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How Banking APIs Are Revolutionizing
PAYMENTS

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Taking The Pain Out Of Payments

Treasuries can save time and reduce costs by automating money movement through direct connections with banks.

Payments are the gears that empower our economy to continuously function. As a necessary part of doing business, they enable companies to operate, transact and invest.

At the same time, payments are a big business in themselves. Billions of transactions take place globally every year, with over 70 billion real-time payments alone being processed in 2020. In fact, research by consultancy McKinsey has found that global payment revenues for that year totaled $1.9 trillion.

Today, many treasuries are either using a plethora of bank portals to initiate their payments or working with expensive, financial intermediaries.

Neither of these options are treasurers' preferred way of managing payments. Instead, their ambition is to move their money end-to-end from their bank accounts by logging in to a single platform. They want to transfer funds simply, securely, and costeffectively, while maintaining full visibility over the process.

In this guide, you'll discover how your treasury can do just that.

The Challenges With Payments

Treasuries are responsible for ensuring that their own organization's payments are made to the right beneficiary, via the right bank account, for the right amount, within the right time frame.

Smooth execution and transparency are vital given the immense sums of money and tight deadlines that are often involved. Unfortunately, however, the process of making a payment today can be cumbersome, time-consuming, overly bureaucratic, and riddled with uncertainty.

Treasuries that initiate their own payments typically have different logins and authentication devices for all the banks and organizations they partner with. They are also required to send individual payment files to individual banks. As a result, they may spend many hours connecting to, and monitoring, multiple bank portals. What's more, the manual payments they initiate via these portals generally have slow settlement times and are vulnerable to human error.

Alternatively, treasuries may use financial intermediaries, such as payment solutions providers, to help them process their payments. While these intermediaries can ease treasuries' workloads, they charge substantial fees – fees that dent the organization's bottom line.
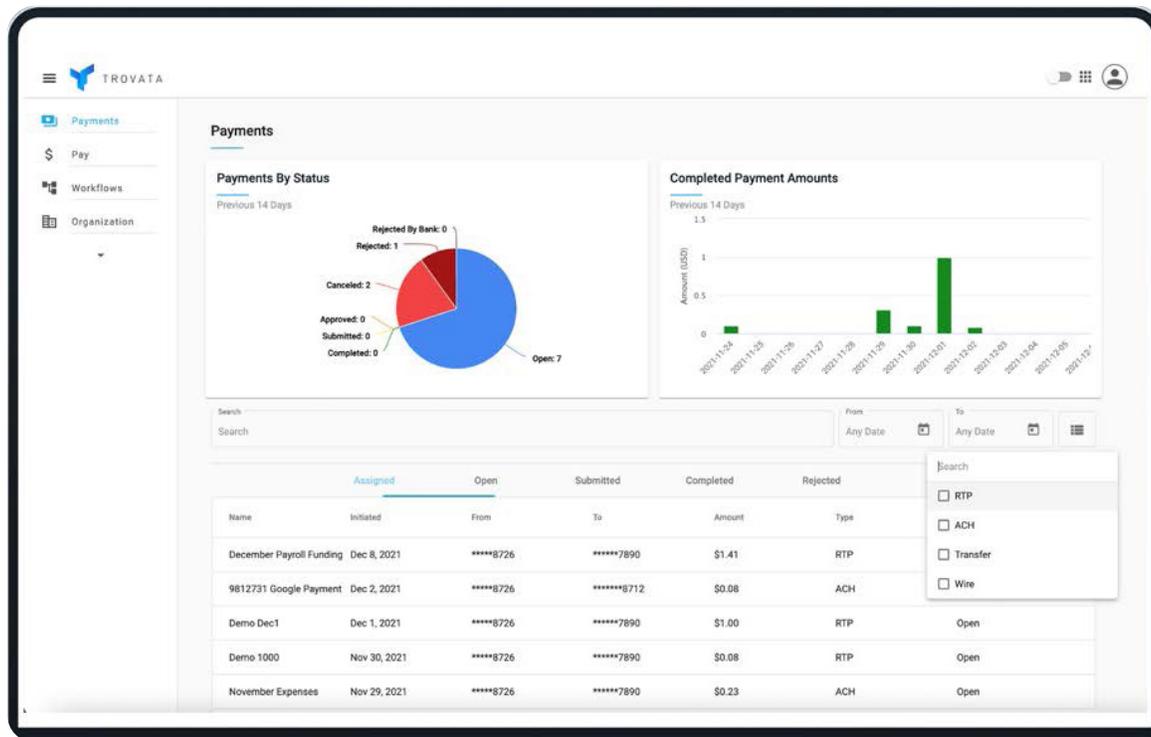
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On top of the hefty administration involved with making payments, inefficient tracking capabilities limit treasuries' ability to gain transparency around the transfer of funds. This leads to them investing valuable time in follow-up.

Treasuries are clear about the pain that payments cause to both them and their organizations. According to research by the EuroFinance Corporate Treasury Network and SWIFT, over half of corporate treasurers globally (54%) believe it can be extremely challenging to trace payments in the event of problems with cross-border payments. Meanwhile, 47% are frustrated by their inability to predict the total cost of a transaction.

The fact of the matter is, managing payments is a problem. Or at least it was – until now.

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Introducing The Trovata Payments App

Trovata, a global leader in automating cash workflows through wholesale, multibank API data aggregation, has developed a new app to take the pain out of payments. The Payments App empowers treasuries and other finance professionals to make payments quickly, easily, and cost-effectively in their secure, automated cash management platform.

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With the Payments App, you have direct access to your banks' payment rails – including ACH, wire, book transfers, and next-gen Real-Time Payments – through Trovata's secure web and mobile platforms. Trovata integrates directly with banks' APIs to send account and beneficiary information directly to bank partners, eliminating the need to use financial intermediaries to process payments. Simply log in to the Trovata platform to initiate sending payments across multiple banks.

With customizable payment workflows and templates, the Payments App supports robust governance and security by ensuring that payments adhere to your company's signature authority matrix, treasury policy, and internal controls. Administrators can assign specific users as either preparers, reviewers, approvers, and/or releasers, and provide custom rules for each step of the workflow. Trovata keeps a log of all of these steps, simplifying the auditing process. You will also find it straightforward to create and administer payment templates and workflows for approving, tracking, and logging payments.

Payment Types

1. Real-Time Payments (RTP)

Send funds to and from accounts within the RTP network up to a maximum limit of $100,000. RTP is immediate and secure, but it is not offered by all banks yet. The sender receives a confirmation when funds have reached the beneficiary's bank account. Settlement is nearly instantaneous.

2. Book Transfers

Transfer funds from one account to another within the same institution. Cheap and secure, but can only be used to transfer funds between accounts held with a single institution. Settlement is within minutes.

3. ACH

Initiate a payment via ACH, which is a cheap, reliable, and secure way of making recurring direct deposits and payments. Settlement is usually within one to three business days.

4. Wire Transfer

Initiate a domestic wire transfer to send funds to a beneficiary from a Trovata supported account. An immediate, secure and reliable option for making an urgent transfer. High fees mean that wires are not usually suitable for large amounts of transactions. Settlement is final and within minutes.

Payment Dashboard

Your payments dashboard can be quickly and easily accessed from your main Trovata dashboard. It provides a summary of all your payments with supported banks – including J.P. Morgan, Wells Fargo, and Bank of America.

The dashboard shows completed payments, as well as open payments and payments that have been submitted or rejected. Within the line-by-line overview, you can see the amount, type (for example, wire, ACH, or RTP), and status of each payment.

Thanks to Trovata's Natural Language Search capabilities, you can search your payments using custom keywords and filter by payment type, payment status, and/or date range. It is easy to toggle between different categories of payments and find the exact transactions you are looking for.
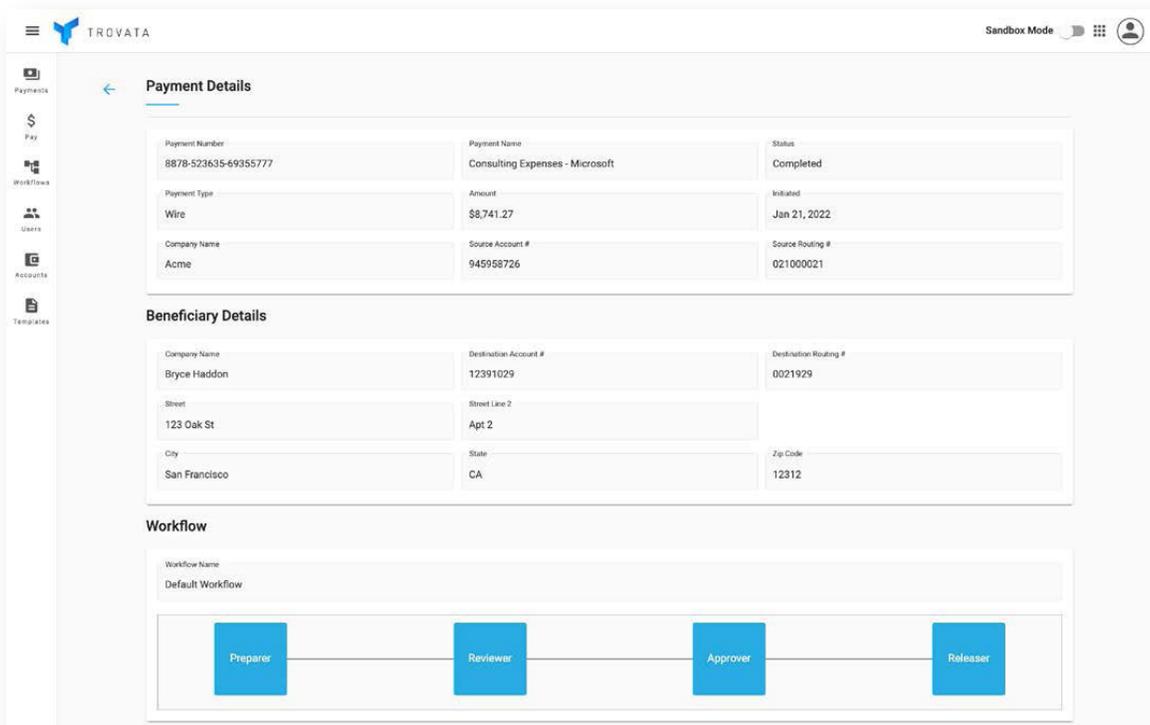
To find out more about the details of the beneficiary and where the payment currently is in the workflow, you can drill down on individual payments. Within an approved authorization workflow, you can also edit information about your beneficiaries, including their bank account information and the default payment method you use to transfer funds to them.

All payment history – from beneficiary and account information through to approvals – is tracked in the Payments App. This makes it easier to audit your payments and understand the movement of your money.

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▤ Customized Workflows

You can design your own payment workflows within the platform to ensure that payments are secure and follow proper approval processes, adhering to treasury policy and internal controls. These workflows will drive the behavior you expect from the individuals involved in the payment process.

Before a payment is sent from your desired bank account, every workflow must be completed by the following users as part of a four-stage process.

1. Preparer

User who initiates the payment process.

2. Reviewer

User who checks that the account and beneficiary details are correct.

3. Approver

User who gives final approval to any payment that goes out of your organization's bank accounts.

4. Releaser

User responsible for completing the payment and releasing it.

Every stage within your workflow can be customized to fit the unique needs of your organization. For example, administrators can choose the users responsible for each stage of payment by assigning or removing responsibilities at the touch of a button.

You can also customize the ruleset that differentiates the processes of the workflow depending on the payment amount or other relevant information. The Payments App provides complete visibility around individuals' approval limits.

How Will The Payments App Benefit Your Treasury?

1. Faster Payments

Payments that may have previously taken days to settle can be settled almost instantly with RTP. RTP is the perfect option for sending time-sensitive payments since it makes funds immediately available.

2. Time Savings

By logging in to a single platform, you can initiate direct payments from accounts with multiple banks. Additionally, your organization will have complete visibility over the status of all your payments – saving the time of having to monitor and track them on an individual basis. As financial intermediaries are not required to manage payments, you will also have fewer vendor relationships to maintain.

3. Reduced Transaction Fees

Since Trovata sends payment information via APIs to your banks, third-party, financial intermediaries are not needed to manage payments on behalf of your organization. The only payment fees you incur are from your banking institution as Trovata does not charge your organization additional fees on top of the platform. Furthermore, Trovata removes the need for multiple users to make data requests from their bank as Trovata establishes a single source of truth for your bank data, further savings on bank fees.

4. Enhanced Visibility

Thanks to the payments dashboard, you can keep track of all your organization's payments, and their impact on cash flow. When you log in to the dashboard, you will have a comprehensive view of all your payments data. This will allow you to analyze the status of your payments, as well as historical information relating to account details, beneficiary details, workflows, and payment history.

5. Communication With Banks

Your organization's instance of Trovata will receive information back from your banks that confirms whether or not a payment has been approved. If a payment has not been approved, you will also know the reason why – for example, the payment may have been intended for a sanctioned individual or entity.

6. Make Better Data-Based Decisions

Trovata's in-depth analytics tools provide realtime information around payments and cash flow. So, you can be confident you are making more accurate, data-driven decisions.

7. Greater Flexibility

You can choose how you want to pay beneficiaries. Select from one of four payment options: RTP; book transfer; ACH; or wire.

8. Control Over Approval Workflows

The workflows in Trovata's Payments App give you complete control over your approvals process. Throughout your payment lifecycles, you have the ability to set up custom rules and controls to ensure that your team is sending payments as per company policy.

9. Convenience

As the Payments App is fully integrated with Trovata, you won't require additional resources or a special system interface to take advantage of its real-time capability.

10. Security

Trovata has SOC-2, Type II certification, confirming its high levels of systems security and compliance. The Payments App's fourstage workflow process ensures that payments are initiated, reviewed, approved, and released in line with treasury policy and internal controls. All steps in the workflow process have alerts to draw the administrator's attention to unusual behaviors – such a releaser trying to initiate a payment, or an approver taking an overly long time to approve.
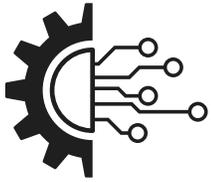
Continuing Your Digitization Journey

Trovata's Payments App complements the digitization journey that many treasuries are pursuing today. When Trovata asked treasurers about their investment priorities for the year ahead, we found that corporate payments, cash visibility, and dashboards/reporting topped the list, in terms of both current and planned investment.

Furthermore, 88% of treasurers cited time savings and efficiency gains as the number one reason to digitize the function. Just over half (56%) pointed to cost savings while 50% emphasized the role of digitization in security and fraud prevention.*

As a next-gen cash management platform, Trovata enables businesses to gain an instant view into their cash flow, as well as automate cash reporting, forecasting and analysis, and the movement of money.
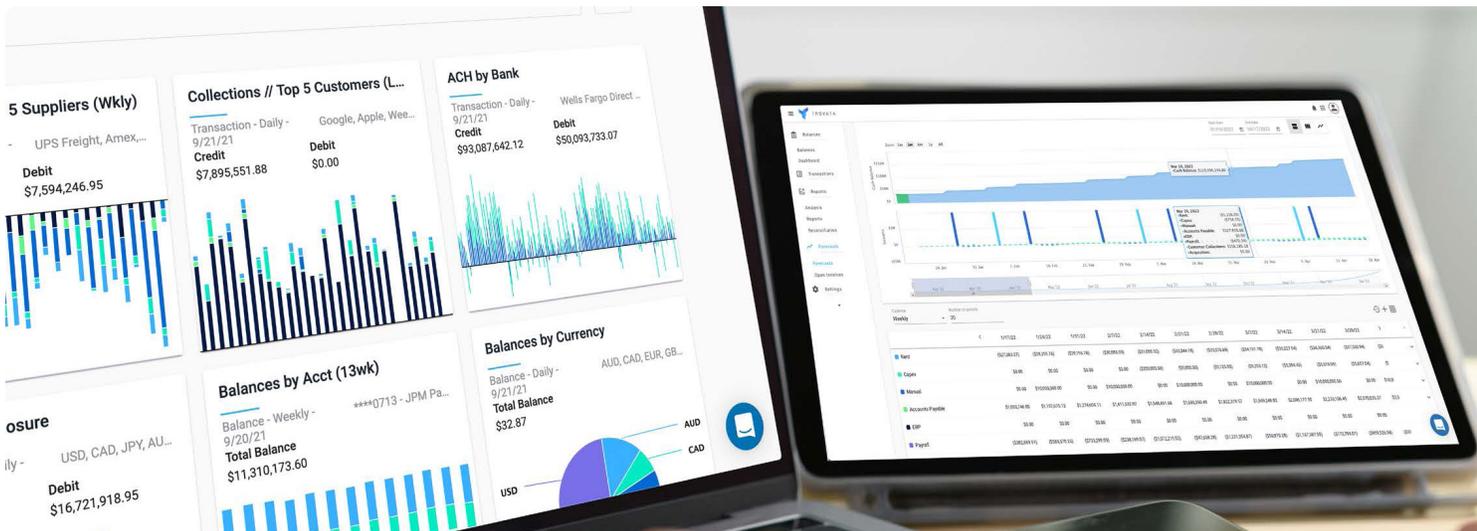
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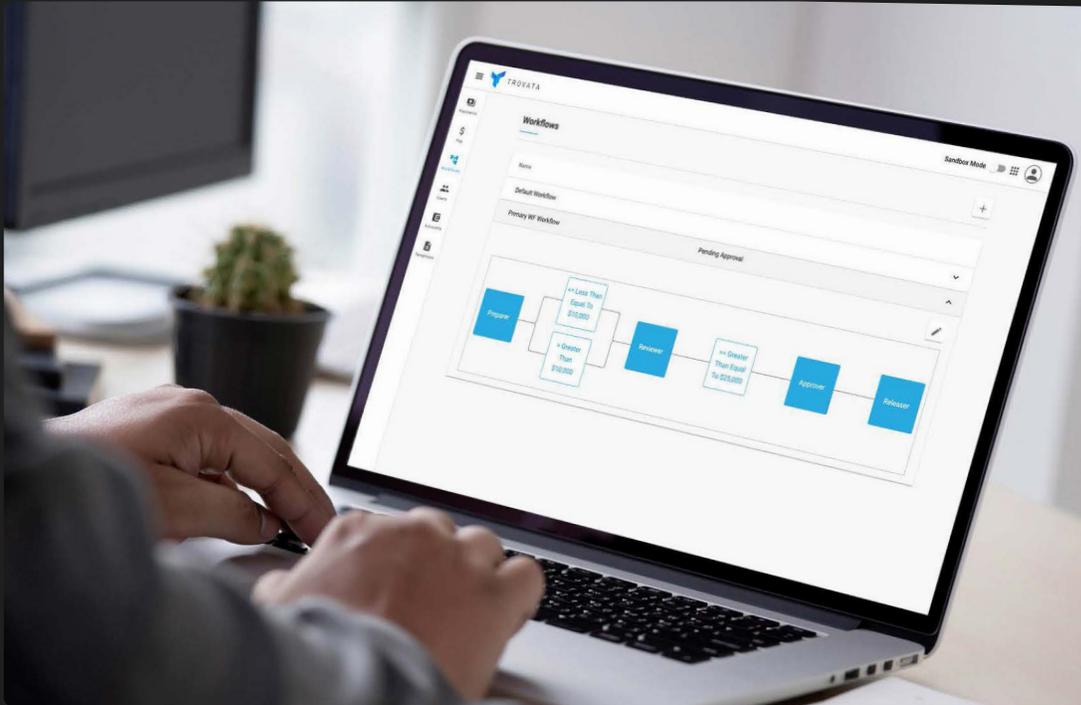
Empower your treasury team to simplify and automate the process of money movement by delivering faster payment initiation, automated reconciliation, and instant settlement via RTP. Discover a new, end-to-end money movement experience by requesting a demo today.

Get Demo