

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

No Paytm top-ups for non-KYC users

Karur Vysya Bank is on a technology transformation mission

PhonePe says Paytm's claims on UPI are 'misleading'

Unfazed by e-commerce, malls make a comeback

13 start-ups make it to Boeing innovation challenge finals

Today's View

Aggregating the Cloud

Cloud applications and development platforms are rapidly revolutionizing business models across enterprises today. According to **Forrester**, over 50% of the global enterprises will rely on at least one public cloud platform to drive digital transformation and enhance customer experience, in 2018.

Cloud technology comprises the delivery of computing services such as servers, databases, networking, etc. over the internet, bringing with it the most obvious benefits - reduced hardware and software cost, scalability, and efficiency. However in order to avoid its inherent challenges associated to dependency on a single cloud storage provider, most of the firms are adopting innovative multi-cloud storage platforms, better known as "Cloud Aggregators".

Cloud aggregator platforms integrate multiple cloud computing services into one or more composite services to enable customers to choose from a wider variety of cloud services. This integration happens to be a lot more cost-effective than purchasing multiple cloud services separately. According to **MarketsandMarkets**, the Multi-Cloud Management Market size is expected to grow from USD 1,169.5 Million in 2017 to USD 4,492.7 Million by 2022, at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 30.9% during the forecast period.

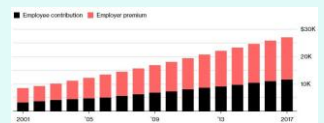
Acknowledging the need and benefits of such platforms, multiple technology firms are designing such cloud aggregation solutions.

Akhil Handa
+91 22 6759 2873
akhilhanda@bankofbaroda.com

Pankaj Tadas
+91 22 6759 2880
pankaj.tadas@bankofbaroda.com

Amazon isn't the only retail giant looking at healthcare

Walmart has been buying healthcare for workers directly from providers in 6 different regions, bypassing insurers. It is finding out more ways to squeeze out middlemen and drive down costs.



Walmart has been testing its plan 'accountable-care org.s' for 2 years. These can limit consumers to a smaller group of care providers.

Source – Bloomberg

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Date – 09th Mar 18

For example, **Tech Mahindra** has developed an integrated Cloud Aggregation Platform (CAP) for Cloud Brokers and Cloud Service Providers to deliver cloud services. It offers common reusable services, independent software vendor (ISV) on-boarding, common marketplace, web stores for sales executives and accelerated exposure to a variety of services. Likewise, California-based **Nuvotera** is a cloud services aggregation platform that allows Managed Service Providers (MSPs) and Value-Added Resellers (VARs) to source and manage multiple online applications for customers.

Similarly, **Atom's** Cloud Aggregation Platform (CAP) provides end-to-end service lifecycle management and allows faster on-boarding of multiple services. It is an automated platform to onboard and provision any type of service (SaaS, PaaS and IaaS) from public, private and hybrid clouds. On the other hand, **IBM SmartCloud Aggregator** provides a standards-based approach to cloud integration, a graphical configuration tool to speed-up the integration of cloud platforms, and access to a broad portfolio of IBM and IBM Business Partner cloud solutions. Other players in the space which offer platforms for cloud aggregation are **Boomi, Visionapp, MultiCloud** and **parallels**.

Integrating variety of cloud service provides, cloud aggregation platforms have potential to further improve the interoperability, portability, scalability and elasticity of contemporary cloud computing. We feel that by leveraging enhanced capabilities of cloud aggregators, organizations across industries can achieve efficiencies at a larger scale.

Today's News

No Paytm top-ups for non-KYC users

Paytm has stopped issuing gift vouchers against top-ups for customers who have not abided by the mandatory KYC requirements for mobile wallets as set by the RBI. Paytm was issuing gift vouchers instead of cash top-ups for non-KYC wallets.

After February 28, Paytm users who had not done a full KYC for their mobile wallets were greeted with a message about Paytm vouchers when they tried to load the prepaid payment instrument. They were also requested to get the KYC done to reinstate normal functioning of the wallet.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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Karur Vysya Bank is on a technology transformation mission: MD

Karur Vysya Bank has been offering services to all sections of the populace, including large corporates and institutions. Now, they have embarked on a technology transformation mission to ease the process of availing retail loans compared to the past.

Source – *BusinessLine*

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This News Letter has been prepared with the assistance of **Sadhika Agarwal** and **Pankaj Tadas**

FB is spying on you, just not through your phone's mic

Advertising is an important staple of the free internet, but the companies buying and selling ads are turning into stalkers. Facebook works directly with six data brokers, all of which allow users to opt out from their sharing of their personal data, everything from email to purchase history.

Source – *Business Standard*

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Travis Kalanick is taking his next big idea to India

Travis Kalanick is gearing up for his next venture—and India features on his list of priorities. The former Uber CEO said he is setting up an investment fund 10100, which will back nascent companies in India and China.

The fund will be overseeing Travis' for-profit and non-profit investments. The overarching theme will be about large-scale job creation, with investments in real estate, e-commerce, and emerging innovation in China and India. The non-profit efforts will initially focus on education and the future of cities.

Source – *Quartz*

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WeWork India leases 1.25 lakh sq ft in Mumbai

WeWork's India arm has picked up nearly 1.25 lakh sq ft of office space spread over four floors on lease in Oberoi Realty's commercial complex Commerz II in Goregaon suburb of Mumbai.

Source – *The Economic Times*

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PhonePe says Paytm's claims on UPI are 'misleading'

PhonePe has taken a swipe at India's largest digital payments firm Paytm, questioning the latter's claim of being the largest player on the UPI platform. In a blog post, PhonePe termed Paytm's claim of being the biggest payments network on UPI as "unidimensional" and "misleading", and claimed that broad-based adoption of UPI has not happened on Paytm yet.

"The average PhonePe customer does about five transactions per month, while the comparable figure for Paytm is 525. This is simply not representative of normal user behavior on the UPI network," the blog post authored primarily by PhonePe's founder and CEO Sameer Nigam said.

Source – Livemint

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Unfazed by e-commerce, malls make a comeback

Early 2000s was when shopping malls had hit the Indian market and a few years down the line came e-websites, which many believed would be the reason for these malls to disappear from the market.

According to a recent report by Anarock Property's Consultant, shopping malls are witnessing a visible resurgence in India. A clear measure of increasing focus on the retail sector is that private equity (PE) players invested more than \$700 million into Indian retail in first quarter-third quarter 2017 — which is around 90% of the investments that came in during the past two years. Many industry experts believe that entry of e-commerce websites did not have adverse effects on the business of the malls but rather has been useful to the retail segment of the market.

Source – BusinessLine

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13 start-ups make it to Boeing innovation challenge finals

As many as 13 start-ups out of the 80 shortlisted entries and six teams from Boeing's research and technology center have made it to the final round of the Boeing HorizonX India Innovation Challenge. Launched in November 2017, the Challenge aims at promoting aerospace innovation from India. The selected start-ups and internal teams will now work on perfecting their ideas and concepts to develop disruptive solutions and tackle complex challenges in multiple areas of aerospace such as IoT and AI.

Source – BusinessLine

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Bahrain steps up cryptocurrency push

Bahrain may soon emerge as a global cryptocurrency exchange hub with the government enabling a 'regulatory sandbox' for the same. Khalid Saad, CEO of Bahrain Fintech Bay said, "As long as the business qualifies as a fintech, we will welcome it. The focus is on developing the culture of entrepreneurship in Bahrain." Commenting on the legitimacy, a Bahrain government official said, "As of now we recognize cryptocurrency as a commodity that can be traded in the exchanges. We are not considering it as a legal tender in any form."

Source – BusinessLine

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How technology can help reduce systemic graft and improve efficiency

PM Modi-led India is on course to lead the Fourth Industrial Revolution and provide innovative solutions for a better quality of life. Modi's central theme has been around digital technology emerging as a great enabler to pave the way for efficient service delivery, governance, and improved access to financial inclusion, education, justice, and healthcare.

Efficient, resilient, and accountable governance systems are essential to successfully manage resources, provide public services, and foster competence. Corruption and secrecy are often at odds with such goals. Unaccounted financial flows undermine development and governance while secrecy in the functioning of government systems weakens the national trust.

Source – Livemint

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IBM, Convergys, Bain eye Intelenet

Tech giants IBM and Convergys are in talks along with other players to acquire Blackstone-owned Intelenet. PE major Bain Capital is also in the fray to acquire Intelenet. If it goes through, then the deal is likely to be pegged at \$1-1.2 bn valuation which amounts to Blackstone getting a return of over 3x from a 3-year-old investment. Blackstone had first acquired Intelenet about \$260 million in 2007 and then sold it to UK-based Serco for \$634 million in 2011.

Source – Deal Street Asia

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