

WEEKLY ONLINE MEDIA DIGEST

14.03.2015 — 21.03.2015

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LARGEST FINTECH ROUNDS MARCH 14-20

Dataminr — stock market analysis platform <small>USA</small>	\$130M
FundBox — online factoring <small>USA</small>	\$40M
Remitly — money transfers <small>USA</small>	\$12,5M
Unilend — crowdfunding through debt obligations <small>FRANCE</small>	\$8,6M
TableSafe — payment system for restaurants and bars <small>USA</small>	\$4,5M

ONLINE AND MOBILE FINANCIAL SERVICES



Facebook has introduced p2p-transfers through its messenger. The function will become operational in the U.S. over the coming months.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/18/facebook-introduces-free-friend-to-friend-payments-through-messages/>

READ MORE

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/03/17/facebook-pay/>

<http://venturebeat.com/2015/03/17/facebook-messenger-for-android-ios-and-desktop-now-lets-you-send-and-receive-money-in-the-u-s/>

<http://www.fastcompany.com/3043835/your-long-lost-facebook-acquaintances-can-now-beg-you-for-money>

<http://thenextweb.com/insider/2015/03/17/facebook-messenger-now-lets-you-pay-your-friends/>

Why have payments (although it is the least marginal, but most used product) become the basis for the financial industry change and what are the distinguishing features of 10 services: Apple Pay, Android Pay, Samsung Pay (Loop), MCX/CurrentC/Paydiant Wallet, PayPal, Coin, Plastc, Swyp, Stratos?

<http://fintechranking.com/?s=Battle+For+Mobile+Payments%3A+Guide+to+Digital+Wallets>

Fintech industry doesn't only improve financial sector technologies and allow investors and startups earn millions, it really makes the world a better place. In contrast to the

traditional banking sector fintech has earned the image of «social good» and socially responsible business.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/02/03/first-things-first-what-is-fintech/>

Apple Pay is coming to Europe by the end of 2015.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/02/26/apple-pay-coming-to-europe-by-the-end-of-the-year/>

The UK 2015 Budget provides a £10M digital currency research initiative for the development of the financial sector (the research will be conducted by Alan Turing Institute).

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/18/budget-2015-uk-to-regulate-cryptocurrencies/>

Amazon's General Manager of Payments, Matt Swann, has left the company after the failure of Amazon Wallet.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/20/amazon-loses-its-general-manager-of-payments-following-wallet-shutdown/>



US federal regulators have approved Amazon's testing of drones designed for the delivery of goods. On the eve the Federal Aviation Administration gave Amazon permission to conduct test flights of its drones outdoors only during daytime and flying not less than 400 feet above the ground.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/21/amazon-can-now-legally-fly-its-experimental-delivery-drones-during-daytime/>

READ MORE

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/20/technology/amazon-wins-approval-to-test-delivery-drones-outdoors.html?_r=0

Amazon is working on its legendary subscription service Prime for the purchase of apps.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/21/amazon-is-reportedly-working-on-a-prime-for-apps-subscription-service/>

IBEACONS

Amazon has acquired 2Lemetry, a developer of a platform to track and manage IP-enabled machines, with one of the key products being Beacons.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/12/amazon-has-quietly-acquired-2lemetry-to-build-out-its-internet-of-things-strategy/>

GSF India, the Bangalore-headquartered accelerator program, is now hunting IoT-startups (Internet of Things, a proposed development related to interaction with the customer devices and based among other things on beacons).

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/12/gsf-india-is-now-hunting-internet-of-things-startups-for-its-accelerator-program/>

The Woolet, a beacon that tells you that you have left your wallet (or phone), has been released.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/13/the-woolet-is-a-wallet-that-yells-at-you-when-you-leave-it-behind/>

Fundbox, an online factoring platform for SMEs, has raised \$40M to grow its business. Fundbox is processing thousands of invoices weekly and is growing on average four-fold in turnover per quarter.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/19/fundbox-raises-40-million-to-pay-invoices-on-demand/>

Stripe has acquired its competitor Balanced, a payments platform. The turnover of the two companies differ by times: Balanced used to process «hundreds of millions of dollars» (320 customers including Tilt, RedditGifts and Tradesy), while Stripe is processing billions of dollars a year for thousands of businesses.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/13/balanced-to-close-its-payment-platform-strikes-transition-deal-with-rival-stripe/>

An article about Honest Dollar (retirement plans for SME employees).

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/15/with-3m-in-funding-honest-dollar-hopes-to-make-retirement-plans-affordable-for-smbs/>

Bankjoy is developing a platform for mobile banking for use by credit unions and smaller banks. According to CEO of Bankjoy, over 100 credit unions have indicated they would be willing to use the software, which the company plans to charge for at a rate of \$1 per active user per month.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/16/bankjoy-is-building-a-modern-day-mobile-banking-app-for-use-by-credit-unions-and-smaller-banks/>



Thiago Olson, a 25-year-old founder and CEO of payment company Stratos, is now the focus of attention of the American media because his company has released a plastic card that can replace all bank cards in your wallet. However, Olson is no stranger to media attention: he built a nuclear reactor in his house at age 17.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/04/genius-who-built-a-nuclear-fusion-reactor-at-17-takes-on-the-payments-industry/>



INSPIRASIA

The reputable annual fintech research from Life.SREDA «Money of the future» is now available in Mandarin Chinese!

Mandarin Chinese: <http://goo.gl/5fKV2J>

In English: <http://goo.gl/gxyikA>

In Russian: <http://goo.gl/LGV0hc>

The Asian market is the fastest growing and promising for fintech.

<http://goo.gl/0Hospv>

Life.SREDA VC is moving to Singapore.

DealStreetAsia: <http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/20/exclusive-russian-vc-life-sreda-moving-hq-to-singapore-targets-100m-second-fund/>

WeChat has reached the mark of 500 million users.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/18/wechat-now-has-500-million-monthly-active-users/>

Wiper, a popular messaging app, has recently rolled out support for bitcoin transactions and was immediately removed from the iOS App Store in China.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/15/secure-messaging-app-wiper-adds-bitcoin-support-gets-yanked-in-china/>



Snapchat, one of the ten most popular instant messengers in the world, has raised \$200M from Alibaba Group and Saudi Arabian investor Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal at the valuation of \$19B. Alibaba's only weakness against its traditional rival — Chinese Tencent — is the lack of a strong position in the messaging market. With this investment (as well as the investment of \$215M in Tango messenger last year) Alibaba is trying to strengthen its position in the market by diversifying assets and insuring itself against the negative effects of the growing popularity of instant messengers as a means for communication, shopping, financial transactions, etc.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/11/alibaba-prince-alwaleed-go-in-on-snapchats-500m-round/>

READ MORE

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/03/12/this-is-more-than-a-crush/>

<https://www.techinasia.com/alibaba-invests-us200m-snapchat/>

Jack Ma, CEO Alibaba Group, has demonstrated face recognition-enabled payments.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/16/watch-alibabas-jack-ma-demonstrate-face-recognition-enabled-payments/>

Xiaomi now offers financial products following the example of Alibaba and Tencent.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/17/xiaomi-to-offer-financial-services-direct-through-its-smartphones/>



Paytm, the most popular Indian mobile wallet, has introduced a new feature that lets users to transfer money to bank accounts. Paytm has 25 million users and in the country where banking services are not popular (35% of the population have a bank account to compare with 48,17% in Russia and 63,81% in China) Paytm has become an alternative to debit cards (only 8% of the population have them). One97 (owners of Paytm, 25% stake equity in which was acquired by Alibaba Group) plans to grow Paytm's total users to 100 million by the end of the year. Ratan Tata, owner of India's Tata Group, has recently invested in Paytm.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/13/indias-top-mobile-wallet-app-adds-support-for-payments-to-bank-accounts/>

READ MORE

<http://datatopics.worldbank.org/financialinclusion/country/india>

<https://www.techinasia.com/indian-tycoon-ratan-tata-invest-mobile-ecommerce-leader-paytm/>

<http://e27.co/indian-business-baron-ratan-tata-invests-in-paytm-20150313/>

Rakuten, Japan's largest online retail firm, now accepts bitcoin. Last October it invested \$14.5M in Bitnet (development of infrastructure for bitcoin), which now processes Rakuten payments.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/17/rakuten-to-put-its-bitnet-investment-to-work-and-accept-bitcoin-worldwide/>

READ MORE

<https://www.techinasia.com/rakuten-bitcoin-global-marketplace/>

Peatix, a Japan's mobile ticketing startup, has raised \$5M for international expansion.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/17/ticketing-platform-peatix-bags-us5m-in-series-b-funding/>

READ MORE

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/03/16/peatix-5-million-series-b/>

<https://www.techinasia.com/peatix-5m-funding-new-markets-asia/>

The lack of venture capital against the background of increased demand for it may lead to a shortage of money for growth-stage (Series C) startups in China.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/13/series-c-crunch-will-leave-hundreds-of-chinese-startups-without-funding-in-2015-says-local-vc/>

INFLUENCES OTHER INDUSTRIES

Design is more important than ever before. John Maeda has delivered Design in Tech Report, his new reputable research of design trends.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/17/take-it-from-an-expert-design-is-more-important-than-ever/>

READ MORE

<http://www.kpcb.com/blog/design-in-tech-report-2015>

The research is as influential as Mary Meeker's «Internet Trends».

<http://www.fastcodesign.com/3043740/4-reasons-why-design-is-taking-over-silicon-valley>

The modern CEO should be DIO — «Designer-In-Chief».

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/02/26/the-ceo-of-the-future-is-a-designer-in-chief/>

Mark Zuckerberg recommends Ed Catmull's «Creativity, Inc.» (available in the Life. SREDA's corporate library for its employees).

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/16/mark-zuckerbergs-year-of-books-ed-catmulls-creativity-review/>

Buy the book in English: <http://goo.gl/znH408>

Richard Branson's Virgin racing team is working on electric cars — «we would like to drive Tesla».

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/20/virgin-could-take-on-tesla-with-electric-car/>

How libraries in different countries are turning into co-workings and startup incubators.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/13/funding-boost-aims-to-turn-libraries-into-startup-incubators/>

Google opens schools for offline merchants to improve their digital skills.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/13/google-opening-digital-garage-to-help-businesses-in-leeds/>



The UK banks are fond of entrepreneurs and hipsters: they (Santander, Barclays, HSBC, RBS, Lloyds) are launching a course for «creatively minded people» to improve their financial independence.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/19/banks-are-helping-creative-startups-get-finance-savvy/>

WIRED Money will take place in London on July 8 and will be sponsored by BBVA.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/03/10/wired-money-2015-date-announced/>

SOME MORE FEATURED READING FROM LIFE.SREDA VC

KickPay is a new online factoring startup.

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/03/20/kickpay/>

Pennies is a new PFM mobile app (like Moven's PFM).

<http://www.getpennies.com/>

<https://vimeo.com/106816943>

Take a look at the cool office of our friends from QIWI.

<http://goo.gl/rPvnHO>

Cardback helps you choose your most cost-effective card for payment.

<http://www.producthunt.com/posts/cardback>

Infographic: WeChat vs WhatsApp.

<http://cdn.e27.co/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/unnamed-1.jpg>

Top 15 well-funded startups in India.

<https://www.techinasiacom.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/15-Most-Well-Funded-Startups-India1.png>

The biggest Hong Kong's contemporary art exhibition Art Basel Hong Kong has just closed.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/19/arts/international/art-basel-hong-kong-the-reviews-are-in.html?_r=1

Hong Kong government seeks foreigners to work as undercover agents for HKD140/hour.

<http://hongkong.coconuts.co/2015/03/19/hong-kong-government-seeks-foreigners-work-undercover-agents-hkd120hour>

Myanmar reforms through the lens of social media.

<http://monocle.com/magazine/issues/82/state-of-the-news/>

How Malaysia's film industry is reviving.

<http://monocle.com/magazine/issues/82/camera-ready/>

Trend report designed by Wolff Olins.

<http://woreport.wolffolins.com/>

The ideas that will change business and society in 2015.

<http://www.fastcoexist.com/3040827/world-changing-ideas/the-world-changing-ideas-of-2015>

Y Combinator is accepting applications for the Summer 2015 program until March 27.

<http://www.ycombinator.com/apply/>

How Y Combinator startups are getting ready for Demo Day.

<http://www.fastcompany.com/3043810/the-y-combinator-chronicles/how-y-combinator-startups-manufacture-fomo>

Uber has allowed third-party developers to fully integrate all the functionality of the service into their applications.

<https://devblog.uber.com/take-your-users-for-a-spin>



Best regards,
Vladislav Solodkiy
Managing Partner
Life.SREDA VC

+79036761627

vsolodkiy@lifesreda.com

lifesreda.com

[LinkedIn](#)