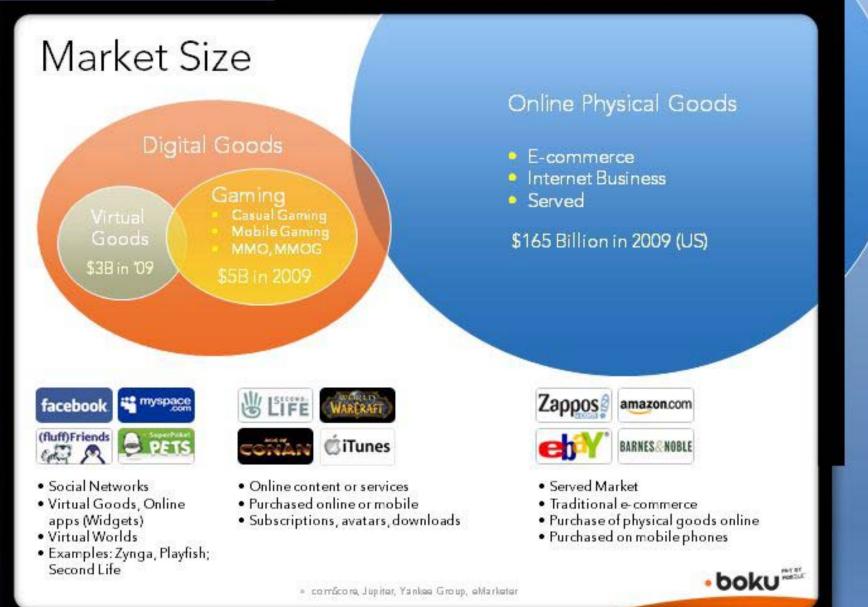
# **GLENBROOK**

# Digital Goods, Virtual Currencies, and Social Networks

### Chicago Fed 2011 Payments Conference FEDERAL RESERVE BANK of CHICAGO

May 2011



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# There are MANY ways to pay and be paid

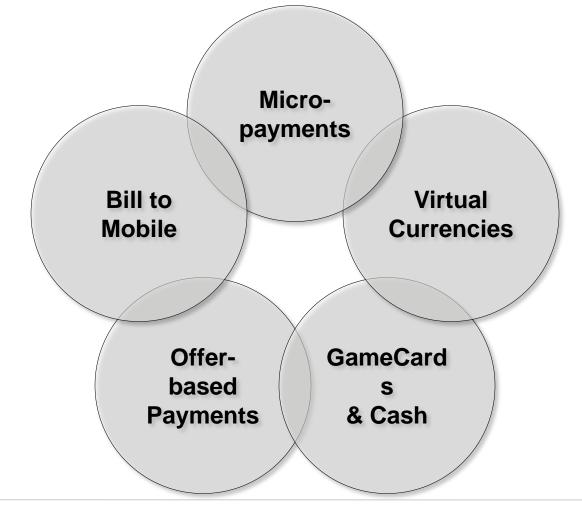
What's the right way to think about all these payment methods?



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# Web 2.0 Payments Realms

Many realms, many companies, many overlapping...



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# Web 2.0 Payment Terminology

Some new terminology for some old ideas...

Old Term	New Web 2.0 Term!
Micropayments	Virtual Currencies
Closed Loop Prepaid Card	Game Cards
1-900 Billing	Bill to Mobile
Performance Marketing	Offer-based Payments
Digital Goods	Virtual Goods
Business Model	Monetization Strategy
P2P Payments	Social Payments

# **Micropayments**

They're back and they thrive on the social Web

- Small transactions as little as 25¢ are difficult to cost justify without micropayment specific solutions
  - Many small transactions are aggregated into a larger single purchase transaction
  - Pricing to merchants optimized for small value transactions
- Early micropayment systems overreached and failed to gain traction
- Today, micropayments are back as a key element of social game and application monetization strategies
  - Purchases are denominated in familiar national currencies, not a virtual currency (e.g. \$1.99 vs. 20 Facebook Credits)
  - Tend to be used by sites that do not offer their own virtual currency
  - Providers make it very easy for non-payment savvy application and game developers to integrate

# **Virtual Currencies**

Virtual currencies drive the Social Web

- What is a virtual currency?
  - Virtual currencies are like tokens in an arcade
  - They have some notational value that can be exchanged
- What is a virtual currency platform engine?
  - Helps sites issue, manage, analysis, and control their own virtual currencies
  - Used by online game sites and by apps on social network sites
- What can you sell with a virtual currency?
  - Functional goods: Special game powers
  - Self Expression artifacts: Decorations for avatars, charity donations
  - Gifted goods: Virtual beer, virtual flowers
  - Digital goods: Music, video, etc.

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### Facebook Credits The safe and easy way to buy things on Facebook











### Available in your favorite games

Credits offer a quick and secure way to purchase premium items in many of your favorite free games.



### We never share your financial information

When you use credits to buy premium items, the transaction is between you and Facebook. You get to

### Facebook Credits gift cards

Now you can give your friends the gift of powered-up game play. Use our store locator to find a gift card retailer near you.

### **Redeem Gift Card**



facebook

# Who We're Watching in Virtual Currencies

- In-House Currencies
  - Facebook Credits
  - Zynga zCoins
  - Microsoft Points
- Virtual Currency Providers
  - PlaySpan (acquired by Visa)
  - Social Gold (acquired by Google)
  - FatFooGoo (acquired by Digital River)
  - Others...



# Game Cards & Cash

Facilitate payment from the underbanked

- Enables youth and others without access to payment cards to participate in online game communities
  - Purchase in a retail environment, typically for cash
  - Global solutions often tied to kiosk and walk-in payment schemes
  - Often purchased by someone other than the game player, e.g. parents
  - Some are re-loadable
- Some cards are game specific, others can be used across a variety of game properties
  - The multi-game providers often offer branded solutions to game developers
- Most are closed-loop prepaid cards, but some are beginning to move to open loop

# Who We're Watching in Game Cards & Cash

- Zynga (via InComm)
- Zeevex (Via InComm)
- Ultimate Game Card (from PlaySpan's PayByCash)
- Electronic Arts (Prepaid Visa)
- Playdom









MERCHANTS | CONSUMERS | FIND A LOCATION | HELP | VIEW MY PAYMENTS | SIGN IN

### Serve more customers by accepting cash payments

PayNearMe



# Learn More Reach 24% of U.S. households that don't have a credit or debit card MERCHANTS Accept cash nationwide for online or phone orders Drive more foot traffic to your business



### LATEST NEWS



# PayNearMe



How it works... high-level story

- Buyer make a purchase online and prints out PayNearMe Slip
- PayNearMe Slip directs buyer to the nearest 7-Eleven
  - Buyer enters their zip code as part of checkout process
- Buyer presents PayNearMe Slip to 7-Eleven clerk, who scans bar code and accepts exact cash amount
- Payment credit is posted in real-time to merchant; merchant prints purchase receipt on 7-Eleven cash-register receipt
- Everything is done with the buyer is at face-value with no extraneous fees

# **Offer-Based Payments**

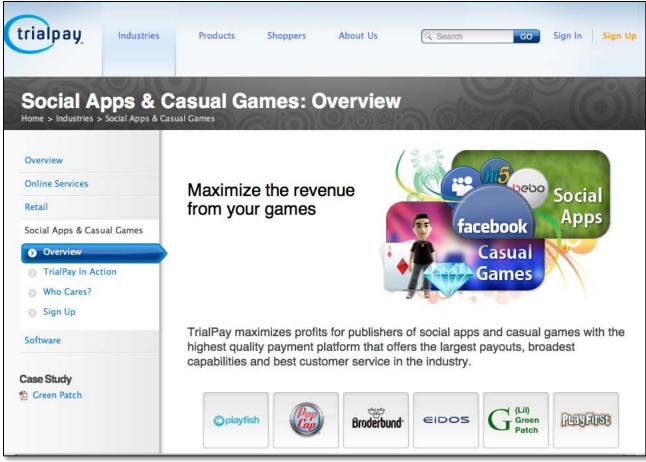
Earn credit to purchase goods, play games, and earn virtual currencies

- No cash, no problem!
  - Research indicates that "29.7% of social gamers do not have the ability or the means to pay for virtual currency with cash options"\*
- Offer-based schemes enable users to participate in surveys, watch a video, or sign up for a trial subscription in order to earn credit that can be used to purchase goods, play games, or earn virtual currencies
  - Promotional advertisers include name brands
  - Claim significant reach and ability to precisely target offers
- Solutions across multiple social and game sites, as well as virtual worlds
- Industry tainted by offers that caused unwitting consumers to download unwanted software or unknowingly sign up for a recurring subscriptions

\* Source: comScore, March 2010

# Who We're Watching in Offer-based Payments

- TrialPay
- Tapjoy
- Super Rewards
- Peanut Labs
- SponsorPay
- gWallet
- Gambit





# **Bill to Mobile Payments**

- Near-frictionless payment within a game or social app
- Billed with mobile phone charges on monthly statement
- Global schemes, operating in dozen of countries with hundreds of mobile carrier partners
- Game developers pay large fees in excess of 15-45% but when selling virtual goods with minimal cost, that's okay

Paying with boku

is as easy as 1, 2, 3

646 - 555 - 1212

2. ENTER YOUR

MOBILE PHONE NUMBER

# **Boku Economic Pitch to Merchants**

### IT ADDS UP Let's assume 1000 customers each willing to pay \$10 BOKU Credit Card 600 Customers 70 Customers (60% conversion) (7% conversion) \$3900 686 35% carrier fees ï 2% carrier fees

Better conversion means higher net payout, even with carrier fees.

# Who We're Watching in Bill to Mobile Payments

Zong

Boku

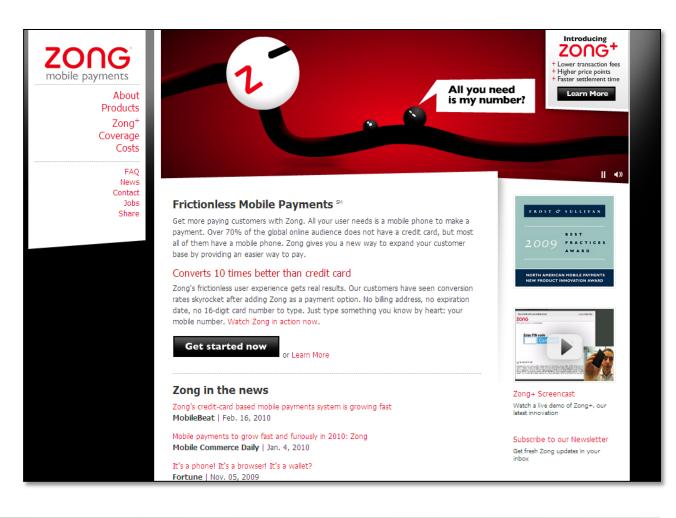
BilltoMobile

Allopass

mBlox

MoPay

Payfone

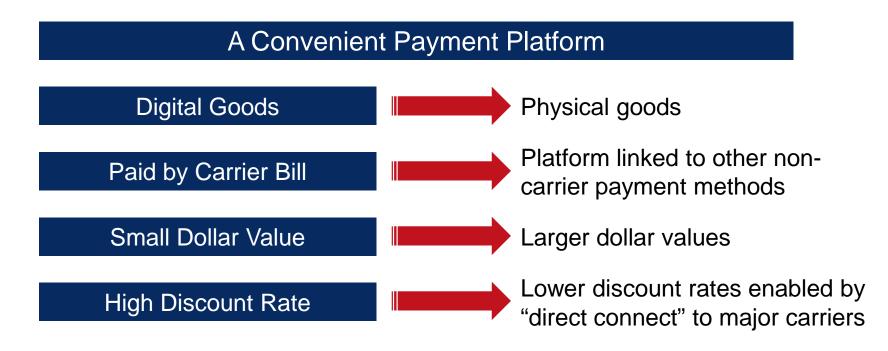




# **Evolution Paths?**

# Bill to Mobile Today

## Tomorrow?





# www.glenbrook.com www.paymentsnews.com

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