

Mobile payments boost Nigerian economy

Mobile penetration has significantly increased across Africa, with Nigeria remaining the largest mobile market of about 162-million subscribers and a penetration rate of 84%, according to the [Jumia Mobile Report 2018](#).



The Nigeria Bureau of Statistics reports that the volume and value of mobile payment transactions in the first quarter of 2018 grew by 7% to N329bn from N307bnn in Q4'17.

These figures show that mobile payment can contribute abundantly to the growth of the Nigerian economy with the help of the Central Bank of Nigeria and fintechs.

Role of banks

The Nigerian banking system has been completely revolutionised by technology. It has forced banks - new or old generation - to become creative and innovative. Some of the innovations that have disrupted the banking sector are mobile apps and unstructured supplementary service data (USSD). With these two, you can perform any transaction whether you have an internet enabled phone or not.

Fintechs

Fintechs are no longer new in Nigeria. They serve as payment gateways for businesses and they have made mobile or web transaction seamless.

An uncomplicated synergy between banks and fintechs with the regulation of the CBN (as well as shielding the financial sector from fraudsters) will definitely lead to economic development for Nigeria.

Harnessing mobile payments for economic growth

The phenomenal growth of fintech is helping organisations in Nigeria deliver a new generation of innovative products and services.

To achieve this and successfully harness the power of mobile, organisations in Nigeria's mobile banking and payments ecosystem must deliver compelling and responsive end-user experiences. They must also implement strong and secure

authentication methods that instill confidence among users in mobile banking and payments.

Delivering superior user experiences

End-users today expect websites to deliver the same experience on mobile as they do on personal computers.

Ensuring security

For mobile commerce and electronic banking to deliver its benefits across Nigeria, delivering a secure mobile experience, regardless of device and network, is compulsory.

As more and more business-critical applications and financial services adopt the public or private cloud, it has become essential to protect organisations and users from criminal efforts to steal data or conduct financial malfeasance. Mobile devices are now being targeted because they may serve as a back-channel into a network, thus making a network-centric security approach inadequate for an increasingly mobile-based economy.

Security within a mobile commerce ecosystem needs to be intelligence-driven and provide the flexibility and scalability to adapt to dynamic requirements.

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