Advancing the Federal Reserve
Financial Services Strategic Direction

Overview of Current and Future Payment Ecosystems

W3C Workshop: How do you want to pay? March 24, 2014
Federal Reserve Banks Overview

**Mission**
- To foster integrity, efficiency and accessibility of the U.S. payment system

**Vision**
- Payments are safe and efficient
- End users can select payment options with attributes (e.g., speed, convenience, cost, security) that meet their needs
- Incentives promote efficient selection and use of these options

**Role**
- Act as a major service provider to the interbank market
- Collaborate with industry and emphasize innovations in electronic payment systems

Supervise and regulate financial institutions

Provide financial services to depository institutions and U.S. government

Establish and execute U.S. monetary policy

...to maintain a stable financial system and contain systemic risk
End-to-End Strategic Focus

Safety and Security
- Maintain and enhance FRB network security
- Enhance understanding of end-to-end security
- Collaborate and promote industry best practices

Speed
- Develop solutions to enhance payment speed
- Understand market demand for faster payments
- Continue migration of paper to electronic

Efficiency
- Develop solutions to promote efficiency
- Understand needs and barriers
- Promote standards adoption to improve efficiency
Payment System Improvement Consultation Paper

Desired Outcomes

**Strategic Industry Engagement**

- Key improvements for the future state of the payment system have been *collectively* identified and embraced by payment participants, and material progress has been made in implementing them.

**Ubiquitous Real-Time Retail Payments**

- A ubiquitous electronic solution(s) for making retail payments exists that does not require the sender to know the bank account number of the recipient. Provides confirmation of good funds at initiation, timely sender/receiver payment notification, and near-real-time debit to payer and credit to payee.

**Improved Efficiency**

- Greater electronification and process improvements have reduced the average end-to-end (societal) costs of payment transactions and resulted in innovative payment services that deliver improved value to consumers, businesses and governments.

**Improvements in Cross-Border Payments**

- Consumers and businesses have better choice in making convenient, cost-effective and timely cross-border payments from and to the United States.

**Enhanced Payments Safety and Security**

- We have collaborated with the industry to promote end-to-end payment system security amid a rapidly evolving technology and threat environment. Public confidence in FRFS security remains high.
Strategic Direction Roadmap

New End-to-End Strategic Focus
Consultation Paper Published
Retail Payment Study
Consultation Paper Analysis
Research on End-User Demand for Select Payment Attributes
Industry Feedback Summary – Common Themes

• Approx three quarters of respondents agreed with the gaps, opportunities and desired outcomes with suggestions for additional focus on regulatory issues and serving the under-banked

• Many suggested that the Fed become more active in developing and implementing payment standards

• Some non-banks want greater influence in or direct access to the payment system

• Depository institutions argued that they are held to higher regulatory and risk management standards than non-bank payment providers

• General desire for faster payment settlement and delivery of information, but concern over business case

Research on End-User Demand for Select Payment Attributes

Key Takeaways

69% of Consumer Payers and 75% of Business Payees preferred instant or one-hour payment speed

61% consumers and 67% businesses agreed that they “won’t use a payment method unless it is used and accepted by most people and businesses”

85% of Consumers and 81% businesses indicated that they would rather share an email address or a phone number to make/receive payments

75% of businesses and 33% of consumers expressed a willingness to pay a fee for payments that have faster availability to the payee

~ 70% of consumers and ~ 82% of businesses stated that it is important to receive timely notification that a payment has been made and when the payment was received by the payee

Strategic Direction Roadmap
Next Steps

- ISO 20022 Business Case Assessment
- Payment Security Landscape Study
- EPO Exploration
- Real-Time Alternatives Assessment
Staying Connected

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