PAYMENTS INFRASTRUCTURE · PAYTECH

A Guide to Paytech Infrastructure

How the parts of a modern payments stack fit together, and what changes when accounts, cards and rails sit under one licence.

FINXP · GUIDES SERIES

"One EMI Licence, Independent, Direct SEPA access, built to say yes."

INTRODUCTION

Who this guide is for

This guide is for CTOs, product leads and technical partners who want to understand how a payments provider is actually put together before connecting to it.

It looks at what sits behind the API rather than at the surface, and at what changes when accounts, cards and payment rails sit under a single licence.

What sits behind a modern payments stack

Every account number, card transaction and cross-border transfer rests on a handful of things: a licence to hold and move client money, card scheme membership, access to payment clearing systems, and the technical layers of APIs, ledgering and reconciliation. The infrastructure is what a provider owns and controls, not what appears on the screen.

That distinction matters to a technical reviewer. Two providers can expose near-identical APIs for account creation, payments and card issuing while one holds the licences and memberships itself and the other resells access. The interfaces look alike. How incidents are resolved, and how the arrangement scales, can be very different.

> An API describes what a provider offers. The licence, the scheme membership and the clearing access describe what it can actually guarantee. The two are not always the same thing.

What a stack rests on

- ✓ A licence to hold and move client money, held in the provider's own name.
- ✓ Card scheme membership, held directly or accessed through a sponsor.
- ✓ Access to payment clearing systems, whether direct or intermediated.
- ✓ The technical layer: APIs, ledgering, reconciliation and status reporting.

What one licence changes for integration

FinXP is an Electronic Money Institution licensed in Malta, with Mastercard Principal Membership and direct CENTROlink participation for SEPA. Account issuance, IBANs, card issuing and payment rails therefore sit inside one regulatory and technical arrangement rather than across several.

For a technical team this is more than a corporate detail. It means one ledger for balances and transactions across accounts, cards and payments, so there is no matching of data between vendors. It means one authentication model and one set of API credentials, so there is one integration to maintain. When a transaction needs investigating, there is one party to ask.

ASPECT	SINGLE-LICENCE STACK (FINXP)	STITCHED-TOGETHER STACK
Regulatory relationships	One, held directly.	Several, one per vendor in the stack.
Data and ledger consistency	A single ledger across accounts, cards and payments.	Reconciliation required across separate systems.
Integration surface	One API and one set of credentials.	Multiple APIs, authentication models and support channels.
Continuity risk	Set by FinXP’s own risk appetite.	Any single vendor’s change can break the chain.
Accountability	One provider and one point of contact.	Unclear which vendor in the chain is responsible.

Where the difference appears

The gap between the two models rarely shows during a proof of concept. It shows when volumes rise, when a vendor changes its terms, or when a single transaction has to be traced across products that were never designed to share a ledger.

INTEGRATION

Integration and API approach

FinXP provides APIs for account creation, payment initiation, status updates, webhook notifications and card issuing. They run on FinXP's own infrastructure rather than on resold services, so the API reflects the real capabilities of the licence and the memberships behind it.

Ledgering is handled in one place across accounts, cards and payments, so balances stay current and teams do not have to build reconciliation tooling to bridge separate systems. At scale, the gaps between disconnected systems stop being a theoretical risk and become an engineering problem.

What this looks like by use case

- **iGaming platforms**
  Player cards and payouts on one ledger, rather than matching card, account and payment data across three vendors.

- **FX and brokerage platforms**
  Account structure and payment rails that grow with trading volume, without renegotiating with several providers.

- **Digital asset businesses**
  Stable fiat infrastructure under one direct licence, rather than a resold arrangement an upstream provider can withdraw.

What to check before integrating

- ✓ Does the provider hold its licensing and scheme membership directly, or resell access from a further provider?
- ✓ Does one provider cover accounts, cards and payment rails, or will the stack be assembled from several vendors?
- ✓ Does the API documentation reflect the actual infrastructure, with a real sandbox and real test data?
- ✓ How is ledgering handled, and is balance data consistent in real time across products?

FAQ

Frequently asked questions

Q. Does a single-licence stack reduce flexibility for technical teams?

In practice it does not. The API still exposes the core capabilities of accounts, cards and payments. The difference is that teams integrate once against a consistent system rather than connecting to several vendors and managing the differences between them.

Q. What does ledgering mean here?

A central ledger records every balance and transaction across accounts, cards and payment rails in one system. Checking a client's balance therefore reflects all activity, without calling separate systems that may not be in step with one another.

Q. What is the risk of a stitched-together stack?

Each vendor in the chain can change its API, its pricing or its willingness to continue, on its own timetable. A technical team may have little visibility of what is about to change, or of how that change will affect the rest of the stack.

Q. Is the API documentation available before a commercial commitment?

Yes. Technical teams can request the documentation and a sandbox environment during evaluation, before any agreement is signed.

Q. Is FinXP a bank?

No. FinXP is an Electronic Money Institution licensed by the Malta Financial Services Authority. It issues e-money and provides payment services, and it does not take deposits or lend. Client funds are safeguarded rather than held on its own balance sheet.

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Related guides in this series

A Guide to Banking-as-a-Service
What BaaS provides, who holds the licence behind it, and what to check before building on it.

A Guide to Card Issuing
Why Principal Membership gives programme owners more control than a sponsorship arrangement.

A Guide to SEPA Payments
How direct settlement access changes what a business can rely on for euro payments.

finXP

One licence. One ledger.
One integration to maintain.

FinXP is a privately owned European payments company with twelve years of experience supporting regulated businesses across fintechs, PSPs and banks, digital assets and Web3, marketplaces and platforms, payroll and contractors, and digital commerce.

As an independent company, FinXP has built its own infrastructure without the constraints of a parent group. With an Electronic Money Institution licence in Malta, Mastercard Principal Membership, and direct participation in CENTROlink, FinXP runs accounts, cards and payment rails under a single licence and a single ledger.

12+	€4bn+	12,000+	41
YEARS IN PAYMENTS	PROCESSED ANNUALLY	BUSINESS ACCOUNTS OPENED	EUROPEAN NATIONS, DIRECT CENTROLINK

For businesses turned away elsewhere for being “too complicated”, FinXP’s independence and experience open a route to a workable answer instead of a closed door.

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V1.0 27/08/2026