

HT BLOCKCHAIN BI-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Editor's Note

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Edition 1, Volume 1

Dear Reader,

I am excited to announce the HT Blockchain Bi-Weekly Newsletter! This is a newsletter aimed at making Blockchain concepts fun and easy for you to follow.

This first article will introduce you to the exciting world of FinTech. FinTech is an up-

and-coming interdisciplinary field that is catching the attention of people from all fields.

The author of this first article is Dr. Abena Primo. A Computer Science Professor at Huston-Tillotson University with a passion for all things FinTech and blockchain. She



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FINTECH = Finance



+ Technology



hosted the "HT Blockchain Competition" last year.

In the coming weeks, we will be publishing eight (8) more articles relating to FinTech and, specifically, the blockchain which is a type of FinTech. If you do not know what blockchain is, do not worry, we have you covered! Our next

article will explain this topic of you!

Do not forget to complete the post-article survey linked on the last page for a chance to win a \$50 gift card.

Editor:

Dr. Abena Primo



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WHAT IS FINTECH?

By Dr. Abena Primo

Please note that the links shared in this article to commercial websites/applications are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as an endorsement of any product on the part of the author or Huston-Tillotson University. If you have questions about this article, please contact me at acprimo@htu.edu.

FinTech is a popular term used to refer to technology built to support financial services. There are a wide variety of services that can be defined as "FinTech". These include things like the ATM machine at the local bank, financial websites, and financial mobile applications.

You may already be familiar with or have used some of these technologies to make or receive payments, check on your monthly budget, do your taxes, or even to donate to a cause. Examples of some popular FinTech services are:

- 1) Square's Cash App
- 2) PayPal
- 3) Personal Capital
- 4) GoFundMe
- 5) Bitcoin

Square's Cash App is a mobile payments software that enables users to quickly send and receive money. You can find more information on this application here: <https://cash.app/>

PayPal is also a payments software, but it primarily operates a payments process for sellers in marketplaces like eBay. They have also recently launched a PayPal Mobile Pay App to compete with Square's Cash App. For more information on PayPal, read here: <https://www.paypal.com/us/webapps/mpp/home>

Personal Capital is a budgeting and wealth management software application. It enables users to keep track of their monthly income and expenses and to consult with financial advisors. Some software applications in this category, such as Wealthfront, also make available robo-advisors to users. Robo-advisors are computer programs that offer advice on how a user should invest their money in the stock market. Read more about Personal Capital here: <https://www.personalcapital.com/cash>

GoFundMe is a crowdfunding software application. This means that its users collect money from other users of the software. A user of the software may start a campaign to fund her business, her medical expenses, or her favorite charity. To read more about GoFundMe, see here: <https://www.gofundme.com/>

Bitcoin is a cryptocurrency. Cryptocurrencies are meant to be virtual currencies/money. Each cryptocurrency has its own form of security aka cryptography. Hence the name cryptocurrencies.

Fintech Disruptions that Maybe Coming Soon

- 1) The Cashless Society
- 2) Central Bank Disruption

A *Cashless Society* is one of the more likely disruptions that can be caused by FinTech. A Cashless Society is a place where paper money is no longer used by most of the population. Think about it, when was



the last time you used cash to buy something? The probability of this disruption increased with the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic made many people fearful of using cash because cash is an item touched by many people and, people feared the passing of the virus by this means. Therefore, people chose different methods which increased the use of mobile payments and credit cards. This is a change likely to stay.

Central Bank Disruption is also a possibility in the future. Central Banks are the ultimate authority on a country's monetary policy. Recently, there has been moves by some countries such as China to formulate a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). The US Federal Reserve Chief has also indicated that they are doing research on the topic. CBDCs could eliminate the need for local banks because the Central Bank would have the ability to issue currency directly to individuals.

CONCLUSIONS

The applications of technology in finance are very wide! There are

currently FinTech applications for payments, taxes, stock picking, and budgeting. In the future, we may even live in a cashless society or have a new central bank system because of FinTech!





Did you enjoy this article? Please let us know by following the link below and completing a short survey about this article. Survey participants will be entered to a draw to receive a \$50 gift card. The gift card winner will be announced in this section of the next article.

[Survey Link](#)

<https://forms.gle/G8kc1N9ZpFVF1Gx67>

This project was generously sponsored by the FinTech Center at Morgan State University. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Abena Primo (email: acprimo@htu.edu).

