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Exploring Mobile Peer-to-Peer Payment Adoption: The Effects of SNS and Native Mobile Banking Apps Usage

Research-in-Progress

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Abstract

Mobile payments have been adopted as an essential payment channel due to the proliferation of mobile phones and mobile e-commerce. Mobile peer-to-peer (P2P) payment applications, on the other hand, is still in its infancy and have yet to see mass adoption. This study aims to explore the factors that influence the adoption of such mobile P2P payment applications by using a large scale data set based on users' mobile application usage behaviors. The main initial findings reveal that the length of the session of traditional bank application usage significantly influences the adoption of mobile P2P payment applications. In addition, the amount of social network service applications used positively impacted one's adoption of mobile P2P payment applications. These findings have important theoretical and practical implications for stakeholders of mobile P2P payment solution providers as well as intermediaries/banks who provide their own payment applications to their customers.

Keywords: Mobile Payments, Mobile Peer-to-Peer Payments, Mobile Money Transfer, Adoption

Introduction

Mobile payment provides a platform for users to conduct payment services via the use of applications (apps) installed on mobile devices such as mobile phones (Au and Kauffman 2006). Mobile payment has been increasingly adopted as an essential payment channel for online e-commerce transactions and there is a growing demand for mobile e-commerce services. In 2014, mobile e-commerce generated over \$35 billion and this figure is expected to reach up to \$284 billion by 2020. This signals that there is still room for significant growth for mobile payment (Meola 2016). New advances in technologies such as near-field communication (NFC) and contactless payment systems are opening up new opportunities for mobile payment growth. These systems enable mobile devices to serve as payment solutions replacing traditional credit cards and cash.

In recent years, a new category of mobile payment solution has been gaining popularity. Mobile peer to peer (P2P) payment is a category of mobile payment solutions which enable users to complete money

transfer services via the use of an application installed on the mobile device of the user (Nath 2017). This category of apps is poised to reach a transaction volume of \$86 billion by 2018, with tech giants such as Google and Facebook entering this space by offering their own mobile apps (Heggestuen 2014). Currently, market leaders in this category of mobile payment solutions are PayPal and Venmo. Previously, before the advent of such mobile P2P payment solutions, money transfer services were offered as a part of the services provided on traditional mobile banking apps. A key difference between the two is that users have to download the banking app of their bank, and, in order to transfer money to another individual, the users have to know the specific bank account number of the intended recipient as opposed to simply knowing the recipients' email address or phone number (Venmo 2018).

Conceptually, mobile P2P payment consists of the intermediary, users, and participating financial institutions. However, as the transactions occur between users on only one side of the platform, there is a greater same-side network impact between users rather than cross-side network effects (Kazan and Damsgaard 2013). As more users adopt the P2P payment platform, we should see greater adoption and usage of the particular P2P payment app. Mobile P2P payment has also gone through significant changes since its inception in 2002. In its early days, P2P payment was led by initiatives from banks. However, there was a lack of interest from banks to develop such solutions. Mobile P2P payment took off with Venmo entering the market in 2012. Since then, there is a resurgence of interest from banks to develop mobile P2P payment services as can be seen from new payment solutions such as Zelle (Black et al. 2016; Koren 2017).

Currently, we have yet to see widespread adoption of mobile P2P payment in the P2P payment market. Despite the large volume of P2P payments, mobile P2P payment, only consists of a tiny fraction of total volume of P2P payments (Green 2017). On the other hand, in developing countries such as Kenya, the adoption rate of M-PESA, a mobile P2P payment solution, was reported to be as high as up to 92 percent of all Kenyans. This signals the huge success of the mobile P2P payment platform in such emerging markets (Heggestuen 2014). Overall, we can expect that mobile P2P payment will consider to grow further with new entrants entering the market vying for a piece of the mobile P2P payment market.

Furthermore, the impact of the usage of traditional mobile banking solutions and apps on such mobile P2P solutions are still unclear. There are certain functions of mobile P2P payment apps which overlap with the functions inherent in mobile banking apps. Therefore, the relationship between mobile P2P payment usage and traditional banking apps usage, if any, would serve as an interesting research question to be examined. Also, the expected growth of the mobile P2P market, serve to highlight the important practical implications for research in this space. In the subsequent section, we highlight that research in field of mobile payments lacks the systematic differentiation between the different types of mobile payment systems (e.g. mobile P2P payments vs mobile person-to-merchant payments) and largely focuses on mobile person-to-merchant mobile payment solutions. Driven by the motivation to fill this literature gap, as well as the growing potential of such solutions, we attempt to conduct an exploratory study to identify the factors affecting adoption of such mobile P2P payment apps.

Theoretical Background

Prior research on mobile payment have focused on two streams of research, the technologies behind mobile payments as well as consumer adoption of mobile payments (Dahlberg et al. 2015). Research on the technologies behind mobile payments focus on the growth of key technologies such as NFC and contactless payment systems and how they can be used to support mobile payments. One study assessed the impact of NFC on future mobile payment services and found that NFC will further aid the development of mobile payment services (Ondrus and Pigneur 2009). In addition, research in this stream also focused on the technologies behind security and privacy issues such as the protocols and encryption across the different types of mobile payment services (Konidala et al. 2011; Ou and Ou 2007).

The second stream of research focuses on mobile payment consumer adoption and attempt to understand the underlying reasons which can explain adoption behavior based on factors such as the preferences of consumers. Many studies have attempted to adopt information system theories such as the technology acceptance model (TAM), and the unified theory of acceptance and use of technology (UTAUT) to explain why consumers adopt mobile payment services (Bigne et al. 2007; Chen 2006; Slade et al. 2015). Other researchers have also considered other factors such as security and cost, and have found that they have an influence on the adoption of mobile payment services (Dahlberg et al. 2003). In terms of mobile P2P payment adoption specifically, there are some research that document the successful use case of such payment services in developing countries in Africa. These research report the widespread adoption of mobile P2P payment services in emerging markets such as Kenya and other African countries (Jain 2014; Kshetri and Acharya 2012). These studies also explore the economic and social impact of such mobile P2P payment and found that that mobile P2P payment adoption leads to the increase of money transfer activities (Mbiti and Weil 2011; Morawczynski 2009; Morawczynski and Pickens 2009). However, these research are limited in they do not focus on examining and explaining the factors that would lead to the adoption of such mobile P2P payment solutions.

Furthermore, we also observe that most of the research on mobile payments do not differentiate the systematic differences between the different types of mobile payment systems and define mobile payment services loosely. The result of this is that much the extent literature focused on person-to-merchant type mobile payment services rather than P2P mobile payment services.

Theoretical Model

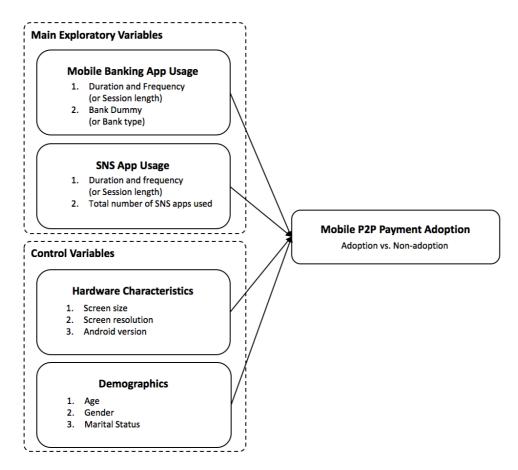


Figure 1. Research Model

Figure 1 illustrates our research model for mobile P2P payment adoption. In our model, there are two main constructs which we explore to identify if a relationship exists with the adoption of mobile P2P payment. Traditionally, although banking apps allow the transfer of money to peers and share the functions of mobile P2P payment apps, banking apps require users to go through a more tedious process in order for the money transfer to be facilitated and banking apps may have limitations and restrictions for money transfers to peers with accounts at other financial institutions (Koren 2017; Russell 2017). This tedious and cumbersome process in order to access the functions within the banking apps could mean that users may opt to use mobile P2P payments apps to facilitate simple transactions where the process is much simplified. Therefore, we empirically test if there is a relationship between the usage behavior of banking app and one's choice to adopt the use of mobile P2P payment apps.

The business model of many of the mobile P2P payment apps available on the market was built on the assumption that users would use the app to send money to friends and family rather than strangers (Molinda 2017). Users of SNS apps mainly use the platform to connect, communicate, and keep in touch with friends and family. Research on social media usage behavior revealed that the more time spent on interacting with others on SNS platforms and apps, the more likely that that person is more sociable. Furthermore, users who are more extroverted tend to use SNS apps more frequently and for longer durations (Correa et al. 2010; Seidman 2013). Furthermore, one study used network externalities and motivation theory to study why people use SNS and found that apart from enjoyment, the number of peers one had has a significant influence on their usage behavior on SNS (Lin and Lu 2011). Hence, we posit that the more peers a person has as well as the more time one spends with these people (i.e. high levels of sociability), the more likely he or she would adopt mobile P2P payment apps to send money to friends or family. Apart from the two constructs mentioned before, we also explore the effects of mobile hardware characteristics, including the operating system software, and demographics on mobile P2P payment adoption and have included them as control variables in our research model.

We formally state our research model as follows:

$$TossAdoption = \beta_0 + \beta_1 BankDuration + \beta_2 BankCnt + \beta_3 MajorBank \\ + \beta_4 SocialDuration + \beta_5 SocialCnt + \beta_6 SocialApps + \beta_7 ScreenSize \\ + \beta_8 ScreenResolution + \beta_9 SDK + \beta_{10} Gender + \beta_{11} AgeGroup \\ + \beta_{12} MaritalStatus + \epsilon_1$$
 (1)

$$TossAdoption = \beta_0 + \beta_1 BankSession + \beta_2 MajorBank + \beta_3 SocialSession + \beta_4 SocialApps + \beta_5 ScreenSize + \beta_6 ScreenResolution + \beta_7 SDK + \beta_8 Gender + \beta_9 AgeGroup + \beta_{10} MaritalStatus + \epsilon_2$$
 (2)

$$TossAdoption = \beta_0 + \beta_1 BankDuration + \beta_2 BankCnt + \beta_3 Bank_i + \beta_4 SocialDuration \\ + \beta_5 SocialCnt + \beta_6 SocialApps + \beta_7 ScreenSize + \beta_8 ScreenResolution \\ + \beta_9 SDK + \beta_{10} Gender + \beta_{11} AgeGroup + \beta_{12} MaritalStatus + \epsilon_3$$
 (3)

$$TossAdoption = \beta_0 + \beta_1 BankSession + \beta_2 Bank_i + \beta_3 SocialSession + \beta_4 SocialApps \\ + \beta_5 ScreenSize + \beta_6 ScreenResolution + \beta_7 SDK + \beta_8 Gender \\ + \beta_9 AgeGroup + \beta_{10} MaritalStatus + \epsilon_4$$
 (4)

The subject of our study is Toss, a mobile P2P payment app (similar to Venmo), which was first launched in Korea in February 2015. The dependent variable, *TossAdoption*, is a binary variable that represents whether each individual adopts Toss app. In equations (1) and (3), we examine whether the relationship between mobile banking app usage behavior and mobile P2P payment app adoption exists using *BankDuration* and *BankCnt*. *BankDuration* is a variable that represents the total duration the mobile banking app was utilized and *BankCnt* is a variable that represents the total number of times the mobile banking app was launched by a user. Similarly, to examine the relationship between SNS app usage behavior and mobile P2P payment adoption, *SocialDuration*, *SocialCnt*, and *SocialApps*

are used. SocialDuration, SocialCnt, and SocialApps represent, respectively, the total duration of all SNS apps used, the total number of times SNS apps were launched, and the total number of SNS apps used by a user. In equations (2) and (4), we use BankSession that we derived from BankDuration and BankCnt (i.e., BankSession = BankDuration/BankCnt) and SocialSession that we derived from SocialDuration and SocialCnt (i.e., SocialSession = SocialDuration/SocialCnt). To control for the bank fixed effect, we include MajorBank in equations (1) and (2), and $Bank_i$, $i \in \{1,2,...,10\}$ in equations (3) and (4). $Bank_i$ are 10 dummy variables that represent the bank that each individual uses and MajorBank is a dummy variable which is 1 if the bank that one uses is one of four major banks; and 0 otherwise. Lastly, we control for the hardware differences between the panel members based on their mobile phone screen size (ScreenSize), screen resolution (ScreenResolution), and Android operating system software version (SDK) as well as the demographic differences using their gender (Gender), age (Age), and marital status (MaritalStatus).

Data

The data in this study was collected through Nielsen Korean Click - a global market research company which collects Internet measurements such as Internet usage and attitude data on platforms such as PC and mobile. The panel study ran for a duration of 39 weeks from November 2015 to July 2016. The panel comprises of a large scale sample of more than 14,000 mobile phone users. The panel was methodically selected by using stratified random sampling using an appropriate proportion allocation strategy using demographic information, such as age, and gender, in order to more accurately represent the population of mobile phone users. To track and measure the participants' mobile phone usage behavior, a tracking application was installed on the participants' mobile phones. Specifically, the tracking application was able to identify the mobile applications that were used, as well as the usage duration, and the total number of times each application was launched. From the data collected, we were able to track the usage behavior of users who used apps in the financial category. Furthermore, the richness of the data allowed us to explore app usage in other categories such as SNS providing us the opportunity to build app usage behavior in the SNS app category into our theoretical model and explore if there is a relationship between SNS app usage on adoption of mobile P2P payment apps in the finance category.

For our analysis, we selected panel members who used exactly one mobile banking app from the 11 banks in Korea in order to control for the differences among the various banks. The basis of selection of the banks for our study was based on the top 50 apps, based on popularity, in the financial category. Overall, about 5 percent of banking app users used the Toss app at least once during the time period of our study.

Preliminary Results

As the dependent variable of our models are binary variables, we estimate our models (i.e., equations (1) - (4)) using the logistic regression. We also use the skewed logistic regression because the distribution of Toss users is skewed. The estimation results that obtained from the skewed logistic regression are qualitatively identical to the one that we obtained from the logistic regression.

Model 1 Model 2 Model 3 Model 4 Banking app usage -4.0E-05* -3.7E-05 BankDuration (2.3E-05)(2.3E-05) 0.0034^* 0.0034^* **BankCnt** (0.0018)(0.0019)-0.0057*** -0.0053*** BankSession (0.0020)(0.0021)SNS app usage

Table 2. Estimation Results

	5 5E 00		4.05.00	
SocialDuration	-5.5E-09 (2.5E-07)		4.9E-08 (2.5E-07)	
	3.6E-05		2.7E-05	
SocialCnt	(4.4E-05)		(4.5E-05)	
	(4.4L-03)	0.0012	(4.3E-03)	0.0013
SocialSession		(0.0008)		(0.0008)
	0.1692***	0.1865***	0.1763***	0.1914***
SocialApps	(0.0380)	(0.0356)	(0.0381)	(0.0357)
Control Variables	(0.0300)	(0.0320)	(0.0301)	(0.0337)
	-0.2144	-0.2086	-0.2795	-0.2758
ScreenSize	(0.2787)	(0.2772)	(0.2810)	(0.2797)
	-1.05E-07	-1.04E-07	-6.62E-08	-6.35E-08
ScreenResolution	(1.07E-07)	(1.05E-07)	(1.09E-07)	1.08E-07
SDK	0.0765**	0.0783**	0.0755**	0.0759^{**}
3DK	(0.0362)	(0.0362)	(0.0369)	(0.0369)
AgeGroup	-0.1608**	-0.1320**	-0.1725* ^{**}	-0.1430**
AgeGroup	(0.0655)	(0.0664)	(0.0673)	(0.0687)
Gender	0.0679	0.0239	0.0514	0.0125
Genuer	(0.2032)	(0.1997)	(0.2057)	(0.2016)
MaritalStatus	-0.8683***	-0.8895***	-0.8632***	-0.8824***
	(0.3195)	(0.3229)	(0.3268)	(0.3310)
Bank Effects	0 -0 4 -***	o o***		
MajorBank	-0.7345***	-0.7287***		
	(0.2009)	(0.2007)	1 7405***	1 (045***
$Bank_1$			-1.7495***	-1.6845****
_			(0.6135) -2.0917***	(0.6121)
Bank ₂				-2.0470****
			(0.6439) -2.8842***	(0.6432) -2.8541***
$Bank_3$			(0.7436)	(0.7391)
			-2.1646***	-2.2158***
$Bank_4$			(0.7739)	(0.7748)
			-1.2449**	-1.2161**
Bank ₅			(0.5950)	(0.5933)
			-1.6075**	-1.5604**
Bank ₆			(0.7217	(0.7242)
			-1.3150*	-1.2892*
Bank ₇			(0.7854)	(0.7847)
D I.			-1.9549 [*]	-1.8443
Bank ₈			(1.1782)	(1.1767)
Pank			-2.2306**	-2.2833***
$Bank_9$			(0.9468)	(0.9473)
$Bank_{10}$			-1.7302 [*]	-1.6547 [*]
Duin ₁₀			(0.9323)	(0.9339)
Constant	-2.0745	-1.9098	-0.4547	-0.2977
Constant	(1.5441)	(1.5703)	(1.6624)	(1.680)
χ^2	144.06***	150.02***	157.48***	164.13***
٨	111.00		107.10	101.10

Note: N = 2,898; Standard errors are in parentheses; $p \le 0.1$, $p \le 0.05$, $p \le 0.01$

Table 2 reports the estimation results. The effect of *BankSesssion* is negative and significant in Models 2 and 4, indicating that users who are using mobile banking apps for a shorter session time (i.e. more frequently and for a shorter duration) are more likely to adopt mobile P2P payment apps. So, Toss users are likely to use mobile banking apps for tasks which are less complex and require less time to

complete. Users of traditional banking apps require a more tedious and cumbersome process in order to access the functions within the banking apps meanwhile the process is much simpler and quicker for Toss (Russell 2017). Thus, users who wish to carry out simpler tasks could opt to adopt Toss instead because of the simplicity of the authentication procedure. In addition, this is in line with another study which found that duration and frequency of mobile use for are the key predictors of adoption behaviors for mobile commerce (Bigne et al. 2007). Furthermore, there are significant bank effects and bank type effects across all our estimation results. Users who use banking apps from non-major banks are more likely to adopt and use Toss while users who use banking apps from major banks are less likely to adopt and utilize Toss for mobile P2P payment. This finding also suggests that there are inherent characteristics within the banks themselves which influence their customers' adoption of mobile P2P payment apps.

Our results show that *SocialDuration* and *SocialCnt* as well as *SocialSession* are not significant. Instead, we find that *SocialApps* are positive and significant from all our four models. The estimation results from our control variables also show some interesting results. It shows that younger and single users and the ones that use more updated Android operating systems (OS) are more likely to adopt Toss app. This result is somewhat consistent with the one found in Hwong (2017) and Mbiti and Weil (2011). They show that the demographics of mobile P2P payment apps tend to be younger and the majority of the users of these apps tend to be concentrated below the age of 35.

Discussion

While mobile P2P payment apps gain popularity and greater demand, the factors influencing the adoption of these types of apps remain unclear. In this paper, we have explored the factors influencing the adoption of mobile P2P payment apps and seek to find out the impact of app usage behavior of both traditional mobile banking apps and SNS apps has any influence on one's adoption of mobile P2P payment apps by examining four models to describe the factors affecting adoption. Our preliminary analysis results indicate that usage behavior of both two types of mobile apps have an impact on the adoption of mobile P2P payment apps—specifically, the average session duration of banking app, the type of bank, the number of SNS apps used, and other factors such as age and the version of Android OS used.

However, as an exploratory study, our work has several limitations. Firstly, we only included 11 banks from the top 50 apps in the finance category in our preliminary analysis. To improve our model further, we should include more banks in order to control for the bank specific effects. In future research, we will include all the banks in Korea including those outside of the top 50 apps in the finance category. Secondly, the data is skewed as there were significantly more non-Toss users than Toss users and the sample for Toss users are small. Hence, our model may also suffer from small-sample bias. To overcome this limitation, we checked the robustness of our results using skewed logistic regression. However, there are alternative estimation methods to reduce the biasness of our results such as penalized likelihood and rare events logistic regression described by (King and Zeng 2001) which we will consider and utilize to test the robustness of our results in all our future work.

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