OPEN BANKING AND THE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

Open banking via APIs allows companies to access customer data to provide new products and services. It can enable less costly, more inclusive, higher quality services, while increasing convenience, speed, and competition. However, the state of open banking in the United States can create challenges for customers wishing to use these services. Let’s take a look...

1. SIGN UP & INITIATE SERVICE

The customer requests that a company provide a service such as online payments, wealth management tools, or account information services.

2. AUTHENTICATE IDENTITY

The customer may be redirected to the data provider to authenticate their identity. Businesses employ many authentication methods. Often, customers navigate these windows with ease. However, confusing user interfaces may deter some customers.

3. AUTHORIZE DATA SHARING

The customer authorizes the data provider to send data to the recipient. The customer sees options why it’s necessary for the data recipient’s service. Providers, recipients, and DAPs must work together to ensure the customer stays informed.

4. PROVIDE SERVICE

The recipient uses the data to provide the requested service to the customer. Open banking can empower customers but must be easy to use and understand. Stakeholders should clarify what data will be collected, which activities require consent. This data sharing is enabled by DAPs, the intermediary services that provide access typically through APIs. In the future, in some circumstances, recipients may send data back to providers.

PAIN POINTS

NOTICE AND CONSENT

Current rules do not address many issues about which parties provide notice and collect consent, or about which activities require consent. This leads to inconsistency, over or under data collection, and less transparency about uses.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTIES

Open banking involves multiple parties. However, these parties’ roles and responsibilities remain unclear, creating uncertainties and friction. Coordination by appropriate regulators could help reduce uncertainty and prevent inconsistent oversight mechanisms and rules.

SECONDARY DATA USES

Customers may be surprised by how parties use their data beyond the original (primary) purpose. These secondary uses pose customer risks given the sensitivity of financial data. Rules should require consent for secondary uses.

DATA RETENTION

Customers may expect their data to be deleted upon request or when the service ends. Conversely, companies often have legal obligations to keep data. Regulators should consider rules for retention and deletion, which are currently unclear.

CUSTOMER SERVICE AND TERMINATIONS

Without clear roles and responsibilities, customers may not know who to consult to fix issues. It is unclear how parties should communicate changes with one another, or when to cease use of customers’ data.

CUSTOMER

Individuals who want a digital financial service.

DATA PROVIDERS

Companies like banks or card issuers that hold customer financial data.

DATA ACCESS PLATFORMS (DAP)

Intermediaries that support data flows between data recipients and data providers.

DATA RECIPIENTS

Companies that need customer data to provide requested services.

NOTE: This infographic is for illustrative purposes only and does not represent actual data.