# UNLOCKING THE POWER OF AUTOMATION IN AP PROCESSES



#### **WHAT**

Considering the impacts that automation can have on the accounts payable process.



#### WHEN

Tuesday, September 26, 2023 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT



#### **WHERE**

Live online presentation Replays at StrategicTreasurer.com



#### **CRAIG JEFFERY**

**MARK PENSERINI** 

Founder & Managing Partner, Strategic Treasurer

Vice President of Partner Management, Corpay











## **ABOUT THE SPEAKERS**

#### GET TO KNOW TODAY'S SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS



#### **MARK PENSERINI**

Mark has over 25 years of operations and technical experience specializing in project management across Healthcare, Finance and IT operations. Before Corpay, Mark was Vice President of Partner Services at Inworks servicing, LLC for six years. Mark was also a director and program manager at Molina Healthcare, focusing on their health insurance exchange. He also served as Deputy Program Manager for the Oregon Health Insurance Exchange for over three years with a \$200 million budget.



#### **CRAIG JEFFERY**

Craig Jeffery formed Strategic Treasurer in 2004 to provide corporate, educational and government entities direct access to comprehensive and current assistance with their treasury and financial process needs.

His 30+ years of financial and treasury experience as a practitioner and as a consultant have uniquely qualified him to help organizations craft realistic goals and achieve significant benefits quickly.





## TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS & ANALYSIS



#### **AIMS OF AP**

AND BLOCKERS TO THEM



#### **PROCESSES & VIEWS**

SILO VS. END-TO-END



#### **TIME & QUALITY**

EFFECTS OF MANUAL VS. AUTOMATED PROCESSES



#### **MANAGING FUNDS**

FORECASTING AND WORKING CAPITAL MANAGEMENT



#### **SECURING PAYMENTS**

REDUCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FRAUD



#### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

AND FINAL THOUGHTS





## TOP GOALS

#### **AP AUTOMATION**



Digital process



Improved visibility (payor/payee)



Cost effectiveness



Efficiency



Scalability



Working capital management



Secure payments



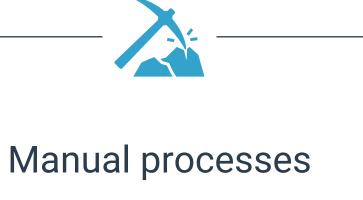
Relationship management





## IMPEDIMENTS TO THE GOALS

WHAT CAUSES DEFECTS







Poorly designed processes



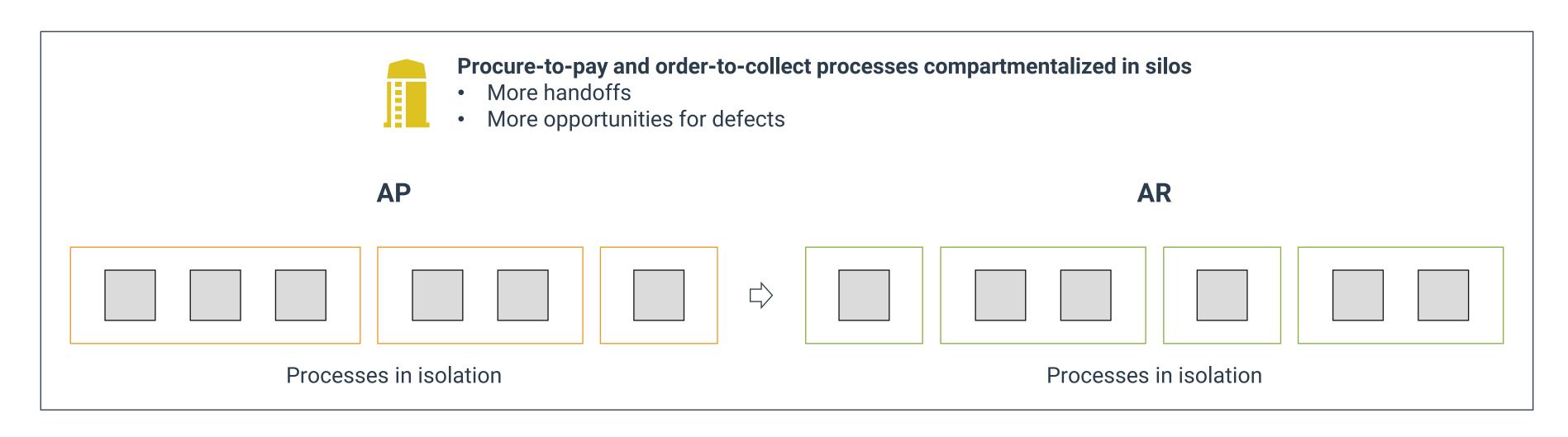
Processes covering a limited scope

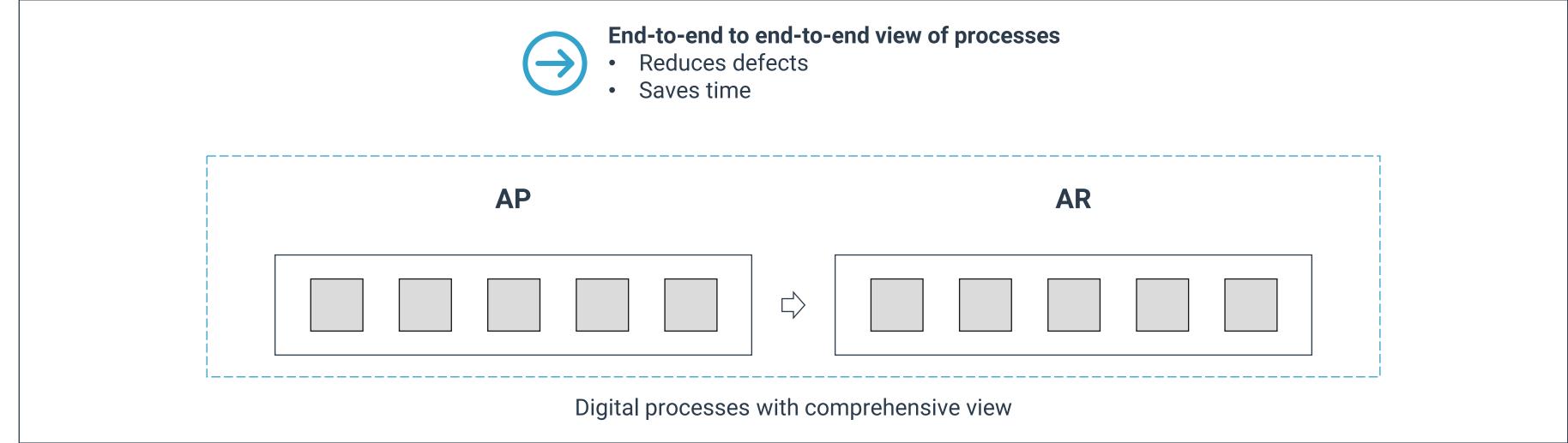




## LIMITED SCOPE

SILO VIEW VS. END-TO-END VIEW

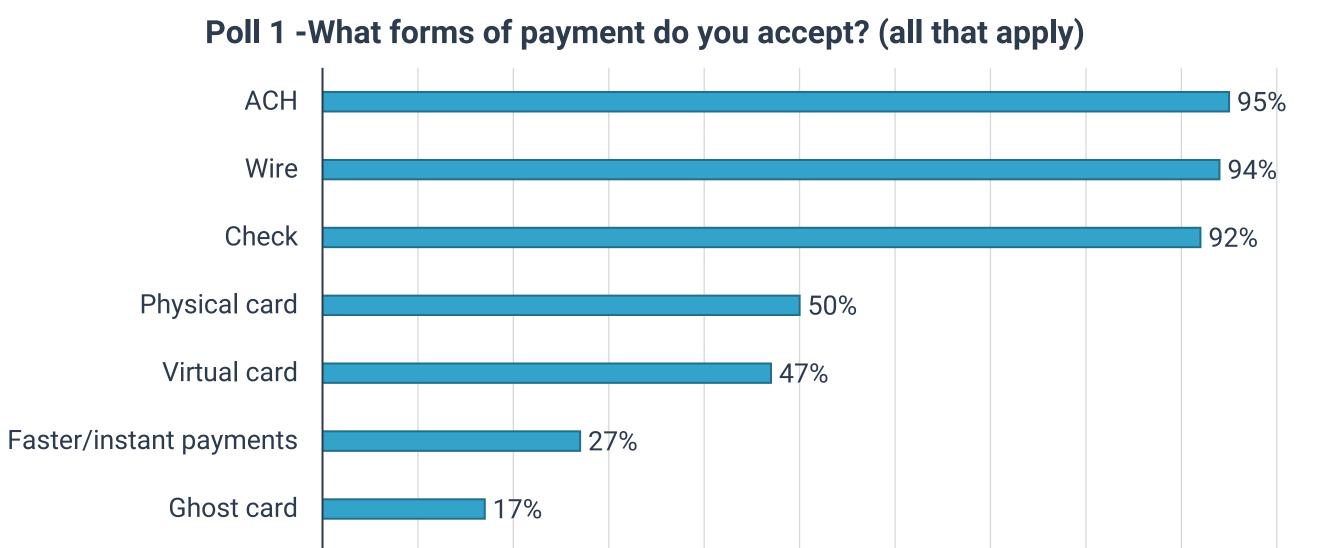








## POLL QUESTION



Other

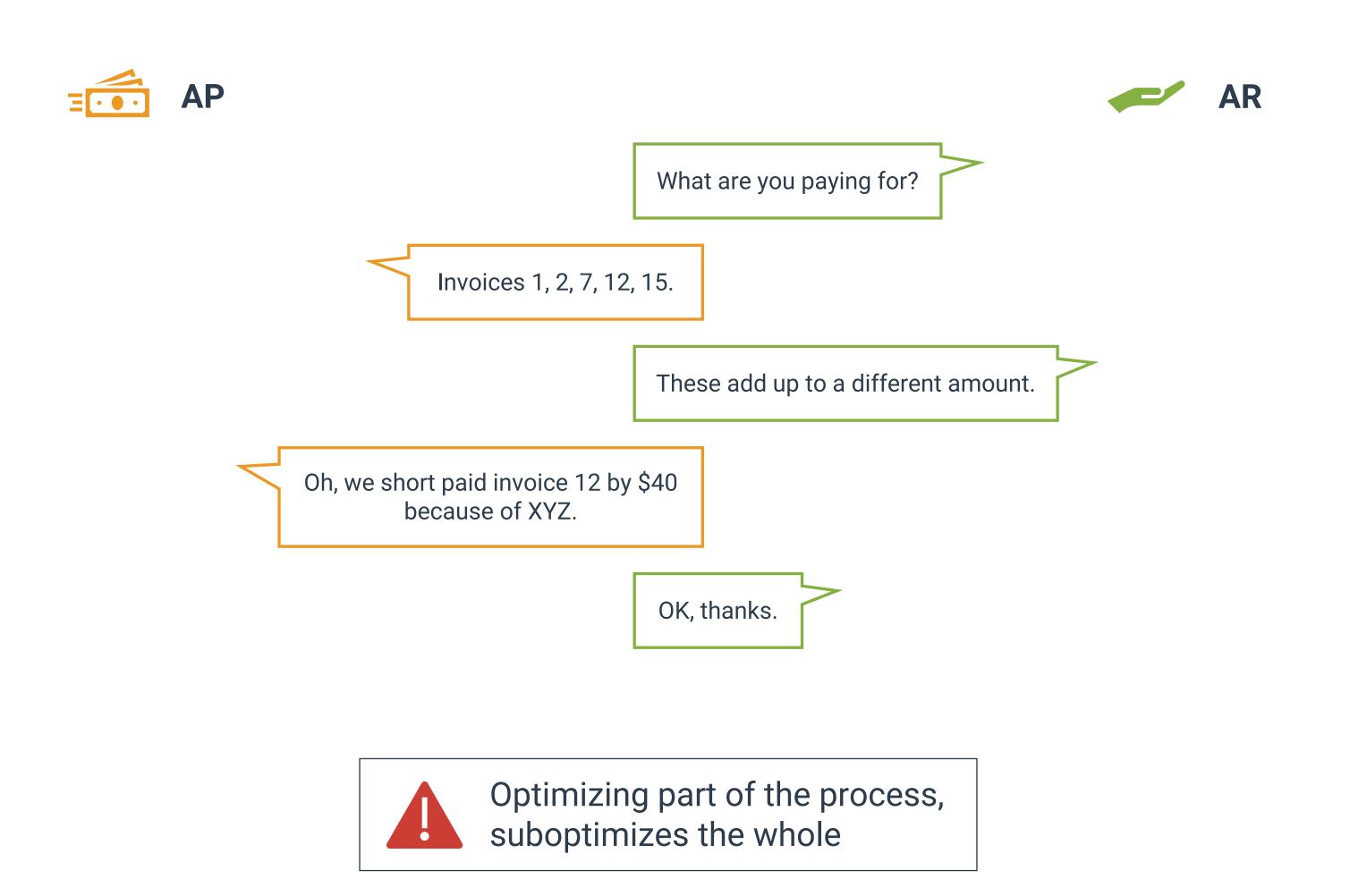
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## **DEFECTS DUE TO A SILO VIEW**

A LESS COMPREHENSIVE PERSPECTIVE COSTS TIME







## MANUAL VS AUTOMATED PROCESSES

IMPLICATIONS ON QUALITY

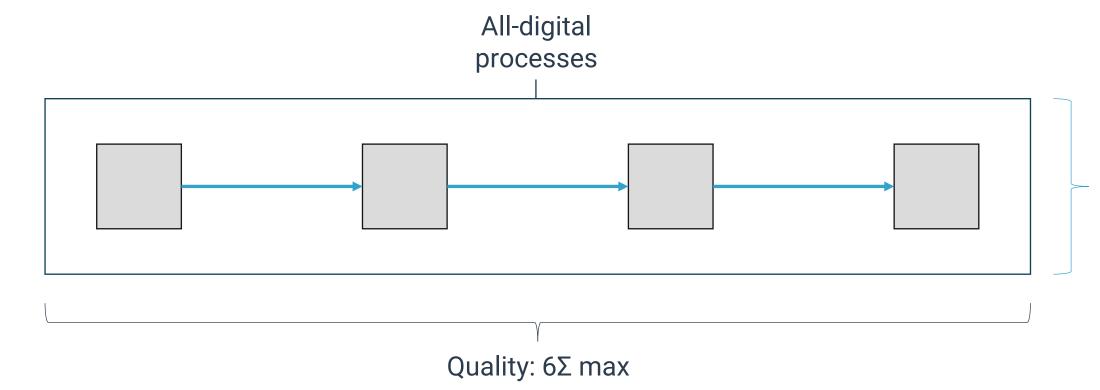
Manual processes

Load/ Load/ manual manual manual manual Quality: 1-3Σ max

Manual validation/confirmation failures

Opportunities for defects

**Automated** 



Digital validation/confirmation

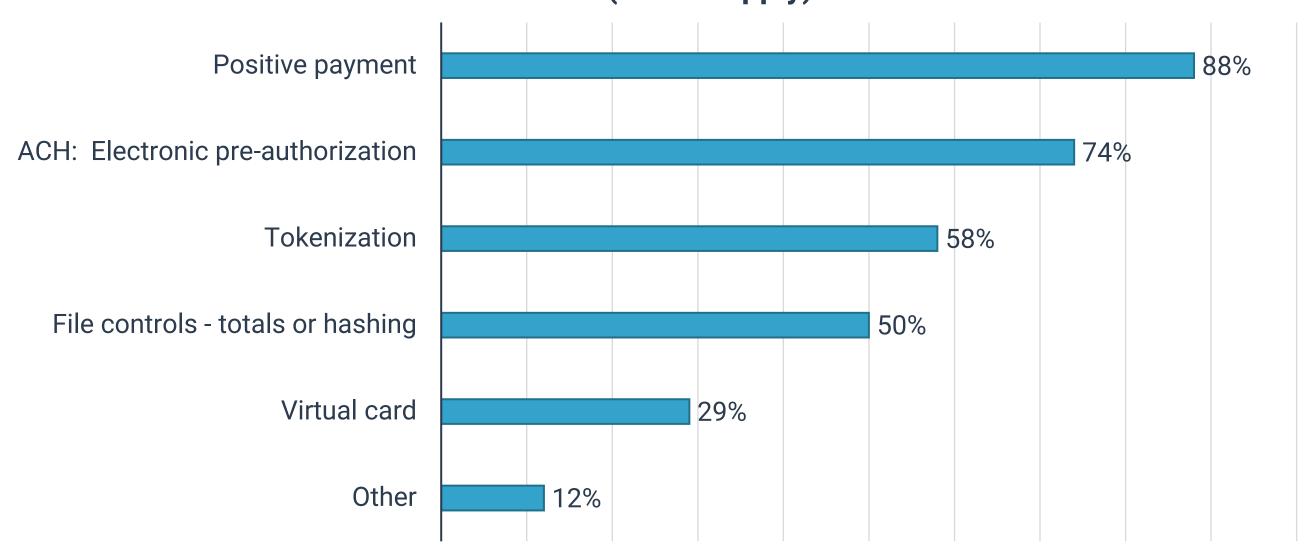
- Eliminating points of failure
- Reducing opportunities for defects





## POLL QUESTION

Poll 2 - What controls does your organization employ to defend against fraud? (all that apply)







## AP TO AR

#### ISSUES AUTOMATION ADDRESSES



AΡ

#### We are paying the following:

Invoice	Date	Amount	Short pay	Reason
1	9/25	\$933	-	
2	8/16	\$1047	-	
7	7/25	\$880	\$40 (	Ordered 49, not 50
12	8/22	\$1150	-	
15	9/17	\$1212	-	

Value sent via ACH

• Details emailed

Is all of this detail making it over?



AR

#### We need the following:

- Value
- Detail
- Discounts taken
- Visibility to payment timing
- Secure payment delivery

#### Moving from manual to automated

Process:	Manual/handoffs \	Hybrid (manual/digital)	End-to-end/straight through processing
Detail:	Not sent	Sent	Sent together with value
Value:	Delayed	Received	Sent together with detail
Timing:	Long delay	Faster	Fastest
Security:	Unsecure	Parts still vulnerable	Secure/encrypted





## MANAGING FUNDS

#### BETTER FORECASTING AND WORKING CAPITAL MANAGEMENT









#### Manual

- Doesn't know when payment will clear
- Unsure if funds can be used
- Forecast is all over the place

- Must call to find out when payment will arrive
- Must prepare more funds
- Forecast is all over the place

#### **Automated**

- Scheduled to be settled on 10/17
- Knows which funds can be used
- Forecast of 10/17: Known debit of \$145K

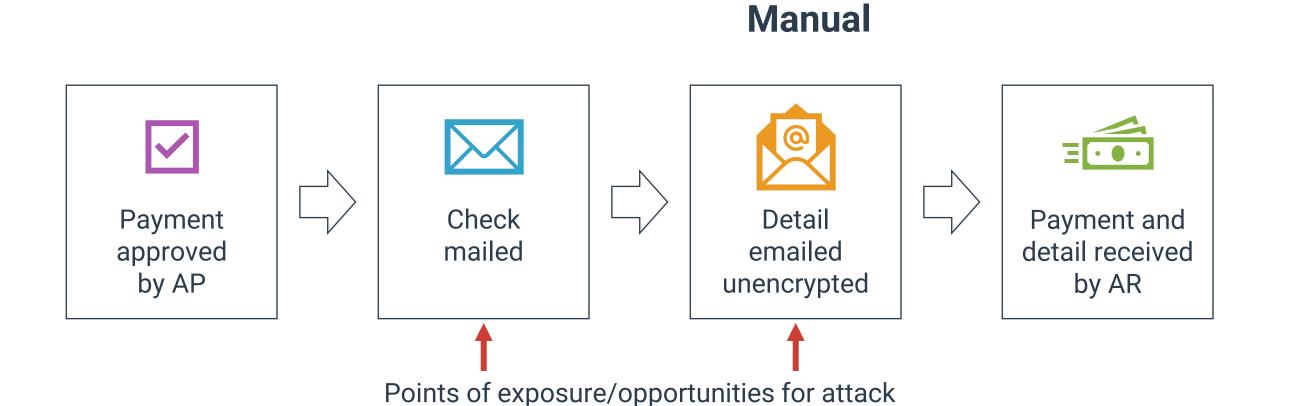
- Scheduled to arrive on 10/17
- Knows when funds can be used
- Forecast of 10/17: Known credit of \$145K





## REDUCING RISKS

#### PROTECTING THE PROCESS THROUGH AUTOMATION

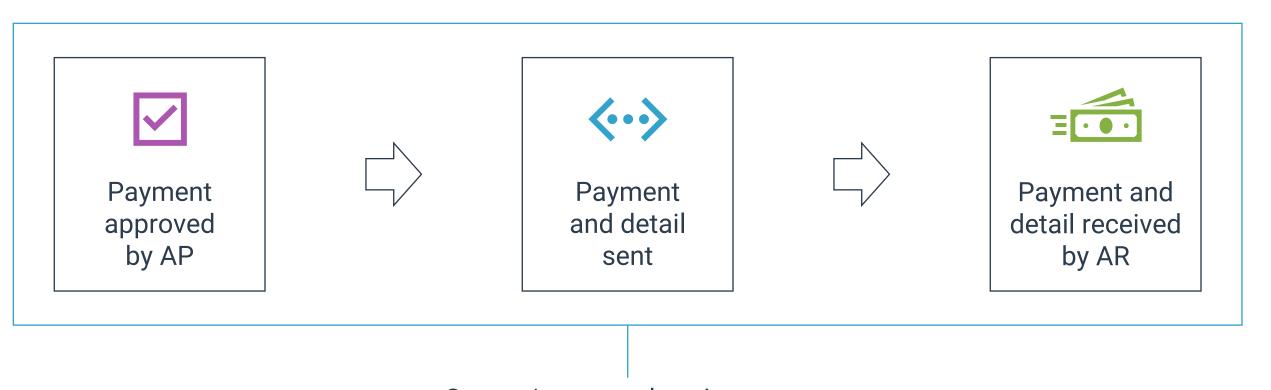


#### **Example:**

#### Check

- Physical process
- Greater exposure

#### **Automated**



#### **Examples:**

#### Virtual card

• One-time use

#### **ACH**

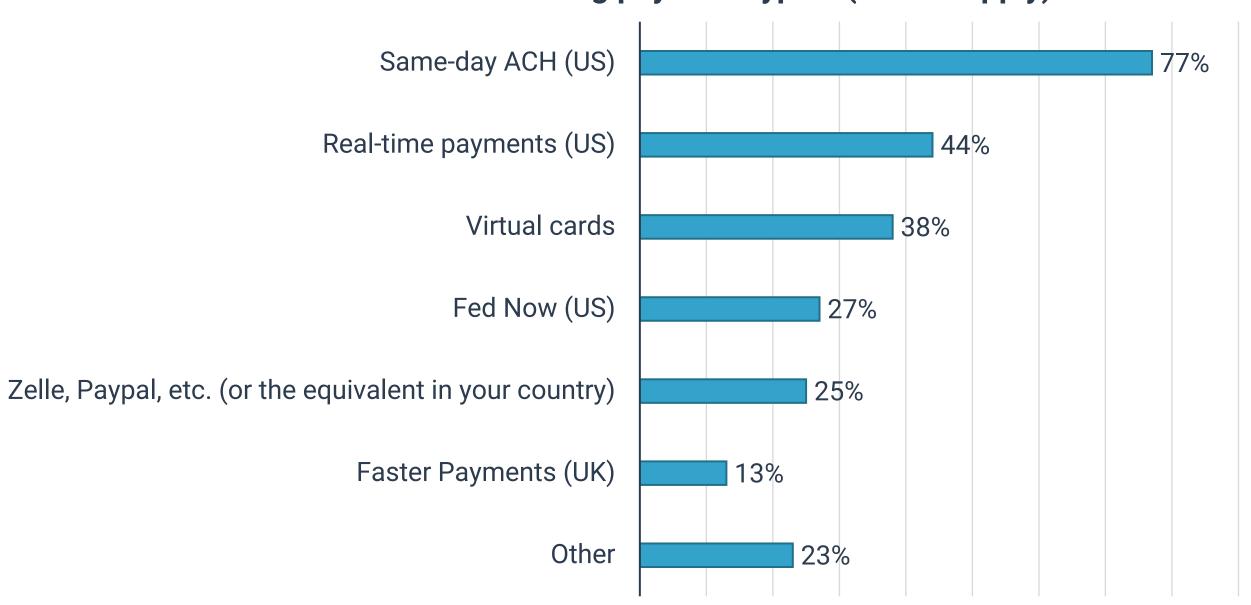
Secured process





## POLL QUESTION

Poll 3 - We use the following payment types: (all that apply)







## SECURITY AND FRAUD

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF VARIOUS PAYMENT TYPES







#### Criminal



#### Check

- Bank info exposed
- Multiple use
- Can still clear (same check number)
- Holder in due course
- Positive payment

- Copy/repeat
- Easy money
- Common fraud





- Secure banking network
- Bank info in files
- Exposed files in the company
- Validation
- Tokenization
- ACH debit blocks

- Alter account in payment file
- Secure





- Single use number
- Particular amount

- How can I steal both pieces of this?
- Extremely secure





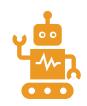
## FINAL THOUGHTS

**HOW TO PROCEED** 



## MANUAL TO EFFICIENT PROCESSES

- Understand handoffs
- Digital can lead to six sigma, manual has limitations



## **USEFUL AUTOMATION**

- Digital transactions eliminate rekeying
- Automation done in light of the endto-end view
- Visibility reduces defects and intervention



#### END-TO-END MINDSET

- Optimizing part of the process suboptimizes the whole
- Then entire process matters



## INCREASED SECURITY

- Escalating success of criminals
- Need to scale defenses
- Understand points
   of exposure
   (processes and
   people)





## LET'S CONNECT

## DON'T LET THE LEARNING END HERE... CONTACT US WITH ANY FUTURE QUESTIONS

Thank you for your interest in this presentation and for allowing us to support you in your professional development. Strategic Treasurer and our partners believe in the value of continued education and are committed to providing quality resources that keep you well informed.



#### **STRATEGIC TREASURER**

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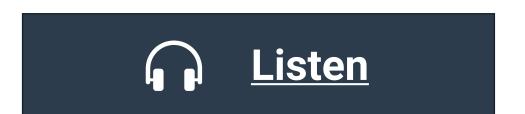
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- Banking Services
- Treasury Technology



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- Critical Treasury Assessment



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