



BIG DATA & ALGORITHMIC FINANCE



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CYBERSECURITY AND CLOUD OUTSOURCING OF PAYMENTS

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We study the incentives of competing banks to outsource their payment services to a cloud-based common infrastructure, managed by a private third-party provider (TPP). The TPP stores depositors' information in the cloud and offers compatibility services, but is exposed to cyber risk. Without cyber risk, banks outsource excessively to the TPP compared to the first-best because network effects soften competition for deposits. We show that cyber risk and security costs may sometimes reduce banks' incentives to build interoperable payment systems. We discuss several policy options to improve payment system security and interoperability: security standards, the authorization of cloud outsourcing agreements, a common liability regime, a shared-responsibility model, a common public infrastructure.

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