

Visa Expands Stablecoin Settlement Capabilities to Merchant Acquirers

9/05/2023

Following a Crypto.com issuer pilot, Visa expands stablecoin settlement capabilities with Circle's USDC, adding pilot programs with merchant acquirers Worldpay and Nuvei, and utilizing the Solana blockchain.

SAN FRANCISCO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Sep. 5, 2023-- Visa (NYSE: V), a global leader in payments, announced its next step in modernizing cross-border money movement. Visa is expanding its stablecoin settlement capabilities to the high-performing Solana blockchain and is working with merchant acquirers Worldpay and Nuvei.

Through live pilots with issuers and acquirers, Visa has already moved millions of USDC between its partners over the Solana and Ethereum blockchain networks to settle fiat-denominated payments authorized over VisaNet.

When consumers use Visa cards to make a purchase at any of the millions of Visa-accepting merchant locations around the world, they can experience the convenience of nearly instant payment authorizations. But what they don't see is that the funds used for their purchase need to move between their bank (the issuer) and the merchant's bank (the acquirer). This is where Visa's treasury and settlement systems enable the clearing, settlement and movement of billions in transactions a day, making sure the correct amount in the preferred currency is received from the issuer and sent to the acquirer. This process happens seamlessly between nearly 15K financial institutions and across more than 25 currencies globally.

"By leveraging stablecoins like USDC and global blockchain networks like Solana and Ethereum, we're helping to improve the speed of cross-border settlement and providing a modern option for our clients to easily send or receive funds from Visa's treasury," said Cuy Sheffield, Head of Crypto, Visa. "Visa is committed to being on the forefront of digital currency and blockchain innovation and leveraging these new technologies to help improve the way we move money."

Building on the [Crypto.com](#) Pilot

In 2021, Visa began testing how USDC could be used inside its treasury operations which led to a pilot with Crypto.com, making Visa one of the first major payments networks to test stablecoin settlement on the issuance side. This work led to a [successful pilot](#) leveraging USDC and the Ethereum blockchain to receive payments from Crypto.com for cross-border volume on their live card program in Australia. Crypto.com now uses USDC to fulfill its settlement obligations on the Visa card in Australia and intends to roll out this capability in other markets.

Before that pilot, settlement for cross-border purchases made on [Crypto.com](#) Visa cards required a days-long currency conversion process and costly international wire transfers. Now, Crypto.com can send USDC cross-border over the Ethereum blockchain directly to a Visa treasury managed Circle account which helps reduce the time and complexity of international wire transfers.

"We are excited about the USDC use cases Visa and its partners are driving to create fundamental blockchain innovation," said Jeremy Allaire, Co-founder and CEO, Circle. "Circle built USDC to provide a functional digital dollar that could move at the speed of the internet to facilitate secure, reliable payments. Expanding the pilot exemplifies how pairing USDC with Visa's innovation opens up the future of payments, commerce and financial applications."

Moving from Issuers to Acquirers

While Visa's treasury operation continues to test receiving funds onchain from multiple issuer partners, with these new settlement options Visa can send funds onchain to acquirers like Worldpay and Nuvei to help speed up settlement times for their merchants.

Worldpay and Nuvei are global acquirers serving merchants worldwide from a diverse range of sectors. This includes a growing number of merchants interacting with the blockchain and crypto economy including on-ramp providers, games, and NFT marketplaces who may prefer to receive stablecoins over traditional fiat currencies for the card payments they accept. Using Visa’s own Circle account, Visa can now manage settlement payouts in USDC to Worldpay and Nuvei who can then route these payments in USDC to their end merchants.

Adding Support for the Solana Blockchain Network

As Visa looked to expand this capability to additional clients, there has been significant demand to leverage newer, high performance blockchains that can send and receive stablecoins with higher speed and lower costs. For these reasons, Visa chose to add support for Solana as a high performance blockchain that its partners can choose to send or receive USDC settlement payments. This makes Visa one of the first major payments companies at scale to directly utilize Solana for live settlement payments between its clients. The Solana blockchain sees 400 millisecond block times, averages 400 transactions per second (TPS) and typically surges to more than 2K TPS¹ across a variety of use cases during periods of peak demand.

Forging New Partnerships

With an eye towards the future in an increasingly digital financial landscape, Visa is forging ahead with new partnerships and embracing the innovative potential of digital currencies. Visa’s work with Worldpay and Nuvei represents a significant stride in this direction.

“Visa's USDC settlement capability enables Worldpay to bring more of our treasury operations in-house and allows us to offer merchants more choices for receiving funds,” said Jim Johnson, President of Worldpay Merchant Solutions, FIS. “Diversifying funding options and increasing flexibility is critical to serving the changing needs of global merchants in today’s rapidly evolving commerce landscape.”

“Stablecoins like USDC are cutting edge payments technology that can enable online businesses around the world to accelerate their growth,” said Philip Fayer, Chair and CEO, Nuvei. “Optimizing cross-border transactions is only one use case where stablecoins can benefit businesses. As a leading global payments company, we are constantly focused on innovation, and we’re excited to work with Visa to bring these capabilities to our partners.”

About Visa






Visa (NYSE: V) is a world leader in digital payments, facilitating transactions between consumers, merchants, financial institutions and government entities across more than 200 countries and territories. Our mission is to connect the world through the most innovative, convenient, reliable and secure payments network, enabling individuals, businesses and economies to thrive. We believe that economies that include everyone everywhere, uplift everyone everywhere and see access as foundational to the future of money movement. Learn more at [Visa.com](https://www.visa.com).

¹ Blockchain explorer, Solscan. Numbers include real TPS, excluding voting TPS. [Link](#).

View source version on [businesswire.com](https://www.businesswire.com):
<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20230905549860/en/>

Jackie Dresch - jdresch@visa.com

Source: Visa Inc.

About Visa	Our Values	News + Media	Support	Legal + Privacy
Leading by Example 	Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability 	Newsroom	Support Center	Legal
What We Do 	Social Impact	Visa Perspectives 	Lost or Stolen Visa	Privacy Notice
Careers		Visa Navigate 	Gift Card Balance	Cookie Preferences 