



# 2025 EUROPE COMMUNITY MEETING

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MEETING

# Payment Facilitators and PCI DSS Compliance



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# Agenda

## PayFac Overview



## Entities & Roles



## PayFac PCI DSS Strategies

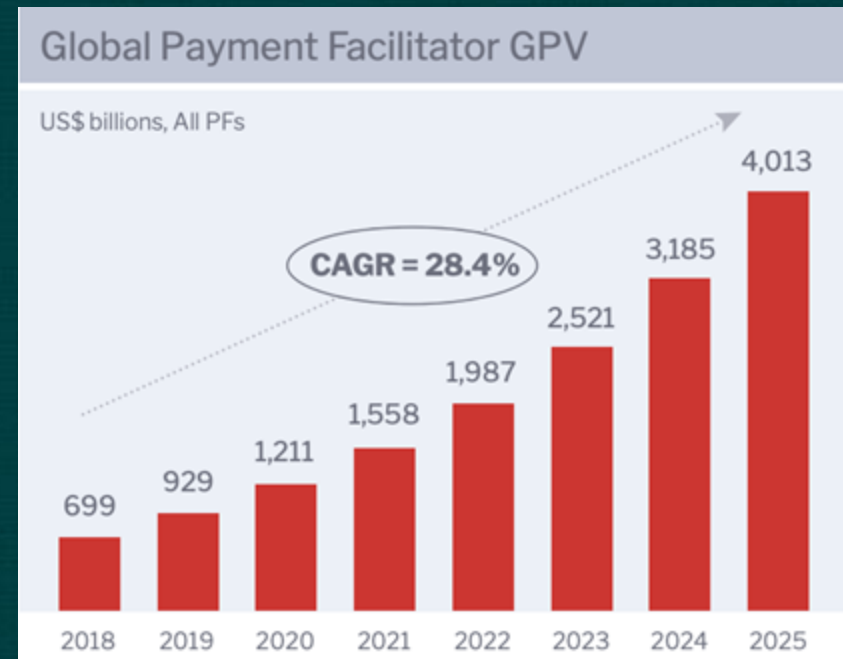
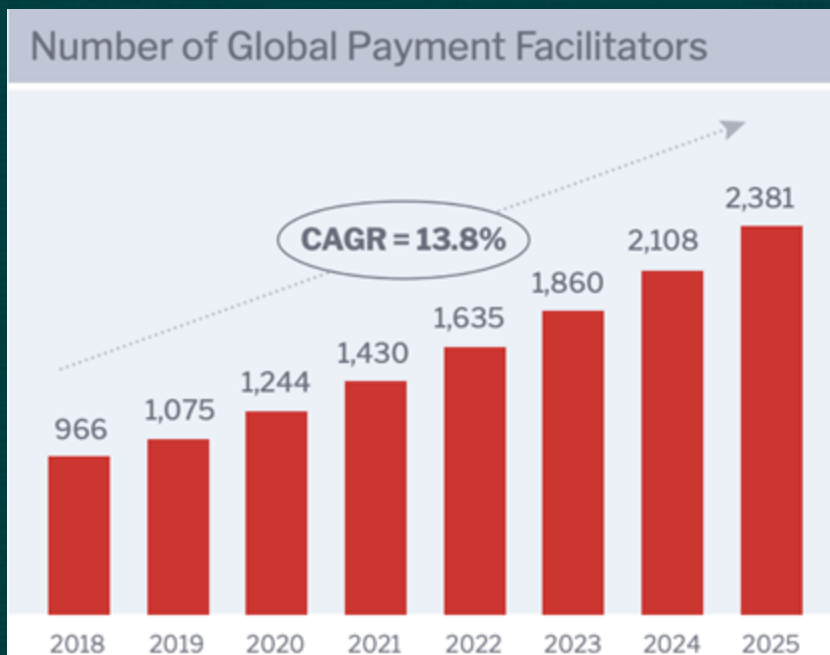


# PayFac Overview

# Overview - PayFacs and PCI DSS Compliance

Why this topic is timely and important?

- Growth of the PayFac Model
- Compliance and Security responsibility
- Data breaches, fraud, and non-compliance
- Complexity of modern payments and increasing relevance of the PayFac model



# Evolution of the PayFac Model

## Introduction of the PayFac model

- Card networks formalized the PayFac model in their rules in the early 2000's

## Examples of PayFacs

- PayPal
- Toast
- SumUp
- Square
- Stripe
- Shopify

## PayFac Model

vs.

## Traditional Acquiring Model

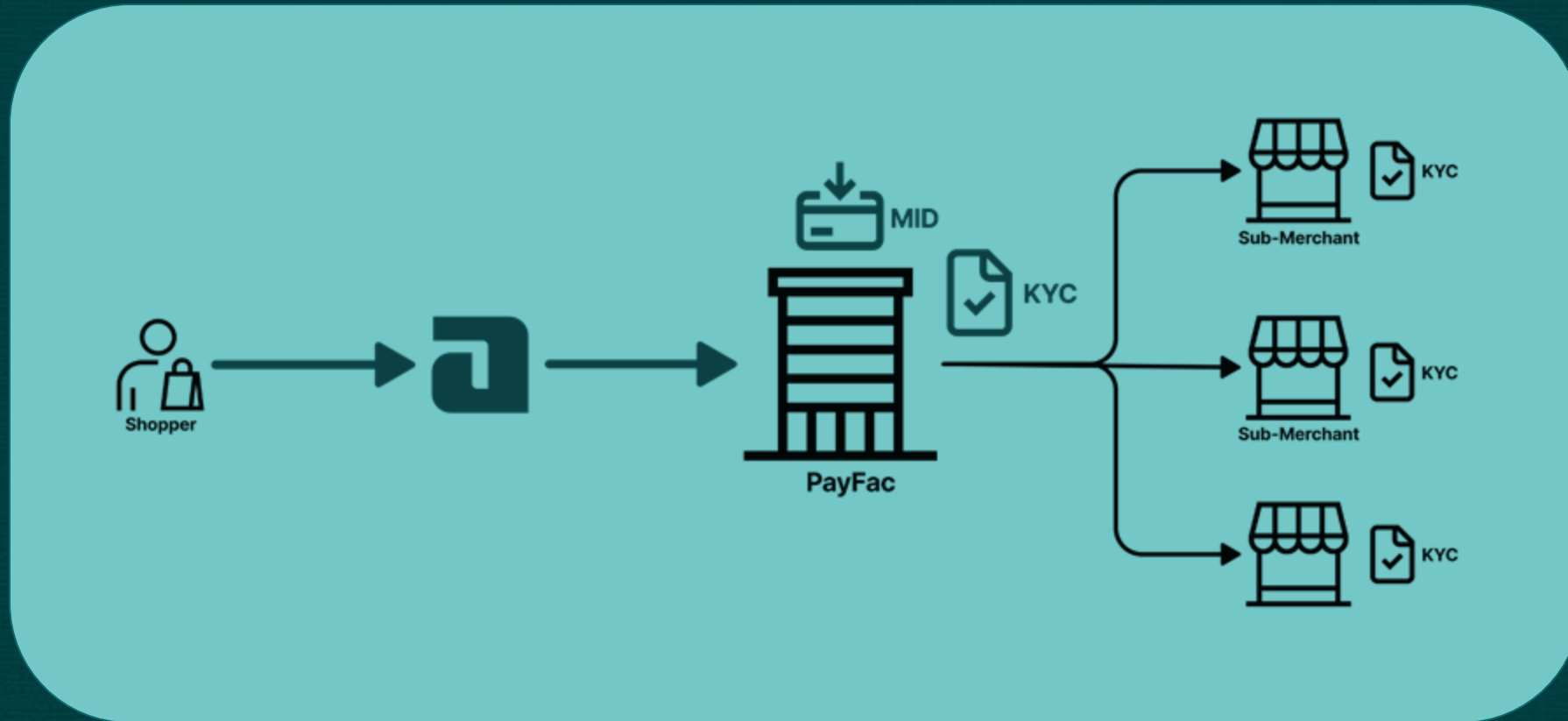
- Enables SMEs to accept payments
- Handle the technical, financial, risk and compliance complexities

- Direct relationship with (sub) merchants, friction for SMEs
- **Key characteristics:** Lengthy onboarding, high compliance burden, complex integrations

# Entities & Roles

# PayFac Ecosystem Relationship Diagram

Cardholder, Acquiring Banks, PayFac, and Sub-merchants



# Will the Real “Merchant” Please Stand Up?

Merchant, Master Merchant, Sub-Merchant, Platform Merchant, Original Merchant, Merchant Business, Sponsored Merchant, Direct Merchant, Primary Merchant, Merchant-of-Record (MoR)

- Different meanings in different contexts (banking regulations, PCI, acquirer, individual brands)
- For PCI DSS:
  - Identifying responsibilities is key (12.8, 12.9)
  - Merchant can also be a Service Provider (FAQ 1079)
  - Consult with acquirer and/or brands (FAQ 1473)
- Other PCI programs which defined Merchant (e.g., P2PE) may wish to review glossary definition to reduce confusion



# Marketplaces vs. PayFac

Feature	Marketplace Facilitators	Payment Facilitator
Core Purpose	Platform that enables buyers to transact with multiple sellers.	Entity that enables sub-merchants to accept payments under its master merchant account.
Compliance Responsibility	Varies; may shift PCI DSS and KYC responsibilities to a processor or PayFac.	Directly responsible for PCI DSS, KYC/AML, fraud, and onboarding.
PCI Scope	Often reduced or offloaded if payments are handled by third-party processor.	Full PCI DSS responsibility for its own systems; may reduce sub-merchant scope via hosted integrations.
Examples	Amazon, Etsy, Airbnb, eBay, Uber	Toast, SumUp, Square, Shopify Payments

# PayFac PCI DSS Strategies

# PCI Peloton (“Follow the Leader”)

## PCI SSC

- Manages Standards & Programs

## Networks

- Enforce the Standards
- PayFacs register with networks

## Acquirer

- Accountable to Networks for PCI DSS Compliance

## Master Merchants

- Platform Provider
- PCI Solution Provider
- Sub-merchant Levels
- Accountable to Acquirer for PCI DSS Compliance

## Sub Merchants

- Review PayFac AOC and RM
- Meet Applicable Compliance Requirements



# PCI DSS Compliance in the PayFac model

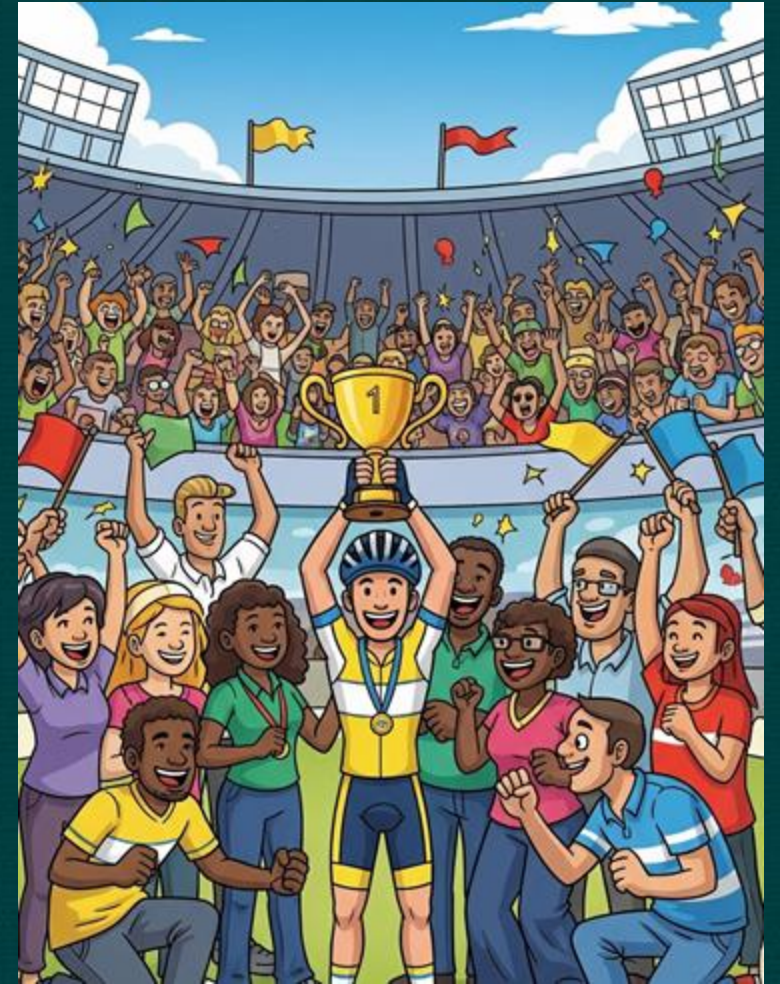
PCI Lifecycle between the PayFac and Acquirer



# PCI DSS Compliance Best Practices

## Winning Together

- Collaborate Closely with Acquirer
  - Aligning on perspectives and risk mitigation
  - Understanding the unique business model
- Shared Responsibility
  - Take ownership of responsibilities for certain PCI requirements
  - Provide clear responsibility matrix
- Scope Impact
  - Toast as a closed ecosystem
  - Provides tools and services to facilitate compliance
  - Other guidance for sub-merchants





# Looking Ahead

The PayFac model will continue to evolve with the payments industry, not a static model.

- Evolution of PCI Standards
- Support for New Marketplace Models
- Changes to Consumer Payment Behaviors
- International Expansion

**Thank you**