

Charlie Fote
Retired Chairman and CEO, First Data Corporation

Charlie Fote was chairman and Chief Executive Officer of First Data. He was made president and Chief operating Officer in 1998 and he assumed the title of Chief Executive Officer on Jan. 1, 2002. He was named Chairman effective Jan 1, 2003.

Fote had executive management responsibility for the overall strategy and operations of First Data, including the company's three primary business areas:

- Payment Services: Western Union Financial Services, Orlandi Valuta and ValueLink
- Merchant Services: First Data merchant and Debit Services, the STAR network, Primary Payment Systems, TeleCash and Cashcard
- Card Issuing Services: First Data Resources, First Data Healthcare and First Data Hellas

Fote joined First Data, then owned by American Express, in 1975. He became Vice president – Finance & planning with American Express Money Order Division in 1981, and executive Vice President of American Express Travel Related Services' Data Based Services Group in 1985. He served as President of First Data's integrated Payment Systems subsidiary in Englewood from 1989 until 1991 when he was promoted to Executive Vice President, First Data Corporation. In that role, he was responsible for the Payment Services businesses and in 1997 added the merchant Services businesses. In 1998, he was named President and Chief Operating Officer of First Data. Before joining First Data, Fote was Vice president of operations for Framingham trust. He attended Central Connecticut State University.

Fote has been an active member of the Business Council, a voluntary association of national business leaders exchanging ideas to generate greater understanding of major public policy issues and to create consensus for solutions.