

Account Aggregator Network – a financial data sharing system

Account Aggregator (AA) Framework introduced by RBI aims to make financial data more accessible by creating data intermediaries. Account Aggregators (AAs) collect and share the user's financial information between a range of entities (e.g. Bank, NBFC, Mutual Fund Depository, Insurance Repository, Pension Fund Repository, GSTN, Tax data etc.) after obtaining the consent from the consumer for personal or business needs.

There are two types of data users. One is provider and the other is user.

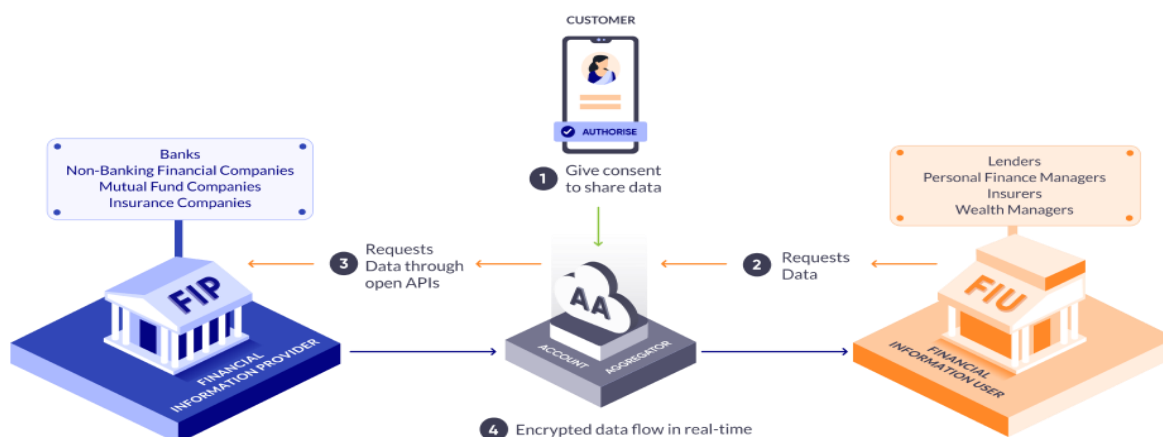
Financial Information Provider (FIP): FIPs are the institutions, which hold customer's data e.g. Bank, NBFC, Insurance Companies, GSTN etc. and sharing the customer's data with the financial institutions on the explicit consent of the customer.

Financial Information User (FIU): An FIU consumes the data from an FIP to provide various services to the end consumer based on the consent of that customer.

Account Aggregator ecosystem is entirely Information Technology (IT) Driven. Account Aggregator has adopted required IT framework and interfaces for data flows from the FIPs to its own systems and onwards to the FIUs. The IT systems adopted have adequate built-in safeguards to prevent unauthorized access, alteration, destruction, disclosure /dissemination of records and data. The Financial information of a customer held with, will be shared among different Banks/ Financial Institutions (FIs) adopting different IT systems and interfaces, which shall be secured, duly authorized, smooth and seamless. Core technical specifications for the participants of the AA ecosystem have been framed by Reserve Bank Information Technology Private Limited(ReBIT) and published on its website(www.rebit.org.in)

AA seeks to empower the citizens by enabling them to share their data only with their explicit consent captured in an electronic consent framework. The data can be shared in a digital format on a real-time basis, directly from the existing Financial Information provider(FIPs) to the potential Financial Information users(FIUs) of the citizens in India.

Account Aggregator Ecosystem overview:



Usage & Benefits of the Account Aggregator Functionality:

➤ What is an Account Aggregator and how it will improve an average person's financial life?

- An Account Aggregator (AA) is a type of RBI regulated entity that helps an individual securely and digitally access and share information from one financial institution they have an account with to any other regulated financial institutions in the AA network. Data cannot be shared without the consent of the individual.
- With the advent of AA functionality, Customers will be able to digitally access and share their financial data across institutions in a secure and efficient manner instead of submitting of hard copy of financial information to the financial institutions. It will help customers to get hassle free credit facility with reduced TAT

➤ What Kind of data can be shared on AA network?

- Currently, banking transaction data (e.g. Current / Savings / Term / Recurring / Overdraft Account Statement), Insurance data is available to be shared across the Bank/FIs that have gone live on the AA network.
- Gradually, other financial information/data (e.g. GST, Tax data, Pensions data, Wealth management, telecom, health data etc.) will also be available for sharing across the Bank/FIs based on the customer consent.

➤ Is the data sharing secure over AA network?

- The Account Aggregator is an interoperable data blind consent manager and cannot read consumer data. The data AAs share is encrypted by the sender and can be decrypted only by the recipient. The end-to-end encryption makes the AA much more secure.

➤ What is the Role of Sahamati in AA Ecosystem?

- Sahamati is non-profit private limit company under section 8 of the new Companies Act of India. It is member driven alliance that was formed to promote and strengthen Account Aggregator ecosystem. It brings organisations and people together from different backgrounds like law, technology and finance to set and achieve goals of India's Account Aggregator network and data empowerment and protection architecture.

➤ **Can a consumer decide they don't want to share data?**

- Registering with an AA is **fully voluntary for consumers**. If the consumer bank has joined the network, a person can choose to register on an AA, choose which accounts they want to link, and share their data from one of their accounts for some specific purpose to a new lender or financial institution at the stage of giving 'consent' via one of the Account Aggregators. A customer can reject consent to share request at any time. If a consumer has accepted to share data in a recurring manner over a period (e.g. during a loan period), it can also be revoked later as well by the consumer.

➤ **If a consumer has shared his/her data once with an institution, for how long can they use it?**

- The exact time period for which the recipient institution will have access will be shown to the consumer at the time of consent for data sharing.

➤ **How can a customer get registered with an AA?**

- Customer can register with an AA through their app or website. AA will provide a handle (like username) which can be used during the consent process or Customers can register with an AA when Bank/FIs ask their consent via SMS/E-mail while requesting for consent for fetching of financial information from other financial institution where customer is maintaining account.
- Canara Bank has on boarded 5 account aggregators namely CAMS, FinVu, One Money, NADL and Anumati, as a FIP for utilizing their services in LAPS module.

➤ **What is the procedure for customers to register under AA?**

- Existing customers can go to Play store and download the AAs to get registered.
- New customer has to provide his 10 digit registered mobile number and OTP to branch/AA to give consent.
- Branch User has to login to LAPS and go to LAPS->Utility->Account Aggregation for obtaining consent from Customer.

➤ **Does a customer need to register with every AA?**

- No, a customer can register with any AA to access data from any Bank/FI on the network.

➤ **Does a customer need to pay the AA for using this facility?**

- This will depend on the AA. Some AAs may be free because they are charging a service fee to financial institutions. Some may charge a small user fee.

➤ **How the customers are benefitted in AA platform?**

- AA does not store or process information and share data on customer's consent.
- Data is encrypted with AA eco system and customer can revoke his consent.
Financial Information for each synced account is up to date, with minimal errors and available online in Real-Time directly delivered from authorized accounts only.
Facility gives hassle free effort to gather data at the user's end with minimal errors without manual intervention.
- AA platform will help customers to get access to hassle free credit facility with reduced TAT and help them to improve efficiency in wealth and money management.
