

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

May 2016

Most credit and debit card issuers and merchants will roll out EMV chip technology in the U.S. sometime this year and Dawson Co-op Credit Union is one of them. The new cards will carry a computer chip that stores and secures your account data.

Here's what that can mean for you:

What is EMV?

Europay, MasterCard and Visa worked together to make a new security standard for credit cards, named with their initials, EMV. With a traditional credit card, a swipe of the magnetic strip on the back transmits your account number to the merchant; with an EMV chip, you insert your card into a terminal, and the chip generates a unique authentication code that can only be used once. The merchant will never have access to your account data — and neither will any hackers who might break into that retailer's computer system.

Signature or PIN?

An entire payment system doesn't change overnight, and your new EMV cards will have some familiar aspects.

Initially, chipped credit and debit cards will still have a good old strip of magnetic tape on the back. That's because not all merchants will be able to adopt EMV technology immediately. But when you have a choice, it's better to use an EMV card reader because it's more secure.

It's also likely that you'll be asked to sign for your purchases, same as now. But in the future card issuers may implement a system to verify your identity by entering a personal identification number, or PIN, when you make a purchase with a chipped card.

Are you safe online?

The security features of your EMV cards won't help keep your information secure when you're making a purchase online. It is still on you to protect yourself. Make sure you're using a secure Internet connection, rather than an open wireless network like the ones you find at airports and cafes. Before you make a purchase, check to make sure the web address says "https" instead of "http." The extra letter, S, stands for "secure," and means it's harder for hackers to capture your data while it's in transit.

When will you get your card and information?

All DCCU debit card holders will receive a letter from DCCU the second week of June. The letter will provide important information, and your new cards will arrive shortly after. Primary and joint card holders will each receive a new card, in separate envelopes, linked to the same account, however, the card numbers will be different. If one card is lost, stolen or needs to be replaced, you will still have use of an active card. Activation instructions will be included with the cards. Each card will need to be activated separately. Joint cardholders need to pay special attention to the activation instructions included with their cards.

Please communicate your issues or experiences by contacting me or any of my staff by phone or e-mail.

Thank you for being a credit union member.

John Nevins

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