

WEEKLY ONLINE MEDIA DIGEST

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[Previous digests](#)

ONLINE AND MOBILE FINANCIAL SERVICES



It's easy to imagine a world where workers in developing countries are paid through Facebook via peer-to-peer payments, store their money on Facebook, purchase local goods through transfers, and have the ability to pay for items using Facebook. So why would Facebook facilitate millions of transfers and online purchases for next to nothing? For one, it puts them closer to attaining the holy grail of data — how users spend their money. Let's not forget that at the end of the day Facebook is most definitely an ad network at its core.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/30/the-unbundling-of-finance/>

Fintech startups like Simple, Venmo and Robinhood are allowing people to take control of every individualized aspect of their finances. Beyond giving consumers control and options, many of these services are removing the friction of engaging in financial transactions and lowering the barriers to entry. It's now as simple as a few taps on a mobile device to pay bills, transfer money and manage investments.

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/05/29/the-unbundling-of-finance/>



That five- or six-figure bill is the financial hangover that thousands of newly minted graduates are waking up to this month as they reenter the workforce, diplomas in hand. «Game of Loans: interest is coming,» one Wayne State University senior wrote in protest on her graduation cap. «I got 99 problems and student loans are all of them,» another tweeted. But if graduates are quick to vent their anger and anxiety (#StudentDebtStress has been trending on Twitter), they are not necessarily eager to engage in a deeper conversation with a financial advisor or their peers. Enter Earnest cofounder and CEO Louis Beryl: He wants millennials to harness their frustration, and take action.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/26/can-earnest-convince-graduating-millennials-to-talk-about-gulp-their-finances/>

How digital lending marketplaces are disrupting the predominant banking model? Banks have historically handled most consumer and small business lending because they have the resources to assess a borrower's creditworthiness, and the regulatory approval to fund loans. However, this model has some key inefficiencies — interest rates are not individualized, the costs of underwriting loans are high, loan decisions can

take months, and small businesses in particular have been shut out of the process. This has left room for the growth of online lending marketplaces — dubbed peer-to-peer (P2P) lenders — that leverage the internet to give both borrowers and investors a better deal.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/22/p2p-lending-how-digital-lending-marketplaces-are-disrupting-the-predominant-banking-model/>



Why does Kenya lead the world in mobile money? PAYING for a taxi ride using your mobile phone is easier in Nairobi than it is in New York, thanks to Kenya's world-leading mobile-money system, M-PESA.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/27/mobile-money-systems-m-pesa-and-monese/>

Monese is a soon-to-launch U.K./European mobile banking service for immigrants and expats who might otherwise find it difficult to open a bank account outside of their originating country.

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/05/27/monese/>

Blockchain Might Be The Next Big Thing In The Remittance Market.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/25/the-remittance-market-bitcoin-and-mastercard-send/>

Sending money is hard. Sure we've got bitcoin for some and PayPal for some more and the horrible SWIFT and ACH systems for the rest of us schlubs but no one has quite cracked the money transfer trick. MasterCard Send is a good start. Created as an effort to follow the Federal Reserve initiative aimed at speeding up the money transfer system, Send allows instant disbursements — imagine payments from insurance companies that land to your bank account nearly instantly — and P2P payments that let consumers «seamlessly send and receive funds from friends and family typically within seconds through providers including issuers, money transfer operators, merchants and more».

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/05/25/mastercard-send-speeds-up-money-transfers-with-a-little-p2p-magic/>

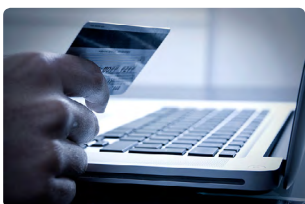


Kantox, the currency exchange marketplace for SMEs right up to 'mid cap' companies has raised \$11 million in Series B funding. Leading the round is Partech Ventures, and IDinvest Partners, while Cabiedes & Partners also participated. All three are existing backers and the new investment brings total funding to \$19 million.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/27/business-currency-exchange-startup-kantox-raises-11m-series-b/>

The anxiety hasn't worn off yet. I've used the Stratos credit card for three weeks now and I'm still unsure if it will work for every transaction. It makes me nervous. That's a problem for a device that promises to consolidate credit cards. For now, until the anxiety subsides, I'm carrying the Stratos card and all of my plastic cards and that defeats the point.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/26/the-stratos-all-in-one-credit-card-isnt-perfect-enough/>



Turkey's Iyzico, which provides a platform to let e-commerce sites and other apps easily accept online payments, has raised a \$6.2 million Series B. Leading the round is International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank's investing arm, while Istanbul-based VC 212, Endeavor Catalyst, and Austria's Speedinvest also participated. The startup has now raised \$9.4 million in total since it was founded in 2012.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/26/turkish-online-payment-company-and-stripe-competitor-iyzico-closes-6-2-million-series-b/>



An article about the largest European fintech incubator hosting over 173 (!) companies. Major banks, for example, UBS, and technology vendors IBM and Microsoft collaborate with the incubator. Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba has just moved into one building with Level39.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/20/big-banks-flock-to-londons-financial-start-up-hub/>

Chris Larsen is CEO and Co-founder of Ripple Labs, creators of Ripple, an open-source, distributed payment protocol. Mr. Larsen also cofounded and served as CEO of Prosper, a peer-to-peer lending marketplace, and E-LOAN, a publicly traded online lender. During his tenure at E-LOAN, he pioneered the open access to credit scores movement by making E-LOAN the first company to show consumers their FICO scores.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/04/29/interview-with-chris-larsen-ceo-and-cofounder-ripple-labs/>

Read in Russian: <http://rebanking.ru/ripple-perevodit-dengi-byistree-i-deshevle/>

At its I/O developer conference today, Google announced Android Pay, a new payments solution native to its mobile operating system. In addition to making it easier to pay at a merchant's point of sale via NFC, the new system lets merchants integrate payments directly into their apps for selling physical goods and services using an Android Pay API rather than integrating a third-party provider like Venmo or PayPal. To give Android Pay a shot at success, Google negotiated partnerships with the three major U.S. cellular carriers: AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/28/google-takes-another-shot-at-mobile-payments-with-android-pay/>

<http://www.fastcompany.com/3046793/tech-forecast/android-pay-now-lets-you-buy-things-with-your-fingerprint>

Read in Russian: <http://futurebanking.ru/post/2854>



INSPIRASIA

China's banking regulator has given a green light to MYbank, the online bank affiliated with Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, to start operating. The bank, owned in part by Alibaba-linked Ant Financial, is expected to launch in June as China's internet companies increasingly encroach upon the turf of traditional banks.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/27/alibaba-affiliated-online-bank-get-green-light-from-china-regulator/>



Boom of Accelerators in Singapore. Since then, much has changed and the scene has certainly evolved. One of the most striking trends has been the explosion of accelerators in Singapore as operators all over the world take advantage of the emerging Southeast Asian startup scene to expand their operations, source for talent, and tap into the emerging growth markets of the region.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/28/boom-of-accelerators-in-singapore/>

AccelerAsia is a unique accelerator that has its roots in Singapore, but has expanded to cover the region with offices in Jakarta and Manila. Launched in 2010 by three European expatriates — Arnout Mostert, Joeri Gianotten and Frank Bomers — Accelerasia helps firms from the US, Canada and EU that are entering Southeast Asia, with business development, sales and go-to-market activities in the region.

<http://www.dealstreetasia.com/stories/marketing-tech-finance-the-future-as-asean-maturesgianotten-6904/>

Singapore-based crowdfunding platforms CoAssets, FundedByMe and New Union have established a tripartite alliance to grow crowdfunding in Southeast Asia. Combined,



the three companies have facilitated raising of S\$200 million (\$148.17 million dollars) through international campaigns, to date. They plan to accelerate this growth in the coming months, despite the relative youth of the industry in the region. «This alliance represents the emerging wave of financial services that will meet crucial business needs. We are extremely excited to bring a new avenue to connect drivers of business, and allow them access to funds that weren't previously available to them,» said Eddie Lee, managing director of New Union Singapore.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/27/tripartite-alliance-of-coassets-fundedbynew-union-advances-singapores-crowdfunding-space/>

The Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Co (PLDT) is planning to invest around \$100 million in its Big Data business, meant to help companies and government agencies develop more effective products, services, and programs for their target markets, a top company executive said. «The overall budget is roughly \$100 million,» said PLDT chief strategy officer Winston Damarillo, noting that the telco giant has previously invested \$30 million in developing its Big Data platform, during the last three years.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/14/pldt-to-invest-100m-in-big-data-services/>

South Korean messaging company Daum Kakao has acquired social networking apps Path and Path Talk for an undisclosed amount.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/29/path-sells-to-south-korean-internet-company-daum-kakao/>

<http://techcrunch.com/2015/05/29/what-is-daum-kakao-and-why-did-it-buy-path/>

Read in Russian: <http://siliconrus.com/2015/05/kakao-path/>



Singapore-state fund Temasek-owned Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd, a non-banking financial company is planning to establish a home finance company in India, a report said. Buoyed by recent success in retail lending, Fullerton aims at granting loans to people in the affordable housing segment, according to a report in Indian publication Mint, which quoted Shantanu Mitra, the firm's managing director and chief executive.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/29/india-fullerton-india-to-establish-home-finance-arm-and-paypal-india-incubators-graduates/>

Meet the 3 startup graduates of PayPal India incubator: The ventures are DoPartTime, a marketplace for jobs providers and seekers; Fantain, a sports fans analytics firm; and Kobster, a B2B e-com portal.

<http://e27.co/meet-the-3-startup-graduates-of-paypal-india-incubator-20150529/>



We've all been privy to the fact that e-commerce growth has broken all boundaries across the globe. The success stories have been equally plausible in India, with the market being pegged at US\$22 billion by the end of this year. As a direct consequence, the online payment services market too has witnessed a huge growth.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/26/banks-gear-up-to-piggyback-on-the-e-commerce-wave/>

m-payment adoption appears strongest in Asia. In Bangladesh and Pakistan, more than half of all mobile consumers use their phones to make purchases. We're seeing strong adoption rates in India, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand as well. In Europe, mobile payments are most popular in the UK; in Latin America, Guatemala leads the way.

<https://www.techinasia.com/talk/rise-mobile-payment/>

Singapore-based TradeHero today announced it has partnered with the Singapore Exchange (SGX) to organize the StockWhiz 2015 contest. This year's iteration picks up from the success of last year's contest, which according to the company drew over

15,000 people to join in. Participants this time around will be able to trade in more than 400 stocks, real estate investment trusts (REITs), and exchange traded funds (ETFs) in real-time, based on information listed on SGX. The competition concludes on June 30, with the winner taking home S\$3,000 (US\$2,200) in cash. In addition, top traders will be able to keep their returns in real trading commission credits, sponsored by OCBC Securities. They will also have the chance to win S\$200,000 (US\$148,000) in prizes.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/28/tradehero-inches-closer-to-real-trading-partnering-with-sgx-and-macquarie/>

INFLUENCES OTHER INDUSTRIES



Kleiner Perkins partner Mary Meeker's yearly Internet Trends report is the ultimate compilation of essential tech statistics. Encompassing everything from Snapchat to drones, smartphone penetration to on-demand food. Today she dropped the 2015 report.

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/27/the-mary-meecker-internet-trends-2015-report/>

Save as pdf: <http://goo.gl/39WE4o>

View on SlideShare: <http://goo.gl/kCD8uJ>

<http://www.fastcompany.com/3046720/tech-forecast/internet-whisperer-mary-meecker-on-the-trends-driving-our-virtual-existence>

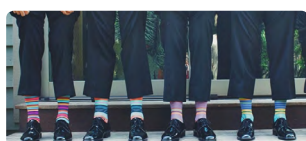
Read in Russia: <http://secretmag.ru/articles/2015/05/28/sostoianie-interneta/>

<http://siliconrus.com/2015/05/kpcb-2015/>

Why would a digital bank have branches? (CheBanca! case study).

<http://fintechranking.com/2015/05/27/why-would-a-digital-bank-have-branches-chebanca-case-study/>

SOME MORE FEATURED READING FROM LIFE.SREDA VC IN RUSSIAN



We have also joined the debate about pros and cons of working in a corporation or a startup ongoing in the RuNet. Because we have something to add.

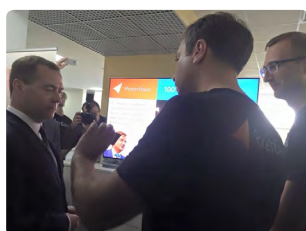
<http://icanchoose.ru/blog/korporacii-protiv-startapov-sdelajte-svoj-vybor/>

A ridesharing app Uber released the concept of its new headquarters in San Francisco.

<http://siliconrus.com/2015/05/uber-hq/>

In June, French authorities will start accepting applications to French Tech Ticket Programme within the framework of the French Tech initiative. The programme provides startups with visa support, incubation and business development assistance.

<http://siliconrus.com/2015/05/french-visa-startup/>



«Rocketbank» has issued a card for Dmitry Medvedev.

<http://siliconrus.com/2015/05/rocket-medvedev/>

«Tinkoff Bank», «Rocketbank» and «Instabank» topped the ranking of banking applications.

<http://siliconrus.com/2015/05/mobilebank-1q2015/>

RETAIL BUSINESS



Mobile network operators have found a way for commercial use of their customer database. «VimpelCom» and MTS have launched a joint pilot project, within the framework of which they evaluate their subscribers as potential borrowers on the basis of different consumer information about them and provide the evaluation results for banks.

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/2734856>

Economy Ministry has prepared amendments to the bankruptcy law to reform the procedures for monitoring and financial recovery. As part of the «road map» for improving bankruptcy it is proposed to reduce the bankruptcy period, as well as shift to balance from the bankruptcy procedures to rehabilitation.

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/2734919>



Grape, R & I (part of RCG), and What if Semin launched an unusual digital-project «Nepoteka» for Rexona brand. A special website offers to repay the loan or mortgage with your own movements.

<http://www.sostav.ru/publication/rexona-pogasit-kredity-za-beg-16890.html>

SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES



In every country, there are small and medium-sized fast-growing companies, which provide a significant share of economic growth. There are such companies in Russia and plenty of them, but the state support is weak so far.

<http://rbcdaily.ru/economy/562949995305599>

Sberbank plans to distribute free tablets among small entrepreneurs, which they can use instead of a cash register. The tablet software was developed in collaboration with the Federal Tax Service. German Gref personally presented the new product at Sberbank Digital Business Day 2.0 Forum.

<http://siliconrus.com/2015/05/sberpad/>

<http://futurebanking.ru/post/2852>

5 useful online courses for entrepreneurs.

<http://secretmag.ru/articles/2015/05/29/onlain-kursi-june/>

BANKING SECTOR



Financial rehabilitation of Svyaznoy bank will be performed by «Renaissance Credit», a bank under Mikhail Prokhorov's control. That is the result of consultations of Prokhorov and the bank beneficiary Oleg Malis with the Bank of Russia.

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/2734884>

The largest private retail bank in the market of unsecured lending — HKF bank— held a large-scale staff optimization in Q1. The number of its staff fell by a third to 20.6 thousand people.

<http://kommersant.ru/doc/2734901>



Best regards,
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