

Title:

Best Ways to Choose a Credit Card Processing Company

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Summary:

One of the most critical decisions for launching an online business is deciding on which credit card processor to use.

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Article Body:

Best Ways to Choose a Credit Card Processing Company

One of the most critical decisions for launching an online business is deciding on which credit card processor to use.

Probably the best way to choose a credit card processor is by simply listing your needs and then comparing them to the features of different processors.

How is a true merchant account different from a third party credit card processor?

True Merchant Credit Card Processors

With a true merchant account, you are the merchant and you have the option of applying directly to the credit card processor.

Note: Some companies that offer credit card processor plans will extend a bundle that includes a merchant account.

Basically, your merchant account for a credit card processor is a direct account with MasterCard or Visa.

Third-Party Credit Card Processors

A third-party credit card processor company has its own merchant account and they allow individuals to apply for a merchant account through them.

When should you consider using a third-party credit card processing company?

- If your business isn't registered
 - If you have been blacklisted
 - If you or your mechanism is considered high risk
 - If you have poor credit or no credit
 - If you only process a small amount of transactions
- If you are a non-programmer and can't carry out a complex API.

Additional considerations concerning third-party credit card processing

1. They will not charge higher rates for high risk businesses
2. They don't perform credit checks
3. They can't be used with a separate gateway
4. Their name appears on your customer's credit card statements
5. It can take up to a month to receive deposited funds.
6. You can't negotiate rates for third-party credit card processing.

Most reputable online merchants understand they will be accepting credit cards online and that means they need a merchant account.

- If there are large volumes of transactions to be processed, the discount rate will be far superior to that of a third party processor.
- The merchant will have 100% control over the account. The merchant can deal directly with the credit card processor.
- Transparent checkout feature - Allows the customer transaction to be processed directly on the merchant's website.
- Portrays a more professional image - A true merchant account is a more seamless process which increases the customer's confidence in the merchant.

When you apply for a true merchant account, you will have to go through a full credit check and pay a setup fee.

Most online businesses that are just starting out have small margins and tight budgets. Cost of a true merchant account can be a significant barrier to entry.

- Setup fee: how much you need to pay to establish the account

- Discount rate: the percentage of sales that the processor takes
- Transaction fee: the flat fee the processor charges for each transaction
- Monthly fee: the monthly fee associated with keeping the account active
- Setup fee: the cost to set up a gateway
- Gateway monthly fee: the monthly fee charged by the gateway provider for use of their payment

Next, list the number of transactions you will make each month and how much the average customer

Conclusion

You may ultimately use both of these methods to use credit card processing online but the way

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