

WEEKLY ONLINE MEDIA DIGEST

28.03.2015 — 06.04.2015

[Previous digests](#)

ONLINE AND MOBILE FINANCIAL SERVICES



How Apple and Alibaba could destroy the banks.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/31/apple-and-alibaba-could-destroy-the-banks/>

MarketResearch.com: Five Banking Innovations from Five Continents (Feb'15).

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/01/five-banking-innovations-from-five-continents-usa-europe-asia-africa-australia/>

Disrupting Banking: The FinTech Startups That Are Unbundling Wells Fargo, Citi and Bank of America.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/22/disrupting-banking-the-fintech-startups-that-are-unbundling-wells-fargo-citi-and-bank-of-america/>



Traditional banks are getting worse in understanding their customers and regulators help them with this.

Read in German: <http://www.welt.de/finanzen/article138894620/Das-aberwitzige-Abenteuer-eine-Bank-zu-gruenden.html>

Life.SREDA's friend — Jay Reinemann, CEO BBVA Ventures: «Investing Early On for Insights, Not Profits».

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/04/01/investing-early-on-for-insights-not-profits/>



The five most influential people in the future of banking: Brett King (CEO Moven, USA), Matthias Kröner (CEO Fidor bank, GER), Bank of Dave aka @FishwickDavid (UK), Piyush Gupta (CEO DBS bank, SG), Matteo Rizzi (General Partner, SBT Venture Capital) — first two from Life.SREDA's portfolio)

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/04/05/the-five-most-influential-people-in-the-future-of-banking/>

Moven mobile bank through TOP 100 best cases inside Peter Fisk's «GAMECHANGERS: Creating Innovative Strategies for Business and Brands; New Approaches to Strategy, Innovation and Marketing».

<http://goo.gl/8E6wMB>



Swiss banking giant UBS is to open a technology lab in London to explore how blockchain technology can be used in financial services. The lab, set to open this month and occupy a dozen desks at Canary Wharf-based fintech accelerator space Level39 — a hub in London for financial technology startups— will bring together technology experts from the bank and the wider fintech community.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/04/02/ubs-to-open-blockchain-research-lab-in-london/>



Digital currencies have come and gone, and despite the astonishing rise of bitcoin's popularity over the past 18 months, the majority of the population has yet to board the bitcoin bandwagon. One of the things that has plagued digital currencies in the past has been the perception that they are a solution in search of a problem. Does anyone really need digital currencies like bitcoin? Who are they intended for, and what purpose do they really serve?

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/04/03/be-your-own-bank/>

US startup Abra has launched its mobile app for remittances (available on iPhone and Android), which bypasses the middle men by using the blockchain and a network of «human ATMs». According to the founders: «Abra merges money transfer and payments via a single digital cash wallet that works ubiquitously anywhere in the world. There is no bank or other third party involved in managing, storing, remitting or accepting your money. Abra represents the next generation of digital cash applications but without the technical fuss».

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/05/why-we-started-abra/>

Read in Russian: <http://rebanking.ru/r2r-perevodyi-na-osnove-blokcheyn-i-zhivyih-bankomatov/>

Bitcoin, investment opportunities & Asian prospects.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/27/bitcoin-investment-opportunities-asian-prospects/>

A brief history of bitcoin — and where it's going next.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/30/a-brief-history-of-bitcoin-and-where-its-going-next/>



What if buying something was as easy as Liking it? You'd probably buy a lot more, and buy it through whoever made it so damn simple. Becoming that conduit for payments means more than racking up transaction fees. For the portal to purchase influences not just how you buy, but what. Today, purchases are fragmented, and so too is that influence. We buy online and offline. Cash, Credit, PayPal, and now Apple Pay. In turn, influence splinters into ads run on television, print, digital, billboards, and other channels. Whether we want something already or not, the ads are supposed make us more intent on actually spending our money. But there's a disconnect. A gap between the intent and the purchase. A hole in the funnel where conversions leak out. There's friction. And Facebook hates friction almost as much as it loves connection.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/04/06/facepay/>

Google must fight a lawsuit claiming Google Wallet breached user privacy.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/04/03/google-must-fight-a-lawsuit-claiming-google-wallet-breached-user-privacy/>



Google is working on a new Gmail service called Pony Express. It will allow to receive and pay bills within their email. You need to provide Pony Express with personal information, including Social Security number. A third-party company will vest the identity of users. Once a user is authenticated, he or she can start receiving bills or other mail in Gmail or the Inbox app (Google's new email app). Currently the corporation is partnering with popular service providers such as insurance companies, telecom companies and utilities.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/24/google-working-on-project-to-let-you-receive-and-pay-bills-directly-inside-gmail/>

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<http://www.businessinsider.com/google-pony-express-paying-bills-gmail-2015-3>

<http://www.theverge.com/2015/3/24/8285059/google-pony-express-pay-bills-from-gmail>

Read in Russian: <http://rebanking.ru/google-vyvodit-na-ryinki-novyie-platezhnyie-servisyi-dlya-gmail/>



Square rolls out Open Tickets so you can keep your tab open at bars. Square is making another bid for the restaurant and bar scene with its latest product. The mobile register launched Open Tickets, which allows customers to keep an open tab. The product is said to be rolling out this week. Open Tickets is a small product update, but it's a noteworthy play for a market it covets.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/04/02/square-rolls-out-open-tickets-so-you-can-keep-your-tab-open-at-bars/>

Online fiscalization of cash registers (in which LifePay has participated) has turned to be successful, according to the Federal Tax Service's report on the results of the experiment. The transition to online POS data exchange will allow businesses to save up to 13 thousand rubles on every cash register, according to a press release on the intermediate experiment results of the Federal Tax Service as of October, 2014. And the amount of money saved across the whole country could reach RUB 32B. The Federal Tax Service estimates that currently entrepreneurs spend an average of 17 800 rubles on every cash register per year. The transition to e-fiscalization would reduce costs as businesses would not have to annually buy protected electronic control tape and pay for the mandatory maintenance of cash registers, which could be replaced by tablets and mobile phones with special software (life «LifePay Register»).

Read in Russian: <http://goo.gl/D7FntM>



MyCheck, another (like Square.Pre-order, Settle or My-Apps.com) startup that wants to make it easy to pay your restaurant bill using your mobile phone, has closed a \$5 million Series B. However, perhaps more noteworthy is the company's new backer: the Spanish bank Santander via its recently launched Santander Innoventures Fund.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/29/mobile-payment-startup-mycheck-raises-5m-from-santanders-innoventures-fund/>

Maybank launches mPOS service for SMEs in partnership with Maxis (a leading telecom provider in Malaysia).

<http://www.maxis.com.my/en/about-maxis/our-company/company-profile.html>

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/01/27/maybank-partners-maxis-to-introduce-mpos-service-for-smes/>



Online lending platform Avant has acquired ReadyForZero, a Y Combinator-backed startup that helps consumers better manage their personal debit and credit using online financial software, the companies are announcing this morning. Financial terms are not being disclosed, but Chicago-based Avant had plenty of funds to play around with, having raised \$334 million in equity capital, in addition to nearly a billion in debt.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/21/online-lender-avant-acquires-debt-management-service-readyforzero/>



Global crowdfunding experienced accelerated growth in 2014, expanding by 167 percent to reach \$16.2 billion raised. Almost half of the amount — \$6.7B — was collected by entrepreneurs. Massolution collected information on 1250 active crowdfunding platforms across the world. In 2014 they raised the record-breaking amount of \$16.2B. According to the agency, in 2015, the industry is set to more than double.

Read in English: <http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/31/2015cf-crowdfunding-industry-report/>

Read in Russian: <http://secretmag.ru/news/2015/04/01/business-crowdfunding/>



During April, the nation will observe Financial Literacy Month — meaning it's time to revisit the diverging roads to funding early-stage startups. The rise of non-traditional routes for raising capital, such as Kickstarter, has catalyzed a much-needed renaissance in funding options for entrepreneurs. With the passing of the JOBS Act, entrepreneurs have a bevy of new opportunities for raising seed funding, beyond the ever-illusive Silicon Valley checkbook. There are going to be complications associated with making sense of what funding route is best for your company and product needs, but sometimes the answer will reside in a combination of options.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/30/choose-your-own-startup-funding-adventure/>



We're approaching the third anniversary of the Jumpstart Our Business Startups (JOBS) Act, an omnibus bill of far-reaching financial reforms that was signed into law by President Barack Obama on April 5, 2012. Containing seven titles, the legislation's intent was, and is, to create cost-effective access to capital for companies of all sizes.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/29/the-jobs-act-is-progress-but-much-remains-to-be-done/>

Pebble went back to crowdfunding site Kickstarter to help fund the Pebble Time, its second major hardware iteration. The company likely could've gone with a more traditional product launch, with a brief pre-order window or direct to market availability, but the campaign did break Kickstarter's all-time records, netting over \$20 million (\$20,338,986 to be exact) from 78,741 backers, which is newsworthy over and above the actual product it's selling.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/29/pebble-times-20m-kickstarter-campaign-by-the-numbers/>



Kickstarter has enabled a private beta feature that's starting to show up for logged in project creators, offering a kind of community knowledge base that lets users ask questions and provide answers to other creators about crowdfunding and best practices. The so-called Campus seems designed to act as a central repository for the kind of advice that's often being exchanged between crowdfunders anyway in conversations every day, only centralized, archived and indexed on Kickstarter itself.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/04/01/kickstarters-campus-offers-project-creators-community-guidance/>



China's largest e-commerce companies are eager to leverage their millions of users and hoards of data for new projects. For example, Alibaba's other businesses include healthcare management, financial services, and cloud data. Now JD.com, its smaller but still formidable rival, is branching out into crowdfunding for startups. JD.com, which filled 689 million orders last year, has launched JD Equity Crowdfunding platform to help startups secure capital. The project is an offshoot of Coufenzi, the crowdfunding site JD.com opened last July. Like Kickstarter, Coufenzi allows users to contribute funds toward individual projects and products. So far, projects on Coufenzi have raised a total of RMB280 million (about \$45 million).

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/31/alibaba-rival-jd-com-launches-crowdfunding-site-for-startups/>



INSPIRASIA

The Global Financial Centres Index (N°17, March'15): New York (1), Hong Kong (3), Singapore (4), Moscow (75).

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/01/the-global>

By embracing free trade, capital formation, vigorous meritocratic education, low taxes, and a reliable judicial system, Lee raised the per capita income of his country from \$500 a year to some \$52,000 a year today. That's 50 percent higher than that of Britain, the colonial power that ruled Singapore for 150 years. Its average annual growth rate has averaged 7 percent since the 1970s. Part of the reason for Singapore's remarkable climb up the international income ladder is bread and butter capitalism. The Fraser Institute's Freedom of the World report lists Singapore as the second freest economy in the world — right behind Hong Kong. As Frasier scholars have demonstrated year after year, economic growth and free markets go hand and hand.

<http://fintechranking.com/?p=803>



The Singapore and Dubai-based «venture builder platform» Hatcher (ex-Gilcrux) has announced a new \$100M VC-fund focusing on fintech and B2B.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/30/singapore-venture-builder-hatcher-announces-us100m-venture-fund/>

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<https://www.techinasia.com/50m-singapore-fund-hatch-fintech-b2b-startups/>

<http://www.dealstreetasia.com/stories/hatcher-launches-early-stage-venture-fund-with-target-of-100m-4581/>

The rise of Southeast Asia: banking future of SEA's e-commerce.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/04/02/banking-on-southeast-asias-e-commerce-future/>

It's no surprise that Vietnam is being talked about as an alternative, amid rising costs and attrition rates in popular offshoring destinations like China and India. The General Statistics Office of Vietnam reports growth of almost 6 percent in GDP during 2014. Tech giants like Samsung, Microsoft, LG and Intel have invested in large operations in Vietnam, and a growing number of technology startups have secured investment. The entrepreneurial spirit on the streets of Ho Chi Minh City is palpable.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/04/03/the-promise-of-outsourcing-to-vietnam/>



Hong Kong Tycoon Li Ka-shing Ventures Deeper Into Tech. Venture-capital fund led by partner Solina Chau is pursuing deals from Israel to Silicon Valley. Solina Chau, Li Ka-shing's longtime companion, shown in 2009, struck 20 deals last year as head of Horizons Ventures. When the venture-capital fund of Li Ka-shing, Asia's richest man, hosted a gathering of its portfolio companies in Shanghai last year, it broke the ice with a scavenger hunt.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/29/hong-kong-tycoon-li-ka-shing-ventures-deeper-into-tech/>

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<http://e27.co/li-ka-shing-foundations-solina-chau-one-shrewd-investor-20150331/>

Australian electronic funds transfer at point of sale (EFTPOS) provider Tyro Payments announced today that it has opened the country's first first hub for financial technology startups in Sydney. According to Tyro, the Tyro FinTech Hub will offer co-working desks to FinTech startups and high growth companies, as well as spaces to host accelerators, conferences, hackathons, meetups and seminars.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/31/e-payments-company-tyro-opens-australias-first-fintech-hub-in-sydney/>



Indian online marketplace Snapdeal has announced its foray into financial services with the acquisition of a majority stake in RupeePower, a digital financial products distribution platform, for an undisclosed amount. The e-commerce player will now offer consumers a financial services marketplace by integrating RupeePower onto the Snapdeal platform. It aims to enable US\$1 billion consumer loans disbursement over the next two years. RupeePower is a digital distribution platform for loans, credit cards and other personal finance products.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/04/01/snapdeal-forays-into-financial-services-acquires-rupeepower/>

«One of Singapore's sexiest co-working spaces» — The Working Capitol — has opened its doors.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/04/01/one-of-singapores-sexiest-co-working-spaces-has-opened-its-doors/>

Amazing «InspirAsia» videos from Finnair.

Singapore: <http://goo.gl/A83iqO>

Hong Kong: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LheWJ9_Eeuc&index=7&list=PLxCenwGBVdegOPGookKMRuZYqSGBa35K2

Others: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxCenwGBVdegOPGookKMRuZYqSGBa35K2>

INFLUENCES OTHER INDUSTRIES

IBM is wasting little time when it comes to the Internet of Things. The company outlined a major Internet of Things strategy tonight with a series of announcements that included a \$3B investment to establish an Internet of Things unit inside of Big Blue along with a partnership with The Weather Company.

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/03/30/ibm-wants-to-get-head-start-on-internet-of-things/>

«The Internet of Things» — Deutsche Bank.

https://www.deutschebank.nl/nl/docs/The_internet_of_things.pdf

«The Internet of Things: making the most of the Second Digital Revolution» — a report by the UK Government Chief Scientific Adviser.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/409774/14-1230-internet-of-things-review.pdf

«The Internet of Things» — IDA, Singapore government research.

<https://www.ida.gov.sg/~media/Files/Infocomm%20Landscape/Technology/TechnologyRoadmap/InternetOfThings.pdf>

Gartner forecasts that 4.9 billion connected things will be in use in 2015, up 30 percent from 2014, and will reach 25 billion by 2020. The Internet of Things (IoT)* has become a powerful force for business transformation, and its disruptive impact will be felt across all industries and all areas of society.

<http://www.gartner.com/newsroom/id/2905717>

#EMIGRUSSIA



The economic crisis afflicting Russia may bring an unexpected boost to the U.S. tech sector, as developers and tech entrepreneurs from Google (GOOG) founder Brin's country of birth migrate to Silicon Valley and other innovation hubs — and away from economic and political instability in Vladimir Putin's Russia.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/30/influx-of-russian-talent-offers-a-boost-to-u-s-tech-sector/>

Facebook Moves Into Its New Garden-Roofed Fantasyland. The new HQ is large enough to hold about 2,800 Facebook employees. Facebook opened its new headquarters, designed by a famous architect Frank Gehry, on March 31, 2015.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/30/facebook-moves-into-its-new-garden-roofed-fantasyland/>

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<http://www.fastcodesign.com/3044389/a-first-look-at-facebooks-new-mothership-designed-by-frank-gehry>

Read in Russian: <http://siliconrus.com/2015/03/facebook-new-office/>

The comparison of mobile messengers and how much traffic they take from standard texts.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/25/whats-up/>



Amazon is rolling out new hardware today called the Dash button that promises to solve these scenarios. It's a small physical button that you can stick wherever, and press when you want to order more of something. Need more diapers? Hit the diaper button. Need more toilet paper? Just hit the toilet paper button. Find yourself running low on mac and cheese, razor blades, Gatorade, or laundry detergent? There is now a button for each one of those things. The future where you can just be lazy and spend money with a push of a button from Amazon is here, and it's very real.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/31/amazon-has-invented-tiny-plastic-buttons-that-allow-for-instant-product-ordering/>

READ MORE

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/03/31/amazons-new-dash-button-hardware-offers-instant-orders-for-staple-products/>

<http://thenextweb.com/insider/2015/03/31/amazons-dash-buttons-let-you-re-order-household-essentials-with-virtually-no-effort/>

Amazon's new Home Services section lets you order anything from a plumber to a goat herder.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/30/amazons-new-home-services-section-lets-you-order-anything-from-a-plumber-to-a-goat-herder/>



Two of the world's best-known e-commerce sites for luxury clothing and accessories—London-based online fashion retailer Net-a-Porter and Italian e-commerce clothing company Yoox Group SpA—are merging to create a new monolithic e-retailer with an expected annual revenue of more than \$1.4 billion.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/31/net-a-porter-merger-could-create-worlds-biggest-luxury-fashion-store/>

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http://www.bbc.com/news/business-32128353?SThisFB&fb_ref=Default

MAD MEN IS BACK — AND WITH IT, THE END OF GREAT TV DRAMAS. TV IS AN odd mishmash of a medium. It shares enough qualities with film that we can use the word

«cinematic» as a blanket compliment, yet its traditional broadcast model more closely resembles radio. In fact, with the advent of original programming from online-only platforms, it's increasingly difficult to tell what, exactly, TV is. Maybe that's why, dating back to The Mary Tyler Moore Show, TV is so often about itself. There's a long history of scripted TV that's about making TV. Yet, for all the literal examples of it—Sports Night, 30 Rock—Mad Men, which returns for its final seven episodes on Sunday, is the most self-reflexive series of them all.

<http://www.wired.com/2015/04/mad-men-end-of-drama/>

<http://www.fastcreate.com/3044168/the-temptations-of-matthew-weiner-how-the-creator-of-mad-men-kept-his-vision-intact-for-7-se>



Yuri Milner is considered one of the world's most successful tech investors, though his approach is paradoxical. He shuns board seats on the premise that founders know what they're doing, but he'll visit them regularly to help build a long-term relationship. Meddling is out; lengthy chats about the future of the Internet and the universe itself are in.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/25/yuri-milners-unparalleled-global-tech-gold-mining-machine/>

Read in Russian: <http://www.forbes.ru/milliardery/284203-globalnyi-venchur-kak-yurii-milner-zarabotal-milliardy-v-kitae>



OnePlus needed an extra week to deliver it, but its new Oxygen operating system is now available for download. «Our goal for OxygenOS is to provide faster, more meaningful updates and a better-integrated range of services for every OnePlus user», said OnePlus' Carl Pei in a blog post. Pei emphasized the back to basics philosophy of the project, that values «performance and battery life over gimmicks and bloated features.» The initial version of Oxygen OS looks to be very close to stock Android, both aesthetically and from a functionality point of view. However, there are a number of features that the OnePlus team added in order to enhance the user experience.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/04/05/oneplus-launches-oxygenos-its-custom-version-of-android/>

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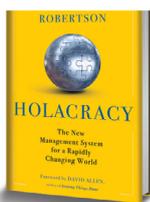
<http://thenextweb.com/mobile/2015/04/04/oneplus-one-smartphone-owners-can-now-download-the-lollipop-based-oxygenos/>

Lauren Fletcher wants to automate the process with drone technology. His startup, BioCarbon Engineering, plans to seed up to 1 billion trees a year, all without ever setting foot on the ground.

<http://www.fastcoexist.com/3044235/this-drone-startup-has-an-ambitious-crazy-plan-to-plant-one-billion-trees-a-year>

A card for those who don't publish prices, as they believe that their companies provide incredibly unique services.

<http://www.spacex.com/about/capabilities>



HOLAWHAT? MEET THE ALT-MANAGEMENT SYSTEM INVENTED BY A PROGRAMMER AND USED BY ZAPPOS. ZAPPOS, MEDIUM, AND DAVID ALLEN HAVE ALL EMBRACED THE NON-HIERARCHICAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. SHOULD YOUR COMPANY ADOPT IT TOO? Zappos CEO Tony Hsieh offered his nearly 4,000 employees an ultimatum last week: accept Holacracy or leave.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/30/holawhat-meet-the-alt-management-system-invented-by-a-programmer-and-used-by-zappos/>



WHY THESE COWORKING SPACES IN TRAIN STATIONS LET YOU PAY IN «SOCIAL CAPITAL»? Is the free coworking space that's giving 80,000 people desks in vacant areas of schools, hospitals, and train stations the future of work?

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/04/02/why-these-coworking-spaces-in-train-stations-let-you-pay-in-social-capital/>

6 Buildings That Are Redefining The Library.

<http://www.fastcodesign.com/3044594/6-buildings-that-are-redefining-the-library>

SOME MORE FEATURED READING FROM LIFE.SREDA VC IN RUSSIAN



Oleg Tinkov has recently returned from Shanghai, where he agreed with the largest online hypermarket AliExpress to launch co-branded cards and joint loyalty program. Along the way, he met representatives of local digital-banks and concluded that Russian financial technologies are a way ahead of the Chinese. Nevertheless, Russian fintech startups, in his opinion, have no prospects in the near future.

<http://futurebanking.ru/post/2809>

In the early 2000s, the founders of i-Free made a fortune on a ringtone to the «Boomer» movie and mobile games, and now they hope to repeat the success in the segment of contactless payments.

<http://goo.gl/lvbP3R>

Microsoft is celebrating its 40th anniversary on April 4, 2015. In honor of the anniversary of the company, its specialists were questioned about the corporate developments in the «Internet of Things» sector — from the very first «smart watch» in 1994 to the high-tech decoration of its headquarters and the London Underground.

<http://siliconrus.com/2015/04/microsoft-iot/>

Starting from 1st of April 2015, you can apply for e-Residency in Estonian embassies and consular offices in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Pskov. Now the procedure involves two visits: to handle the application and to receive the results. Starting from May, electronic applications will be submitted online.

<https://roem.ru/01-04-2015/190654/e-estonia/>

Money from messages: how do the popular messengers make money and develop?

<http://siliconrus.com/2015/03/business-messenger/>

Amazon wants to buy Net-a-Porter.

<http://secretmag.ru/news/2015/03/27/amazon-kupit-net-a-porter/>

Justin Timberlake, Edward Norton and other stars investing in fintech startups.

<http://siliconrus.com/2015/03/celebrities-in-tech/>

How Rocketbank, Beeline, Mail.ru and other brands celebrated the April Fool's Day.

<http://siliconrus.com/2015/04/april-fools-day-brands/>

«I want to tell the story how we were establishing our i2istudy startup in Russia, declined the funding from Internet Initiatives Development Fund (IIDF) and raised investments in the US».

<http://secretmag.ru/articles/2015/03/30/Osipov/>

Performance indicators of IIDF's alumni.

<http://secretmag.ru/longread/2015/03/31/sudba-desyati-startapov-vstretivshih-s-putinim/>

The founder of the online tax service «Nalogia» has accused IIDF's resident startup «NDFLku» of stealing ideas and texts for the website.

<http://siliconrus.com/2015/03/ndfl/>

Russian venture firm Frontier Ventures is moving to Singapore.

<http://siliconrus.com/2015/03/frontier-singapur/>

Denis Bugrov, chief strategist and deputy chairman of Sberbank, «the right hand of German Gref», has left Sberbank and moved to Singapore.

<http://goo.gl/Vr2QbZ>

INSPIRASIA



What is the secret of success of Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macau.

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/2683631>

Sergey Belousov (Runa, Acronis) about his life in Singapore for the past 20 years.

<http://daily.rbc.ru/opinions/economics/30/03/2015/551926019a79477ce28e2e1b>

Lee Kuan Yew's life rules: «We have no NATURAL RESOURCES, we only have people living on a small, strategically important piece of land. If you don't fight for the first place, you won't occupy even the tenth».

<http://goo.gl/whI9LC>

Lee Kuan Yew has passed away at a time when Singapore confronts social and economic challenges. The former economic benefits of the city-state are exhausting, social tension is growing, and the popularity of the ruling party is declining. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and his team will have to take decisions on several very sensitive issues.

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/2698677>

Life in Myanmar in 1991–2013 (full-scale isolation) and nowadays.

<http://www.the-village.ru/village/situation/situation/169625-sankcii-november-2014>

Junta is not an obstacle for beaches: how generals are getting used to rule Thailand.

<https://slon.ru/posts/49970>

Nine masterpieces of Chinese architecture.

<http://blog.sinocom.ru/devyat-shedevrov-kitajskogo-zodchestva/>

How I listened to Asian music in Baidu for 10 days.

<http://www.lookatme.ru/mag/blogs/prorokov/212983-baidu-music>

A Chinese scholar knows 20,000 characters. It is enough to know 1000 characters to read Chinese literature. If you know 200 characters, you'll be able to understand 40% of literature, road signs, restaurant menus, websites and newspapers. But you can start with 8. It has become a basis for the educational program Chineasy, meant to show the world that there is nothing easier than to learn the «terrible» Chinese. It's a series of posters that reveal the secrets of hieroglyphic writing.

<http://www.adme.ru/tvorchestvo-hudozhniki/vyuchit-kitajskij-legko-546805/>

RETAIL BUSINESS

The Village: How I spent 2 months under the supervision of financial advisor Natalia Smirnova (Life Financial Group).

<http://goo.gl/jZq8Wf>

Gift miles, bonuses, cash-back. Only one out of ten plastic card holders is interested in his card being loyalty programme bound. However, the banks make up new ways to provoke consumer passion in their clients disguised as economy.

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/2688534>

The Government is ready to waive the fully comprehensive insurance of deposits up to 1.4 million roubles. The two variants are to be discussed. The first one, being the idea of Sberbank's president German Gref, is to refund to a depositor only 90% of the deposit and accumulated interest amount in the event of a claim. The second one is to refund the amount of the deposit only without any interest. The measure may invite the outflow of funds from the majority of banks, excluding the government-owned ones.

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/2694275>

According to new CMTPL rates issued by the Central Bank, the most expensive certificates of insurance will be sold in Murmansk and Chelyabinsk. The new CMTPL tariffs have been published in Bank's of Russia Bulletin on March 30th. By order of the Central Bank the new CMTPL basic rates are introduced starting with April 12th and the new regional indexes starting with April 1st.

<http://rbcdaily.ru/finance/562949994568328>



Following the other banks Sberbank has marked down consumer credit rates by 1-2 percentage points. The banks will proceed to cut rates to entice high-quality borrowers and avoid risks.

<http://rbcdaily.ru/finance/562949994568324>

The UK Government is unaware of any campaign to scrutinize wealthy Russians' accounts in British banks of which chief of Federal Financial Monitoring Service of Russia Yuriy Chihanchin claimed last week. HM Treasury's spokesperson informed

RBK that the British Government had not come to any specific decisions to examine the accounts of the Russian residents. The head of British regulatory agency FCA was astonished by Chihanchin's words.

<http://rbcdaily.ru/politics/562949994552457>

Alfa-Bank's new website.

<http://rebanking.ru/poppy-fields-foreva-novyiy-sayt-alfa-banka/>

SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

«Bank24.RU»: how to make your client happy, have your license recalled and regenerate as «Tochka».

<http://goo.gl/ckmZJM>

«1C» firm got 96,154% in online-accounting service «Nebo» («Sky» in Russian) after buying the shares of the companies «Startobaza» belonging to Svetlana Nikiforova and «BARS Ventures».

<http://siliconrus.com/2015/03/nebo-1c/>

Borrowed funds for business development are expensive in a downturn and strong brands have more chances to survive. One of the most efficient means to consolidate trademark's position becomes the franchising scheme application. There are about 1400 franchiser companies on Russian market and the number of franchises has grown by approximately 10% in the last year.

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/2698689>

The metropolitan authorities and «Bank of Moscow» will supply the small agricultural producers and farmers with the new channel of distribution based on their «Unified Electronic Trading Facility». The experts forewarn that farmers' products are more expensive in production costs and, due to absence of well-run logistics system, the transportation costs will rise even more.

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/2702517>

CORPORATE BUSINESS

In a couple of years to come the vacant business-parks and malls will remind of the times of Russia's «Gold Rush».

<http://rbcdaily.ru/economy/562949994568319>

The new realty evaluation method — application of cadastral and not inventory value — will lead to sharp property tax increase for many businessmen and individuals.

<http://rbcdaily.ru/economy/562949994568317>

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Last week after almost a quarter's quiet conditions four regions claimed at one stroke to be ready to enter public debt market. These Federal subjects intend to raise almost 40 billion roubles in 2015. The experts assume that this example may be followed by many others, but only after the next Central Bank's key interest rate reduction.

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/2697598>

BANKING SECTOR

About the recent banking franchise project by «Leto Bank» and bureau of financial solutions «Poidem» and its significance for the market — a discussion of Georgiy Gorshkov, senior vice-president of the board of «Leto Bank», and Elman Mehtiev, advisor to the president of The Association of Russian Banks, in columns of «Bankovskoe Obozrenie».

<http://bosfera.ru/bo/bankovskiy-biznes-v-nebankovskih-formah#>

In 2014 the government has become the main source of cash for banks. In seven of them already a quarter of liabilities falls to the share of state funds. The Central Bank assumes still bigger systematic risks.

<http://rbcdaily.ru/finance/562949994552451>

Russian authorities aim to entitle the banks which are under trusteeship of Deposit Insurance Agency (DIA; for the time being it is bank «Rossiyskiy Capital») with the right to conduct resolution of weak players, in case there is no other organisation intending to sanate them. «There is such an idea. DIA owns bank «Rossiyskiy Capital» (reorganized by the Agency), and why don't we in some cases carry on resolutions basing on this bank».

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/2700094>

Unnecessary banks: why Russia's financial sector is so exaggerated. Russia is among the champions' list by volumes of financial services in GDP. But the contribution of banking sector to the economy is much more humble than in advanced countries.

<http://www.forbes.ru/finansy/regulirovanie/284797-nenuzhnye-banki-pochemu-finansovyi-sektor-rossii-razdut>



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