

Numerics Initiative: Timing for BIN Prefix Sharing

Global | Acquirers, Issuers, Processors, Agents
 Visa, Interlink, Plus Networks; V PAY; Europe Processing



Overview: Following the adoption of the eight-digit Bank Identification Number (BIN) standard, Visa is reminding clients about potential future impacts to the ecosystem, including timing for BIN prefix sharing.

Visa has a long-standing policy of holding returned BINs for at least a year prior to reassignment or until any outstanding certificates expire, whichever is later. This policy was maintained with the introduction of eight-digit BINs. In addition, Visa chose to hold reassignment of eight-digit BINs returned prior to April 2022 for at least a year following the adoption of the new standard (or until existing certificates expire), allowing time for the ecosystem to refine system development needed to support this global industry change.

As a result, Visa anticipates that participants in the payments ecosystem will begin seeing eight-digit BINs with the same six-digit prefix across different issuers and product lines **starting April 2023**.

Client Impact

While Visa has been assigning eight-digit BINs for over two years, and has been exclusively assigning eight-digit BINs since April 2022, there has been minimized impact to the ecosystem as the same six-digit prefix was not shared between issuers. Entities currently only reading to the sixth digit on BIN tables to make authorization decisions will need to update their systems **by April 2023** to read out to the eighth digit to prevent potential impact.

Note: To support payment technology evolution over the last several decades, clients globally have been able to define product and routing attributes up to the account range level, which is the first nine digits of the card number. Visa’s best practice is to process at the nine-digit account range level or beyond for product, service and routing definition.

Reading and processing only to the sixth digit may result in authorization or routing issues starting in April 2023, as multiple issuers and products may be assigned an eight-digit BIN with the same six-digit prefix.

Examples of Prefix Sharing



The following examples demonstrate how a six-digit prefix may be shared among issuers with distinct eight-digit BINs:

- BIN 40466500: Issuer in Spain for a debit portfolio
- BIN 40466501: Issuer in Australia for a prepaid program
- BIN 40466502: Issuer in the U.S. for a credit program
- BIN 40466503 through BIN 40466598: Additional issuers in various countries with various programs
- BIN 40466599: Issuer in Japan for a credit portfolio

Visa recommends that, if internal authorization issues occur, a review of BIN length is included in internal troubleshooting steps. Additional information can be found on the Visa Numerics Initiative page at Visa Online and [Visa's Numerics Initiative](#) page at visa.com.

For More Information

Merchants and third party agents should contact their acquirer.

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