MVC (Master Virtual Card)

Centralises card management

A single card for managing funds across all the cards in your program

A Master Virtual Card (MVC) is a type of master account card record that you can use to reflect money loaded into a cardholder's account. An MVC is ideal for programs where it is linked to multiple physical and/or virtual cards, as you can transfer money to any of those cards. The MVC card record is restricted to loading and unloading only, and cannot be used like a regular card.

Features

Real-Time Fund Distribution

- Instantly load or unload funds to linked cards.

Prefunding Control

- Guarantees that loads are limited to the prefunded amounts, ensuring financial security.

Multiple Uses

- Enables mass transfer of funds to cards, allowing for scenarios such as payroll.
- Supports the movement of funds to cards in different currencies..
- Provides a suspense or ghost account for situations where cardholders have reached a load limit, or where their card is temporarily blocked or suspended.

Flexible Setup

- Configured as a dedicated product, or as a shared product with other cards.
- Includes its own sub-BIN range, or shared BIN range with other cards.
- Allows shared or separate balances.

Seamless Integration

- Easily integrates with your systems using the Thredd REST-based Cards API or Web Services.

Benefits

Business Facing

- More efficient launch and maintenance of card programs.
- Enables scale and growth.
- Caters to diverse market and customer scenarios.

Customer Facing

- Secure funds where the MVC balance serves as a backup for the customer.
- Secure loading of funds to a card.
- Readily-available funds for customer use.
- Uninterrupted use of available funds.

How it works

The cardholder tops up their card and the Program Manager loads funds on to an MVC. This ensures that the money is available to multiple physical and virtual cards that are linked to the MVC. The following example shows a physical card.
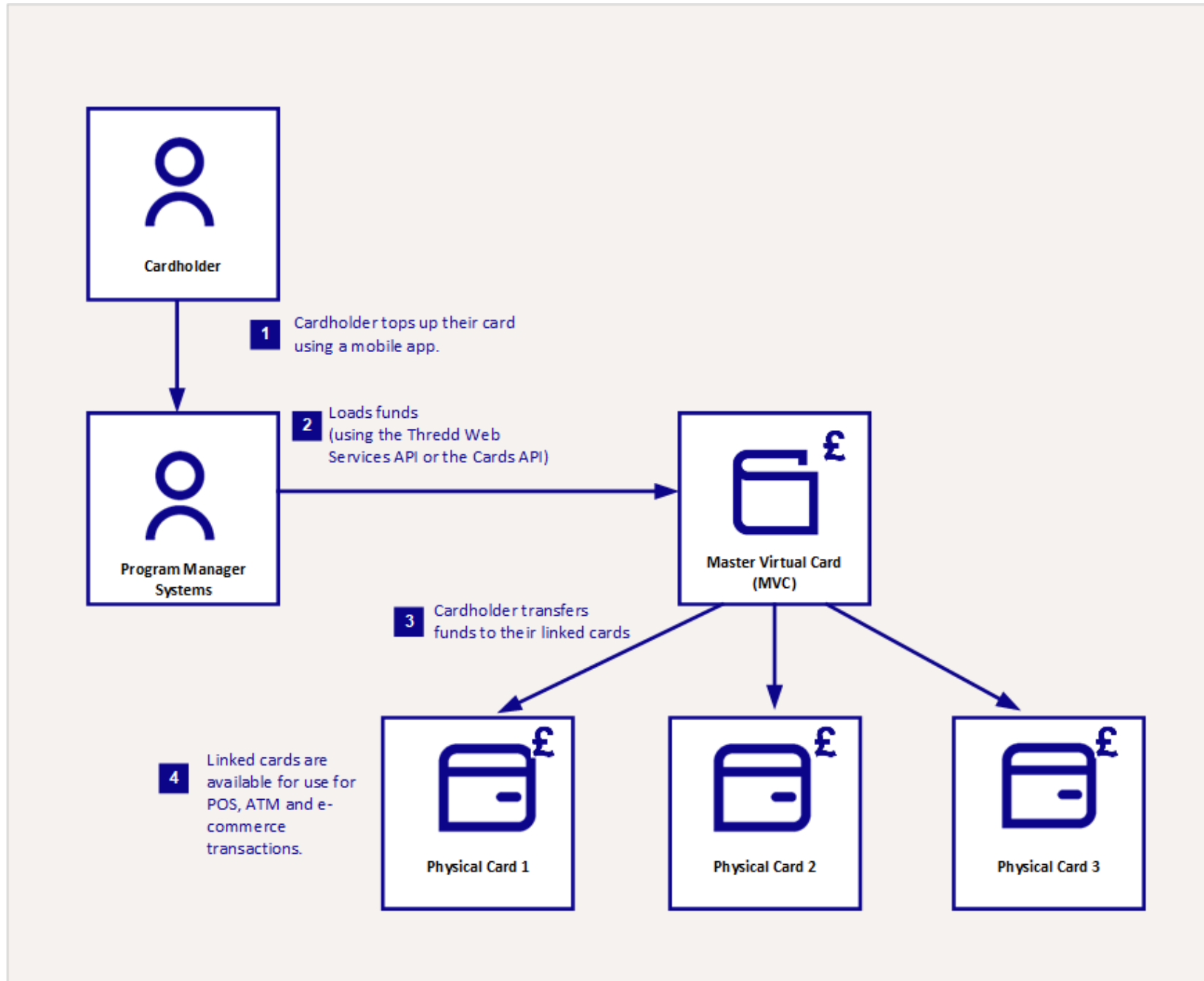
There are various use cases for MVCs described as follows.

Prefunding

In this scenario, the Program Manager uses an MVC to reflect funds that have been preloaded to the Issuer. They can transfer funds from the MVC to cards that are linked to the MVC. However, they are prevented from "paying out" more than what is funded.
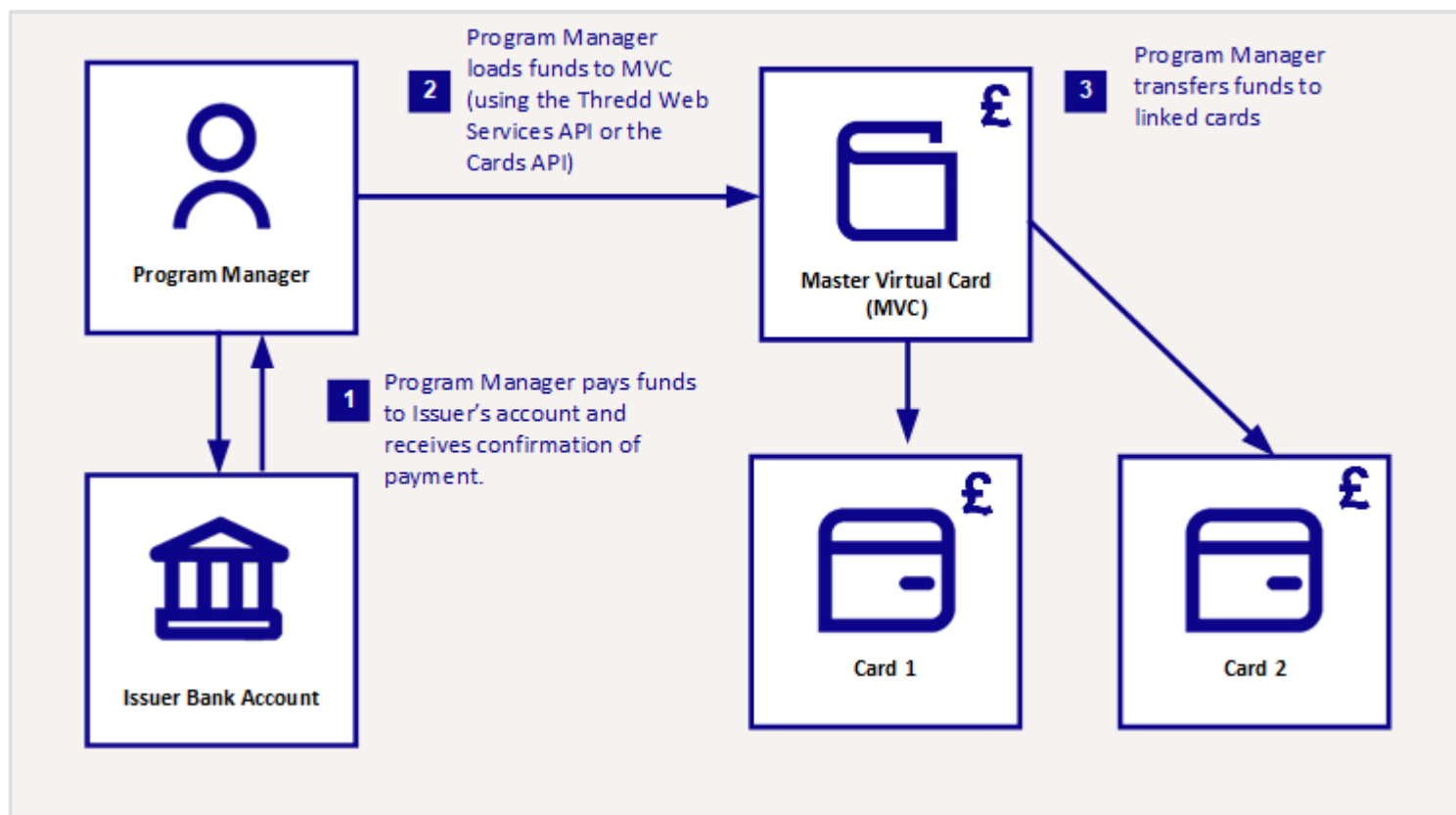
Payroll

In this scenario, the Program Manager uses an MVC to reflect payroll payments into corporate accounts. The Program Manager may have multiple corporate clients who use the Program Manager's prepaid card program for payroll. The Corporate Entity is prevented from loading more than what it has actually funded in the MVC.
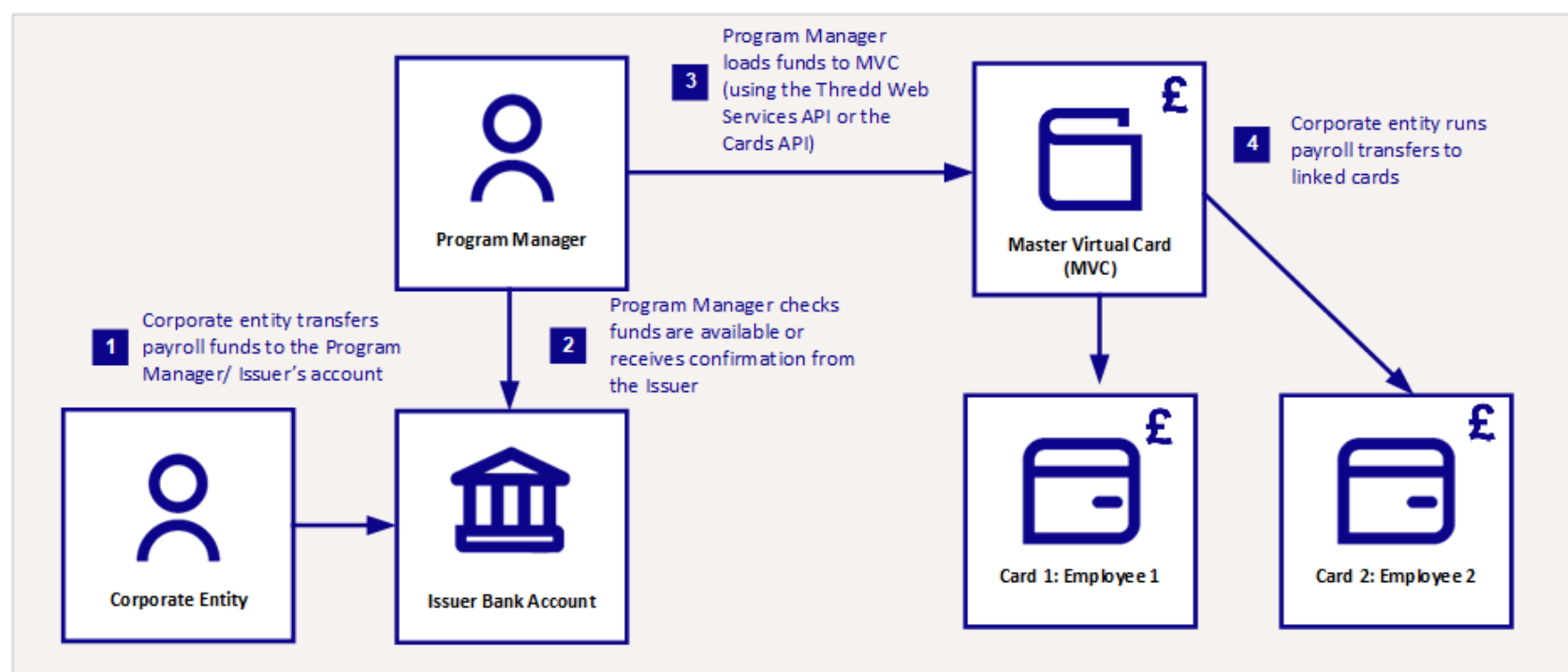

Issuer-Controlled Funding

In this scenario, the Program Manager uses an MVC to reflect Issuer-controlled loading of cards. For example, the Issuer can be involved in the loading of the cards.
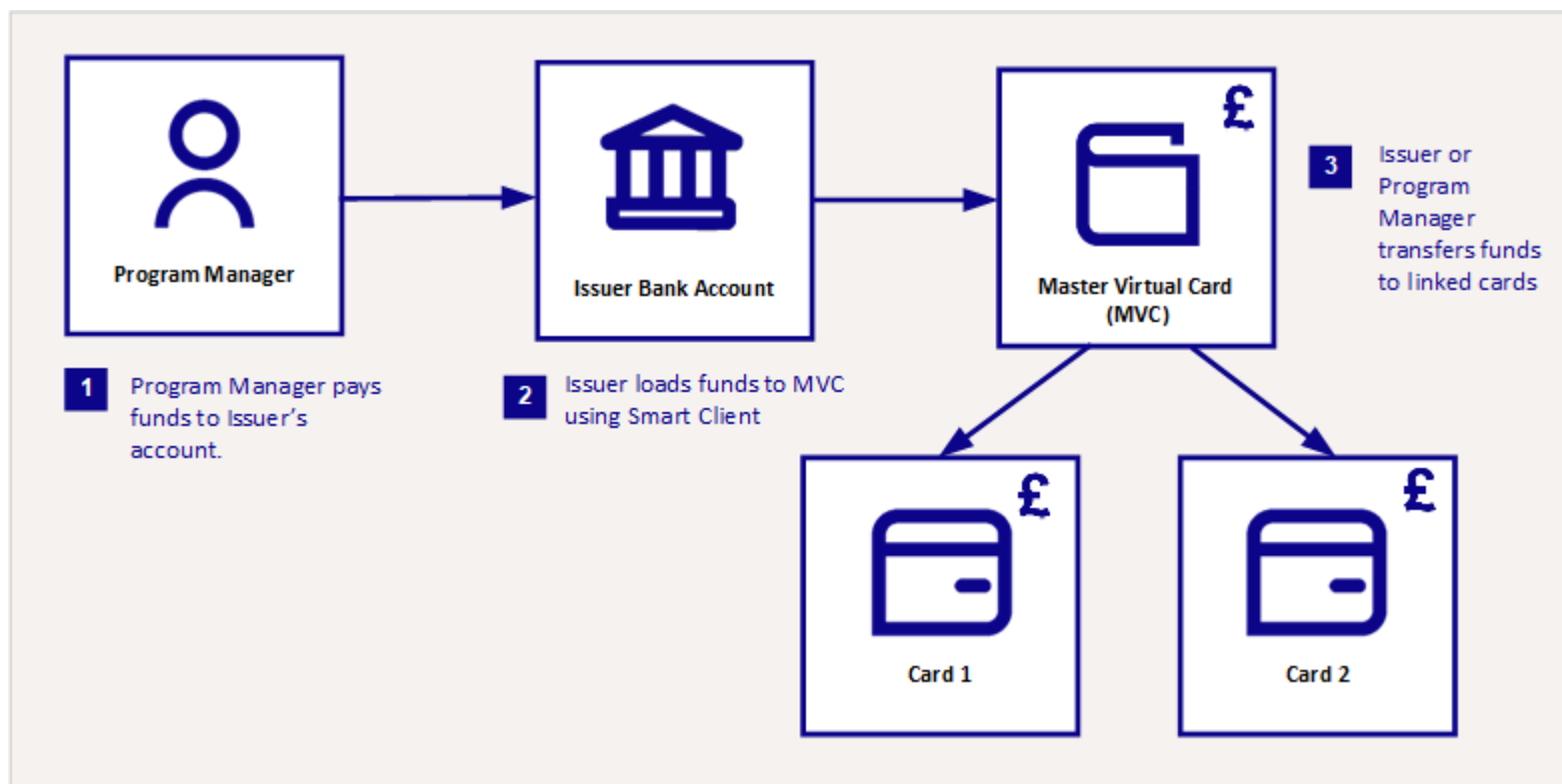
Account Management

In this scenario, the Program Manager uses the MVC as a type of cardholder master account. As Thredd's main purpose is to process cards, a cardholder is identified by its card, and as such Thredd doesn't have accounts for cardholders. However, if there is a concept of a 'bank account' in the Program Manager's system where the balance is held and needs to be maintained on the Thredd system, then you can use an MVC (one per cardholder) to act as the account balance holder. Using an MVC as an account balance holder means that if the cardholder's actual card is lost, stolen or blocked, transactions linked to the MVC balance can still occur.
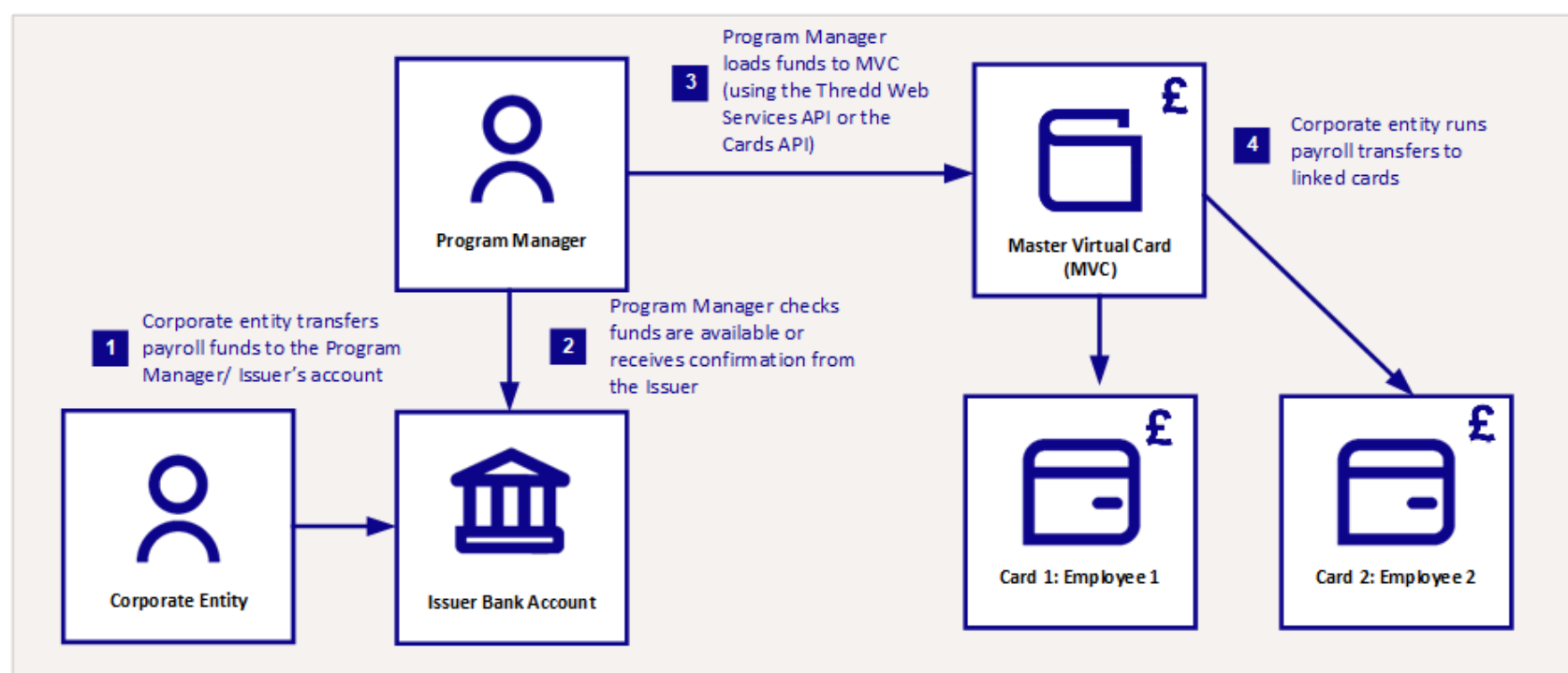
Setup At-a-Glance

The diagram below provides an overview of the steps in a project for an MVC. A project starts once we have received your requirements. A typical project takes 4-5 weeks, but you should plan for additional time to allow for contingencies.
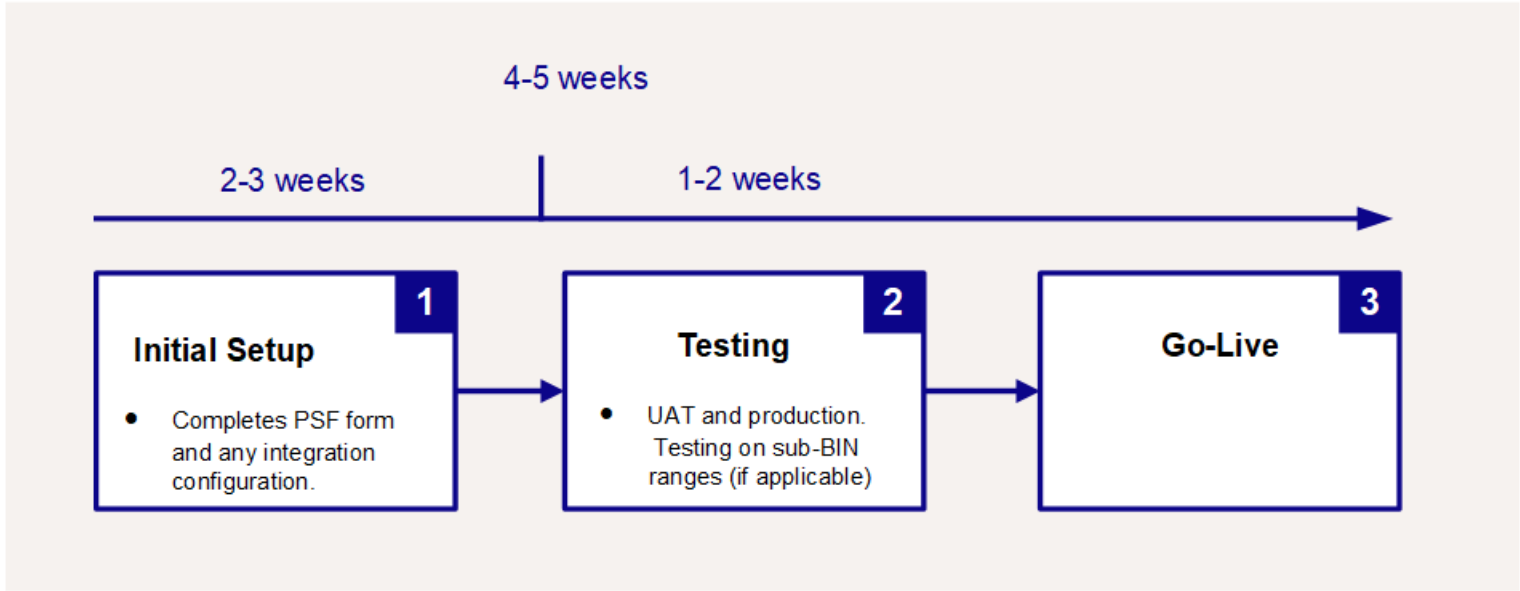
Setting up an MVC involves the following main steps:

1. The Initial Setup phase involves configuring the MVC and setting up the options on the PSF (Product Setup Form).

2. The Testing phase involves UAT and production testing. Production testing includes setting up a sub-BIN range if needed.

FAQs

Q. What options are available for setting up the MVC?

For details of setup options, see MVC Setup Options. For examples of use cases for Master Virtual Cards, see Use Case Scenarios.

Q. Is an MVC a virtual card?

No, an MVC is a type of card record that is used for holding account balances only. You can then transfer balances to and from other types of cards. You cannot use an MVC as a virtual card or to make payments.

Q. Will the card balance automatically sweep back to the MVC?

No, a Card Linkage Group is required for sweeping back the balance. For more details, check with your Implementation Manager.

Q. If an MVC is a separate product and on a separate BIN to the secondary cards is it possible to link the cards?

Yes it is possible to link the cards where you can share the balances, and transfer funds between the primary and secondary cards.

Q. Can I get a Physical MVC?

No, a physical MVC does not exist. This is because there is a flag which stops the MVC going to print.

Q. Does an MVC have a full PAN?

Yes, as with other types of cards, an MVC is assigned a full PAN. However, it cannot be used for payment transactions. The PAN must **never** be revealed to the MVC holder (cardholder/corporate client) . If a reference to an MVC is required, they should be provided with the MVC's 9 digit token.

Q. Does the MVC have a start date, an expiry date and a CVV?

Yes, as with other types of cards, the MVC is assigned a start date, an end date and a CVV. However, it cannot be used for payment transactions. The CVV must **never** be revealed to the MVC holder (cardholder/corporate client) . If a reference to an MVC is required, they should be provided with the MVC's 9 digit token.

Q. Should the full card details be shared with the cardholder?

No, only the 9 digit token of the MVC can be shared with the cardholder.

Q. Is it possible to change an MVC into another card type?

No, once the card is created as an MVC, its type cannot be changed.

Q. Is it possible to change an existing card to an MVC?

No, once the card is created as a physical or virtual card, its type cannot be changed to an MVC.

Q. Can I view reports on MVC transactions?

Yes, you can receive details of MVC loads, unloads and balance transfers. These details are provided in your transaction XML reports and External Host Interface (EHI) data. For more information, see the Transaction XML Reporting Guide and External Host Interface Guide.

Contact Us

Please contact us if you have queries relating to this document. Our contact details are provided below.

Thredd UK Ltd.

Support Email: occ@thredd.com

Telephone: +44 (0) 203 740 9682

Our Head Office

Kingsbourne House

229-231 High Holborn

London

WC1V 7DA

Technical Publications

If you want to contact our technical publications team directly, for queries or feedback related to this guide, you can email us at: docs@thredd.com.