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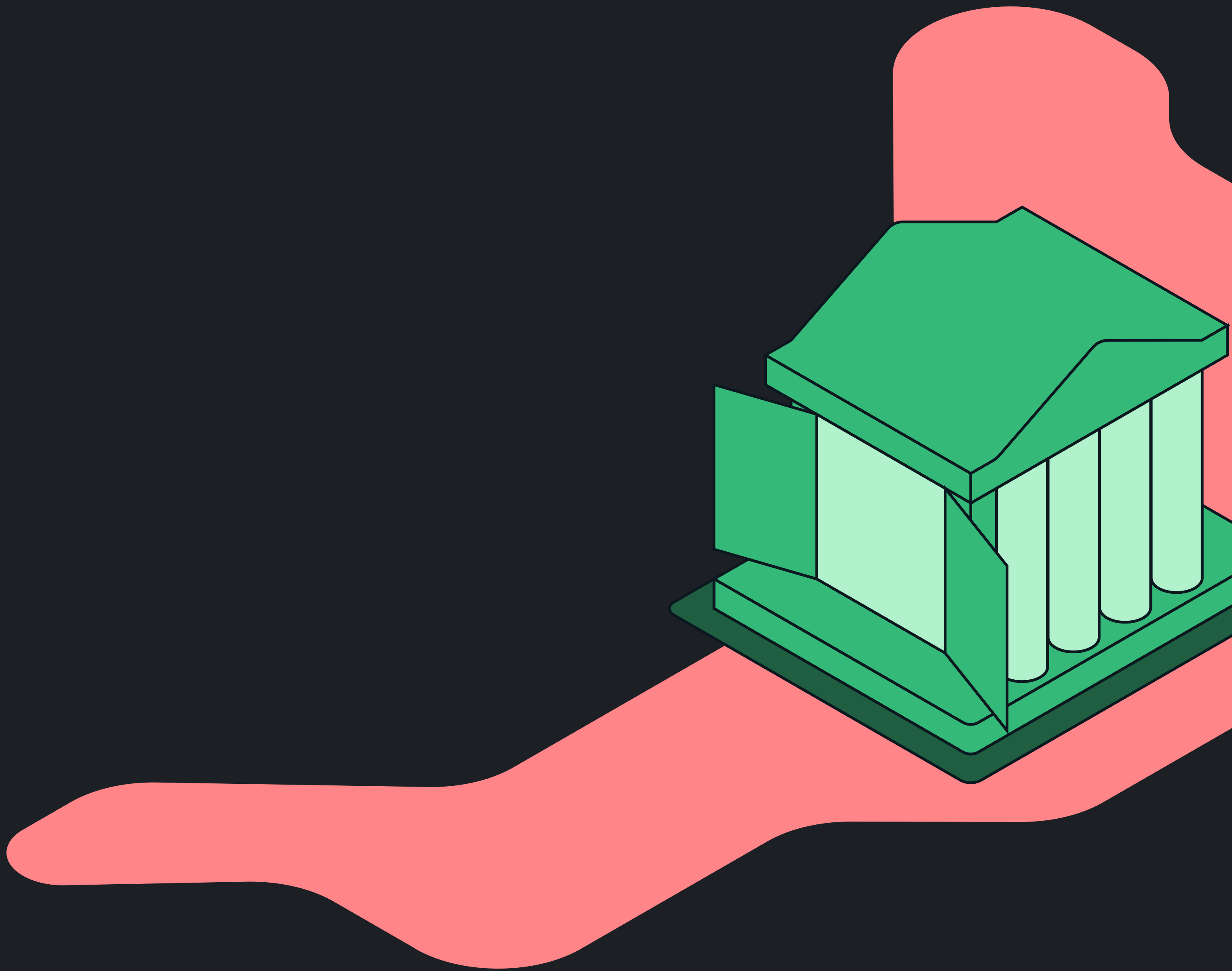
The Dawn of Open Finance Payments



Who is this whitepaper for?

This whitepaper is designed for fintechs, digital platforms, e-commerce providers, and financial institutions, lenders, looking to understand how Open Finance payments are unfolding in the UAE. Whether you're exploring new payment experiences, rethinking settlement workflows, or preparing for regulatory shifts, this guide helps make sense of what's changing and what's possible.

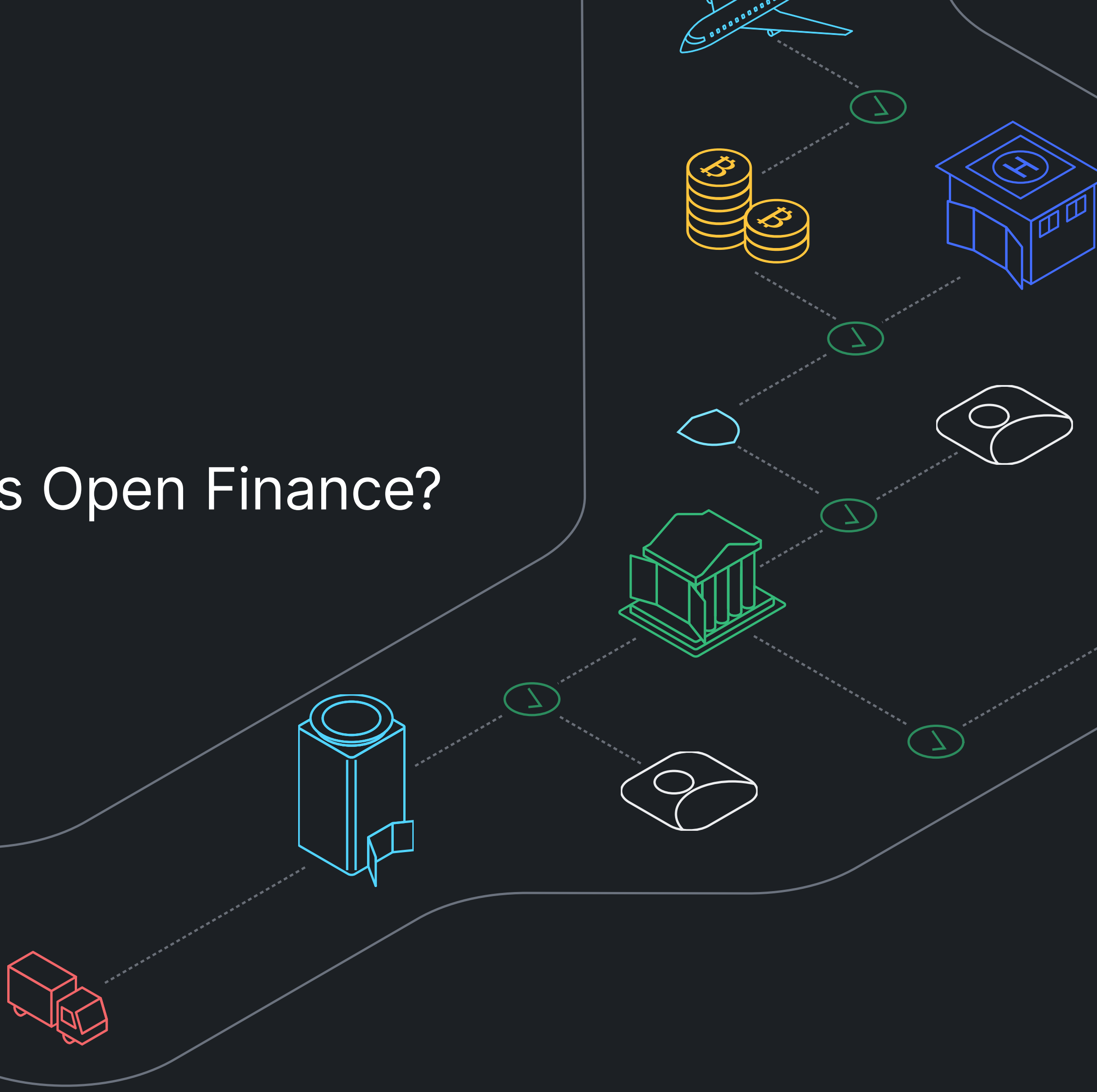
Why was this whitepaper created by Lean?

As the leading provider of Open Banking infrastructure in the region, Lean is on the front lines of Open Finance adoption. We created this whitepaper to bridge the gap between policy and practical implementation, and to demystify how Open Finance works and show how businesses can take advantage of it today. This is part of our broader mission to make financial innovation more accessible, actionable, and beneficial for everyone involved.

Decoding the Language of Open Finance

Term	Definition
Account to account transfer (A2A)	The act of making a payment through a bank-to-bank transfer instead of using, for example, a credit or debit card.
Account Information Service (AIS)	The act of securely retrieving data held in a customer's bank account.
Payment Initiation Service (PIS)	The act of securely initiating an account-to-account payment using Open Banking.
Third-Party Provider (TPP)	A Third-Party provider is a non-Payment Account Service Provider (PASP) that accesses and makes instructions to a PASP on behalf of their customers. TPPs can be regulated participants such as AISPs and PISPs or non-regulated participants such as merchants who benefit from using Open Banking services.
Licensed Financial Institution (LFI)	A bank or financial entity authorized to store customer data and initiate payments, regulated by the Central Bank of the UAE.
Central Bank of UAE (CBUAE)	The Central Bank and Regulator of Financial Services in UAE
Aani	The Instant Payment system of the UAE. Aani enables instant domestic transfers between banks and is owned and operated by CBUAE.
FAPI (Financial-grade API)	A global standard for secure data exchange and payment initiation, designed by the OpenID Foundation. Ensures APIs meet high security and privacy requirements.
AlTareq	The UAE's standardized user interface layer for Open Finance, governed by the CBUAE. It ensures a consistent and trusted experience across all payment flows.
Nebras	Nebras is an independent company that manages the Open Finance API Hub as well as the trust framework. It connects banks and TPPs under the national framework among other responsibilities.
Pay-by-bank	A user-initiated payment method that allows direct account-to-account transfers within apps, using Open Finance APIs.

Contents



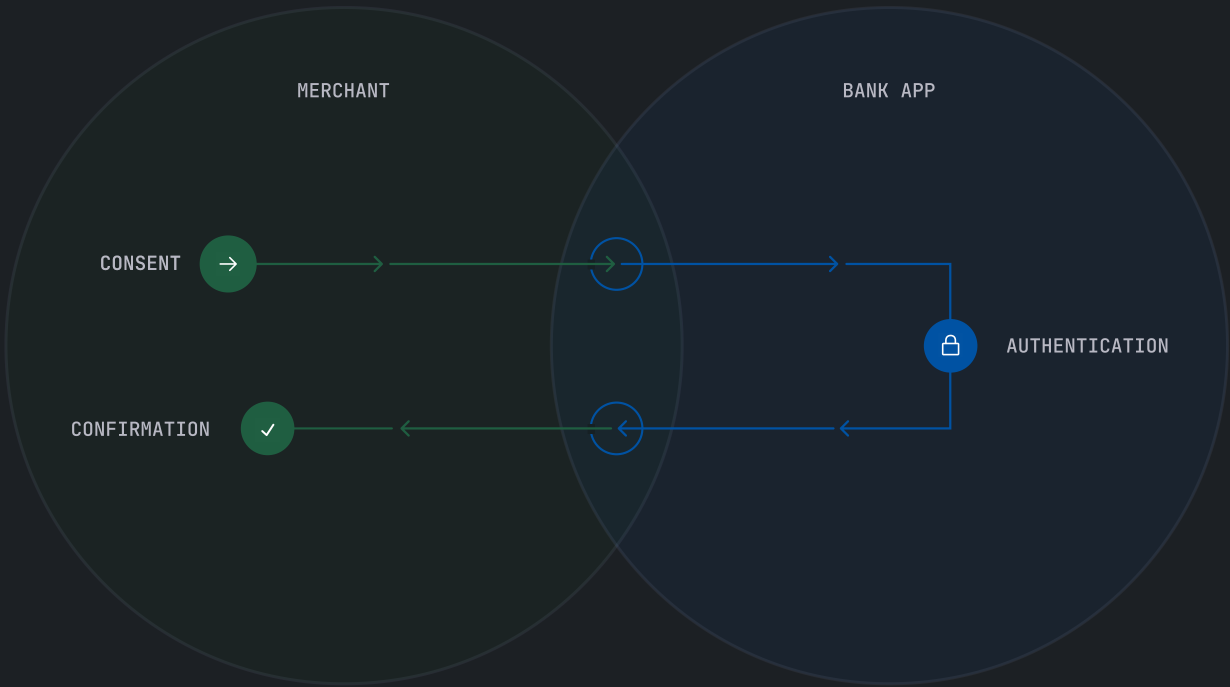
What is Open Finance?

Open Finance is transforming how financial services work in the UAE. It gives individuals and businesses greater control over their money by enabling them to securely share data and authorize transactions across institutions and platforms.

This shift is not just technical. It is foundational. For the first time, financial institutions, fintechs, insurers, and digital platforms can collaborate using standardized, regulated APIs governed by the Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE). This creates the conditions for a more open, connected, and competitive ecosystem where the user is always in control.

At its core, Open Finance is about access. It allows users to connect their accounts, authorize payments, and share data with licensed providers without needing to leave the apps or services they already use. This enables faster payments, richer financial insights, and smoother digital experiences.

This whitepaper focuses on the first major pillar: Open Finance payments. We explore how payments are being reimagined under this new framework, how payment rails like Aani fit under AlTareq's Open Finance platform, and how businesses can start to tap into these capabilities today. But first, let's take a closer look at the core components that make up Open Finance today.



Open Finance Payments

The first major pillar of the framework is payments. Open Finance payments reimagine how traditional and current payments are processed and managed, offering a more direct, secure, and efficient way to transact. Through Open Finance payments, payment initiation becomes hassle-free, enabling individuals to authorize payments directly from their bank accounts without relying on traditional card networks or manual transfers. Whether it's a one-time purchase, a scheduled bill, or a recurring subscription, these payments happen through regulated APIs that connect banks and third party providers (TPPs).

For users, this means fewer steps, faster checkout, and greater control. For businesses, it reduces transaction fees, eliminates chargebacks, and unlocks new ways to design payment flows that are more cost-effective and easier to reconcile.

Open Finance Data

Open Finance data acts as the bridge connecting various financial services, but it does so under the explicit control of the customer. This framework enables individuals and businesses to securely share their financial information across a range of services, from banking and investments to pensions and insurance. Rather than being confined to silos within individual institutions, financial data becomes a tool for creating more cohesive and personalized financial experiences.

By integrating data from multiple sources, Open Finance data allows customers to gain a comprehensive understanding of their financial health. It transforms fragmented financial information into actionable insights, helping customers make better decisions about their spending, savings, and investing. At the same time, this data-sharing ecosystem adheres to rigorous security and privacy standards, ensuring that control always remains in the hands of the customer.

Open Insurance

Open Insurance extends the same data-sharing principles into the insurance space. With consent, users can share their policy information, claims history, and customer profiles with third-party providers or other financial institutions.

This makes it easier to apply for coverage, compare offerings, and receive more tailored recommendations. It also reduces the friction involved in quoting, underwriting, and servicing policies. Whether the use case is health, motor, life, or travel insurance, Open Insurance introduces greater speed, transparency, and user control across the board.

Together, these three pillars (data, payments, and insurance) form the foundation of the Open Finance ecosystem.

The Open Finance Framework in UAE

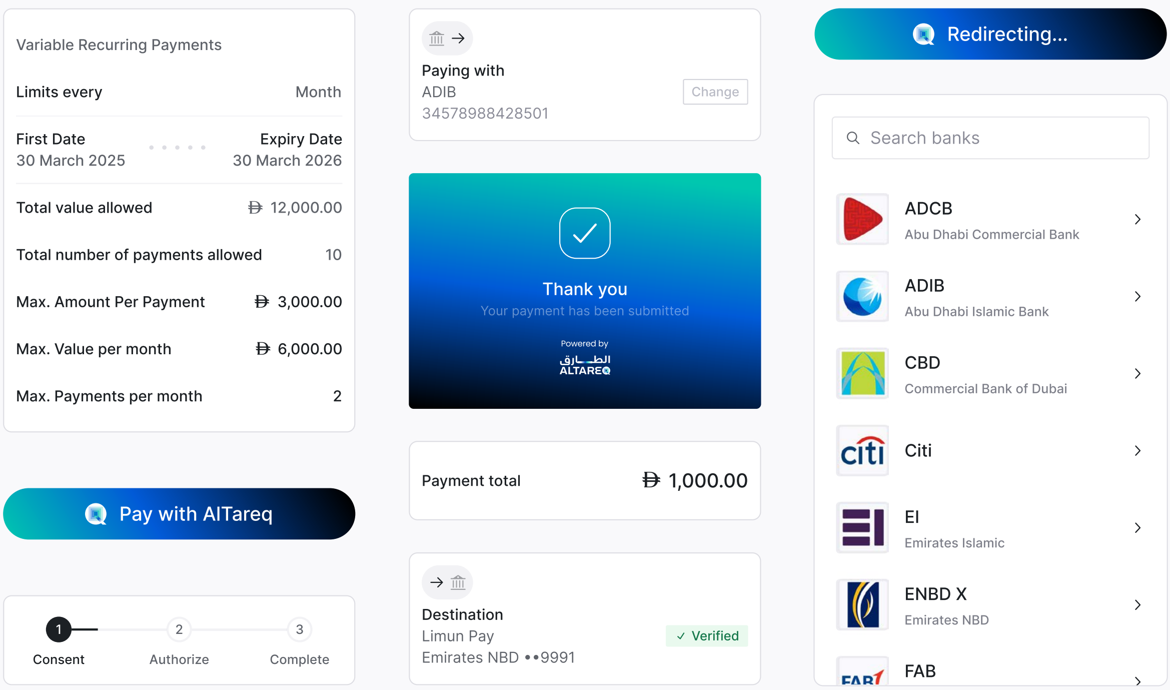
The Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) governs Open Finance through a standardized regulatory framework designed to ensure interoperability, security, and transparency across financial institutions and third-party providers (TPPs).

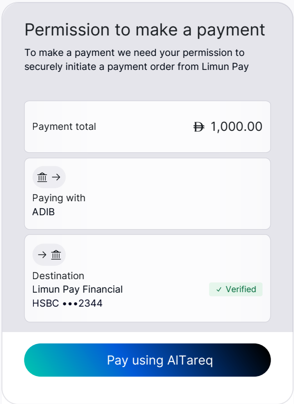
Ecosystem Participants

Licensed Financial Institutions (LFIs): Banks, insurers and other entities authorized to hold user data and execute financial actions under the scope of Open Finance use cases.

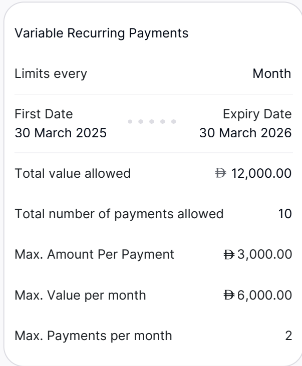
Third-Party Providers (TPPs): Fintech companies and service providers leveraging Open Finance APIs to deliver innovative solutions.

End Users: Retail customers, SMEs, and corporates who consent to share their data or authorize transactions.

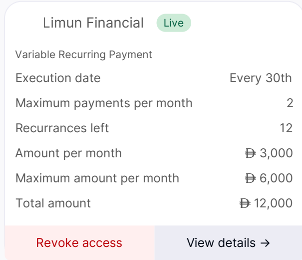




Single Payment Consent



Recurring Payment Consent



Consent Details

Components of the Open Finance Framework

Consent

Consent is the cornerstone of Open Finance. It ensures users remain in control of how their data is shared and how financial services are triggered on their behalf.

A defining feature of the UAE's Open Finance framework is that the consent journey is standardized across all services. Whether a user is approving a payment, sharing account data, or retrieving insurance records, the experience is clear and consistent.

This approach helps build trust and encourages adoption. It also makes it easier for businesses to deliver seamless, cross-functional experiences within their own platforms.

Each consent process includes:

- A clear explanation of what the user is authorizing

- Scope parameters that define the type of data or service being requested

- Bank account access validity period, whether short-term or ongoing

- The ability to revoke access at any time

By unifying consent across all services, Open Finance empowers users to engage with financial products in a secure, transparent, and flexible way.

Services

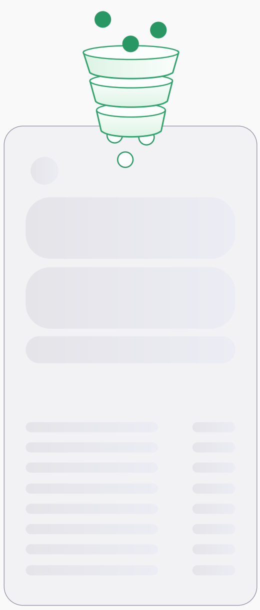
Open Finance is structured around three core service categories. Each one defines how users can interact with their financial institutions and third-party providers through regulated APIs and standardized consent flows.

Bank Data Sharing: allows third-party providers (TPPs) to access a user's banking information, such as account balances and transaction history, across different Licensed Financial Institutions (LFIs), with the user's explicit consent.

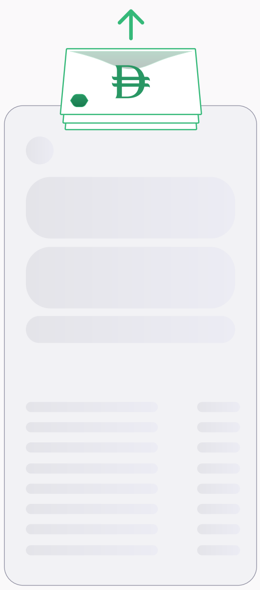
Payment Initiation: enables TPPs to initiate payments directly from a user's online bank account, using secure APIs and under a regulated consent process. With this service, users can make real-time, account-to-account payments from within third-party platforms, without needing to enter bank details or use cards.

Insurance Data Access: allows end-users to share their insurance-related data with licensed TPPs. This includes customer profiles, current or historical policy details, and claims history.

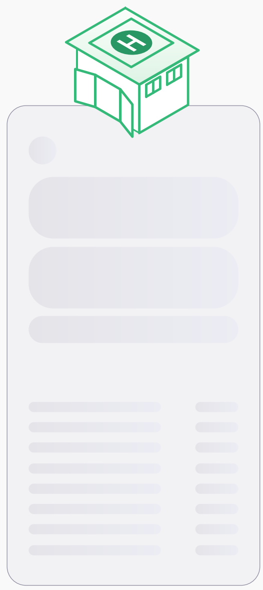
Each of the use cases below is made possible through a defined Open Finance service category. These services follow regulated processes and standardized APIs to ensure safety, consistency, and ease of integration.



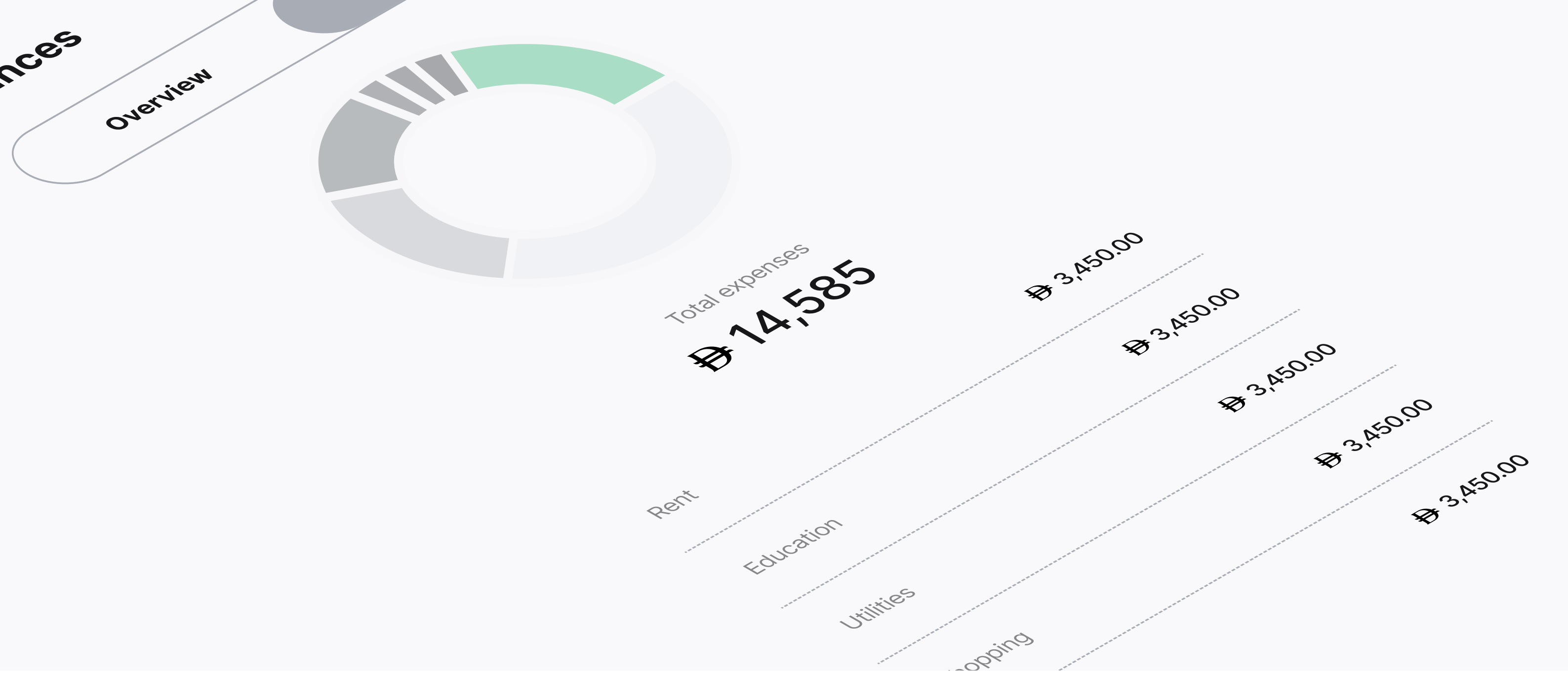
Bank Data Sharing



Payment Initiation



Insurance Data



Use Cases

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (PFM & BFM)

By consolidating account data from banks, individuals and businesses can gain real-time visibility into their financial activity. Personal Financial Management (PFM) helps users track spending, automate savings, and manage debt. Business Financial Management (BFM) gives SMEs and corporates tools for monitoring cash flow, managing taxes, and updating financial reports.

CONFIRMATION OF PAYEE (ACCOUNT VERIFICATION)

This use case verifies the recipient's account name before a payment is made, helping reduce payment errors and fraud. It ensures funds are sent to the correct individual or business, improving user confidence in digital payments.

RECURRING PAYMENTS

Users can authorize fixed or variable payments to be made on a recurring basis. This is ideal for subscription services, utilities, loan repayments, and wallet top-ups. Once consent is given, payments can be initiated automatically without requiring repeated authentication.

BULK PAYMENTS

For larger enterprises, Open Finance supports more efficient treasury operations by facilitating real-time bulk payment execution and consolidated cash management. Businesses can sweep funds across accounts, trigger multiple disbursements, or manage liquidity with more visibility and control.

SINGLE & FUTURE PAYMENTS

Open Finance allows users to make one-time payments instantly or schedule them for a future date. These payments are executed directly from the user's bank account using secure domestic rails like Aani, eliminating the need for cards or manual transfers.

INSURANCE

Users can give permission to share insurance-related information with third-party providers. This includes policy details, claims history, and customer profiles across life, health, travel, and other insurance categories. The ability to access and transfer this data supports faster applications, better product recommendations, and improved underwriting.

What if my use case doesn't fit into any of these?

Reach out to us via email at: sales@leantech.me

This whitepaper focuses on Open Finance payments within the broader context of the Open Finance framework. Separate publications will follow, covering other key pillars of Open Finance, including Open Finance data.

Zooming in to Open Finance Payments

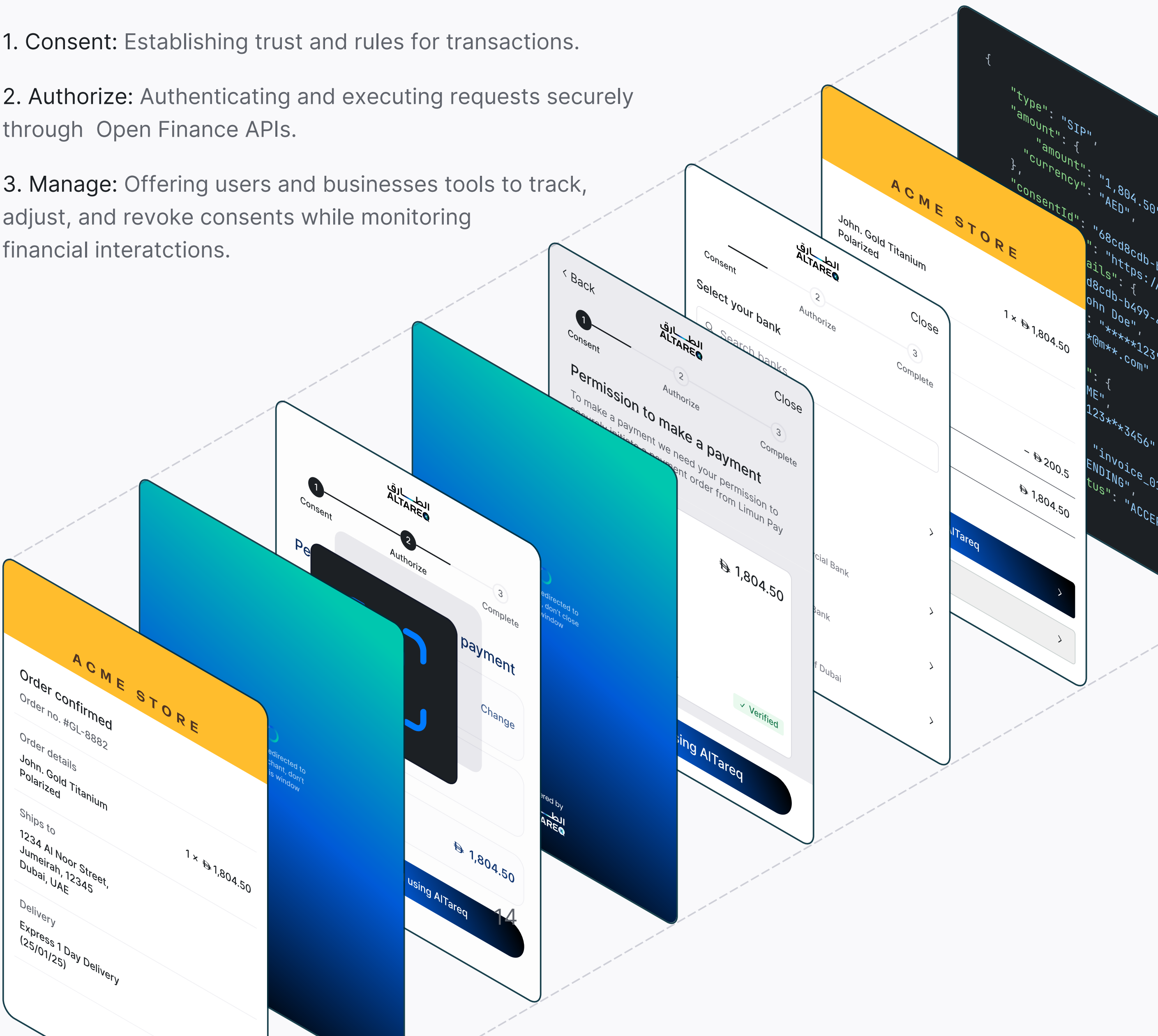
Now that we've covered the components of the Open Finance framework, let’s look at how they come together in practice. This section breaks down how users move through an Open Finance payment journey, from giving consent, to authorizing a transaction, to completing and managing a payment. Each step uses the shared infrastructure and rules laid out by the Central Bank of the UAE to ensure payments are fast, secure, and reliable.

The payment flow process can be broken down into three core stages:

1. Consent: Establishing trust and rules for transactions.

2. Authorize: Authenticating and executing requests securely through Open Finance APIs.

3. Manage: Offering users and businesses tools to track, adjust, and revoke consents while monitoring financial interatctions.



Consent: The Foundation of Open Finance Payments

Every Open Finance payment starts with consent. The user is asked to review and approve a request initiated by a licensed Third-Party Provider (TPP). This could be a one-time payment, a recurring subscription, a scheduled payment, or a group of bulk transfers.

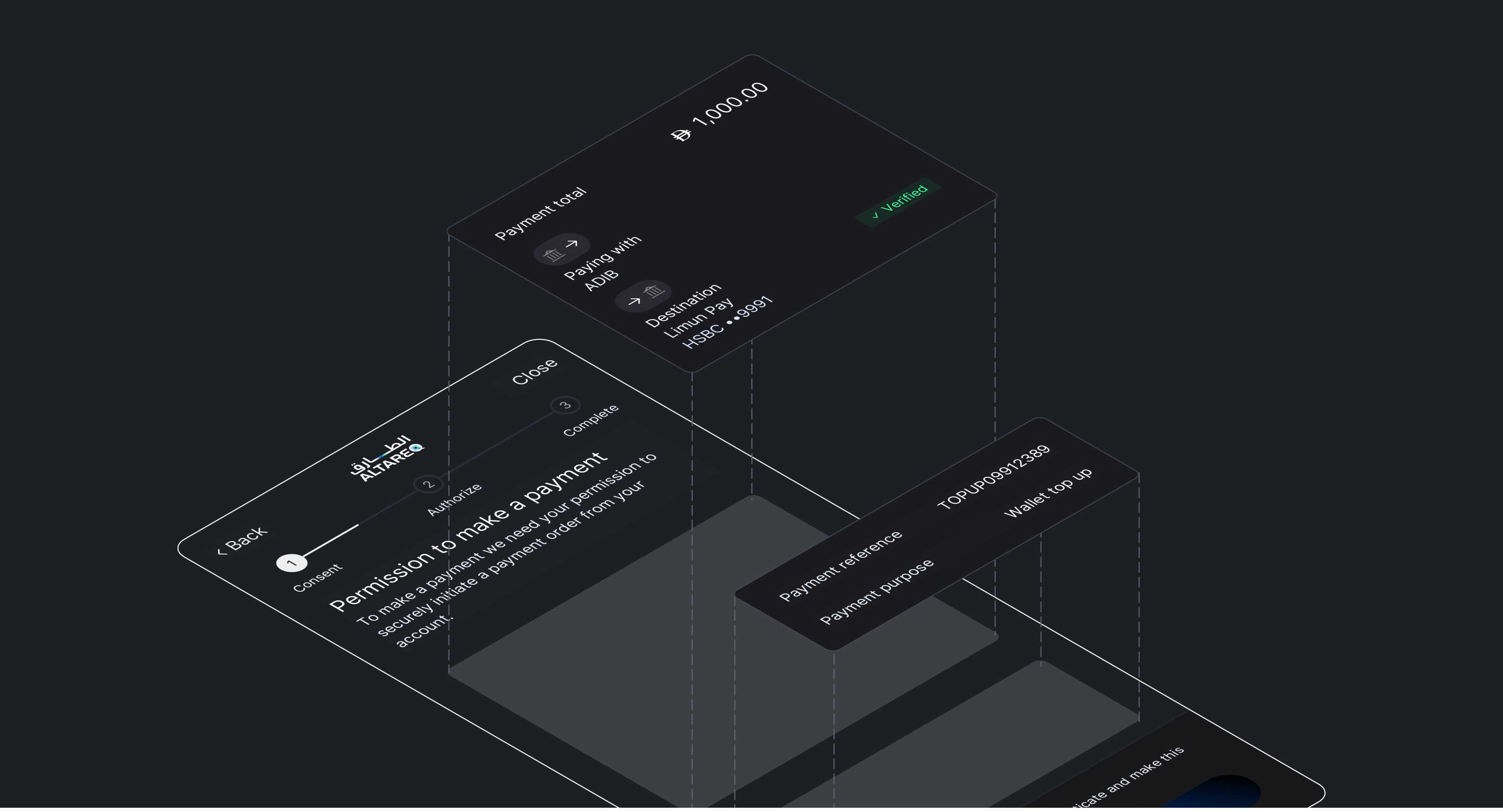
The consent experience is standardized across all use cases. Regardless of whether a user is paying a bill or signing up for a loan repayment plan, they'll follow the same clear flow. This creates trust and familiarity across different platforms and reduces confusion or friction.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Users review the purpose, duration, and scope of the payment consent.

Users authenticate themselves via Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) at their LFI or Centralized Authentication and Authorization Provider (CAAP).

Users confirm or deny the payment request, completing the consent process.



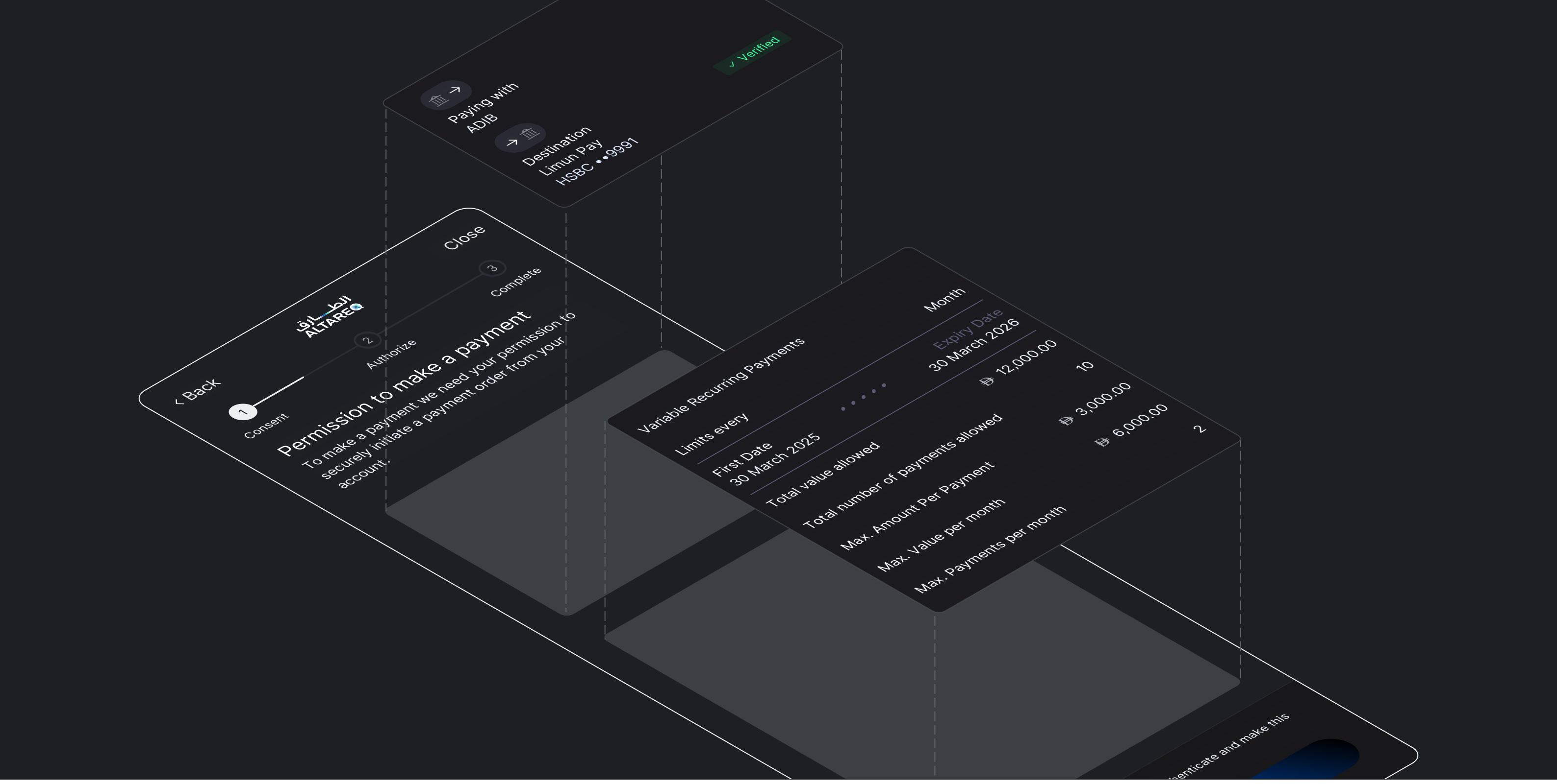
Payment Consents

Depending on the consent type, users are presented with clear details. For initiating a single payment, users are required to review the following specific details:

Data Displayed	Description
Amount to transfer & currency	The payment amount and currency
Destination account details	The account to which the funds will be sent
Legal name of the recipient	The recipient’s name as it appears in the bank’s records
Payment reference	The description that appears on the user’s account statement
Purpose of payment	The reason for the transaction
Authorization expiration date & time	The timeframe during which the consent is valid

Example Scenario: A one-time payment for an online purchase, such as an airline ticket.

> Note: These details must be presented to the user but are not necessarily input by them. The merchant provides this information as part of the consent process, simplifying the user experience.



For recurring payments, users are required to review the following specific details:

Data Displayed	Description
Maximum single transaction limit	The maximum amount that can be debited in a single transaction
Maximum number of payments	The maximum number of payments a merchant can debit from the account over the lifetime of a consent
Monthly amount limit	The maximum total amount that can be debited from the account over the course of a month
Maximum monthly transaction limit	The number of transactions that can be executed per month
Authorization expiration date & time	The timeframe during which the consent is valid
Destination account	Where money executed against this consent will be sent

Example Scenario: A recurring monthly subscription for a streaming service, such as a video streaming service.

> Note: These details must be presented to the user but are not necessarily input by them. The merchant provides this information as part of the consent process, simplifying the user experience.

Authorize: Secure Execution of Payment Requests

Once consent is granted, payments are securely executed through Open Finance APIs. These APIs adhere to globally recognized standards like the OpenID Foundation's Financial-grade API (FAPI), ensuring high levels of security and reliability.

Why is authorization important?

Authorization bridges the gap between consent and action. It ensures every request aligns with the user's intent and provides a secure, encrypted channel for executing transactions.

Payment Authorization

Single payments: Users authenticate and authorize one-off payments, such as e-commerce purchases.

Recurring payments: Recurring payments are processed automatically, removing the need for repeated user interaction.

Example: Monthly gym subscriptions or wallet top-ups.

All authorization requests adhere to Financial-grade API (FAPI) standards, including:

Multi-Tier Authentication: Ensures secure communication between TPPs and LFIs.

Dynamic Linking: Links each authorization to a specific consent and transaction, binding user actions to unique identifiers.

Manage: Ongoing Control and Visibility

Open Finance payments don't stop at execution. The framework is designed to provide consumers and businesses with continuous control and visibility over payment consents and transactions.

USER CONTROL

Users can view, modify, or revoke their consents through intuitive dashboards provided by LFIs, TPPs, or CAAP. This includes:

Viewing active consents: Users see which TPPs have access to their payment capabilities.

Revoking access: Users can instantly revoke consents they no longer wish to maintain.

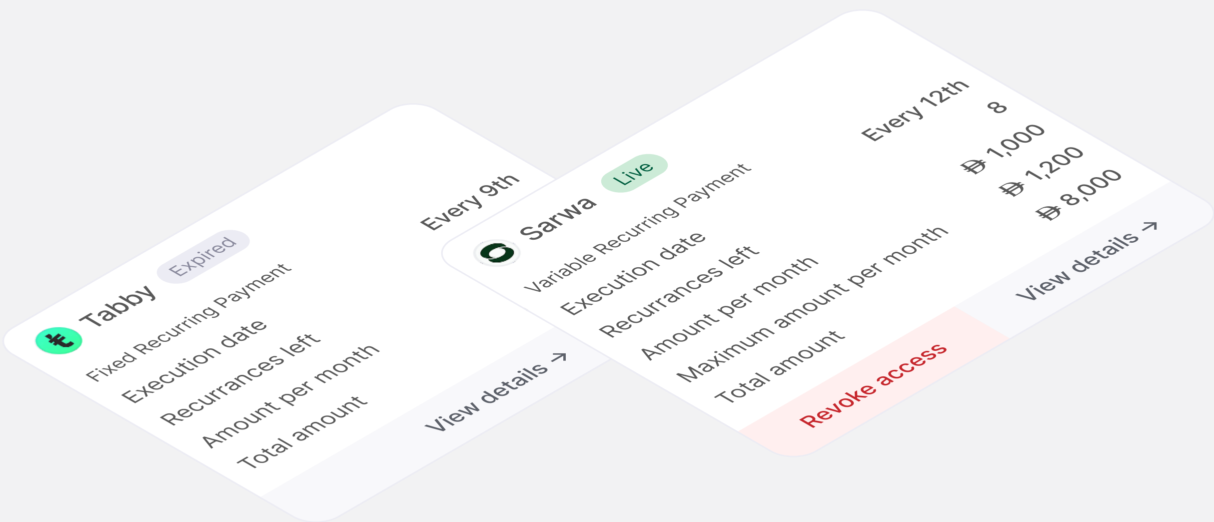
BUSINESS VISIBILITY

For businesses, Open Finance provides full lifecycle management of interactions, including:

Reconciliation: Streamlining payment tracking and reconciliation processes.

Refund management: Facilitating swift and efficient refunds against payment mandates.

Real-time monitoring: Tracking consent usage in real-time and identifying anomalies.



How Open Finance Payments Work

Open Finance payments allow users to initiate transactions directly from their bank accounts, without relying on card networks or manual transfers. These payments are enabled through a regulated framework governed by the Central Bank of the UAE, which connects Third-Party Providers (TPPs), Licensed Financial Institutions (LFIs), and real-time payment rails through secure, standardized APIs.

In this system, Open Finance is what makes the payment possible: it allows a licensed TPP (like a fintech or digital platform) to initiate a payment from a user's bank account, with the user's explicit consent and without requiring card details or credentials.

A Third-Party Provider (TPP) such as a fintech app, e-commerce platform, or digital wallet initiates a payment request on behalf of the user using Open Finance API made possible by a player like Lean.

This step is possible because of the Open Finance framework: without it, the TPP would have no legal or technical ability to trigger the payment.

The request is routed securely to the user's Licensed Financial Institution (LFI), where the user is asked to authenticate and give consent to proceed.

This user-facing experience is standardized through the AlTareq interface.

Once approved, the LFI passes the transaction to the Central Bank's clearing system, where the payment is settled in real time via Aani, the national instant payment rail.

The recipient (e.g. merchant, biller, or individual) receives the funds instantly, and both the user and TPP receive immediate confirmation that the transaction is complete.

Next, we'll explore the components that make this work under the hood:

The Role of Aani: UAE's Instant Payment Infrastructure

Aani, the Central Bank of the UAE's instant payments platform, includes two key layers: the payment rail that moves money between banks, and an overlay service that simplifies the user experience.

Aani – The Payment Rail

Aani acts as the real-time settlement and messaging infrastructure connecting participating banks. It processes fund transfers instantly, making it the backbone for all Open Finance payment types.

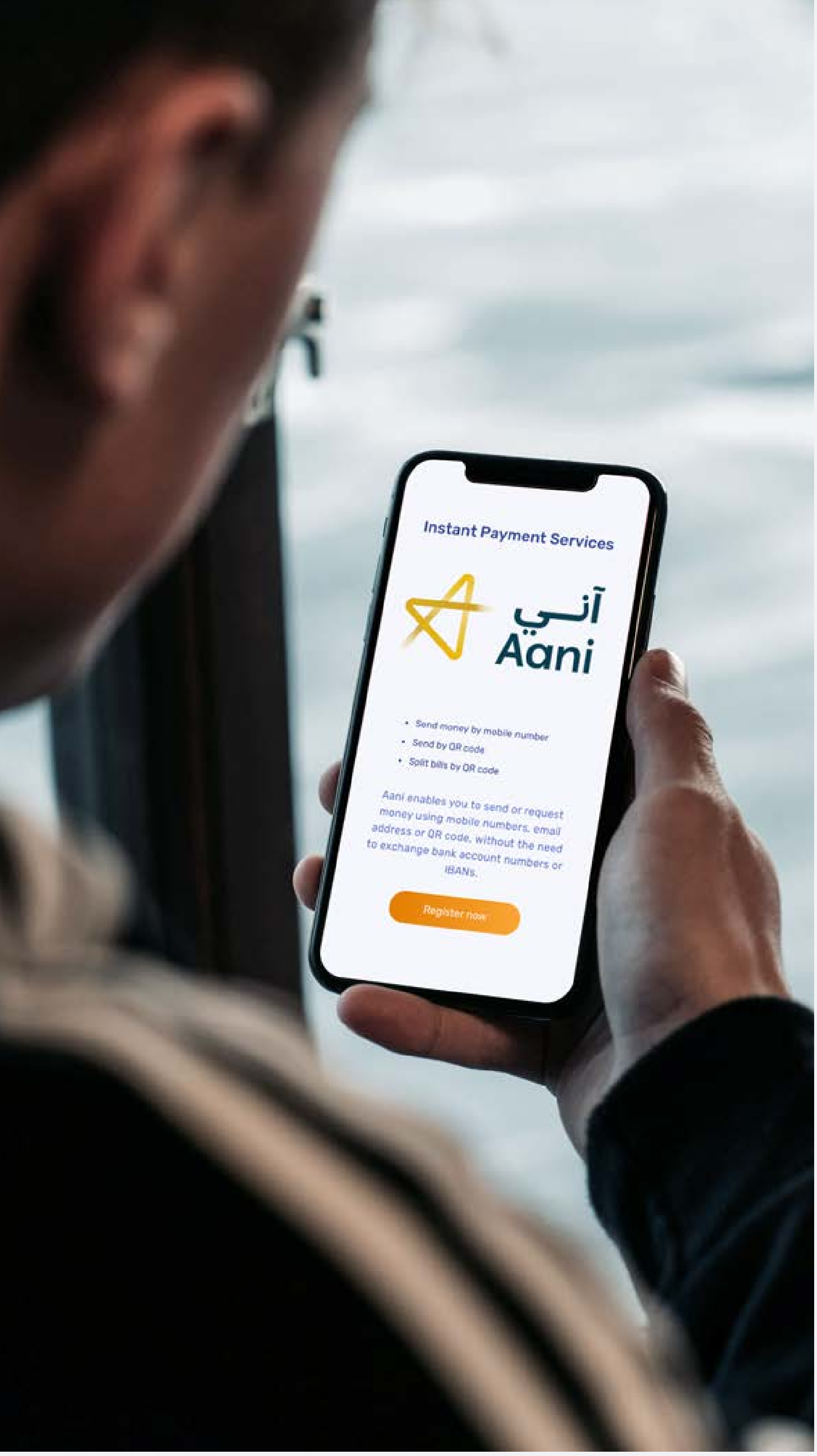
Key characteristics:

- Instant transfers between banks
- Always-on availability (24/7/365)
- Final and irrevocable settlement
- Seamless LFI integration via the Central Bank's clearing house
- Limited to payments below 50K AED

Aani – The Overlay Service

Aani also includes a proxy layer, which allows users to link their mobile number to their bank account. This enables payments to be made using just a phone number instead of an IBAN.

This layer is especially useful for peer-to-peer (P2P) and merchant payments, where convenience and speed are critical.



App store	Download Aani App
App	Sign up for Aani
Bank	Enable Aani in Banking Service
Merchant	Return to merchant
	Initiate payment
	Approve request
App	Select Aani
Merchant	Return to merchant

Similar to India's UPI model, the proxy service simplifies the front end, while the rail handles the actual movement of money.

Payment Types

The payment types as per the Open Finance framework:

Payment Type	Description	Consent Model	Common Use Cases
Single Instant Payment (SIP)	Immediate, one-off payment	Single-use	Online checkout, invoice payments
Future Dated Payment (FDP)	One-off payment scheduled in advance	Single-use	Rent, tuition, scheduled bill
Fixed Recurring Payment (FRP)	Repeating payments of the same amount	Long-lived	Subscriptions, loans
Variable Recurring Payment (VRP)	Repeating payments with variable amounts	Long-lived	Utility bills, account top-ups
Bulk Payments	One-off group of multiple payments	Varies	Payroll, vendor payouts
Batch Payments	Scheduled group payments	Varies	Corporate disbursements

Each payment type has its own consent parameters, defining transaction limits, expiry dates, and recipient account details, and ensures both security and control for users and businesses.

Payment Journeys

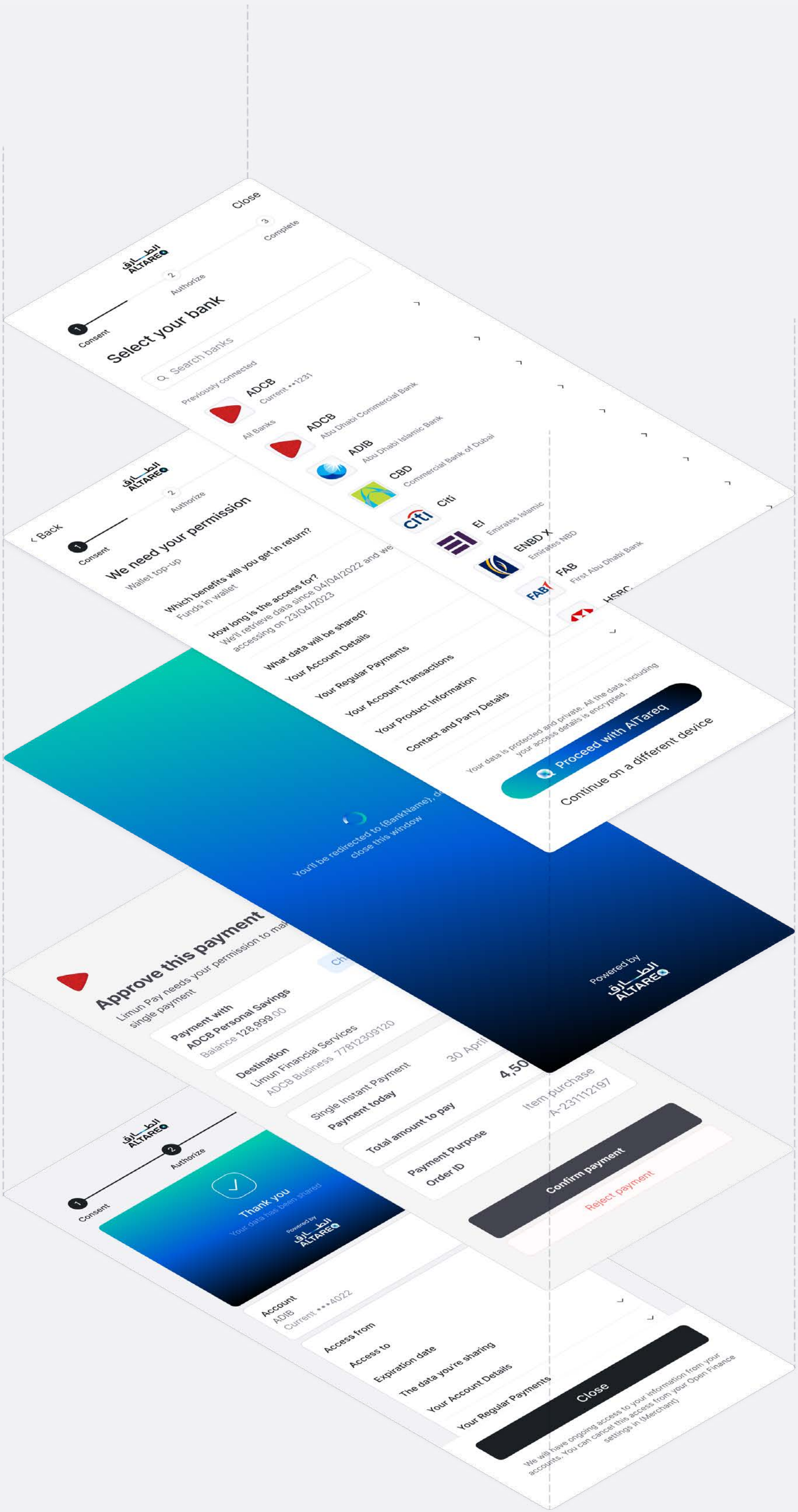
Select bank

View consent

Redirect to bank app

Confirm payment

Transaction complete




Single instant payment
Fixed recurring payments
Variable recurring payment
Single Instant Payment
Payment repeats every
1,000
Fixed Recurring Payments
Amount
Month
First Date
30 March 2025
Expiry Date
30 March 2026
Payment amount
100.00
Total number of payments
10
Variable Recurring Payments
Limits every
Month
First Date
30 March 2025
Expiry Date
30 March 2026
Total value allowed
12,000.00
Total number of payments allowed
10
Max. Amount Per Payment
3,000.00
Max. Value per month
6,000.00
Max. Payments per month
2
Back
Close
Consent
Authorize
Complete
Permission to make payments
To make a payment we need your permission to securely initiate a payment order from Emirates NBD.
Paying with
ADIB
Verified
Destination
Limun Pay
Emirates NBD ••9991
We'll redirect you to ADIB to authenticate and make payments.
Pay with AlTareq

Open Finance Payments vs. Other Payment Methods

Open Finance Payments vs. Bank Transfers

	Open Finance Payments	Bank Transfer	Standing Order
Cost to merchant	Low	Low	Low
Settlement Speed	Instant	Up to 48 hours	Scheduled (not real-time)
Requires User Input	Minimal	High. User enters IBAN, amount, and reference manually	One time set-up, then automatic
Payment Failure Notifications	Yes. Real-time API response + webhooks	No; user might not know if they made a mistake	No; can fail silently
Payment Success Notifications	Yes. Merchant receives immediate confirmation via API	No; requires manual confirmation or matching	No
User Experience	Seamless, embedded in app/ checkout flow	Fragmented; IBAN input, switch apps, re-enter details	Requires a one-time set-up
Security	Strong. Bank login + explicit consent	Bank login is secure, but risk of misdirected funds due to human error	Secure (set once, bank-authorized)
Recurring	Yes. Supports automated recurring/delegated payments	No. Requires user to reinitiate each time manually	Yes. Fixed amount, fixed schedule
Transaction limit	Up to AED 50,000 per transaction	Up to 100,000 per day	Limited by the same daily transfer limits as bank transfers

Pre-filled

No user input

Clear and detailed

Variable Recurring Payments

Limits every	Month
First Date 30 March 2025	Expiry Date 30 March 2026
Total value allowed	Đ 12,000.00
Total number of payments allowed	10
Max. Amount Per Payment	Đ 3,000.00
Max. Value per month	Đ 6,000.00
Max. Payments per month	2

Payment reference	TOPUP09912389
Payment purpose	Wallet top up

Pay with AlTareq

Prone to errors

Manual input

App switching required

IBAN

Enter IBAN

Amount to transfer

Đ

Reference

Select reference

IBAN

AE2347892734782

Amount to transfer

Đ 25,000

Reference

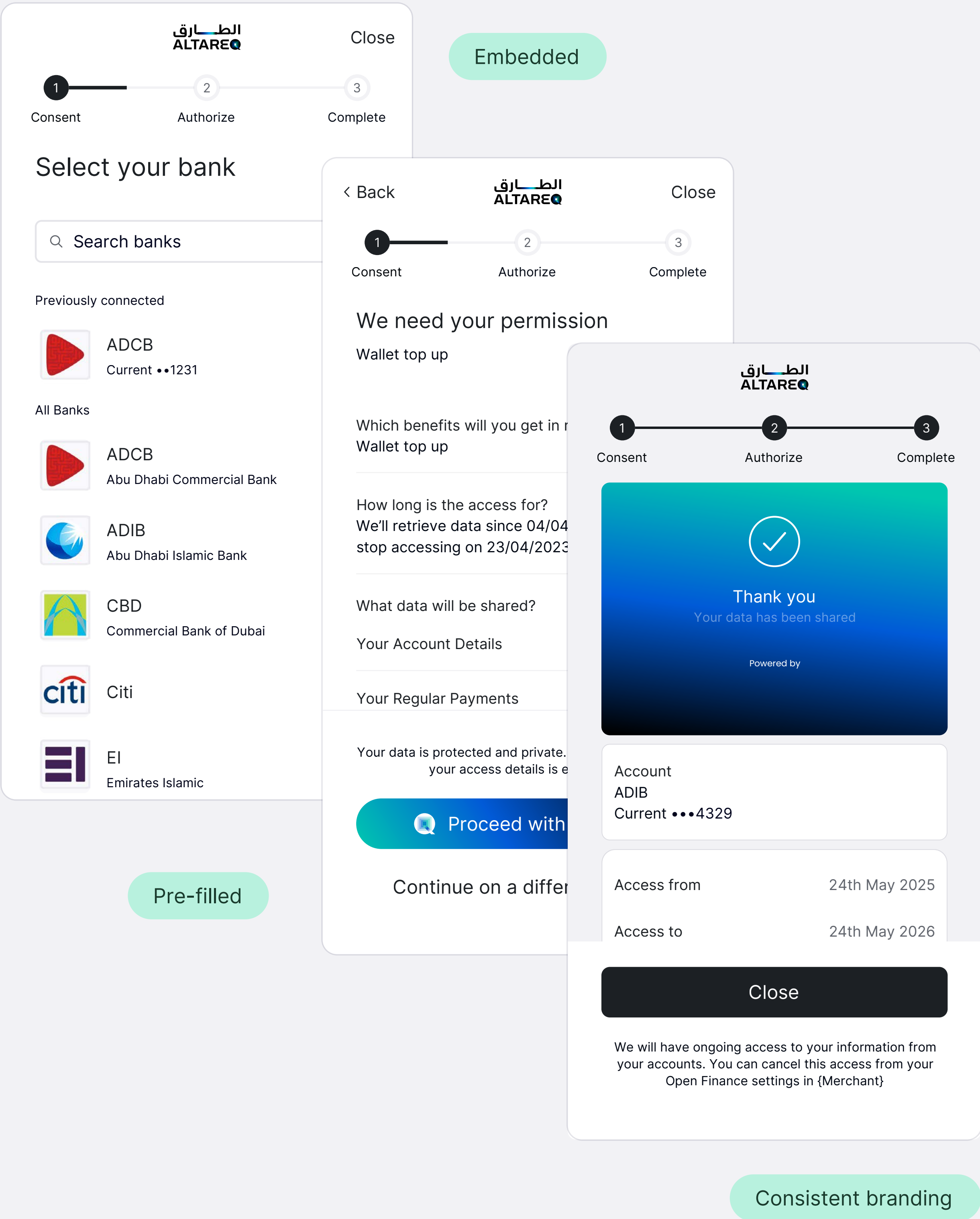
Construction

Open Finance Payments vs. Cards

	Open Finance Payments	Card Payment
Cost to merchant	Low	High
Settlement Speed	Instant	Delayed. Typically T+1 to T+3 settlement
Requires User Input	Minimal	Moderate. Card number, expiry, CVV, OTP
Payment Failure Notifications	Yes. Real-time via API/ webhook	Sometimes real-time, but can be ambiguous (e.g., pending auth)
Payment Success Notifications	Yes. Instant confirmation to platform	Yes. Standard in most card flows
User Experience	Seamless, embedded in app/ checkout flow	Familiar. Widely used, works well in retail
Security	Strong. Bank login + explicit consent	Subject to fraud, credential theft
Recurring	Yes. Supports automated recurring/delegated payments	Yes; via stored cards
Transaction limit	Up to AED 50,000 per transaction	Up to 150,000 per day, depending on issuing bank

Open Finance Payments vs. Aani

	Open Finance Payments	Aani (Proxy Service)
Cost to merchant	Low	Low
Settlement Speed	Instant	Instant
Payment Failure Notifications	Yes	No (depends on the bank)
Payment Success Notifications	Yes	No
User Experience	Seamless, embedded in app/ checkout flow	Not embedded. Need to sign in to the Aani app
Security	Strong. Explicit user consent, OAuth-based bank login, full audit trail	Relies on authenticated bank apps, but limited visibility into recipient
Recurring	Yes. Supports automated recurring/delegated payments	No. Single transfers only.
Transaction limit	Up to AED 50,000 per transaction	Capped at AED 5,000 - 10,000 per transaction


Embedded
Close
Consent
Authorize
Complete
Select your bank
Search banks
Previously connected
ADCB
Current ••1231
All Banks
ADCB
Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank
ADIB
Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank
CBD
Commercial Bank of Dubai
Citi
EI
Emirates Islamic
Back
We need your permission
Wallet top up
What data will be shared?
Your Account Details
Your Regular Payments
Your data is protected and private.
Thank you
Your data has been shared
Powered by
Account
ADIB
Current •••4329
Access from
24th May 2025
Access to
24th May 2026
We will have ongoing access to your information from your accounts. You can cancel this access from your Open Finance settings in {Merchant}
Pre-filled
Consistent branding

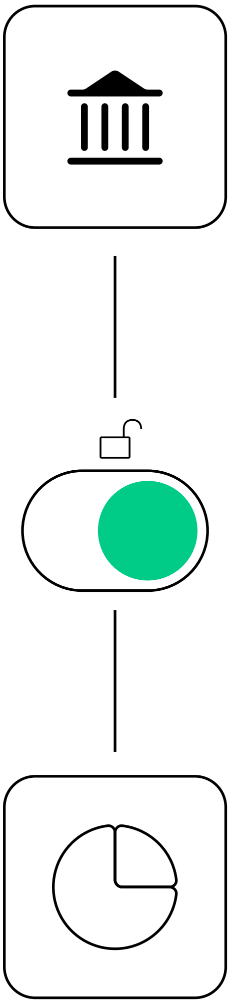
Benefits of Open Finance Payments

Enhances Security

Trust Framework

All Open Finance payment journeys in the UAE are governed by a centralized Trust Framework under the supervision of the Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE). This framework defines how licensed entities interact, how liability is assigned, and how consent is captured and enforced. Every payment must be initiated by a regulated Third-Party Provider (TPP) and authenticated by a Licensed Financial Institution (LFI), ensuring a secure, closed-loop process.

Payments are presented to users under the AlTareq brand, the UAE's official user-facing layer for Open Finance. AlTareq ensures a consistent, recognizable user experience across platforms, increasing trust and reducing the risk of phishing, redirection fraud, or misinformation.



API Standards

All Open Finance payments are initiated through standardized APIs defined under the UAE Open Finance Framework. These APIs are designed with security as a core principle and follow global standards such as the Financial-grade API (FAPI) specification. Features include:

- Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) at the bank level
- Dynamic consent parameters tied to each transaction
- No screen scraping or sharing of sensitive credentials
- Encrypted data transmission between TPPs and LFIs

User credentials never pass through third-party servers, and up to three layers of encryption are applied to protect the communication and execution of each transaction.

Reduces Costs

By removing intermediaries such as card networks, payment gateways, and processors, Open Finance payments significantly lower transaction costs. This is particularly impactful for high-volume businesses and platforms operating at scale.

Cost benefits include:

- Lower merchant fees compared to credit and debit cards
- No interchange or acquiring costs
- Fewer chargebacks and reduced fraud-related losses

These savings compound over time and can materially improve the net revenue margin for digital businesses.

Improves Reliability and Speed

Payments initiated through Open Finance settle in real time or near real time, thanks to underlying rails like Aani, the UAE's instant payment infrastructure. This allows businesses to confirm transactions immediately and access funds faster.

- Instant settlement supports faster order processing and fulfillment
- Reduced reliance on batch or delayed settlement processes
- Less operational lag in finance and reconciliation workflows

This is especially valuable in sectors like e-commerce, digital wallets, and financial services, where speed directly impacts user satisfaction.

Simplifies Integration

Instead of building one-off integrations with individual banks, businesses can integrate once with a regulated TPP that connects to the entire banking network through the Open Finance framework. This dramatically reduces time-to-market and technical overhead.

- Unified APIs across banks
- Pre-approved, compliant user journeys via AlTareq
- Built-in consent handling and authentication flows
- Real-time status updates and reconciliation support

For developers, this means fewer resources spent on maintenance and compliance.
For product teams, it means faster launch cycles and the ability to iterate on payment experiences more easily.

Where Lean comes in

Lean is helping bring Open Finance to life in the UAE by bridging the gap between regulatory frameworks and practical, ready-to-use solutions for businesses.

With more than $2 billion in payment volume processed in the UAE and integrations covering 99% of the UAE's banked population, Lean is already powering payment experiences for platforms like Careem, e&, DAMAC, and Lulu Money. These companies rely on Lean to deliver seamless account-to-account (A2A) payments that are fast, secure, and easy to integrate.

As Open Finance evolves in the UAE, Lean provides everything businesses need to go to market with confidence, from real-time payment execution to reliable settlement and reconciliation.

Beyond the Rail: Lean vs. Aani

While Aani plays a foundational role in enabling real-time settlement, businesses looking to offer Open Finance payments at scale often need more than a payment rail. They need the *supporting infrastructure* that makes payments usable, scalable, and maintainable in production.

That's where Lean comes in.

Lean builds on the Open Finance framework to deliver a business-ready solution. It includes built-in consent flows, a unified API across banks, and hands-on support for developers. This turns what could be a fragmented, manual integration into a seamless, embedded payment experience for both businesses and users.

Here's how Lean compares to working directly with Aani:

Category	Lean Technologies	Aani
Implementation time	2-4 weeks with dedicated onboarding team	6-8 weeks or more, limited support during integration
Support	24/7 assistance through Slack & email, with proactive account managers	Ticket-based system with slower resolution times and minimal guidance
Transaction limits	Up to AED 50,000 per instant payment and over AED 3 million through FTS	Typically capped at AED 5,000 to 10,000 per transaction, depending on the bank
Bank coverage	Integrations with 16+ banks covering 99% of the UAE's banked population	Partial connectivity, with a stronger focus on peer-to-peer transactions
User experience	Fast, in-app journeys with no additional onboarding requirements	Manual data entry and app redirection that increases friction and drop-off
Market adoption	Used by Careem, e&, DAMAC, Lulu, and other major platforms	Limited adoption across enterprise use cases

Why Businesses Choose Lean

BEYOND PAYMENT INITIATION

Lean doesn't just stop at payments. Lean offers solutions for payment reconciliation and disbursements to close the full loop of money movement. By providing these end-to-end services, Lean ensures businesses are equipped with streamlined financial processes that set them up for long-term success.

BUILT FOR DEVELOPERS

Lean's APIs are designed to be easy to implement and flexible to scale. Detailed documentation, smart SDKs (including Arabic language support), and real-time webhooks make it simple to go live quickly and iterate with confidence.

DESIGNED FOR GROWTH

Whether it's one-time payments, recurring subscriptions, future-dated disbursements, or delegated payments, Lean supports a wide range of use cases through one unified infrastructure.

WORLD CLASS CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Lean has consistently been commended for its dedication to supporting its customers, earning the trust and loyalty of its partners. Businesses benefit from proactive guidance through every stage of their journey, from onboarding to post-integration optimization. Dedicated account managers and technical experts provide regular touch points to ensure issues are resolved swiftly and operations run smoothly

The Lean-Powered Payment Flow

Lean enables a fully embedded Pay-by-Bank experience using AlTareq experience, one that works within the UAE's national payment infrastructure while delivering the control and customization businesses expect.

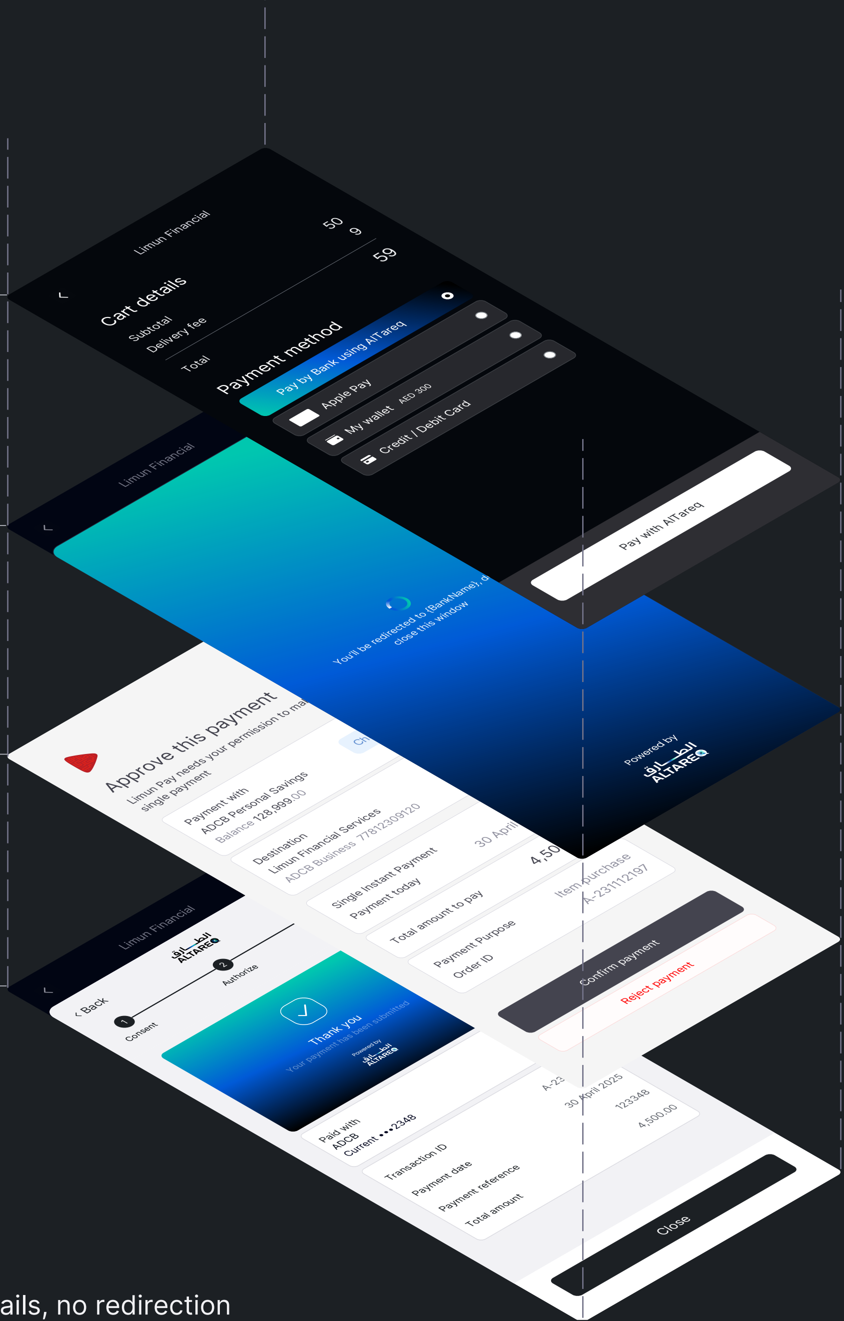
Here's how it works:

At checkout, the user selects "Pay using AlTareq"

They are redirected to their bank interface to authenticate and approve the payment

The transaction is executed in real time through Aani

The user is returned to the merchant app or website with instant confirmation



There's no need to input card details, no redirection to external apps, and no waiting for settlement. The experience is seamless, fast, and fully aligned with the UAE's Open Finance standards.

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LEAN

www.leantech.me/uae

Ready to unlock Open Finance payments in the UAE?

Cut costs, streamline operations, and deliver better payment experiences for your users. With Lean, you can build seamless payment flows and innovative financial products powered by secure, real-time bank connectivity.

Get in touch: with us to get started on your Open Finance journey:

sales@leantech.me

Lean Technologies Ltd is regulated in the UAE by the ADGM Financial Services Regulatory Authority to provide Third Party Services under FSP no. 200033.