



(a) What are the different settlement models in wholesale payment systems?

Briefly describe the advantages and disadvantages of each model.

△ Settlement Models in Wholesale Payment Systems

Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS)

Hybrid Settlement System Net Settlement System

- Bilateral Multilateral
- Deferred

- Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS)
 - Processing and final settlement occur on a continuous basis throughout the processing day in real time
- Each payment is processed individually
- An RTGS system is generally used for large-value interbank funds transfers operated and organized by a country's central bank
- Examples: FedWire (US), CHAPS (Britain), TARGET2 (EU), CHATS (HK), SIC (Switzerland), MEPS+ (SG)

Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS)

Advantages	Reduces Herstatt risk (Settlement risk) as the inter-bank settlement occurs instantaneously Payments are final, irrevocable and unconditional hence not subject to reversals RTGS leaves a smaller window of time for critical information to be vulnerable, thus mitigates cybersecurity threats
Disadvantages	Banks need to hold a large amount of money with the central bank, as each transaction could be very large RTGS often incurs a higher charge than net settlement processes

Net Settlement System

- Bilateral Net Settlement System
 - Payments are settled between any 2 banks.

Multilateral Net Settlement System

- Transfers received by a bank are offset against those that are sent out, with the system as a whole, rather than with an individual bank.
- Eq Old CHIPS
- Deferred Net Settlement System
 - Payment obligations can be deferred to be paid at a later time, based on the agreement between the parties involved.

- Transactions between banks are netted
- Transaction data is forwarded to clearing house
- Clearing house processes, clears and settles all transactions



- Banks with net debit positions make payments
- Banks with net credit positions receive payments

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Net Settlement System

Smaller amounts need to be held as regular netting allows parties to only transfer the net amounts Allows banks to better manage their liquidity Not real time, finality is achieved only upon completion of settlement Less beneficial to small banks due to small volumes of continuous netting (becomes a delayed RTGS) Exposes participants to greater risk as they extend large volume of payment-related intraday credit to each other Cash flow problems can arise when some member banks fail to pay by the agreed-upon due date

Hybrid Settlement System

Eq New CHIPS

Advantages

- Combines features of RTGS and Net Settlement System
- Achieve liquidity savings (by netting participants' positions)
- Limit payment system risk (intraday finality by providing for settlement throughout the processing day)



(b) What is CHIPS? Describe how CHIPS operates?

What is CHIPS?

Clearing House Interbank Payments System (CHIPS)

- Hybrid system within US
- Primary clearing house in the U.S. for large banking transactions
- · Privately owned by a consortium of FI
- CHIPS acts as a netting engine that provides both clearing and settlement services to its customer banks → payments between parties are netted against each other instead of the full dollar value of both trades being sent

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How CHIPS Operate?

2 Steps in Processing Fund Transfers:

• Clearing	Transfer and confirmation of information between the payer (sending financial institution) and payee (receiving financial institution)
Settlement	institution and payee's financial institution Settlement discharge obligation of payer financial institution to payee's financial institution with respect to the payment order Final settlement are irrevocable and unconditional

How CHIPS Operate?

- Payment messages may be credit or debit transfers
- Most large-value funds transfer systems are credit transfer systems in which both
 payment messages and funds move from the payer financial institution to the
 payee financial institution
- Institution transmits a payment order to initiate a funds transfer
- Process of Payment Order for large value payment system:

Identification Reconciliation Confirmation

 Financial institution may contract with one or more third parties to help perform clearing and settlement activities

How CHIPS Operate?

- CHIPS provide intraday payment finality through a real-time system
- Payment Settlement either individually, bilateral netting or multilateral netting
- Payments with No Match: Payment not made till end of the day but is final as soon as it is made
- How Do Participants Facilitating Intraday Payments:

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- Pre-fund CHIPS account by depositing certain amount between 12.30 and 9:00 am
- Size of deposit is calculated weekly based on size of bank's recent CHIPS transactions
- No withdrawal during the day



End of Day

- CHIPS uses deposit to settle any still-unsettled transactions
- Final prefunding period: Negative closing position has to be made up within 30 minutes
- to be made up within 30 minutes
 Otherwise payments unsettled must be settled outside of CHIPS
- Banks with positive closing position will receive amount in the form of fedwire payments
- CHIPS recently added electronic data interchange (EDI) capability which allow transmission of business information for payment along with their electronic funds transfers



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(c) In what ways is CHIPS different from the RTGS Fedwire?

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CHIPS and RTGS Fedwire

- Both are competitors as settlement systems
- However, CHIPS is not just a competitor of Fedwire
- CHIPS is also a customer of Fedwire
- CHIPS pre-funding and ultimate CHIPS settlements are done over Fedwire

CHIPS and RTGS Fedwire

CHIPS	RTGS Fedwire
Hybrid settlement system	Gross settlement system
Delayed due to netting, hence suited for transactions that are not time-sensitive	Real time as transactions are processed individually, hence suited for transactions that are time sensitive
Less expensive charges	More expensive charges
Less funding required	More funding required
Privately owned by a consortium of financial institutions	Operated by the Federal Reserve
~50 member participants	~50,000 member banks

