

# Strong Customer Authentication and Challenge Design



Strong Customer Authentication (SCA) is a new European regulatory requirement. Customers may be asked to authenticate themselves with two factors as part of the checkout flow



If the way customers are asked to authenticate themselves is not well designed, it could lead to unnecessary friction, or to the customer abandoning their purchase

It is vital for issuers to implement a low-friction challenge design to optimise the user experience and minimise abandonment rates

> Best practice SCA challenge design is based around 4 core design principles:

# Design for your customers

How you ask customers to authenticate themselves will largely determine whether you're left with a happy customer, or a frustrated one. SCA requires that cardholders are authenticated using two of three factors:

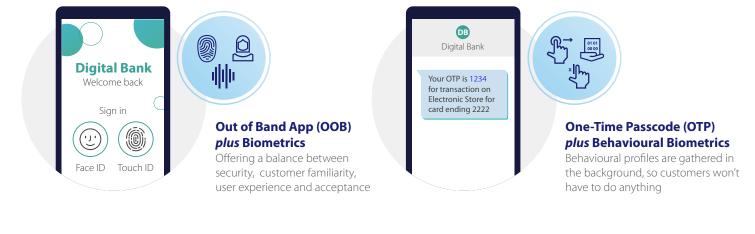


For customers that may be vulnerable or don't have access to a mobile phone, we recommend having additional inclusive and tactical options e.g. card readers

# Use biometrics wherever possible

Research has shown that customers increasingly consider biometrics to be secure and easy to use. By integrating biometric elements into their SCA challenge design, issuers can drive both customer confidence and trust

Visa recommends one of two options for the 'main' SCA solution, both involve the use of biometrics



## Make OOB easy for customers If you choose to use an 'Out-of-Band' App (OOB) in your SCA challenge

design, then Issuers will need to make it easy for customers to download this and set it up. There are two implementation options here:

This avoids the need for customers to install and use a separate app

Consider a standalone authenticator app Especially useful if you are considering implementing a single

Use your existing banking app

solution across all channels and services

multi-scheme ACS solution) that supports a wide range of OOB use cases. Easy to implement, the authenticator app provides an optimal balance between security and customer experience

Visa offers a biometric authenticator app through VCAS (Visa's



## Proactive communication Even with the best challenge design, you may well encounter potential problems,

especially in the early months of SCA implementation



### able to confirm what messages can be successfully sent to and received

by your customers

By conducting a trial run, you will be



### challenge flows. By providing proactive communications and follow-up support, you'll be able to quickly and simply

ID to log in. Everything is

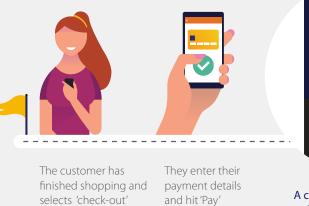
clear and straightforward

**Proactive customer communication** 

resolve any issue at hand

In the early days, customers won't be familiar with SCA

What best practice looks like



Use of existing bank app - ease and familiarity

selects 'check-out'

Verification Required A challenge screen appears together with a push notification to the digital banking app

Clicking on the notification, the existing banking app opens, where she uses Touch

She is immediately authenticated with minimal friction and her

purchase is authorised

An intuitive 'main' challenge flow - OOB plus Biometrics Good, clear communication

Full SCA compliance

Seamless customer experience

No abandonment