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This Week's NewsFilter...

[Cyberattacks intensified as Amex came under siege Thursday](#), by the same group responsible for attacks against JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, BofA and others over the last six months.

[PayPal continues to eye in-store retail customers](#) as [eBay released their global commerce aspirations](#), while Coca-Cola seeks to increase [mobile payments & rewards at vending machines](#).

In economic news, [jobless claims rose this week but GDP data shows more growth](#).

Be sure to visit the [Payments Press](#) section for the latest releases of the week!

Happy Easter!



Featured

Cyberattacks Seem Meant to Destroy, Not Just Disrupt

3/28/13 *The New York Times*

American Express customers trying to gain access to their online accounts Thursday were met with blank screens or an ominous ancient type face. The company confirmed that its Web site had come under attack. The assault, which took American Express offline for two hours, was the latest in an intensifying campaign of unusually powerful attacks on American

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[What Benefits Me By Paying a Credit Card Swipe Fee?](#)

This Day in History: 1973

U.S. Withdraws from Vietnam

Two months after the signing of the Vietnam peace agreement, the last U.S. combat troops leave South Vietnam as Hanoi frees the remaining American prisoners of war held in North Vietnam. America's direct eight-year intervention in the Vietnam War was at an end. In Saigon, some 7,000 U.S. Department of Defense civilian employees remained behind to aid South Vietnam in conducting what looked to be a fierce and ongoing war with communist North Vietnam.

In 1961, after two decades of indirect military aid, U.S. President John F. Kennedy sent the first large force of U.S. military personnel to Vietnam to bolster the ineffectual autocratic regime

financial institutions that began last September and have taken dozens of them offline intermittently, costing millions of dollars.

The Most Influential Women in Payments

3/28/13 *PaymentsSource*

The 20 women honored in this inaugural feature were selected by the editors of PaymentsSource, Bank Technology News and ISO&Agent as standouts for their significant achievements, exceptional leadership, and promotion of innovation in the payments industry.

Linda S. Perry, TSG Of Counsel was one of the 20 women honored. The 30-year payments industry veteran left Visa Inc. in 2009 after 17 years with the card network where she was senior vice president and head of acquirer and processor sales for the United States. Now an independent consultant, Perry runs an eponymous consulting firm where she advises merchants, processors, ISOs, and acquiring companies. As an Of Counsel Associate of The Strawhecker Group, Perry focuses on Merchant Acquiring Strategy and the Networks.



PayPal Eyes In-Store Retail Customers

3/28/13 *FT*

May require subscription to read. Between the various charts and bar graphs projected on the screen at eBay's analyst day on Thursday was a cartoon of a woman in a shoe store. Surrounded by dozens of pairs of pumps and dishevelled shoeboxes, a weary store clerk kneels before her, cradling her foot. "This pair is so perfect," she says. "I can't wait to buy them cheaper online somewhere. What's your WiFi password?"

Vantiv Releases Primary Research on Top Ten Payment Trends for 2013

3/27/13 *Vantiv*

Vantiv, Inc. released its primary research on the Top Ten Payment Trends for 2013. "Our research shows that consumers are beginning to embrace new, increasingly mobile options," said Moira Tamayo, senior vice president of marketing. "It also shows that consumers expect to have even more diverse payments choices in less than two years."

Why Banks Love Debit Cards Again

3/28/13 *TIME*

Debit cards were supposed to be toast. The industry started writing their obituary when financial reform targeted overdraft fees and interchange or "swipe" fees, which had made debit cards extremely lucrative for banks. So why is it that banks are now pushing debit cards like never before? A couple years ago, the banking industry warned federal regulators that reform efforts could lead to both an increase in fees and a decrease in debit card usage.

of South Vietnam against the communist North. Three years later, with the South Vietnamese government crumbling, President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered limited bombing raids on North Vietnam, and Congress authorized the use of U.S. troops. By 1965, North Vietnamese offensives left President Johnson with two choices: escalate U.S. involvement or withdraw. Johnson ordered the former, and troop levels soon jumped to more than 300,000 as U.S. air forces commenced the largest bombing campaign in history. [Click here to read more.](#)



Mobile Payments

Coca-Cola Seeks to Increase Use of Mobile Phones for Payments and Rewards at Vending Machines

3/25/13 NFC Times

The soft drink giant, which is participating in the trial of the Isis Mobile Wallet and earlier helped promote the launch of Google Wallet, predicts mobile payment will account for 5% to 10% of transactions at the company's U.S. vending machines by 2017, and that figure will increase to 10% to 20% by 2020, said consultant Rick Kanemasu, who heads Coca-Cola's vending technology strategy.

Dwolla CEO Ben Milne Makes Forbes' 'Most Disruptive' List

3/27/13 Des Moines Register

Forbes has named Dwolla founder Ben Milne as one of the "12 most disruptive names in business." The magazine listed Milne with the entrepreneurs behind Kickstarter, BuzzFeed, UniversityNow and other companies shaking up industries. The list is made up of people "less content to improve the status quo than to blow it up," Forbes said.

Federal Reserve Releases Survey On Mobile Financial Services

3/27/13 Federal Reserve

The use of mobile phones to access a bank account, credit card, or other financial account became more prevalent in the United States last year, according to the Federal Reserve Board's latest report on the use of mobile financial services. As of November 2012, 28 percent of all mobile phone users and 48 percent of smartphone users had used mobile banking in the past 12 months.

Mobile Shoppers Use Alt Payments Such as PayPal, Amazon

3/25/13 eCommerce Bytes

More customers are arriving at ecommerce websites via mobile devices each day. Consumers seem to be more connected to the internet today, from all over, and performing all kinds of activities including shopping. Forrester Research anticipates mobile commerce will exceed \$31 billion by 2016. The needs of these consumers have to be met by online sellers, lest they risk these consumers seeking a more mobile-friendly experience.

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Regulation & Security.

Today's Data-Security Technology Just Doesn't Cut It, Experts Tell E-Commerce Execs

3/27/13 Digital Transactions

Like metastatic cancer, the cyberattacks originating from ordinary hackers all the way up to national governments seem to be getting worse by the day, according to security experts who spoke Wednesday to a conference of e-commerce executives. Case in point: last week, citizens of South Korea couldn't use banks or watch TV because North Korea had launched a cyberattack against its neighbor's broadcasting and financial systems, according to Richard Clarke, a prominent author, consultant and national security advisor to three presidents.

Retailer Investigates Possible Card Breach

3/28/13 Bank Info Security

The St. Louis-based Schnucks grocery store chain is investigating a possible breach of debit and credit card data. One card issuer tells BankInfoSecurity it appears likely that a breach occurred at Schnucks or its payments processor. Fraudulent transactions tied to cards used at Schnucks stores date as far back as January, this issuer says. Customer complaints prompted an investigation into a possible compromise and attack, according to a March 26 statement from Schnuck Markets Inc.

PCI DSS: The Next Generation

3/25/13 StorefrontBacktalk

PCI DSS is going through a generational change. That change has nothing to do with the upcoming release of PCI DSS version 3.0 this fall. Instead, the generational change is in the security professionals I work with everyday, the people who are managing their organizations' PCI compliance. Most of these professionals are very qualified, but they are new to their job and often also new to PCI.

Economy.

Jobless Claims Rise, But GDP Data Shows More Growth

3/28/13 Reuters

The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits rose last week, but not enough to suggest the labor market recovery was taking a step back. Other data on Thursday showed the economy expanded at an annual rate of 0.4 percent in the fourth quarter, more than the government had previously estimated. The reports reinforced the view that the economy perked up in Q1, although it still appeared vulnerable to fiscal austerity measures that kicked in early this year.

The Small Business Authority Releases The February 2013 SB Authority Index

3/28/13 Newtek

Newtek Business Services, Inc. announced that its SB Authority Index of small business indicators for February 2013 reached 117.08 points. Approved SBA gross lending volume and the Russell Microcap Index led the increase. The SB Authority Index is up .25% from January 2013. President and CEO, Barry Sloane said, "A significant drag on the small and medium size business sector has been the slow growth of new business formations, as well as limited growth in new job creation.

S.&P. 500 Breaks Through 2007 Closing High

3/28/13 The New York Times

The Standard & Poor's 500-stock index closed on Thursday at a new record, eclipsing its previous closing high set in October 2007. At 4 p.m., the benchmark index was at 1,569.19 points, up 0.4 percent for the day, despite a report of rising claims for unemployment benefits. It closed the first quarter with a robust 10 percent gain. The Dow Jones industrial average, which was also up 0.4 percent Thursday, already passed its 2007 milestone earlier this month, but the S.&P. 500 is widely considered to be a broader-based reflection of the American stock market.

Payments Press

eBay Inc. Presents its Global Commerce Aspirations

3/28/13 eBay

eBay Inc. presented its three-year forecast to analysts and media at Analysts Day on March 28, targeting significant growth in enabled commerce, up from \$175 billion in 2012 to \$300 billion in 2015.

Big Debit Networks Favor Discover's Code

3/28/13 ISO & Agent

The major regional debit networks have unanimously chosen Discover's technology for a common code, or application identifier, for routing EMV debit transactions in the U.S. - but the debate isn't over yet. The decision, which should address a federal mandate for providing merchants routing choices for debit transactions, has yet to be adopted by the smallest debit networks, says Randy Vanderhoof, acting director for the EMV Migration Forum.

Amex Makes Bluebird a True Checking Account

3/26/13 BTN

American Express has just given its checking account alternative, Bluebird, more bank-like checking account features. It has added FDIC insurance, increased the amount of money a customer can place in an account and added physical checkbooks. The New York credit card company said Bluebird customers who can already deposit checks by snapping a picture from their smartphones, electronically pay billers and send cash to friends, can now place up to \$100,000 into their accounts annually.

PayPal Co-Founder Levchin Gets Back into the Startup Game With Affirm

3/26/13 Mercury News

Max Levchin was one of the founders of PayPal, sold his second company to Google for \$200 million and has invested in some of Silicon Valley's most notable startups, from Pinterest to IronPort to Yelp. Now he's unveiled Affirm, a mobile payments company that Levchin said will try to fill the gaps left by others -- including PayPal, which he helped get off the ground as a 23-year-old in 1998. Affirm hopes to tackle shopping cart abandonment.

Global Payments Extends Its Long Winning Streak of Top Industry Awards

3/28/13 Global Payments

Global Payments Asia Pacific Limited, a subsidiary of U.S.-based Global Payments Inc., announced that it has been recognized again as a leading card payment processor in Hong Kong/Asia Pacific after receiving a series of top payment industry awards from Visa Inc., MasterCard Worldwide, China UnionPay and VRL Financial News for achievements in 2012.

BlueSnap Wins Innovator Award at PYMNTS.com Innovation Project 2013

3/27/13 MarketWatch

Amongst notable industry speakers including Warren Buffett, Al Gore, Steven D. Levitt, Eric Ries, Rosie Rios, and a crowd of heavy hitters from the payment and financial sectors, BlueSnap was named this year's PYMNTS.com 2013 Innovator Award winner for the Best Comeback Story. At a live ceremony hosted by The Office's BJ Novak at Harvard University, BlueSnap was awarded the Gold medal for its new Automated Subscription Reminder technology.

TSYS to Broadcast First-Quarter 2013 Results

3/28/13 TSYS

TSYS will issue its first-quarter earnings report on April 23, 2013, at approximately 4:00 p.m. EDT. A conference call to discuss these results, business trends and future projections will be held on April 23, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. EDT.

SignaPay Partners with ControlScan for Stronger SMB Payment Security and Compliance

3/26/13 Sys-con Media

While most ISOs and acquirers have had PCI compliance programs in place for several years, many of these organizations still find it difficult to reach Level 4 merchants with the focus and frequency necessary to effectively secure their businesses' payment transactions. To ensure that their Level 4 merchants benefitted from security, service and support at the highest level, Dallas-based ISO SignaPay joined forces with ControlScan.

Prodigy Payment Systems Teams With Merchant Benefits Alliance

3/28/13 The GreenSheet

Prodigy Payment Systems provides small businesses the latest technology in credit card processing. In an industry as competitive as the payments industry, it's imperative for Prodigy to stand out among the rest by offering award-winning customer service. To add to their suites of payment technology, Prodigy extends beyond the credit card terminal and into customer service by partnering with Merchant Benefits Alliance.

hyperWALLET Announces New Payment Services and Expanded Global Payments Network

3/27/13 HyperWallet

hyperWALLET, a leading provider of global payment solutions, today announced the availability of new payment services and increased global payment network reach. "While our aim is to continue to push the price down for global payments, we are also integrating to faster payment networks that are emerging in various countries to reduce the time it takes for recipients to receive a payment", states Lisa Shields, President and CEO of hyperWALLET Systems Inc.



A horizontal banner with a green and white abstract background. On the left is a QR code. In the center is the logo for "tsg THE STRAWHECKER GROUP" with the tagline "The Trusted Advisor To The Payments Industry". On the right is a circular logo with the letters "NF" inside.

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