a multiple of your monthly residuals, and the buyer takes a month to pay you after closing the sale, it's as if you sold at a lower multiple. So, when selling, carefully plan the timing of the sale and the payment terms.

Some buyers, especially on smaller purchases, drag out payments long past their due dates. Consider taking post-dated checks for all payments, so you have some tangible promise to pay in addition to the wording of the purchase and sale agreement.

You should, of course, keep in mind the business aspects of building and selling a portfolio: the number of merchants, the volume of processing, profitability, attrition, the nature of merchants and so forth.

And always have selling on your mind – from the moment you start shopping for an ISO deal. ■

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Education (continued)

ISO compliance challenge

By David Mertz

Compliance Security Partners LLC

ere is a mantra that bears repeating: From the merchant level salesperson to the acquiring ISO, and at every step in the chain, confidential personal identification or identity information (PII) is stored, processed and/or transmitted. And, each party in the chain needs to take the proper steps to protect this data from unauthorized access.

My last article, "Acquiring compliance," *The Green Sheet*, Jan. 28, 2008, issue 08:01:02, focused on Federal Trade Commission requirements for protecting PII. In summary, the FTC has determined the failure to take "reasonable and appropriate" steps to protect confidential data is an unfair business practice and subject to FTC oversight.

ISOs are required to protect PII from unauthorized access, maintain the accuracy of data in their custody and have an incident response plan. Penalties can range from 20 years of biannual security audits with FTC review to significant monetary sanctions.

So, let's review what PII and PHI mean.

PII includes any combination of a person's name and the following data: credit card numbers, date of birth, Social Security number, driver's license number and financial account numbers. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses are excluded from this list because of their presence in the public domain (though some federal and state legislation include one or both in their definitions of PII).

In addition, two subsets of PII have relevance to the payments industry: A Social Security number itself – without any other link to the person who has been assigned to it – is considered PII, and a payment card industry-branded card number, without any other link to the cardholder, is considered PII.

Protected health care information (PHI) includes any combination of a person's name or other identifiable information (think PII data) and health care records. This includes any type of medical treatment, diagnosis, equipment and so forth that has been prescribed, purchased or received by the individual.

GLBA's long arms

Passed in 1999, the Gramm-Leach-Billey Act (GLBA) was designed to reform the banking, investment and insurance industries. A provision of this legislation requires financial institutions to protect PII data. Does this apply to the ISO community since ISOs are not financial institutions? Yes.

Determining whether an ISO is impacted by the data privacy requirements of the GLBA can be confusing. The FTC is charged by the GLBA (along with federal and state banking, investment and insurance regulators) with the enforcement of the GLBA's data privacy provisions. The FTC has interpreted "financial institution" to mean "all businesses, regardless of size, that are significantly engaged in providing financial products or services.

"This includes, for example, check-cashing businesses, payday lenders, mortgage brokers, nonbank lenders, personal property or real estate appraisers, professional tax preparers, and courier services," the FTC stated. "The safeguards rule also applies to companies like credit reporting agencies and ATM [automated teller machine] operators that receive information about the customers of other financial institutions.

"In addition to developing their own safeguards, companies covered by the rule are responsible for taking steps to ensure that their affiliates and service providers safeguard customer information in their care."

A second factor that needs examination is whose data is being stored, processed or transmitted. The GLBA only applies to consumer activity. It does not apply to business-to-business activity.

For example, if a business, even a sole proprietorship, is applying for a merchant account, the PII data on the application and the PII data the ISO may retain in client records (electronic or paper) does not receive protection under the GLBA.

However, transaction data – which contains cardholder data – is covered under the GLBA. If an ISO processes, stores or transmits full card number data, the GLBA would apply (similar to the activities of ATM networks or operators).

When would an ISO receive a full card number? A few possible scenarios are when the ISO has a risk department monitoring cardholder activity for transaction irregularities; the ISO operates a payment gateway; or the ISO offers customer service support to merchants experiencing transaction difficulties. The FTC has adopted two relevant rules for the protection of PII:

- The Financial Privacy Rule
- The Safeguards Rule

FTC's rules for safety, privacy

The Financial Privacy Rule defines what an ISO impacted by GLBA must do when collecting PII and what must be disclosed to consumers. The FTC stated the rule "governs



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the collection and disclosure of customers' personal financial information by financial institutions. It also applies to companies, whether or not they are financial institutions, who receive such information."

The Financial Privacy Rule, as it applies to ISOs, is focused exclusively on the protections required of PII data; the cardholder's issuing bank is responsible for the privacy disclosure requirements of the Financial Privacy Rule of the GLBA. The steps ISOs must take to protect PII are defined in the Safeguards Rule.

The Safeguards Rule sets forth what must be done to protect data from unauthorized access. The rule requires impacted ISOs to take a number of steps to protect the PII with which they have been entrusted. And it requires a written information security plan that is appropriate to the following:

- Company size and complexity
- Nature and scope of its activities
- Sensitivity of the customer information it handles

An ISO's written plan must include:

- Designation of one or more employees to coordinate its information security program
- Identification and assessment of the risks to customer information in each relevant area of the company's operation, and evaluation of the effectiveness of the current safeguards for controlling these risks



- Design and implementation of a safeguards program, and regular monitoring and testing of it
- Selection of service providers that can maintain appropriate safeguards – making sure contracts require providers to maintain safeguards – and overseeing their handling of customer information
- Evaluation and adjustment of the program in light of relevant circumstances, including changes in the firm's business or operations, or the results of security testing and monitoring

In addition, the ISO may not disclose cardholder data to any third party which is outside of the entities involved in facilitating the consumer transaction. Pretexting, the practice of obtaining PII under "false pretenses," is also prohibited under GLBA.

GLBA's penalty punch

GLBA penalties are significant: Not only can the penalties be applied to an ISO, they can also apply to an ISO's officers. The GLBA describes applicable penalties as follows:

"The financial institution shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$100,000 for each violation; and the officers and directors of the financial institution shall be subject to, and personally liable for, a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 for each violation. Also, fines in accordance with Title 18 of the United States Code or imprisonment for not more than five years, or both."

Future articles will further explore areas in which ISO offices are impacted by the FTC, as well as cover other federal rules and regulations.

David Mertz is the founding partner of Compliance Security Partners LLC. He has spent the last four years working with merchants and service providers to meet Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard compliance. For more information, e-mail dave@csp-mw.com.



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ISOs, however, may choose to charge the client a set-up fee, which will be paid back to the ISO by SPS.



E-bookReview

The fight for security: Adapting to new threats

By Chris Yaldezian et al Sterling Commerce

A sterling take on data breaches

ata breaches can seriously impact a firm's bottom line. Monetary costs, along with adverse effects on shareholder value and reputation, are enormous. Financial service professionals, including ISOs and merchant level salespeople, have a compelling reason to effectively thwart data theft.

As an aid to this endeavor, Chris Yaldezian, a Marketing Executive and Financial Services Consultant for Sterling Commerce, collaborated with colleagues at Sterling

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Commerce to create the e-book entitled The Fight for Security: Adapting to New Threats.

In this 39-page e-book, the Sterling team underscores the shortcomings of traditional file transfer protocol (FTP)-based transmissions. They assert that the problem with FTP is that it has no built-in security or reliability features. Subsequently, many companies report problems with a significant percentage – as much as 80% – of their file transfer operations.

Resulting theft due to FTP and data transfer vulnerabilities has led to substantial financial losses, and the bankcard industry has been looking for answers; one result has been implementation of the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard (DSS), a framework of 12 rigorous security requirements.

The PCI Security Standards Council is responsible for developing and overseeing the PCI DSS. The e-book reiterates that the goal is to reduce the risk of Internet attacks using a variety of means, including data security best practices, firewall configuration, antivirus software and data encryption.

The problem is many merchants and processors are still not clear on how to meet the PCI requirements. The ebook reports that, according to data security provider VeriSign Inc., the 10 most commonly failed PCI requirements and the percentage of noncompliance for each are:

- Protect stored data, 79%
- Regularly test security systems and processes, 74%
- Assign a unique identifier to each person with computer access, 71%
- Track and monitor all access to network resources and cardholder data, 71%
- Install and maintain a firewall configuration to protect data, 66%
- Do not use vendor supplied defaults for system passwords and other security parameters, 62%
- Maintain a policy that addresses information security, 60%
- Restrict physical access to cardholder data, 59%
- Develop and maintain secure systems and applications, 56%

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 Encrypt transmission of cardholder data and sensitive information across public networks, 45%

The Sterling team points to a widespread belief that encrypting data transfers via FTP is a viable data security solution, and moving data via FTP is growing, even though the technology has inherent vulnerabilities. Thus, data is exposed to external attacks such as eavesdropping, packet sniffing (extracting the numbers in an electronic transaction), denial-of-service attacks and unauthorized access.

So, how can companies transfer increasingly large and complex files safely and efficiently? The e-book emphasizes that strategies and techniques need to be tailored to each organization's unique processing environment and suggests a comprehensive managed file transfer (MFT) solution. A versatile MFT can put full control into information technology (IT) staff's hands, it states.

The Sterling team also points out that it is critical for an MFT framework to facilitate smooth, secure file transfers and end-to-end visibility, which provides a centralized view of all file transfer activities. This can improve performance, resource utilization, customer satisfaction and service level agreements compliance.

Further, according to the e-book, it is essential to have an infrastructure where IT is aware of all file transfers and has the ability to act on any problem. Then, administrators are alerted to problems early enough to solve them before a delivery window is missed or a service agreement is violated.

And, reliable MFTs reportedly let managers view network topologies, monitor server capacities, and set event triggers to ensure each phase of a complex transfer occurs on time and successfully. This provides the ability to audit data movement activities and see who moved what, when and how.

The sale of fraudulently obtained information over the Internet is growing exponentially. It is a lucrative pursuit for a tenacious new breed of cyber criminals who are making identity theft the crime of the 21st century.

It is difficult to measure the benefits derived from data security measures until a breach occurs. But by then it may be too late.

When focusing on the return on investment, the cost of lax data protection may be going out of business. A major security incident could easily drive an organization into bankruptcy. This e-book offers a proactive approach in securing data to avoid becoming the next breach-nightmare headline. To access the book, visit http://sm.ebookhost.net/btn/sterling/1.



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MLScapes

An applicant was filling out a job application. When he came to the question, "Have you ever been arrested?" he wrote, "No."

The next question, intended for people who had answered in the affirmative to the previous question, was "Why?"

The applicant answered it anyway: "Never got caught."



ISO-Q test

Which of the following statements is true?

- 1. The New York State
 Banking Department released
 a consumer alert advising that
 entering a PIN code in reverse
 at an automated teller machine
 will not notify police.
- 2. In 2007, a popular line of POS terminals was recalled because swiping magnetic stripe cards across several models in this line caused enough sparks to catch fire.
- 3. Hundreds of merchant level salespeople are working undercover to catch and report to the proper authorities merchants who are noncompliant with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard.

The first statement is correct.

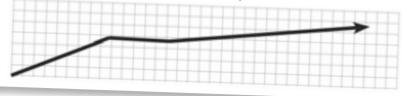
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Online survival in the PCI wilderness

Product: PCI Toolkit

Company: CSRSI: The Payment Advisors

erchants are increasingly aware of the Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard (DSS) intended to protect customer card data from theft. Perhaps a

majority of merchants realize they have to be PCI compliant, even if they're only a momand-pop operation working a knuckle buster and a shoe box full of receipts.

But, for many, the 12 requirements set down by the card Associations read like the mind-numbing fine print at the bottom of a credit card application.

As a value added service for their merchant clients, ISOs and merchant level salespeople (MLSs)

might turn to the PCI Toolkit, an online service developed by CSRSI: The Payment Advisors to help guide merchants through the necessary steps of PCI compliance.

According to CSRSI's founder and Executive Vice President, Ross Federgreen, the online PCI Toolkit is a one-of-a-kind service backed up by an intuitive user interface.

The online PCI Toolkit is a Web site service that merchants sign up for through their ISO or MLS.

After login, a merchant is led through a series of logic-driven questions in order to satisfy the often

confusing queries of the PCI DSS Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ), a self-assessment that all merchants who accept payment cards are mandated to perform every year.

First the toolkit determines how the merchant handles electronic transactions – such as by a POS terminal or online – and tailors the questions to fit those criteria.

Then the system presents the merchant a series of questions one at a time, the answers to which account for every facet of the SAQ.



PCI Toolkit benefits:

- ENABLES MANDATED COMPLIANCE
- REDUCES COST OF COMPLIANCE UP TO 90%
 - REDUCES TIME TO COMPLIANCE
 - USER FRIENDLY
 - UNDERSTANDABLE
 - EASY TO IMPLEMENT
 - SIGNIFICANT VALUE

Unlike the SAQ itself, the questions in the toolkit are worded simply and intelligibly so that most merchants, regardless of their technical background or expertise in PCI, can answer the questions with yes, no or I don't know.

Methodically, step by step, the user interface asks the merchant questions. The answer to one question logically gives rise to the next. In this logic tree, if

the merchant does not know the answer to a particular question, the merchant can skip it and go to the next question.

The unanswered question is sent to the back of the logic tree. But the question will always return, and it will be presented up to three times. And if it's skipped the third time, the question will be put on a task list.

To help the merchant avoid mistakes – and reassure the ISO that the merchant is answering the questions honestly – questions are repeated, but phrased differently, like a polite prosecutor cross-examining a witness in a court of law.

But the questions are less a grilling and more of a

NewProducts

search to determine how far along merchants are toward PCI compliance.

Along the way, merchants will likely learn much about the various aspects of compliance – and their own businesses – as they answer the questions, since links are provided for the terminology that appears in each question.

Clicking on a link takes the merchant to a concisely worded definition of the term. Appropriate tips and explanations are also provided to help merchants better understand the complexities of PCI.

The service also functions like an online form filler that automates the tedious labor of filling out a consumer's personal information when making an online purchase.

As each question is answered, the toolkit simultaneously populates all SAQ questions pertinent to that response, saving the merchant the time and the headache of having to duplicate the same information across many questions.

As the toolkit guides the merchant through the SAQ, the service compiles a customized task list that addresses critical issues the merchant must address in order to gain compliance.

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The merchant can tackle any issue on that list in any order. And when the issue has been resolved, the toolkit automatically updates the SAQ to include the amended information.

In this way, the online PCI Toolkit is immersive and interactive and lets merchants proceed at their own pace.

The toolkit also assists merchants in the area of the quarterly network security scan required under PCI DSS. Merchants who have terminal-based POS systems or who have no Internet connectivity do not have to perform this task.

But all other merchants do, which means contracting with an approved scanning vendor (ASV) to fulfill this PCI mandate.

According to Federgreen, the online PCI Toolkit is designed to be ASV-neutral. Therefore, it is compatible with all ASV companies – a feature, said Federgreen, that is unique to the toolkit.

So merchants who are required to perform quarterly security scans can use the toolkit without upsetting their established relationships with ASV vendors.

But that is only the merchant side of the equation, since the PCI toolkit is just as much a tool for ISOs as well.

Since the card Associations have put merchant PCI compliance squarely on the shoulders of the merchants' acquirers (it is the ISO/acquirer/merchant bank that is fined by Visa Inc. and MasterCard Worldwide if a merchant is noncompliant, not the merchant), it is incumbent on ISOs to keep abreast of their merchants' progress toward meeting the PCI standards.

ISOs are under pressure from their sponsoring banks to better manage their merchant client portfolios. If an ISO cannot bring its merchants in line with PCI compliance, the ISO is in jeopardy of being dropped by its acquiring bank altogether.

So ISOs must closely monitor and control their merchants' progress toward compliance.

The PCI Toolkit allows ISOs to monitor merchants' activities in the PCI arena. On a live, real-time basis, parties can determine which questions the merchants have answered, which questions have not been answered and the time-frame for when the activities under question took place.

All merchant actions when using the online PCI Toolkit are time-stamped. This way, acquirers can derive valuable information on any given merchant's PCI status.

Thus, the toolkit helps ISOs manage and assess the risk level of every merchant in their portfolios. According

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to Federgreen, some ISOs have expressed concern that merchants might dump their ISOs if required to answer PCI's SAQ.

"But there is no place [for the merchant] to hide," Federgreen said. And, anyway, ISOs want "solid, well-performing merchants, not rogue merchants not playing by the rule book."

Merchant retention is at the forefront of every ISO's business strategy. Federgreen pointed out that the online toolkit can be used to persuade merchants that the ISOs they have partnered with are truly dedicated to the financial and regulatory well-being of their merchants.

Additionally, the service can be used as a marketing device for new merchants, showing potential clients that the merchants already under an ISO's banner are compliant, or well on their way to becoming so – a community that like-minded merchants would desire to join.

In addition, for the appraisal of the market value of an ISO's portfolio, the toolkit can demonstrate that an ISO whose portfolio shows a preponderance of PCI compliant merchants will command a higher selling price.

According to Federgreen, the online toolkit is an improvement over CSRSI's hardcopy version, which was published a year ago.

Unlike the book, the online toolkit can be quickly updated when rules and regulations are changed or new ones imposed.

On Feb. 6, 2008, for instance, a new, updated version of the SAQ, called SAQ 1.1, was released by the PCI Security Standards Council.

The toolkit is only available to ISOs. Based upon the size of an ISO's portfolio, the price per MID (merchant identification) can range from \$3.70 to under \$2 per month.

The service can then be sold at markup to the merchant, thereby creating a new revenue stream for ISOs and MLSs. For more information, contact Federgreen at rfedergreen@csrsi.com.

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Inspiration

WaterCoolerWisdom:

There is no personal charm so great as the charm of a cheerful temperament.

- Henry Van Dyke

The art of charm

merchant level salesperson (MLS) might wonder why a rival MLS is closing all the big deals, leaving the competition in the dust. What's that MLS's secret? It may be the MLS is employing the subtle art of mimicry.

Mimicry can be defined as the ability to imitate an individual's speech or mannerisms. Skillful comedians use it to make fun of people – in other words, to mock them. But mimicry does not have to be derisive; it can be applied by the adroit sales rep to build rapport with potential clients and persuade them to sign deal after deal.

Under the microscope

Psychologists have been studying the art of persuasion for over a century, analyzing a wide range of activities, from the effects of propaganda on whole populations to the techniques of door-to-door salespeople.

Scientists have found that many factors come into play to influence a group or an individual's perception of a directed message. On a personal level, people are strongly receptive to the unspoken, subtle elements that come into play when one person interacts with another.

Social bonding, for instance, is highly dependent on the synchronized and unconscious give and take of words and gestures that creates a current of good will between individuals.

Top salespeople in the payments industry likely have known about the tool of mimicry and how to use it to board new clients and take accounts away from the competition.

Monkey see, monkey do

Here are some techniques you, as ISOs and MLSs, can use to prompt almost instantaneous cooperation with prospective merchants during that all-important first meeting.

- Be conscious of body language. If prospects lean back in their chairs, do that. If they lean forward on their elbows, follow their lead.
- Watch your voice cadence. Loud, animated bursts



can be off-putting to a merchant. Conversely, using a low, soft tone with people whose voices are strong and confident may cause them discomfort. Ease and confidence tailored to each presentation puts others equally at ease.

- Mirror your would-be customer's posture and movements with a one- to two-second delay. If they cross their legs or touch their hair, wait two seconds and do the same.
- Before your first meeting, find out as much as possible about a prospective client before you visit, including professional needs and business concerns. Then go in with a story about yourself being in a similar predicament.
- Smiles and nods are contagious. Be amiable as you discuss your products and services. Showing genuine interest in what you are selling helps potential merchants feel strongly about your product when they recognize that you are truly invested in it.
- Be careful not to mimic immediately. The few seconds' time lag causes the mirroring to go unnoticed and most times makes you come across as warm and convincing.

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Striking a pose

It's a delicate balance to get it right, but salespeople who are good at mimicry and practice these techniques in a conscious manner will learn, after a while, to do it intuitively.

Move like a synchronized swimmer through the waters of conversation, and you can eliminate any suspicion that you are using mimicry to persuade or seduce.

Psychologists have found that these techniques are especially effective because you, the mimic, have a stake in the success of the product or service being sold. This can serve to assuage customers' fears and help them be more enthusiastic as well.

By the end of the interview, clients may even be convinced that your value-adds are something they can't live without.

Subtle mimicry can hypnotize and, if executed correctly, put you immediately on the same wavelength with your merchant. Scientists have shown that it draws on and activates brainwaves involved in feelings of empathy and compassion.

Doing it right

When you mimic in a good way, it communicates a sense of delight and pleasure. Furthermore, positive mimicry may instill a sort of social high that can be a boon to your sales.

A pleasant conversation underscored with subconscious reinforcements will certainly give you a better chance with potential clients; they will not be feeling the sense of desperation or forcefulness merchants normally associate with sales professionals.

Of course, sometimes social mimicry can go awry. But by staying within appropriate social parameters, you avoid what can be misconstrued as mockery.

When successfully executed, clients won't recoil from your discreet mimicking of speech and body language, and a strong social bond may develop in those first crucial moments of a sales call.

The rules change if there is a wide cultural gap between two people, but for most, restrained mimicry becomes a form of flattery, the physical dance of charm itself. And when it works, an MLS won't have to resort to that old standby – the foot in the door.

Good Selling!SM

Paul H. Green, President and CEO

DateBook

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



Electronic Retailers Association

eRetailer Summit (formerly Mid-Winter Conference and Trade Expo)

Highlights: The conference will give experts the opportunity to gather and exchange knowledge in profitability and innovation to help ensure e-retailers have the tools and information needed to succeed at competitive levels.

Full registration includes admission to exhibit hall, education sessions, breakfast, lunch and receptions for both days.

When: March 2 – 4, 2008

Where: Intercontinental Hotel, Miami Registration: Visit www.retailing.org.



Institute for International Research

Prepaid Card Expo

Highlights: This expo will offer attendees the chance to discover the strengths and weaknesses of alternative payment solutions. It will also teach how to recognize international opportunities, and how consumers and businesses are using prepaid as an important revenue generator. Some speakers will relay lessons learned after a security breach, and will give inside tips on how to strengthen antifraud and security controls.

More than 2,000 people are expected to attend the event, providing opportunities to share ideas and network with other professionals, as well as check out many exhibitors.

When: March 3 - 5, 2008

Where: Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas Registration: Visit www.iirusa.com/prepaidcardexpo.



Western Payments Alliance

2008 Basics of ACH Receiving Workshop

Highlights: This basic level course is geared toward those who are in automated clearing house (ACH) or branch operations, call center staff, customer service, and anyone new to ACH. The full-day course, located at several West Coast locations, focuses on ACH transactions from the Receiving Depository Financial Institution (RDFI) point of view.

Patty Presta, accredited ACH Professional and Vice President of Education at Western Payments Alliance, will discuss such topics as key ACH concepts and processes, rule and regulatory resources for RDFI compliance, ACH exception handling processes, and electronic check applications. Due to high security measures, those attending the workshop in San Francisco are required to bring a picture identification card.

When: March 4, 2008

Where: Atrium Hotel, Irvine, Calif.

Registration: Visit www.wespay.org, or call 415-373-1188.

When: March 5, 2008

Where: Sheraton Pasadena Hotel, Pasadena, Calif.

Registration: Visit www.wespay.org, or call 415-373-1188.

When: March 12, 2008

Where: Portland Airport Courtyard, Portland, Ore.

Registration: Visit www.wespay.org, or call 415-373-1188.

When: March 19, 2008

Where: Hilton Sacramento Arden West, Sacramento

Registration: Visit www.wespay.org, or call 415-373-1188

When: March 20, 2008

Where: Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, San Francisco **Registration:** Visit www.wespay.org, or call 415-373-1188.



Association for Financial Professionals

Payments Forum

Highlights: This forum will unveil techniques on overcoming challenges when implementing electronic payments.

The "how-to" session focuses on important payments issues facing corporate financial professionals. The two-day conference will feature small roundtable sessions with corporate practitioners in addition to in-depth lectures that include topics such as check conversion and new developments in international payments.

This conference caters to those dealing with automated clearing house, cards, check imaging or check conversion, global payments, and so forth.

There are also optional seminars – E-Payments: Instruments and Processes; and Financial Risk: Identification, Measurement and Management Techniques – available before and after the forum.

When: March 9 - 11, 2008

Where: Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort, Chandler, Ariz. Registration: Visit www.afponline.org, or call 301-907-2862.



SourceMedia Inc.

Associations Best Practices in Retail Financial Services Symposium

Highlights: This 13th annual event is an opportunity for attendees to receive answers to questions about strategizing and changes in retail finance. Keynote speakers will address growth, brand management, operating effectiveness, delivery and distribution channels, risk management and compliance, among other topics.

When: March 9 – 11, 2008

Where: Sawgrass Marriott Resort and Spa, Ponte Vedra, Fla. Registration: Visit www.sourcemediaconferences.com/Retail08.

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ACA International

Credit & Collection Business Academy 2008

Highlights: The event offers more than 20 hours of learning and professional opportunities. A faculty of industry experts will speak about operations, ethics, sales, compliance, persuasion, security and privacy issues, legal matters, state and federal laws, and management.

By attending this conference you can earn industry-specific credentials and certificates to contribute to your own knowledge and the growth of business.

When: March 9 – 12, 2008

Where: The Marriott, Delray Beach, Fla.

Registration: Visit www.acainternational.org/events.



Merchant Acquirer Committee

2008 MAC Annual Conference

Highlights: The Merchant Acquirer Committee conference is an informative three-day conference full of networking opportunities. The theme for the inaugural event is beating the odds on fraud.

MAC will have keynote speakers from the Federal Trade Commission and federal law enforcement. Numerous breakout sessions will focus on topics such as card Associations and the trends of fraud within the industry.

Some topics will include basic and advanced underwriting, fraud risk training and a hacking demonstration.

Representatives from MasterCard Worldwide will be on hand Friday to give the company's point of view on the Member Alert to Control High-Risk database. Breakfast and lunch for attendees will be provided daily in the exhibit hall.

When: March 19 – 21, 2008

Where: Rivera Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas

Registration: Visit www.macmember.org/conf.asp,

or e-mail deanar@bizla.rr.com.



Southeast Acquirers Association

2008 Conference

Highlights: This two-day seminar provides educational opportunities and information on hot issues of concern to the payments industry's feet on the street.

The event includes networking opportunities with vendors and attendees. The exhibit hall features many of the leading bankcard processors, equipment manufacturers, leasing companies and others.



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Also in the mix are breakout sessions and panel discussions led by industry leaders, as well as a panel offering merchants' perspectives.

In addition, attendees have the option of volunteering after the conference to contribute to New Orleans' cleanup efforts.

When: March 24 – 26, 2008

Where: Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans Registration: Visit www.southeastacquirers.com/conference.



SourceMedia Inc.

20th Annual Card Forum & Expo

Highlights: The Card Forum & Expo caters to a variety of payments industry professionals. The forum will explore the impact of changes in traditional business architectures, and how emerging payment systems can provide increased competition and opportunity.

This year's topics will include trends in debit, credit and prepaid; marketing and branding strategy case studies; risk and fraud; merchant trends; new product development; and alternative payments.

Keynote speakers will be Steve Boehm, President of Wachovia Card Services, a division of Wachovia Corp.; Terri O'Neil, Executive Vice President of Citi Cards, a division of Citigroup Inc.; and David Evans, founder of Market Platform Dynamics.

When: April 6 – 8, 2008

Where: Doral Golf Resort & Spa, Miami

Registration: Visit www.sourcemediaconferences.com/CFE08,

or call 212-803-6578.



Electronic Transactions Association

2008 Annual Meeting and Expo

Highlights: The Electronic Transactions Association's annual expo, which includes more than 175 exhibitors, is a place to connect with partners, clients and colleagues.

The conference includes educational sessions covering a range of issues, information on the latest products and services available, special events for networking, and opportunities to further drive business.

Attendees must register for the event before making reservations at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino in Las Vegas.

When: April 15 – 17, 2008

Where: Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, Las Vegas

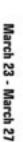
Registration: Visit www.electran.org/content/view/135/118.



2008 calendar of events

To add your event to this calendar, e-mail a press release to press@greensheet.com. Please include the name, date and location of the event, as well as highlights of planned activities and registration contact information.

2008 Event	Date	Location	Web site
Electronic Retailers Association eRetailer Summit	March 2 - 4	Miami	www.retailing.org
Institute for International Research, Prepaid Card Expo	March 3 – 5	Las Vegas	www.iirusa.com/prepaidcardexpo
Western Payments Alliance, Basics of ACH Receiving Workshop	March 4	Irvine, Calif.	www.wespay.org
Western Payments Alliance, Basics of ACH Recieving Workshop	March 5	Pasadena, Calif.	www.wespay.org
Association for Financial Professionals, Payments Forum	March 9 - 11	Phoenix	www.afponline.org
SourceMedia Inc., Best Practices in Retail Financial Service Symposium	March 9 - 11	Ponte Vedra, Fla.	www.sourcemediaconferences.com
ACA International, Credit & Collection Business Academy 2008	March 9 - 12	Delray Beach, Fla	www.acainternational.org/events
Western Payments Alliance, Basics of ACH Recieving Workshop	March 12	Portland, Ore.	www.wespay.org
Merchant Acquirer Committee, 2008 MAC Annual Conference	March 19 - 21	Las Vegas	www.macmember.org/conf.asp
Western Payments Alliance, Basics of ACH Recieving Workshop	March 19	Sacramento	www.wespay.org
Western Payments Alliance, Basics of ACH Recieving Workshop	March 20	San Francisco	www.wespay.org
Southeast Acquirers Association, Sixth Annual Conference	March 24 - 26	New Orleans	www.southeastacquirers.com
SourceMedia Inc., 20th Annual Card Forum & Expo	April 6 – 8	Miami	www.sourcemediaconferences.com
Electronic Transactions Association, Annual Meeting and Expo	April 15 - 17	Las Vegas	www.electran.org
Intele-Card, Expo: The Prepaid Show	April 22 - 24	Edison, N.J.	www.intelecardexpo.com
Smart Card Alliance, CTST The Americas 2008	May 12 - 15	Orlando, Fla.	www.sourcemediaconferences.com
SourceMedia, CTST Conference and Exhibition	May 13 - 15	Orlando, Fla.	www.sourcemediaconferences.com
NACHA - The Electronic Payments Association, Payments 2008	May 18 - 21	Las Vegas	www.nacha.org
Midwest Acquirers Association, Annual Conference	July 21 - 25	St. Louis	www.midwestacquirers.com
WesPay, 2008 Payments Symposium	Sept. 7 - 9	Las Vegas	www.wespay.org
ETA, Strategic Leadership and Networking Forum	Oct. 21 - 23	Chicago	www.electran.org
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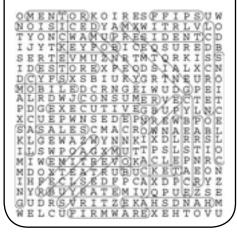


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