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<https://www.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/news/2020/05/19/fiserv-to-pay-ftc-40m.html>

Fiserv unit to pay FTC \$40M in settlement over business practices

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First Data Merchant Services, which Brookfield-based Fiserv Inc. acquired in 2019, is paying \$40 million to the Federal Trade Commission as part of settlement related to events that took place several years ago, according to an announcement from the company.

The settlement stems from charges by the FTC that alleged First Data was "knowingly involved in payment processing and credit card laundering for scams that harmed hundreds of thousands of consumers," according to Reuters. Per Fiserv's announcement, the isolated business practices occurred between 2012 and 2014.

Fiserv (Nasdaq: FISV) released the following statement Tuesday:

"This agreed resolution, which relates to a single U.S.-based ISO (independent sales organization) within the wholesale channel, is in the best interest of First Data Merchant Services, our clients and their customers, and consumers. We remain committed to ensuring that our business partners and merchants operate with integrity, and our enhanced practices will enable us to continue to lead the industry in fraud prevention, and business and consumer protection. Resolving this matter allows us to remain focused on serving our clients and their customers with excellence, and supporting our associates during this critical time."

Fiserv, a payments and financial services technology company, acquired New York-based First Data Corp. in a \$22 billion all-stock acquisition deal.

The FTC will use the settlement money to provide refunds to consumers who may have been harmed, according to the announcement. As part of the agreement, First Data Merchant Services will "further enhance its rigorous wholesale ISO compliance and oversight program by putting in place additional oversight and monitoring activities."

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Fiserv Inc. headquarters in Brookfield