

PayPal

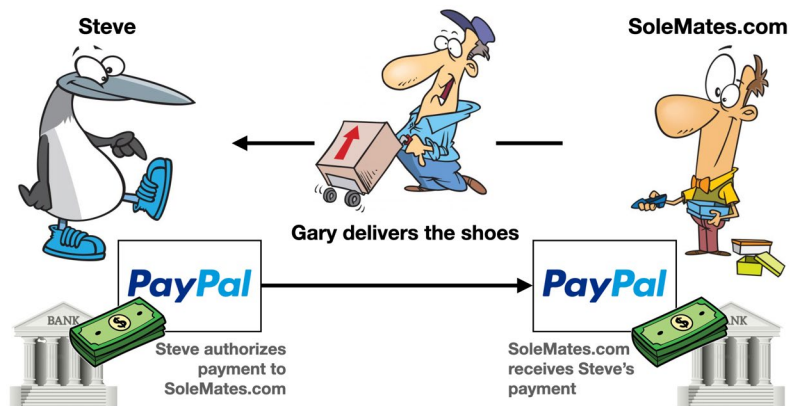
This is the second of our two-part series about online payments.

Last month, I explained how Apple Pay and Google Pay allow you to make secure payments without revealing your credit card information. Many local merchants and online retailers accept Apple and Google Pay, and I use it whenever possible.

PayPal is another popular payment method, and though it works differently, it's a secure and efficient way to pay online retailers and private individuals. Some "bricks-and-mortar" stores allow payments via PayPal, though I prefer Apple Pay when I shop in person.

Here's how PayPal works:

Steve wants to buy a pair of shoes from SoleMates.com, an online shoe store that I just invented. (Clever, huh?) You can follow along on the diagram that I painstakingly drew below, which shows the customer, Steve, SoleMates.com, PayPal, and the delivery guy, Gary.



Painstakingly drawn diagram. Note: Steve's identity has been disguised.

1. Steve set up his online PayPal account a while back. He linked it to his bank account with a credit card as an alternate payment source.
2. SoleMates.com has its own PayPal account.
3. Steve found a fabulous pair of shoes on the SoleMates.com site, added them to his shopping cart, and clicked on the PayPal option when he checked out.
4. The SoleMates.com website directed Steve to PayPal.com, where he signed in and approved the purchase. PayPal had already entered the amount and Steve's address so the shoes wouldn't accidentally go to his Aunt Karen in Bayonne.
5. PayPal transferred the funds from Steve's bank via PayPal to SoleMates.com's PayPal account in the wink of an eye (known to be roughly 150 milliseconds for most eyes).
6. SoleMates.com then shipped the shoes to Steve, who was delighted.

Note that Steve never sent his bank or credit card information to SoleMates.com.

You can also use PayPal to transfer funds to your friends or acquaintances. It's convenient, but you must be careful because the transfer is instantaneous, and there are no "backsies."

If you need help with online payment options, just ask our tech team at:

<https://engage.cmaprinceton.org/tech-help>.