

Afinis Interoperability Standards

2018 – THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Afinis[™]

Interoperability Standards

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.”**



COMMUNITY



112 Diverse Members

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





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 Member and PI Planning Meetings

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



“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*



132

Virtual Meetings

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

PRODUCTS



“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*



1

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.

RESOURCES



2

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.



7

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



2550 Wasser Terrace, Suite 400
Herndon, VA 20171

www.nacha.org

info@nacha.org

703.561.1100