

THE BUZZ



Issue # 6

The GMST Busybees' United NewZ Zone

February 2022



Mike's Mic



Welcome to the first edition for 2022 of our GMST BUZZ Newsletter. As usual the weeks are flying by and it's already the middle of February but I hope everyone who wanted to was able to take some time off at the end of the year and spend some time recharging your batteries. We finished 2021 strong and have hit the ground running in 2022 which is shaping up to be even stronger! We have rolled out our goals for the year, many of our strategic initiatives are underway and IDL is in full swing. I hope you were able to attend one of the goal sessions (or listen to a replay) and have been discussing the goals in your team meetings. There will exciting opportunities to contribute to the business priorities across the teams this year including modernizations, new capabilities and products, and enhancements of existing products and services. I am very excited for our plans, I hope you are as well and can see the linkage between what you are working on and the priorities and the Framework for Winning.

While focusing on our business priorities is important, we know it is equally important to focus on the growth and development of our colleagues. You'll notice a core component of our goals is Development and Engagement. Each colleague should be meeting with their leader to have focused career discussions, this is a time to discuss career objectives and aspirations and together identify ways to support you in achieving them, whether through training, mentorships or mobility opportunities. Another important component of our engagement strategy are our Meta teams, if you are not already a member of one of our Meta teams and have interest please speak with your leader or the leader of the team.

Thank you and I look forward to all we will accomplish together in 2022!

-Mike



Our Colleagues

Accomplishments

Payments Australia: Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) Small Merchant Pricing (SMP) plan changes for AMPS

Updated CBA invoice report with new Single Rate Plan Merchants at 0.95%. Business uses the invoice report to recoup the fee from CBA bank based on Merchant submission volume. Improved coverage and support acquisition strategy in Australia by accepting more merchants on Single Rate Plan at 0.95 %.

JCB Bin Range Expansion - Phase 2

Completion of end-to-end testing of five new BIN Ranges for JCB Credit Cards. Integrated testing to ensure all Amex Internal systems (Amex Network) could recognize and process the new BIN ranges from a submissions, settlement, reporting and disputes perspective. This will ensure when JCB starts using the new BIN ranges that our systems will recognize and be able to process the transactions.

DMX Payments - Germany Unique Reference Number (URN) release

Implemented ORE remediation to ensure all mandatory information for German merchant billing invoices is captured in compliance with VAT Act. With these changes, the merchant cannot refuse an invoice which reduces any potential AMEX financial impact. This eliminates the risk to AMEX for BAFin penalty and risk of brand damage.

Payments - Compliance

Successfully implemented multiple enhancements to merchant 1099K process and 1099 Pro software/API. Updates support 2021 1099K annual tax filing business requirements, and ensure compliance with IRS regulation (1099K). As a result Amex was able to generate 1099K forms for 728K+ merchants well ahead of the government deadline (1/31).

Engagement Team Updates

Team Building and Activities:

The EMEA team had some fun engagement team activities including a festive music quiz and an activity for the New Year. Keep an eye out for the next round of 2 Truths a Lie.

STAC & Cultivate Existing Talent:

STAC is back and ready to kick-off 2022! The team is busy planning sessions for our existing series (Tech Talk, Product Knowledge, DevOps), and is excited to share that **Cultivate Talent is now under the STAC umbrella**. There will also be opportunities to enroll into the Java and Spark training, as well as a new UI course. Staytuned for more updates from STAC!

Our Colleagues



Newborns

Harpreet Srini and **Balkaran** welcomed a baby girl on Dec. 12, 2021
Atulkumar Ray and **Archana** celebrated the birth of **Shrivi** on Feb 3, 2022



Personal Achievements

Mario Vega Graduation:

Arizona State University
Bachelor of Science in Engineering
Majoring in Computer Systems Engineering

Weddings



Srikanth Javvaji
Lakshmi Devathathan
Eddy Cordova Panchana

Significant Events



Abinash Shankar Ray - AWS solution architect-associate certification
Ed Samson and Chetana Kadatoka – Patent MAIL ROOM INTENT ANALYZER
Eddy Cordova Panchana – Oracle Certification

New Hires

Chandler Brown - Engineer II
Christopher Posdaljian - Engineer II
Cristobal Manrique – Engineer III
Derek Lamarr - Engineer II
Eileen Madrigal - Engineer II
Jason Mathew - Engineer II
Levi Moore – Engineer III



Interns

Haymanot Gashi – Year Up
Himanshu Tyagi - Analyst-Intern
Ishan Sawhney - Analyst-Intern
Kokila KN - Analyst-Intern
Prashant Kumar Jha - Analyst-Intern
Rohit Kumar A.S. - Analyst-Intern
Shreya - Analyst-Intern
Shreya Bucha - Analyst-Intern
Sora (Carol) Kang – Year Up

Promotions

Alex Paul Wainwright – Engineer I
Arravindh Venkatasubramanian – Sr. Engineer II
Brandon Bradley – Engineer I
Bryan Finnegan – Sr. Engineer II
Laura Unaeye - Engineer II
Mark Stoddard – Engineer I
Morgan West – Engineer II
Naman Bhatt – Engineer II
Neelesh Tripathi – Sr. Engineer I
Nick Martinez – Engineer I
Purnima Shukla – Sr. Engineer II
Rohan Datta - Engineer II
Sridevi Majeti – Sr. Engineer I
Srikanth Javvaji - Senior Engineer I
Steve Murrell – Engineer I
Zach Ayers – Engineer II



Mobility

Sriram Sundararajan – Engineering Director

Key Dates

~REMINDER~

1 Feb Annual Merit Increase

1 Feb Welcome Interns

28 Feb Annual Incentive Award

28 Feb Return of 2 Truths 2022 Edition!

1 Mar NY AmexFlex

7 Mar UK AmexFlex



Check out the [CAT](#) site to see more upcoming activities!

Comedy Corner

What is the best shade of red for a heart?...



BEAT RED 🎵 🎵 🎵



What I designed: a mustache

What dev built:



Why user acceptance criteria is so important



The New Normal: WFH Colleague Spotlight



Matt Vitoff's work from home teammates Reilly and Dobson. Dobson is the newest member of the family and these two pictures show how he has grown after six months. If you pay attention during a video call with Matt you are likely to see one or both somewhere in the background ❤️

Check out the New Office in Bangalore [HERE](#) !



* Stock Photo

Personal Experience

What's your story?

All of us tell stories about ourselves. Stories define us. To know someone well is to know their story. The experiences that shape us. When we want someone to know us, we share stories of our childhoods, our families, our work lives and so on. And when we want to know more about someone, we ask for their story. So that's what we're doing now. Asking for your story.

We want to know about you.



Click [HERE](#) to submit

Feedback ☒

Tell us how we are doing and learn more about submitting content [HERE](#).

Brought to you by the GMST Newsletter Team:

Amanda Griffis, Bryan Finnegan, Chetana Kadatoka, Kevin Porthouse, Laurie Koons, Lori Reischl, Nag Prasad, Pankaj Mehla, Shelly Bentley, Terry Skinner, Ullas Ramesh



DON'T buzz WITHOUT IT™

Leader Spotlight:

Edward Samson



Did you know Edward is very interested in linguistics? To learn more about his interests check out this issue's leadership spotlight!!

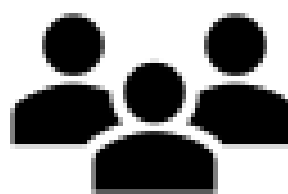
Link to profile here: [Leader Profile Link](#)

Team Spotlights:

Acquisition Team

Want to know more about the Acquisition team led by Kevin Smith? Check out their profiles!

Link to profile here: [Team Profile Link](#)



MIRA Team

Want to know more about the Mira team led by Kavidha Suyamburajan? Check out their profiles!

Link to profile here: [Team Profile Link](#)

