8 BALANCE

### **Product Experience Research**

Insights & Directions

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Identify the preferred intuitive user flow & action that makes it most likely for the user to execute the follow transactions:

- Send money
- Request money

Identify the terminology, the user would be most familiar with:

- Collect, request or receives
- Pay or send

### Part 1: Interview

1-1 Interview Participants were interviewed about their lifestyle, spending, and payment habits.



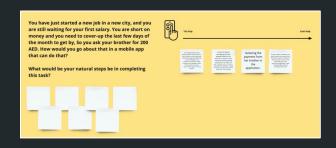
### Part 2: Mental Model based Action Flow Exercise

Participants were asked to create a step by step action flow, for two key scenarios. The objective was to capture their natural flow to find an order for : Action - Amount - Contact

For paying / sending /transfering money to another person in a mobile app.



For requesting / asking money from another person in a mobile app.



### INSIGHTS SUMMARY: INTERVIEW SESSIONS

- Working professionals above 24 are always on the go therefore would rely on Apple pay for their day to day needs.
- Apple pay seems to be the go-to payment method when it comes to small quick purchases.
- Cash was only used by one student to pay for transportation when needed.
- Younger generation are much more cautious when it comes to using payment apps. They prefer to use cards instead of their phones. This could be based on:
  - They are not comfortable yet with digital transactions and want to have more control
  - They do not want to risk losing their money
  - Would follow whatever their close social circle use (friends or family)

- Most of the users wanted their payment app to be quick, simple, secure and easy to use. They all complained about the waiting time that comes after entering a new beneficiary
- Sending money is easy and quick, if the contact is part of their list.
- They all needed a confirmation stage for reassurance, some would screenshot and send to confirm that the payment as been done while others would rely on sms notification when the money gets deducted / received
- Asking for someone to lend them money is the challenging part. They did not want to bombarded the person
  with a text message demanding a certain amount. They also did not want to force the sender to commit to the
  amount they requested via text.
- Most of the requesting journey would start after calling a family member and getting their approval to send them a request



### **An Martine**

Air Hostess & Designer 22 years old Lives with boyfriend Dutch

### Her hobbies are:

Yoga, tennis, walks, shopping and travelling.

### Enoch

Student / Engineer 21 years old Lives with Family Indian - Born in UAE

### His hobbies are:

Video games & making music

### Aysha

Student at DIDI 21 years old Lives with Family Emirati

### Her hobbies are:

Crystal healing

### Mohamed Waje

Software Engineer 23 years old Alone in Dubai but visit family in Sharjah Indian but raised in the UAE

### His hobbies are:

Photography

### Shamma

Student at DIDI 21 years old Lives with Family Emirati

### Her hobbies are:

Yoga

### Pol

Software engineer 23 years old Lives with girlfriend Spanish

### His hobbies are:

Outdoor activities

### Lucile

Personal Stylist 30 years old Lives with flatmates French

### Her hobbies are:

Discovering, art & exhibitions

### Karim

Cabin crew 29 years old Lives alone Egyptian

### His hobbies are:

Music & video games

### Aya

Interior Designer 24 years old Lives with family Half polish / half palistenian

### Her hobbies are:

Playing Violin & horse riding

### Harsh

Data Scientist 28 years old Lives with flatmates Indian

### His hobbies are:

Running, Yoga



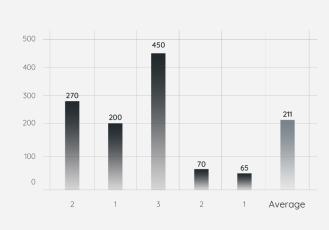
Segment 01

18 - 23

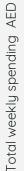
Segment 02

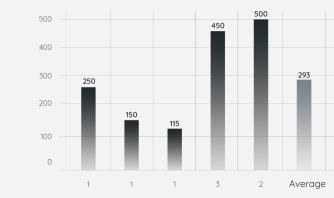
24 - 30

Total weekly spending AED



No of times going out

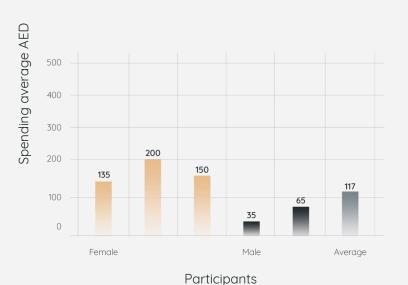




No of times going out

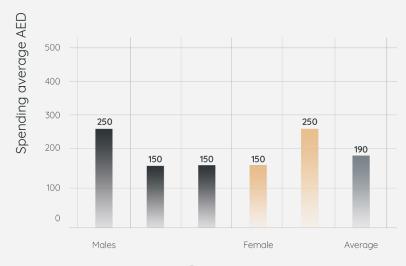
Segment 01

18 - 23

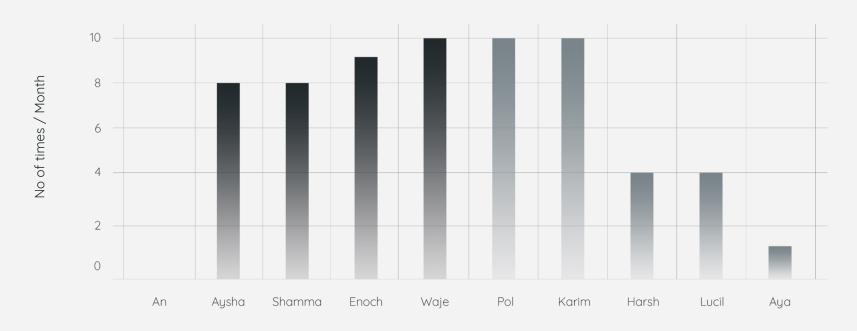


Segment 02

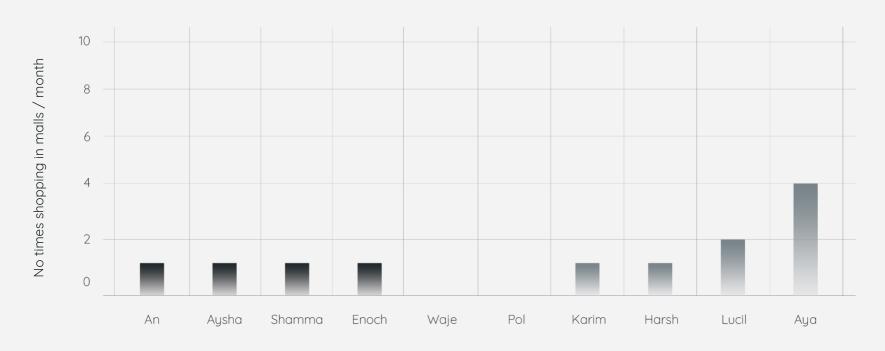
24 - 30



Participants

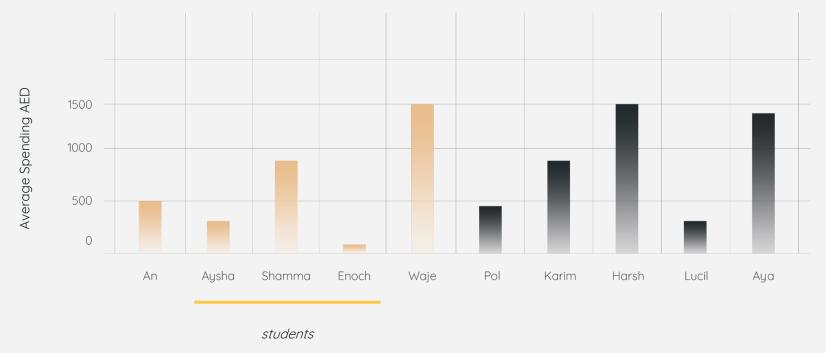


Participants



Participants

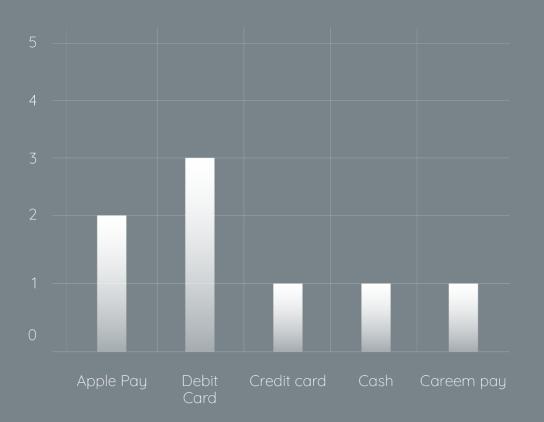
### Average monthly spending across all is 735 AED



Participants

Payment methods

### **SEGMENT 01: 18 - 23 | WHAT PAYMENT METHODS DO YOU USUALLY USE?**



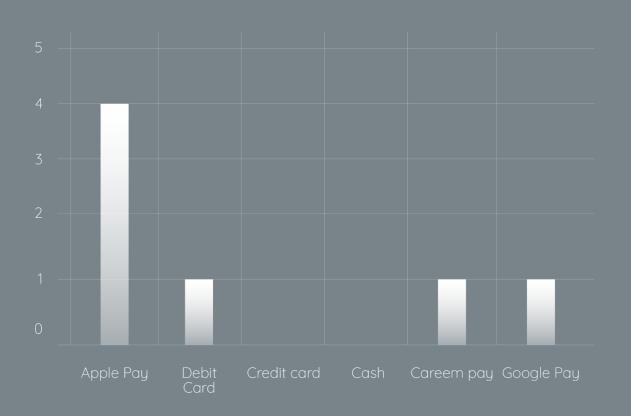
Whoever did not use Apple pay used debit or credit card.

One person uses both Apple pay and Careem pay to pay friends/colleagues.

One person stated that she would use debit card only if apple pay is not available

One person keeps cash for transportation only

### **SEGMENT 01: 24 - 30 |** WHAT PAYMENT METHODS DO YOU USUALLY USE?



One of the users from Apple pay category uses Careem pay, but rarely.

No one from this segment carry cash. Instead rely on Apple pay or Google pay.

Debit Card was used by one participant whenever google pay was not an option. Since they work similarly (tapping)

## When / where do they mostly use their preferred payment method?

### **Apple Pay**

- On the go buying e.g Coffee
- Food in-app purchases
- Online payment whenever the option is available
- Groceries

### **Debit Cards**

- Buying online (example: Amazon)
- Lessons and course

### **Credit Cards**

 Personal shopping e.g clothes, shoes

### Careem pay

Social events, to split the bill

### **Apple Pay**

- Available everywhere
- Easy and quick to use
- There is no need to constantly add card details
- Convenient
- Authenticated only the owner can tap and use it

### Careem pay

- Easy to use in order to split the bill
- The option to transfer funds to bank account.

### Pain points of the mentioned payment method?

### **Apple Pay**

- Forced to use Face identification when wearing a mask
- UK users have a limit of 200 AED

### **Debit Card**

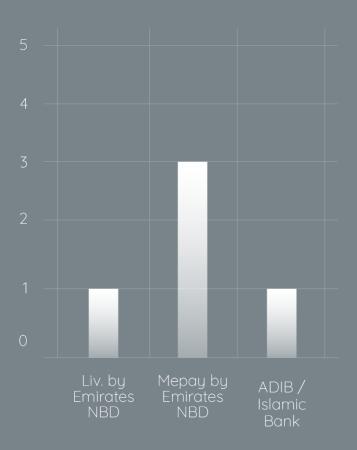
• Even though they usually have limit but the tapping feature can be used by anyone

### What are the reason to NOT use Apple Pay or any other Ewallet applications?

- Too Exposed, the need for a safe finance space
- Multi-layered and complex
- Terminology too modern
- Does not offer any special feature that's different from simply tapping a card to pay.
- Payments apps are not integrated well with their bank accounts

# Transfer methods

### **SEGMENT 02: 18 - 23 YEARS OLD | WHAT PAYMENT METHODS DO YOU USE TO PAY MONEY TO SOMEONE ELSE?**

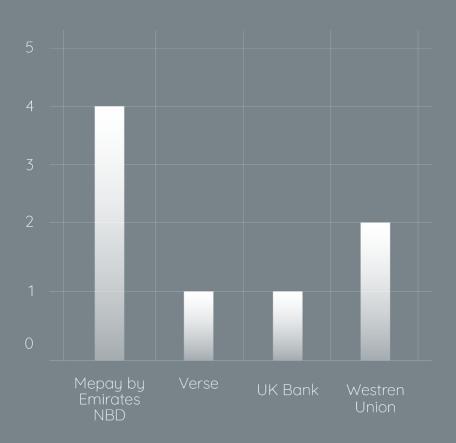


*Mepay* is the most common app because most of the user's social circle use the app.

L/v. was used by one student

ADIB & ISLAMIC BANK. used by the same user. Though she prefers ADIB adding beneficiary journey because Islamic bank is slightly more complex.

### SEGMENT 02: 24 - 30 YEARS OLD | WHAT PAYMENT METHODS DO YOU USE TO PAY MONEY TO SOMEONE ELSE?



VERSE was used by a spanish user back when he was living ins Spain. The app gave him the ability to:

- Track expense
- Create groups to split the bill with
- Quick request feature
- List of pending requests

Westren Union was used by two users because:

- One of them deals with supplies who sometimes do not have bank accounts
- The second user stated that she prefers to use it whenever she needs to transfer internationally to avoid making mistakes anda any hassles.

## **LIV.**By EMirates NBD

- Easy to use , especially among other Liv users
- Share a link for the receiver to get his/her payment
- No Transaction fees for local transfers
- Student discount with the card
- Select the person based on their number if they were liv bank users

## **MePay**By EMirates NBD

- Easy to transfer if the beneficiary already added to their contact list
- Paying bills
- Receive or transfer money from and to their accounts.
- Easily used between family members to transfer to each other when needed
- Phone number based transaction

# When do they prefer to pay using their bank account?

- Receive money from friends after splitting e.g lunch
- Send money between family members
- Send money between friends
- To pay bills
- Send money from own account to another

## Pain points of using bank accounts for payments

- Adding Beneficiaries is slow
- Waiting for confirmation
- Adding long Iban Numbers
- Transfer fees
- Request feature is available not available in all banks, seems only Me pay offers it.
- Mepay has an easy phone number based feature but it only works for Mepay users.
- In order to do the financing they have to use outside app. To split the bill and track who paid and who did not

## Paying for a activity or education, splitting the bill or sharing a gift expenses:

01.

Based on Verbal Agreement or Whatsapp

02.

Get Beneficiary details if they do not have the person on their list.

03.

After adding the details and waiting for confirmation they enter the amount and send it.

04.

Screenshot to prove the transaction

## If they were exchanging transaction between family members:

01.

Select the beneficiary name which is their existing family member

02.

Send it

## Asking someone to send them back money they owe using Liv by Emirates NBD

01.

Confronting the person by either: face to face, whatsapp, social media or phone call.

02.

It can be done via selecting the mobile number or sharing a link once the link is clicked the receiver can collect the money

### If they had the magic wand they would add:

- Simple & minimal design and terminology wise. Not many clicks
- Immediate help contact or feedback button at the top. Do not rely on bot or Al alone. Prefer human interaction
- Lock on the transaction
- Withdraw money from p2p or load funds with credit card and apple pay
- Enter the required details fast

- Minimize risks such as: entering the wrong details or number or hacking
- Phone number or user name based
- Proper integration between payment apps and user's banks
- Chat feature transaction, stores it and tag it if needed to remind
- Financing inside the app, an example of an indian app called Splitcoin was given but the user has to add the information manually in order to track who paid

Thought process &

current experiences

### Example of one user's thoughts and behaviour behind each decision

Participant			Action		
An Martine	<b>01</b> . Open App	<b>02</b> . Click on name then Check options available under his name	<b>03</b> . Choose send	<b>04</b> . Add the amount and a note	<b>05</b> . Press pay. After sending SMS confirmation or receipt sent to his and hers numbers
	Thought:	Thought:	Thought:	Thought:	Thought:
	I need to pay him back and in order to do so i will use my go-to method  My internal action from the start is paying back	Is Hassan on my list? Should i ask him for his beneficiary details? Perhaps when i click on his name i can choose the action	I have chosen the person i just need to press the action based on my need	I enter the exact amount that i need to send him. I will add a note that this payment was for the lunch he paid for me. To make sure he is aware that i do not own him the money anymore	I'll wait for the sms to confirm that the amount was sent and received by him. I just want to make sure i did not send it to the wrong person and that the transaction process was done successfully with no bugs

### Example of one user's thoughts and behaviour behind each decision

Participant		Action			
Karim	<b>01</b> . Open the app and choose Hassan	<b>02</b> . Write amount	<b>03</b> . Choose my payment method	<b>04</b> . Choose his preferred method (CC, Bank, Wallet)	<b>05.</b> Complete transaction with comments (Dinner money) click send
	Thought:	Thought:	Thought:	Thought:	Thought:
	I need to pay him back and in order to do so i will use my go-to method  I need to make sure i chose the right person	I will type in the exact amount I need to give back, unless there is default amounts I can select from.	I have a list of card registered so I will choose if I want to use apple pay or my other cards. I don't need to receive an authentication sms for small amounts	I want to make sure I am sending the money from the right account.  I will send it to the app that would receive it faster	I will go ahead and write the reason behind so Hassan wont get surprised when he receives the sms with the new amount. Now i am ready to complete my transaction and press send

### Example of user thoughts and behaviour behind each decision

Participant		on		
Aysha	O1. I would reach out to the person over whatsapp if it is a friend. Because it is awkward to call. If it is my brother I would call him	<b>02</b> . Ask to send the money. She would provide her bank account details	<b>03</b> . Would wait for a confirmation from the person that the money was sent	<b>04</b> . Receive the money through a text message. At this point she takes a screenshot to verify who send it.
	Thought:	Thought:	Thought:	Thought:
	I know that my brother has by back and would send me. It is still awkward to randomly send him a message so i will just call him and ask him polity. To check if he can send and how much.	After our call, he would just go ahead and use his app to send me the money that i have requested.  A friend would take my details and send to my bank account. But I will have to wait for the bank confirmation	It means i would get the money now if i am in a hurry and i don't have to wait for confirmations.  I would wait from my friend to text me over whatsapp confirming she sent	A lot of times the amount transferred contain a bunch of numbers where i have to take a screenshot and ask. If i know it is my brother I would just thank him.

# Example of user's thoughts and behaviour behind each decision

Participant			Action		
Harsh	<b>01.</b> Initiate a conversation in the any generic platform	<b>02.</b> Once agreed , send a note of request in the mobile app	O3. Harsh receives Update if the request is seen	<b>04.</b> Transfer happense	<b>05.</b> Some kind of confirmation that the sender has sent sand receiver has received
	Thought:	Thought:	Thought:	Thought:	Thought:
	I could probably use Whatsapp if he is available. Send him a text and ask permission if i can send him a request	Now that I have his permission i will go ahead and start the request journey. I will open the app with the intention of request in mind. I send him the request text	I want to make sure my brother received the text, saw it, opened it in order to send me the money.  I don't want to follow up, call or get perceived as a nagger.	I want to know that he did actually transfer it and how long would it take. If took longer than stated i would check with application team first and then my brother.	To know when the amount get into my account without having to open the app frequently. Also for my brother to know that i have received it so he does not worry



## Task 01: SENDING / PAYING TO SOMEONE

We asked the participants to explain us step by step, their natural journey, for a scenario where they were paying/sending money to another person on a mobile app.

Scenario: You have gone out last night with your friend Hassan for dinner. Hassan ends up paying the bill. Now you want to give Hassan 50 AED.

How would you go about that in a mobile app that can do that?

What would be your natural steps in completing this task? Write on the postits step by step.

FIRST STEP LAST STEP

# This is the result of the payment journey 'Paying to someone'



# Terminology Preference

## Send

Was the most commonly used term, and also participant's preference.

Send is a direct to the action, and commonly used and understood.

## **Segment 01:** SENDING / PAYING TO SOMEONE: PARTICIPANTS ANSWERS

Participant			Action		
An Martine	<b>01</b> . Open App	<b>02</b> . Click on name then Check options available under his name	<b>03</b> . Choose send	<b>04</b> . Add the amount and a note	<b>05</b> . Press pay. After sending SMS confirmation or receipt sent to his and hers numbers
Aysha	<b>01</b> . Open the mobile payment app	<b>02</b> . Select contact details of the beneficiary	<b>03</b> . Put the amount and add a note	<b>04</b> . Press send	O5. Wait for a confirmation sms and for the money to be deducted. She then proceeds to call Hassan to double check he received it
Shamma	<b>01.</b> Ask Hassan for his details	<b>02.</b> Login to the mobile, add his details and wait for confirmation	<b>03.</b> Select send	<b>04.</b> Type amount	<b>05.</b> Screenshot the confirmation page and share it with him. Also would wait for him to confirm once he received the amount
Enoch	<b>01</b> . Open app	<b>02</b> . Select sent	<b>03</b> . Select Hassan as a contact	<b>04</b> . Put the amount	<b>05.</b> Confirmation that Hassan received it
Waje	<b>01</b> . Select sent	<b>02</b> . Select name	<b>03</b> . Select amount and the source from which card the money will get deducted	<b>04</b> . Confirm transaction	<b>05</b> . Receive confirmation that the money was sent to Hassan.

## **Segment 02:** SENDING / PAYING TO SOMEONE: PARTICIPANTS ANSWERS

Participant				Action			
Pol	<b>01</b> . Open App	<b>02</b> . Click on pay	<b>03</b> . Input amount	<b>04</b> . Select a contact from my contacts list	<b>05</b> . Send money	<b>06</b> . Subtle UX Confirmation	
Karim	<b>01</b> . Open the app and choose Hassan	<b>02</b> . Write amount	<b>03</b> . Choose my payment method	<b>04</b> . Choose his preferred method (CC, Bank, Wallet)	O5. Complete transaction with comments (Dinner money) click send	<b>06.</b> Get confirmation that money was transferred	
Harsh	<b>01.</b> Search person by contact	<b>02.</b> Select send	<b>03.</b> Add the amount & Send the money	<b>04.</b> Confirmation that Hassan received it			
Lucil	<b>01</b> . Open bank app	<b>02</b> . Click on Transfer, Create new transfer	<b>03</b> . Select recipient Hassan	<b>04</b> . Add amount	<b>05</b> . Complete transfer	<b>06</b> . Press send	<b>07</b> . Take a screenshot and send it Hassan over whatsapp
Aya	<b>01</b> . Add person name	<b>02</b> . Add the amount Write reason or message	<b>03</b> . Select action: pay	<b>04</b> . Click send	<b>05</b> . Confirmation that payment was sent		

# Takeaways on sending or paying someone money:

The first step common step is check if Hassan was on their immediate list or not. If he was not the participants had two options in mind: Add his beneficiary details and wait for confirmation.

## 02.

They all needed a clear confirmation method where they know that Hassan received his money and where Hassan knows that the participant has sent the amount.

## 03.

The easier it is to send money immediately, without waiting time for transaction processing and confirmation.

We asked the participants to explain us step by step, their natural journey, for a scenario where they were requesting money from another person on a mobile app.

Scenario: You have just started a new job in a new city, and you are still waiting for your first salary. You are short on money and you need to cover-up the last few days of the month to get by, So you ask your brother for 200 AED.

How would you go about that in a mobile app that can do that?

What would be your natural steps be in completing this task?



# This is the result of their requesting journey 'I would need 200AED'



# Terminology Preference

## Request

Was commonly used as the main term for request action.

Because it is direct and straight to the point.

Request term was natural, and preferred by the participants.

## **SEGMENT 01:** REQUESTING MONEY

Participant			Action		
An Martine	<b>01</b> . Go to contact screen	<b>02</b> . Select the person to send a message "hey brother, can you send XX amount"	<b>03</b> . In the text message you have already asked for the amount	<b>04.</b> Through the text brother clicks and send over. She also has access to check if the transaction is pending or not.	<b>05</b> . Press pay. After sending SMS confirmation or receipt sent to his and hers numbers
Aysha	<b>01.</b> Talk to my brother about it first & explain my situation	<b>02.</b> Open app, find contact details, select contact	<b>03</b> . Add amount	<b>04</b> . Select option to request, request is sent	<b>05.</b> Receive the money through the app with a notification of receiving the funds
Shamma	<b>01.</b> Call my brother and inform him that i need 200 dhs	<b>02.</b> Log into payment app, find brother name in the contact list	<b>03.</b> Select option to request	<b>04.</b> Then add amount, and action request. Brother receives the request	<b>05.</b> Both parties would receive the notification that the transfer has been completed (outside & inside the app)
Enoch	<b>01</b> . Message his brother over whatsapp	<b>02</b> . Goes to the mobile payment app and select an option to request	<b>03</b> . Select the person name	<b>04.</b> Put the amount, and send the request to the contact ,need to verify that he accepts the request	<b>05.</b> Confirmation when his brother sends and when Enoch receives.
Waje	<b>01</b> . Call him	<b>02</b> . First select option to request	<b>03</b> . Select name of the contact	<b>04</b> . Select amount & card source - Confirm the request	<b>05</b> . The app provides him a confirmation that request is sent

## **SEGMENT 02:** REQUESTING MONEY

Participant				Action		
Pol	<b>01</b> . Open App	<b>02</b> . Click on request button	<b>03</b> . Input amount	<b>04</b> . Select a contact from my contacts list	<b>05</b> . request money	<b>06</b> . Subtle UX Confirmation
Karim	<b>01.</b> Select option to request, & then select the contact	<b>02.</b> Write a brief reason and the amount requested	<b>03</b> . Choose preferred method of transfer	<b>04.</b> Brother would either approve or deny but he has to send a comment of why no.	<b>05.</b> If brother approves it is an instant payment	<b>06.</b> Receipt with estimate transfer completion
Harsh	O1. Initiate a conversation in the any generic platform	<b>02.</b> Select contact & select to make a request	<b>03.</b> Add the amount & then press request	O4. Harsh receives Update if the request is seen & when Transfer happens	O5. Some kind of confirmation that the sender has sent sand receiver has received	
Lucil	<b>01</b> . Call him to ask him if he can	<b>02</b> . Select request money	<b>03</b> . Select her brother's account	<b>04</b> . Add the amount that she wants	<b>05</b> . Get confirmation & received the money	<b>06.</b> Thank him
Aya	<b>01</b> . Add person name	<b>02.</b> Select request (or remind if needed)	<b>03</b> . Select amount	<b>04</b> . Write reason or message	<b>05</b> . Click send	

# Takeaways on requesting someone money:

Actual action process happens outside the app, communicating the need for the money and waiting for the person to accept. From this point onwards it is either the participants who initiate the request or the brother would open the app after the call and send the amount.

## 02.

Time needed for the money to reach their account, ability to track the process and status.



### **PERSONA 01 SUMMARY**

Gender:

Either male or female

Average weekly spending:

200 AED

Going out with friends / week:

2 Times

Social Stay Home

Money Money conscious insensible

Early Late Adopters Adopters A young professional or a student in their last year of studies. They are slightly on the extrovert side, love the outdoor and to hangout with a small group of friends.

Because they are young professionals, they do not get paid high; therefore, they are conscious of their expenses. They use Balance to get their monthly incomings, and outgoings -, track down their expenses and their group outings. They use the app to split bills or gifts and to request money when needed. They send each others rewards over the application as a form of gratitude if their friend paid their bill and kindly refused for the persona to pay him back (below 50 AED).

If they are short on money, the balance application would allow them to politely reach out to their close friends or family members, request money and track it.

## Goals

- Easy access on a go make and track payments and spending.
- Quick payments to friends and family.
- Easily share bills or request money from family.

## **Frustrations**

- Mobile banking apps are slow way to pay for new beneficiaries.
- Mobile banking apps has limited features.
- Splitting bills with friends is very manual, and need different apps and interventions to happen.

## Example: Our Persona needs a banking provider that is simple, convenient and flexible.

02. 03. 04.. 01. Pre Arrival Arrival & first Using the app. Lasting impression & Awareness & loyalty impression Gets notifications when a salary is transferred or when a family Persona surfs Open website to Our persona has been member sends credits check the through the web, usina Balance for 4 ask their parents, information and months now. He /she is Does his first real-time money transfer and excited of how very happy of how easy, friends and work the benefits easu it is safe and minimal their place for recommendations Download Balance iourneu has been. Theu Our persona can track down his/her spending, statistics and recommend the app communicate with other members if needed Persona compare application to a friend or different options Subscribes using a family member and conditions minimum steps Found Balance on google's apps

# Our Persona wants to transfer money to a friend. The friend is not a Balance app user.

Step 01	Step 02	Step 03	Step 04
Open Balance app	Select name and number	Select action to Send	Select amount Write a message
o	0. 00	a. a=	04 00
Step 05	Step 06	Step 07	Step 08
Press send	Confirmation	Notified	Amount deducted

Requesting money is tricky emotionally. Having access to a family group chat to kindly request money would break some of the embarrassment

Possible thoughts that may cross the Persona mind:

Did i select the right number?
Did i select the right amount?
Did my friend receive it? Was
he able to access it?
Can i send him from my
Balance credits without having
to add him as a beneficiary?

Future thought: Did i ever pay him back?

# Our Persona wants to request money from a family member.

Step 01	Step 02	Step 03
Open Balance app	Select family member	Select request
Step 04	Step 05	Step 06
Enter the amount	Press request	Receive a confirmation

Once the transaction is sent the persona has the feature to save it in its transaction history.

Feature to add the requested money under pending transactions that the persona will need to pay back. Maybe a date is specified? In 10 days or 5 days?

# Steps to think about while designing the application's & the Balance's brand experience:

		•	
01.	02.	03.	04
Pre Arrival & Awareness	Arrival & first impression	Using the app.	Lasting impression & loyalty
G. 7 G. G. 1.000		It is easy to access it on the go?	or regards
How are they going to hear about balance?	How easy and secure the process is?	Can they track their payments?	Was it able to change the way people interact with their finances?
What would make them consider	Does it use complex or too	Are the options clear-cut and concise  If they made a mistake, does the application provide easy methods of communications?	Is it trustworthy?
downloading it?	modern terminology?	Can several groups use the app, communicate and track their expenses?	What are the forms of verification that are convenient yet still secure?
		What is the speed financial service?	300010.
		Is it limited to just Balance app users? Can a non-Balance user receive the money fast enough without the long confirmation time?	What security features make users feel they are in control of their finances?

# Where can Balance fill the gaps based on the participant's experience?

## Send Money:

- Easy quick method to select the contact and send the money
- Limit waiting and confirmation time
- Least amount of steps required, straightforward and simple
- Authentication & safety

## In-between

- Finance & track status of requests
- Confirmation from both ends of receiver and sender
- Communication among users & between the user & balance's help team
- What would Balance do if the user send the wrong amount? Or send it to the wrong person?
- Simple terminology
- A reward system applies for small bills, to thank whoever lend them money.

## Ask for Money:

 Bringing the communication that happens outside the app into the app's journey. 8 BALANCE

THANK YOU.

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