

Visa Flexible Credential Mastercard One Credential

28-Jul-2025

LIVE NEWS

Visa Flexible Credential

Launch of Visa's "Flexible Credential" for SMBC Bank's "Olive Flexible Pay"

Visa's Flexible Credential Goes Live in US With Affirm and Cross-Border With UAE's Liv

Visa announces key partnerships with Klarna, Zilch to launch flexible debit cards

Visa Rolls Out Flex Credential in Vietnam for Flexible Payment Options

Flex Credential can also support loyalty point redemption and, in some markets, access to multiple currency accounts through a single card.



Partners

- Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. (May 2024, Japan, "Olive Card")
- Affirm + Evolve Bank (Nov 2024, U.S., "Affirm Card")
- Liv (Nov 2024, UAE)

BY PYMNTS | NOVEMBER 12, 2024

- Klarna + WebBank (June 2025, U.S. & Europe, "Klarna Card")
- Asia Commercial Joint Stock Bank (June 2025, Vietnam)

What is the industry doing?

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Mastercard One Credential

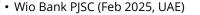


Mastercard rolls out One Credential for multiple scheduled checkout choices

i2c Partners with Mastercard to Deliver Personalized Payment
Options with One Credential

Mastercard and PayPal partner with 'One Credential' initiative

BY ALEX ROLFE JUNE 09, 2025 CONTRACTS



Integrated but not yet any live announcements:

 Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Group (Australia), Episode Six, Galileo, i2c, Lithic, Marqeta, PayPal

How does it work?

How is it used?

Single Credential Access links one primary credential to one or more secondary credentials representing alternate funding sources. The primary credential is the PAN presented at checkout, while the secondary credential determines the actual source of funds. Cardholders can toggle between eligible secondary credentials in real time, enabling debit, credit, instalment, or rewards to be accessed through the same primary credential.

Use case examples

- 1. A freelancer buys an \$8 latte and wants it charged to their checking account instead of credit. With Single Credential Access, they set a rule to route coffee purchases (rule based on MCC) under \$10 (and Amount) to their checking account.
- 2. A shopper buys a \$400 laptop online. Since the cardholder set a rule for purchases over \$300 (rule base on Amount), the Single Credential Access auto-selects BNPL (e.g., Affirm, Klarna), splits it into four \$100 payments, and shows the schedule.

How is it managed?

The payment network establishes Single Credential Access programs for specific product types (e.g., debit, credit, BNPL) that function as the primary credential, the programs defined depend on the specific region and countries. **A primary credential is a credential issued to a Cardholder from a BIN dedicated** to one of the Single Credential Access programs (e.g., Visa Traditional Debit for a debit program).

How are credentials identified?

Merchants can identify whether a credential is part of a Single Credential Access program by using BIN-level indicators available through BIN tables, APIs, or Acquirer-managed routing tables.

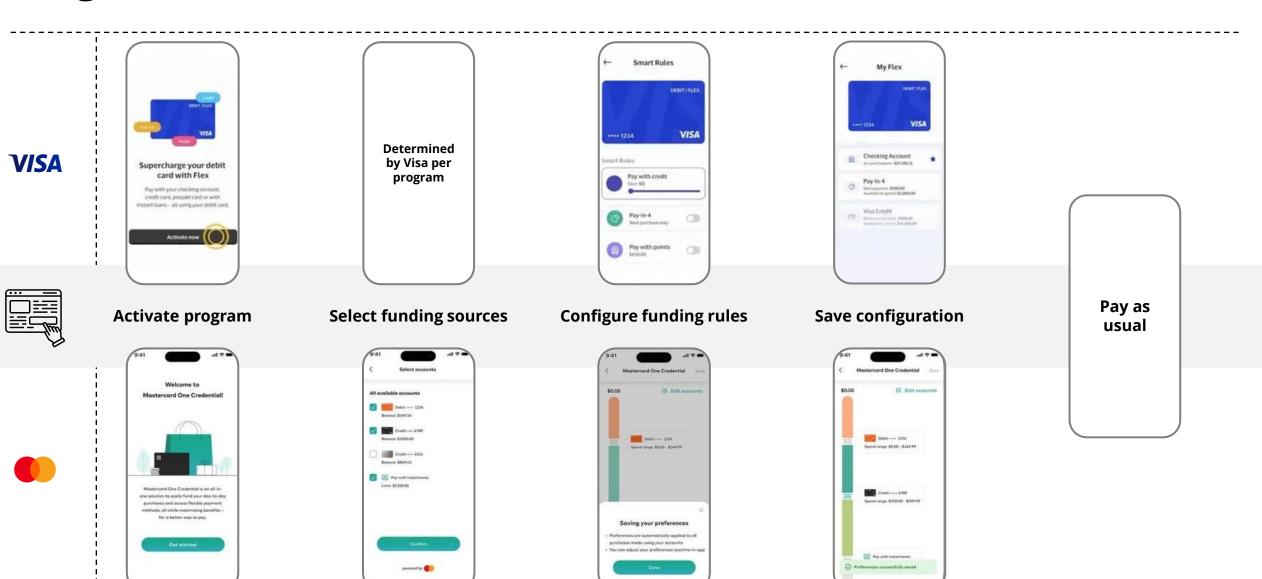
How is the funding source determined?

Some Merchants may not accept all funding sources. To prevent obtaining a positive authorization response for an unsupported funding source, **merchants can use a zero-amount (authorization) specific request using the primary credential** along with an eligibility processing code. The response returns the secondary credential's Account Funding Source and Product ID, allowing the merchant to determine whether the funding source is supported before proceeding to full authorization.

How is the interchange calculated?

For Single Credential access programs, **interchange is calculated based on the secondary credential, the actual funding source** selected by the cardholder for a particular transaction.

What does it look like?



Enrollment API Issuer App Rules API Rules storage Primary credential + Primary credential Primary credential secondary credential Primary credential + Primary credential + Primary credential + secondary attributes² secondary attributes² secondary credential **Credential Swap** Primary credential + Primary credential + secondary attributes² secondary attributes² Secondary credential Clearing ¹(Optional) product eligibility authorization ²Secondary attributes contains funding product ID but not the PAN

Functional steps

- 1 Card Enrollment
 - Issuer enrolls the card, tokenizes the PAN, and links secondary credentials via APIs.
- 2 Validation

Network validates and returns a reference, completing enrollment.

Rule Configuration

Cardholder sets funding rules. Issuer submits rule objects with triggers and target secondary credentials.

4 Rule Activation

Network stores and activates each rule and returns active rules.

5 Payment Initiation

Cardholder presents the primary credential (PAN or token).

6 Authorization

Per funding rules, network swaps primary and secondary credentials. Issuer authorizes. Network sends attributes of the secondary credential to the acquirer.

7 Clearing Submission

Merchant sends primary credential and secondary attributes in the batch.

8 Clearing Match

Network matches data to the authorization and clears with the secondary credential.

Settlement

Network uses secondary credential attributes to calculate fees and settle.

What are the key points to consider?

Dedicated program BINs

The primary credential must be issued from a BIN designated by the network for the applicable program (e.g., debit, credit, BNPL). Only the underlying PAN may be used as the primary credential. Tokens or virtual card numbers (VCNs) are not permitted in the role of primary credential. However, transactions can still be initiated with the tokenized version of the primary credential.

Definition of secondary attributes

Each credential, whether primary or secondary has one or more of the following attributes:

- 1. Account Range: Identifies the credential usage type based on the BIN, e.g., Consumer, Commercial, BNPL, etc.
- 2. Acceptance Brand: Indicates the payment network product type, e.g., Visa Traditional, Visa Signature, Maestro, etc.
- **3. Funding Source:** Indicates the type of funding associated with the credential, e.g., Credit, Debit, Prepaid, etc.
- **4. Account Level Management (ALM) Data:** Indicates the ALM data that may be associated with the credential, e.g., service code, product code, product class, etc.

Integration with ALM

ALM data (or attributes) are especially important if, for example, the secondary credential is a credit funding source with a default product type of Visa Traditional but has been upgraded via ALM to Visa Signature while still leveraging the Visa Traditional PAN. Based on this PAN the credential without the additional ALM data would classify for a lower interchange bracket (Traditional) while in practice it should be higher (Signature).

Rule configuration deployment model

From a payment network there are two deployment models for rule configuration:

- Managed Model: Rule configuration is stored and checked during the authorization by the payment network.
- Self-Serve Model: Rule configuration is stored and checked during the authorization by the Issuer.

Rule configuration parameters

Cardholders may configure "funding source routing" rules in their Issuer application using the following (or combination) parameters:

- Amount thresholds, e.g., purchases above \$500 will be charged to the Credit secondary credential.
- Days of the month, e.g., purchases after the 21st day of the month are charged to the Debit secondary credential.
- Merchant Category Codes, e.g., purchases at British Airways are charged to the Installment plan secondary credential.
- Merchant rules, e.g., purchases at a particular restaurant are charged to the Prepaid secondary credential.

Business Considerations

Market Signals

- Visa and Mastercard have introduced their Single Credential Access programs.
- SMBC, Visa's first implementation partner, has already issued ~5 million Olive cards using Visa Flexible Credential since May 2024.
- Majority of consumers are accustomed to have several payment cards and choose between them.

Threats

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