

STAR® Expedited Transfer Service

Consumers are increasingly interested in account-to-account (A2A) transfers, especially using the Internet, and financial institutions need a competitive advantage to meet that demand. The STAR® Network now offers real-time A2A transfers through our STAR Expedited Transfer Service. STAR members can offer a fast, secure and convenient way for their customers to fund their own online accounts and to send money to other STAR account holders.

How Does It Work?

Real-time money transfers can be initiated by the customer through the Internet, ATM or IVR. Expedited Transfer (formerly Funds Transfer) transactions are processed in real time, so the customer receives confirmation at the time of the request. Customers can also have the option to set up STAR transfers on a recurring basis.

There are two separate transactions that participants can use to facilitate transfers as part of this service:

The Credit transaction is a “credit push” (outbound transfer) from a customer’s online banking account that will add funds to a STAR card held at another STAR Member financial institution. The customer can send funds to his own STAR card, or to another person’s STAR card. For example, a customer could use this premium service to send immediate funds to a family member at another financial institution.

The Debit transaction is used by the customer to pull money from his or her own STAR card, held by another financial institution, into his or her online banking account. For example, a new customer could transfer funds into his or her online banking account during the account opening process.

Why Expedited Transfers?

Expedited Transfer transactions are already established and supported by all STAR issuers who receive STAR POS transactions. STAR Members who want to offer optional transfer services to their own customers will need to notify STAR and certify their ability to generate these transactions as an Acquirer. Participants can be STAR Member financial institutions, brokerage firms sponsored by a STAR Member or state-licensed money transmitters who are also sponsored by a STAR Member. Sponsorship agreements may be required, and all participants must review and abide by all Operating Rules applicable to the service.

The STAR Expedited Transfer service may provide the following benefits:

Customer Retention and Satisfaction

- Offer convenient real-time transactions and account balance updates not possible with ACH transfers
- Improve online banking value via addition of convenient service
- Increase new account opening satisfaction using real-time funding via the customer’s external STAR card
- Enable customers to transfer funds instantly to other STAR account holders

Revenue

- The financial institution can offer as a premium service, providing an expedited option complementary to traditional ACH transfers
- Source of new funds and faster new account activation for the initiating financial institution through real-time debits
- Decrease in exception handling for ACH or paper check transactions
- Additional interchange revenue for the issuing financial institution
- Faster source of new funds for the receiving financial institution through real-time credits
- Settlement and interchange structure already in place

Security and Peace of Mind

- Customer initiating credits and debits must enroll with the financial institution and meet the financial institution's "know your customer" requirements
- Financial institution authenticates the initiating customer on every transaction and assumes liability for unauthorized transfers
- Card number is masked and securely encrypted
- Transfer amount limits established and followed by the initiating financial institution
- Reasonable risk management guidelines must apply

A Global Leader in Electronic Commerce

First Data powers the global economy by making it easy, fast and secure for people and businesses around the world to buy goods and services using virtually any form of payment. Serving millions of merchant locations and thousands of card issuers, we have the expertise and insight to help you accelerate your business. Put our intelligence to work for you.

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