



Payment Data Transfer

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PayPal Payment Data Transfer Manual
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Table of Contents

Introduction

Payment Data Transfer	1
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How It Works

A Visual Tour of Payment Data Transfer	2
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Enabling Payment Data Transfer

Turning On PDT	5
Getting and Using the Identity Token	6
PDT and Auto Return	6
PDT and Instant Payment Notification	6
PDT and PayPal Account Optional Feature	7

Setting Up Payment Data Transfer

Code Samples	9
PDT Variables	10
Restrictions on Field Lengths and Data Types	10
Subscription Variables	17
Variables for Each Subscription Type	19

Where to Get Help with PDT

PayPal Help	22
PayPal Developer Discussion Boards	22

Introduction

Payment Data Transfer

Payment Data Transfer (PDT) provides merchants with the ability to display transaction details to buyers who are redirected back to their site upon payment completion.

You must enable Auto Return for Website Payments to use Payment Data Transfer. Auto Return brings your buyers back to your website immediately after payment completion. Auto Return applies to PayPal Website Payments, including Buy Now, Donations, Subscriptions, and Shopping Cart. For more information on Auto Return, please refer to the *Auto Return* manual which is available on the PayPal website.

How It Works

A Visual Tour of Payment Data Transfer

Bob is going to purchase a widget from the Widget Warehouse.

Step 1: Bob goes to the Widget Warehouse website, finds the widget he wants, and clicks the **Buy Now** button.



Step 2: Bob is taken to a PayPal **Payment Details** page which displays the details of the payment he is about to make.



Step 3: Bob enters his PayPal account information into the PayPal Login fields.

Step 4: Bob is then taken to a confirmation page that displays the details of his selection, information about how his automatic payments will be funded, and his shipping information. He clicks the **Pay** button to complete payment.

Payments by **Global Industries, Inc. Widget Warehouse**

Confirm Your Payment

Check the following details and **click the "Pay" button below** to complete your payment.

Pay To: Global Industries, Inc.
User Status: [Unverified Business Member \(0\)](#)
Payment For: Widget
Quantity: 1
Currency: U.S. Dollars
Amount: \$142.50 USD
Shipping & Handling: \$20.00 USD
Total Amount: \$162.50 USD

Source of Funds
U.S. Dollar Balance: \$162.50 USD
[More Funding Options](#)

Shipping Information
 Ship to
[Add Address](#)
 No shipping address required

Step 5: A payment confirmation page appears that informs Bob that his payment has been completed and that he is being automatically redirected back to the Widget Warehouse site.

Payments by **Global Industries, Inc. Widget Warehouse**

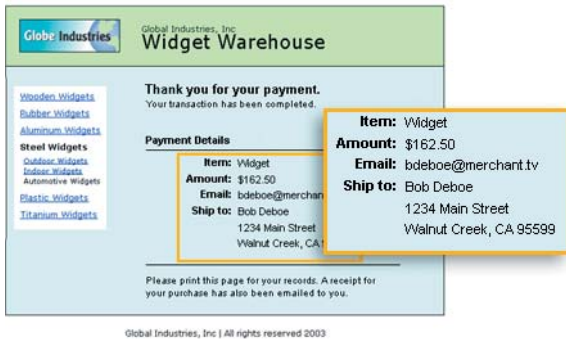
You Made A Payment

Your payment for \$162.50 USD has been completed.

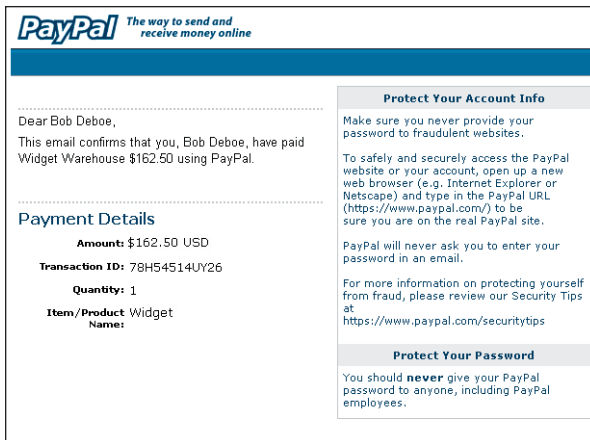
You are now being redirected to **Widget Warehouse**

If you are not redirected within 10 seconds [click here](#).

Step 6: The Widget Warehouse's Thank You page appears, again informing Bob that his transaction has been completed and a receipt for the purchase has been emailed to him. The page also displays payment details, a link to PayPal that Bob can use to view more transaction details if necessary, and links that he can use to continue shopping.



Step 7: Bob receives an email receipt for this transaction, confirming his purchase and including a copy of the payment details, the Widget Warehouse's business information, and his confirmed shipping address.

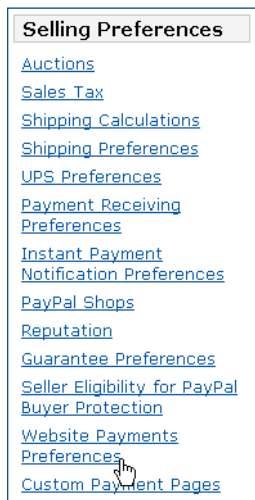


Enabling Payment Data Transfer

Turning On PDT

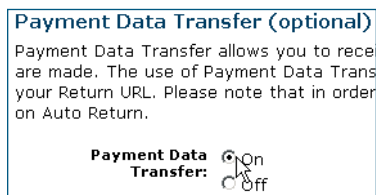
To turn on PDT:

1. Click the **My Account** tab.
2. Click the **Profile** subtab.
3. Click the **Website Payment Preferences** link, as shown in the following diagram.



The **Website Payment Preferences** page opens.

4. Click the Payment Data Transfer **On** radio button, as shown in the following diagram.

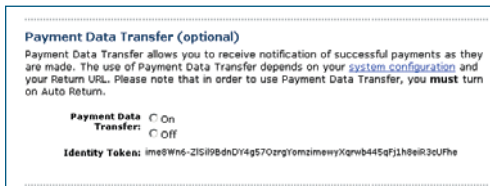


Note: You **must** enable Auto Return in order to use Payment Data Transfer. Auto Return can also be enabled from the **Website Payment Preferences** page.

5. Click **Save**.

Getting and Using the Identity Token

When you click **Save** and save your PDT preferences, a message will appear at the top of the page indicating that you have successfully saved your preferences. Your identity token will also appear in the context of this message. You will need to pass this identity token, along with the transaction token, to PayPal in order to receive information that confirms that the payment is complete.



For security reasons, the identity token will not be sent to you; however, once you have enabled PDT, it will permanently appear below the Payment Data Transfer **On/Off** radio buttons on the **Website Payments Preferences** page.

PDT and Auto Return

Auto Return for Website Payments shortens the checkout flow and immediately brings your buyers back to your website upon payment completion. Auto Return applies to PayPal Website Payments, including Buy Now, Donations, Subscriptions, and Shopping Cart.

Note: You **must** enable Auto Return in order to use Payment Data Transfer. Auto Return can also be enabled from the **Website Payment Preferences** page.

For more information about Auto Return, please refer to the *Auto Return* manual, which is available on the PayPal website.

PDT and Instant Payment Notification

PDT's primary function is to display payment transaction details to buyers when they are automatically redirected back to your site upon payment completion; however, there are cases where you will not receive notification of all transactions, such as with pending transactions, refunds, reversals, or if you have enabled PayPal Account Optional feature. For these reasons, or if you are using this data to fulfill orders, PayPal strongly recommends that you also enable Instant Payment Notification (IPN).

Both IPN and PDT send back the same data; however, there are several important differences.

PDT:

- Requires Auto Return to be enabled.
- At the end of the Auto Return flow, PayPal performs a GET with the `txn` token.
- Your script must POST back the `txn` token, along with the identity token, with `cmd=notify-synch`.
- PayPal will POST back SUCCESS/FAIL and the data.

IPN:

- Does not require Auto Return to be enabled.
- At the end of the website payment flow, PayPal POSTs the IPN data.
- You validate the data from PayPal by POSTing the data back to PayPal with `cmd=_notify-validate`.
- PayPal POSTs back just VERIFIED or INVALID.

For more information, please refer to the *PayPal IPN* manual, which is available on the PayPal website.

PDT and PayPal Account Optional Feature

The PayPal Account Optional no longer requires your customers who are new to PayPal to create a PayPal account to complete a purchase—they will go through an alternate checkout, and will have the option to sign up afterward. Customers who already have PayPal accounts will continue to enjoy the privileges of those accounts, such as payment history and integration with eBay Auctions, and their checkout experience will remain the same.

This PayPal Account Optional feature is available for Buy Now, Donations, and Shopping Cart buttons, but not for Subscription buttons.

The PayPal Account Optional feature is enabled by default. If the merchant has turned on Payment Data Transfer and has not disabled PayPal Account Optional, a new user will not be automatically directed back to the merchant website, but will be given the option to return. When the buyer presses **Continue**, the transaction ID associated with the transaction is sent. The merchant returns the transaction ID, along with their identity token, and PayPal then sends the merchant payment information that confirms that the payment is complete.

If the buyer presses **Continue**, they will be directed back to the merchant site where the transaction information will be displayed. However, if the buyer does not press **Continue**, they will *not* be directed back the merchant's site and PDT will not be initiated.

Setting Up Payment Data Transfer

Once you have activated PDT, every time a buyer makes a website payment and is redirected to your return URL, a transaction token will be passed along as a GET variable to this return URL. In order to properly use PDT and display transaction details to your customer, you should fetch the transaction token, variable name `tx`, and retrieve transaction details from PayPal by constructing an HTTP POST to PayPal.

Your POST should be sent to **<https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr>**. You must post the transaction token using the variable `tx` and the value of the transaction token previously received (e.g. `tx=transaction_token`), and the special identity token using the variable `at` and the value of your PDT identity token (e.g. `at=identity_token`). You will also need to append a variable named `cmd` with the value `_notify-synch`, for example `cmd=_notify-synch`, to the POST string.

PayPal will respond to the post with a single word, **SUCCESS** or **FAIL**, on one line in the body of the response. When you receive a **SUCCESS** response, the rest of the body of the response will be the transaction details, one per line, in the format `key=value` where key and value will both be URL encoded strings. This response data needs to be parsed appropriately and then Web decoded.

Example successful response:

```
SUCCESS
first_name=Jane+Doe
last_name=Smith
payment_status=Completed
payer_email=janiedoesmith%40hotmail.com
payment_gross=3.99
mc_currency=USD
custom=For+the+purchase+of+the+rare+book+Green+Eggs+%26+Ham
...
```

When using Auto Return, you must display verbiage on the page displayed by the Return URL that will help the buyer understand that the payment has been made and that the transaction has been completed, as well as verbiage that explains that payment transaction details will be emailed to the buyer. You may display to your customer whatever payment details you feel are appropriate; however, PayPal recommends including the:

- Item name
- Amount paid
- Payer email
- Shipping address

If you are using PDT to determine when to fulfill an order automatically, confirm that the `payment_status` is **Completed**, since the buyer could use methods such as echecks that do not immediately clear.

If the response is **FAIL**, PayPal recommends checking your script and verifying that the:

- `txn_id` is not a duplicate to prevent someone from using reusing an old, completed transaction.
- `receiver_email` is an email address registered in your PayPal account, to prevent the payment from being sent to a fraudulent account.
- Other transaction details, such as the item number and price, to confirm that the price has not been changed.

Once you have verified you can try reposting back to PayPal to determine if it was a network error that resulted in failure.

Code Samples

PayPal has made available code samples that you can use to set up PDT. These samples are available at <https://www.paypal.com/us/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=p/xcl/rec/pdt-code>.

There are code samples for the following development environments.

- ASP/VBScript
- ColdFusion
- Java/JSP
- PERL
- PHP

PDT Variables

The following variables work for all Buy Now, PayPal Donations, and PayPal Shopping Cart Payment Data Transfers. If you are using PDT to receive Subscriptions payment notifications, you will need to support additional variables. Please note that the PDT variables are case-sensitive. Most values are lower-case, but `payment_status` is non-standard with the first letter capitalized (e.g., Completed). For more information on these additional variables, please refer to the *Variables for Each Subscription Type* section of this document.

Restrictions on Field Lengths and Data Types

PDT posts contain only alphanumeric characters. The maximum field length for each returned field is 127 characters, with the exception of the `custom` field, which has a maximum length of 255 characters. The unique PayPal Transaction ID will always be 17 characters long.

Variable	Value	Description
Basic Information		
<code>business</code>	Transaction-specific	Email address or account ID of the payment recipient (i.e., the merchant). Equivalent to <code>receiver_email</code> if payment is sent to primary account, and essentially an echo of the <code>business</code> variable passed in the Website Payment button HTML code.
<code>receiver_email</code>	Transaction-specific	Primary email address of the payment recipient (i.e., the merchant). If the payment is sent to a non-primary email address on your PayPal account, the <code>receiver_email</code> will still be your primary email.
<code>receiver_id</code>	Transaction-specific	Unique account ID of the payment recipient (ie., the merchant). This is the same as the recipient's referral ID.
<code>item_name</code>	Transaction-specific	Item name as passed by you, the merchant. Or, if not passed by you, as entered by your customer. If this is a shopping cart transaction, PayPal will append the number of the item (e.g., <code>item_name1</code> , <code>item_name2</code>).
<code>item_number</code>	Transaction-specific	Item number as passed by you, the merchant. If this is a shopping cart transaction, PayPal will append the number of the item (e.g., <code>item_number1</code> , <code>item_number2</code>).
<code>quantity</code>	Transaction-specific	Quantity as entered by your customer or as passed by you, the merchant. If this is a shopping cart transaction, we will append the number of the item (e.g. <code>quantity1</code> , <code>quantity2</code>).
Advanced and Custom Information		

Variable	Value	Description
invoice	Transaction-specific	Invoice number as passed by you, the merchant. Your customer is not able to view or edit this. It must be unique per transaction.
custom	Transaction-specific	Custom value as passed by you, the merchant. These are pass-through variables that are never presented to your customer
memo	Transaction-specific	Memo as entered by your customer in PayPal Website Payments note field.
tax	Transaction-specific	Amount of tax charged on payment.
option_name1	Transaction-specific	Option 1 name as requested by you.
option_selection1	Transaction-specific	Option 1 choice as entered by your customer.
option_name2	Transaction-specific	Option 2 name as requested by you.
option_selection2	Transaction-specific	Option 2 choice as entered by your customer.
Shopping Cart Information		
num_cart_items	Transaction-specific for PayPal Shopping Cart	If this is a PayPal Shopping Cart transaction, number of items in cart.
Transaction Information		

Variable	Value	Description
payment_status	"Canceled_Reversal"	This means a reversal has been canceled; for example, you, the merchant, won a dispute with the customer and the funds for the transaction that was reversed have been returned to you.
	"Completed"	If referring to an initial purchase, this means the payment has been completed and the funds have successfully been added to your account balance.
	"Denied"	You, the merchant, denied the payment. This will only happen if the payment was previously pending due to one of the following pending reasons.
	"Failed"	The payment has failed. This will only happen if the payment was made from your customer's bank account.
	"Pending"	The payment is pending; see the <code>pending_reason</code> variable for more information. Please note, you will receive another Instant Payment Notification when the status of the payment changes to "Completed," "Failed," or "Denied."
	"Refunded"	You, the merchant, refunded the payment.
	"Reversed"	This means that a payment was reversed due to a chargeback or other type of reversal. The funds have been removed from your account balance and returned to the customer. The reason for the reversal is given by the <code>reason_code</code> variable.

Variable	Value	Description
pending_reason	This variable is set only if <code>payment_status = Pending</code> .	
	"address"	The payment is pending because your customer did not include a confirmed shipping address and you, the merchant, have your Payment Receiving Preferences set such that you want to manually accept or deny each of these payments. To change your preference, go to the Preferences section of your Profile.
	"echeck"	The payment is pending because it was made by an eCheck, which has not yet cleared.
	"intl"	The payment is pending because you, the merchant, hold a non-U.S. account and do not have a withdrawal method. You must manually accept or deny this payment from your Account Overview.
	"multi_currency"	You do not have a balance in the currency sent, and you do not have your Payment Receiving Preferences set to automatically convert and accept this payment. You must manually accept or deny this payment.
	"unilateral"	The payment is pending because it was made to an email address that is not yet registered or confirmed.
	"upgrade"	The payment is pending because it was made via credit card and you, the merchant, must upgrade your account to Business or Premier status in order to receive the funds. You could also get this status because you, the merchant, have reached the monthly limit for transactions on your account.
	"verify"	The payment is pending because you, the merchant, are not yet Verified. You must verify your account before you can accept this payment.
"other"	The payment is pending for a reason other than those listed above. For more information, contact customer service at https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_contact-general .	

Variable	Value	Description
reason_code	This variable is only set if payment_status = "Reversed" or "Refunded".	
	"buyer_complaint"	A reversal has occurred on this transaction due to a complaint about the transaction from your customer.
	"chargeback"	A reversal has occurred on this transaction due to a chargeback by your customer.
	"guarantee"	A reversal has occurred on this transaction due to your customer triggering a money-back guarantee.
	"refund"	A reversal has occurred on this transaction because you have given the customer a refund.
	"other"	A reversal has occurred on this transaction for a reason other than those previously listed.
payment_date	Transaction-specific	Time/Date stamp generated by PayPal system [format: "18:30:30 Jan 1, 2000 PST"]
txn_id	Transaction-specific	A unique transaction ID generated by the PayPal system.
parent_txn_id	Transaction-specific	In the case of a refund, reversal, or canceled reversal, this variable contains the txn_id of the original transaction, while txn_id contains a new ID for the new transaction.
txn_type	"cart"	This payment was sent by your customer via the PayPal Shopping Cart.
	"send_money"	This payment was sent by your customer from the PayPal website, using the Send Money tab.
	"web_accept"	The payment was sent by your customer via Buy Now Buttons, Donations, or Smart Logos.
payment_type	"echeck"	This payment was funded with an eCheck.
	"instant"	This payment was funded with PayPal balance, credit card, or Instant Transfer.
Currency and Exchange Information		
mc_gross	Transaction-specific for Multiple Currencies	Full amount of the customer's payment, before transaction fee is subtracted. Equivalent to payment_gross for USD payments. If this amount is negative, it signifies a refund or reversal, and either of those payment statuses can be for the full or partial amount of the original transaction.

Variable	Value	Description
mc_fee	Transaction-specific for Multiple Currencies	Transaction fee associated with the payment. mc_gross minus mc_fee will equal the amount deposited into the receiver_email account. Equivalent to payment_fee for USD payments. If this amount is negative, it signifies a refund or reversal, and either of those payment statuses can be for the full or partial amount of the original transaction fee.
mc_currency	For payment PDTs, this is the currency of the payment. For non-payment subscription PDTs, this is the currency of the subscription.	
	"USD"	The currency of the payment is U.S. Dollars.
	"GBP"	The currency of the payment is Pounds Sterling.
	"EUR"	The currency of the payment is Euros.
	"CAD"	The currency of the payment is Canadian Dollars.
mc_currency	"JPY"	The currency of the payment is Yen.
settle_amount	Transaction-specific	Amount that is deposited into the account's primary balance after a currency conversion from automatic conversion (through your Payment Receiving Preferences) or manual conversion (through manually accepting a payment).
settle_currency	Transaction-specific for Multiple Currencies	Currency of settle_amount.
exchange_rate	Transaction-specific for Multiple Currencies	Exchange rate used if a currency conversion occurred.
payment_gross	Transaction-specific for USD payments only	Full USD amount of the customer's payment, before transaction fee is subtracted. Will be empty for non-USD payments. This is a legacy field replaced by mc_gross. If this amount is negative, it signifies a refund or reversal, and either of those payment statuses can be for the full or partial amount of the original transaction.
payment_fee	Transaction-specific for USD payments only	USD transaction fee associated with the payment. payment_gross minus payment_fee will equal the amount deposited into the receiver_email account. Will be empty for non-USD payments. This is a legacy field replaced by mc_fee. If this amount is negative, it signifies a refund or reversal, and either of those payment statuses can be for the full or partial amount of the original transaction fee.

Variable	Value	Description
Auction Information		
for_auction	"true"	This is an auction payment—payments made using Pay for eBay Items or Smart Logos—as well as Send Money/Money Request payments with the type eBay items or Auction Goods (non-eBay) .
auction_buyer_id	Transaction-specific for Auctions	This is the customer's auction ID.
auction_closing_date	Transaction-specific for Auctions	This is the auction's close date.
auction_multi_item	Transaction-specific for Auctions	This is a counter used for multi-item auction payments. It allows you to customize your script to only count the <code>mc_gross</code> or <code>payment_gross</code> for the first IPN you receive from a multi-item auction (<code>auction_multi_item</code>), since each item from the auction will generate an Instant Payment Notification showing the amount for the entire auction.
Buyer Information		
first_name	Transaction-specific	Customer's first name.
last_name	Transaction-specific	Customer's last name.
payer_business_name	Transaction-specific	Customer's company name.
address_street	Transaction-specific	Customer's street address.
address_city	Transaction-specific	City of customer's address.
address_state	Transaction-specific	State of customer's address.
address_zip	Transaction-specific	Zip code of customer's address.
address_country	Transaction-specific	Country of customer's address.
address_status	"confirmed"	Customer provided a confirmed address.
	"unconfirmed"	Customer provided an unconfirmed address.
payer_email	Transaction-specific	Customer's primary email address. Use this email to provide any credits.
payer_id	Transaction-specific	Unique customer ID.
payer_status	"verified"	Customer has a Verified PayPal account.
	"unverified"	Customer has an Unverified PayPal account.
PDT Information		
notify_version	"1.6"	The version of the Payment Data Transfer you are using.

Variable	Value	Description
Security Information		
verify_sign	Transaction-specific	An encrypted string used to validate the authenticity of the transaction.

Subscription Variables

In addition to the variables listed in the previous table, the following variables are included in Subscriptions PDTs:

Variable	Value	Description
txn_type	"subscr_signup"	This PDT is for a subscription sign-up.
	"subscr_cancel"	This IPN is for a subscription cancellation.
	"subscr_failed"	This PDT is for a subscription payment failure.
	"subscr_payment"	This PDT is for a subscription payment.
	"subscr_modify"	This PDT is for a subscription modification.
subscr_date	Transaction-specific	Start date or cancellation date depending on whether transaction is subscr_signup or subscr_cancel.
subscr_effective	Transaction-specific	Date when the subscription modification will be effective (only for txn_type = subscr_modify).
period1	Transaction-specific	(optional) Trial subscription interval in days, weeks, months, years (example: a 4 day interval is "period1: 4 D").
period2	Transaction-specific	(optional) Trial subscription interval in days, weeks, months, or years.
period3	Transaction-specific	Regular subscription interval in days, weeks, months, or years.
amount1	Transaction-specific	Amount of payment for trial period 1 for USD payments; otherwise blank (optional).
amount2	Transaction-specific	Amount of payment for trial period 2 for USD payments; otherwise blank (optional).
amount3	Transaction-specific	Amount of payment for regular subscription period for USD payments; otherwise blank.
mc_amount1	Transaction-specific	Amount of payment for trial period 1, regardless of currency (optional).
mc_amount2	Transaction-specific	Amount of payment for trial period 2, regardless of currency (optional).
mc_amount3	Transaction-specific	Amount of payment for regular subscription period, regardless of currency.

Variable	Value	Description
mc_currency	For non-payment subscriptions PDTs (i.e., txn_type = signup, cancel, failed, eot, or modify), this is the currency of the subscription. For payment PDTs, it is the currency of the payment (i.e., txn_type = subscr_payment)	
	"USD"	The currency of the subscription is U.S. Dollars.
	"GBP"	The currency of the subscription is Pounds Sterling.
	"EUR"	The currency of the subscription is Euros.
	"CAD"	The currency of the subscription is Canadian Dollars.
	"JPY"	The currency of the subscription is Yen.
recurring	Transaction-specific	Indicates whether regular rate recurs (1 is yes, blank is no).
reattempt	Transaction-specific	Indicates whether reattempts should occur upon payment failures (1 is yes, blank is no).
retry_at	Transaction-specific	Date PayPal will retry a failed subscription payment.
recur_times	Transaction-specific	The number of payment installments that will occur at the regular rate.
username	Transaction-specific	(optional) Username generated by PayPal and given to subscriber to access the subscription.
password	Transaction-specific	(optional) Password generated by PayPal and given to subscriber to access the subscription (password will be hashed).
subscr_id	Transaction-specific	ID generated by PayPal for the subscriber.

Variables for Each Subscription Type

The following table shows which variables are associated, and may be included, with each transaction type. Please note that the PDT will only contain variables for which it has information.

Variable	Signup	Cancel	Modify	Payment (USD)	Payment (MC)	Failed	EOT
Basic Information							
business	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
receiver_email	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
receiver_id				X	X		
item_name	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
item_number	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Advanced and Custom Information							
invoice	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
custom	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
option_name1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
option_selection1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
option_name2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
option_selection2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Transaction Information							
payment_status				X	X		
pending_reason				X	X		
reason_code				X	X		
payment_date				X	X		
txn_id				X	X		
parent_txn_id				X	X		
txn_type	subscr_signup	subscr_cancel	subscr_modify	subscr_payment		subscr_failed	subscr_eot
Currency and Exchange Information							
mc_gross				X	X		
mc_fee				X	X		
mc_currency	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
settle_amount				X	X		

settle_currency				X	X		
exchange_rate				X	X		
payment_gross				X		X	X
payment_fee				X			
Variable	Signup	Cancel	Modify	Payment (USD)	Payment (MC)	Failed	EOT
Buyer Information							
first_name	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
last_name	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
payer_business_name				X	X		
address_name	X	X	X	X	X		
address_street	X	X	X	X	X		
address_city	X	X	X	X	X		
address_state	X	X	X	X	X		
address_zip	X	X	X	X	X		
address_country	X	X	X	X	X		
address_status	X	X	X	X	X		
payer_email	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
payer_id	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
payer_status	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
payment_type				X	X		
IPN Information							
notify_version	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Security Information							
verify_sign	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Subscription Information							
subscr_date	X	X	X				
subscr_effective			X				
period1	X	X	X				
period2	X	X	X				
period3	X	X	X				

amount1	X	X	X				
amount2	X	X	X				
amount3	X	X	X				
mc_amount1	X	X	X				
mc_amount2	X	X	X				
Variable	Signup	Cancel	Modify	Payment (USD)	Payment (MC)	Failed	EOT
mc_amount3	X	X	X				
recurring	X	X	X				
reattempt	X	X	X				
retry_at						X	
recur_times	X	X	X				
username	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
password	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
subscr_id	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Where to Get Help with PDT

PayPal Help

If you need further assistance setting up your PDT scripts:

- Go to <http://www.paypal.com/wf/>
- Click the **Developer Support** topic.
- Click **Troubleshoot Payment Data Transfer (PDT)**.

PayPal Developer Discussion Boards

You can also check the PayPal Developer Discussion Boards at <http://www.paypaldev.org> for help.