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Innovation and Knowledge Management: A Global Competitive Advantage

Strategic Role of Mobile Commerce (M-Commerce) Payment System: Establishing New Competitive Advantage

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Abstract:

A Mobile based payment system or m-commerce is an emerging issue of e-commerce in Malaysia. It is recognized by both academia and practitioners as one of the fastest growing and preferable medium of making business transactions. This study investigated the benefits of m-commerce payment method, and services satisfaction on m-commerce providers. Respondents were those who had experienced using this mode of payment. The main objectives of the study were; a) to determine the level of m-commerce awareness in Malaysia; b) to determine the level of m-commerce payment system usage among Malaysian; c) to determine the level of m-commerce payment environment among Malaysian; and d) to determine the relationship between payment system and payment environment toward m-commerce services satisfaction. The results shows m-commerce is another tool that is both highly intangible and possesses specific characteristics. It can be develop and make as another avenue for firms to create competitive advantage.

Keyword: Mobile Commerce, Payment Systems

Introduction

Basically, online payment processing lets customers to buy online, offline, and over mobile phone devices. Advancement of ICT has made online payment become one of the most popular modes of payments. Online payment system of e-commerce covers different payment mechanisms, which certainly affect firms' business practices. Such scenario certainly leads to the need for discussion on drivers and impediments of particular payment systems, which include issues related to business policy. Specifically the analyses are related to development and contribution of online payment systems as well as future issues and challenges. Firms who have clear and strategic approaches on addressing these matters should be able to serve their customers better. Regarding that some studies has conducted, as done by Accenture. (2001); European Institute for Research and Strategic (1991); Morgan Stanley and Dean Witter (2000); and Morrison (2001) specifically for understand better on these issues.

For example, major national and international online payment is using credit card. Some estimates over 90% of all e-commerce payment transactions were made through credit card. However some countries used debit cards. Apart form that, other factors like mediating services, other mobile payment systems and electronic currency could be influential and need to be considered too. Contemporary issues of online payment systems of e-commerce include different payment mechanisms, security and the extent to which these different systems are used. To know such issues would enable firm to develop better online transactions. All these somehow ignite the pros and cons on using mobile payments. In many cases, mcommerce and the wireless Internet have been the victims of over-excited speculation (Darling, 2001). Among 1,700 people surveyed in Spring 2000 by Jupiter Communications, the majority said that they would not use nor pay for the wireless Web (Lindsay, 2000).

Mobile operators have a key role in m-commerce. They are the owner and manager of the networks that link m-commerce offers to potential customers. Basically they have vast experience in prepaid and post paid billing, and knowledge about essential issues, such as economic reconciliation for roaming customers. They also provide the robust and scalable networks required for securing m-commerce transactions. So, working with partners such as Alcatel should enable mobile based operators to speed up the process to secure payment solutions via m-commerce. Alcatel-Lucent (2007) reported m-commerce is a lucrative-and growing-market. According to the ARC Group, some 57 million people worldwide spent US\$ 2.3 billion in 2002 on m-commerce purchases and the number grew up to 546 million users with total spent of US\$39.3 billion in 2007. However, ability of m-commerce still questionable, with some users is not stratified with certain aspects of it. Monica (2000) mentioned that Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) services were disappointing, particularly in Northern Europe countries, where mobile communications are most advanced and consumers know well the limitations of the wireless Web. In addition, Cotlier, (2000) coined contrary to conventional perspectives on m-commerce, forward-thinking marketers should not view m-commerce as e-commerce with limitations, but rather as wireless in its own unique medium, with its own unique benefits.

However, success or failure of m-commerce services is influenced by many factors which include factors cooperation among players involved, ability to provide users with simple, convenient and trusted means of purchasing goods and services. Theoretically, mobile service providers play a key role in the m-commerce value chain due to its position at the centre of two or more parties involve in the transaction. With suitable payment solutions, they can deliver goods and services over present and future networks better. In fact, lack of multiple mobile payment options may distort the growth of mobile content. This study investigated problems and issues in the micro payment system of m-commerce. Interestingly, this study could be one of it type and would significantly contribute in term of m-commerce and micro payment systems. Obviously, Nohria and Leestma (2001) believed people will not shop with their phones in the same way they shop with PCs. Unleashing the value of m-commerce requires understanding the role that mobility plays in people's lives today. That calls for a radical shift in thinking. This is support by Ramakrishnan (2001) where discussed even though wireless technology is sometimes regarded as an enhancement tool rather than a brand new medium, successful players in the m-commerce market space must take a much broader view of the technology, the market, and potential consumers.

Literature Review

Basically, m-commerce is one of the business transactions where price or essential terms were negotiated over an online system such as an Internet, Extranet, Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) network, or electronic mail system. According to Johnson (2002) m-commerce is a natural enhance version of ecommerce that allows users to interact with other users or businesses in a wireless mode at anytime and anywhere. The rate of technology to be adobe is comparatively very high; therefore, participating companies continuously working together as to nurture the growth of m-commerce. Ramakrishnan (2001) mentioned that mobile communication through cell phones is costly, and any additional services will attract extra charges. The reason is that establishing a mobile communication network requires heavy business investment with no government support. In fact, Lamont (2001) believed that M-commerce carriers therefore must look for a great deal of business activity to generate revenues that justify the huge infrastructure investments

According to Coursaris and Hassanein (2002), e-commerce is often referred as buying and selling using the Internet. However, Schwartz (2002) describes m-commerce as a subset of e-commerce. It is a new platform of purchasing, selling, and exchanging of goods and services via wireless network. In addition, m-commerce is presently preferred especially for the sale of mobile phone ring-tones and games. Furthermore, 3G/UMTS services has enable payment for location-based services such as maps, as well as video, and audio content, including full length music tracks (Gururajan, 2002). The wide accessibility of the Internet makes any e-commerce service globally available. The Web enables search and delivery of

rich information, and sophisticated electronic transaction processes can be integrated easily with backend enterprise information systems. In contrast, the delivery of m-commerce applications relies on private wireless communication carriers. These services are usually delivered to a specific region, and are rather simple, more personalized, location-specific and time-sensitive. Since a mobile device usually accompanies a person wherever he or she goes, mobile services can be delivered to a person anywhere and anytime rather than to a fixed office or home. M-commerce therefore creates more of a perception of enhanced intimacy with consumers than other office-based distribution channels. Time sensitive, simple transactions such as movie ticket purchases, banking, and travel reservations are believed to be the key applications that will stimulate m-commerce (Lucas, 2001; & Swartz, 2001).

In addition, mobile search solution connecting mobile users with advertisers and this will create great revenue to the mobile companies and to the companies that advertised their products via m-commerce. The network operator will also generate additional revenue through off portal traffic and it will also develop a new advertising channel. This service can be provided through SMS, WAP, 3G and I-mode front position of developing innovative packages that will be instrumental in driving additional revenue streams for network and brand partners (Cole, 2001). As examples, one of the M-Commerce application is T-Mobile where allow customers to receive instant snapshots of traffic conditions based on their current location. Nohria and Leestma (2001) mention that m-commerce opportunities can be very significant, if investors understand consumer groups intimately and develop ubiquitous solutions that recognize the role that mobility plays in consumers' lives. In business services, Kunii (2001) cited not being forced to be hardwired enables a company's employees to remain connected while moving from office to office, or state to state; they can tap into the corporate network from airport lounges and hotel lobbies. For individual consumers, mobile devices basically allow them to keep in touch with their friends and families anywhere and anytime. For instance, videophone users can take pictures wherever they go and send them attached with short notes to friends while shopping, traveling, or simply hanging out.

Hassanein (2003) describes Malaysia is one of the fastest growing market and there is a vast potential of m-commerce industry to fulfill the market interest in e-commerce. However, it requires establishing a wired infrastructure necessary to enable electronic transactions. To predict the potential of m-commerce then, it would be useful to examine the growth in e-commerce. Morrison (2001) believed the emergence market with similar trend for wireless industry is increasing and would spur the development of m-commerce.

Problem Statements

Firms using m-commerce were like others who continuously introduced new products and services. Such commitment would enlarge their market coverage and potential to reach greater levels of society. One innovative application of mobile technology is in the financial services sector. In many developing countries, m-commerce has not spread thoroughly especially in rural areas. This leads to large percentage of them operating on cash basis only or outside the formal banking system. However, the proliferation of mobile services in some of these countries has created a unique opportunity for banks to provide financial services over the mobile network at least at major cities. In light of the growing size of international and national remittances, this opportunity could have significant implications (Wishart, 2006). Unfortunately, in reality, m-commerce is often a highly frustrating experience. Industry observers attribute this drawback to the immaturity of mobile technology, but they believe 3G (third generation wireless digital cellular telephone technology) networks could change the situation (Cohn, 2001). However, people in most developing countries are still sceptical on using m-commerce. This study will be investigating the factor affecting the payment requirement and problem face by m-commerce.

Specifically the objectives of the study were; a) to determine the level of m-commerce awareness in Malaysia; b) to determine the level of m-commerce payment system usage among Malaysian; c) to determine the level of m-commerce payment environment among Malaysian; and d) to determine the

relationship between payment system and payment environment toward m-commerce services satisfaction.

Research Methodology

Figure 1 illustrate the research framework which clearly indicate two independent variables; a) payment system through m-commerce; and b) micro payment environment.

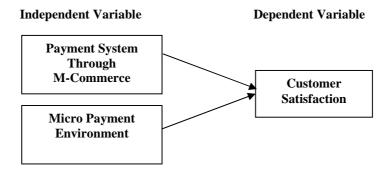


Fig. 1. Research Framework

The literature shows the payment system through m-commerce has a high influence on customer satisfaction. This study is designed to measure whether the level of satisfaction among people who are using the payment system through m-commerce similar to those developed countries.

Measurement

This study used 5 point Likert scale that ranged from strongly agree to strongly disagree with focusing on usage and implementation of m-commerce. The Table 1 below shows the items of the questionnaire. The variables measures were to the extent to test m-commerce payments in order to influence market and how to it could enhance the performance of the Malaysian information technology based firms.

Data Collection

The data were collected form multiple economics and social backgrounds. However, the sample size was small because most of the respondents were using ordinary mobile phone which is not included 3G besides others and other function which related to m-commerce mobile phone. The data was collected from those people who are using the m-commerce services.

The data were collected from those who are using the 3G mobile phone, PDA or smart phone. These respondents were member our target population. These respondents were from diverse industrial background, which represent different level of knowledge and working experiences in the m-commerce or e-commerce usage. The data were gathered within a month and Table 1 illustrates items of every construct.

Table 1: Item of Measurement.

	Part 1: Benefits of M-Commerce Payment System
1	Mobile Commerce payment system is convenient to use.
2	Mobile Commerce payment software is user friendly.
3	Mobile Commerce payment saves time.
4	Mobile Commerce payment is cost effective solution.
5	Mobile Commerce payment has decrease the barrier to enter the market place.
6	Mobile Commerce payment saves human resource.
7	Mobile Commerce technology safe to use.

	Part 2: M-Commerce Payment Environment
1	Mobile Commerce Payment services are secure to use.
2	Mobile Commerce Payment services are reliable to use.
3	I was aware of Mobile Commerce Payment system.
4	Mobile Commerce Payment device is expensive to use.
5	Mobile Commerce service coverage is out of range.
6	Mobile Commerce services are expensive from service provider.
7	I do not trust the Mobile Commerce Payment through PDA device.

	Part 3 : M-Commerce Services Satisfaction
1	I am Satisfied with the Mobile commerce services.
2	It enhances the performance of individual.
3	I am Satisfied with the ease of use of software.
4	I am Satisfied with the powerful Anti virus with in the device.
5	I am Satisfied because it is the direct access to the market.
6	I am Satisfied because it have very nice features.
7	I am Satisfied with GPRS system.
8	I am Satisfied with the price of device.
9	I am Satisfied with the features.

Results

Demographic Background

Based on the survey, the male respondents were slight higher then the female as it represented 53.8 percent of the respondents. The results also indicated that 74.4 percent of the respondents are aged between 18-29 years old, followed by aged between 30-35 years old years or 25.6 percent. In addition, 33.3 percent of the respondents were Malay while Indian and Chinese were holding 10.3 percent each and others 46.2 percent. In term of education, results show that 56.4 percent of the respondents were having master degree, 38.5 percent a bachelor degree and 6.1 percent with advanced diploma.

Descriptive Statistic on Benefit of M-Commerce

Table 2 describe respondents' perception on each of the item in the construct. Generally respondents did agree with all the items on benefits of m-commerce system. For example, the item "mobile commerce payment system is convenient to use" recorded 69.2 percent of respondents agree with the statement. The second item "mobile commerce payment software is user friendly" recorded 59.0 percent of respondents agree with the statement. The third item "Mobile Commerce payment saves time" recorded 53.8 percent of respondents agree with the statement. The fourth item "Mobile Commerce payment is cost effective

solution" recorded 56.4 percent of respondents agree with the statement. The fifth item "Mobile Commerce payment has decreased the barrier to enter the market place" recorded 51.3 percent of the respondents agree with the statement. The sixth item "Mobile Commerce payment saves human resource" recorded 43.6 percent of the respondents agree with the statement. Meanwhile the final item "Mobile Commerce technology safe to use" indicated 66.7 percent of the respondents agree with the statement. Overall the level of benefits of m-commerce payment system is high which is with the value of mean 4.00.

Strongly Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Mean Disagree Agree 3 5 7.7 23.1 Mobile Commerce 0 69.2 4.15 payment system is convenient to use 0 17.9 59.0 23.1 Mobile Commerce 4.05 payment software is user friendly. 25.6 0 20.5 53.8 Mobile Commerce 4.05 payment saves time. Mobile Commerce payment is 2.6 25.6 56.4 15.4 3.85 cost effective solution. 51.3 Mobile Commerce payment has 5.1 17.9 25.6 3.97 decrease the barrier to enter the market place. Mobile Commerce payment 2.6 15.4 43.6 38.5 4.18 saves human resource. Mobile Commerce technology 2.6 25.6 66.7 5.1 3.74 safe to use. Overall benefits 4.000

Table 2: Benefit of M-Commerce Payment System

Descriptive Statistic of M-Commerce Payment Environment

Table 3 describe respondents' perception on each of the item in the construct. The first item, "Mobile Commerce Payment services are secure to use" recorded 35.9 percent of the respondents were neutral and agree with the statement. The second item "Mobile Commerce Payment services are reliable to use" recorded 28.2 percent of the respondents agree with the statement. The third item "I was aware of Mobile Commerce Payment system" recorded 38.5 percent of the respondents neutral with the statement. The fourth item "Mobile Commerce Payment device is expensive to use" recorded 43.6 percent of the respondents neutral with the statement. The fifth item "Mobile commerce service coverage is out of range" recorded 46.2 percent of the respondents neutral with the statement. The sixth item "Mobile Commerce services are expensive from service provider" recorded 38.5 percent of the respondents agree with the statement. The last item "I do not trust the Mobile Commerce Payment through PDA device" recorded 71.8 percent of the respondents agree with the statement. Overall the level of m-commerce payment environment was moderate with the value of mean 3.58.

Descriptive Statistic of M-Commerce Services Satisfaction

Table 4 describe respondents' perception on each of the item in the construct. The findings indicate the first item "I am satisfied with the mobile commerce services" recorded 56.4 percent of the respondents agree with the statement. The second item "It enhances the performance of individual" recorded 48.7 percent of the respondents agree with the statement. The third item "I am satisfied with the ease of use of

software" recoded 69.2 percent of the respondents agreed with the statement. The fourth item "I am satisfied with the powerful anti virus with in the device" recorded 46.2 percent of the respondents agree with the statement. The fifth item "I am satisfied because it is the direct access to the market." Recorded 53.8 percent of the respondents agree with the statement. The sixth item "I am satisfied because it have very nice features" recorded 64.1 percent of the respondents agree with the statement. The seventh item "I am satisfied with GPRS system" recorded 30.8 percent of the respondents strongly agree with the statement. The eighth item "I am satisfied with the price of device" recorded 46.2 percent of the respondents agree with the statement. The final item "I am satisfied with the features" recorded 69.2 percent of the respondents agree with the statement. Overall level of services satisfaction was moderate with the value of mean 3.781.

Table 3: M-Commerce Payment Environment

		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean
		1	2	3	4	5	
1	Mobile Commerce Payment services are secure to use	5.1	10.3	35.9	35.9	12.8	3.41
2	Mobile Commerce Payment services are reliable to use.	12.8	12.8	20.5	28.2	25.6	3.41
3	I was aware of Mobile Commerce Payment system.	0	0	38.5	30.8	30.8	3.92
4	Mobile Commerce Payment device is expensive to use.	0	12.8	43.6	33.3	10.3	3.41
5	Mobile Commerce service coverage is out of range.	0	5.1	46.2	33.3	15.4	3.59
6	Mobile Commerce services are expensive from service provider.	0	12.8	30.8	38.5	17.9	3.62
7	I do not trust the Mobile Commerce Payment through PDA device.	0	2.6	23.1	71.8	2.6	3.74
	Overall payment environment						3.58

Mean Strongly Disagree Neutral Strongly Agree Disagree Agree 5 1 2 3 0 17.9 1 I am Satisfied with the Mobile 56.4 25.6 4.08 commerce services. 2 It enhances the performance of 2.6 33.3 48.7 15.4 3.77 individual. 3 I am Satisfied with the ease of 2.6 15.4 69.2 12.8 3.92 use of software. 4 I am Satisfied with the 5.1 43.6 46.2 5.1 3.51 powerful Anti virus with in the device. 5 I am Satisfied because it is the 30.8 2.6 53.8 12.8 3.77 direct access to the market. 6 I am Satisfied because it have 0 23.1 64.1 12.8 3.90 very nice features. 7 I am Satisfied with GPRS 12.8 28.2 28.2 30.8 3.77 system. I am Satisfied with the price of 5.1 43.6 46.2 5.1 3.51 device. am Satisfied with the 0 25.6 69.2 5.1 3.79 features. Overall services satisfaction 3.781

Table 4: M-Commerce Services Satisfaction.

Results Analysis on Hypothesis

1. Hypothesis testing for demographic factors (gender)

Ho1 = M-commerce services satisfaction do not differ between gender

Table 5 illustrates the results of the t-test of the hypothesis, which indicated the difference in the mean of 3.778 and 3.784 with standard deviation of 0.429 and 0.384 for male and female on m-commerce services satisfaction is not significant i.e. < 0.05, so accept null hypothesis (Ho1). This means no significant different between male and female toward to m-commerce services.

Table 5: Independent Samples Test between Genders

-	N	Mean	Standard	Mean	T	Significance
			Deviation	Difference		
Male	21	3.778	0.42889	-0.00617	-0.047	0.963
Female	18	3.784	0.38390			

2. Hypothesis testing for demographic factors (age)

Ho2 = M-commerce services satisfaction do not differ between age

Table 6 illustrates the results of the t-test of the hypothesis, which indicated the difference in the mean of 3.85 and 3.58 with standard deviation of 0.400 and 0.354 for age between 18-29 years old and age between 30-35 years old on m-commerce services satisfaction is not significant i.e. < 0.05, so accept null hypothesis (Ho2). This means no significant different between age different to m-commerce services.

Table 6: Independent Samples T-Test between Age and M-Commerce Services Satisfaction.

Age	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean Difference	T	Significance
18-29	29	3.8506	0.40092	0.27280	1.907	0.064
30-35	10	3.5778	0.35447			

3. Hypothesis testing for demographic factors (education)

Ho3 = M-commerce services satisfaction do not differ between highest education level

The results in Table 7 indicates the result of ANOVA, which highest education factor, the F value 1.032 is not significant i.e. < 0.05 (p = 0.367), so accept null hypothesis (Ho3). This means no significant different between highest education factors on m-commerce services satisfaction.

Table 7: One-Way ANOVA between Highest Education Levels with M-Commerce Services Satisfaction.

M-commerce services satisfaction	F	Significant
Highest Education Level	1.032	0.367

4. Hypothesis testing between benefits of m-commerce payment system and m-commerce services satisfaction

Ho4 = There is no significant relationship between benefits of m-commerce payment system and m-commerce services satisfaction

Table 8 below illustrates both variable are interval. Based on the Pearson Correlation test, the results shows significant and positive correlation between benefits of m-commerce payment system and m-commerce services satisfaction with a significant level of 0.001, so reject the null hypothesis (Ho4). This means benefits of m-commerce payment system and m-commerce services satisfaction are related.

Table 8: Correlations between Benefits of M-Commerce Payment System and M-Commerce Services Satisfaction.

	Pearson Correlation (r)	Significant
Benefits of m-commerce payment system and m-	0.531	0.001
commerce services satisfaction		

5. Hypothesis testing between m-commerce payment environment and m-commerce services satisfaction

Ho5 = There is no significant relationship between m-commerce payment environment and m-commerce services satisfaction

Table 9 illustrates both variable are interval and based on the Pearson Correlation test, the results shows no significant correlation between m-commerce payment environment and m-commerce services satisfaction with a value of 0.953, so accept the null hypothesis (Ho5). This means m-commerce payment environment and m-commerce services satisfaction are not related.

Table 9: Correlations between M-Commerce Payment Environment and M-Commerce Services Satisfaction.

	Pearson Correlation (r)	Significant
M-commerce payment environment and m-	0.010	0.953
commerce services satisfaction		

6. Hypothesis testing between benefits of m-commerce payment system and m-commerce payment environment towards m-commerce services satisfaction

Ho6: The two independent variables (benefits of m-commerce payment system and m-commerce payment environment) will not significantly explain the variance in M-commerce services satisfaction.

Table 10 illustrates the regression results of the two independent variables against m-commerce services satisfaction. The first table in the output 'Model Summary' shows the R square of 0.305, which means m-commerce service satisfaction, are explained by the two independent variables. This means 30.5 per cent of the two variables influence the dependent variable. Furthermore, the ANOVA table shows the F value of 7.893 is significant at the 0.001 level, so reject null hypothesis (Ho6).

Table 10: Multiple Regression Analysis of M-Commerce Services Satisfaction Regression

Model Summary

		Model Summary				
Model		R		R Square		
1		0.552		0.305		
		Anova				
Model		F	,	Significant		
1		7.893		0.001		
		Coefficients				
Model	В	Beta	Т	Significant		
Constant	1.268		1.901	0.065		
Benefit	0.527	0.530	3.812	3.812		
Payment	0.113	0.150	1.082	1.082		

Discussion

Developing competitive advantage for m-commerce via marketing strategies is a complex issue. M-commerce is a tool that is both highly intangible and possesses specific characteristics. This research has identified one critical success factor that appear important to m-commerce services satisfaction, which is m-commerce payment system positively associated with m-commerce services satisfaction with a percentage of 30.5 percent.

Successful adoption of m-commerce should enable firms to establish another core competency than its rivals. The result of this study on branding and positioning strategies via m-commerce goes along with past research findings which capable to become another avenue for firm to create or establish new competitive advantage in service industries (Aaker, 1991; Hall, 1992, 1993).

Development of a breadth and depth software and programs in creating differentiation through the m-commerce market is consistent with past literature the development of competitive advantage for service satisfaction is highly associated with the development "Resources/skills stock" (Dierickx and Cool, 1989; Bharadwaj et al., 1993). By this process the organisation could create and achieve another competitive lead over its competitors.

Conclusion and Future Research

The services satisfaction and the use of the m-commerce payment system and environment toward m-commerce initiatives would not be successful if either one of them is lacking. Despite the focus on m-commerce in this study, the use of the system provided by others is also important. Future research is needed to examine the factors associated with the use of the m-commerce by others as well as continuing efforts to understand the m-commerce. Moreover, taking m-commerce as a focus does not suggest that face-to-face m-commerce is not important. In fact, we need more research to advance our understanding in terms of how these two approaches can reinforce each other.

The findings of this study have some important managerial implications. First, the positive relationship identified between m-commerce and its payment system and payment environment supports a long-held proposition running through the m-commerce literature which states that the attainment of organizational goals is determined by satisfying the needs of customers more efficiently and effectively than rivals (Kotler and Armstrong, 1996). M-commerce emphasize the need to attain market position by developing quality product specifically targeted to well-defined m-commerce segments and which are backed up by the customer support.

The successful implementation of any m-commerce strategy requires that organizations strike the right balance between tight and loose control mechanisms, and formal and informal modes of communication to maintain a degree of flexibility and responsiveness appropriate to the speed of change manifest within their served to the customer. Above and beyond these practical m-commerce initiatives, there is some evidence in this study to suggest that the benefits of payment system play an essential role in enhancing the m-commerce services satisfaction.

In conclusion the benefits of payment system and payment environment should become strategic agenda for firms that wanted to use m-commerce services satisfaction as one of their tool to establish competitive advantage. However, to build such advantage requires firm to engage with continuous knowledge enhancement programme. By doing so, a firm will have better chance to increase the quality of services its' provided to customers and finally make it as one the platform to create new competitive advantage.

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