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 show that m-commerce is another tool that is both highly intangible and possesses specific characteristics. It can be developed and made
as another avenue for firms to create competitive advantage.
Keyword: Mobile Commerce, Payment Systems
Introduction

Basically, online payment processing lets customers 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. For that reason, some studies have
been conducted, as those done by Accenture. (2001); European Institute for Research and Strategic (1991); Morgan Stanley and Dean Witter (2000); and Morrison (2001),
specifically for better understanding of these issues.

For example, most national and international online payments are 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 firms to develop
better online transactions. All these somehow ignite the pros and cons on using mobile payments. In many cases, m-commerce 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
that m-commerce is a lucrative-and growing-market. According to the ARC Group, about 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, the ability of m-commerce is still questionable, with some
users 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, that 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 cooperation
among players involved, the ability to provide users with simple and the 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 involved in the transaction. With suitable payment solutions, they can deliver
goods and services over present and future networks better. In fact, the 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 its kinds and would significantly contribute in
term of m-commerce and micro payment systems. Obviously, Nohria and Leestma (2001) believed that 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 supported by
Ramakrishnan (2001) who discussed that 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
e-commerce 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 work continuously together 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
to 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 enabled 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 the 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
In addition, mobile search solutions connect mobile users with advertisers and this will create great economic benefits (Lucas, 2001; & Swartz, 2001).
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 applications is
T-Mobile which allows customers to receive instant snapshots of traffic conditions based on their current location. Nohria and Leestma (2001) mentioned 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 as one of the
fastest growing markets 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
that the emergence market with similar trend for wireless industry is increasing and would spur the development of m-commerce.
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 has led a large percentage of them to operate 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 faced 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 indicates two independent variables; a) payment system through
m-commerce; and b) micro payment environment.
Fig.1. Research Framework

Please see Figure 1 in full PDF version
The literature shows that 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 is similar to those developed countries.
Measurement

This study used a 5-point Likert scale that ranged from strongly agree to strongly disagree with focusing on the usage and
implementation of m-commerce. Table 1 below shows the items of the questionnaire. The variable measures are to test to which extend m-commerce payments would influence
the market and how it could enhance the performance of the Malaysian information technology based firms.
Data Collection

The data were collected from multiple economics and social backgrounds. However, the sample size was small because most of
the respondents were using ordinary mobile phones which do not include 3G beside others and other functions which are related to m-commerce mobile phones. The data was
collected from those 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 members of our target population. These respondents were from diverse industrial backgrounds which
represent different levels of knowledge and working experiences in the m-commerce or e-commerce usage. The data was gathered within a month.
and Table 1 illustrates the items of every construct.
Table 1: Item of Measurement

Please see Table 1 in full PDF version
Results

Demographic Background

Based on the survey, the male respondents were slightly higher than the
female ones as they 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 those aged between 30-35 years old or 25.6 percent. In addition, 33.3 percent of the respondents were Malay while Indians and Chinese were holding 10.3
percent each and others held 46.2 percent. In terms of education, results show that 56.4 percent of the respondents were having master degree, 38.5 percent were having a bachelor
degree and 6.1 percent with advanced diploma.

Descriptive Statistic on Benefit of M-Commerce

Table 2 describes respondents’ perception on
each of the items 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 agreeing with the statement. The second item “mobile commerce payment software is user friendly” recorded 59.0
percent of respondents agreeing with the statement. The third item “Mobile Commerce payment saves time” recorded 53.8 percent of respondents agreeing with
the statement. The fourth item “Mobile Commerce payment is cost effective solution” recorded 56.4 percent of respondents agreeing 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 agreeing with the statement. The sixth item
“Mobile Commerce payment saves human resource” recorded 43.6 percent of the respondents agreeing with the statement. Meanwhile the final item “Mobile
Commerce technology is safe to use” indicated 66.7 percent of the respondents agreeing with the statement. Overall, the level of benefits of m-commerce payment system is high.
which is with the value of mean 4.00.
Table 2: Benefit of M-Commerce Payment System

Please see Table 2 in full PDF version
Descriptive Statistic of M-Commerce Payment Environment

Table 3 describe respondents’ perception of 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 describes respondents’ perception of each of the item in the
construct. The findings indicate that the first item “I am satisfied with the mobile commerce services” recorded 56.4 percent of the respondents agreeing with the statement. The
second item “It enhances the performance of individual” recorded 48.7 percent of the respondents agreeing with the statement. The third item “I am satisfied with the ease
of use of software” recorded 69.2 percent of the respondents agreeing with the statement. The fourth item “I am satisfied with the powerful antivirus within the device” recorded
46.2 percent of the respondents agreeing 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
agreeing with the statement. The sixth item “I am satisfied because it has very nice features” recorded 64.1 percent of the respondents agreeing with the statement. The
seventh item “I am satisfied with GPRS system” recorded 30.8 percent of the respondents strongly agreeing with the statement. The eighth item “I am satisfied with the
price of device” recorded 46.2 percent of the respondents agreeing with the statement. The final item “I am satisfied with the features” recorded 69.2 percent of the respondents
agreeing with the statement. Overall level of services satisfaction was moderate with the value of mean 3.781.
Table 3: M-Commerce Payment Environment

Please see Table 3 in full PDF version
Table 4: M-Commerce Services Satisfaction

Please see Table 4 in full PDF version
Results Analysis on Hypothesis

Hypothesis Testing the 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
null hypothesis (Ho1) is accepted. This means that there is no significant difference between male and female towards m-commerce services.
Table 5: Independent Samples Test between Genders

Please see Table 5 in full PDF version
Hypothesis Testing the 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 that 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 null hypothesis (Ho2) is accepted. This means that
there is no significant difference between different ages towards m-commerce services.
Table 6: Independent Samples T-Test between Age and M-Commerce Services Satisfaction.

Please see Table 6 in full PDF version
Hypothesis Testing the Demographic Factors (Education)

\( \text{Ho3} = \text{M-commerce services satisfaction do not} \)
differ between highest education level

The results in Table 7 indicate the result of ANOVA, which is the highest education factor,
that the F value 1.032 is not significant i.e. $< 0.05$ (p = 0.367), so null hypothesis (Ho3) is accepted. This means that there is no significant difference between the highest
education factors on m-commerce services satisfaction.
Table 7: One-Way ANOVA between Highest Education Levels with M-Commerce Services Satisfaction
Please see Table 7 in full PDF version
Hypothesis Testing the Relationship between the 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 that both variables are interval. Based on the Pearson Correlation test, the results show significant and positive correlation between benefits of m-
commerce payment system and m-commerce services satisfaction with a significant level of 0.001, so the null hypothesis (Ho4) is rejected. This means that the 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
Please see Table 8 in full PDF version
Hypothesis Testing the Relationship 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 that both variables are interval and based on the Pearson Correlation test, the results show no significant correlation between m-commerce payment
environment and m-commerce services satisfaction with a value of 0.953, so the null hypothesis (Ho5) is accepted. This means that 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
Please see Table 9 in full PDF version
Hypothesis Testing the Influence of the Benefits of M-Commerce Payment System and M-Commerce Payment Environment on 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 that the regression results of the two independent variables are against m-commerce
services satisfaction. The first table in the output ‘Model Summary’ shows the R square of 0.305, which means that m-commerce service satisfaction, are explained
by the two independent variables. This means that 30.5 per cent of the two variables influence the dependent variable. Furthermore, the ANOVA table shows that the F value
of 7.893 is significant at the 0.001 level, so null hypothesis (Ho6) is rejected.
Table 10: Multiple Regression Analysis of M-Commerce Services Satisfaction Regression Model Summary
Please see Table 10 in full PDF version
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 appears 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 are able to become another avenue for firms to create or establish new competitive advantage in

The development of a broad and a deep software and the development of programs in creating
differentiation through the m-commerce market, is consistent with past literature since the development of competitive advantage for service satisfaction is
highly associated with the development of “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

Services satisfaction, 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 m-commerce by others as well as continuing the 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 emphasizes the need to attain market position by developing quality product specifically targeted to
well-defined m-commerce segments 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 manifested 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 tools to establish competitive advantage. However, to build such an advantage requires firms to
get engaged with a continuous knowledge enhancement programme. By doing so, a firm will have a better chance to increase the quality of services it provides to
customers and finally will make it the platform to create new competitive advantage.
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