## The Transformational Potential of M-Transactions

Vodafone Nokia Nokia Siemens Networks

### Anonymous MIT student Nov 19, 2008

Vodafone, Nokia, and Nokia-Siemens Networks. *The Transformational Potential of M-Transactions*. Policy Paper Series No. 6 (July 2007).

http://www.vodafone.com/etc/medialib/public\_policy\_series.Par.89230.File.dat/public\_policy\_series\_6.pdf

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### Overview

- Aim of this report
  - Contribute to the debate among policy makers assessing the potential for mobile transactions
- Present situation
  - Lack of access to financial service
  - Bad service condition
  - Growth of microfinance
  - Importance of remittance
- Key issues
  - Unknown needs
  - Cultural issues
  - Network effects
  - Regulations

#### Lack of access to financial service

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in The Transformational Potential of M-Transactions.

#### High interest rate on loans

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See Overview: Figure 2, "Interest rates on loans..."
in *The Transformational Potential of M-Transactions*.

#### Growth of microfinance

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#### Importance of remittances

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See Overview: Figure 4, "Financial flows to developing countries, 1990-2006" in *The Transformational Potential of M-Transactions*.

### Overview

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### Early lessons from the deployment of M-PESA

#### M-PESA

- Mobile-based payment service in Kenya
- Launched in 2007 by Vodafone and Safaricom
- Targeting un-banked pre-pay mobile subscribers

#### Service

- Deposit and withdraw at Safaricom's agents
- Mobile transaction with Airtime

### Early lessons from the deployment of M-PESA

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See M-PESA: Figure 1, "Access to Formal Banking" in *The Transformational Potential of M-Transactions*.

### Early lessons from the deployment of M-PESA

- New usage characteristic
  - Paying remote staff their expenses
  - Deposit before boarding a bus
- Registration
  - 111,000 users in the first 3 months.
  - -3.6 million\* users by July 2008

\*http://wirelessfederation.com/news/category/m-pesa/

WIZZIT in South Africa

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See Trust and Fidelity: Figure 2, "Wizzit's mobile banking system" in *The Transformational Potential of M-Transactions*.

M-PESA in Kenya

Image removed due to copyright restrictions.
See Trust and Fidelity: Figure 3, "The M-PESA System" in *The Transformational Potential of M-Transactions*.

• Globe Telecom (G-cash) in Philippines

Image removed due to copyright restrictions. See Trust and Fidelity: Figure 5, "Money transfer..." in *The Transformational Potential of M-Transactions*.

Image removed due to copyright restrictions. See Trust and Fidelity: Summary table – function and characteristics in *The Transformational Potential of M-Transactions*.

Image removed due to copyright restrictions. See Trust and Fidelity: Summary table – consumer experience in *The Transformational Potential of M-Transactions*.

- Potential of mobile payment
  - Reducing information asymmetries
  - Quality of life impact
- Hurdles
  - Widespread cash-in, cash-out system
  - Regulatory compliance
  - Tariff structures for consumers

## The regulatory implications of Mobile and Financial Services Convergence

#### Deposit Taking

- Lower barriers to deposit taking
- Carefully select the asset classes in which transaction banks can place depositors' funds
- Ensure new entrants have access to central payment infrastructure

#### Cross Border Remittances

- Create international regulatory structures that facilitate cross-border services
- Facilitate the development of economies of scale across borders
- Facilitate innovation via the remittance markets

## The regulatory implications of Mobile and Financial Services Convergence

- Distribution Channels
  - Revise outsourcing rules
  - Adjust customer due diligence guidelines
  - Consumer Protection
  - Consider scope for telecoms regulators to act
  - Devise appropriate consumer protection measures
- Regulatory Processes and Reviews
  - Set review clauses on regulatory reforms, evaluate and adjust
  - Allow for up-market and cross market expansion

### Airtime transfer service in Egypt

#### BTS

- Balance transfer service in Egypt
- Launched in 2004 by Vodafone
- Around 1.7 million customers make 20 million transactions every month\*

<sup>\*</sup>http://www.vodafone.com/start/responsibility/our\_social\_\_\_economic/access\_to\_communications/m-transactions.html

### Airtime transfer service in Egypt

- Findings from survey on BTS
  - BTS increases access to mobile services
  - BTS improves affordability
  - BTS creates commercial opportunities
  - BTS use supports social networks through
  - BTS is not used as a proxy currency due to

## Competition Issues in the Development of M-Transactions Systems

- Competition w/o interconnectivity
  - Monopolized by the leading operator soon, due to strong network effect
  - No choice for customers
  - Service level decreases

 Should regulators intervene to secure interconnectivity?

## Competition Issues in the Development of M-Transactions Systems

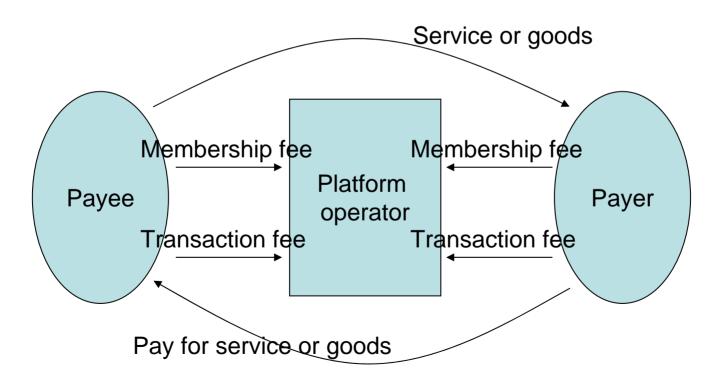
- Benefit side of intervention
  - Increase network benefit
  - Low switching cost for customers
  - Rapid market growth
  - Long-run competition
- Cost side of intervention
  - Less competition in nascent market
  - Low incentive to innovation

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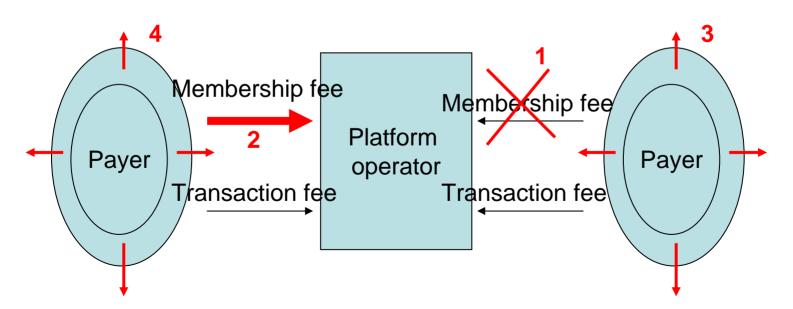
# Mobile Transactions: Through the Window of the Two-Sided-Platforms Approach

Two-sided-platform



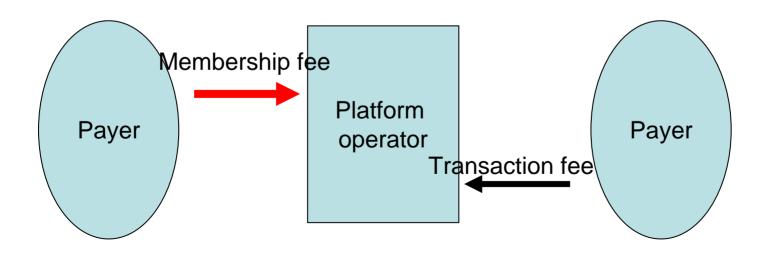
# Mobile Transactions: Through the Window of the Two-Sided-Platforms Approach

- Membership fee
  - Divide-and-conquer strategies
  - Tying strategies



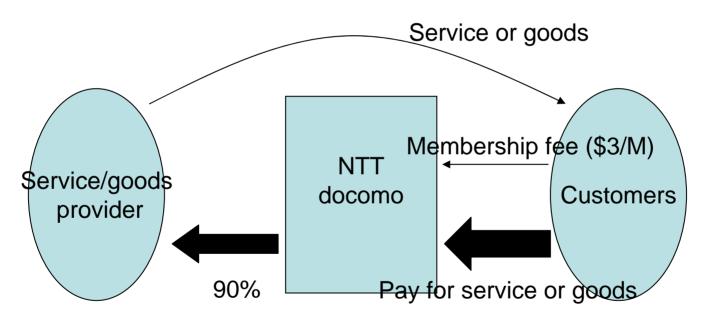
# Mobile Transactions: Through the Window of the Two-Sided-Platforms Approach

- Transaction fee
  - Step1: Determine total transaction price
  - Step2: Determine allocation on both sides



### Discussion

NTT docomo i-mode platform



Pay together with communication charges

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