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Stronger, Smarter Banking: What AFASA Means and How Descope Can Help

Introduction

Financial fraud isn't just increasing - it's getting smarter. And in an age where banking is digital by default, protecting customer trust is no longer a nice-to-have - it's mission-critical.

The Philippine government has made its stance clear with the **Anti-Financial Account Scamming Act (AFASA)** and upcoming changes to the BSP's IT Risk Management Regulations. By **June 30, 2025** (based on BSP's Draft Amendments to Regulations on IT Risk Management to Implement Section 6 of the Anti Financial Account Scamming Act), banks and financial institutions must implement stronger identity and fraud controls or risk falling behind - both in compliance and customer confidence.

But for forward-thinking institutions, this isn't just about playing defense. It's a chance to deliver safer, smoother digital experiences that set a new standard. And that's exactly where Descope comes in.
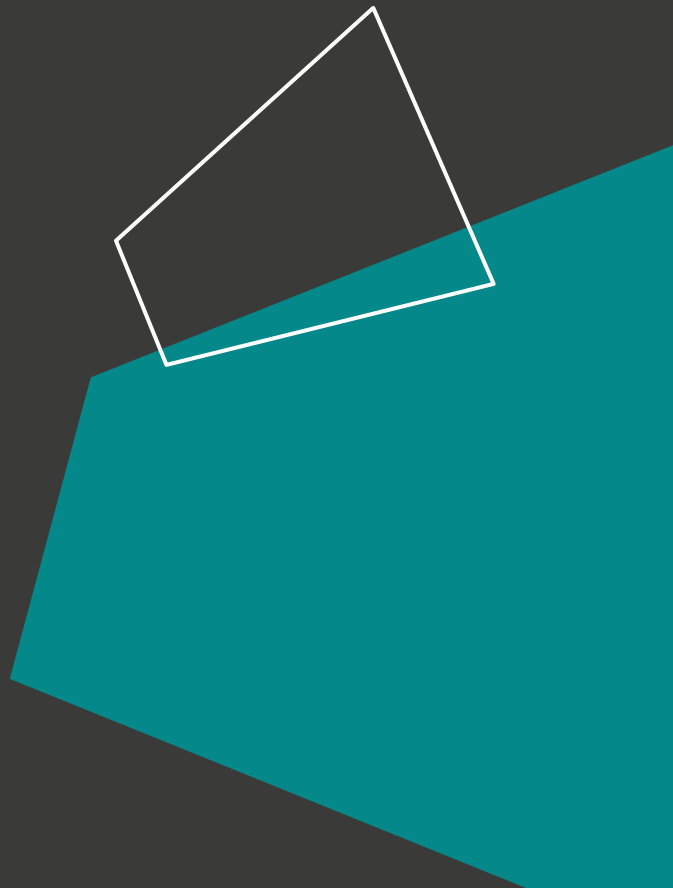
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Understanding AFASA and the New Standards

AFASA requires banks to implement stronger authentication methods, real-time fraud detection systems, and strict safeguards against account takeovers. Core requirements include:

- Multi-layered, adaptive authentication mechanisms

- Real-time fraud monitoring using advanced detection tools

- Strict limitations on vulnerable authentication methods like SMS/email OTPs

- Mandatory biometric and passwordless authentication

Bottom line: The future of secure banking lies in dynamic, context-aware authentication that stops fraud early and keeps users moving smoothly.

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# How Descope Helps You Get There, Fast

Meeting AFASA's requirements doesn't have to mean adding more friction or building from scratch. That's where Descope comes in - a platform designed to make secure customer experiences feel effortless, both for users and the teams behind the scenes.

Descope helps banks build flexible, secure and user-friendly authentication flows that adapt to real-world risks without overwhelming legitimate users. Here's how:

- **Biometric and Passwordless Login:** Say goodbye to clunky passwords and unreliable OTPs. With Descope, users can log in through passkeys, social logins, or magic links - helping you boost security and reduce drop-offs.

- **Real-Time Threat Detection:** Block brute-force attacks, flag risky logins, and enforce step-up authentication for sensitive actions. Descope combines native risk signals (like VPNs or new devices) with third-party intelligence from tools like Forter and reCAPTCHA.
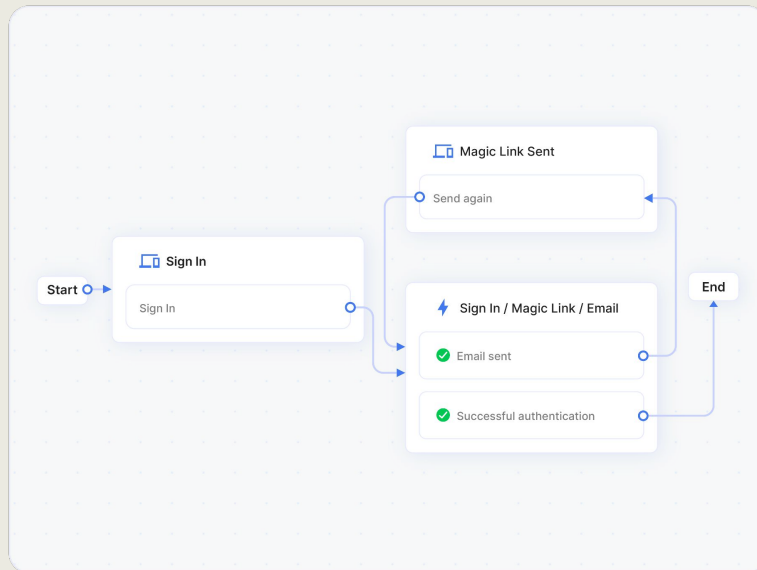
- **Customizable, Drag-and-Drop Workflows:** Build secure login and onboarding flows without deep backend work. Descope Flows lets your team visually map out and test authentication logic with speed and confidence.

- **Plug-and-Play Integration:** Whether you're embedding into a legacy stack or launching a new mobile app, Descope offers SDKs and APIs that make integration simple across platforms.

- **Fraud Prevention Ecosystem:** Descope enhances your defense layer by connecting with Fingerprint (device ID + geolocation), Forter (behavioral risk scoring), and Traceable (API anomaly detection).

- **Behavioral and Geolocation Monitoring:** Spot anomalies in user behavior, location changes, or device tampering in real time, and respond before fraud escalates.
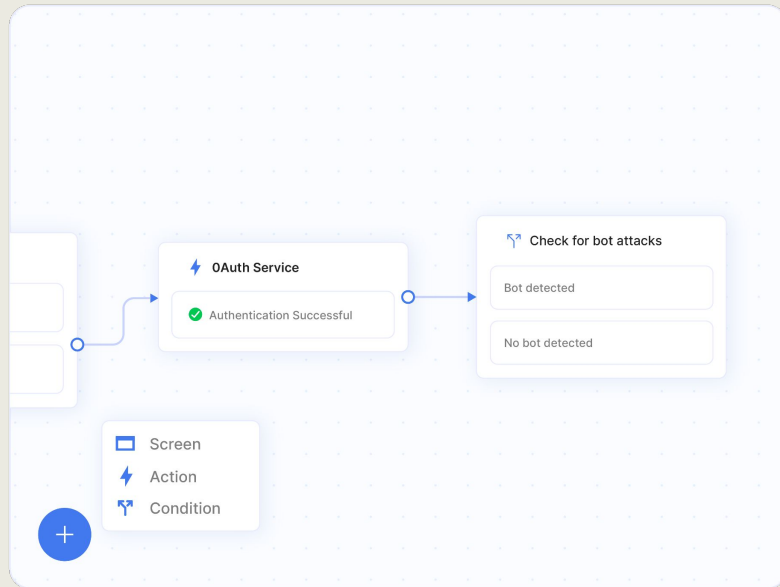
By combining strong security controls with seamless integration, Descope helps banks stay compliant and customer-centric - all while accelerating deployment timelines.

Whether you're safeguarding account access or securing high-risk transactions, Descope helps you meet AFASA's requirements while keeping user experience front and center.

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Where Descope Fits in Your Compliance Strategy

While Descope covers critical areas like authentication, fraud detection, and session security, full AFASA compliance may also require action on your core banking systems.

Features like:

- 24-hour transaction holds
- Money lock mechanisms
- Long-term transaction log retention

will need to be handled within your broader infrastructure.

Think of Descope as your frontline defense — the layer that protects access, detects threats, and keeps your customer journeys secure.

By securing the entry points, you're already tackling one of the hardest and most vulnerable parts of your digital banking experience.

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Local Expertise
You Can Trust

With deep experience supporting Philippine BFSIs and cybersecurity initiatives, we bring:

- Faster local support
- Regulatory expertise aligned with BSP and AFASA frameworks
- Hands-on guidance to accelerate your implementation journey

You're not just getting technology - you're getting a partner who understands your landscape.

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Raising the Bar on Trust and Security

AFASA compliance isn't the end goal - it's just the beginning.

With Descope, banks in the Philippines can deliver customer-first, fraud-resistant digital experiences that go beyond checkboxes. You get security that scales, onboarding that converts, and compliance that doesn't compromise experience.

Because real trust starts with access that feels effortless - and safe.

Ready to turn compliance into your competitive edge?

Find out more
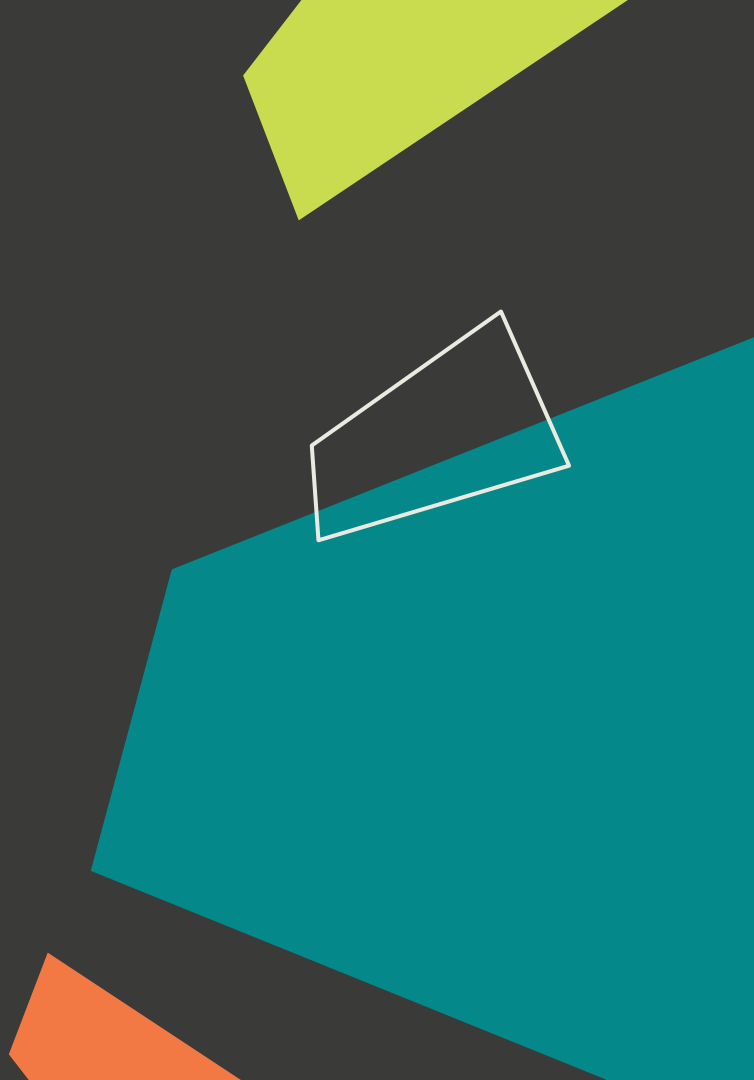
Conquer complexity with 8x8 Platform for CX

Say goodbye to fragmented data, siloed teams, and disconnected communication, and say hello to the 8x8 Platform for CX. Connect your teams and customers and make smarter, empowered decisions with integrated AI tools and insights to create real results.

For more information contact **hello-cpaas@8x8.com**.