



Weekly News Update

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News Count		
Sector	Number of News	% of Total
Analytics / IoT	3	7%
Bank Technology / Solutions	7	17%
BPO	2	5%
Financial Management Solutions	2	5%
Healthcare Tech	3	7%
Insurance Tech	2	5%
Payments	8	20%
Securities Tech	7	17%
Specialty Finance / Alternative Lending	7	17%
Other	-	0%
Total	41	100%

Barclays disruption: online banking goes offline

Bank Technology/Solutions

8/17/17

Millions of Barclays customers will be locked out of online and mobile banking over the weekend - and for months to come - as the bank separates its consumer banking from the rest of its operations to comply with new regulations.

Customers will be denied access to internet and telephone banking, and to Barclays' mobile banking app and Pingit, the mobile payment service, between 11.30pm this Saturday and 3.30pm on Sunday.

Any money transferred to customer accounts while the services are suspended will be credited after the work is finished. Customers will still be able to withdraw cash from ATMs and Barclaycard services are not affected. These outages will continue for one weekend a month until January, except in December.

Barclays could not confirm when customers would next have their banking disrupted but said it would let them know through its app, online banking, text messages or email.

During weekends when online banking is unavailable, Barclays will be changing the sort codes of between 800,000 and 900,000 accounts after the regulator laid out new "ringfencing" rules. However, to do so it must come offline, which will affect all of its customers.

Banks have been told they must keep their consumer banking side separate from riskier parts of the business, such as investment banking, by January 2019. This is to strengthen their systems to help prevent another financial crisis.

In some cases customers' sort codes link their accounts to what will in future become the "wrong" division. These customers need to be issued with new account details.

Customers have been told to expect disruption but Barclays said it would redirect payments for 36 months after sort codes were changed and would inform payees, such as utility companies, of the new details.

HSBC was the first to announce that it would be changing sort codes and account numbers for 170,000 customers earlier this month.

Barclays has also begun to move those who invest via its Barclays Stockbrokers service to its replacement, Smart Investor. The move is expected to be completed by August 28.

Barclays said customers should already be aware of the changes as it had begun to send correspondence about the move in mid-June, including details of new log-ins.

The Financial Conduct Authority, the City regulator, has warned that customers may be particularly vulnerable to scams while banks align their systems, as fraudsters might seek to take advantage of changes.

It has suggested that all banking communication be treated with caution. If you receive a letter, email, text message or phone call from someone who claims to be from your bank, disregard it and call the number on your card or bank statement, the watchdog said.

Don't give out account or card details or make changes to any payments until you're satisfied that you're dealing with a genuine member of staff, and don't disclose your security details as your bank will never ask for these.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/personal-banking/current-accounts/barclays-disruption-online-banking-goes-offline-barclays-stockbrokers/>

Apple and Aetna meet to talk about the Apple Watch

Healthcare Tech

8/17/17

Apple and Aetna conducted a series of meetings late last week to discuss the next step in their partnership, as reported by CNBC.

The primary topic of discussion was Apple's health-tracking smartwatch -- Apple Watch -- and whether it could be used to improve health outcomes. Currently, Aetna is gathering feedback from its own employees, who are currently testing whether the watch can help them eat better and exercise more regularly.

Mandi Bishop was among a small group of digital health influencers invited to the event. Chief medical officers from various health systems and a select group of Aetna employees were also invited, with Apple's Myoung Cha presiding over many of the discussions.

Bishop, who previously ran global health analytics at Dell and now has a startup called Lively Insights, shared a few of her impressions from the event.

Data privacy

Bishop recalled that a huge portion of the event involved discussions about data privacy.

"Both companies wanted to make sure that we knew what data is shared and what isn't," she said.

Bishop said some Aetna employees were asking about whether the health data collected by Apple Watch could be shared with external vendors. Others requested to extract data like heart rate and other vital signs from the watch, so they could store it in a personal health record.

One of the biggest concerns with companies like Apple and Fitbit collecting health information, like steps and heart rate, is that it could get into the wrong hands. These fears are amplified as technology companies strike deals with self-insured employers and health plans.

For its part, Apple has repeatedly stressed that health data can only be shared with user consent. And these policies extend to third-party apps for iPhone and Apple Watch.

Cost

"A lot of Aetna employees talked about being able to afford the Apple Watch for the entire family," said Bishop. One theme that emerged during the event, she said, is that many of those who were enrolled in the program wanted to get healthy alongside their families. But many couldn't afford to spend upwards of \$1,000 on devices for their spouses and children.

The cost issue wasn't entirely resolved, she said, but it proved to be a sticking point. It remains unclear whether Aetna will extend its discounts from employees and/or members to their family-members.

Bugs and features

Many of those who tested out the watch had a lot of positive comments to share with Apple, but there were a few issues to iron out.

One complaint was the lack of situational awareness, such as a reminder to move when a user was on a long flight, or an alert to meditate in the middle of a conference call.

"Everyone wanted the technology to be totally seamless," she said.

Solving for chronic disease

Most wearable products today are targeted to people who are already health-conscious and are eager to better track their workouts. But for a device like Apple Watch to make a big difference to health insurers, it needs to attract people who have costly chronic diseases. It also needs to appeal to an older demographic, and not just the young and healthy.

Already, Apple is making steps in this direction by releasing its bluetooth API for Apple Watch, which allows users to sync their watch to a glucose sensor from medical device makers like Dexcom. That's a particularly useful feature for patients with diabetes.

Bishop envisions a future where the device could collect important health information, and even alert health plans or providers about a serious medical event. "That's where it gets really useful," she said.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2017/08/17/apple-aetna-apple-watch-meeting-details-revealed.html>

Altegris and Artivest partner on distribution for alternative funds suite

Securities Tech

8/17/17

California-based investment firm Altegris has partnered with New York-based alternative investments platform Artivest on distribution for \$1 billion in alternative funds. The partnership also launches Artivest's capabilities to offer alternative solutions to accredited investors.

With the partnership, Altegris will use Artivest as its primary distribution platform, transitioning \$1 billion of Altegris' assets and over 20 different fund strategies on to Artivest. "We want to make it easier for advisors to access private funds so that they can have a broader set of options in the toolkit for building portfolios," said Martin Beaulieu, CEO of Altegris in an interview with Opalesque.

Beaulieu notes that with the transition over to the Artivest platform, Altegris will be able to provide advisors with alternatives educational materials, as well as alternatives focused client service. Artivest's open platform will also show other products to advisors, a feature that Beaulieu says helps advisors with outcomes based portfolio construction.

The first phase of Altegris' transition over to Artivest will be putting its KKR Commitments Fund on the platform. Offered as an interval fund, KKR Commitments provides investors access to private equity through a liquid vehicle.

"The partnership with Altegris is really unique for Artivest because it brings the platform into the world of the accredited investor," adds James Waldinger, Founder and CEO of Artivest. "With the platform, our goal is to make alternatives less alternative and just part of the options available to advisors."

Over the remainder of the year, Artivest will be working on additional strategic partnerships with other asset and wealth managers. Altegris' Beaulieu says that the firm will also be launching additional liquid alternative products with hedge fund managers that want to transition to the mutual fund space.

http://www.opalesque.com/665514/Altegris_and_Artivest_partner_on_distribution_for_alternative551.html

HSBC taps Capita for mortgage broker platform

Bank Technology/Solutions

8/18/17

HSBC has selected software from Capita to underpin a new broker distribution channel for mortgages. Capita says that its Omega mortgage software will provide HSBC with a single platform that will drive greater automation, making it easier for brokers to transact with lenders, upload documents, and track details of applications and decisions.

Completely replacing HSBC's current system, the new cloud-hosted offering will be up and running within a year, giving brokers and underwriters a single view of all pipeline cases, role-based user profiles, the ability for documentation, and enabling immediate decisions in principle on borrower's' eligibility without hitting credit scores.

Tracie Pearce, head, mortgages, UK, HSBC, says: "We have developed this platform for brokers with Capita, and it will simplify the process of working with us so that the information brokers need can be accessed quickly and efficiently, including essential case tracking. This will be a gamechanger in how brokers work with us."

<https://www.finextra.com/newsarticle/30981/hsbc-taps-capita-for-mortgage-broker-platform>

Nasdaq expands Boardvantage board portal into Canada

Financial Management Solutions

8/18/17

Nasdaq Corporate Solutions, a business of Nasdaq Inc., announced plans for the expansion of its Boardvantage board portal and leadership collaboration software into Canada through access to two data centers in Ontario.

When the regional data centers open in mid-September, Nasdaq Corporate Solutions will be able to offer Boardvantage clients the same benefit of a local Canadian presence that its Directors Desk® clients already receive. The new data centers will be more effective in serving Nasdaq's growing, Boardvantage client base in Canada. The Canadian data centers are audited against CSAE 3416 Type 2 standards, equivalent to SSAE 16 level II standards in the U.S.

"We are incredibly proud to extend our presence in Canada and to offer corporate clients in the region a platform to improve efficiencies around the governance and collaboration processes," said Stacie Swanstrom, Executive Vice President and Head of Nasdaq Corporate Solutions. "We are committed to improving our clients' experience by offering solutions that have the potential to enhance their productivity both in the boardroom and beyond."

In addition, Boardvantage is a sponsor of the Governance Professionals of Canada Annual Corporate Governance Conference, in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, August 20-23, 2017. Representatives from Nasdaq Corporate Solutions will be in attendance to discuss the benefits of board portal and leadership collaboration software to Canada-based governance professionals.

Boardvantage is designed for boards and leadership teams to help streamline meeting processes, accelerate decision-making, and strengthen governance. Used by board members, corporate secretaries and C-level executives at public, private and non-profit organizations worldwide – and increasingly across Canada – Nasdaq's board portals combine rich functionality with many features incorporating security, ease-of-use, and mobility.

Since its May 2016 acquisition of Boardvantage, the Nasdaq Corporate Solutions business of Nasdaq, Inc. has invested in enhancements to its board portal and leadership collaboration platforms, including both Boardvantage and Directors Desk, to support better workflows in response to client feedback. In June 2017, Nasdaq Corporate Solutions announced a partnership with the Center for Board Excellence to offer board assessments and compliance questionnaires. More than 100,000 users – including CEOs, CFOs, Chief Risk Officers, corporate secretaries, general counsels, directors, and board chairs – in over 70 countries rely on Nasdaq Corporate Solutions for corporate governance and collaboration software.

https://www.finextra.com/pressarticle/70413/nasdaq-expands-boardvantage-board-portal-into-canada?utm_medium=dailynewsletter&utm_source=2017-8-21

CBOE Vest Technologies teams up with the Options Industry Council to promote the interest of options investors

Securities Tech

8/18/17

CBOE Vest Technologies, a software company enabling users to work with target outcome investment strategies, and the Options Industry Council (OIC), a provider of unbiased options education, are working together to educate investors and broaden the appeal of options with a new online tool, The Options Strategy Builders.

The Options Strategy Builders, available on OIC's website, helps users develop and test two popular options strategies -- the collar and the covered call. Using the previous day's closing prices, the Options Strategy Builders can test multiple trade scenarios and visualize the potential profit and loss results in an easy-to-read graphic with no calculation required.

"Our goal in bringing our Options Strategy Builders to OIC is to popularize the use of options by encouraging people who may be unfamiliar with options trading to try out these popular strategies in a virtual trading environment," said Alex Zhigarev, COO at CBOE Vest Technologies. "Our user-friendly tool makes it simpler for users, regardless of their investing experience, to learn how collars and covered calls can be effectively used in an investment portfolio."

"We are thrilled to offer the Options Strategy Builders on the OIC website, as it will provide investors with the ability to better understand how the covered call and collar strategies work," said Mary Savoie, OIC Executive Director. "As a leading provider of unbiased options education, OIC is committed to helping investors, financial advisors, and market participants understand how these risk management products can provide valuable and versatile solutions for various investing goals."

To use the Options Strategy Builders, users first select which strategy builder to use, choose the stock or ETF symbol they'd like to test and then set the expiration date. The tool builds the strategy and displays the potential results. Users can also show option positions for more details and an explanation of the results.

The tool available on OIC's website is a portion of a broader platform offered by CBOE Vest Technologies. The complete platform, including expanded strategy testing and trade execution, is available with a CBOE Vest Technologies account and can be accessed through the CBOE Vest Technologies website.

https://www.finextra.com/pressarticle/70414/cboe-vest-technologies-teams-up-with-the-options-industry-council?utm_medium=dailynewsletter&utm_source=2017-8-21

Sagicor Life launches digital distribution platform SagicorNow

Insurance Tech

8/18/17

Sagicor Life Insurance has introduced SagicorNow, an online distribution platform that it says can issue a policy in 20 minutes without a medical exam.

Coverage up to \$500,000 on term life or \$250,000 on whole life insurance is offered after users answer five questions in a digital portal. Once approved, the policy can be purchased online, using direct withdrawal from a bank account or credit card.

"Today, we rely on digital platforms more than ever and life insurance needs to keep pace with our lifestyles," said Bart Catmull, president and COO of the company "We recognize life insurance is not a 'fun' topic and for years the processes to buy have been cumbersome and confusing. We wanted to change all of that. To create something that is simple and clear, with no pressure, no poking or prodding, and no waiting for days, weeks, or months to see if you qualify and at what price. Protecting your loved ones is imperative to you, and it is the highest priority for us." The product is currently available in Florida, Texas and Arizona.

<https://www.dig-in.com/news/sagicor-life-launches-digital-distribution-platform-sagicornow>

Barclays to provide an integrated dashboard for real-time banking data for its small business customers

Bank Technology/Solutions

8/18/17

Barclays is to provide small business customers with a 'SmartBusiness Dashboard', a single site from which users can view real-time banking data alongside business information from third party apps. Barclays has collaborated with a multitude of leading app providers - from Office 365 to Intuit QuickBooks to Twitter and more - to enable businesses to import their everyday business data and information provided by these apps into one dashboard within its online banking site.

The site provides business customers with access to a set of APIs from which to import their existing apps or download new apps, from a range of providers across bookkeeping, sales and inventory, marketing and analytics and workforce management.

Ian Rand, CEO for Barclays Business Banking says the service will help SMEs to manage their cashflow, compare data and make improvements to help sales growth and add in marketing insight while removing the burden of admin.

"Busy business owners shouldn't have to spend time sorting through different spreadsheets, reports or switching between apps - we've created a tool to give businesses time back - and this is an efficient way to run and grow their business," he says.

Freely available to the bank's half a million business customers through their online banking login, the service has proved valuable to early pilot users.

James Gage, founder and managing director at Natural Tile, a luxury tile supplier based in Norfolk, says: "I'm able to see all my business data in one place, including accounting and website traffic alongside my bank information. Not only does this give me a better picture of my business performance and help me to manage my cashflow more efficiently, but it also frees up my time to focus on running the business. I used to spend 20 minutes reviewing my business data and finances each morning - it now takes 5 seconds."

<https://www.finextra.com/newsarticle/30976/barclays-pairs-banking-data-with-third-party-apps-for-smartbusiness-dashboard>

Spectrum Payments joins the National Rural Health Association as a pipeline partner

Healthcare Tech

8/21/17

This partnership will enable Spectrum Payments to offer their full suite of payment technologies to the 21,000 members of the NRHA, helping members maximize their self-pay revenue cycle management process and take charge of their payment processing.

Spectrum Payments will be a key exhibitor at the 2017 NHRA Critical Access Hospital Conference in Kanas City, Missouri September 27-29.

“We are extremely excited to be a partner of the National Rural Health Association. Our products are designed to really help members reduce operating costs, increase cash flow and utilize best in class technology,” said Rich Knowles, President of Spectrum Payments. “With the focus of Spectrum Payments, combined with the iStream Pymntz™ Platform, we deliver a complete solution for patient payments to rural hospitals, helping them to increase revenue and lower processing costs,” said Fred Joachim, President of iStream Financial Services.

Larry Bedell, the Executive Director for NRHASC said: “In the current healthcare environment NRHA looks to us to find high quality solutions for our hospital and clinic members. We are excited to partner with Spectrum Payments, to offer additional payment processing and RCM solutions.”

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2017/08/prweb14612432.htm>

Aotearoa Credit Union goes live on Oracle FSS Flexcube core banking system

Alternate Lending/Specialty Finance

8/21/17

Aotearoa Credit Union (ACU), a Māori financial institution in New Zealand, has implemented Oracle FSS's Flexcube core banking system.

ACU, started by the MUMA (Manukau Urban Māori Authority) 28 years ago, is the first Māori financial institution to launch a "tier one" banking platform for its 15,000 members. ACU branches are located in South Auckland and other parts of the North Island.

ACU chief executive Anthony Wilson says Flexcube is "one of the most sophisticated and complex banking systems in the world" and "will greatly improve ACU's ability to provide the most modern and state-of-the-art banking solutions for our Māori and Pasifika [Pacific Islander] members".

Co-op Money NZ, the industry body for the country's credit unions and mutual building societies, says it "successfully delivered" Oracle Flexcube for ACU. Co-op Money NZ says it is now focused on delivery for its next two credit unions, with the remaining six to be delivered by March 2018.

Wilson adds that ACU is the only Māori financial institution in New Zealand and the implementation of Flexcube is the "culmination of 18 month's hard work between ACU staff and Co-op Money NZ". In June, Co-op Money NZ announced it was backing a new law in New Zealand which promises more innovation and accountability to credit unions.

Called the Friendly Societies and Credit Unions (Regulatory Improvements) Amendment Bill, the new legislation will update the law for credit unions and their associations. 13 credit unions operate in New Zealand with 190,000 members. Co-op Money NZ operates the nation's largest ATM payment switch with 900 machines.

http://www.bankingtech.com/953762/aotearoa-credit-union-goes-live-on-oracle-fss-flexcube-core-banking-system/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=aotearoa-credit-union-goes-live-on-oracle-fss-flexcube-core-banking-system

Youtap launches QR code solutions for markets in Africa and Asia

Payments

8/21/17

The global provider of contactless mobile payments and financial services software, Youtap has launched a QR code solution as well as smartphone apps for mobile money in Africa and Asia. Youtap's solution enables customer-initiated or merchant-initiated QR code payments for smartphones and smart point-of-sale devices.

According to a statement by Youtap, the solution complies with the industry standard that was developed by Bharat, Mastercard and Visa. "Youtap's apps can be white-labelled and branded with the logo colours of the mobile money service," the statement stated.

"The new solution gives any merchant or small business owner with a smartphone the potential to download Youtap's Merchant App, self-register, and start accepting mobile money payments. Likewise, any subscriber with a smartphone can download the Youtap Pay App and start making payments. Merchants who do not own a smartphone could be provided a printed QR code to accept mobile money."

The company's QR code solution makes it possible for users to have a full range of mobile money transactions, this includes cash-in and cash-out transactions, airtime top-ups, bill payments and also in-store payments.

These QR codes also allows change to be given back when a customer uses cash. According to Youtap, smartphone penetration across emerging markets is remarkably increasing.

"Recently MTN Group published statistics on the growth of smartphones across its operating companies, including South Africa (15%), Nigeria (36%), Ghana (64%) and Côte d'Ivoire (100%)," they stated.

According to the association that represents the interests of mobile operators worldwide, GSMA, the adoption of smartphones is expected to reach 50% by the end of 2018.

<https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/youtap-launches-qr-code-solutions-and-apps-for-markets-in-africa-and-asia-10874824>

Barclays rolls out Siri integration for voice payments

Payments

8/21/17

Barclays is set to become the first UK high street bank to launch payments using Apple's virtual assistant, Siri, enabling customers to make payments using their voice. Available now within the Barclays Mobile Banking (BMB) app. The Siri integration means BMB customers won't need to open the app to pay existing payees or mobile contacts, they can simply ask Siri such as "Pay John £15 with Barclays". Payments are authenticated by the user with Apple's TouchID fingerprint recognition ensuring maximum security without the need to remember their passcode.

This technology will enable customers to send money virtually hands free, and will make secure banking easier, faster and simpler for all customers, including those with additional needs.

Barclays has a substantial heritage of innovating with new technology to make all customers' lives easier; from using voice biometric data to improve security and combat fraud or introducing talking ATMs to improve accessibility.

Raheel Ahmed, Head of Customer Experience and Channels at Barclays commented: "Barclays has a long history of introducing innovative new products and services to give our customers choice in how they bank. We recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the world's first ATM, which was introduced to provide customers with 24/7 access to their money for the first time ever. The introduction of Siri payments to mobile banking customers is another step forward, giving flexibility and greater choice for all our customers."

City Minister, Steve Barclay commented: "50 years ago Barclays created the first ATM and it's great to see that half a century on they're still innovating. Using Siri to make payments is another step forward in making banking easier, quicker and more flexible for people across Britain.

"This is further proof that the UK is at the cutting edge of developing financial technology which truly delivers for consumers."

<https://www.finextra.com/pressarticle/70420/barclays-rolls-out-siri-integration-for-voice-payments>

TD Ameritrade launches Facebook chatbot

Securities Tech

8/22/17

TD Ameritrade has launched a "chatbot," an automated program that can communicate with the brokerage's customers on Facebook's messaging application, to give them information about markets and their accounts.

TD Ameritrade's chatbot uses artificial intelligence and machine learning to respond to natural language messages from users on Facebook Messenger about their investments and stock prices, the brokerage said on Tuesday.

For example, customers could ask the chatbot for the price of Apple shares or information on the performance of their portfolio without leaving the messaging app. It also offers educational content such as videos on different investment topics. Unlike other chatbots, TD Ameritrade's bot will be backed by a human customer support team, which will receive notifications if the bot detects it is unable to handle some interactions. This will include cases in which the user is expressing frustration through colorful language or if they expressly request human help.

"If salty language is used it will automatically escalate it to the human," Sunayna Tuteja, director of emerging technologies and innovation at TD Ameritrade, said in an interview.

Chatbots and virtual assistants have become more popular in banking and other consumer facing industries because improvements in artificial intelligence have made them more adept at interacting with humans. Financial firms are hopeful that they can be used to replace their costly call centers populated by humans, while offering 24/7 support.

Tuteja said TD Ameritrade believes that while bots are useful at providing some customer service, a human element will always be required in financial services. "In our business we feel it will always be an elegant combination of bot and human service," she said. The company last year launched a voice-bot for Amazon's Echo device.

While bots have improved in their interactions with humans, the technology is still in its early days and functionality is limited. For example, the TD Ameritrade chatbot does not yet let users transact, but does allow them to initiate the process of opening a new account.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2017/08/22/td-ameritrade-launches-facebook-chatbot.html>

Cloud Lending Solutions announces latest software release for the Leasing and Asset Finance industry

Alternate Lending/Specialty Finance

8/22/17

Cloud Lending Solutions, a leader in cloud-based leasing software, announced major advancements to its end-to-end leasing solution, CL Lease™ for Self-Financed Lessors, Externally Funded Leases and Captives. CL Lease™ is designed as a customer-centric, cloud-based lease servicing application enabling lessors to efficiently service equipment leases.

By automating operations, CL Lease effectively manages and tracks multiple assets in a schedule, and can manage your asset disposition process (repossessions, and returns). Its fully extendible integration platform works with collection agents, repossession agents, equipment resellers, and dealers. CL Lease can automatically apply fees, calculate taxes, and collect payments through ACH and credit cards.

Recent economic research into the Equipment Lease and Financing industry indicate that equipment and lease software investment is projected to grow by 3.6% in 2017. The investment outlook for most equipment verticals continues to improve with 2017 seeing long-term leasing volume increasing in 10 of 12 leasing verticals, and recent momentum in first-half 2017 has accelerated in 8 of 12 verticals.

Cloud Lending Solutions, in partnership with their leasing clients jointly designed a highly-focused leasing features set resulting in the culmination of over 45 named major product advancements and hundreds of smaller updates for the global leasing industry.

A short list of advancements is:

- Criteria Based Scorecards - Scorecard evaluations consisting of multiple parties with different legal entity types. Lessors will be able to assign different scorecards to different Legal Entity Type values and evaluate different scorecards for business versus individuals. Scorecard evaluations consisting of multiple parties with different collateral types. In this scenario, financial institutions will be able to assign different scorecards to different collateral type values.
- Financial Statement Analysis - Enable lessors to be able to spread financials and store electronically, this includes balance sheets, income statements, and cash flow statements, as well as configure calculations and financial ratios to support financial analysis. CL Lease will enable financial institutions to customize financial statements with custom fields and generate financial statement information, such as cash flow, from configurable statement calculations and allow users to input, generate and analyze financial statements spanning multiple reporting periods.
- Multi Company, Multi Currency - Support for being able to manage multiple companies in the same CL Lease implementation. Highly useful for companies operating in multiple countries or

jurisdictions, CL Lease can support local regional specifications and manage leases across geographical country lines.

- Credit Exposure Support - Enhanced to enable lessors to calculate direct exposure, direct proposed exposure, indirect exposure and indirect proposed exposure calculations for borrowing relationships, as well as get updates on the exposure for all borrowing relationships on a daily basis. CL Lease will also enable users to update exposure calculations on-demand.
- Feature Updates - Additional updates include: Contract Restructuring, Debt Schedules, Delinquency Management, Asset Tracking, Financing of multiple equipment, Cash Management, Reporting and Dashboards.

“With the Equipment Leasing market continuing to grow globally, our latest version of CL Lease continues to enable lessors to streamline operations, enhance the customer experience, effectively leverage partner ecosystem and achieve sustainable revenue growth,” said Snehal Fulzele, Co-Founder and CEO of Cloud Lending Solutions. “Customers desire for solutions that are integrated represents the cornerstone of our efforts, lessors can now introduce and manage a broad spectrum of leases at a fraction of traditional costs.”

<http://www.bobsguide.com/guide/news/2017/Aug/23/cloud-lending-solutions-announces-latest-software-release-for-the-leasing-and-asset-finance-industry/>

Funding Circle simplifies its investment protocol

Alternate Lending/Specialty Finance

8/22/17

Funding Circle, one of the UK's leading alt lenders, has announced several changes to the investment process on its platform for retail investors, in a bid to make investing through Funding Circle fairer and easier.

Previously, Funding Circle allowed "manual investing" by retail investors on its platform, meaning such investors could pick and choose which companies to lend to. Now, it is suspending this option for its retail clients, explaining that many passive retail investors find it confusing, it leads to a lack of portfolio diversification, and it closes some retail investors off from certain loan bands.

Here are the two changes Funding Circle is implementing to help fix these pitfalls:

- Equalizing investors' access to loans: It will discontinue its manual bidding option as of September 18, and instead shunt investors into one of two new Autobid accounts, based on their previous investment profile. Investors are asked to confirm which of these automated accounts they want to be placed in: Balanced or Conservative. The Balanced account has projected annual returns of 7.5%, and exposes investors to A+ to E risk bands. The Conservative account has lower projected returns of 4.8% annually, and exposes investors to lower-risk businesses. The point of this move is to stop active investors from buying up loans in the highest risk bands, such as D and E, which can also offer the best returns, thereby locking out investors who don't have the time to invest manually from these loan classes.
- Improving liquidity for all its investors. Funding Circle also wants to make it easier for investors to sell loans they own to boost their liquidity. Toward this end, it is removing transaction fees on its platform. Moreover, no single loan part will be offered for more than £100 (\$129) on the secondary market, regardless of how much the investor lent to a business, to make it easier for investors with larger portfolios to sell their loans on. The company will also no longer allow investors to sell loan parts at a markup or discount, and plans to manage the entire secondary sale process itself.

These moves will likely upset customers who have been investing manually, but the pros will probably outweigh the cons. Although the termination of active investing may provoke a proportion of its customer base, Funding Circle nevertheless stands to gain more than it loses. That's because, according to the company's own research, 73% of new investors on its platform use Autobid, and 80% say simplicity around investing is important to them. As such, the lender's imminent changes seem likely to improve the experience for and please the majority of its retail investors, a customer category Funding Circle places a lot of value on.

Traditional consumer lenders, like banks and credit unions, have historically served segments of the population on which they can conduct robust risk assessments.

But the data they collect from these groups is limited and typically impossible to analyze in real time, preventing them from confirming the accuracy of their assessments. This restricts the demographic segments they can safely serve, and creates an inconvenient experience for potential borrowers.

This has hobbled legacy lenders at a time when alternative lending firms — which pride themselves on precision risk assessment and financial inclusion — are taking off. These rivals are starting to break into a huge untapped borrower market — some 64 million US consumers don't have a conventional FICO score, and 10 million of those are prime or near-prime consumers.

Incumbents can get in on the game by tapping into new developments in the credit scoring space, like psychometric scoring, which use data besides borrowing history to measure creditworthiness, and by integrating new technologies, like artificial intelligence (AI), to improve the accuracy of conventional risk assessment methods. There are still risks attached to these cutting-edge methods and technologies, but if incumbent lenders are aware of them, and take steps to mitigate them, the payoff from implementing these new tools can be huge.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/funding-circle-simplifies-its-investment-protocol-2017-8?IR=T>

Atlas Financial and Zendrive agree to telematics partnership

Insurance Tech

8/22/17

Commercial insurer Atlas Financial Holdings has agreed to a telematics partnership with Zendrive intended to measure clients' driving behaviors in real-time, the companies announced.

The move brings together Zendrive's mobile analytics software and the carriers' risk assessment model. Atlas will deploy Zendrive's platform to its fleet and transportation drivers via mobile apps, having previously tested the vendor's analytics in connection with real risk exposures. It hopes to improve driver behavior, prevent collisions and reduce claims, the company says.

Zendrive has collected more than 30 billion miles of driver data since its inception in 2013. The startup offers, pattern analysis, driving scores and coaching services to both fleet and personal auto customers. Drivers utilizing Zendrive's dashboard reportedly decrease smartphone usage and the likelihood of causing accidents by 50%, according to the vendor's website. One-fifth of carriers also see a reduction in speeding.

"Zendrive created a platform that's becoming virtually ubiquitous, and the credibility of its data is significant," said Scott Wollney, president and CEO of Atlas Financial Holdings, in a statement. "Granular analytics at the driver level enable us to quantify potential risk with a level of precision that would not otherwise be available."

<https://www.dig-in.com/news/atlas-financial-zendrive-agree-to-telematics-partnership>

Payroc launches iOS and Android mPOS solution

Payments

8/22/17

Payroc LLC, a leading merchant services and payment processing organization, today announced the launch of iTransact® Mobile Merchant, a mobile point-of-sale (mPOS) solution enabling anytime, anywhere payment acceptance from iOS and Android devices. iTransact Mobile Merchant is now available for App Store or Google Play download. A compact EMV chip and magnetic stripe card reader with Bluetooth connectivity is also available. The solution will be marketed through the company's nationwide network of trusted referral partners, as well as direct to retailers.

"iTransact Mobile Merchant delivers both convenience and security to merchants with mobile payment acceptance needs," said Jared Poulson, chief product and technology officer. "Integrating mPOS capabilities with our gateway and payment facilitator (PayFac) platform gives merchants superior omnichannel payment acceptance that they want and need," added Poulson.

iTransact Mobile Merchant works with Payroc's secure iTransact gateway and PayFac platform enabling integrated payments across multiple commerce channels, including online, virtual terminal, recurring billing and electronic invoicing. Merchants gain access to consolidated account activity and reporting, robust back-office functionality and user access controls. Tokenized sensitive data plus primary account number (PAN) secure vault storage offer enhanced security and protection, while significantly reducing Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) compliance scope.

"Launching iTransact Mobile Merchant marks an important milestone in our ongoing commitment to providing exceptional technology, solutions and service," said James Oberman, Payroc chief executive officer. "Payroc is an ideal partner for seamless anytime, anywhere omnichannel payments," added Oberman.

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20170822005153/en/Payroc-Launches-iOS-Android-Mobile-Point-of-Sale-Solution>

Hotel search platform Trivago partners with Workday HCM for its cloud-based HR solution

BPO

8/22/17

Global hotel search platform trivago announced that it has announced that it will use Workday Human Capital Management (HCM) to provide the organisation with a single, cloud-based HR solution capable of providing one single source of truth for employee data, to empower HR leaders and managers with insights to make faster, more accurate decisions.

“trivago is a leading global travel brand that has changed the way people search for and book accommodation. It’s a business built on providing real-time pricing and information. We are thrilled to be working with them as they apply this same principle to their people,” says David Hope, Workday Asia Pacific president.

“With Workday, trivago will have better insights into their people and the business, this will help attract, engage and retain staff. It will also make HR more strategic and provide managers with the information they need to make the right decisions.”

Founded in 2005 and headquartered in Dusseldorf, Germany, trivago’s 1300 global employees will utilise Workday’s HR self-service approach, providing them with an intuitive and modern user experience across all devices.

The deployment will see trivago increase the efficiency of day-to-day HR processes, such as compensation, absence management, time tracking, recruiting, expenses and performance and development.

“We needed an HR solution that provides the technological platform for a single, always up-to-date database – a solution that is flexible and especially scalable as we grow. We found this in Workday which was a company fit from the very beginning,” says Sian Williams, trivago business operations & strategy – talent solutions.

As of September 2016, trivago’s global hotel price comparison search platform offered access to approximately 1.3 million hotels in over 190 countries.

What was once a website solely available in Germany now operates in 55 markets around the world.

Since 2005, the company has grown from three founders in a garage to building a new headquarters for 3000 employees.

Workday Human Capital Management will allow trivago's leaders to have complete confidence in its people data and that the tool will support the company's future growth.

<https://bizedge.co.nz/story/trivago-chooses-workday-hcm-its-cloud-based-hr-solution/>

Verifone brings Payments-as-a Service(PaaS) to Shufersal, the Largest Supermarket Chain in Israel

Payments

8/22/17

With the goal to offer shoppers in Israel the most advanced and secure checkout experience available, Shufersal has selected Verifone (NYSE: PAY), a world leader in payments and commerce solutions, for a full-scale payment-as-a-service (PaaS) relationship.

Shufersal will be the first merchant in the country to implement Verifone's suite of commerce-enabled payment solutions that include a complete upgrade to local EMV requirements, access to third-party apps in the Merchant Marketplace, and state-of-the-art gateway services for an omni-channel view of consumer transactions both online and instore.

"To meet the demands of the increasingly digital consumer who expects a personalized and seamless ecommerce and instore experience, we plan to interact with shoppers with multimedia content such as interactive surveys, loyalty programs, and targeted marketing videos and graphics," said Zvika Fishaimer, VP Systems Information and HR, Shufersal. "Working with Verifone puts us a step ahead of our competition with the advanced technologies and services we need to complement the quality and affordability our customers expect when they shop with us."

The elegant and customizable Verifone MX 925 is a powerful multilane point-of-sale (POS) device that will allow Shufersal to be EMV-ready across their 3500 attended and self-checkout lanes, with encryption and tokenization services to securely accept a variety of payment types including mobile wallets.

"Technology is moving quickly in Israel and retail is evolving as merchants look for solutions that can both strengthen their business and enhance interactions with the consumer," said Dan Soffer, VP Services, EEMEA and GM of Verifone Israel. "We look forward to implementing the most innovative retail solution available in this market and enabling Shufersal with comprehensive monitoring and reporting tools for real-time access to valuable insights and performance."

Underscoring Verifone's reputation and experience with retailers in Israel and around the world, the Shufersal PaaS deal is a first in terms of scope, scale and service including secure payment solutions, merchant marketplace, gateway services and reporting, and omni-channel capabilities as well as a range of value-added services such as media and estate management, and device monitoring.

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20170822005610/en/Verifone-Enable-Interactive-Omni-Channel-Retail-Checkout-Experiences>

Blockchain based SME financing platform, The Hive Project raises \$8.95 million through ICO

Alternate Lending/Specialty Finance

8/22/17

The Hive Project, a cryptocurrency invoice financing platform created to help SMEs get the financing they need, announced today that it has raised \$8.95 million through its initial coin offering (ICO), to expand its unique offering.

The new platform, which secured BTC 2,087 from 2,234 participants, is focused on providing new liquidity pools for small and medium-sized businesses which are often challenged by the levels of collateral required and the strict credit checks put in place by lenders.

The funding is vital to Hive Project's long-term future sustainability. BTC 1,500 of the new capital will be channelled into platform development, marketing and implementation. In addition, the rest of funds raised, roughly BTC 600, will be set aside for the liquidity pool (HVNIX).

The Hive Project's end-to-end platform aims to use blockchain technology to disrupt the SME finance space, using distributed ledger technology to offer SMEs easy access to short-term financing by turning their accounts receivables into tradeable assets.

Powered by the risk-lowering technology offered by blockchain, the platform generates smart contracts and creates a digital marketplace through which small businesses can finance their unpaid invoices.

With its prospects lying in its simplicity, this innovation will give companies the option to sell their invoices to improve their working capital, offering a full marketplace with advanced trading analytics for peer-to-peer lending.

Commenting on the ICO's success, Jure Soklic, co-founder and CEO, said: "For too long, SME's have been left out in the cold by traditional lending systems which favor large companies. The success of our token sale is testament to market recognition of the need to reshape the invoice finance industry and ease the burdens faced by SMEs worldwide by bridging the liquidity gap, while providing attractive investment opportunities for invoice buyers."

<http://www.financemagnates.com/cryptocurrency/news/hive-project-raises-btc-2087-blockchain-based-smes-financing-platform/>

Rabobank builds a model of its own organisation to make improvements to its IT systems

Bank Technology/Solutions

8/22/17

Rabobank has built a 3D model of its own organisation and supporting IT systems to help visualise improvements that can be made as it embarks on its digital transformation programme. As a banking co-operative operating at both local and regional levels, the Dutch bank runs a complex network of independent IT platforms often performing the same functions depending on local practices.

Anne-Marie Breuker, Rabobank business architect says: "We do many of the same things in different ways, which makes it complex. Rabobank is also becoming more global, and customers find that they are served differently in Singapore than in Utrecht. We want to change that."

Breuker and her team spent three months gathering the data to build the physical model. "We wanted to create something that would have a wow-factor within the bank," she says. "It had to appeal to the entire organisation, from the Board of Directors to the workplace. Preferably visually, and permanently. So, we came up with the idea for this model."

Plans are also afoot to take the physical construction and map it in a virtual reality programme using Microsoft HoloLens, she adds.

The bank is additionally collaborating with the Banking Industry Architecture Network coalition, which runs its own schematic Business Capability Model for testing different business scenarios across an organisation's IT services landscape, to standardise the learnings from the construction.

This is the first time an organisation has invested in visualising its own IT landscape in this way, says Hans Tesselaar, BIAN executive director. "Everyone who sees the model immediately recognises a lot of things. It provides great insight in the problems and issues of IT, in a way that a Board of Directors can also see that IT-related problems cannot be resolved in a day or so."

Tesselaar believes other banks within the network can learn a lot from Rabo's initiative. "Everyone who sees it wants a copy to show to their boss," he says. "It has a wow-factor, it literally allows you to look into the future."

<https://www.finextra.com/newsarticle/30988/rabobank-constructs-physical-model-to-understand-it-architecture>

CloudMargin connects to DTCC-Euroclear collateral utility

Securities Tech

8/22/17

Collateral management provider CloudMargin has connected to DTCC-Euroclear GlobalCollateral's flagship margin transit utility (MTU).

The agreement will expand the fintech firm's settlement capability and enable its users to access the utility from the cloud.

CloudMargin is the first technology provider to connect to GlobalCollateral's partner programme, as the joint venture between the two market infrastructures continues to integrate the utility.

"This integration will enable a true end-to-end solution, allowing our mutual clients to streamline and scale up processes at a time of increasing collateral and margin call demands," said Ted Leveroni, chief commercial officer, GlobalCollateral.

The utility aims to streamline the processing and settlement of margin and collateral for dealers and buy-side firms. Through the partnership, users of CloudMargin can access the MTU to automatically send settlement instructions to their custodians.

"We already have significant interest among our clients and prospects, particularly in this environment where the requirements to post daily variation margin have introduced a pressing need for technological solutions and a community of providers available at clients' fingertips," said Simon Millington, head of product management, CloudMargin.

<https://www.globalcustodian.com/Technology/CloudMargin-connects-to-DTCC-Euroclear-collateral-utility/>

AQMetrics adds Appian and Macrosynergy to its list of clients

Securities Tech

8/22/17

AQMetrics, the award-winning provider of regulatory compliance and risk solutions, today announced the addition of two new clients, Appian Asset Management Limited (Appian) and Macrosynergy Partners LLP (Macrosynergy), to its growing client portfolio. Appian, a leading Irish based asset management firm managing a range of funds that invest globally, has selected AQMetrics' solution for AIFMD Annex IV reporting. Macrosynergy Partners, a U.K. based discretionary global macro manager dedicated to providing competitive risk-adjusted returns to its clients, will adopt the AQMetrics automated reporting and filing system to ensure compliance with the CPO-PQR rules.

Geraldine Gibson, CEO at AQMetrics said, "Firms with multiple fund administrator relationships are moving to automated, independent solutions as these can yield greater operational efficiencies with a single, golden source of data. We believe that our award-winning solutions will provide Appian and Macrosynergy with the right tools to meet existing reporting requirements and be better prepared for regulatory changes as and when they happen."

Breige Tinnelly, Head of Sales, UK, at AQMetrics, added, "The financial services market is making operational improvements to existing reporting processes. With our cloud solutions we believe we can be an integral part of this, by helping firms meet these regulatory requirements quickly, easily and efficiently."

As it continues to add enhancements to its risk management and regulatory reporting platform to meet evolving client needs, AQMetrics has received a number of industry accolades for delivering innovative products to financial professionals, including HFM US Technology Awards' and HFM European Hedge Fund Technology Awards' Best Compliance Product for Small and Start Up (Hedge fund) Firms.

<https://www.finextra.com/pressarticle/70422/aq-metrics-signs-appian-and-macrosynergy>

FIS and Equifax want you to say goodbye to passwords

Payments

8/23/17

FIS has joined forces with information specialist Equifax to create OnlyID, a digital authentication solution that enables consumers to make secure transactions across multiple online accounts without passwords, reports Banking Technology 's sister publication Paybefore.

OnlyID provides "a single, secure digital log-in," consisting of the consumer's thumbprint or another unique identifier. The two companies jointly offer the technology to financial institutions and e-retailers that participate in the OnlyID Network.

The network consists of authenticated consumers who use a universal digital representation of their identity to interact with businesses in the network, the companies say.

"Imagine if you no longer needed passwords to protect your digital identity because you had a unique, protected identifier that only you could use at the places where you bank and shop," says Bruce Lowthers, head of FIS Payments. " OnlyID from FIS and Equifax brings the power of advanced authentication technologies to make consumers' financial lives simpler while providing secure protection against fraud."

http://www.bankingtech.com/958002/fis-and-equifax-want-you-to-say-goodbye-to-passwords/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=fis-and-equifax-want-you-to-say-goodbye-to-passwords

Fiserv's tablet technology enables secure instant card issuance for financial institutions

Bank Technology/Solutions

8/23/17

Fiserv, Inc., a leading global provider of financial services technology solutions, announced today the launch of its Instant Issue Advantage™ wireless tablet solution, putting instantly issued and activated cards in the hands of verified financial institution cardholders to begin using immediately.

According to the Channels and New Entrants results from Expectations & Experiences, the quarterly consumer trends research from Fiserv, the physical branch remains resilient even as digital engagement in financial services intensifies. While access to the physical branch is still an expectation, with 44 percent of consumers citing the branch as their preferred method for standard daily transactions, consumers want a brick-and-mortar experience that merges with technology - and fits seamlessly into the way they live and manage their money.

"Consumers are requesting all of the pieces that build the branch of the future, and it's up to financial institutions to put those pieces together," said Tiffani Montez, Retail Banking senior analyst, Aite Group. "Instant card issuance is one service consumers increasingly expect, and with its wireless tablet solution, Fiserv further reduces waiting times for new cards and enhances the cardholder experience."

Instant Issue Advantage wireless tablet technology enables a teller, such as those at First Alliance Credit Union, based in Rochester, Minn., to greet and verify member identity in the lobby then provide them with a tablet to conveniently access information and instantly receive a permanent MasterCard® branded EMV® debit card. Credit union executives have found Instant Issue Advantage: Tablet from Fiserv to be a particular differentiator. New and existing members no longer have to wait for a new card in the event they have just opened an account or theirs is lost or stolen, which has proven beneficial in attracting younger members and strengthening loyalty to the credit union.

"As the evolution to digital accelerates, we have a strong commitment to our multi-generational membership," said David Schouten, vice president of Information Technology, chief information officer at First Alliance Credit Union. "Fiserv offers a real-time, integrated solution, helping us add a 'wow' factor and reduce costs associated with new card rush orders."

"When people lose their debit cards, they can't put their lives on hold for 'within seven to 10 business days' while they wait for a new card," said Clifford Skelton, president, Output Solutions, Fiserv. "Their priority is accessing their funds where and when they want, and they expect financial institutions to stay in step and meet their needs in a rapidly moving world."

Wireless connectivity enables in-branch movability and an enhanced, yet secure, experience for financial institutions and cardholders, including the move from PC-based software to a mobile tablet, improved functionality and same platform connectivity with Fiserv for instant card issuance, increased reliability and uptime of connections, and heightened security in moving data.

<http://www.mondovisione.com/media-and-resources/news/fiserv-tablet-technology-enables-secure-instant-card-issuance-in-branch-differen/>

Qualpay launches developer portal designed for evaluating and selecting integrated payment solutions

Payments

8/23/17

Qualpay, a leading provider of integrated omnichannel payment solutions, today announced Qualpay for Developers, a portal offering comprehensive resources to the developer community. Developers looking for easy-to-implement payment APIs can leverage the portal to evaluate and deploy multiple payment solutions or work with Qualpay to tailor the platform for specific environments.

Qualpay's modern integrated payments platform enables Developers to build applications to support one-time, repeat and recurring payments, as well as invoice and aggregated payments. Qualpay's payments platform accommodates a variety of solutions, from marketplaces, shopping carts, customer relationship management (CRM) systems, to invoicing and accounting solutions. Qualpay offers a personalized experience, working closely with Developers to create solutions that address their unique needs. During the implementation process, Developers have the option to integrate directly with modern REST APIs or take advantage of a wide variety of SDKs. After signing up for a Sandbox Account, Developers are able to run integration tests with Qualpay APIs and validate the results from within Qualpay Manager.

"As an agency of web developers, we are constantly bouncing between client projects and require uncomplicated, flexible solutions. With most payment processing systems, the integration process can be difficult and time consuming and on top of that, connecting with technical support can be a huge hassle," said Adam Chronister, director of operations, Enleaf. "From the beginning, Qualpay has invested time into customizing its payment solutions for us, from developing e-commerce platforms and open-source shopping carts to ensuring a seamless integration process with Wordpress. Qualpay is agile, delivers exceptional customer service and is incredibly easy to use across our many client projects."

A Qualpay client since 2016, Fortera is a Group Purchasing Organization for the beverage industry. Fortera's SaaS platform directly connects independent producers of beer, wine and spirits, with global suppliers of bottling and packaging materials. Fortera members get access to pricing up to 45 percent less than wholesale for bottles, corks, corrugated boxes and more.

"Fortera's innovative procurement platform allows members to access extremely favorable pricing on top quality products from trusted suppliers, save time and manage procurement tasks, all in one easy to use dashboard," said Michael Rittenhouse, managing director, Fortera. "Qualpay worked with us to set up a creative, outside-of-the-box payment processing system that enables a parent/child relationship between merchant IDs. We've also continued to make enhancements to the platform, so we leverage Qualpay's API portal as a resource for testing before implementation."

As a full-service payments platform, including Reporting and Boarding APIs, Qualpay works in partnership to ensure all needs are met from the Developer integrating the payment processing system to the merchant managing the process or the reseller repackaging an offering.

"We believe in building true partnerships with our customers, and pride ourselves in going above and beyond to deliver options and guide choices to help our customer find the right solution for their needs," said Craig Gass, CEO of Qualpay. "Our goal is to provide payment solutions that not only meet the requirements of a Developer's project, but extend beyond the initial engagement to offer continued support and build a long-lasting relationship with the Developer, Merchant and Reseller Partner."

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/qualpay-launches-developer-portal-designed-for-evaluating-and-selecting-integrated-payment-solutions-300508161.html>

Affirm to provide installment loans to Walmart customers

Alternate Lending/Specialty Finance

8/23/17

Walmart could soon provide its customers with a new payment option, thanks to a potential deal between the retailer and finance company Affirm, Inc. Sources familiar with the situation told The Wall Street Journal that executives from Affirm are speaking with the Walmart team about the possibility of offering installment loans to customers for select brick-and-mortar and Walmart.com purchases.

The deal, which could roll out in test markets as early as this autumn, would allow Affirm to provide installment loans for more expensive Walmart products, particularly those with price tags above \$200, the sources told WSJ. If put into place, the installment loans would provide Walmart customers with a new way to make payments over time, in addition to the existing option of Walmart-branded credit cards.

Walmart credit cards have been exclusively issued by Synchrony Financial since 2000.

While Walmart credit cards typically offer variable annual percentage rates (APRs) between 17.9 and 23.9 percent, Affirm offers installment loans with fixed APRs in the range of 10 to 30 percent, which can vary based on the applicant's credit score. In addition, Affirm hasn't been known to require late fees, while the Walmart cards from Synchrony charge fees as high as \$38 for late payments.

Because Affirm is more likely to extend credit to customers with limited credit histories, a deal with the company could allow Walmart to gain business from consumers who aren't able to qualify for Synchrony-issued Walmart credit cards. This could potentially boost sales for the retailer, which has seen U.S.-based same-store sales growth for the past 12 consecutive quarters. Walmart is continuing to innovate in an attempt to stave off competition from its biggest rival, eCommerce giant Amazon.

Affirm, which already offers financing to consumers who buy products from online retailer Wayfair, is headed by computer scientist and internet entrepreneur Max Levchin, one of the original co-founders of online payment firm PayPal.

<http://www.pymnts.com/news/payment-methods/2017/walmart-installment-loans-ecommerce/>

USAmeriBank goes live on Finastra's payments hub

Payments

8/23/17

USAmeriBank is live on Finastra's next-generation, hosted payments hub for US domestic and international wire transfers.

USAmeriBank selected Finastra's hosted solution in order to have the flexibility to quickly add new payments rails and services, future-proofing its technology investment, while improving customer service and increasing straight-through processing.

The bank realized the benefits of selecting a hosted solution by going live with Finastra's next-generation payments hub in just three months from signing. In addition to quick time-to-market and ease of implementation, another benefit of using a hosted solution is a reduction of maintenance effort and total cost of ownership, as the technology and business services are maintained by Finastra.

"Today marks an important milestone in our journey to provide world class wire service capabilities to our customers," said Kelly Spica, SVP Director of Deposit Operations, USAmeriBank. "In recent years, we have seen steady and significant growth in our wire business, and by implementing Finastra's next-generation payments hub, we will be able to continue to add capacity and additional payment rails, virtually at the flick of a switch, in order to meet market demand and satisfy the needs of our customers."

Going live on the next-generation payments hub marks the first phase of USAmeriBank's journey with Finastra. In the coming months, the bank plans to add US ACH, and eventually real-time payments components, completing the bank's journey to a fully-outsourced payment processing model.

"By offering our next-generation payments hub as a hosted solution, we are able to provide our clients with rapid time-to-market and ease of implementation," said Nadeem Syed, CEO, Finastra. "USAmeriBank's customers will quickly benefit from a market-leading payments solution with the highest levels of scalability, reliability and availability."

<https://www.finextra.com/pressarticle/70444/usameribank-live-on-finastra-hosted-payments-hub/retail>

Bank of America applies AI to streamline client payment processing

Financial Management Solutions

8/23/17

Bank of America has worked with fintech startup High Radius to apply artificial intelligence to corporate processing of accounts receivables. The application is designed for large or complex companies that manage a large volume of payments where the remittance information is either missing or received separately from the payment.

Incomplete remittance information typically leads to an arduous and costly reconciliation process, explains Rodney Gardner, head of global receivables in Global Transaction Services at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. "Our solution brings together AI, machine learning and optical character recognition (OCR), setting a new bar in accounts receivable reconciliation and payment matching"

The High Radius software helps to streamline the receivables-to-cash cycle by automatically identifying payers and associated remittance data which may be sent separately. The remittance data is extracted and used to match payments to open receivables ready for uploading to client ERP system.

In cases where an invoice cannot be automatically matched, an exception portal allows the receivables staff to upload supporting data or make other adjustments to enable matching.

Clients can also set up automatically generated emails to payers, asking them to identify which invoices they wish to pay, and use an inbuilt dashboard to better understand payer behaviour and to assist in cash forecasting.

Hilani Kerr, head of North America Corporate Global Transaction Services at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, says: "We are committed to working alongside fintech companies to bring more innovations like Intelligent Receivables to our clients, and create practical applications of new technology that will help them achieve greater efficiency and cost savings."

Intelligent Receivables is currently available in the United States and Canada. It will be rolled out to other countries and regions later this year.

<https://www.finextra.com/newsarticle/30993/bank-of-america-applies-ai-to-streamline-client-payment-processing>

Spire Payments and Centre of Corporate Technologies deploy an mPOS solution

Payments

8/23/17

Spire Payments, one of Europe's leading mPOS FinTech providers, has teamed up with Centre of Corporate Technologies (CCT) to develop and deploy an innovative cloud-based mPOS solution worldwide. Branded m4bank, the solution utilises Spire's award winning mPOS suite; SPm2 and SPm20 (chip & PIN devices), secure software architecture, API, SDK and key injection environment. This capability allowed CCT to rapidly develop, certify and deploy the m4bank mPOS solution including a cloud-based merchant portal. Utilising the SPm2, this proposition is both cost-sensitive and feature-rich, allowing merchants who previously could not accept face-to-face electronic payments to benefit from this technology.

To complement this innovative programme CCT is also utilising the more powerful Spire mPOS device, the SPm20, to deliver a cost-sensitive retail PIN Pad and unattended solution. Utilising the same software development environment as Spire's traditional device range, this programme forms the perfect foundations for an omni-channel proposition.

CCT is one of the leading IT solution providers for banking and financial industries in the CIS regions. Boasting more than 20 global projects, the m4bank platform provides mobile commerce and remote banking services utilising powerful mobile applications.

Boris Fedorov, General Manager, CCT: 'Combining our m4bank platform with Spire's mPOS solution suite has allowed CCT to penetrate new markets with great success. The need for such solutions is growing rapidly, and the ease at which the solution was developed and certified allowed us to be one of the first in this market sector. Utilising the SPm20 for further applications provides us with more opportunities to diversify into alternative market verticals.'

Tai-Kei Cheung, President Spire Payments: 'Yet again Spire's continued investment in mPOS has delivered true value to our partners and customers. The combination of CCT's powerful m4bank platform and our mobile payment capabilities has resulted in the ideal solution for small merchants. Utilising the SPm20 for tier 3 and 4 merchants further highlights CCT's innovative vision and without doubt further cements our strong working relationship moving forward.'

<https://www.finextra.com/pressarticle/70433/spire-payments-and-centre-of-corporate-technologies-deploy-m4bank-mpos>

Heartland State Bank picks CSI as core banking provider

Bank Technology/Solutions

8/23/17

In order to provide its customers with stronger digital banking solutions, North Dakota-based Heartland State Bank has selected Computer Services, Inc. (CSI) (OTCQX: CSV1), a provider of end-to-end financial technology solutions, as its new core and mobile banking technology provider.

With the conversion to CSI's NuPoint® core processing solution, Heartland plans to implement mobile-friendly banking applications across platforms and for all transaction types.

CSI's digital banking solutions are directly integrated into the core, which enhances the bank's ability to provide a full array of customer convenience solutions via more modern technology. And while CSI's innovative mobile and core processing offerings played a key role in the bank's decision to partner with the technology provider, Heartland State Bank executives said CSI's ability to not only protect its customers' data with industry-leading security protocols, but also streamline operations factored in their decision as well.

"Our goal is to deliver high-touch, high-knowledge customer service, so we needed a core provider that could deliver the infrastructure necessary for a robust digital portfolio that's backed by trusted security resources," said Scott Tewksbury, president of Heartland State Bank. "By working with CSI, we can now offer the kinds of digital banking services available at larger financial institutions, while maintaining the friendliness, convenience and customer focus that can only come from a community-based bank."

Heartland recently completed its conversion to CSI NuPoint, and the bank is in the process of deploying a full array of online and mobile banking services. The bank plans to leverage its relationship with CSI to build upon its excellent customer service model, as well as expand its footprint into other markets.

"At CSI, we consistently strive to provide financial institutions with an equal balance of service and support, which allows them to best utilize our industry-leading technology and align their internal resources," said Steve Powless, CSI's chairman and chief executive officer. "As we welcome Heartland State Bank, we remain dedicated to providing all of our customers with the highest level of innovation and expert guidance in order to support their unique business objectives."

<https://www.finextra.com/pressarticle/70440/heartland-state-bank-picks-csi-as-core-banking-provider>

TerraPay and Instant Cash team on cross-border mobile money transfers

Payments

8/23/17

TerraPay, the world's first mobile payments switch and Instant Cash, one of the fastest growing money transfer companies in the world, have teamed up to enable real-time cross-border money transfers to mobile wallets.

Powered by TerraPay's global clearing and settlement service for mobile wallets, the partnership will make cross-border money transfer faster and convenient for the migrants.

Instant Cash's global agent network expanded their services by offering cross-border transfers to mobile wallets, which is powering growth in many emerging markets. In the initial rollout, TerraPay has enabled Instant Cash customers to send remittances to mobile wallets in Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda. In Nigeria, migrants can send money to any mobile number as well as bank accounts. In Tanzania, migrants will be able to send remittances directly to Vodacom M-Pesa, Tigo Pesa, Airtel Money and Zantel Ezy Pesa wallets.

In Uganda, the friends and families of the migrants can receive money in their MTN and Airtel Money wallets. The service is expected to expand shortly in other countries in Africa which have a very high adoption of mobile money.

Ambar Sur, Founder and CEO of TerraPay commented, "We are excited to work with Instant Cash to provide millions of customers with access to fast, convenient and secure options to send money. Mobile Money plays an important role in bringing the financially excluded into the formal economy and drive remittances through formal channels. Our strategic partnership will bring the convenience of mobile wallets to the global customer base of Instant Cash, making cross-border remittances faster, accessible and cheaper for the consumers."

Commenting on the partnership, Philip C Daniel, Acting CEO of Instant Cash said, "At Instant Cash we take pride in being able to offer our customers and our agents world-class service and the availability of the latest technology in the money transfer business. Thus, we are very excited to announce our partnership with TerraPay. We are looking at expanding our customer base in Uganda, Nigeria and Tanzania through this strategic partnership. This means we are now able to widen our mobile money wallet reach into relevant African markets that have expat populations in the GCC. It's time for Africa."

<https://www.finextra.com/pressarticle/70439/terrapay-and-instant-cash-team-on-cross-border-mobile-money-transfers>

FIIG Securities contracts for SimCorp Dimension

Securities Tech

8/23/177

SimCorp, a leading provider of investment management solutions and services for the global financial services industry, today announced that FIIG Securities, a leading fixed income specialist in Australia has signed an agreement to deploy SimCorp Dimension within its business. FIIG is Australia's largest specialist fixed income provider with over AUD 11 billion under investment. With offices in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth, FIIG's team of over 140 employees provides service and support to over 6,000 bond clients across Australia.

To increase operational efficiency and become better positioned for future growth, FIIG Securities will invest in SimCorp Dimension as its new core, integrated investment management platform across its front, middle and back office. In particular, FIIG Securities will use SimCorp Dimension's Investment Book of Record (IBOR) to provide a golden copy of data across its business and leverage the system's depth in fixed income coverage, enhancing the service FIIG provides to its growing, sophisticated investor base.

Oliver Johnson, Managing Director, SimCorp Asia, comments: "FIIG Securities' decision to choose SimCorp Dimension is yet another testament to the growing recognition of our market-leading integrated investment management solutions across Asia and Australia. SimCorp Dimension's depth of fixed income instrument coverage allows us the opportunity to deploy our advanced solutions to better serve FIIG Securities' clients. We are delighted and proud to be selected by FIIG and are excited to work with them to grow their business through our cutting-edge technology."

"The choice of SimCorp Dimension is an important strategic step for us and our clients," says Jim Stening, Founder and Managing Director, FIIG Securities. "Following an extensive search process, we selected SimCorp's integrated system as we are confident with SimCorp's ability to provide an innovative, future-proof solution and a strong business case aligned with our vision for growth. Our advisors will continue to provide clients access to high quality fixed income investments and bond financing, but now they will also be supported by SimCorp's scalable, cost-efficient platform."

<https://www.finextra.com/pressarticle/70434/fiig-securities-australia-contracts-for-simcorp-dimension>

Eze Software boosts its execution management platform by partnering with Trade Informatics

Securities Tech

8/23/17

Eze Software, a global leading provider of investment technology, has partnered with Trade Informatics to enhance its transaction cost analysis (TCA) offerings.

The partnership gives Eze Investment Suite users access to Trade Informatics' advanced post-trade analytics, enabling them to assess their execution performance against key and custom benchmarks. Integration with Eze OMS and Eze EMS allows traders to adjust their strategies to minimize trading costs and maximize alpha.

Trade Informatics specializes in tools and insights to help institutional investors improve their execution performance. It aims to help asset managers customize and align trading strategies with portfolio manager characteristics to optimize trading results. Eze Software's clients will be able to evaluate their performance versus benchmarks, as well as perform peer comparisons across managers, traders, brokers, algorithms and venues to track long-term performance trends. Thanks to integration with major market data feeds within Eze Investment Suite, traders will be able to act on the information to adjust their position in the market.

"Trade Informatics delivers one of the most comprehensive, flexible and actionable TCA solutions in the market today," said Bill Neuman, Managing Director, Product Management & Development for Eze Software. "By combining TI's comprehensive order profiling with the capability to act on trading decisions quickly and systemically, we are enhancing our clients' ability to provide a solid framework for best execution under MiFID II."

"We are excited to be partnering with Eze, a company whose market strategy and corporate ethos are synergistic with our own," said Allan Goldstein, Chief Operating Officer of Trade Informatics. "Combining our best-of-breed products will extend the capability of portfolio managers to align their alpha profiles with their execution strategies, lowering implementation costs and narrowing the gap between expected and realized returns."

<https://www.finextra.com/pressarticle/70438/eze-software-boosts-tca-offering-with-trade-informatics>

GFT partners with Dex.io for data-led decision-making software

Analytics/IoT

8/23/17

GFT, the global provider of advisory, business consulting, IT and software services to the financial services community, announces its partnership with Dexi, a leader in intelligent automated data software. This collaboration enables organisations to advance the way they interrogate external data sources, enhancing business processes and decision making through smart robotic data extraction.

GFT is developing an ecosystem of top technology partners to deliver innovative solutions to its clients. The Dexi partnership fulfils a key component in the cognitive banking value chain, and is complementary to an existing set of robotic process automation (RPA), data analytics, and artificial intelligence (AI) partnerships.

Financial institutions will benefit from Dexi's advanced robot software technology and GFT's proven delivery expertise and banking experience. The near-zero integration effort allows the suite of services to be applied both tactically and strategically across a variety of use cases. These include the enhancement of fraud detection and KYC capabilities as well as improved customer retention through personalised credit risk analysis, tailored advice and targeted product matching.

The superior scale, speed, quality and consistency of data retrieval through Dexi not only improves human resource productivity but also uncovers new insights and value that would not be possible using current manual methods. GFT's experience in delivering custom visualisation tooling provides further functionality to support business processes.

The partnership has already proven its value in a range of applications, including; commodity price tracking for trading floor business operations, real-time sector expertise and insights for a bank's corporate banking customer base, and powering compliance decisions for high value transactions. In a retail banking context, the software can deliver enhanced value in lending, whereby banks can augment customer profiling, by drawing upon alternative data sources for up-to-the minute customer insights; informing and de-risking credit decisions.

Christian Ball, Head of Retail Banking at GFT says: "Financial institutions are looking for solutions that deliver immediate tangible benefits. Smarter use and analysis of external data sources is a great way for banks to empower themselves with the deep, layered, market and customer intelligence that will cement relationships and drive additional revenue opportunities."

Jacob Laurvigen, EMEA president at Dexi added "We are delighted to be partnering with GFT who we see as critical to our plans in becoming the leading technology in the automated data intelligence space. As more and more companies realise the potential of using advanced robotics to gain significant business

value and advantage, the more creative and sophisticated the data intelligence requests are becoming. This in turn is driving demand for more tailored and complex solutions which GFT are now delivering.”

<https://www.finextra.com/pressarticle/70435/gft-partners-with-dexio-for-data-led-decision-making-software>

Mountain America CU chooses digital banking platform from Alkami

Alternate Lending/Specialty Finance

8/23/17

Utah-based Mountain America Credit Union (MACU), with \$6.7 billion in assets, will deploy a new digital banking platform courtesy of Alkami Technology, reports Finovate (Banking Technology's sister company).

The new platform will integrate with Mountain America CU's existing core system and enable the 650,000 member institution to provide a variety of digital banking services including billpay and PFM. "With our growing number of account holders, Alkami's platform will enable us to deliver unique products and features that will set us apart, giving us a true competitive edge," says Kelly Albiston, SVP of digital banking at Mountain America CU.

Once deployed, Mountain America will be able to customise its new digital banking experience by creating its own apps and products. The platform includes a fully-hosted business intelligence technology with analytics and reporting, marketing, and educational content.

"Mountain America Credit Union recognises (the) shift in consumer preferences to interact digitally in a way that is convenient, straightforward and intuitive," adds Stephen Bohanon, founder, chief strategy and sales officer for Alkami Technology.

Mountain America CU maintains 88 branches in five states, thousands of shared branch locations around the country, and more than 50,000 surcharge-free ATMs.

MACU is the second big credit union partnership Alkami has forged this summer. In June, the company inked a deal with Sandia Laboratory Federal Credit Union (\$2.4 billion in assets; 84,000 members), the largest credit union in New Mexico, to deploy Alkami's ORB digital banking platform.

<http://www.bankingtech.com/957152/mountain-america-cu-chooses-digital-banking-platform-from-alkami/>

ING Bank will use FICO technology to power growth in the Czech Republic

Bank Technology/Solutions

8/24/17

European banking leader ING Bank will use decision management software and predictive models from analytic software firm FICO to launch its unsecured lending program. ING Bank in the Czech Republic will use one retail banking platform, which will have FICO® Blaze Advisor® decision rules management rules system as its "risk brain," making fast, consistent, analytically guided credit risk decisions on loan applicants.

In addition to FICO Blaze Advisor, ING Bank will use credit risk models developed by FICO based on its global experience in predicting consumer risk. Fair Isaac® Advisors, FICO's consultancy arm, is working with ING Bank to define its credit risk strategies. ING Bank already uses FICO Blaze Advisor in some of its European operations.

"When we decided to offer unsecured loans, we wanted to partner with a firm that could not only supply the technology but help us carve out a competitive strategy that kept risk in check," said Martin Halasz, retail credit risk manager at ING Czech, who is helping to manage this initiative. "FICO brings us 60+ years of experience in this area, as well as the most modern and flexible technology for automating and executing our credit risk strategy."

Banks today must be able to execute their strategies faster and at a lower cost to meet customer demands and compete with fintechs," said Steve Hadaway, FICO general manager for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. "By combining FICO technology, analytics and counsel with their own platform and strategies, ING Bank will be able to manage their decisions at both a corporate and local level, and get started faster with new products and offers."

<http://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/ING-Bank-Will-Use-FICO-Technology-to-Power-Growth-in-the-Czech-Republic-1002281154>

Funding Circle to upgrade lending tools

Alternate Lending/Specialty Finance

8/24/17

Funding Circle has revealed its new look and is set to launch a significantly improved and upgraded version of its current Autobid and Autosell lending tools in September. The option to manually choose which businesses to lend to and which loan parts to sell will be withdrawn. Investors will also be able to choose one of two new lending options based on their personal preference. Both options will be available as a Funding Circle Isa, which is due to be launched later this tax year.

The two new lending options are:

- **Balanced:** the investor will automatically lend to the full range of creditworthy businesses (A+ to E), aiming to achieve an attractive, stable return. This will allow the investors to build a balanced portfolio similar to the make-up of small businesses in the UK today. The project return is estimated to be 7.5% per year after fees and bad debt.
- **Conservative:** the investor will focus on lending to businesses that have been assessed as lower risk (initially A+/A), but with a lower projected return. The projected return is estimated to be 4.8% per year after fees and bad debt.

Funding Circle has also said that it will be introducing new interest rates at which investors can lend to businesses on 30th August.

“There’s something we do at Funding Circle which is very hard to replicate,” said Darryl Bowman, CMO at Funding Circle (pictured above).

“There’s a spirit that drives everyone here and it’s the same spirit that drives businesses to turn their passions into a reality and investors to make their money work harder.

“We are hugely passionate about helping thousands more businesses and investors across the world and today’s rebrand is the next step on this journey.”

Since 2010, Funding Circle has financed the growth of 32,000 small businesses with 69,000 investors supporting their future through the crowdfunding platform.

<http://bridgingandcommercial.co.uk/article-desc-12390-Funding%20Circle%20to%20upgrade%20lending%20tools>

LIMRA and UConn team up to support analytics projects

Analytics/IoT

8/24/17

LIMRA has partnered with the University of Connecticut's School of Business in supporting financial services companies' analytics projects.

According to research by the life insurance trade association, 80% of organizations are now piloting or implementing at least one advanced analytics initiative. Yet, a big challenge remains finding the right talent and skill sets to meet growing industry needs.

UConn's new Center for the Advancement of Business Analytics (CABA) is designed to be a hub for business analytics and data science, the companies said. CABA will work with LIMRA on analytics-driven research to enhance its members' technology capabilities.

"Working with the University of Connecticut, we hope to help our members advance their individual data analytics initiatives as well as develop projects that could benefit the industry as a whole," said Robert Kerzner, president and CEO of LIMRA, in a statement.

CABA's Associate Director John Wilson added the center's creation positions the university to foster and support data analytics research and modeling for greater business outcomes.

"These innovations will create mutually beneficial results for our business partners, our students and our university," he concluded.

<https://www.dig-in.com/news/limra-uconn-team-up-to-support-fin-services-analytics-projects>

Humana banks on big data to boost patient health — and profits

Healthcare Tech

8/24/17

From fewer heart attacks to stronger bones and longer functioning brains, insurer Humana hopes that a data analysis partnership with a California biotech company will help improve people's health, lower the cost of care and increase profits.

Humana's collaboration with Amgen will focus on the enormous amounts of health claims data that Humana collects on its roughly 9 million customers. While details about the research are still being finalized, the insurer hopes to analyze the data to detect health problems earlier and intervene before they become more serious — and costly to the patient, the hospital and the insurer. "We believe that you lower costs by improving patient outcomes," said Laura Happe, the company's chief pharmacy officer.

The companies also plan to combine real-world evidence with data from wearable tech and apps or even Bluetooth-enabled drug delivery devices to target serious conditions such as cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, neurologic disorders, inflammatory diseases and cancer.

While Humana and Amgen have worked together before, the new partnership marks the first research collaboration. "Overall, there is a trend towards using data and learning from data to optimize care," Happe said. Businesses and governments hope the ability to analyze big sets of health care data will allow them to improve care and reduce waste, fraud and costs — but the sheer amount of data that is available and being collected also presents significant challenges. In a recent report by Stanford Medicine, Dr. Lloyd Minor, dean of the Stanford School of Medicine, said the health care industry's increasing connectivity and complexity "poses both an opportunity and a challenge."

"By leveraging big data, we can create a vision of health care that is more preventive, predictive and precise," he said. California-based data analytics company MapR recently said that data analysis can help health care providers with early detection of serious health conditions, such as congestive heart failure. CHF "accounts for the most health care spending. The earlier it is diagnosed, the better it can be treated, avoiding expensive complications, but early manifestations can be easily missed by physicians," the company said. "A machine learning example from Georgia Tech demonstrated that machine learning algorithms could look at many more factors in patients' charts than doctors, and by adding additional features, there was a substantial increase in the ability of the model to distinguish people who have CHF from people who don't."

Happe said that when CHF is undetected or uncontrolled, patients can end up with fluid retention, which can become life-threatening. Humana and Amgen will sift through data to figure out how to detect the condition earlier and prevent bad outcomes. Healthier patients will mean fewer doctor and hospital visits, which will mean lower costs to health care providers and payers, including the patient and Humana.

Amgen, based in Thousand Oaks, Calif., conducts research and develops therapies for illnesses, primarily in six areas: cardiovascular disease, oncology, bone health, neuroscience, nephrology and inflammation. Its products include Enbrel, which treats arthritis; Neulasta, which stimulates white blood cell growth and is used often for chemotherapy patients; and Sensipar, which prevents bone disease. The company employs about 20,000 in 100 countries and last year generated revenue of about \$23 billion.

Humana declined to provide any financial information about its partnership with Amgen and said it is unclear when its analyses will produce the first results. Whatever the findings, Humana said it will release the research in peer-reviewed medical journals and on its website.

<https://insiderlouisville.com/business/humana-banks-on-big-data-to-boost-patient-health-and-profits/>

Capita Mortgage Services to deploy mortgage services to Tesco Bank till 2020

BPO

8/24/17

Capita has agreed a contract extension until 2020 to provide mortgage services to Tesco Bank. Since the launch of Tesco Bank Mortgages in 2012 Capita has provided a full mortgage outsourcing service from their Glasgow based office. The service spans, mortgage advice, telephony support, processing, servicing and arrears management.

Initially, this supported Tesco in launching a direct proposition allowing customers to apply via the web or receiving advice through the telephony channel. Last year Capita expanded the relationship further by supporting Tesco Bank launch mortgages into the intermediary market.

The Tesco Mortgage Intermediaries portal is based on Capita software and offers real time application placement, decision-making and tracking, and also has instant scanning and uploading functionality, all available through any device.

The portal aims to provide ease and convenience to intermediaries, allowing communication through the portal via message board, webchat or telephone. Since launch 4,000 Brokers have joined the panel.

Benny Higgins, chief executive of Tesco Bank, said: "Since entering the mortgage market we have built our reputation based on competitive rates and a commitment to good service. Capita has been integral to helping us achieve that, which is why we have extended the contract."

He added: "We are delighted with the performance of the broker portal Capita helped us to introduce last year. This was specifically designed to help brokers provide a great service to customers re-mortgaging or purchasing their home."

Mike Barnard, executive director, Capita Customer Management, said: "We have a proud record of working with banks and other financial institutions to provide full end-to-end servicing for retail mortgage and loan products. This contract extension with Tesco Bank is testament to the success of the business in recent years and we look forward to continuing that relationship."

https://www.finextra.com/pressarticle/70452/tesco-bank-extends-capita-mortgage-services-deal?utm_medium=dailynewsletter&utm_source=2017-8-25

Experian to bring DataLabs concept to SA

Analytics/IoT

8/24/17

Global information services firm Experian is looking to bring its DataLabs concept to SA.

This was revealed by David Coleman, chief data officer at Experian SA, in a recent interview with ITWeb. The information services company says its DataLabs concept enhances innovation and enables data scientists to help enterprises solve strategic marketing and risk management problems through advanced data analysis processes, research and development.

The DataLabs operates globally with labs in San Diego, London and São Paulo. The facilities are staffed by teams of scientists with PhDs, and applied research practitioners with expertise in advanced analytics and machine learning, as well as other advanced statistical methods.

"Globally, Experian has invested in DataLabs in the US, UK and Brazil," says Coleman. "These divisions are run like fintech start-ups, resourced with super-skilled individuals. Their mandate is to enable collaboration with clients to solve problems.

"In SA, we have started to set up a satellite of this set-up with investment into a sandbox environment as well as employing data scientists across our data management, analytics and marketing solutions teams," he says.

"Experian will undertake investment in broadening the talent pool that are well-versed in data science, expand its computational processing ability to provide ease of access to traditional and alternative data for clients, as well as distributing the propositions and applications from the DataLabs to allow for collaborative problem identification and solving with clients."

According to Coleman, these individuals are hooked up with their counterparts in the regional DataLabs and are taking on the localisation of prototype solutions, using machine learning techniques.

He points out that machine learning should be used to help unlock relationships or predictive patterns in existing data assets that would remain hidden from human intuition or exploration.

"Where the human mind struggles with the higher order dimensionality of certain problems, advances in computer science and applied mathematics, combined with the continual growth in data storage and processing technology, now make it possible to take on previously very complex problems to solve within a reasonable timeframe."

Typical applications of machine learning that Experian will be engaging local organisations would be in the areas of fraud within the application and digital space; historical transaction insights to inform future

transaction patterns; solving predictive assessment problems for thin file populations; and leveraging recommender techniques driven by social media feeds.

"In a quite regulated environment, South African organisations are looking for alternative, non-evasive ways to confirm or authenticate the identity of their clients, and machine learning techniques deployed on a rich dataset – combining organisation and third-party data – can aid in determining this with a high degree of certainty," says Coleman.

"Companies also need to consider how they extract value from voice, text and display data as we expect a convergence of these means to drive future customer engagement."

http://www.itweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=164253