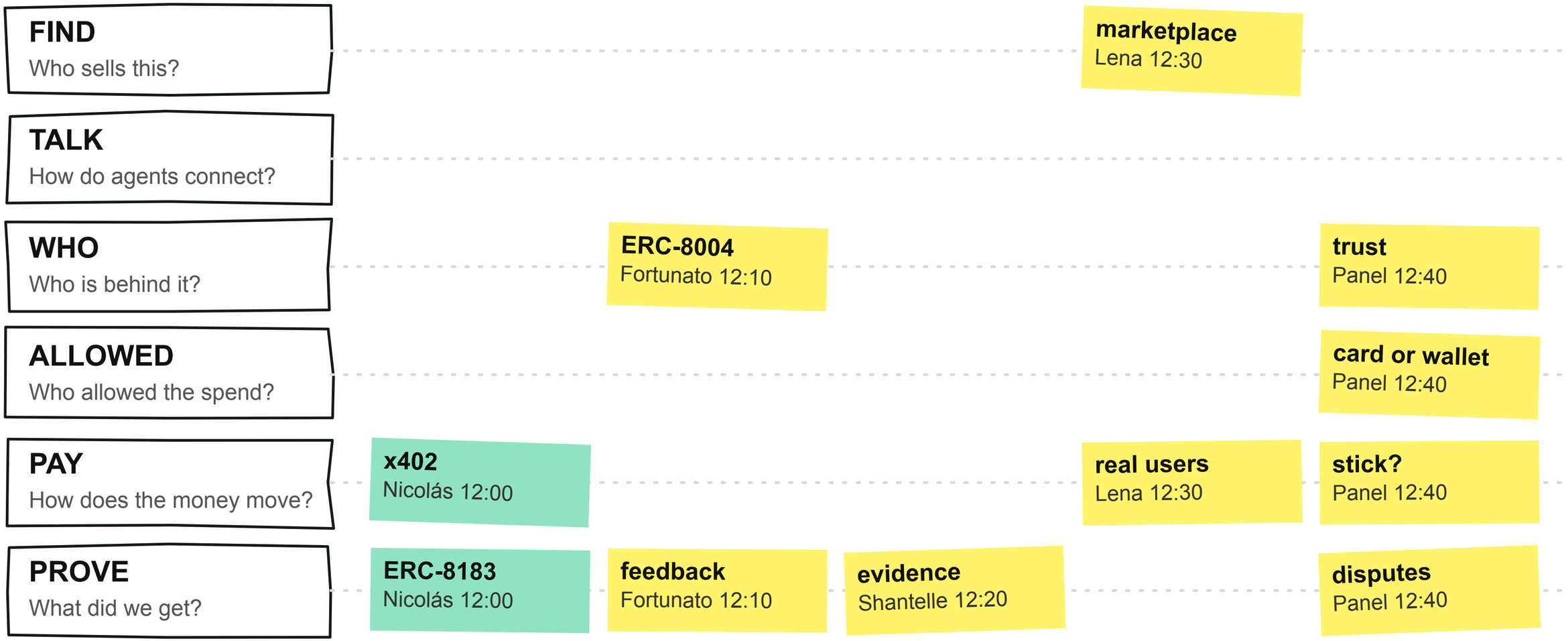
Lay of the land

Five talks, one stack. First up: x402 and ERC-8183.



The web’s checkout assumes a human

Web payments were built for people who browse, add items to a cart and type in card details.

An agent buying one API call needs an account, an API key and a billing plan, for every service it touches.

HTTP has had a status code for this since the 1990s: 402, Payment Required. It sat unused for decades.

x402 puts it to work: the price comes back in the response, and the payment goes in the next request.

Cloudflare, x402 Foundation launch, 23 Sep 2025. x402 docs, HTTP 402, read 3 Nov 2026.

Where it came from

When	What happened
1997	HTTP/1.1 reserves status 402, Payment Required, “for future use”
May 2025	Coinbase publishes x402 as an open standard
Sep 2025	Coinbase and Cloudflare announce the x402 Foundation
Nov 2025	Volume goes vertical: nearly 69M payments in a month
Dec 2025	V2: multi-chain, any token, room for fiat rails, new headers
Apr 2026	Moves to the Linux Foundation with 20+ founding members. Google, Stripe and Visa among the backers
Oct 2026	Mastercard opens early access to Agent Pay for Machines, built on x402. Still a pilot

RFC 2068. Cloudflare, 23 Sep 2025. x402scan. The Block on V2. The Defiant and Decrypt, Apr 2026. The Block, 20 Oct 2026.



How it works: one request

Agent
Asks for the resource

→

Server
Answers 402 with the payment terms

→

Agent
Signs a payment and asks again

→

Server or facilitator
Verifies, settles, delivers

Inside the 402: accepted schemes, price, network and destination address.

What the agent needs: a wallet with stablecoins. No account, no API key.

Facilitator: a service that verifies and settles on-chain, so the seller doesn’t have to.

Three headers: PAYMENT-REQUIRED, PAYMENT-SIGNATURE, PAYMENT-RESPONSE.

x402 docs and README, read 3 Nov 2026.



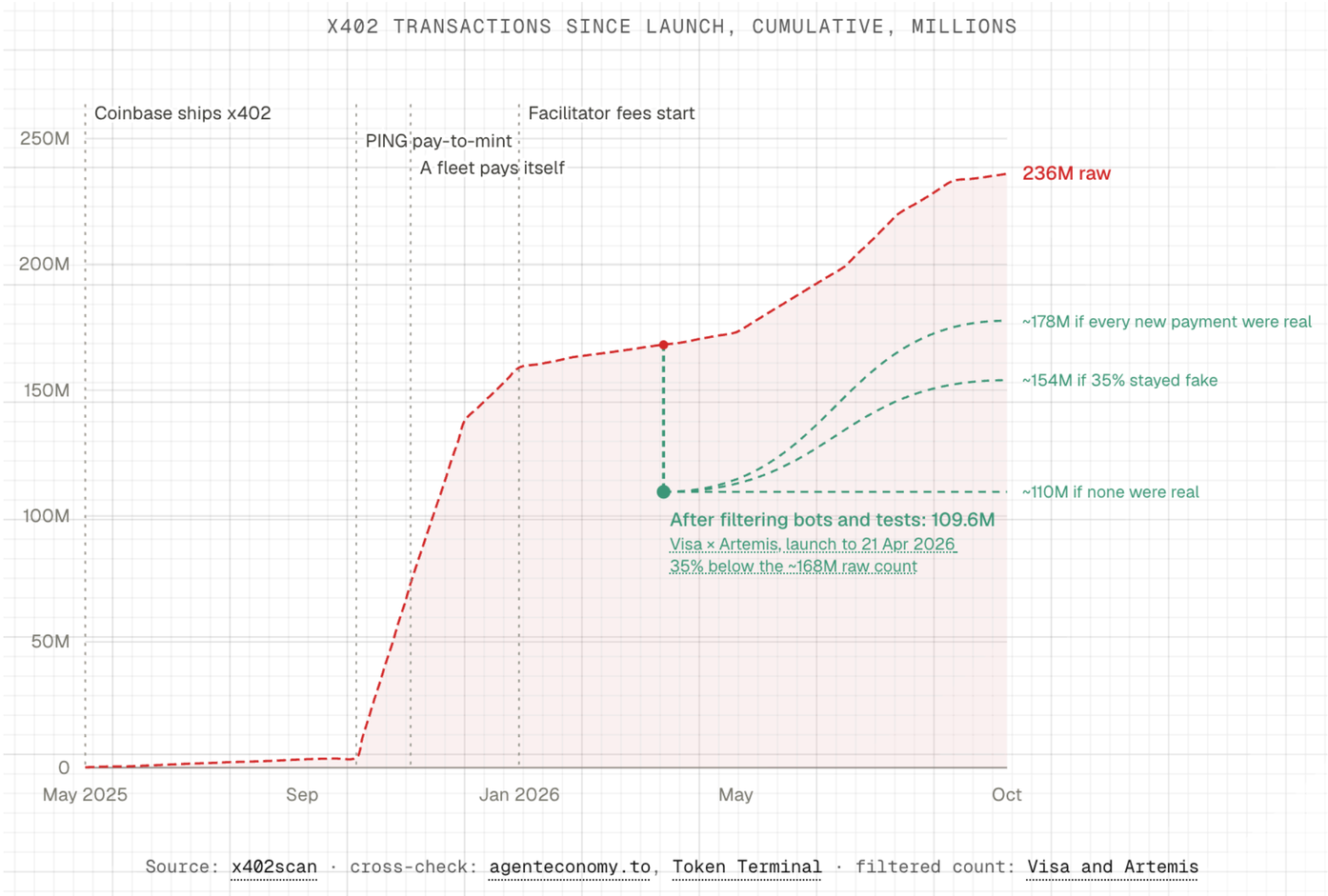
It started with one way to pay. Now there are four.

Scheme	In plain words	State today
exact	Pay this fixed price, once. No way to give it back.	Live
upto	Agree a cap, pay for what was used. Fits LLM tokens.	Live on Coinbase’s facilitator
batch-settlement	Sign vouchers per call, settle many later. Fits tiny payments.	Live on Coinbase’s facilitator, EVM chains
auth-capture	Hold, capture, void, refund. Like a card authorization.	Spec and SDKs. Not on the facilitators I checked

x402 specs, read 3 Nov 2026. Coinbase x402 network support, undated, read 2 Nov. PayAI and x402.org lists, read 2 Nov.



Where it stands: real volume, small and noisy



Raw. 236.2M payments, $56.6M, to 30 Oct.

Filtered. Visa and Artemis count 109.6M, $15.0M, to 21 Apr.

Now. $1.5M in October.

How much of this is real? **Lena at 12:30** shows who pays, and **Follow the money at 14:30** is how to check for yourself.

Chart from nicolasarnedo.com/blog/agentic-payments. x402scan, Visa and Artemis.

x402 moves the money. It can’t say the work was any good.

Standard	The question it answers
x402	How does value move, as part of the request?
ERC-8004	Who is this agent, and should I trust it?
ERC-8183	What has to happen, and how do we know it’s done?

Pay for a data feed and x402 is enough. Pay for a report that might be junk, and you want the money held until someone checks it.

Framing from QuickNode, 17 Apr 2026. EIP-8183, read 2 Nov 2026.

ERC-8183: a job with escrow

Client
Locks 10 USDC in escrow

→

Provider
Submits a market report

→

Evaluator
Checks it, completes or rejects

→

Contract
Pays the provider, or refunds the client

Three roles and one contract. The evaluator is set when the job is created, and can be the client or a smart contract.

If nobody delivers, the job expires and the client gets the money back.

Proposed in Feb 2026, by authors around the Ethereum Foundation dAI team and Virtuals. Still a Draft.

EIP-8183, read 2 Nov 2026. The 10 USDC job is my example. Origin: Crypto Briefing, BlockEden, 2026.



Hands up

Six months on mainnet. How much stablecoin went into the ERC-8183 reference implementation?

$2.6K or $260K or $26M



About $2,660. Plenty of jobs, very little money.

Virtuals ACP v2	Live since	Jobs	Stablecoin in
Base	8 Apr 2026	81,280	$2,526.72
Robinhood Chain	27 Jun 2026	112	$131.29
Solana	16 Jul 2026	149	about $3
Arc	21 Sep 2026	143	$0.02

$1,618 of Base’s $2,527 came from two wallets paying each other.

Chainward, data 29 to 30 Sep 2026, one source, ACP v2 only. BNB Chain lists mainnet contracts; I found no usage figure.

The roadmap: nobody has written one down

x402's ROADMAP.md said "(update coming soon)", and was deleted on 13 Oct. So this comes from the repo.

	x402	ERC-8183
Shipped	V2, upto, batch-settlement, gas sponsoring and sign-in extensions	The Draft spec and a reference implementation
Coming	auth-capture refunds reaching facilitators	Final status. Per-job tokens and operator roles, as extensions
Only proposed	Metered sessions for streaming. A fiat fallback scheme	Disputes are out of scope. Reputation is left to ERC-8004

x402 repo: PR 3789, issues 2273 and 2126, specs, read 3 Nov 2026. EIP-8183, read 2 Nov 2026. "Coming" is my reading.



x402 has the traffic and no recourse. ERC-8183 has the recourse and no traffic.

Next, Fortunato: who is the agent, and can you trust it?

At 13:00 Lena and I run the standards workshop. Bring your questions.

