Bottomline

# Myths vs Facts:
## Financial Messaging

Financial messaging powers global payments—but it's often misunderstood. This quick guide helps you separate myth from reality so you can make smarter decisions across compliance, treasury, and customer experience.

| Myth | Fact |
| --- | --- |
| Financial messages move money | They do not move money, but **carry instructions** – settlement happens elsewhere |
| All messages are standardized | Many use **custom or local formats** |
| Only banks use financial messaging | Fintechs, NBFIs, and corporates **use it too** |
| ISO 20022 is Swift 2.0 | ISO 20022 is a **global standard;** Swift is just one adopter |
| XML messages are hard to read | They're **built for machines**—great for automation |
| You need direct Swift access | Third-party providers and bureaus **offer access** |
| All payments are instant | Many are queued or batched—real-time **needs special infrastructure** |
| Messages are always secure | Networks are secure, but **endpoints can be vulnerable** |
| One format works globally | Standards **vary by region** (Swift, Fedwire, RTGS) |
| Messages can't be changed | Some can be **amended or canceled** (e.g., MT192) |
| Only ops teams care | Messaging affects **compliance, treasury, CX, and product** |

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## See what's possible with modern financial messaging

Explore how Bottomline helps you streamline, secure, and scale global payment communications – from ISO 20022 to real-time infrastructure.

**Learn More**

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