

Fintech in Ten

The week's top stories from FTC



EDITION 2 · OCT 8 TO OCT 15, 2026

CONNECTING THE FINTECH WORLD

Fintech in Ten: the week's top stories from FinTech Connector

From FinTech Connector, edition 2 of our weekly recap: ten financial services innovation stories from Oct 8 to Oct 15 worth your time.

01 Crypto-linked card runs on Mexico's switch

SoFi Tech Solutions said Oct 8 Orbi customers in Mexico can spend crypto balances with a Mastercard; merchants receive fiat after conversion at checkout. Cards run on Mastercard's Mexico Domestic Switch.

WHY IT MATTERS Crypto balances are reaching everyday card spend.

Source: <https://tech.sofi.com/news/sofi-tech-solutions-orbi-mastercard-launch-crypto-linked-card-mexico/>

02 HSBC and Ant test agent micropayments

Ant Digital Technologies and HSBC said Oct 9 an AI agent found a service, paid a micropayment and settled in real time on HSBC tokenized deposits. It was a test, not a launch.

WHY IT MATTERS Agent payments are meeting regulated bank money.

Source: <https://www.prnewswire.com/apac/news-releases/ant-digital-technologies-and-hsbc-announce-successful-ai-agent-micropayment-technical-verification-test-302903333.html>

03 Ghana tests cross-border money mobility

Bank of Ghana's governor said it is testing interoperability across CBDCs, stablecoins, bank accounts and mobile wallets with Rwanda and Nigeria, GNA reported Oct 13. PAPSS now reaches mobile wallets between Ghana and Nigeria.

WHY IT MATTERS Wallets are joining the regional rail.

Source: <https://gna.org.gh/2026/10/bank-of-ghana-pilots-digital-cross-border-payments-with-rwanda-nigeria/>

04 Caribbean payment rail enters pilot

The CARICOM Payment and Settlement System has entered a pilot across 11 jurisdictions, linking national systems for real-time payments in local currencies, Global Finance reported Oct 13. It is modeled on Africa's PAPSS.

WHY IT MATTERS Regions are building corridors as correspondent banks retreat.

Source: <https://gfmag.com/banking/caribbean-payment-rail-pilot/>

05 MAS releases code for agent safeguards

MAS said Oct 9 it published Version 1.1 of SAFR, its safeguards for AI agents in finance, plus open-source reference code. SAFR checks an agent's action against the user's mandate before execution.

WHY IT MATTERS A regulator is offering code, not only principles.

Source: <https://www.mas.gov.sg/news/speeches/2026/building-trusted-foundations-for-digital-finance>

06 Ivorian Treasury pays on an instant rail

The BCEAO said Côte d'Ivoire's Treasury regularly makes mass payments on its PI-SPI instant platform. Capmad reported salaries, scholarships and social transfers are covered, with seven other WAEMU Treasuries to follow.

WHY IT MATTERS Government payroll can anchor a new rail.

Source: <https://www.capmad.com/post/cote-divoires-treasury-switches-its-mass-payments-to-the-bceaos-instant-payment-platform-pispi>

07 Stolen-device fraud jumps at Spanish banks

BioCatch said Oct 14 its Spanish bank clients saw sessions from stolen devices rise 150% over 12 months and scam attempts rise 46%. Scams were 43% of fraud and 60% of losses, it said.

WHY IT MATTERS Fraud is shifting to social engineering.

Source: <https://www.biocatch.com/press-release/spanish-banks-report-150-spike-in-fraud-conducted-from-stolen-devices>

08 Insurance moves into AI agent checkout

Cover Genius said Oct 13 it launched embedded protection that lets AI agents offer priced, disclosed coverage inside a chat. Its survey found fewer than 7% of consumers want an agent buying protection on its own.

WHY IT MATTERS Agents suggest, humans approve.

Source: <https://covergenius.com/company/news/agenic-embedded-protection-launch/>

09 Amex ties AI agents to customer intent

American Express introduced a framework that captures and authenticates a customer's purchase instructions before an AI agent checks out, TechCrunch reported Oct 13. A Proof of Intent Token unlocks the agent's payment credential.

WHY IT MATTERS Intent records could help settle disputes.

Source: <https://techcrunch.com/2026/10/13/amex-introduces-a-framework-to-prevent-ai-agents-from-making-unauthorized-purchases/>

10 BNY finances a tokenized Treasury

BNY said Oct 13 a tokenized Treasury note settled within minutes on its ledger, then Citadel Securities used it as collateral in an overnight triparty repo. BNY called it a first on a major triparty platform.

WHY IT MATTERS Tokenized collateral is entering financing.

Source: <https://www.bny.com/corporate/global/en/about-us/newsroom/press-release/bny-completes-tokenized-us-treasury-triparty-repo-workflow-with-citadel-securities.html>

What did you see between Oct 8 and Oct 15 that belongs on this list? Add it below, with a link if you have one.