

OCTOBER 27–30, 2013 | LAS VEGAS
ORIGINAL>ESSENTIAL>UNBIASED>INFORMATION



# How Image Exchange & Electronic Payment Channels Have Changed ARC's Value Proposition

Mark McCarthy

Vice President

**Union Bank** 

**Bob Meara** 

Sr. Analyst

Celent

**Amy Miller** 

Manager

**PPL Electric Utilities** 

### For today...

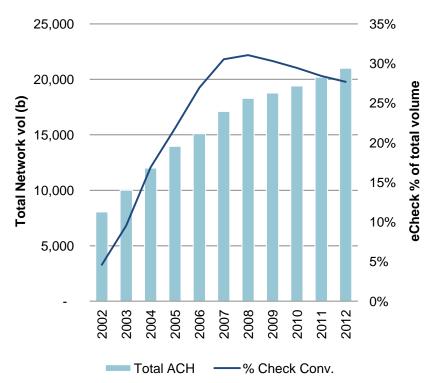
- A (very) short check conversion history
- The changing ARC business case
- PPL Corporation's perspective
- A banker's perspective
- Discussing the future of ARC, ACH & ICL



# Check conversion was the ACH growth engine

- Check conversion SECs grew from less than 5% of network volume in 2002 to over 30% in 2008
- But, has slowly declined since then (28% in 2012)
- For a decade, ACH network volume growth was largely a result of converting paper checks

#### eCheck's contribution to ACH volume



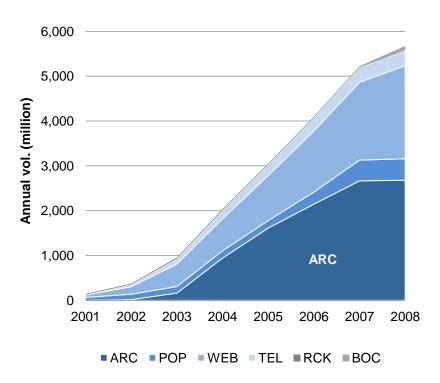
Source: NACHA, Celent analysis



### And, ARC was the king of check conversion

- ARC (2002), enjoyed a 3-digit CAGR for many years
- Surpassed WEB volume in 2004 and held the #1 spot until 2009
- For most of the decade, ACH network volume growth came through check conversion e.g.
  - ARC
  - BOC
  - POP

#### **ACH check conversion volume mix**



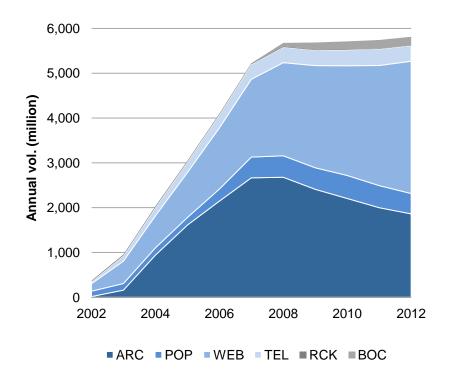
Source: NACHA, Celent analysis



### But, was toppled in 2010 by growth in bill pay

- WEB is the new ARC
  - #1 check conversion SEC
  - Growing steadily since 2010
- Apart from the WEB & ARC drama, there's not much happening
  - BOC has been a yawner
  - POP and TEL have flat lined

#### **ACH** check conversion volume mix



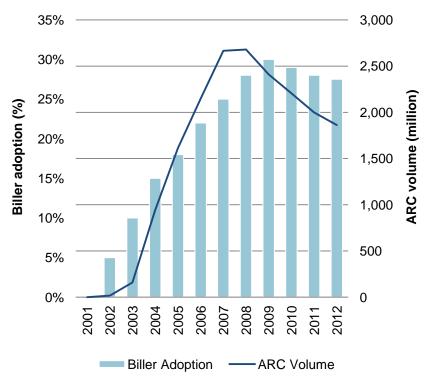
Source: NACHA, Celent analysis



### ARC's rapid ascent was driven by biller adoption

- Less than a third of (in-house)
   billers ever adopted ARC
- Most of them came online in the first several years
  - Led by large billers
- Ideal ARC candidates
  - Nat'l footprint
  - High dollar items
  - High % eligible
- ARC's volume decline (-35% since 2009) has been driven by continued growth of bill pay

#### **ARC** adoption dynamics



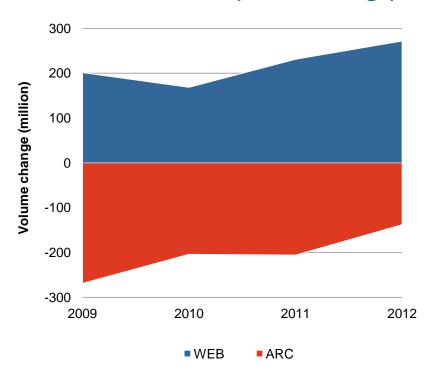


#### Since 2009, WEB's gain has been ARC's loss

- Growth in WEB and decline in ARC have been mirror images
- Further declines in ARC volume will be driven by
  - Growth in electronic bill payment
  - Further adoption in ICL

Will billers stick with ARC?

#### **Transaction volume (annual change)**





### Much has changed since ARC's genesis

Increases from

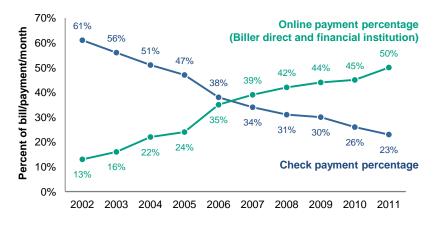
- Online banking usage up 3x
- Biller direct bill payment up 3x
- FI online bill payment up 4x

1/2010 - 7/2011 90 80 Millions of households 69.7 70 adopting service 58.6 36.6 30 28.2 20 10 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 Year survey administered Online banking Biller direct bill payment

--- Online bill payment at a financial institution

Source: 2011 Consumer Trends Survey, Fiserv Inc., August 2011

Share of checks declined over 60%



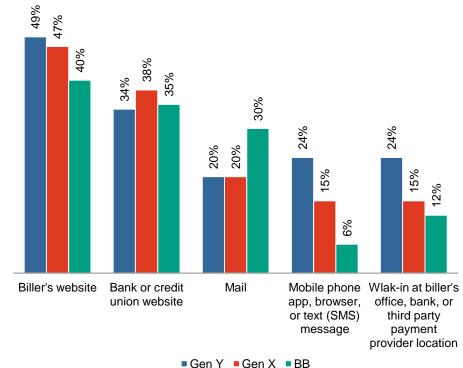
Source: 2011 Consumer Trends Survey, Fiserv Inc., August 2011



### Bill payments have become multichannel

- 76% of consumers use more than one method to pay bills
  - 36% of consumers use three or more channels to pay monthly bills
  - 38% use three or more payment methods
- 18% of multi-method payers and 27% of multi-channel payers used a mobile phone to pay at least one bill per month

#### How consumers prefer to make bill payments by generation



Source: The Western Union® Bill Payments Money Mindset Index, March, 2013



# **Early benefits of ARC were manifest**

Considerations	(	Positive	
Return rate		~30% reduction	
Predictability of returns		Settlement +2 vs. 3-5 days	
Clearing fees		[need metrics]	Negative
Float		Depends on geography	
Cost of returns processing		Full automation of ACH returns	
Potential consolidation of processing sites and bank relationships		Depends on geography	



### Offset by some negatives

Considerations	Relative influence	
Ineligible items (bus. checks, demand drafts, c. card, money orders, etc.)		High †
Administrative returns		
Opt-out provisions		↓ Low
Notification requirement		
60-day consumer right of return provision		
Dual workflow (statements, return, posting, reconciliation)		
Increased check clearing costs		



# My, how things have changed!

Considerations	Then	Now*	
Fewer returns			Positive
Predictable returns			
Reduced clearing fees			Negative
Float gains			
Reduced cost of returns processing			
Potential consolidation of processing sites and bank relationships			



<sup>\* 100%</sup> ICL environment

#### Is ARC Dead?

- "Yes" in terms of new adoption
- "No" in terms of continued usage among ARC adopters
  - For many billers, the benefits of 100% ICL likely won't justify the effort

For most billers...

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it."



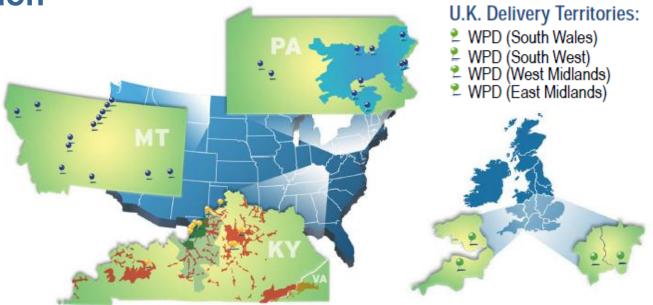
**PPL Corporation** 

#### U.S. Delivery Territories:

- PPL Electric Utilities
- Kentucky Utilities
- Louisvillé Gas and Electric

#### Generation Assets:

- Competitive power plants
- Regulated power plants

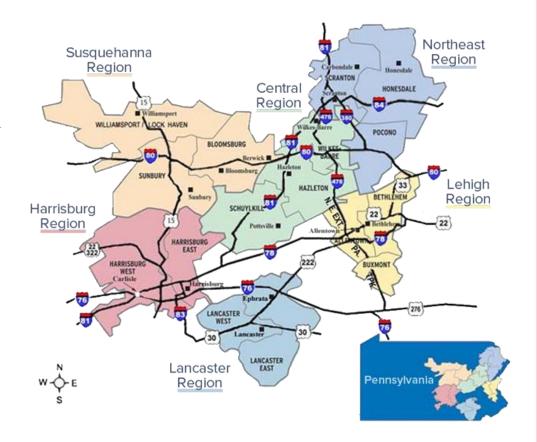


- One of the largest investor-owned companies in the U.S. utility sector
- 10 Million customers in the United States and the United Kingdom
- 19,000 Megawatts of generation capacity
- More than 30 power plants and more than 500,000 miles of power lines
- PPL has evolved from a small, regional Pennsylvania utility to a diverse, international energy company.
- 17,000 employees are focused on satisfying customers, delivering value for shareowners and personifying the concept of continuous improvement. 17 JDPower awards



#### **PPL Electric Utilities**

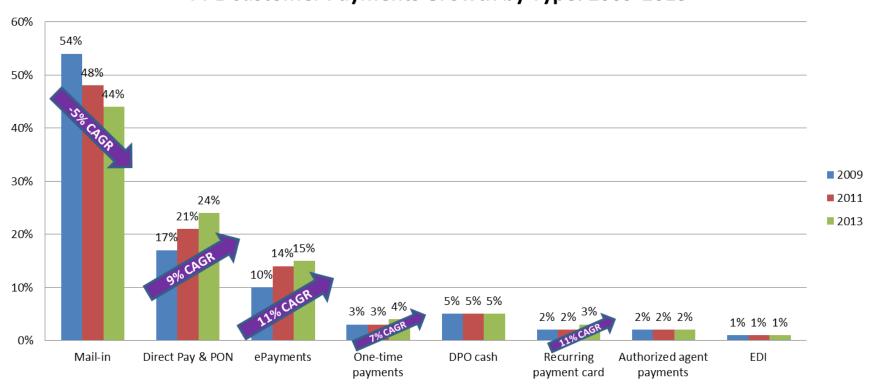
- Serving 1.4 million customers in 29 central and eastern Pennsylvania counties.
- Employing nearly 2,300 people
- Maintaining 50,000 miles of power lines — enough to circle the globe twice.





### **Remittance Processing Overview**

#### PPL Customer Payments Growth by Type: 2009-2013





### **Decision to go all Image**

- 2011 evaluated ARC or ICL for all mail-in check payments
- ICL proved to be the better decision
  - Funds are available same day (ARC provided next day availability)
  - PPL processes various types of payments which are not acceptable in the ARC process requiring two payment processing streams.
    - PPL processes in excess of 100,000 money orders per year. These are not acceptable in the ARC process.
    - In addition to residential customers PPL also services C & I customers who remit business checks which are sometimes over the threshold of \$25K which cannot be processed in ARC.
    - Our remittance processing area also processes payments for other business lines within PPL which service large C & I customers.
- ARC's Opt-Out / Notification requirements
  - We would have had to set up a process on our statements to notify the customer.
- Cost associated with increased customer service inquiries



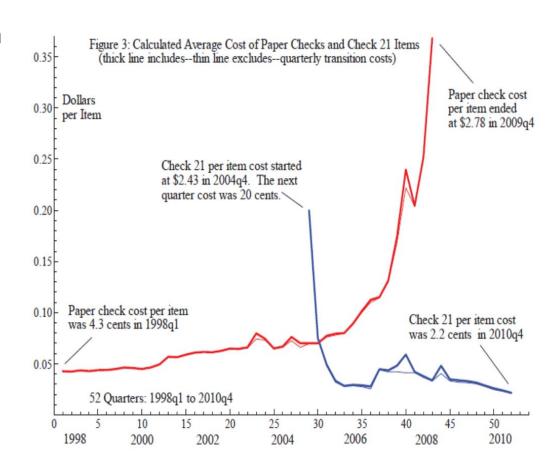
### The shifting sands of costs

- Prior to ARC, ACH processing costs were lower than check
- ARC provided economies of scale driving ACH costs even lower
- Check 21 initially caused an overall increase in check processing costs
- Full implementation of check imaging (2010) ushered in dramatic cost reductions in check processing
- ACH costs have been on the rise primarily due to credit, regulatory and compliance costs
- Shift of ACH from ARC to WEB also attributed to compliance costs



### The promises of Check 21 are being realized

- Over 70% reduction in per unit check costs
- \$1.2 Billion in direct cost reductions annually since 2010 to the payment system
- \$1.37 Billion in annual savings for business
- \$.64 Billion in annual savings for consumers

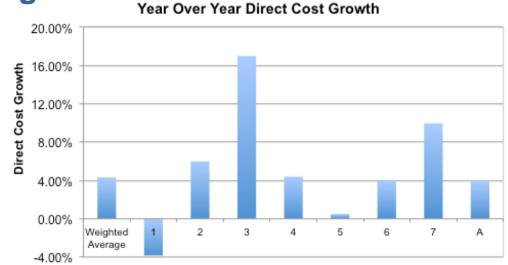


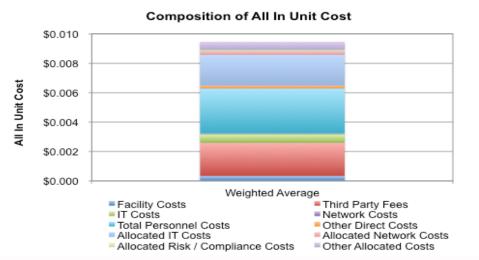
SOURCE: Philadelphia Federal Reserve, May 2012, Working Paper No. 12-12, Getting Rid Of Paper: Savings From Check 21



#### **ACH** costs low, but rising

- Average CAGR of 5.1% direct cost growth across tier 1 and tier 2 banks
- IT and personnel costs comprise the largest portion of fixed costs.
- Risk and compliance are receiving increased attention across banks:
  - ACH staff dedicated to compliance, OFAC, Reg E claims, returns and exceptions.
  - Across banks, the consumer claims process is typically managed within ACH operations, with a few banks managing the process in consumer or DDA fraud groups.





SOURCE: Treasury Strategies, August 2012, ACH Cost Benchmark Study



### Impact to pricing

- ACH pricing has remained flat for over 10 years Phoenix-Hecht Blue Book average list for Originated Debits is \$.13 with an average discount of 39% in 2002 and 58% in 2012
- Image check clearing pricing has come down significantly in recent years. Phoenix-Hecht Blue Book average list for Image Clearing is \$.073 in 2007 with average 12% discount and \$.05 in 2012 with average discount of 20%
- We are seeing pricing for large retail lockbox ICL applications around \$.008 and \$.02
- Market pricing for ACH debits ranging from \$.004 to \$.03



### **Update your facts**

- Verify that your current pricing is based on current cost environments
- Analyze the impact of controllable float
- Review original business case operational components were they
  favorable toward the move to ARC or not favorable? If not
  favorable, has the operational environment changed in any way?
- How are other payment channels impacting your per unit check costs?

