Afinis
Interoperability Standards
2018 – THE YEAR IN REVIEW
Perspectives from the CEO of NACHA

2018 — what an exciting year for us. What started as a volunteer work group in 2017 — the API Standardization Industry Group (ASIG), which was tasked with creating a framework to standardize the use of APIs in the U.S. — evolved into a formal membership program with the launch of Afinis Interoperability Standards in September 2018. The creation of Afinis Interoperability Standards, which merged ASIG and IFX Forum, an international standards organization, allowed for the strengthened and accelerated development of standardized APIs in support of not only the U.S., but the global financial services industry. So needless to say, in 2018, Afinis Interoperability Standards was very active. It released its first two API use cases, Get Bank Contact Information and Account Validation, and launched its online community, Afinis.org, with resources and tools for testing the APIs and to access information on the IFX Standard. And in 2019, the expectation is to release even more APIs and resources throughout the year that will meet the needs and address the challenges faced by the broader financial services ecosystem.

It is our hope that through Afinis Interoperability Standards, and in collaboration with the industry, we can advance API standardization and other financial services standards to increase efficiency, innovation and interoperability for the industry — sooner rather than later.

Jan Estep, CEO, NACHA
Perspectives from the Executive Director of Afinis Interoperability Standards

Although we formally launched in September 2018, Afinis Interoperability Standards made significant advancements throughout the year. We welcomed new members, named our interim governing board, and created the framework to guide us into the future. Additionally, building off of the great work established by the API Standardization Industry Group, we were able to publish and release our first two APIs, and launch our online community.

And in 2019, our work continues. Someone recently said to me, “Standards aren’t adopted simply because they’re published. They’re adopted if people buy into them.” Afinis Interoperability Standards is working diligently to not only identify and bring to market the standards the industry seeks to streamline processes and support innovation, but also to encourage and support adoption of our standardized APIs to ensure the industry can reap the full benefits standardization can bring. It won’t be easy, but together we can make it happen.

George Throckmorton, Executive Director, Afinis Interoperability Standards

“Standards aren’t adopted simply because they’re published. They’re adopted if people buy into them.”
ABC Financial Services
Accenture
Accuity
ACI Worldwide
Actum Processing
Affirmative Technologies
Alkami Technology
American Express
ASC X9
Axway
Bank of America
Bank Itau
Barclay’s
BB&T
Billgo
BNY Mellon
Bottomline Technologies
Capital One
Cash Flow Solutions
CEDAR Document Technologies
CenturyLink Telecommunications
CGI
Change the World Fund
Citi
Citizens Bank
City National Bank
Commerce Bank
Community America CU
CSI
CUNA
DXC Technology
D3 Technology
Diebold Nixdorf
Dollar Bank
Deutsche Bank
Discover
Early Warning Services
ECS Fin
Enterprise Engineering Inc.
EPCOR
Ernst & Young
Federation of Tax Administrators (FTA)
FTA - State of Colorado
FTA - State of Illinois
FTA - State of California
First Data
FIS
Fiserv
FIS Pay
Forte Payment Systems
FRB Atlanta
FRB Chicago
FRB Minneapolis
IBM
ICBA
Interblocks
Intuit
Jack Henry & Associates
JP Morgan Chase
Kryba
Linked2Pay
Mastercard
MetaBank
MUFG Union Bank
MicroBilt
Microsoft
mShift
NACHA
Navy Federal Credit Union
NEACH
NTT Data
Oracle
Payments Canada
PaymentSpring, a Nelnet Company
Payrailz
Pelican
Plaid
PNC Bank
Q2ebanking
Qcheque
Quovo
Rapyd
Regions Bank
REPAY
RSA
Santander
SHAZAM
Silicon Valley Bank
Softgiving
SunTrust Bank
SWBC
Tata Consultancy Services
TD Bank
TeamOne CU
Thales eSecurity
The Clearing House
Transact24
Transacts
TransferWise
Treasury Software
UMACHA
UMB Bank
US Bank
US Payments
Visa
Volante Technologies
WACHA
Webster Bank
Wells Fargo
XMLdation
Yaypay
Work Groups and Leadership Groups

1. API Design Work Group
2. Business Analyst Work Group
3. Security Work Group
4. Communications Work Group
5. API Routing Security Task Force
6. Afinis/BMS Gap Analysis Work Group
7. Leadership Group

“Afinis is one of those organizations where we just have the perfect opportunity to exchange information and ideas in an incredibly efficient manner because the financial institutions are here, the technology providers are here, and government institutions and agencies are here.”

Alex Yang, Digital Channels Product Manager, Global Transaction Services Team, Bank of America, Merrill Lynch

Organizations Named to Interim Governing Board
### Activities

**Face-to-Face**

- **Jan. 17:** Herndon, VA, 21 attendees
- **Feb. 28:** San Francisco, CA, 75 attendees
- **April 29:** San Diego, CA, 47 attendees
- **May 16-17:** Herndon, VA, 11 attendees
- **June 13-14:** Herndon, VA, 26 attendees
- **Oct. 10:** Washington, DC, 42 attendees

**Virtual Meetings**

Leveraging technologies that enable collaboration, virtual meetings provide the opportunity to advance work efforts without needing to leave the office.

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### Products

**Online Community Launched**

Afinis.org is a self-service platform in which financial services stakeholders and developers can access information, tools and resources, and test the standardized APIs. It serves as a single resource to help advance API standardization across the financial services ecosystem.

**APIs Published**

- **Account Validation API** helps ensure bank accounts are valid and payments are posted as desired.
- **Get Bank Contact Information API** allows originating financial institutions to quickly find and alert the appropriate contact within a receiving financial institution of potential fraud to prompt further investigation.

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“The spectrum of people and the depth and collective expertise that Afinis members bring to the table makes the organization unique. I have been fascinated with all the backgrounds and the interactions that I have with members. It’s really a group of very smart people.”

Ritesh Kirad, Independent Consultant, FAPI-D, LLC

“...The work that Afinis is doing to bring standards to the industry is very important and will go a long way in allowing the industry to move forward and innovate without needing to reinvent itself.”

Orlando Santos, Vice President of Product, Payrailz
**Reports Released**

Thought leadership in the form of white papers and reports serve as a way to provide education on the value of API standardization and promote adoption.

**News Announcements Issued**

News announcements allow for the regular communication of our initiatives with the industry in an open and transparent way.

"API standardization will impact API adoption. By having a common standard that participants can use, they’ll have solved a big part of the business problem of how we communicate with each other. A common language is the key. And that’s what standardization brings us."

Frank Keller, Principle, Innovation, Payments Canada
JOIN

Advance the future of API standardization. Join Afinis Interoperability Standards.

Afinis.org

“Membership in Afinis provides an opportunity to have a voice in the industry and also contribute to the future - an opportunity that is not always present in other groups and other organizations.”

Christina McGeorge, Vice President of Solutions Consulting and Product Marketing, D3 Banking Technology

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