Electronic Payment Systems

Michael B. Spring
Department of Information Science and Telecommunications
University of Pittsburgh
spring@imap.pitt.edu
http://www.sis.pitt.edu/~spring

Traditional Methods

- Traditional payment methods include cash, checks, credit and debit cards.
- These methods have several shortcomings
 - Checks and cash cannot be exchanged in real time
 - Credit and debit card info exchanged over the phone or by email entails security risks
 - Credit/debit cards do not support individual-toindividual payment transactions
 - Some individuals do not have access to credit cards or checking accounts because of credit history
 - The overhead of all but cash do not support low value transactions (micropayments)

September 28, 2001

Electronic Payments

Comparison of Selected Instruments

	Cash	Credit Card	Travelers Checks	Prepaid Card
Easily Exchangeable	Yes	No	Yes	No
Acceptable to users	Yes	Yes	?	?
Small Transaction Cost	Low	High	High	?
Large Transaction Cost	Low	Low	Low	Low
Non-refutable	No	Yes	No	No
Transferable	Yes	No	No	No
Buyer Anonymous	Yes	No	No	Yes
Secure against unauthorized use	No	Some	Some	?
Retrievable	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tamper resistant	Yes	No	Yes	No
Monetary Value	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

September 28, 2001

Electronic Payments

3

Cash

- Cash remains the dominant form of payment because of:
 - Lack of consumer trust in banking system
 - Inefficient clearing/settlement of non-cash transactions
 - Negative real interest rates on bank deposits

September 28, 2001

Electronic Payments

Electronic Payments

- E-commerce requires payment methods that are:
 - Widely used by consumers and accepted by merchants and banks.
 - Real time, i.e. transactions are completed when consumer hits the pay button
 - Provide support for micropayments

September 28, 2001

Electronic Payments

5

Required Properties of Electronic Cash

- Must have a monetary value
- Must be interoperable or exchangable for other digital cash, paper cash, goods or services
- Must be storable and retrievable
- Must be tamper resistant while being exchanged

September 28, 2001

Electronic Payments

Approaches to Electronic Tokens/Digital Cash

- Tokens or digital cash are forms of payment backed by a bank/financial institution and offer:
 - Transaction privacy and confidentiality
 - Support for micropayments, or small fee transactions
 - Real time exchange between buyer and seller

September 28, 2001

Electronic Payments

7

Web Services

- Ecash
- Mondex
- Millicent
- Cybercash
- www.webcharge.com
- www.clickshare.com
- www.netchex.com

September 28, 2001

Electronic Payments

www.digicash.com

• Ecash or electronic cash

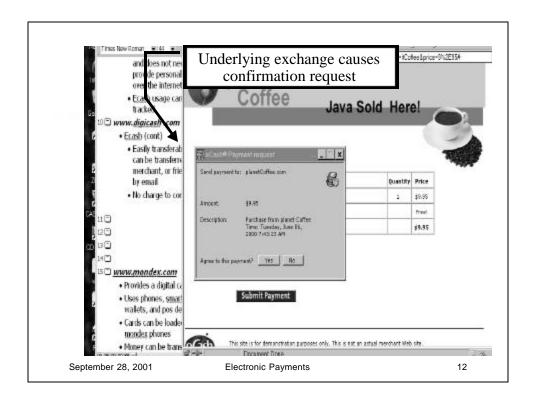
- Provided to consumers and merchants through financial institutions around the world
- Uses digital signature technology based on public key cryptography for security
- Buyer remains anonymous and does not need to provide personal information over the internet
- Ecash usage cannot be tracked
- Easily transferable: money can be transferred to a merchant, or friends/family by email
- No charge to consumers

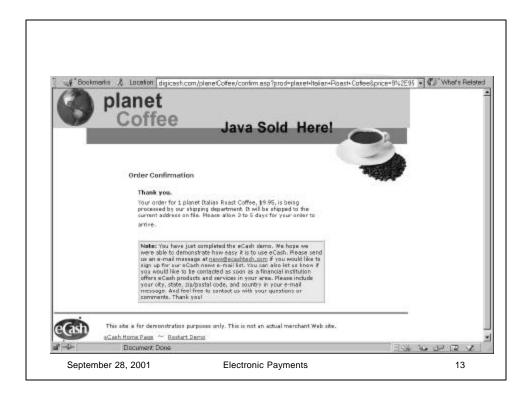
September 28, 2001

Electronic Payments









www.mondex.com

- Provides a digital cash service
- Uses phones, smartcards, wallets, and pos devices
- Cards can be loaded over mondex phones
- Money can be transferred using wallets
- Money can be spent at POS terminals
- Certificates back transactions

September 28, 2001

Electronic Payments

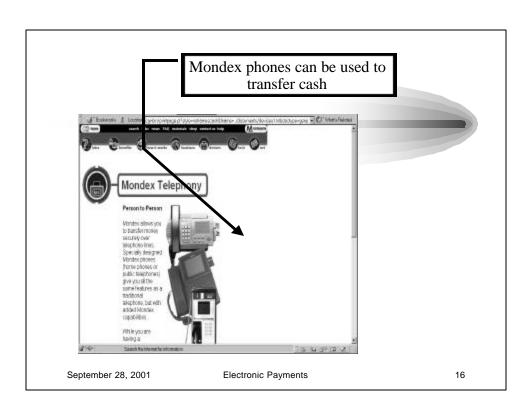
Mondex Smart Card

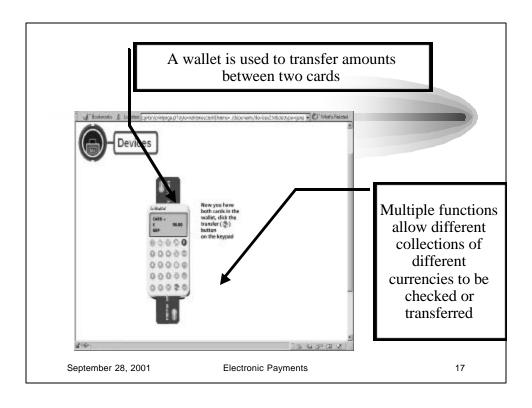
- Like a credit card
- Stores its value electronically in a microchip
- Holds up to five different currencies at one time
- Money can be transferred by telephone/internet to a retailer or merchant as well as other individuals
- Can be used for purchases of any size
- User remains anonymous -- no record of transaction
- Secure in difficulty of duplicating the microchip

September 28, 2001

Electronic Payments

15





www.millicent.com

- Users can fund their account by:
 - Online credit or debit card
 - Directly billing ISP statement or telephone bill
 - Anonymous, prepaid cards
- Account can hold any currency
- Millicent will handle refunds, currency conversions, delivery problems, actual payments

September 28, 2001

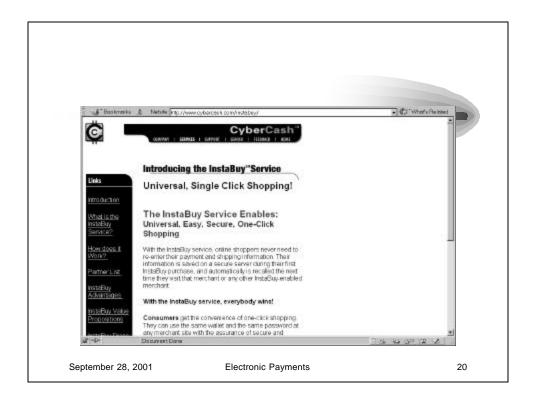
Electronic Payments

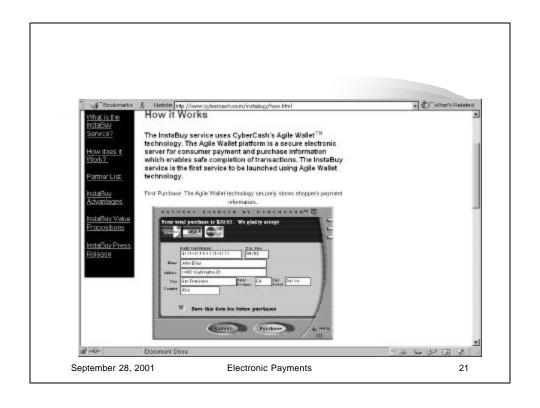
www.cybercash.com

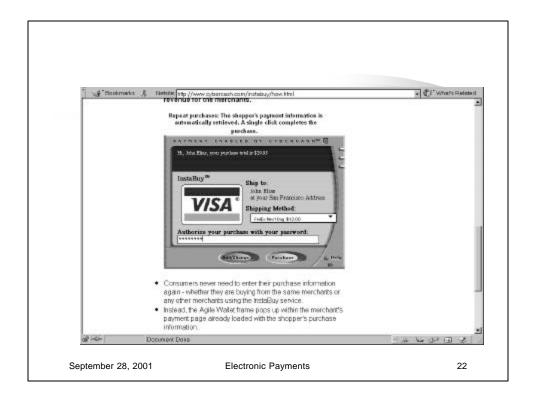
- Cybercash offers services for businesses
- Cybercash also offers a wallet for users
- Everything is authenticated

September 28, 2001

Electronic Payments







Services to Vendors

- A variety of organizations provide services to vendors
- These include:
 - Credit card support
 - Digital cash support
 - Transaction management and reporting
- Suppliers include
 - Cybercash
 - Millicent

September 28, 2001

Electronic Payments

23

www.cybercash.com

- CyberCash CashRegister
 - Supports major credit cards as well as debit and purchase cards
 - Flexibility to process offline orders
 - Automatically logs every transaction including sales, credits, and voids
 - Fast transaction processing speed for large volumes

September 28, 2001

Electronic Payments

www.cybercash.com

- CyberCash CashRegister (cont)
 - All transactions are encrypted and digitally signed
 - Customers are notified in "real time" of rejection/approval of transactions

September 28, 2001

Electronic Payments

25

www.millicent.com

- Must have a website to participate
- Vendor can be apart of the Millicent network or
- Can integrate Millicent software directly into their own website to eliminate fees
- Offers pay-per-click, earn-per-click, and subscriptions

September 28, 2001

Electronic Payments

Banking Services

- Banking Services
 - Offers 24 hour, seven day a week online banking
 - Uses encryption customers security
 - Password protection
 - No transaction fees
- Major online banks include:
 - www.compubank.com
 - www.sfnb.com
 - www.citibank.com/us/

September 28, 2001

Electronic Payments