July 2026
Stablecoin
A brief story about how Stablecoins shape the future of finance
Developed by
Finansit as
www.finansit.no
Graphics AI generated with Shutterstock

Means of payment throughout history

Means of payment have changed throughout history. 5,000 years ago, in Egypt, shells, grains, salt and other things were used as means of payment. A bit inconvenient to carry around and difficult to value abroad. 3,000 years ago, coins was launched, mostly in precious metals, where the weight of gold and silver indicated the value of the coin. It became easier to carry around and easier to value abroad. A little less than 1,000 years ago, paper money came into being in China, based on trust that the issuer had precious metal or power equivalent to the value of the paper money. This introduced credit risk in money, but at the same time made it even easier to transport. With the introduction of new accounting principles and banking 500 years ago in Italy, escalating with computers and digital processes in the 1950s, physical money largely disappeared and was replaced by bank account money. You no longer own your own money, but a claim on the bank. Along the way, the infrastructure has been improved layer by layer and in 2026 is a long value chain with banks, central banks, card companies, PSP, issuer, acquirer, correspondent banks, SWIFT and much more to make the chain of actors in the payment infrastructure coherent.

Stablecoin entails a completely new infrastructure without the aforementioned actors, shorter value chains, information updated every second, where money is once again owned as cash did and can be moved cross-border in seconds. Digital values for the digital age. Other means of payment such as customer bonus points and loyalty programs can be easily integrated into the Stablecoin infrastructure.

Fast and secure payment

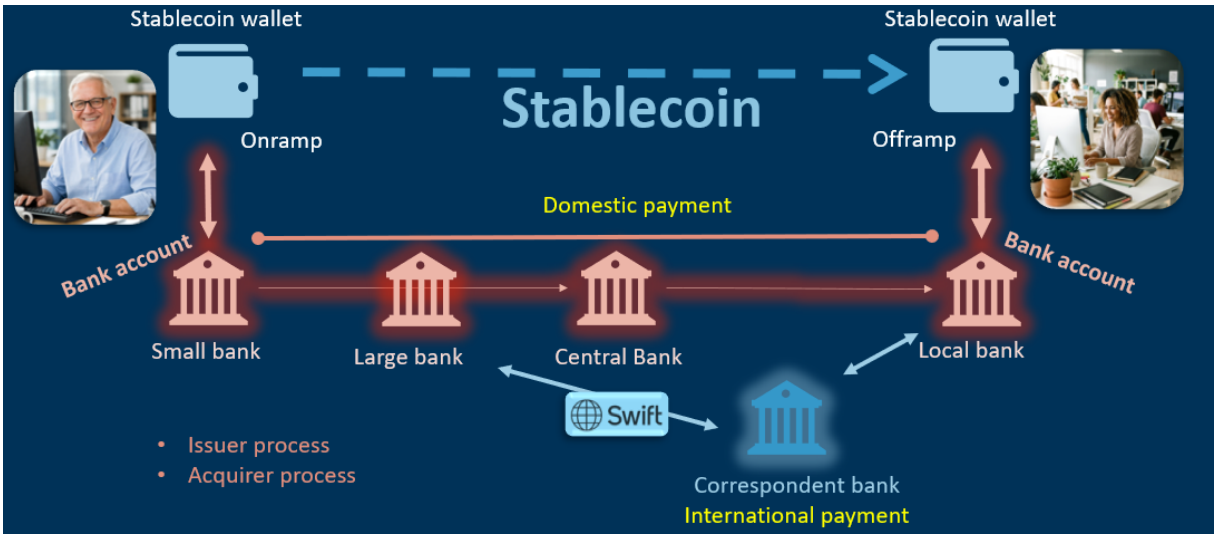
The infrastructure for stablecoin itself is completely independent of today's bank payment infrastructure. There must be a payer who owns Stablecoin who has a digital wallet. And there must be a payee who also has a digital wallet. And there must be a digital network where both payer and payee are participants. Finally, there must be a computer system that checks that the payer owns the money being sent, verifies the transaction and updates the transaction chain. This latter is done by nodes, notaries or “miners” in Blockchain technology.

For the Stablecoin infrastructure to function in today's ecosystem, there must also be a possibility to transfer money from the bank to the wallet and back. But this does not have to be done for every payment. Users can leave the Stablecoin money in the wallet and circulate in the infrastructure for a long time before the bank gets involved.

Liquidity is moved as cash

A long time ago, before the emergence of digital services that started around 1950, as mentioned, physical cash was the dominant means of payment. In addition, large payments were often paid with paper checks and bank orders on paper. When person A delivered a banknote with a value of 100 Euro to store B, there was no need to update any balance on the bank account or other forms of external bookkeeping. The payment was final and within a second. Liquidity was transferred from payer A to payee B (bearer-based). A and B can keep track of the balance in their own wallet/cash.

As digitalization spread and trade to a lesser extent occurs by buyers and sellers meeting each other physically, cash no longer functions as a means of payment. With the escalation of bank account money (money in a bank account), liquidity and payment transactions went their separate ways. Liquidity is moved little in today's payment infrastructure, while information about the payer's account, the recipient's account, the central bank reserve account, the amount and a few other things fly through the digital infrastructure.



With Stablecoin, liquidity moves in the same way as cash. Payments are made P2P, without any intermediary. This makes the value chain much shorter than today's bank payments. Liquidity is "inside" the digital coin, just like cash or chips at a casino. This is one of several reasons why Stablecoin is more effective than bank account money as a means of payment in our digital future.

With the new technology, liquidity can be moved to an interest-bearing account or money market fund in seconds in so-called smart contracts, which help individuals and companies to receive interest on their liquidity very efficiently. For companies that move large amounts, dramatically shorter flow times will also improve liquidity needs and increase interest income.

DeFi

Decentralized Finance (DeFi) is a term for a new financial market based on Stablecoin and new tokenized forms of money. The market contains services that banks have until now been the sole providers of, such as deposits, loans, savings with interest, investments, insurance and other forms of financial services. This market is expected to grow with increased use of stablecoin and other forms of tokenized money.

Better efficiency with programmable payments

Stablecoin is based on a technology and infrastructure that makes it possible to automate and robotize many business processes, in addition to payments. It is possible to include small applications (computer programs) called smart contracts directly in the value chain. Smart contracts can be compared to AI agents that can perform processes completely autonomously, on their own. Often, such applications can lie dormant until special events trigger an activity. For example, a payment is only made when one or more special activities have been verified completed.

For example, "*Pay 120 Euro to the airline after I have passed the security check at the airport and the plane takes off according to the schedule with me on board. Otherwise pay 100 Euro. If I do not pass the security check, pay 50 for cancellation*". The result is a discount of 20 if the plane is delayed, and 50 Euro as a cancellation if I do not show up. Such logical assumptions for payment are impossible with today's infrastructure and money.

Reduce counterparty risk

The technology behind Stablecoin also makes it easy with so-called atomic transactions. These are transactions where two units of value change ownership in one and the same transaction. For example, a pallet of coffee becomes owned by a store, at the same time as the supplier of coffee becomes the owner of the money. Both change ownership at the same time. This will remove counterparty risk in trade and is especially important in transactions with large values. In the technology behind stablecoin, both changes of ownership occur in one and the same transaction. Either the transaction is completed or something happens and it is not completed.

With today's technology, at least two transactions are needed: 1) where the coffee pallet is transferred from seller to buyer and 2) where the money is sent from buyer to seller. This means that there is a risk that one transaction will be completed and not the other by mistake. This risk does not exist with atomic transactions.

The combination of programmable payments and atomic transactions means that completely new business models can be developed and a lot of new innovation can take place.

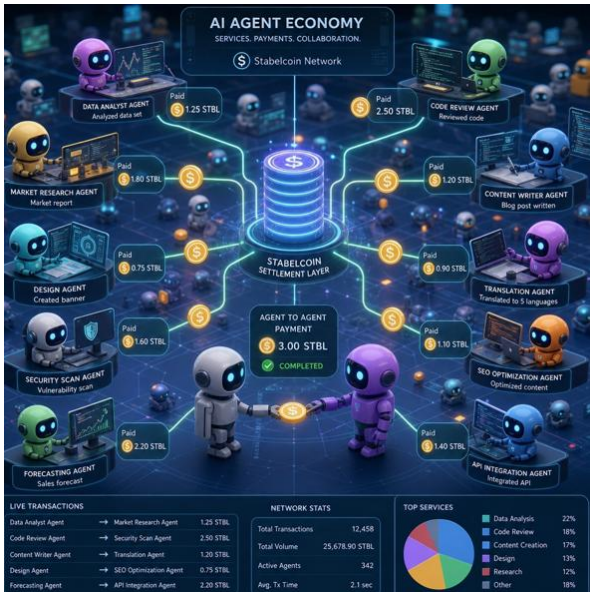
One version of the truth

A challenge in today's trade is that there can be more than one version of the truth. For example, factory A sends an invoice to factory B and the shipment takes, for example, one day from A sending to B receiving. On the day the invoice is sent, A's accounts will state that B owes A, while on the same day B's accounts will not have a debt item to A. Both accounts are correct. There are two versions of the truth and both are correct.

In a blockchain technology where the invoice is on the chain, the accounts of both A and B will be updated SIMULTANEOUSLY and in one transaction. There will always be only one version of the truth, as long as the actors use the same chain.

AI age needs new payment infrastructure

With the rapid spread of AI in recent years, the need for a new form of money has increased. AI agents need a mechanism to pay and receive payment for the services they perform in real time. The AI-token economy has exploded, because AI services need a new business model. For lack of anything better, providers add up the number of tokens used and invoice the user periodically, or the user prepays a few million tokens at a time. A token-based currency such as a stablecoin is the solution the industry is looking for, where payment occurs dynamically at the same time as the services are consumed.



With the emergence of AI agents in combination with smart contracts, the flexibility and execution capability of administrative IT applications such as ERP/accounting will be greatly improved. The two technologies reinforce each other. Today's payment infrastructure with account money and bank payments is poorly adapted to future requirements for speed, the possibility of control and micropayments where each payment is a few cents.

But it is not only AI agents that need a new form of payments. Also others who provide services in the form of a stream of services can improve their business model with token money. Examples of this are streaming services such as Spotify and Netflix, toll passes, municipal water and sewage, and electricity. Consultants who are paid for each hour continuously, or data centers that are paid for each gigabyte processed – in real time.

90% lower costs

Businesses in the EU had an estimated turnover of 38.7 trillion Euros in 2024. 52% was made by large companies with more than 250 employees. Medium-sized companies accounted for 17% while companies with less than 50 employees accounted for 31%. VISA and MasterCard processed transactions in the EU for an estimated 4.2 trillion Euros in 2023, and in 2025 they accounted for 47% of all card payments in the EU, and a full 95% in the UK. There are some local card companies such as BankAxept in Norway, Carte Bancaire in France and Girocard in Germany. The EU has set a limit on the interchange fees of card companies, but the transaction costs for using cards still amount to between 2% and 3% in most countries. With a 2.5% transaction cost for VISA/MasterCard, this amounted to just over 100 billion Euros in costs in 2023. If the transaction is cross-currency, the bank often takes an extra 1-3% baked into the exchange rate. Bank-to-bank SEPA transactions are often cheaper, but not free at all.

The costs for payment with stablecoin are per transaction, regardless of the amount transferred. The transaction costs depend on which Blockchain technology is used. If you use, for example, Solana, Polygon or Base (Coinbase), the cost is around 0.01 Euros per transaction. If you use the Ethereum main network, the cost can reach 10 Euros, depending on how much traffic there is on the network.

Actors in the EU can save up to 90% of transaction costs by using Stablecoin in relation to bank and card payments.

On the other hand, there will be costs from the banks when liquidity is moved from and to a bank account.

Regulation, Euro and future

Stablecoin was considered a cryptocurrency by the authorities for many years. However, Stablecoin is now regulated in most countries, including the EU. In the EU we have a regulation called MICA (Market in Crypto Asset) which also includes Stablecoin. Similar regulation exists in the USA and most countries in the world. There are requirements for security and that money laundering rules are followed.

Daily trading volume in Stablecoin is well over 100 billion Euros in the world in some periods. Since most of Stablecoin in 2026 is in USD, many fear a new dollarization. Many initiatives in Europe are being launched and the fear is probably unfounded. An example is the Qivalis project where 27 European banks are participating in a consortium about Stablecoin in 2026. This means that credit risk is almost zero and flexibility in Europe is great. There are also ready-made solutions for POS in stores and online shopping, as well as many consulting companies with good technical expertise.

Something about the technology

The technology used for Stablecoin in 2026 is called Blockchain technology. The technology was presented in October 2008 by an anonymous identity who called himself Satoshi Nakamoto, the identity behind the cryptocurrency Bitcoin. Who Satoshi is has not been leaked, probably a small group of computer geeks in the United States. The challenge Satoshi wanted to solve was how to transfer digital values from one person to another without there being an intermediary in the form of a bank or broker. For Satoshi, it was values in the form of Bitcoin that could be transferred without the banks being involved. This was during the financial crisis that the banks were blamed for. Recently, there are many forms of digital values that are moved from one to another with Blockchain technology.

After 2008, hundreds of new technologies have been developed, all based on Satoshi's architecture. With the Ethereum technology in 2013, smart contracts also came along, making Blockchain technology even more flexible and user-friendly.

The reason it is called Blockchain technology is that transactions are collected in blocks, often a few hundred or thousand transactions in each block. The blocks are created by those who verify (mine) the transactions. Some technologies have a few seconds between each block while Bitcoin has 10 minutes between each block. The mechanism with the blocks makes it practically impossible to delete or change the transactions that are inside a block. This results in increased security against manipulation and forgery in the databases.

In 2026, there are a large number of different Blockchain technologies, with Bitcoin, Ethereum, Solana, Polygon, Tron, BNB (Binanance), Base (Coinbase) and a couple more being the most used. Central banks are also testing different forms of Blockchain in their work with CBDC, Central Bank Digital Currency. Large companies that want closed networks often use what is called DLT (Distributed Ledger Technology). DLT are closed networks where only the company and its partners have access and the process of verifying each transaction, often called a notary node, is controlled by the company.

There are currently a large number of consulting companies with good expertise in this technology. Testing, developing and using blockchain technology is relatively easy. Both in the form of pilot projects and in new IT systems that are to be put into production. It is especially IT systems that are based on transactions and series of events that can greatly benefit from blockchain technology.

About Finansit in brief

Finansit is a consulting company with accumulated expertise and experience from the development of advanced IT systems for banks and finance in Europe since 1990. Since 2015, much of the activity has been around Blockchain and tokenized money in projects for large companies, private banks and central banks.