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## **DISCLAIMER**

The views expressed during this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Central Bank of Aruba.





## **Aruba figures**

- ► Population of 120,000
- ► Annually more than 2 million stay-over and cruise tourists
- ► Real GDP: Afl. 26,300 per capita (2018) (~USD 14,600)
- ▶ 90% of GDP is related to tourism
- Centrale Bank van Aruba
- ► ~100 employees



## Current payment hassle ...

Pos machines overpopulate countertops, cards don't always work with all Pos machines, no easy way to pay bills online, e-commerce through local bank accounts not possible, processing and settlement of local bank transfers can take days and are very costly and not transparent..



## ... turns into a vision

There will be <u>one</u> payment rails for <u>domestic</u> (<u>florin</u>) <u>payments</u>, available wherever you go, through any device, on- or offline. Government payments, utility bills, vendor invoices, and small shops and restaurant payments - all leveraging the modernized instant payment infrastructure.



## Some thoughts on why...

- Catalyst function
- Financial inclusion
- Account to account
- ▶ Local denomination (Afl.)
- ► Typical use cases that are lacking in the local market
- Payments is becoming more and more a utility function, like water, electricity and internet access
- Current ACH system is outdated, will not be supported per Feb 2020
- Bahamas: "Spur economic activity"
- ► ECCB: "Commercial banks have not shown much interest"



## Value proposition

#### **FAST**

the usability should be as quick as (near) real-time, which is in line with international developments.

#### **FREE**

the solution should be significantly cheaper and more workable for the users than the current payment rails, and also free of hassle.

## **FLEXIBLE**

for innovations to be quickly adopted and for the users to be able to change service providers, if so desired.

#### **FAIR**

the costs and fees involved should be transparent to consumers and merchants, and all participants should be treated fairly.

#### **FUTURE-PROOF**

as to ensure that the infrastructure in place is safe and secure, and ready for the coming decade.





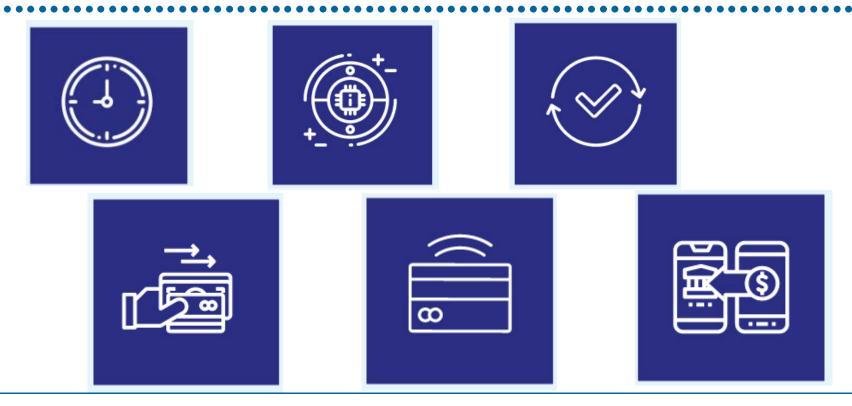
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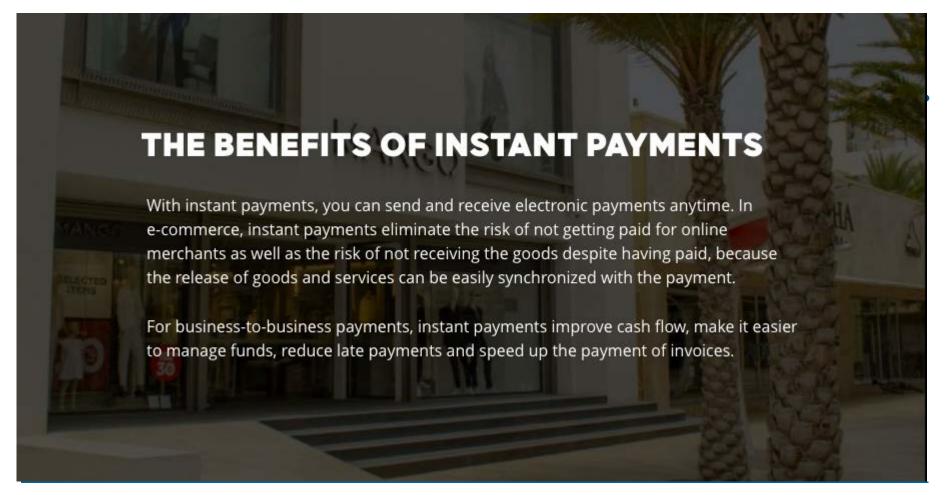


CBA provides the rails and framework, but further innovation is a responsibility of the Commercial Banks and/or PSP's.



## **Instant Payments**







## The first phase of the project - the basic use case

#### Go-Live: January 2020

After implementation in January 2020, the participants should be able to:

- process individual credit transfers (SCTInst):
  - accept and process SCTInst payment orders (as Originating bank);
  - receive and validate SCTInst payment orders (as Beneficiary bank)
- process received batch payments into individual credit transfers (SCTInst);
- send a confirmation message to the originator or beneficiary client;
- process all messages according to the scheme rules (format, timelines, availability);
- Scheme is in accordance to ISO 20022 international payments standards.



## The CBA IP CSM

#### The participating banks



- CBA Clearing System not physically in Aruba:
  - The system is hosted in Amsterdam/ Aalsmeer, The Netherlands.
  - CBA will manage and will remain owner of all data.
- No more batch files: individual payment messages.

- Incoming and outgoing messages: ISO 20022 compliant.
- Adaptation of internal systems to realize Instant Payments.
- Possibilities for automatic reconciliation.



## Challenges of the CBA IP CSM project

- Not all the banks immediately grasped the context and immensity of the CBA IP CSM project, which resulted in a variation in delivered project efforts in the first period.
- ► There were quite some changes within the project teams of some of the banks and vendors.
- ▶ Decision making at some of the banks is sometimes quite cumbersome; this had a much greater impact on project timelines that originally estimated.
- ▶ The IT impact (planning & development) proved to be less smooth as originally estimated.
- ➤ The development of the Aruban payment infrastructure did not have the same status on the priority lists of all the banks.

As a result, the project go-live date had to be postponed a few times.











## **End goals**

## Leapfrog the state of Aruba's payment infrastructure

The ambition set by the CBA is to upgrade the Aruban payment infrastructure and to leapfrog it into a Caribbean frontrunner.

#### Beneficial to all stakeholders

All stakeholders/users of the Aruban payment infrastructure must benefit from the modernized payment system.

## **CBA** has an oversight role

The CBA will perform oversight over the modernized payment system.





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New Telegraph Newspaper - 7 hours ago

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The Financial Brand - Nov 18, 2019

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# Go-Live: January 18, 2020

## Thank you for your attention

► Any questions?







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