

Central bank digital currencies: an opportunity for the monetary system

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Central bank

An example of a monetary system with retail CBDC and commercial banks



CBDCs can be designed to have a limited footprint – like cash today



Challenges arising from the centrality of data in the digital economy







An open platform can channel network effects towards a virtuous circle



In spite of technological progress and declining information processing costs, card payments are still more expensive than cash for a €25 transaction



Even in advanced economies, many households did not have bank accounts, payment cards and mobile phones in 2017



American consumers trust big techs the least to safeguard their personal data





A key design choice: should CBDCs be account-based or token-based?



There is a continuum of governance arrangements for digital ID



Jigsaw puzzle principle: each provider should have access only to data that are strictly necessary for their task



...and shares only what is needed in a specific case



No provider holds all the pieces of the puzzle; only the individual user does





The "direct model" of CBDCs entails a large operational role for the central bank



Users and merchants have claims on the central bank without an intermediary



Payment information flows directly from users and merchants to the central bank...



...and the central bank maintains the full ledger of retail transactions



In the "intermediated model", the central bank has a wholesale ledger of only payments between PSPs, not those between the individual users



Central bank records wholesale balances

In the "hybrid model", the central bank retains a copy of the full retail ledger

Central bank PSP User 000 000 000 0000 Merchant 000 Assets CBDC retail ledger CBDC retail ledger Legal claim Data flow

Central bank records retail balances

Operational involvement of the central bank is highest in the direct model, and lowest in the intermediated model





CBDCs could simplify the monetary architecture and substantially streamline the cross-border payment chain



mCBDC arrangement



Multi-CBDC arrangements can facilitate cross-border payments



mCBDC Model 3: Integration into a single system

- Multiple CBDC can be run on a single platform (eg mCBDC Bridge or Project Dunbar)
- Central banks mutually recognise ID schemes

