

Instant Payments Data Optimization Work Group Charter

Mission & Scope

Facilitate a collaborative effort among financial institutions, service providers, and payments associations to establish and promote best practices for data accuracy in instant payments, ensuring a smooth and secure transition from traditional to instant payments.

Objectives & Goals

- Identify and mitigate data challenges including the use of member IDs, outdated account information, and incorrect identifiers, across instant payment transactions.
- Facilitate collaboration to develop and implement solutions that address both current "bandaid" fixes in traditional payments and prevent new issues from arising while adopting instant payments.
- Address the unique challenges of credit unions and community banks, and their use of member IDs for their customers' access to instant payments.
- Analyze current practices in traditional payments to identify best practices for instant payments.
- Identify and address the root causes of data inaccuracies, including the sources of incorrect information (e.g., checkbook use, reliance on member IDs).
- Provide guidance and resources to educate stakeholders on best practices for data accuracy in instant payments.

Deliverables & Timeframes

- Conduct an inventory of data challenges in instant payments, categorize and prioritize them based on frequency and impact.
- Investigate the root causes of data challenges in instant payments by identifying the sources of incorrect information and analyzing systemic issues within payment processes.
- Establish and prioritize ongoing efforts of the work group and benefit instant payments ecosystem including communication channels (e.g., forums and surveys) to gather feedback. Continuously monitor industry developments and refine best practices to maintain relevancy and effectiveness.
- Evaluate temporary solutions ("bandaids") used in traditional payments to address data inaccuracies and recommend improvements and best practices for short-term mitigation in instant payments.
- Develop a toolkit of best practices for ensuring data accuracy in instant payments that address the unique challenges faced by credit unions and community banks.
- Create targeted educational materials, such as webinars and case studies, tailored to the specific needs of financial institutions, service providers, payments associations, credit unions, and community banks. These resources will incorporate insights from 'voice of the customer' from real-world challenges and demonstrate the business case for adopting recommended improvements within instant payments.

Membership Criteria

Members with an understanding of either the strategic implications of data quality in payments or hands-on experience with operational challenges related to data anomalies, customer experience in digital flows, and internal processes that impact data accuracy. Experience in instant payments, payment networks, and financial messaging. Data analysis skills and ability to develop solutions for data optimization. Representation from a wide range of stakeholders (financial institutions, payment processors, technology providers, fintechs, industry associations). Experience in cross-functional projects and a commitment to actionable outcomes for the benefit of the payments industry.

The FPC is the industry's only membership organization solely focused on advancing, securing, and supporting adoption of ubiquitous faster payments.

