



Mung Ki Woo (at left) with NFC World's Sarah Clark who chaired the Future of Mobile Payments session at CES, joined by executives from LoopPay and Coinbase.

Connected Devices and the Internet of Things

Mung Ki Woo, group executive, digital platforms, reports on his experience at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) last week where he participated in a panel about the future of mobile payments.

"Immersive experiences, wearable technology, robotics and so much more was unveiled, showcased and discussed at CES. As a payment technology company we look forward to the event each year - after all, from your smart phone to your washing machine and beyond, we firmly believe that every connected device has the opportunity to become a commerce device.

Transforming the Shopping Experience

At the event I participated on a panel about the Future of Mobile Payments, where we discussed digital commerce and how it's going to transform consumers' shopping experience. In particular, I explained how the introduction of tokenization was a major improvement which made digital payments safe and secure.

From Connected Devices to the Internet of Things

Afterwards, I walked around the exhibition halls and talked to some of the participants. Everywhere one could see that, after connecting the first two waves of devices (PCs first and then phones and tablets), the Internet is now spreading to a third wave of devices (cars, home appliances, watches, glasses, miscellaneous sensors, etc.) This third wave is commonly called the Internet of Things (IoT). With each wave, the number of devices is increased by a factor of 10: PCs exist in the hundreds of millions, phones exist in billions. The IoT promises to reach tens of billions.

This growing number of Internet-connected devices is a fantastic development for MasterCard, because most if not all of these devices will want a payment function, thereby increasing our reach and the number of electronic transactions – again our vision that every connected device has the opportunity to become a commerce device.

MasterCard has been at the forefront of this technological evolution. Some great examples from 2014 include the successful launch of our MDES to support Apple Pay; our Digital Wallet program,

MasterPass, which continues to gain more and more momentum; or the contactless project we have just announced with BMW.

Leaving CES, one thing is very clear, 2015 - and beyond – is going to be an exciting for payments. We will continue to see the influx of internet-connected devices, and one of the things consumers will want to have around on those devices is access to their money. Our job is to have a MasterCard solution for each and every one of them."