What's Primer?

> Primer brings together all of your favorite payments services in a single, easy-to-implement integration.

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Primer is a payments framework that sits at the heart of your payments stack.

It's made up of three key product areas:

- Universal Checkout: a lightweight, open-source SDK

- Connections: code-free links to all the services you use, from payment processors to fraud protection services

- Workflows: fully customizable processing flows that enable you to route payments based on criteria such as currency

Powering all of this are our unified Payments API and Payment Methods API.

What's a payment?

In the context of Primer, a payment is a timeline of events that starts at payment creation and progresses towards settlement.

You can visualize this timeline in the Dashboard, Primer's user interface. For each event, you'll be able to see the exact request Primer sent to your service provider and the response it received in return. Payment events are standardized across all payment methods and service providers, so you can compare like to like.

Every payment request includes the same core payment information — whether you're creating a one-off Apple Pay payment or a card-based subscription.

How it works

With Primer, you integrate once using just a few lines of code, then create your ideal configuration through a simple user interface.

1. First, you set up your connections. Think of these as the building blocks of your Primer integration. They allow you to easily enable multiple payment methods and configure any third-party services you plan to use to process your payments.

2. Next, you add Universal Checkout to your web, iOS or Android application. The checkout takes sensitive payment data and transforms it into a token for your server to use. The token is a unique string of characters that can only be used once and contains no sensitive data. Universal Checkout also comes with a centralized vault, which you can use to safely store your customer's payment method details in order to improve their checkout experience or process recurring payments.

   > **i** Universal Checkout is PCI L1 compliant, which means we adhere to the strictest standards set out by the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS). Your customers' payment details are securely handled by us and all you'll need to do is complete a simple self-assessment form.

3. With your basic setup in place, you're ready to create a payment using our Payments API. All you need to provide us with is an amount, a currency, a unique identifier and the payment method token.

   > **i** Every response returned by the Payments API and every notification sent by the payment webhooks follows the same structure and includes the same information.

4. This payment request triggers a workflow which tells Primer how to process this payment. You can create workflows that are as simple or as complex as you like — you have full control over the processing logic, whether you want to route payments based on currency or implement fallback strategies in case your main payment processor goes down. The workflow can also dynamically update the checkout screen, for example to ask a customer to verify their identity before they can proceed.

Get started

Learn how to add connections or dive straight into our quickstart, which will walk you through the whole integration process step by step.

> **i**   Don't have an account yet? Get in touch!