

EBICS – Status Quo in Europe and next steps

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
EBICS Forum Switzerland

Zurich, 18 September 2023


EBICS is now a European standard*

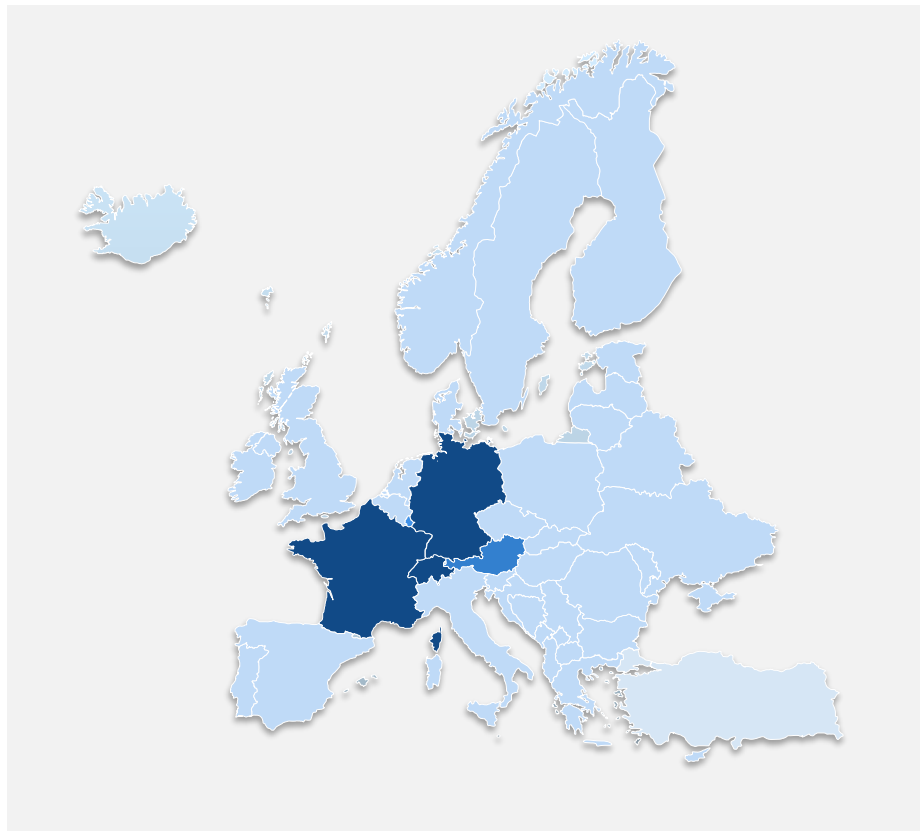
The logo for EBICS, featuring the word "ebics" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letter "b" is stylized with a blue globe icon integrated into its vertical stroke.

Members of the EBICS Company (EBICS SC):

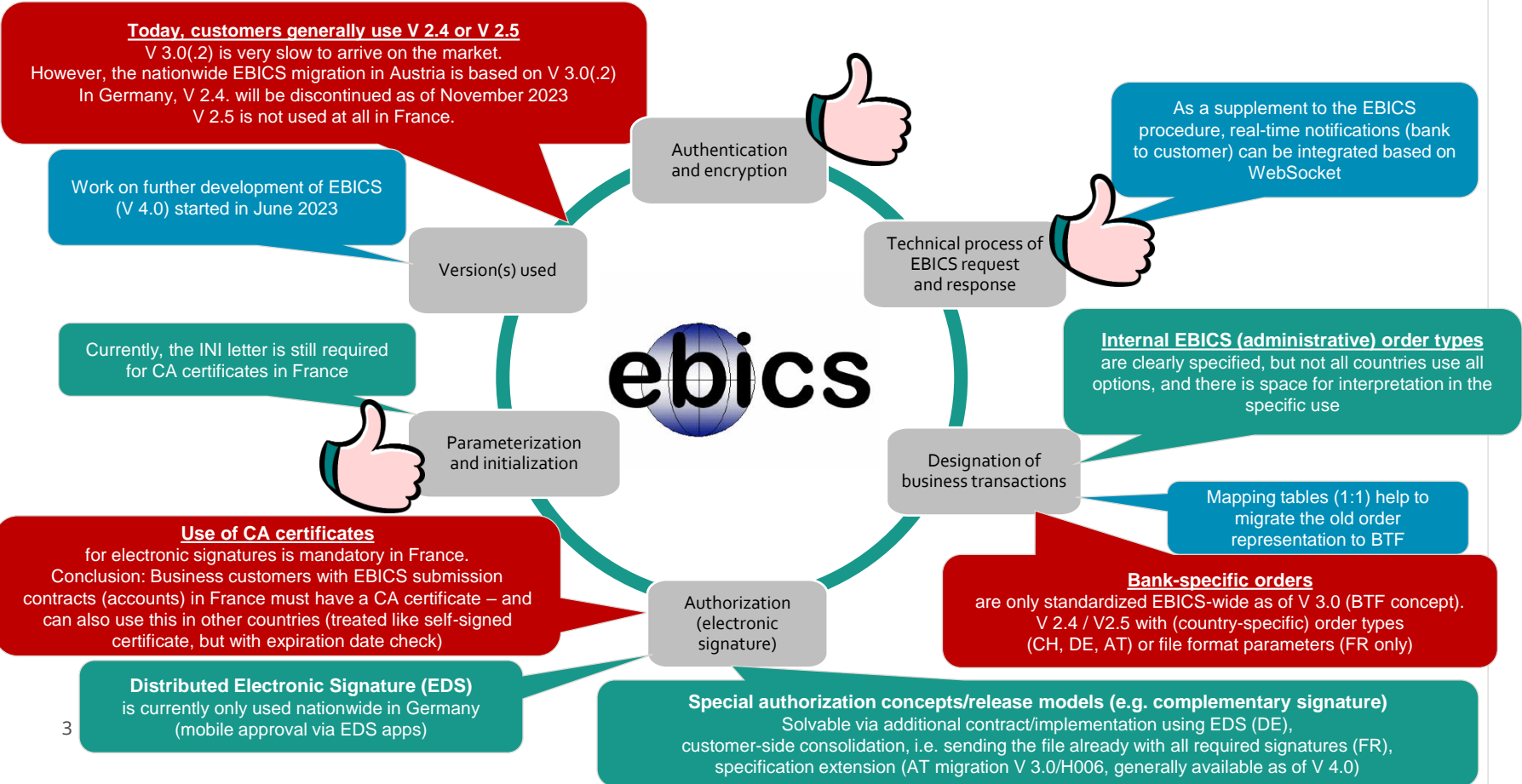
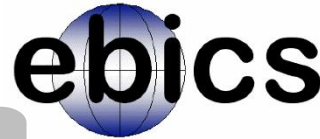
-  Already widespread use
-  Use in area-wide expansion

Outside the EBICS SC:

-  Use by individual institutions



Due to different previous systems and "cultures" in the individual EBICS countries, there were differences in the (national) product solutions (customer and bank side)



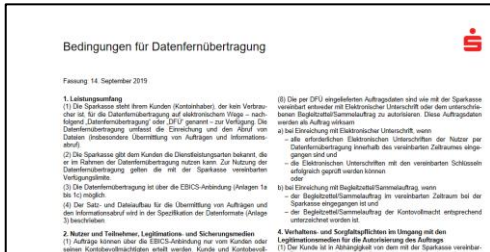
A few German specialties...

Uniform contracts with corporate customers

- **Customer terms and conditions – uniform in the German Banking Industry for all EBICS customers**
- Due diligence of the customer, liability
- Security requirements for the EBICS client system
- Last revision for PSD2 as of 13 September 2019



- **The structure of the EBICS (submission-) contracts is bank-specific but follows the same pattern**
- Variations result from different authorization concepts (e.g. what does a limit refer to? How many signatures are required for approval?) and, if applicable, supplementary agreements



... Mandatory requirements for banks to support communication standards and rulebooks for banking formats...

- **The Remote Data Transmission Agreement ("DFÜ-Abkommen")**

The German Banking Industry Committee (Deutsche Kreditwirtschaft - DK) – the umbrella organisation of the leading German banking associations, has concluded the "Agreement on Remote Data Transmission between Customer and Bank". It has been mandatory for DK institutions in corporate banking since 1995.

Via three technical appendices, the agreement regulates the following:

- The **customer-bank communication**
Appendix 1: Current EBICS specification

- Sending (push) **real-time notifications to customers**
Appendix 2 *optional*: Specification based on WSS with standardized JSON messages

- The structure of the **data formats**
Appendix 3: All format standards used in DK, i.e.

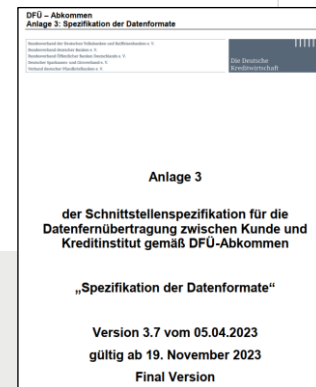
- regulations of the "DE" scope in preparation: references to other scopes (e.g. CBPR+)
- reference to the BTFs to be used or the (German) order type

Bank commitment to support a specific EBICS version

Transition times for support of older EBICS versions: **EBICS life cycle**
or discontinuation/announcement of security requirements: **crypto life cycle**

Bank commitment to support latest format versions

Transition periods for the acceptance of old formats or completion according to older DK regulations:
Format life cycle

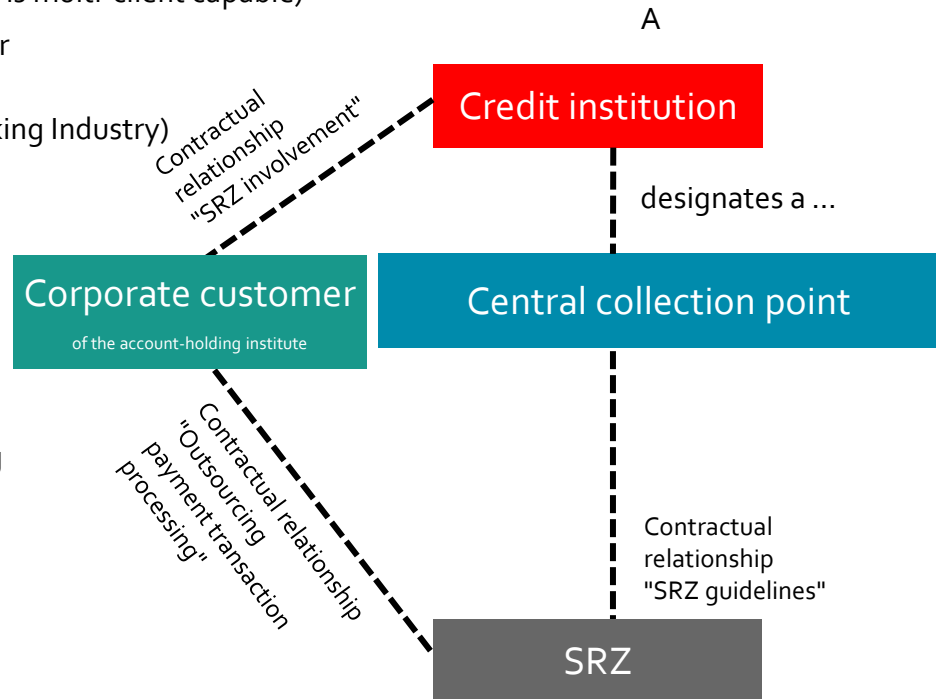


- **Payment transactions:**
SEPA with SCT Inst (bulk), cross-border and high-value payments
- **Account information:**
Account statement, payment status reports, credit notification, overview of direct debit reversals...
- **Many special cases:**
Documentary credits, recalls, bank services billing statements, *SEPA request to pay (bulk) - in preparation*

... Involving service data centers

- **The SRZ process** (Involvement of intermediaries / third-party services)

- A company outsources its **payment transactions** (e.g. salary payments) to a service data center ("Service-Rechenzentrum" = SRZ)
→ The company is thus a client of the SRZ (which is multi-client capable)
- The SRZ delivers the payment transaction files for all clients collected in containers via EBICS to central collection points (within the German Banking Industry) (transport only, i.e. signature class T).
- From there, the container is split and **redistributed** to the account-holding banks
- **Order authorization** is carried out by the company itself (via EBICS EDS or other authorisation procedure)
- The SRZ also often offers the service of collecting and, if necessary, processing **electronic account information** for its clients



EBICS V 4.0 – focus on security, customer requirements and performance

– timelines and first concrete results expected in early 2024 –

More convenience and functionality for (EBICS) customers

- Digitalization of the onboarding of customers or new users as well as more automation
- Faster and more targeted information flow to the customer

Subgroup
"Digitalization & Automation"
Lead country: Germany

- "Digital INI letter" specification
- Automation of the update of URLs and host IDs

Subgroup
"Improvements for communication"
Lead country: Germany

- "Notification Center" based on WebSocket
- Development of push use cases

Technical improvements

- Review of the EBICS schema: Correction of deficiencies and improvements in the XML messages as well as harmonization of country specifics
- Fewer "time-outs" for download requests (transfer of large PDF and XML files in particular) and performance improvements

Subgroup "XML schema"
– Review and support –
Lead country: Switzerland

- Improvements/review of the current schema
- Integration of the new requirements

Subgroup
"Performance and technical aspects"
Lead country: Switzerland

- Review of current measures (especially segmentation) and development of improvements

Orientation towards the future through crypto agility

- The basic security framework of EBICS is currently too rigid – the security procedures must be decoupled from the EBICS version. Future-proof approaches and algorithms with respect to post quantum
- Consideration of legal and regulatory requirements as well as safety recommendations

Subgroup "Security"
Lead country: Austria

- Negotiation of the best security level at the beginning of an EBICS session
- Formulation of an EBICS-wide minimum requirement

Subgroup "Electronic signature compliance"
Lead country: France

- Security at the endpoints and media used; security review

Thank you for your
attention



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Q&A

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