

- **Cash deposits can be difficult:** Because there are no physical branches to make deposits at, you may have to find a deposit-accepting ATM.
- **Cash withdrawals can be difficult:** Some online banks have limits for how much you can withdraw at an ATM. This can be difficult if you need to make a big purchase in cash.
- **Fewer options:** Some online banks may not offer additional accounts and services, such as CDs, whereas traditional banks tend to often offer a number of services all in one place.
- **Learning curve:** Banking sites can be difficult to navigate at first. Plan to spend some time reading the tutorials in order to become comfortable in your virtual lobby.
- **Bank site changes:** All banks periodically upgrade their online programs and add new features. In some cases, you may have to re-enter your account information.
- **The trust issue:** For many people, the biggest hurdle to online banking is learning to trust it. Did my transaction go through? To be sure, always print the transaction receipt and keep it with your bank records until it shows up on your bank statement.

Money Transfer Applications

Along with online banking, money transfer apps like CASH APP, PayPal, Venmo, and Zelle are becoming more and more common. These apps enable you to pay friends or people you are doing business with directly from your phone instead of through cash or checks. Note that Venmo now taxes small businesses for doing business on their app.

Cash apps are intended to request and send money to and from people whom you know and trust or have interacted with before on a financial level. Most financial institutions enable you to request and transfer funds by linking your bank account to your Venmo or PayPal account. If you are hesitant about the safety of these apps, ask a bank representative at your financial institution.

Investment Applications

Investment applications such as Acorns, RobinHood, E*Trade, or Vanguard enable you to put spare change or additional savings into an investment account that will help your money to grow like a 401(k) or an IRA (these are common retirement accounts, which will be discussed further in Workshop 10). Depending on your financial institution, you may be able to invest funds through your bank's mobile app as well. These apps build and manage portfolios for you, making investment easy and jargon-free.

There are several different types of investment apps. Some are micro-investing apps like Acorns, which automatically invests your spare change into diversified portfolios. There are also "robo-