

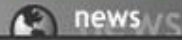
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Habib Bank Zurich unveils GPRS network

Dubai | By A Staff Reporter | 22-02-2002
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Habib Bank AG Zurich, one of the leading international banks operating in the UAE, has become the first to configure its m-commerce system over WAP to the GPRS network in the UAE. It was only this month the General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) was launched by Etisalat.

Habib Bank AG Zurich claims to be the first bank in the country to utilise this newest mobile communication technology, allowing much quicker WAP (wireless application protocol) browsing of customer's account information and bank interaction from mobile phones.

Reza Habib, joint president, Habib Bank AG Zurich said, "We are delighted to continue our technological advancements by being the first bank in the UAE to offer GPRS enabled WAP banking.

Our existing HBZwap customers have been asking for faster mobile banking and we're now able to offer it. This is all part of our 'AAA Banking' - Anytime, Anywhere, Anyhow."

He said 16 months after being the first bank to introduce both Internet and WAP banking into the region, the bank reports that 49.6 per cent of Habib Bank AG Zurich credit customers are web users and 46.9 per cent depositors are web users.

Mobile banking allows customers to bank 24-hours a day, wherever they can get a mobile phone connection. This increases the level of control, account holders currently enjoy.

Utilising the bank's HBZwap services through Etisalat's GPRS network increases the speed of WAP banking by over four times.

Customers are able to carry out transactions using their mobile phone, such as viewing statement of accounts, balance enquiries, fund transfer, payment of Etisalat and Dewa bills and ordering cheque books.

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