

FINANCIAL IS, UNDERLYING TECHNOLOGIES, AND THE FINTECH REVOLUTION

A Call for Papers: Special Issue of the *Journal of Management Information Systems*

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Introduction. On May 9, 2015, *The Economist* magazine reported that:

‘The magical combination of geeks in t-shirts and venture capital that has disrupted other industries has put financial services in its sights. From payments to wealth management, from peer-to-peer lending to crowdfunding, a new generation of startups is taking aim at the heart of the industry—and a pot of revenues that Goldman Sachs estimates is worth \$4.7 trillion. Like other disrupters from Silicon Valley, fintech firms are growing fast. They attracted \$12 billion of investment in 2014, up from \$4 billion the year before.’

The purpose of this Special Issue of the *Journal of Management Information Systems* is to build foundations for new research in the interdisciplinary space of the ‘Fintech Revolution.’ Today, it seems that all areas of financial services are touched by the technological forces that have led to new entrepreneurship, unbridled innovation, and dramatic growth in interest of venture capital firms. This time around though, it’s not the dot coms or e-commerce. Instead, it’s the transformation of banking, securities trading and other financial services as we’ve known them in the past: new visions of service and customer centricity, with bright prospects for controlling costs and supporting profitability.

There are ‘new tech’ capabilities that have led to digital convergence and disintermediation, new forms of money, and the extension of financial services to previously unbanked consumers. Prior to January 2016, VentureScanner identified 1,362 new companies that have raised US\$25.8 billion in venture capital funding in the focal areas of lending, microfinance and crowdfunding, retail and institutional investments, personal finance, and payments and remittances, as well as other niche areas: equity finance, banking infrastructure, consumer banking, financial research.

Meanwhile, many practices unique to financial services are undergoing fundamental changes. They include: growth toward mobile payments at scale and diminution in the use of cash in different world regions; changes in how international trade is financed based on new ways to achieve stakeholder informedness in supply chain management through IT; and the use of transaction filters to comply with political sanctions on the movement of money in the global financial system. Also included are the growth of algorithmic and high-frequency trading; and cross-border equity trading, clearing and settlement, as global portfolio management is made possible by regional trading networks.

There are also emerging technologies that are creating new opportunities for application: blockchain applications and ledgers between trading counterparties; new encoding capabilities for transaction tracing; and data mining and machine learning for pattern recognition and knowledge discovery.

With this motivation, we are reaching out to researchers with varied backgrounds and interests in the financial technology arena, and who study related economic, social and technological transformations in the financial economy. We look forward to receiving manuscripts from the academic, corporate, and governmental agency and non-governmental domains – where interesting new work is going on.

Topics. Appropriate research areas for the Special Issue include, but are not limited to:

- **Cards.** Credit, debit, and loyalty card innovations, state-of-the-art deals and merchant offer optimization, deep data card and customer analytics, event-based customer promotion triggers, and analytics for card product design and customer loyalty enhancement.
- **Payments.** Digital money, real-time payments, regional payment networks, blockchain, funds settlement mechanism innovations, payment hacking, and payment fraud risk detection.
- **Securities.** Innovations in equities and derivatives trading, clearing, and settlement in retail and institutional markets, new trading technologies and cross-border trading patterns.
- **International trade.** Technology for global supply chain and procurement financing, and

open account vs. letters of credit services in light of bank payment obligation innovations.

- **Financial inclusion.** Digital technologies and fintech solutions that touch on financial inclusion, P2P payments, bottom-of-the-pyramid consumers, and ‘banking for the unbanked.’
- **Technologies and standards.** Mobile device and Internet-based innovations, P2P solutions, common financial language, ISO 20022 financial messaging, straight through processing, digital cryptography and secure financial exchange.
- **Risk and cybersecurity.** Emerging capabilities for effective handling of financial, operational and compliance risks, fraud-aware electronic banking, and fraud-scoring analytics, with special emphasis on financial crime and money laundering, and intraday, and cross-border and intraday funds control innovations with IT.
- **Institutions.** Institutional developments with technology, including clearinghouses, exchanges and alternative trading systems, funds transfer networks, financial telecommunication, regulatory and governance bodies, and central banks and governments.

Submission. Manuscript submissions are invited for review within a window of time that opens on March 1, 2016 and continues for 5 months until August 1, 2016. This will give authors who need it more time for manuscript development and submission. But the Guest Editors will begin the review process for each paper upon its receipt. Authors who send their papers earlier will benefit from a longer period of time for developmental comments from the Guest Editors to fine-tune the positioning of their research, or address major issues prior to a full peer review. Because we will use a window of time, the Editor in Chief and the Guest Editors do not contemplate extending the closing of the window to a later date. No papers will be accepted until we establish the entire pool of submissions when the submission window closes though, so all submissions have a fair chance of acceptance.

Review process. Papers will be assigned to a Guest Editor, and invited members of the Special Issue Editorial Board, so there will be a minimum of two peer reviews provided. We will ask for first reviews to be returned in 8 weeks, per *JMIS*'s process. The Guest Editors will work with members of an appointed Special Issue Editorial Board to ensure rapid turnaround of reviewing feedback.

Review decisions. The Guest Editors will also identify and desk-reject inappropriate submissions without assignment of a manuscript for two reviews. The authors will be notified immediately. When a paper reaches a high level of quality after peer review and agreement, the Guest Editors will recommend to ‘accept’ the paper to the Editor-in-Chief, who makes the final decision.

Submissions. Send your paper to the Special Issue Managing Editor, Chris Parker, Smeal College of Business, Penn State University via email. His address is chris.parker@psu.edu.

Milestones. This Special Issue has three key milestones. They are:

- **Submission window opens: March 1, 2016**
 - Manuscripts are evaluated as they arrive for appropriateness
 - Appropriate submissions are reviewed with developmental support offered
 - Developmental comments or 1st round reviews returned in 8-10 weeks of submission date
- **Submission window closes: September 1, 2016**
 - Manuscript appropriateness evaluations and reviews continue
 - Appropriate submissions will be reviewed with continued developmental support
 - All 1st round reviews will be completed by November 1, 2016
 - Thereafter, all papers will be handled for 2nd and 3rd round reviews as needed to completion, based on the input of the Special Issue Editorial Board members
- **Targeted completion and delivery of Special Issue content: May 1, 2017**
 - This will include any copy-editing and manuscript compliance work, inclusive of authors’ brief bios with title and email address, as well as postal mail contact address.
 - Please note that publication of the Special Issue is typically scheduled by the Editor in Chief, and the exact timing of the issue often reflects the timing of the content delivery.

Questions? For questions regarding the appropriateness of your research for Special Issue review, send email to any of the Guest Editors. Please include: your title, author names and affiliations; a brief abstract and keywords; and any other information you think is relevant.