



FPC Member News

The Shifting Discussion Around Interoperability

Letter from the Executive Director



Memorial Day is approaching. For me, it signals the fact that we are almost at the halfway point of the year, with June right around the corner. 2021 is moving along at lightning speed.

And the FPC seems to be keeping pace with it, having accomplished so much already this year: the launch of two new Work Groups, the release of three new member resources, the introduction of the “Off the Rails” podcast, and a successful Spring Conference, with more in the pipeline for release and publication in the coming weeks and months.

But through all of these work efforts and activities, there is a recurring theme that continues to emerge: interoperability. For instance, one of our recently released reports focused on [the benefits of interoperable directories](#). The [2021 Glenbrook research](#) effort highlights interoperability. And interoperability was a key focus area during the [Spring Conference](#), with sessions and Roundtable Discussions devoted to the topic.

With the attention now given to interoperability, and the fact that both the 2019 and 2020 Faster Payments Barometer studies showed more than 70 percent of stakeholders think achieving interoperability is important, the conversation is shifting from “is it necessary” to “why it’s necessary and how do we get there.”

The latest Glenbrook research offers a number of reasons for the “why,” citing benefits such as enhanced customer experience, increased competition, improved operating efficiency, and reduced risk. But ultimately, the research showed that the overwhelming reason for achieving interoperability is to get us to ubiquity.

While the “why” is certainly clear, the “how” is more complex. Research, and lessons learned from other geographies, show that there are different models that can be leveraged to achieve interoperability, from “Network to Network,” to “Intermediary as a Party” to “Point of Origination” where intermediaries use multiple schemes to achieve “perceived” interoperability. The Glenbrook research and FPC member feedback point to a belief that a more realistic short-term interoperability option in the United States is the point of origination approach, but FPC Members also believe other approaches could be more beneficial in the long-run. Thus, in our push to ubiquity, leveraging the point of origination model can serve as an effective starting point, but Members suggest we also set our sights on other modes of interoperability for a more sustainable and ubiquitous faster payments future.

With our mission to create ubiquitous faster payments in the United States, interoperability

will remain a key focus area for the FPC and the industry for some time to come. We'll continue to provide the venues and resources to facilitate dialogue around this topic, and we encourage you to continue to provide the honest and diverse feedback to help get us to our desired outcomes.

As a reminder, please be sure you are signed up for our [Town Hall on May 27 with Deloitte](#), who will walk Members through its Instant Payments Adoption Readiness – Self-Assessment Toolkit. We are excited about the launch of this great member benefit, and the Town Hall will serve as another opportunity to bring everyone up to speed on the project and keep the dialogue around faster payments going.

Thank you, and have a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day.

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FPC Announces New Board Members

The FPC is [pleased to announce](#) the newest members of the Board of Directors.

Newly elected and re-elected members of the FPC's Board of Directors include **Kevin Christensen**, SHAZAM; **Charles Harkness**, Corporate One Federal Credit Union; **Steve Kenneally**, American Bankers Association; **Beverly Kennedy**, JPMorgan Chase Merchant Services; **Cathy Lesser Mansfield**, National Consumer Law Center; **Steve Mott**, BetterBuyDesign; **Carl Slabicki**, BNY Mellon; **Perry Starr**, Target; and **Antonia Stroeh**, Mastercard.

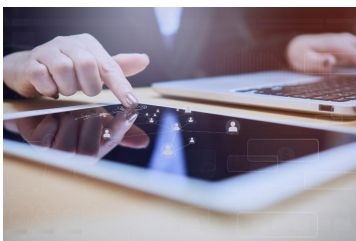


U.S. Faster Payments Council
Announces
2021 Board of Directors



We look forward to working with them and existing Board members to continue to execute our mission and enhance the FPC member experience.

New FPC Directory Models White Paper Published



The FPC Directory Models Work Group is excited to share its next deliverable, [Beneficial Characteristics Desirable in a Directory Service](#) white paper.

This Members-only paper offers a foundation for conversation about the specific characteristics required in a directory that seeks to maximize the economic benefits of faster payments for payors, payees, and all participants in the payments ecosystem.

The Work Group earlier released, [The Economic Benefits of an Independent, Interoperable Directory for Faster Payments](#), highlighting the economic impact that could be achieved when faster payments are supported by robust directory capabilities. Realizing these impacts will require the availability of certain core capabilities in a directory, this new paper explores certain characteristics of a directory and ties them back to the benefits identified in the Economic Impact paper.

Both of these Member resources can only be accessed in the [Members Area](#) of our website. Please contact FPC Member Services if you need assistance logging in.

Congratulations to the entire Directory Models Work Group on another great achievement!

Mindgate Solutions John Burgos Guest Blogs on FasterPaymentsCouncil.org

John Burgos, Vice President – Business Development North America, at Mindgate Solutions recently shared his thoughts on [The Changing Landscape of Banking Experience with RTP](#) on the FPC's blog.



According to John, we can all agree that the world has shifted, and this shift has affected the way we do many things. While real-time payments (RTP) was previously considered an infrastructure luxury, it has now become a common method of payment in many parts of the world.

This adoption has changed the payments landscape. Digital payments, in particular, RTP was initially adopted by only a few countries like Japan, Switzerland, Korea, Brazil and India. Digital and RTP payments have dramatically accelerated the pre-existing, but slow-moving trend, away from cash and checks.

Check out the full post on the [FPC blog](#) and learn more on how Mindgate is driving digital payments innovation by visiting <https://mindgate.us/>.

FPC's "Off the Rails" Podcast Episode #4 Live!



We're excited to share that episode #4 of the "Off the Rails from the U.S. Faster Payments Council" podcast is now live!

In our latest episode, FPC Executive Director Reed Luhtanen goes Off the Rails with guest **Carl Slabicki**, Head of Strategic Payment Solutions, at **BNY Mellon**.

They discuss interoperability, ubiquity, emerging use cases for faster payments, and Carl's preference in guitars. BNY Mellon has been a leader in instant payments from the jump, and was the very first financial institution online with the RTP Network, and they are now helping to lead the industry through participation in the FedNow pilot.

The podcast is accessible on the [FPC website](#) as well as available for download from your favorite apps including [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Audible from Amazon](#), [Podcast Addict](#), among others. Please take a listen, download, and subscribe to stay up to date with future episodes featuring FPC members. Our next podcast in June will feature **Krishnakumar Chandrashekar** at **Mindgate Solutions** and **Tony Cook** at **FirstBank**.

Last Chance! Register for the FPC Town Hall on May 27

We hope you will join us for an FPC Town Hall with Deloitte on **Thursday, May 27 from 3-4 pm ET.**

Deloitte will be presenting a new Instant Payments Adoption Readiness – Self-Assessment Toolkit designed to help organizations understand the journey to implement faster payments and identify where they are in that journey.



Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions about the self-assessment toolkit and have first access to the Members-Only resource. **Since this Town Hall is limited to FPC members, registration is required to attend. Please click the link below to register.**

As you know, inclusive engagement across the industry is part of the FPC’s mission to drive adoption of faster payments, and we hope you will plan to join us and interact with the Deloitte team and other FPC members during this important event.

[Register Now](#)

FPC Welcomes New Members



The FPC would like to welcome its newest business members: **Rapyd** and **Timeis.io**.

Our members are the reason the FPC exists. Your contributions, passion, and support allow us to advance our efforts and make progress on our goal of ubiquitous faster payments in the United States. We thank you for making the commitment to the Faster Payments Council and helping make our vision a reality.

As a reminder, the current [list of FPC Members](#) is available for review on our website at any time.

FPC Work Groups Advance Efforts

Our FPC Work Groups have once again been hard at work this month, focusing on tangible actions and results, summarized below.

Cross Border Payments Work Group – The Group received final approval on its “Cross-Border Faster Payments” white paper from the FPC Board of Directors. The paper is structured to identify the interoperability approaches, along with associated settlement schemes necessary to create a world-class cross-border payment system. Publication of the public-



facing deliverable is planned for early June.

Education and Awareness Work Group – The Group recently updated its charter to include new areas of focus, deliverables, and timeframes, The Group’s Solution Providers subgroup is putting the finishing touches on its industry survey and will distribute to FPC members soon. The Faster Payments Glossary of Terms, FAQs, and Use Cases subgroups have continued to work on several deliverables targeted for completion by Q3.

Directory Models Work Group – The Group’s Beneficial Characteristics subgroup received final approval on its “Beneficial Characteristics Desirable in a Directory Service” white paper from the Operations Committee. The Members-only resource has been published in the Members area of the FPC website. The Group will next work on creating “internet consumable” summaries of its two recent white papers.

Financial Inclusion Work Group – The Group has finalized its charter including the deliverables and timeframes for the upcoming year. The Group has formed two subgroups, one focused on consumers and the other on small business, to extend work on the pain points that have been initially identified by full Work Group. The Group is also currently seeking nominations for a Vice Chair.

Fraud Information Sharing Work Group – The Group recently updated its charter to include new areas of focus, deliverables, and timeframes, The Group is currently developing a survey on faster payments fraud and plans to produce a report summarizing the results with recommendations to address faults or gaps. The industry survey is expected to launch by mid-year.

QR Code Interface Work Group – The Group has been researching and evaluating best practices for faster payments QR codes. The Group’s first deliverable will present a consistent set of information for each distinct presentment mode and use case that has been identified. As part of the research stage for the deliverable, the Group is ranking Phase 1 receiver-presented mode use cases.

Real-Time Recurring Work Group – The Group has finalized its charter including the deliverables and timeframes for the upcoming year. As part of planning for its first deliverable, the Group has created a list of themes to consider for a journey map. The Group is also forming a subgroup that will brainstorm the ideal wish list for merchants/business end users when it comes to real-time recurring payments.

Member contributions in our FPC Work Groups are key to our progress. If you haven’t joined a Work Group, we encourage you to do so. Also, remember that anyone from your organization can join work groups and contribute, so spread the word within your organization.

You can find more information about the FPC’s seven Work Groups and [join here](#). We are also always looking for new work group ideas! If there is something happening in the industry that the FPC can help with – an FPC Work Group is the way to make that happen.

We Value You as an FPC Member!

Thank you for your engagement and commitment to advancing faster payments.



If you have any questions, please contact us at memberservices@fasterpaymentscouncil.org and visit fasterpaymentscouncil.org.

Thank you to the FPC's 2021 Accelerating Sponsors – [ACI Worldwide](#), [BNY Mellon](#), [Mindgate Solutions](#), [NEACH](#), [PSCU](#), [The Clearing House](#), and [Trustly](#).

Faster Payments Council

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