



Greetings!

In this newsletter I will cover apps that you can use on your smartphone to pay in stores and to send money to relatives and friends. As with all tech it can get pretty confusing so I hope to help you decide which mobile payment app(s) might be right for you.

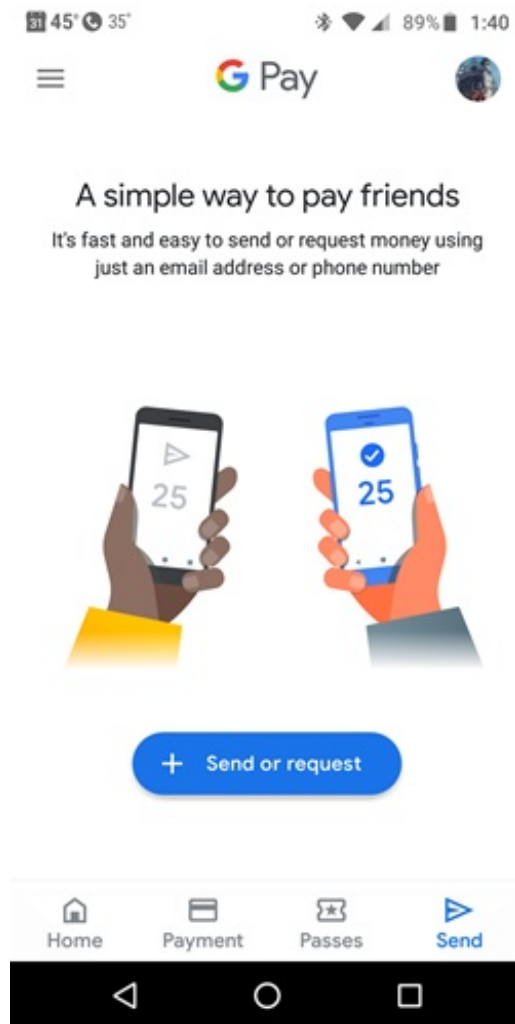
What Are Mobile Payment Apps

The main idea behind Mobile Payment Apps is that you can store your credit card and/or bank account information within the service and then use the service to transfer money without giving out your credit card or bank info to the recipient. There are basically two types of mobile payment apps. One type is used to pay for purchases and the other type is used to transfer money to individuals, and sometimes to businesses. Some apps will do both. Some of these services have websites that you can use with a computer, but most of them are an app you install on your smartphone. There are many similar apps (apps that do the same thing) because every tech company wants in on the action. Deciding which app(s) are right for you can get confusing, so I hope this email gives you some clarity.

Which Mobile Payment App(s) To Use

The granddaddy of them all is [PayPal](#). If an online store is going to accept any of them it is going to be [PayPal](#). Started in 1998, [PayPal](#)'s main use is online shopping. [PayPal](#) keeps your credit card and/or bank account info on file and when you make a payment [PayPal](#) transfers the money to your recipient without giving them your account details. If you fund the purchase by credit card, the merchant pays the credit card fee, typically around 3%. When shopping online, look for the option to pay with [PayPal](#) to avoid giving one

more website your credit card information. With *PayPal* you can also transfer money person-to-person for *free* if you fund the transfer directly from your bank account and not your credit or debit card.



Cash App, *Venmo*, *Zelle* and *Xoom* are primarily for person-to-person payments. When you want to split a bill in a restaurant or pay a family member for a joint gift purchase, sending money through one of these apps on your smartphone is a lot easier than writing and mailing a check. You can also send money internationally with *Venmo*, *Xoom* (owned by *PayPal*) and *TransferWise*. *TransferWise* has the lowest fees, best exchange rates and works in these [49 countries](#), but *Xoom* is owned by *PayPal* so if you already have a *PayPal* account then *Xoom* is a good choice for international transfers to these [30 countries](#). *Venmo*'s twist is that payment activity is **public** unless you make it private so my recommendation is to [change the default settings in the Venmo app](#). If speed is important, *Zelle* is a good choice because your [bank or credit union](#) may already use it and transfers happen within hours, not days.

Mobile Payment Apps

Install them on your smartphone from your App Store.

Good for person-to-person payments



[PayPal](#) (also use for online shopping)



[Cash App](#) (by Square, Inc.)



[Venmo](#) (beware of public posting of transactions)



[Zelle](#) (banks & credit unions who use Zelle)



[Xoom](#) (by PayPal, good for these [30 countries](#))



[TransferWise](#) (best rates and fees for [49 countries](#))

Good for using your cell phone to pay in stores



[Apple Pay](#) (use if you own an *iPhone* or *iPad*)



[Google \(Android\) Pay](#) (use with *Android* phones)



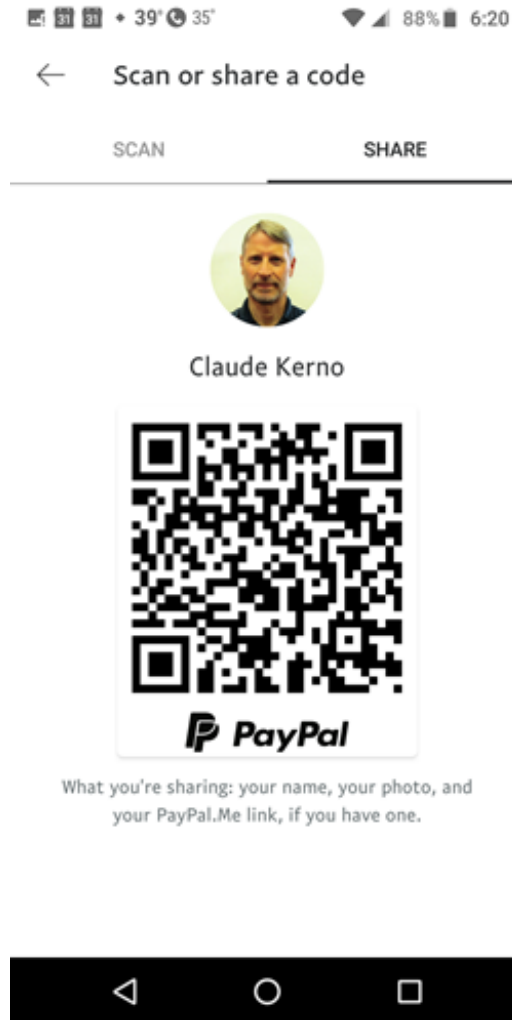
[Samsung Pay](#) (use if you own a *Samsung* phone)

How To Use Mobile Payment Apps

Person-to-Person

With most of these services, the first thing to do is to install the app from the

app store on your phone. Then create an account if you don't already have one. Once in your account you will need to add credit card numbers and/or bank account information or debit card numbers. Some services work only with bank accounts (either routing and account numbers or debit card numbers) and some work with both credit cards and bank accounts.



PayPal's QR code for transferring funds in person

Once you are all set up it is easy to send payments using either a person's email address or cell phone number. If you are sitting next to the other person, some of these apps let you scan a [QR code](#) to transfer money. You might want to double check with the person you want to send money to is using the service you want to use. Both of you need to use the same service.

In Store

[Apple Pay](#) is only available with *Apple Devices* ([Apple Pay compatible iPhone and iPads](#)) so the *Wallet* app is already installed.



Wallet
AppiPhone &
iPad

Go to it, touch the + sign to add your credit card and point your phone camera at the card (or type the account number in yourself). *Apple Pay* is great for

paying at the register in stores that accept it ([how Apple Pay works](#)). Look for the logo at the register or ask the clerk. If they accept it wait until told to do so and [hold your phone within one inch of the contactless reader until you see a checkmark on your phone screen](#).



Apple Pay - How it Works

[Google Pay](#) and [Samsung Pay](#) are very similar to *Apple Pay*. Open the app on your phone, enter your credit card and/or bank information and then hold your phone near the stores contactless reader. If you own a *Samsung* phone then I suggest you use *Samsung Pay*. If you use any other *Android* phone then use *Google Pay*.



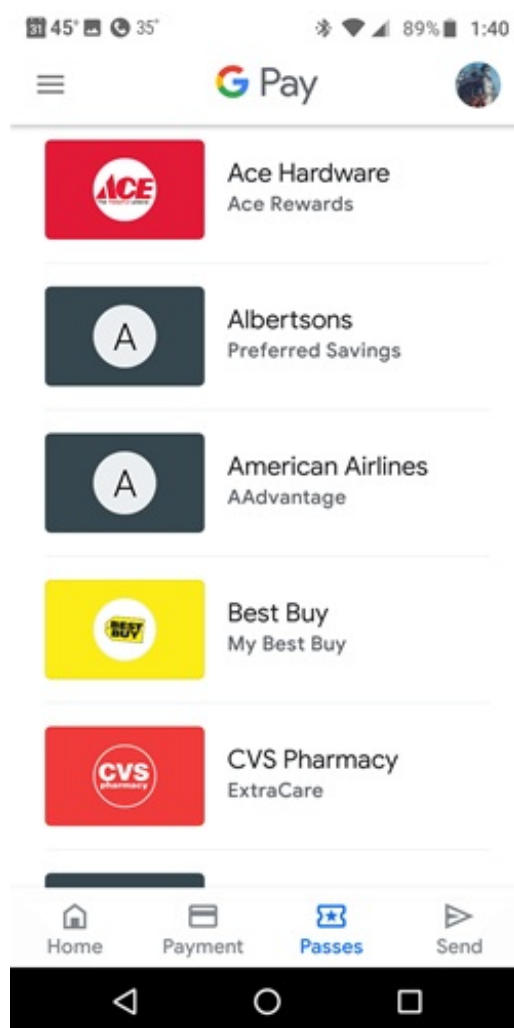
cNet - Apple Pay vs. Samsung Pay vs. Google Pay
Which is best?

Loyalty and Gift Cards

Some of these apps ([Apple Wallet](#), [Google Pay](#), [Samsung Pay](#)) allow you to store your loyalty cards, and even gift cards, so you can leave the plastic cards at home. It is nice to only have to carry your cell phone to make those in store purchases.



With *Apple Wallet*, you can keep your credit, debit, and prepaid cards, store cards, boarding passes, movie tickets, coupons, rewards cards, student ID cards, and more in one place.



Google Pay's Loyalty & Gift Cards (Android only)

Choosing the right mobile payment app(s) for you will depend mostly on 1) who makes your cell phone and 2) what services do the people you want to pay use. Often you will end up using a combination of two or three services.

More Info

[PC Mag - The Best Mobile Payment Apps](#)

[Lifewire - 8 Popular Mobile Payment Apps](#)

[The Balance - The 6 Best Payment Apps of 2019](#)

[Investopedia - The Most Popular Mobile Payment Apps](#)

[PayPal fees](#)

[Venmo Payment Activity & Privacy](#)

[NPR - As Payments Go Social With Venmo, They're Changing Personal Relationships](#)

[First Bank Card - How Apple Pay Works](#)

[cNet - How to add loyalty and membership cards to Samsung Pay](#)

Newsletter Archives

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