FINTALK
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Today's View

Scale = opportunities

The biometrics revolution has enabled a growing number of countries to build more robust ID systems, while providing their citizens with greater access to rights and economic opportunities. With the Aadhaar database at around 1 billion fingerprints and iris scans, Indian government agencies are finding innovative use cases for identification purposes and improving processes.

A recent example includes an e-boarding pilot-run, powered by Safran Identity & Security's MorphoWave touchless biometric technology. This technology has been successfully deployed in an operational environment at southern India's busiest airport, Kempegowda International Airport in Bangalore. The process throughput was developed and designed together with Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), the operator of the BLR Airport, in accordance with the Indian Aviation Security Policies. It is based on real-time biometric authentication of passengers using their Aadhaar ID. However the Indian tech capital wasn't the first one to have e-boarding passes - it was Hyderabad (which is gunning for the top tech capital slot - more about that in another post).

Maharashtra on the other hand, is in the process of choosing a technology vendor to equip fingerprint, iris and face scanners to police stations throughout the state to record biometric data of criminals.

Alphanumeric password replacement by biometric is another major trend. Most commonly, it is understood that the current authentication methods don't provide the security that is actually needed. PINs are not that unique; the 20 most common combinations represent over 25% of in-use four-digit passwords (how many of you use your's/your partner's/your kid's year of birth as the PIN...you get the drift).

Governments and various industries are now trying to implement mobile biometrics to speed up the process of biometric authentication. Individual biometric identification can be achieved on a mobile device either through its built-in biometric

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sensors or by attaching portable biometric hardware to it via a USB cable or through a Wi-Fi connection. As per Grand View Research, the global biometric authentication and identification market is expected to undergo considerable growth over the next five years. The market size for biometrics is expected to reach $24.59 billion in the next six years.

Govt to link 400 wholesale mandis on e-NAM by March-end

Agriculture minister Radha Mohan Singh said that the government will link 400 of the 585 wholesale mandis in India with the electronic national agriculture market (e-NAM) by this month end to ensure that farmers get better rates for their produce.

The government's focus is on increasing output of agriculture as well as allied sectors and reducing production costs to double the farmers' income by 2022.

Source- Mint

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India could develop a digital payment system that others will envy, says a US-based payments tech firm chief

Craig Saks, chief operating officer of ACI Universal Payments said that India could soon emerge as the country with a payments system which the rest of the world could be envious of.

ACI is actively trying to participate in the Indian digital payments ecosystem by introducing their cloud-based technology solutions in partnership with Indian payments company AGS Transact.

Source- The Economic Times

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Thomson Reuters to offer tax solution on GST

Thomson Reuters, a tax technology solution provider, is bringing to the Indian market an integrated tax solution specific for 'India GST'. Chris Carlstead, Managing Director, Indirect Tax, Thomson Reuters said that the first release of this product — Thomson Reuters ONESOURCE indirect tax — will be in April.

Prashant Pillai, Head-Corporate Business, South Asia said that ONESOURCE indirect tax was an existing product that is available in 189 countries and that necessary modifications had been brought to meet the needs of the Indian market.

Source- Business Line

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of Pankaj Tadas and Aparna Anand

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Technological innovations driving cards business: Citi

Kartik Kaushik, Country Business Manager, Citi India said that the cards business today is evolving on the back to technological innovations and consumer adoption.

Fintech companies with their agility and inventiveness on the one side and banks with their scale and trustworthiness on the other side can together offer superior, cutting-edge solutions to enhance customer experience.

Source- The Tribune

E-wallet platforms have seen significant increase in cyber attacks according to Akamai

According to the data provided by global leader in content delivery network (CDN) services Akamai Technologies, as traffic to e-wallet platforms grows, there has been a significant increase in cyber attacks on online payment gateways to steal data than to disrupt operations.

Hits to web pages on e-wallet companies grew from 512,115,015 per day in September to 1,264,470,283 per day in February in the country. Nearly 94 per cent of attack attempts on mobile wallet companies were on the application layer (XSS and RFI attacks) with intent to steal business critical data.

Source- Tech2

Proposed debit card rate not lucrative, says PCI

According to Payments Council of India (PCI), the rate structure proposed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on using debit cards for electronic payments is not remunerative. Further reduction in merchant discount rate (MDR) will discourage future investments and adversely affect growth of digital payments industry.

RBI has proposed that small merchants may not pay more than 0.4 per cent of the transaction value for physical PoS (point of sale) and 0.3 per cent towards digital PoS.

Source- Business Standard

Paytm goes global, enters Canada with an App for bill payments

Online mobile wallet major Paytm had launched a bill payments service in Canada. Users in Canada would be able to pay for their cell phone, cable, internet, electricity and water bills via a Paytm Canada app. Other features would be added in course of time.

Users will also be able to pay for their insurance and property taxes by using the app. It is available on both Android and iOS in Canada.

Source- Business Standard

ShopClues launches 'Surety' to tackle quality concerns, reduce return rate

E-commerce firm ShopClues launched ShopClues Surety programme to deal with quality concerns related to unbranded products sold on the platform. The Surety project will audit about 50% of the unbranded products sold on the platform and rate them across three levels — value buy, great buy and best buy — based on the quality of the product.

Through a five-point quality check, the company will provide a brand authorised stamp to the products which will also involve mystery physical audits by the e-commerce company.

Source- The Financial Express

Snapdeal slashes cash-on-delivery limit 60% to Rs 20,000

E-marketplace operator Snapdeal has reduced the limit for cash-on-delivery (CoD) transactions on its platform by over 60% in a bid to push more prepaid transactions and curb return of goods by customers.

The CoD option has been discontinued for transactions beyond Rs 20,000. CoD order are restricted to Rs 20,000 thus making most of the high-value orders on their platform prepaid.

Source- Dna

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