

WEEKLY ONLINE MEDIA DIGEST

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#11 01.06.2015 — 21.06.2015

ONLINE AND MOBILE FINANCIAL SERVICES



June, 6 at its Worldwide Developers Conference in San-Francisco Apple Pay presented a decent number of updates. Among those there were a new Wallet app, loyalty cards support function, alternative equipment for retailers and announcement of a new-to-the-service market expansion. You can now link Apple Pay not only with your debit or credit cards, but also with a bunch of retail networks discount cards. Discover (one of the popular US card brands) will join the existing amount of payment systems that work with Apple Pay. As for the apps accepting payments through the system, their number will widen by Pinterest. The company also announced Apple Pay is entering the UK market next year. As of the launch, the system will be accepting cards of 8 largest banks that hold 70% of all the cards in the country. The main restraining factor of Apple Pay expansion among selling points is the high cost of the equipment. To fix this issue Apple teamed up with Square, which is launching a tiny smartphone data reader for stores this fall. The company reckons this will speed up the payment process twice. They also say the number of selling points accepting Apple Pay will increase by 1 million (at the moment there are 700 thousand).

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/08/apple-pay-to-land-in-the-uk-in-july-why-android-pay-will-succeed-where-google-wallet-failed/>

Read in Russian: <http://futurebanking.ru/post/2867>

Apple Pay to land in the UK in July.

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/06/08/apple-pay-is-coming-to-the-u-k-next-month/>



Interviews with analysts, merchants and others suggest that many retailers remain skeptical about Apple Pay, according to Reuters.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/06/05/us-apple-pay-idUSKBN00L0CM20150605>

Read in Russian: <http://siliconrus.com/2015/06/nothing-good-apay/>



Google already offered a payments service. It was called Google Wallet, and like Android Pay, it was a way of using your smartphone to pay for stuff both in stores and online. The name—Android Pay—was new. But as the company unveiled the service at its annual developer conference, even that had a familiar ring. It was an echo of Apple Pay, the payments service that arrived on the iPhone to much fanfare this past fall. To be sure, Android Pay will streamline Google Wallet in some ways, whether you're tapping your phone to an NFC reader at a McDonald's or ordering food from the GrubHub app. Google will offer tools that lets online banking apps plug into its payments service, perhaps easing the process of, say, getting your credit card onto your phone. And brands like Coca Cola are offering rewards programs. But these are relatively small changes. The big difference—barely discussed at the Google I/O developer conference—is that AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile will preinstall Android Pay on phones when the service is ready later this year. According to Osama Bedier, the former PayPal exec who oversaw the creation of Google Wallet and now runs the payments startup Poynt, this is the big thing Google Wallet was missing—and the big thing that could make an Android-based payments service (and mobile payments in general) take off.

<http://www.wired.com/2015/06/android-pay-will-succeed-google-wallet-failed/>



Twitter announced Thursday that current CEO Dick Costolo will be stepping down from his post, effective July 1. Jack Dorsey will be returning as interim CEO. He will stay on as CEO of Square.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/12/the-fabulous-life-of-jack-dorsey-twitters-billionaire-interim-ceo/>

READ MORE

<http://www.wired.com/2015/06/twitter-ceo-dick-costolo-jack-dorsey-developing/>

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/06/11/twitter-announces-ceo-dick-costolo-stepping-down-jack-dorsey-named-interim-ceo/>

Read in Russian: <http://siliconrus.com/2015/06/costolo-leave/>

There are a lot questions around what's going on at his other company, Square. The biggest of all of them is whether the company will go public or sell. Either way, all signs point to an exit. Square remains adamant that Dorsey will not only continue to lead the company, but that it has no concerns whatsoever that his new responsibilities at Twitter will in any way affect operations at Square.

<http://venturebeat.com/2015/06/12/dorsey-news-begs-questions-about-squares-future/>

The payments startup Square plans to go public this year and may have already filed a confidential registration document with the Securities and Exchange Commission, sources with knowledge of the matter tell Forbes. Confidential filings are permitted for companies with less than \$1 billion in revenue.

<http://www.businessinsider.sg/payments-company-square-reportedly-going-public-this-year-2015-6/#.VX4NQvntlBc>



Chuck Blakeman, Crankset Group founder, has published at Inc.com his article about leadership — according to him, a true leader lets his employees make decisions and doesn't interfere with this process. He supports this idea with examples of great leaders — Bill Gore, Ricardo Semler and Jack Dorsey. Jack Dorsey, co-founder of Twitter and present CEO of Square: «If you take decision in your company, you are not a leader.»

<http://www.inc.com/chuck-blakeman/square-ceo-jack-dorsey-says-if-you-re-making-decisions-you-re-not-leading.html>

Read in Russian: <http://siliconrus.com/2015/06/dorsey-on-leadership/>

Square Will Launch An Apple Pay-Ready NFC And Card Chip Reader This Fall.

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/06/08/square-apple-pay/>



SumUp, a startup originally founded in 2012 in Berlin that competes against the likes of iZettle and Rocket Internet's Payleven, has raised an undisclosed amount led by Swiss backer Venture Incubator. The exact figure is not being disclosed, but SumUp's CEO Daniel Klein confirms that the total raised by the company to date is now \$45 million (€40 million) and that this latest round values the company in the «healthy hundreds of millions.»

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/10/european-mobile-payment-startup-sumup-discloses-a-total-45m-in-funding/>

PayPal Takes Its One Touch Instant Web Checkout Service Global, UK And Canada First.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/09/paypals-one-touch-instant-web-checkout-service-strikes-new-iphone-app/>

Stripe Now Has An iPhone App For Monitoring Payment Activity.

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/06/09/stripe-now-has-an-iphone-app-for-monitoring-payment-activity/>



Attention Shoppers: Brace Yourselves For Beacons? THE SPREAD OF MOBILE PAYMENT PLATFORMS OPENS A DOOR FOR STORES TO CATER TO CUSTOMERS' PERSONAL PREFERENCES ON SITE. You won't truly be happy until a company knows everything about you. Where you live, how much you make, whom you married, what you buy on your phone and what you buy at a store, favorite sports team, everything. Don't like hearing this? Take a ball-peen hammer to your phone and smash it repeatedly.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/14/brace-yourselves-for-beacons/>

What's the future of iBeacons?

<https://www.techinasia.com/talk/ibeacons-social-media/>

How iBeacons work and who needs them.

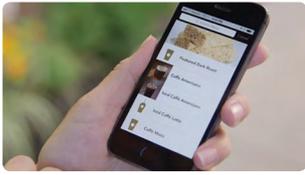
Read in Russian: <http://siliconrus.com/2015/06/ibeacon-explained/>



Revel makes one of the leading iPad point-of-sale systems and was among the first to offer Apple Pay. Despite its focus on mobile payments, however, the startup is also trying to attract companies that are wary of handling financial transactions solely through wi-fi. To get more enterprises on board, Revel is launching wired Ethernet connections, a move that it hopes will convince large retail businesses to replace their cash registers with iPads. Revel claims they are the first iPad POS provider to offer failover connections between wi-fi and cabled Ethernet, so if one falters, the other will take over. Called Revel Ethernet Connect, the hardware is now on sale for \$250 and will be included with Revel's iPad POS system after June 15.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/16/revels-ipad-point-of-sale-platform-and-starbucks-mobile-ordering/>

Starbucks, whose embrace of mobile payments and mobile loyalty in-store has already established the company as a forward-thinker when it comes to new technology, is this morning announcing the expansion of its «Mobile Order & Pay» system to 21 more states, including 3,400 individual café locations across the U.S. The feature allows customers to place their order and pay using the Starbucks mobile app, then skip the line when they arrive at the store, as their drink or other item is already being made.



Mobile Order & Pay first began as a pilot program in Portland in December, and has expanded across Starbucks' locations in a relatively short time frame thanks to the way it leverages the technology infrastructure Starbucks already has in place. The company said in March the feature was rolling out across the Pacific Northwest, including Seattle, as well as elsewhere in Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Alaska. At the time, Mobile Order & Pay was available in 650 stores.

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/06/16/starbucks-mobile-ordering-expands-to-21-more-states-now-live-in-over-4000-stores/>

David Yan, «Now people don't need a wallet in a café».

Read in Russian: <https://slon.ru/posts/52090>



GoFundMe confirmed that it has raised venture capital financing in a blog post today, infusing the previously bootstrapped company with cash that will give it room to grow. TechCrunch previously reported that the round valued GoFundMe at around \$500 million, though one of our sources said the valuation could have ended up higher than that. Our sources also told us the reason why it attracted so much attention from investors — its rate of fundraising has grown 300% year over year. GoFundMe said it has raised \$1.2 billion from its campaigns to date. GoFundMe earlier this year said it was approaching \$100 million in funds raised from campaigns every month.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/18/etsy-debuts-crowdfunding-platform-while-gofundme-confirms-its-funding-round/>

ECOMMERCE+FINTECH = ETSY DEBUTS CROWDFUNDING PLATFORM, TAKES ON KICKSTARTER. FUND ON ETSY IS A CROWDFUNDING PILOT PROGRAM BUILT DIRECTLY INTO THE POPULAR ONLINE MARKETPLACE.

<http://www.fastcompany.com/3047511/fast-feed/etsy-debuts-crowdfunding-platform-takes-on-kickstarter>



Crowdfunding just got a little bit more interesting. According to SEC Regulation A+, as of today companies can secure funding via crowdfunding provided they are compliant with a set of very specific laws and standards. «These new rules provide an effective, workable path to raising capital that also provides strong investor protections,» said SEC Chair Mary Jo White in a release dated March 25, 2015. «It is important for the Commission to continue to look for ways that our rules can facilitate capital-raising by smaller companies.»

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/19/sec-reg-a-will-now-let-you-crowdfund-equity/>

Tendr Is Tinder For Finding Your Next Equity Crowdfunding Investment.

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/06/03/tendr/>

Having occupied relatively safe niches, such as payments and P2P-lending, fintech companies are now moving toward the core banking business. For them it is a multi-billion dollar opportunity to reinvent the financial services, but they won't cope without the support of the current banking industry, according to the report by Santander InnoVentures, Oliver Wyman and Anthemis Group.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/18/fintech-rebooting-financial-services/>

PDF: <http://www.finextra.com/finextra-downloads/newsdocs/The%20Fintech%20%200%20Paper.PDF>

Read in Russian: <http://futurebanking.ru/post/2873>

The Quiet Financial Revolution Begins.

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/financial-services-revolution-by-mohamed-a-el-erian-2015-06>

Read in Russian: <https://slon.ru/posts/52573>

10 characteristics of a digital bank by Brett King, CEO Moven.

<http://www.banking4tomorrow.com/digital-bank-or-fintech-youre-not-a-digital-bank/>

Read in Russian: <http://futurebanking.ru/post/2880>

Last September, McKinsey released a report overviewing the need to modernize payments.

PDF: http://www.mckinsey.com/~/media/McKinsey/dotcom/client_service/Financial%20Services/Latest%20thinking/Payments/MoP20_Transforming_national_payments_systems.ashx

McKinsey: Why Banks Should Invest in Payments Infrastructure.

<https://ripple.com/blog/mckinsey-why-banks-should-invest-in-payments-infrastructure/>

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/06/06/the-year-that-was-and-will-be-in-mobile-payments/>



Australian bank customers are among the world's fastest adopters of mobile banking, a trend that is predicted to make the big four prime targets for technology-based firms eyeing banks' huge profits. Mobile banking has overtaken online banking through a desktop computer as the main way for customers to interact with their bank, and Australian consumers are leading the charge, consultancy Bain & Company says.

<http://www.theage.com.au/business/banking-and-finance/australia-leads-the-world-in-mobile-banking-20150614-ghngd5?stb=tw&skin=dumb-phone>

Britons are now checking their bank balance on their mobile phones more than anywhere else, leaving more traditional services like a visit to the high street branch in decline. Banking apps were used 10.5m times a day across the country in March, eclipsing the 9.6m daily log-ins to internet banking services, and both services are still growing rapidly, according to data from the British Bankers' Association.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/banksandfinance/11672021/Mobile-banking-has-eclipsed-branches-and-even-the-rest-of-the-internet.html>

Stripe, the £3.2 billion (\$5 billion) US online payments start-up, is rolling out across the Nordics, taking it head-to-head with one of Europe's most valuable fintech businesses. Stripe's co-founder John Collison announced at MoneyConf in Belfast today that the company is launching across Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland this week. That puts it in direct competition with Klarna, a rival Swedish online payment company valued at £650 million (\$1 billion).

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/15/us-payment-startup-stripes-new-plan-threatens-to-crush-one-of-europes-hottest-fintech-firms/>



Fintech, the home of the fabled unicorn, is hot. There are now 36 fintech unicorns in the wild, which is up 25 from 11 over the last year. This staggering growth is a reflection of the hype around fintech, where a plethora of startups are using technology to compete against or collaborate with established financial players. The result is a dramatic increase in company valuations as investors look to get in on the ground floor of the next big thing. However, there is an enormous difference between being valued at \$1 billion-plus and realising that exit. Vast potential seems to be sacrificed too early. Young unicorns are culled. Why is that? In Europe the fintech scene isn't set to create a wave of financial technology giants hell bent on world domination. Too many are built to exit, rather than to compete.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/02/when-will-european-fintech-startups-grow-up/>

Fintech Fusion are calling for applications for their 2015 class, which will be their first. Sébastien Flury, the incubator's program director, believes that banks have to «reinvent themselves» and they have started to recognize this fact. Switzerland is one

of the world's major financial hubs, which creates tremendous opportunities for the development of fintech innovation.

<http://cointelgraph.com/news/114431/fintech-fusion-reinforcing-the-position-of-switzerland-as-a-worldwide-hub-for-innovation>

Read in Russian: <http://rebanking.ru/fintech-fusion-shveysarskaya-fabrika-finteh-innovatsiy/>



Azimo, a mobile money transfer startup out of London that was once feted by Facebook, is jumping into the funding ring with a \$20 million raise. CEO and co-founder Michael Kent says the company will use the investment to continue to build out its operations across Europe and deeper into the community of migrants who already form the bedrock of its services. While Azimo — which was founded in 2012 and covers 200 countries and 80 different currencies — is not disclosing its valuation, we have confirmed with reliable sources that it is just under \$100 million. The Series B round was led by Frog Capital, with participation from MCI Management and existing investors e.ventures and Greycroft Partners. It brings the total raised by Azimo to \$31 million.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/15/money-transfer-startup-azimo-raises-20m-at-a-100m-valuation/>

Tech City UK CEO: why London needs startups, and why it needs us.

<http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2015-06/10/tech-city-uk-ceo-gerard-grech-qa-wired>

WIRED Money: — The 'death of cash': David Wolman.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/15/wired-money-the-future-of-money/>

WIRED Money: — Mobile money is the future: Ismail Ahmed.

<http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2015-06/15/wired-money-ismail-ahmed>



Nubank from Brazil, which has developed a platinum Master Card credit service that you apply for and manage using only your mobile phone, has picked up \$30 million. The Series B round was led by new investor Tiger Global Management, with existing backers Sequoia Capital, Kaszek Ventures and QED Investors also participating. The company is not disclosing its valuation in this round. Since launching its service in September last year, at the same time that the company also announced its \$14.3 million Series A round, Nubank has picked up more than 200,000 applications from interested users, with 100,000 of them still on its wait list. Those using cards have made more than 750,000 purchases so far. (The company has now raised \$46.3 million to date.) Brazil is one of the world's fastest growing mobile markets, with 90 million smartphones in circulation among a population of about 200 million, and today a fintech company that has focused on catering to that growing group of users has raised a significant round of funding.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/02/brazils-nubank-raises-30m-led-by-tiger-to-build-out-its-mobile-based-credit-card-business/>



INSPIRASIA

Analysis of the biennial Payment Innovations Report 2015 from June 17 has described an increasingly successful FinTech sector in Asian and African countries that they say is likely to take the lead in digital payment startups and new businesses, while they criticize NFC payments as a «solution still looking for a problem.»

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/17/the-insiders-view-to-payments-and-fintech-in-asia/>



Looking at the future of payment innovation, the report seeks to identify the greatest opportunities in the sector, as well as dispel «overhyped» concepts. The strongest theme underlying the report is of the shift in FinTech innovations from the West to Asia and Africa.

<http://www.asiaoutlookmag.com/news/the-real-fintech-capitals-of-the-world>

<http://cointelegraph.com/news/114602/report-fintechs-future-is-in-asia-africa-europe-is-at-the-bottom-of-the-heap>

Fast growth in Asia and strong market performance drove much of the wealth growth in 2014, when worldwide assets reached a record-high \$164.3 trillion, according to the 2015 Global Wealth Report by the Boston Consulting Group, Winning the Growth Game. Wealth managers and advisory firms are also anticipating the coming digital revolution in financial services, though a tangible impact has yet to be felt.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/laurashin/2015/06/16/asia-to-surpass-north-america-as-wealthiest-region-in-2016-fintech-set-to-change-wealth-management/>

Microcredit is the newest silver bullet for alleviating poverty. Wealthy philanthropists such as financier George Soros and eBay co-founder Pierre Omidyar are pledging hundreds of millions of dollars to the microcredit movement. Global commercial banks, such as Citigroup Inc. and Deutsche Bank AG, are establishing microfinance funds. Even people with just a few dollars to spare are going to microcredit Web sites and, with a click of the mouse, lending money to rice farmers in Ecuador and auto mechanics in Togo.

http://www.ssireview.org/articles/entry/microfinance_misses_its_mark/



How Fintech Can Disrupt Africa's Cash-Based Economy? Paying at a local coffee shop or superstore with your smartphone instead of your bank card is convenient, but not much more convenient than using a credit card. While there is significant disruption in some fintech areas, such as international money transfer by companies like TransferWise and Azimo, other innovations can seem a bit cosmetic to Western users.

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/06/07/how-fintech-can-disrupt-africas-cash-based-economy/>

INDIA

Paytm, which has recently forayed into online retailing business, is planning to bring in 1,00,000 sellers from Chinese e-tailer Alibaba's online arm AliExpress to its platform from August. The Delhi-based company estimates its gross merchandise value (GMV) to increase by \$1.5 billion from AliExpress businesses in the next six months. Paytm, originally a mobile payment services, has crossed \$1.5 billion (about 9,600 crore) in GMV in the year ending April 2015.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/18/india-paytm-is-bringing-in-sellers-from-aliexpress-adstringo-and-fundsindia-announce-new-rounds/>

AdStringO, a Mumbai-based software startup, today announced it raised US\$350,000 in seed funding from Indian Angel Network. The investors in the round include Arihant Patni, Vishal Khare, and Viswanath Ramachandran. AdStringO is an endpoint compression software for enterprises like banks and insurance companies to on-board and service customers from rural areas. It has a team of field representatives who are mobile equipped to scan documents and upload images, audio, and video. The software can compress the files to one-tenth the size and works in low bandwidth areas. With AdStringO, the time taken to activate a bank account or pass a loan document can be reduced to merely four hours, where before it took anywhere from one week to one month.

<https://www.techinasia.com/india-adstringo-funding/>



Financial services site FundsIndia announced today that it raised US\$11 million in series C led by asset management firm Faering Capital. Existing investors Foundation Capital and Inventus Capital Partners also participated in this round. The fresh funding will be used for marketing. It will also be used to enhance its service offering, especially using mobile platforms. FundsIndia offers mutual funds from all asset management companies, stocks, and exchange traded funds (ETFs) from Bombay Stock Exchange, fixed deposit products from companies, Reliance MyGold Plan, and other services. It has tied up with 39 banks for online transaction facilities and claims to have customers from all over the country and abroad.

<https://www.techinasia.com/fundsindia-funding-financial-service-provider/>

SINGAPORE

10 reasons why Singapore is the next big city for fintech.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/11/10-reasons-why-singapore-is-the-next-big-city-for-fintech/>

Singapore is testing whether mass surveillance and big data can not only protect national security, but actually engineer a more harmonious society.

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/07/29/the-social-laboratory/>

Recode: «Singapore Rising: The Plot to Be the Next Big Tech Hub».

<http://recode.net/2015/06/16/singapore-rising-the-plot-to-be-the-next-big-tech-hub/>

Facebook co-founder Eduardo Saverin: Billionaire investor in Singapore start-ups.

<http://www.straitstimes.com/news/business/start-ups/story/facebook-co-founder-eduardo-saverin-billionaire-investor-singapore-sta#sthash.84CkmObK.dpuf>

Singapore's startup ecosystem.

<https://www.techinasia.com/talk/singapores-startup-ecosystem-in-an-infographic/>

<http://www.dealstreetasia.com/stories/singapore-startup-ecosystem-great-testing-ground-but-small-market-7926/>

The Singaporean government has accepted new proposals on licensed moneylending, together with one of the biggest change amid protests which is the 4% interest rate cap per month.

<https://applypersonalloans.sg/moneylending-interest-cap-4-per-cent/>

HONG-KONG AND CHINA



Alibaba revealed this afternoon that its finance subsidiary, Ant Financial — which runs Alipay, China's top online payments service — has received an investment from China's state-run National Social Security Fund (NSSF). The funding amount is not disclosed.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/19/alibaba-confirms-government-investment-for-its-alipay-and-online-banking-business-2/>

<http://e27.co/alibabas-online-bank-locks-in-funding-valued-over-us45-billion-20150619/>

How Hong Kong can become a world FinTech hub?

<http://www.ejinsight.com/20150608-how-hong-kong-can-become-a-world-fintech-hub/>



China now has more than a million sterling millionaires. There are twice as many high net worth individuals, who have assets worth more than £1m, than there were in 2010 according to a new report from Bain & Company and China Merchants Bank.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/banksandfinance/11633146/China-now-has-more-than-a-million-sterling-millionaires.html>

SOUTH KOREAN TEAM TAKES \$2 MILLION TOP PRIZE AT DARPA ROBOTICS CHALLENGE. DARPA WANTS TO INSPIRE THE CREATION OF ROBOTS CAPABLE OF DISASTER RECOVERY. BUT THERE'S A LONG WAY TO GO AND A LOT OF WORK STILL TO DO.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/08/south-korean-team-takes-2-million-top-prize-at-darpa-robotics-challenge/>

EZIK cofounder Evgeny Kim told siliconrus.ru about a structure of the innovations ecosystem in South Korea. He lives and works there since 2012, and his startup is developing applications that help people overseas fixing common issues.

Read in Russian: <http://siliconrus.com/2015/06/south-korea-market/>

A cruel world of Korean cyber sport.

Read in Russian: <http://siliconrus.com/2015/06/korean-cybersport/>



Equity-based crowdfunding platform Asian Crowdfunder has launched its operations in Malaysia this month, and is in the process of starting operations in Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand. The pan-Asian platform, which claims to be accessible to vetted accredited investors only, is founded by an international team of experienced and successful entrepreneurs and asset managers backed by decades of experience.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/20/asian-crowdfunder-launches-in-malaysia-looking-to-enter-singapore-indonesia-thailand/>

Five Indonesian fin-tech startups with high potential.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/04/indonesian-fintech-startups-with-high-potential/>

Indonesia's smartphone revolution starts now! In three to four years, consumers in Indonesia will only pay Rp 400,000 (US\$30) for 4G smartphones, Indonesia's tech minister Rudiantara announced last month. 4G technology is only now beginning to enter Indonesia on a large scale. All three major operators are currently engaged in country-wide 4G infrastructure upgrades. And while Indonesia has a mobile phone penetration of over 100 percent, as little as 23 percent of those are smartphones. To achieve the minister's goal and to kick Indonesia's smartphone revolution into motion, the nation's mobile phone industry needs to transform itself. Policymakers and the industry players have launched an orchestrated effort, nudging consumers to make the switch from 2G feature phones to 4G.

<https://www.techinasia.com/mobile-industry-4g-upgrade-indonesia/>



Japan's GMO Internet is often in the news as an investor, but today the Japanese internet service and online payment provider was the one receiving funds. The firm announced a JPY 8 billion (US\$65 million) investment by multinational banking giant Mitsui Sumitomo to strengthen its GMO Payment Gateway ecommerce payment solution and aid the startups that it serves.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/10/gmo-raises-65m-from-japanese-megabank-to-strengthen-online-payments-help-startups/>



Commonwealth Bank is the first large commercial bank in the world, that made strategic alliance with digital currency network. Ripple blockchain's shared public ledger technology allows users to exchange values on a global scale. But for all that the Bitcoin cryptocurrency is not being in a particular use of the end-users. This provides a wide range of new opportunities for CommBank. For instance it may become a gateway to foreign exchange markets and such rare currencies as the Indonesian rupiah and the Vietnamese dong. Another bank — from Shanghai — recently announced its partnership with Ripple. Thus they're planning to attract global fintech entrepreneurs.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/11/westpac-and-anz-experiment-with-ripple/>

Read in Russian: <http://rebanking.ru/commonwealth-bank-avstraliya-budet-ispolzovat-blokcheyn-ripple/>

Besides that there are news about two other banks out the big four that are currently experimenting with the shared public ledger. ANZ has just created a team for studying Ripple's abilities. While Westpac is already testing the blockchain by making transfers between two overseas branches.

<http://www.coindesk.com/australian-banks-westpac-and-anz-experiment-with-ripple/>

Read in Russian: <http://rebanking.ru/blokcheyn-v-avstralii/>

In Europe, MasterCard filed a request to the British governors urging them to pay more attention to the cryptocurrencies. The payment network claims that transfer costs of those systems are much lower only because they don't have any expenses related to compliance, anti-laundry legislations and consumer rights protection requirements.

<http://www.thepayers.com/default/digital-currencies-have-more-risks-than-benefits-mastercard-claims/760214-0>

Read in Russian: <http://rebanking.ru/a-mastercard-protiv-kriptoalyut/>

How to relocate from Europe to New Zealand and get a job there.

<http://siliconrus.com/2015/06/new-zealand/>

This Sleek Electric Tuk-Tuk Is Designed To Battle Traffic In Your City. These popular three-wheeled taxis zip around overcrowded cities like Mumbai and Nairobi. Could a greener version catch on in the Western world? Tuk-tuks might be everyday, ubiquitous transportation in Nairobi or Phnom Penh, but can these tiny three-wheeled taxis also find a place in sprawling, car-obsessed cities like L.A. or Atlanta?

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/11/this-sleek-electric-tuk-tuk-is-designed-to-battle-traffic-in-your-city/>

INFLUENCES OTHER INDUSTRIES



Airbus Group announced the creation of a \$150 million venture capital fund and said it had hired a Google executive to run a new center in Silicon Valley as it seeks to wave a digital wand over its heavy-manufacturing culture. The planemaker said on Friday that Airbus Group Ventures would invest in «disruptive and innovative» technologies worldwide. It will be headed by Tim Dombrowski, 54, formerly a partner at venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/29/airbus-group-starts-150-million-venture-fund-silicon-valley-base/>

Right now we are going through a once-in-a-century transformation in business that is throwing out all the existing rules. And that includes everything that the MBA programs are currently teaching their students. This is because the world is shifting from selling products to selling subscriptions, and in the «subscription economy,» companies are

focused on generating recurring revenue. So it's not about the price of the product and the margin. It's about delivering value to customers, so they don't want to switch services.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/04/27/why-this-ceo-believes-an-mba-is-worthless/>



Whole Foods has finally unveiled the name of its forthcoming millennial-centric chain of stores: 365 by Whole Foods Market. It's a name that loyal customers will likely warm up to quickly—a reference to the company's existing wallet-friendly line of «Everyday Value» products.

<http://www.fastcompany.com/3047337/fast-feed/whole-foods-targets-millennials-with-new-chain-called-365>

WHAT MILLENNIAL EMPLOYEES REALLY WANT? MANY MILLENNIALS WANT TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE, AND THE FUTURE OF WORK LIES IN INSPIRING THEM. HERE'S WHAT SMART COMPANIES CAN DO.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/11/what-millennial-employees-really-want/>

Fuhu, a company that makes tablets for children and aggressively seeks content partnerships, is trying a new value proposition. One of Fast Company's 2015 Most Innovative Companies, Fuhu is trying out an Android tablet for children that works on a subscription basis. The new Nabi Pass costs \$9.99 a month for a two-year subscription, includes a free tablet bundled in, and has unlimited content from partners including Disney, DreamWorks, National Geographic, and other well-known names.

<http://www.fastcompany.com/3047246/fast-feed/subscription-tablets-for-kids-this-10-month-device-has-unlimited-disney-more>



Apple's brick-and-mortar stores have become a staple of the shopping experience for iPhone, Mac, and now Apple Watch shoppers. The company has managed to nail retail in a way that others haven't, as statistics comparing traffic in Apple Stores vs. Microsoft Stores during the holiday shopping season in years past have clearly shown. Ron Johnson, Apple's former retail chief that has since served as the CEO of JCPenny and now has his own tech concierge startup, says creating the Apple Store wasn't hard. This was mostly because Jobs had such a strong vision for what he wanted the Apple Store to be.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/19/what-it-was-like-to-create-the-apple-store-according-to-the-man-who-helped-steve-jobs-build-it/>

«School of the future» opens in Finland.

<http://www.archdaily.com/406513/saunalahti-school-verstas-architects/>

Read in Russian: <http://www.adme.ru/zhizn-dobro/shkola-buduschego-otkrylas-v-finlyandii-952960/>

PINTEREST IS FINALLY GOING TO LET US BUY THE THINGS WE LIKE.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/10/pinterest-is-finally-going-to-let-us-buy-things-we-like/>

READ MORE

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/06/10/never-leave/>



Two social networks at once — Instagram and Pinterest — made the same long-awaited step. They practically entered the eCommerce market as intermediaries. The companies, that previously have been only developing the advertising model, now announced the «Buy» button for the goods promoted on images. Instagram, owned by Facebook, introduces several buttons at once — they allow users to interact with companies directly. «Buy» is the main button, which is located right under the promoted item's image. By pressing this button a user can immediately purchase the item right

from the app. The Pinterest «Buy» button works the same way, it also allows users to pay for the goods they found in the social network without leaving it.

Read in Russian: <https://slon.ru/posts/52513>

SOME MORE FEATURED READING FROM LIFE.SREDA VC IN RUSSIAN

RETAIL

BBVA Compass

BBVA Compass bank is launching MoneyFit finance consulting service. A while ago there was a news about «Great Ideas for Small Business» bank service. But the new service is targeting bank's private clients. It will be providing them with help and advice in their life's most important moments related to finance, such as preparation for retirement or mortgage loan arrangements. There are hundreds of articles about budget accumulation and management on the site: loan portfolio management, real estate ownership, family and career. As they say at BBVA Compass, the goal of the project is to make useful finance advice and education available for the biggest possible number of people. To create the site the bank hired professional journalists and infographics specialists.

<http://www.finextra.com/news/announcement.aspx?pressreleaseid=59961>

MoneyMan remote lending service, co-invested by Vadim Dymov, a «Respublika» bookstore network and Dymov sausage manufacture owner, entered the market in Spain. This is claimed in the company's announcement. The Spanish market of online micro loans appeared in 2011. By 2014 the market volume grew up to 300-400 million euros.

<http://secretmag.ru/news/2015/06/18/servis-money-man-spain/>



The Financial Brand took a tour around the banks innovative labs and came to the following conclusion. Judging by the way their technology kitchens look like, the banks are taking questions of work on the new products and technologies rather seriously.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/06/08/peek-inside-7-of-the-banking-worlds-coolest-innovation-labs/>

Read in Russian: <http://futurebanking.ru/post/2865>

Almost 40 million of Russians have uncleared loans. Starting July, 1 every citizen is allowed to claim himself as a bankrupt. However after studying the experience of the debtors, Esquire found more effective ways to get rid of a loan.

<http://esquire.ru/loan>

<http://rbcdaily.ru/finance/562949995661919>

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/2734461>



The State Office of Public Prosecutor has previously declared methods used by collectors coercive, meaning illegal. Those days head of Rospotrebnadzor Gennadiy Onischenko made a similar statement by claiming collectors to be the players of a «completely illegal field». The parliament has already prohibited the night calls and SMS to the debtors in regards of their buyer's credits. Now the deputies are concerned about comfort of those who took mortgage loans. Are the collectors hands getting tied? Most likely the government is depriving the business of its offensive methods, thus preserving an ability to put pressure and manipulate. So what exactly is allowed to collectors then?

<http://rbcdaily.ru/finance/562949995501332>

<https://slon.ru/posts/52314>

Is it possible to get rich by monitoring expenses? Yes, if you launch and sell such company, following the example of Mikhail Popov of EasyFinance.

<http://rbcdaily.ru/industry/562949995441841>

Smartphones from India or how Micromax conquers the Russian market. Crisis and local knowledge helped the Indian B-brand to sell 1.2 million smartphones in Russia. They plan to get a five-per cent total market share.

<http://www.forbes.ru/tekhnologii/tekhnika-i-biznes/291029-iz-indii-so-smartfonom-kak-kompaniya-micromax-pokoryaet-rossiis>

Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi launches official delivery of its devices to Russia.

<http://siliconrus.com/2015/06/xiaomi-rus/>

<http://rbcdaily.ru/industry/562949995645199>



Why does online retailer JD.com expand to Russia?

<https://slon.ru/posts/52926>

<http://rbcdaily.ru/industry/562949995645207>

The state banks under the sanctions have found a way to attract currency from the West. Sberbank and VTB have received billions of euros through online banks in Germany by astonishing European customers with unusually high interest rates.

<http://rbcdaily.ru/finance/562949995458266>

Now you don't need to wait your time in line at the cashier departing from foreign airport in order to get back some of the money you paid abroad. You can get your tax refund in Russia in an authorized bank.

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/2729652>

«Tax free is a good service to attract new customers to the bank».

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/2729651>



Touch Bank is a newly opened Russian online bank. Its head Andrei Kozlyar told FutureBanking, why this model will be in demand on the shrinking Russian market, what OTP Group shareholders expect and why only 20% of customers are satisfied with their banks.

<http://futurebanking.ru/post/2860>

«Tinkoff Bank» bought out some of «Svyaznoy bank» credit cards worth up to 11 billion rubles.

<http://siliconrus.com/2015/06/tin-svyaz/>



For the first time since 2010 Tinkoff Bank posted a loss of nearly 200 million rubles for Q1 of this year. The reasons are trivial: their interest rates exceeded their income from lending. But the bank still promises investors a profit for the year, which can be achieved owing to a better quality of the loan portfolio in comparison to its competitors.

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/2744041>

«Alfa-Bank» launched a limited-access service of simplified purchase of shares of large companies called «Simple Investment». Its main goal is to provide non-professionals with an opportunity to invest in the well-known brands «in two clicks.»

<http://siliconrus.com/2015/06/alfa-invest/>

Dmitriy Strashnov, CEO of the Russian Post, told RBK about his attempts to change the image of the company, how he plans to increase its revenues and the plan to enter the banking market.

<http://rbcdaily.ru/industry/562949995678271>



It's been long talked about the increasing cooperation of banks with mobile operators (and even their merger someday). In the last two years, for example, a fruitful exchange of information was established between them. The European and US operators start selling to financial institutions the results of so-called mobile scoring, which is an analytical assessment of potential borrowers based on Big Data. Russian operators «Beeline» and MTS are also working on a pilot project on borrower evaluation. About 20 banks participate in it. Telecoms are already selling them the so-called scoring-point based on the consumer behaviour data. «Beeline» and MTS do not disclose any details but the Western mobile scoring experience makes it clear how it works.

<https://slon.ru/posts/52272>

Starting next year, the Russians having foreign bank accounts, have to report to the Tax Office every quarter. Why in fact the problem is not as scary as some might fear and is it possible to avoid contact with the tax authorities?

<http://rbcdaily.ru/finance/562949995645201>



According to EY's survey, the same barriers that are hampering the penetration of the European and US capital to Russia are also preventing Chinese investors from entering the Russian market given the absence of any reciprocal sanctions. These are implementation deficits, the lack of guarantees for investors and the economic instability.

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/2748301>

Belgium and France are arresting Russian assets.

<http://rbcdaily.ru/politics/562949995678270>

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/2749620>

Kazakhstan, Latvia, and other countries that will soon be richer than Russia.

<https://slon.ru/posts/52274>



Gabon caught up Russia in terms of income.

<https://slon.ru/posts/52773>

Nigeria's second chance: can the poorest become the richest? Three reasons for optimism.

<https://slon.ru/posts/53013>



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