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# **Multibanking in EBICS**

# **EBICS Forum Switzerland 2023**

Thomas Klawitter | PM Corporate Customer Payment Transactions St. Gallen | 18 September 2023

#### **Corporate customer needs**

#### Facts on multibanking in Switzerland



Two out of three Swiss corporate customers have multiple banking relationships



On average, an corporate customer has 2.7 banking relationships



**Biggest pain point:** 

Getting an overview of the total liquidity

Multibanking

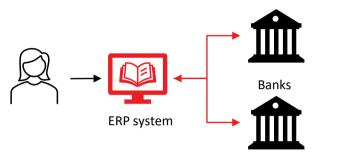
Solution:

Obtaining and displaying account data

Execution of payment orders

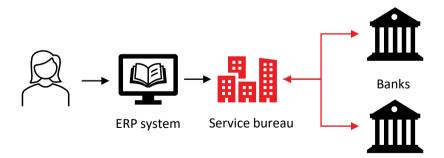
# Multibanking connections with EBICS (1/2)

• Via ERP system (multibanking capability has been possible for a very long time)



Via the integrated EBICS client, the various banks are directly integrated into the ERP system. **Disadvantages:** Not all banks and ERP systems are EBICS capable **Examples:** Abacus, Mammut, Topal, ...

• Via Service Bureau (multibanking capability has been possible for a long time)



A multibanking capable service provider is used that connects to the EBICS customer and participant data at the respective third-party bank and performs the data exchange for the customer via EBICS.

**Advantages:** More connectivity solutions and conversions are offered if necessary.

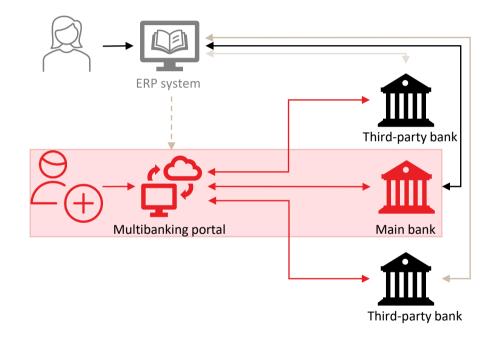
#### Examples:

Fides Treasury Services, Kyriba, Swisscom (FMSB),

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# Multibanking connections with EBICS (2/2)

• Via Multibanking portal of bank (multibanking capability has only been possible recently)



A multibanking capable portal of a bank is used, and the customer's third-party banks are integrated via EBICS.

#### Advantages:

- All accounts at third-party banks can be managed with one login
- Submissions from the ERP system can be separated from authorizations in the multibanking portal
- Optional functions for liquidity and cash management

#### Examples:

UBS, Valiant, PostFinance, Raiffeisen, Aargauer KB, ...

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#### Advantages and disadvantages of multibanking via EBICS

- Advantages:
  - EBICS is supported by most Swiss financial institutions
  - EBICS is essentially free of charge (no user fees for transmission of data)
  - Exchange of "any" data possible
  - Replaces proprietary interfaces for business customers at banks (simplification of connectivity)
- Disadvantages:
  - Solution limited to the European market (*DE, CH, FR and AT*)
  - Time-consuming onboarding process, which has not yet been digitalized (efforts for improvement underway)
  - Not every EBICS implementation in Switzerland complies with the EBICS CH standard (efforts for improvement underway)



### Challenges in multibanking via EBICS (1/2)

#### Migration to EBICS 3.0

- EBICS 3.0 not yet implemented and supported with all EBICS clients and EBICS banks
- Order types and BTF parameters not uniformly implemented at the Swiss financial center
- Migration from EBICS 2.5 to EBICS 3.0 with hurdles regarding ISO version
- VEU issues with cross-contract and cross-version customer setups (e.g. trustees)
- Recommended action for EBICS working group in CH:
  - Reconsider and correct CH EBICS guidelines and decisions

#### Customer master data

The customer and subscriber authorizations can be obtained from the EBICS server via the HKD order type

- Advantages:
  - No manual creation of account and master data necessary (increase in data quality)
- Disadvantages:
  - Not all banks also return the account data in HKD
- Recommended action for EBICS banks in CH:
  - Provide optional data including account number (IBAN) and account holder in HKD

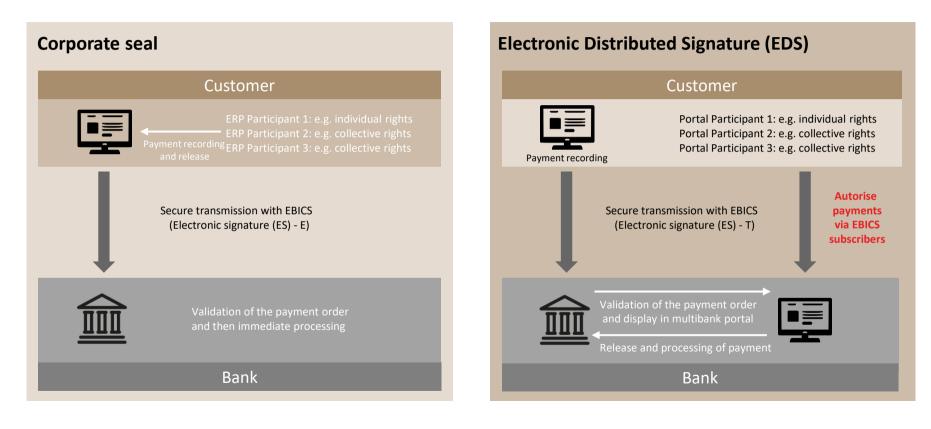


#### Challenges in multibanking via EBICS (2/2)

#### EDS (Electronic Distributed Signature) and technical subscribers

- Advantages:
  - Submission from an ERP system can be done separately from authorizations on a separate channel (increase of security against cyberfraud)
- Disadvantages:
  - Not all financial institutions offering EBICS support EDS and the technical subscribers required for portal solutions (both defined in the EBICS standard)
  - Instead, connection via a corporate seal necessary and authorization management must be ensured in the multibanking portal
- Recommended action for EBICS banks and corporate customers in CH:
  - Introduction and use of EDS, as well as EBICS banks to support the technical subscribers

### Different forms of EBICS with broad consequences



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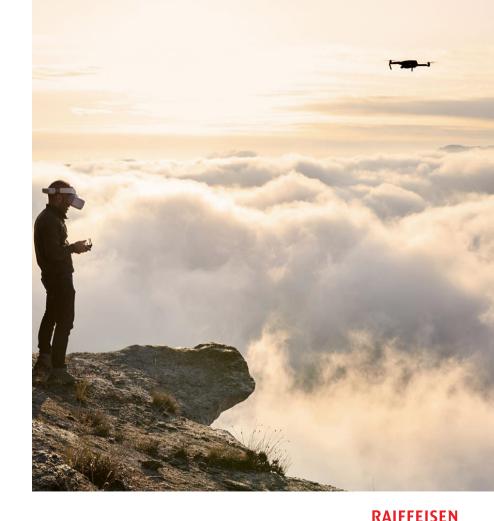
# **Outlook for EBICS...**

To increase the further spread and acceptance of EBICS, the following points are considered with regard to further developments in relation to EBICS 4.0:

- Easier onboarding (digitalization), reworking of security, user experience and communication capabilities (notifications)
- For this purpose, *international EBICS subworking groups* were formed

In addition, a "Swiss EBICS Taskforce: Optimization of Onboarding and Change Process" was launched on behalf of PaCoS to analyze the possibilities for expansion and improvement on the Swiss marketplace:

 e.g.: Central registration office (Certification Authority) for EBICS participant certificates



# Thank you

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