



Fact Sheet

Online Business Banking

July 2007

Internet Banking, otherwise known as “Online Banking”, provides an effective and innovative solution to your business banking needs.

It puts you in control of your finances, day or night, from anywhere across the world.

Our E-Business Advisers discuss the benefits to your business:

1. Online Business Banking:

Many firms find that online business banking offers them freedom and flexibility in accessing vital financial information and banking facilities via their computer, together with the reassurance that their business finances are safe.

Gaining better control over your cash flow is a key driver for many businesses. It's perhaps surprising that, despite the growth of e-Business, online banking has previously been one of the least developed areas.

Initially, online banking was aimed at private individuals.

Now more and more companies are using the Internet, with its proven technologies to aid a busy workforce, and also offering strong security and confidentiality for sensitive financial information.

As a result, banks are targeting small, medium and larger enterprises to move their financial transactions onto the Internet.

2. Cutting the Cost of Banking

Online banking often works out cheaper than over the counter methods for businesses: the transaction charges are lower, both for the business and the bank!

It can also save your business the cost of phone calls or trips away to stand in a queue at the bank.

The costs to your business will simply be the cost of normal Internet use, plus a monthly fee or single transaction charges for the online facilities.

3. Key features and benefits

- Ease of use and access anytime to your business accounts
- Advanced security (128-bit data encryption) for secure transactions
- You can easily check your balances and view statements online
- You can easily move money between accounts to maximise returns via interest.
- Easily make payments to suppliers
- Easily set up regular payments such as salaries
- Order chequebooks and statements
- Download account information to analyse on your computer, e.g. into a spreadsheet programme such as Microsoft Excel.



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4. What do I need to look out for?

Do some research into what's available to you!

You can do all your business banking online – your requirements may be specific and the range of different banks offer a wide range of different systems to suit the needs of the most discerning of business customers.

- Does your current bank offer online banking facilities?
- Ask for a demonstration to see if this suits your business needs.
- Check out what the other banks offer.

5. A Warning!

There have been a range of attempts by fraudsters to get firms and individuals to reveal their online banking details, usually via emails asking you to click a link (to what is actually the fraudsters' web site but looks like the banks).

These attempts are called "Phishing" - see the "Internet Scams - Phishing" Fact Sheet in this series for more details.

Your bank will **NEVER** email you asking you to verify your online account details. Any such email from your bank (or any other bank) is almost certainly fraudulent.

If in doubt, call your own bank to discuss further.

Also remember, **DO NOT** click on any links in any suspicious emails.

6. Useful Links:

www.bba.org.uk -
Web site of the British Banking Association