Getting serious about modernizing your payments technology is an important step in the right direction — but not all payments technology is created equal. As you evaluate your options, make sure any payments platform you consider includes these critical functions and capabilities.

**CHECKLIST FOR A MODERN PAYMENTS PLATFORM**

1. **The Ability to Shield Your Core**
   - No financial institution should have to worry about the risk of compromising its core in the name of modernization. For that reason, the move to any modernized payments platform should be a strategic approach that considers which elements move and when, along with careful consideration for where they’ll best function now and down the road.

   That’s why FIS and many other strategic organizations like IBM now use the hybrid cloud approach. This “best of both worlds” method consciously considers each piece of technology to determine where it should sit — in the mainframe, or in a private or public cloud — to yield the most benefit.

2. **The Agility of Open Architecture**
   - When a modernized payments platform has open architecture, improved user experience and increased visibility and transparency into the inner workings of the business easily follow. For example, FIS’ Payments One™ Card platform includes cloud-functions like a searchable user interface. This allows users to easily find transactions and see what’s happening in their debit and credit business, in one view.

3. **Freedom to Change**
   - Before modernized payment platforms, initiating any type of legacy technology change usually meant contacting a vendor with a change request, waiting months for an action plan and implementation — and then having to pay for that change once it happened. A modernized payments platform should include componentized architecture that allows for speed to market and makes it easy to switch capabilities on and off with ease.

4. **Pricing Models Based on Use**
   - The ability to choose which platform capabilities make sense for the payments business now, to add or remove functions as the business evolves, to scale up or down as payment volumes change — and pay only for those functions the institution uses, wants and needs — should be part of a modern payment platform. Changing needs, capabilities, scheme connections and volumes are just a fact of today’s payments business; the platform shouldn’t penalize the institution for it.

5. **Ability to Integrate with Ease**
   - A modern payment platform must offer easy integration and APIs that allow the platform to be a working developer sandbox. FIS’ API platform, Code Connect™, includes an API gateway and catalog, developer portal, partner program, marketplace and real-time events notification. This central access point to integrate with FIS solutions via APIs lets financial institutions and fintech partners easily integrate, leverage and deliver solutions across any digital channel to differentiate their experiences.

**LET’S REIMAGINE CARD PAYMENTS**

To learn more about how FIS’ Payments One Cards’ single, modular payments platform gives you the flexibility to morph a challenging card business into a new world of opportunity, [click here](#).