

March 26, 2026

Bank of Japan

Fifth General Meeting of the CBDC Forum

The CBDC Forum held its fifth general meeting on January 29, 2026. The Bank of Japan gave an overview and explained the findings of the high-load testing conducted under the pilot program. Followed by updates on progress made by working groups, the Bank also announced its decision to reorganize the CBDC Forum going forward (see "Reorganizing the CBDC Forum").

Fifth General Meeting of the CBDC Forum

January 2026

Bank of Japan

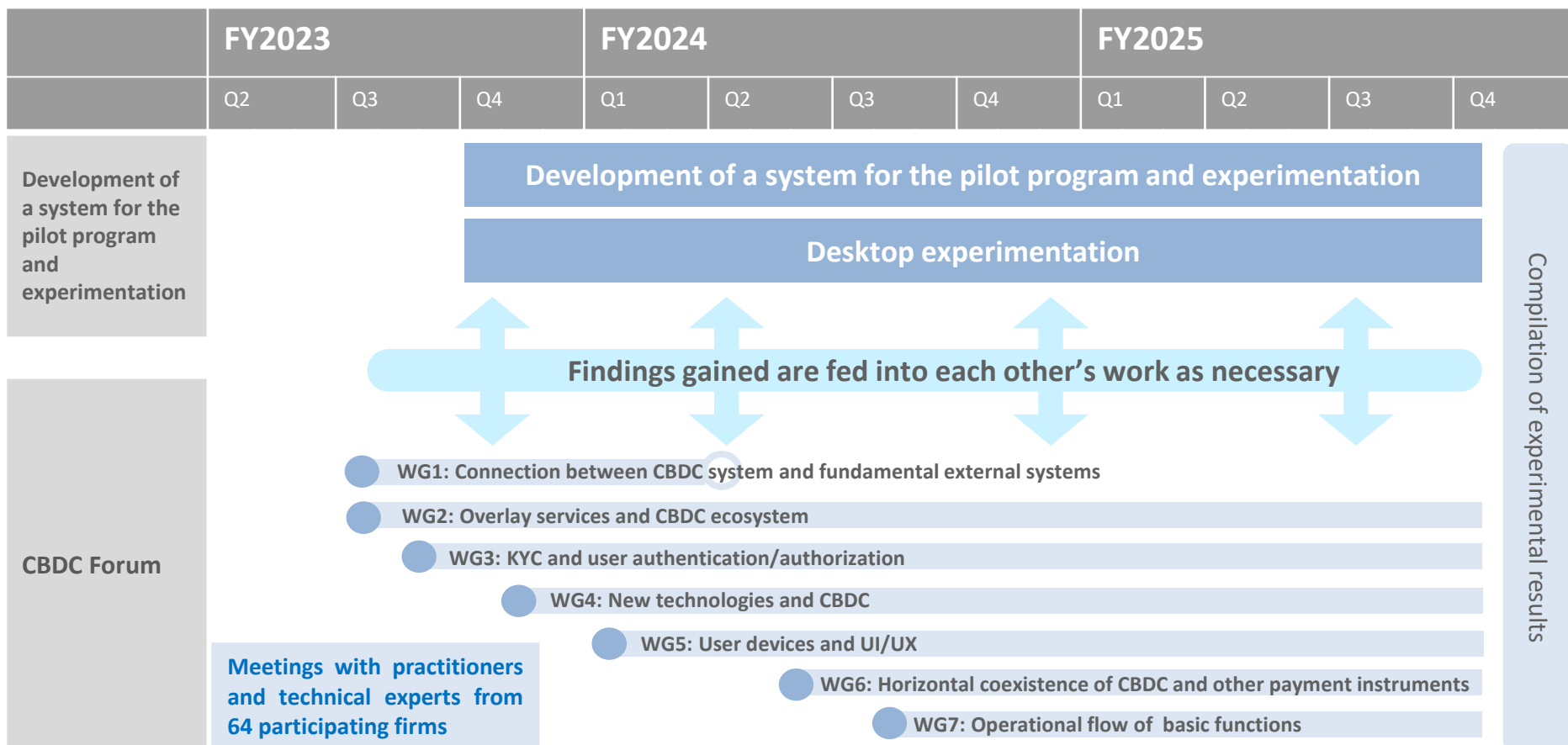


I . Development of a System for the Pilot Program and Experimentation

Overview of the pilot program

- Regarding the development of a system for the pilot program and experimentation, technical analyses based on the evaluation of high-load testing are underway.
- At the CBDC Forum, discussions held to date are being compiled.

▽ Overall timeline of the pilot program



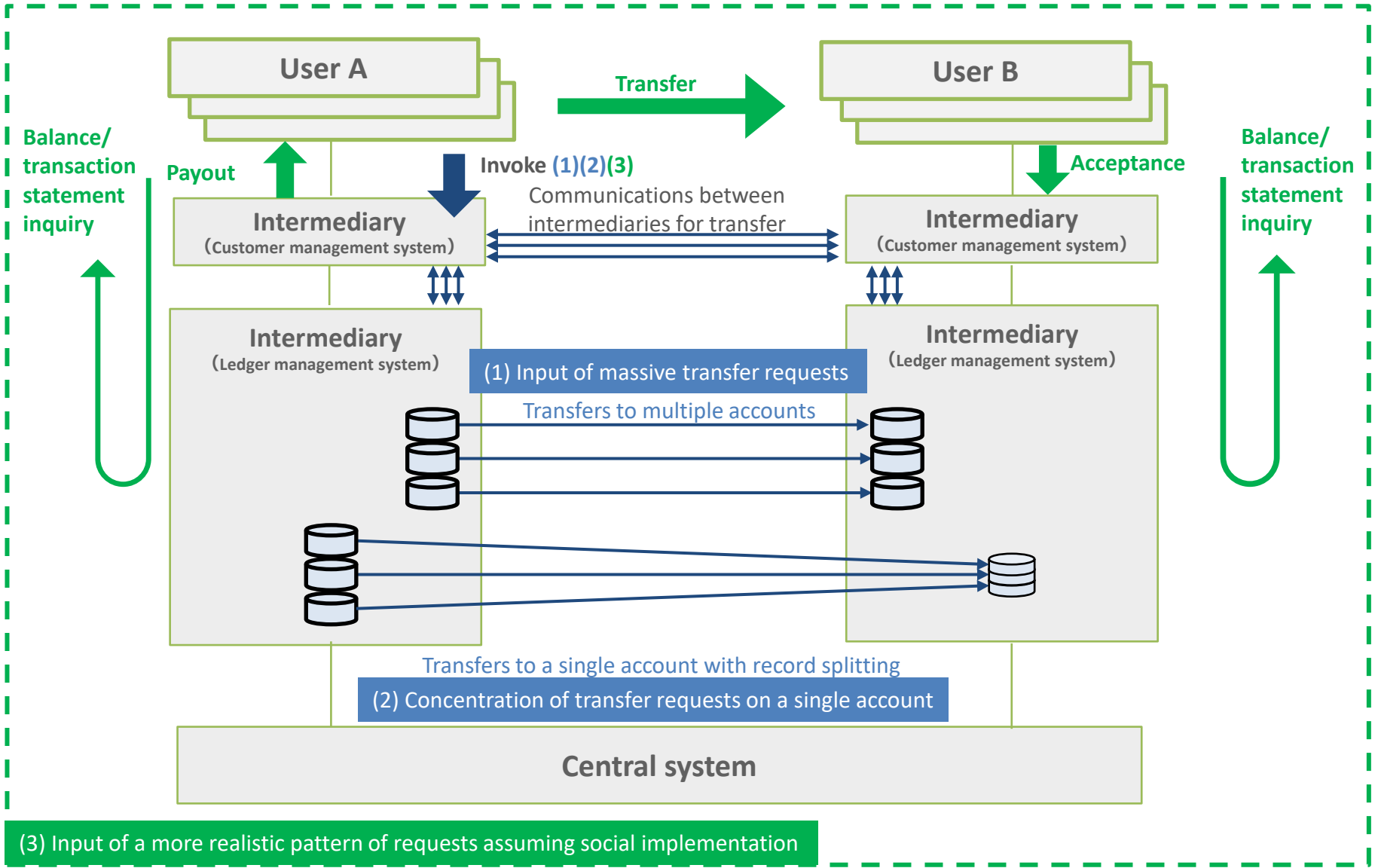
Overview of the high-load testing

- In the PoCs, we assumed 100,000 transactions per second as the processing performance at the time of social implementation. This implies that performance requirements for such a system would be considerably high.
- Meanwhile, the system for the pilot program is built on a smaller scale. Thus, taking the size difference into account, we took the following steps to examine the technical feasibility of social implementation:
 - (1) Examine maximum performance of the system through the high-load testing
 - (2) Consider technical issues that may arise in expanding this system into one for social implementation (assuming the same performance requirements as in the PoCs)

Findings of the high-load testing (1)

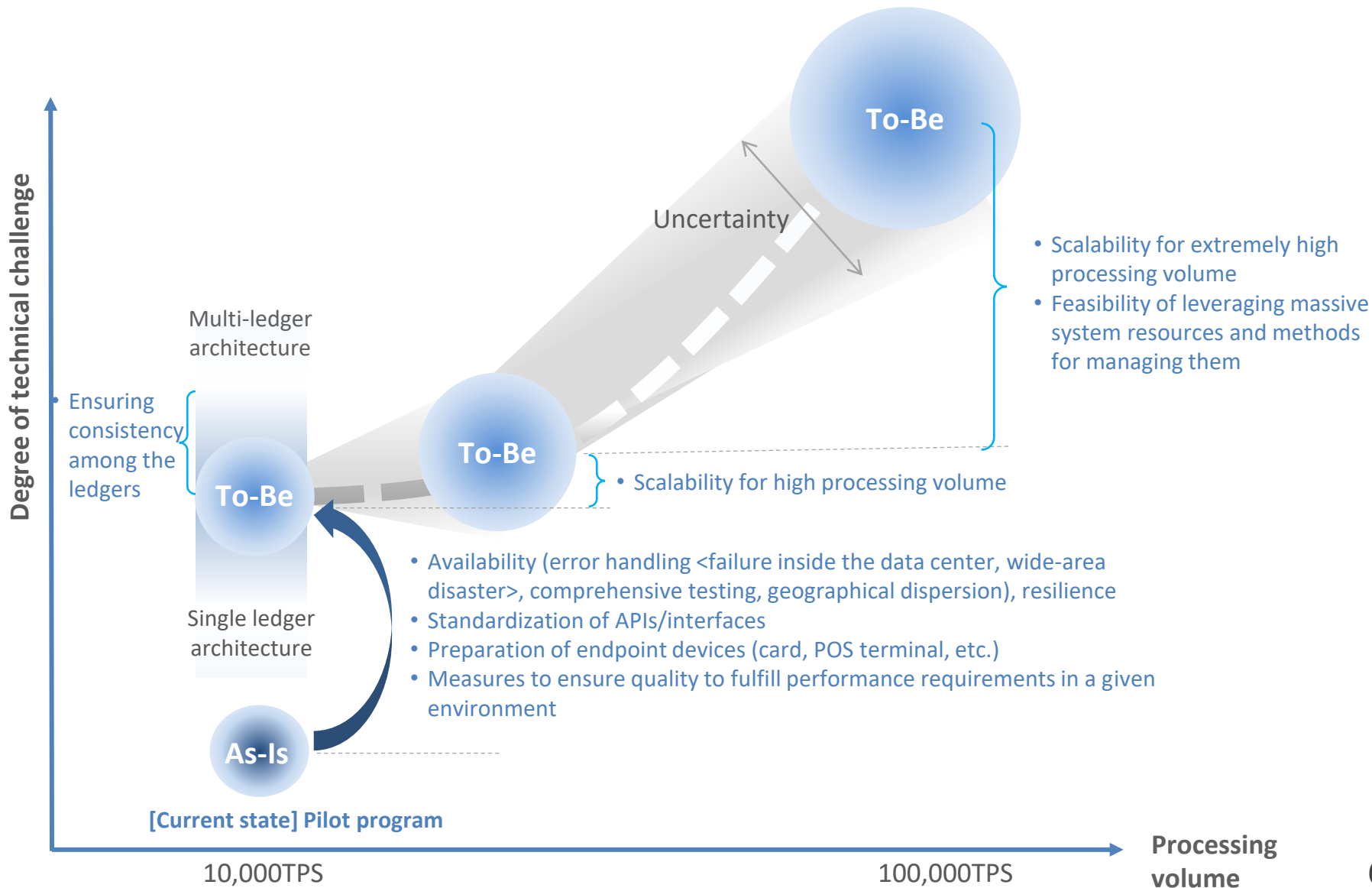
- During the high-load testing, the database (DB) experienced temporary outages and subsequent processing spikes. To address this, a flow control mechanism for limiting the volume of incoming requests was implemented. Following its implementation, we confirmed that the experimental system could achieve the targeted performance.
- Specifically, we confirmed that the system could handle a total of 50,000 transactions per second: 10,000 DB update transactions per second and 40,000 balance inquiry transactions per second.
- Furthermore, we confirmed that the system completed DB update transactions within approximately 3 seconds.
 - ✓ In the digital euro's case, the tentative response time requirement is also approximately 3 seconds.

Findings of the high-load testing (2)



Relationship between technical challenge and processing volume

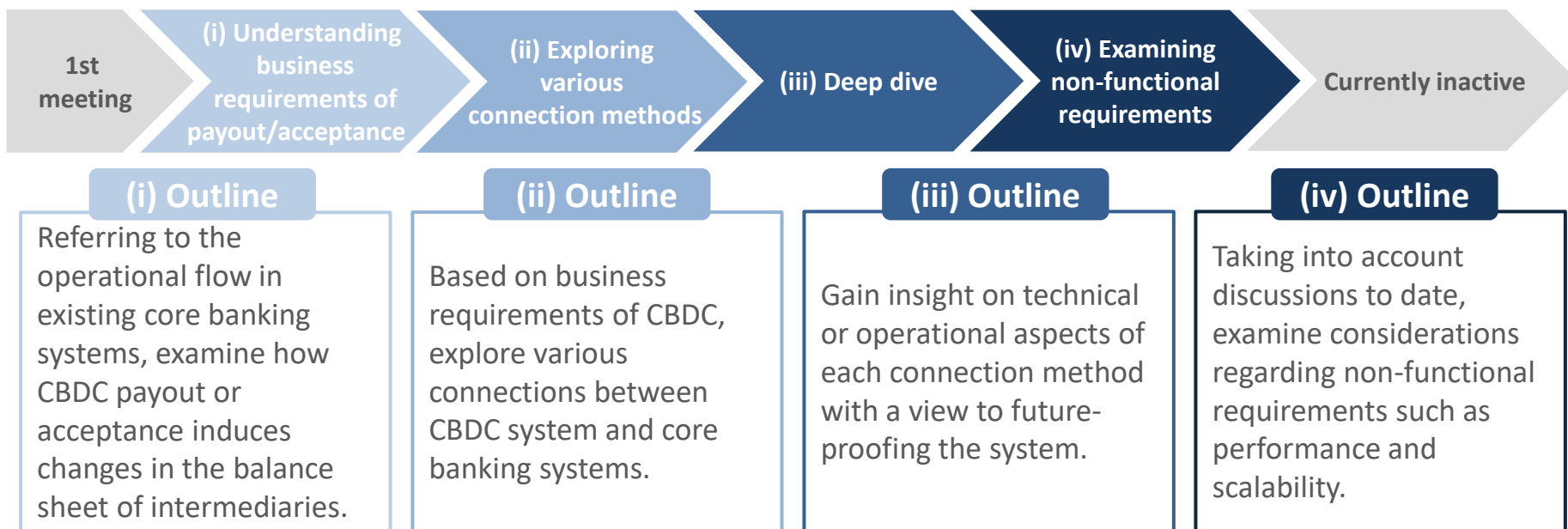
- The degree of technical challenge in realizing a system varies depending on the functionality and performance required at the time of social implementation.



II . CBDC Forum

WG1: Connection between CBDC system and fundamental external systems

- **WG1** discussed issues including (i) business requirements of payout and acceptance of CBDC and (ii) connection methods between a CBDC system and core banking systems, which had originally been intended for discussions. In addition to themes (i) through (iii) below, WG1 also discussed theme (iv) examining non-functional requirements.
- Since WG1 had carried out all its intended discussions by fiscal 2024 and became inactive for the time being, no meetings have been held in fiscal 2025. Instead, the WG has participated in other WG meetings accordingly, where feedback was provided on the Bank's development of a system for the pilot program and experimentation.



WG2: Overlay services and CBDC ecosystem

- **WG2** has discussed the concept of a CBDC ecosystem, case studies for an ecosystem in the payment landscape, the examination of use cases for overlay services, and the technological characteristics of CBDC as an enabler of services.
- Through the API sandbox project, discussions have also focused on the functional scalability, programmability, and composability of CBDC.

(i) Overall concept and case studies

(ii) Discussion on technologies

(iii) Gaining insight into CBDC

Key theme discussed
in FY2025

(iv) API sandbox project

(i) Agenda

- Concept of CBDC ecosystem
- Survey on precedents in the payment landscape
 - ✓ Overseas CBDC ecosystems
 - ✓ Overseas FPS ecosystem design
 - ✓ Embedded finance, banking APIs
 - ✓ Other payment services
 - ✓ Regional digital currencies

(ii) Agenda

- External coordination of a CBDC system regarding overlay services
 - ✓ Open APIs, SDKs
 - ✓ Sandboxes
 - ✓ Update and maintenance of supporting functions
 - ✓ Developer community
- Overseas experiments exploring API for CBDC
 - ✓ Project Rosalind (BOE, BISIH)
 - ✓ Digital Shekel Challenge (BOI)

(iii) Agenda

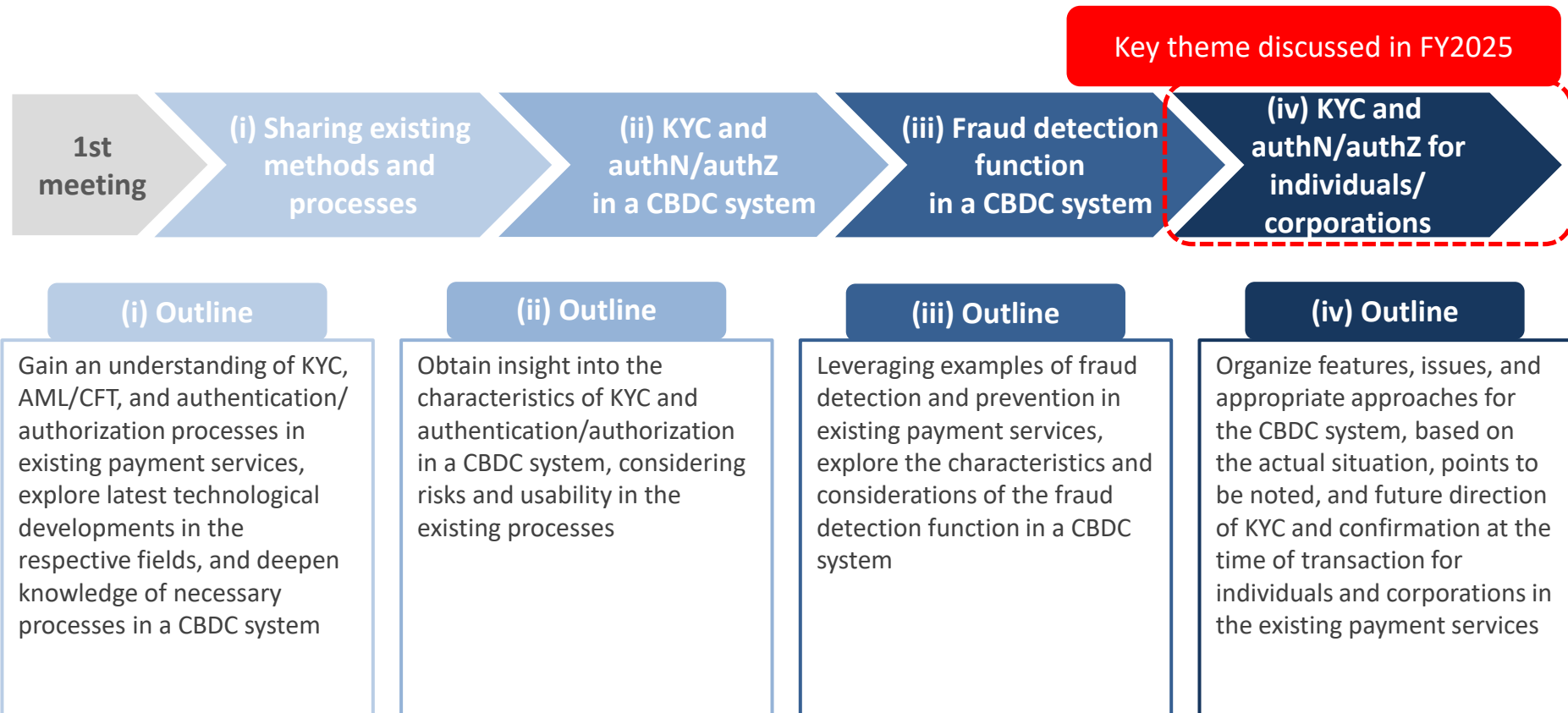
- Potential of overlay CBDC services
 - ✓ Classification of use cases
 - ✓ Utilization of data
 - ✓ So-called programmability
- CBDC as an enabler for services
 - ✓ Anticipated features

WG2: Key themes discussed in FY2025

- **WG2** has discussed use cases and their functional implementation carried out through the API sandbox project. In this project, participating firms have developed and implemented the following overlay services.
 1. Enhancing services through API linkages
 - ✓ Development of a payment app incorporating purpose bound money (PBM) logic
 - ✓ Conditional payment functions (region-specific), CBDC onboarding processes using identity verification services provided by third parties
 - ✓ Temporary reservation of deposits using a locking function
 2. Improving in-store payment experience
 - ✓ “Hands-free” payments using biometric authentication
 - ✓ “User-friendly” payments using the Individual Number Card (“My Number Card”)
 3. Leveraging new technologies
 - ✓ Connectivity between the core API layer and DLT platform
 - ✓ Exploring use cases of DeFi with a stablecoin backed by CBDC

WG3: KYC and user authentication/authorization

- **WG3** has discussed how to provide KYC, authentication/authorization, and fraud detection functions for the safe and sound use of payment services.
- Members have explained recent developments and issues in KYC, AML/CFT, fraud detection functions, and authentication/authorization in the existing payment services. On this basis, the WG has discussed features, issues, and appropriate approaches for the CBDC system.

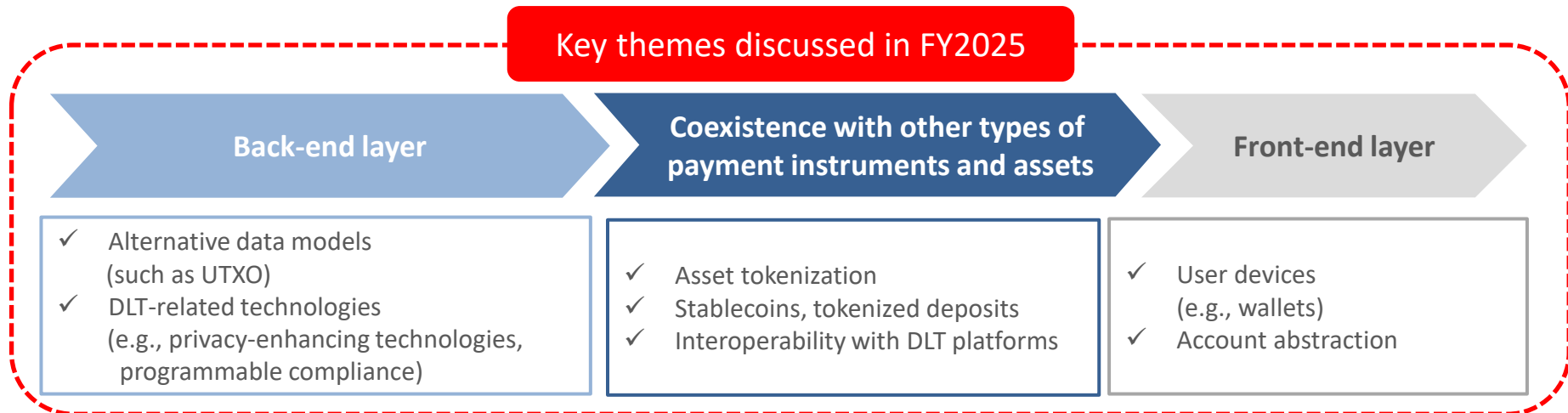


WG3: Key themes discussed in FY2025

- **WG3** has discussed the following themes in fiscal 2025 based on corporate KYC and AML/CFT in existing payment services.
 1. Discussions on corporate KYC and AML/CFT
 - ✓ Corporate identity verification methods in both face-to-face and non-face-to-face contexts
 - ✓ Challenges in grasping diverse corporate-specific identity verification factors
 - ✓ Importance of continuous monitoring of transactions and fraud detection
 - ✓ Latest trends in account frauds and preventive measures
 - ✓ Division of stakeholder responsibility in the event of system failures and frauds
 2. Discussions on corporate authentication/authorization
 - ✓ Developing corporate authentication/authorization mechanisms for multiple users
 - ✓ Corporate-specific features such as access management and authorization workflows
 - ✓ Any additional measures for incorporating CBDC into existing payment services

WG4: New technologies and CBDC

- **WG4** has discussed new technologies related to the back-end and front-end layers of the CBDC system and the coexistence of CBDC with other payment instruments and assets. The WG has discussed these themes without being constrained by existing technical assumptions and limitations.
- For the back-end and front-end layers, the WG has discussed comparisons of data models for ledger systems, the potential use of DLT-related technologies, and future design options. Regarding coexistence with other payment instruments and assets, the WG has discussed approaches to asset tokenization in Japan and overseas as well as stablecoin and tokenized deposit technologies, and interoperability with DLT platforms.



WG4: Key themes discussed in FY2025

- **WG4** has discussed the following themes in fiscal 2025, focusing on technological developments.

1. Back-end and front-end layers

- ✓ Data model
 - Account balance models vs. others (e.g., UTXO models)
- ✓ DLT-related technologies
 - Privacy-enhancing technologies and programmable compliance
 - Account abstraction
- ✓ Future design options
 - Value transfer protocol, a UTXO model achieving high performance and privacy
 - Enabling commercial transactions for AI agents

2. Coexistence with other types of payment instruments and assets

- ✓ Asset tokenization
- ✓ Stablecoins and tokenized deposits
 - Token standards, multi-chain support

WG5: User devices and UI/UX

- **WG5** has explored areas including devices for individual users and stores as well as offline payments, while considering universal access and UI/UX in the context of CBDC.
- The WG has discussed how to make CBDC available for anyone to use, wherever necessary, and under various circumstances, with participants sharing insights and case studies based on existing payment environments.

[Theme 1] Existing payment channels

Key themes discussed
in FY2025

[Theme 2]

“Available for anyone to use”

- For example, what kind of overall design (devices, apps, networks, etc.) could be used regardless of factors such as IT literacy, age, disability, and access to a smartphone?
- UI/UX has also been considered based on the above.

Devices primarily for individual users

[Theme 3]

“Available wherever necessary”

- For example, what kind of overall design would be suitable for CBDC to be acceptable even in stores without over-the-counter terminals?
- Specifically, the discussion has focused on the combination of store and user devices.

Devices, networks, and gateways primarily in stores

[Theme 4]

“Available under various circumstances”

- For example, what kind of overall design could be used even in times of disaster, poor mobile reception, and system or network failure?
- Specifically, the discussion has focused on offline payments.

Devices, networks, and gateways for both individual users and stores

[Theme 5] Other issues

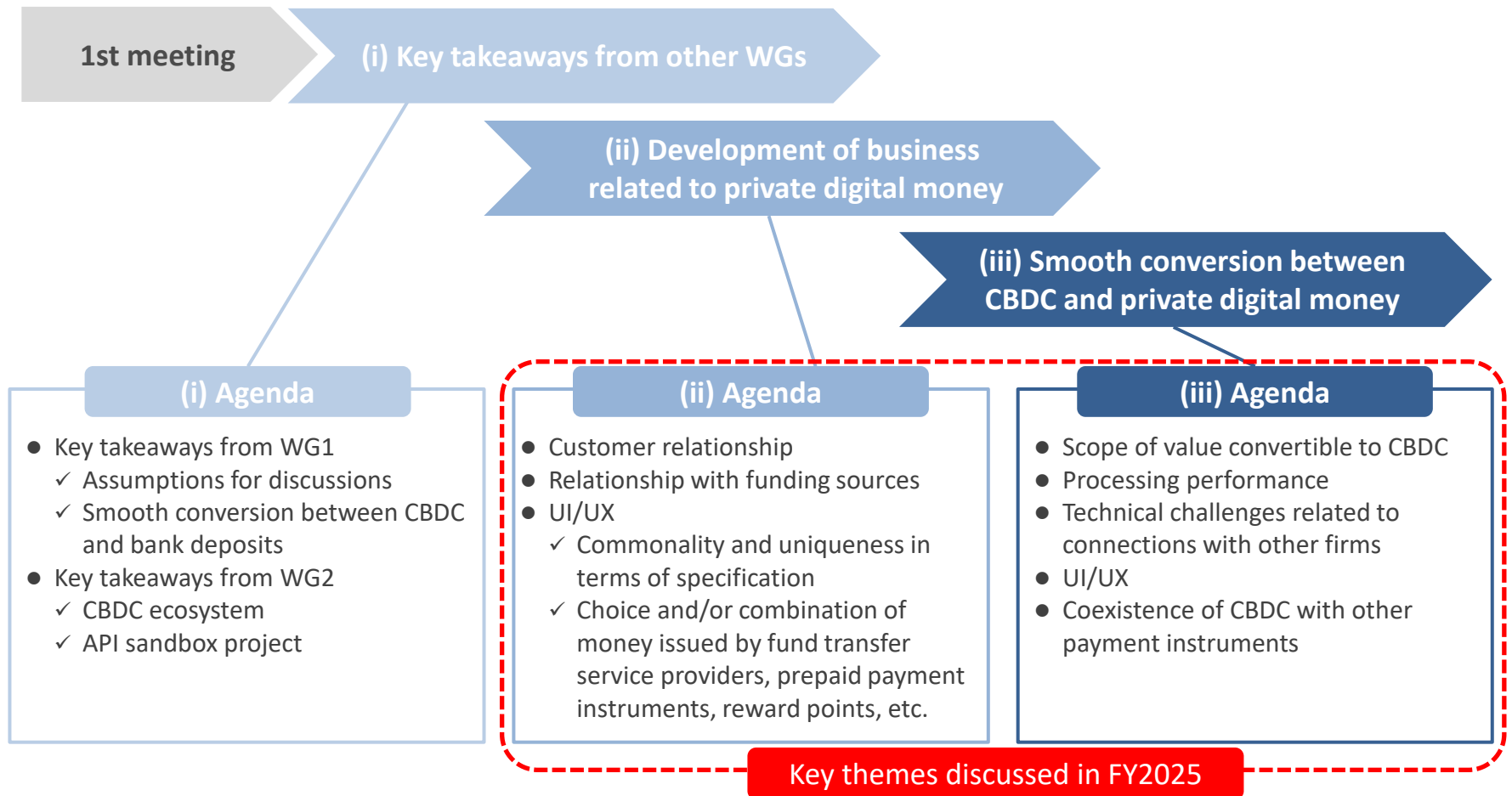
- Topics such as e-commerce and P2P transfer have been discussed accordingly.

WG5: Key themes discussed in FY2025

- **WG5** has discussed the following themes in fiscal 2025.
 1. To ensure “availability for anyone to use, wherever necessary”
 - ✓ Devices primarily for individual users
 - ✓ In-store payment terminals
 - ✓ Device-free payments using biometric authentication
 - ✓ UI/UX designs and guidelines for universal access
 2. To ensure “availability under various circumstances”
 - ✓ Offline use
 - Device offline payments (e.g., value transfer protocol [Pleiades])
 - Deferred offline payments (e.g., functionality in private digital money)
 - ✓ Responses to system failures or disruptions (e.g., prevention of duplicate payments)
 3. Other issues
 - ✓ Device security measures for P2P and P2M payments
 - ✓ Secure elements in smartphones

WG6: Horizontal coexistence of CBDC and other payment instruments

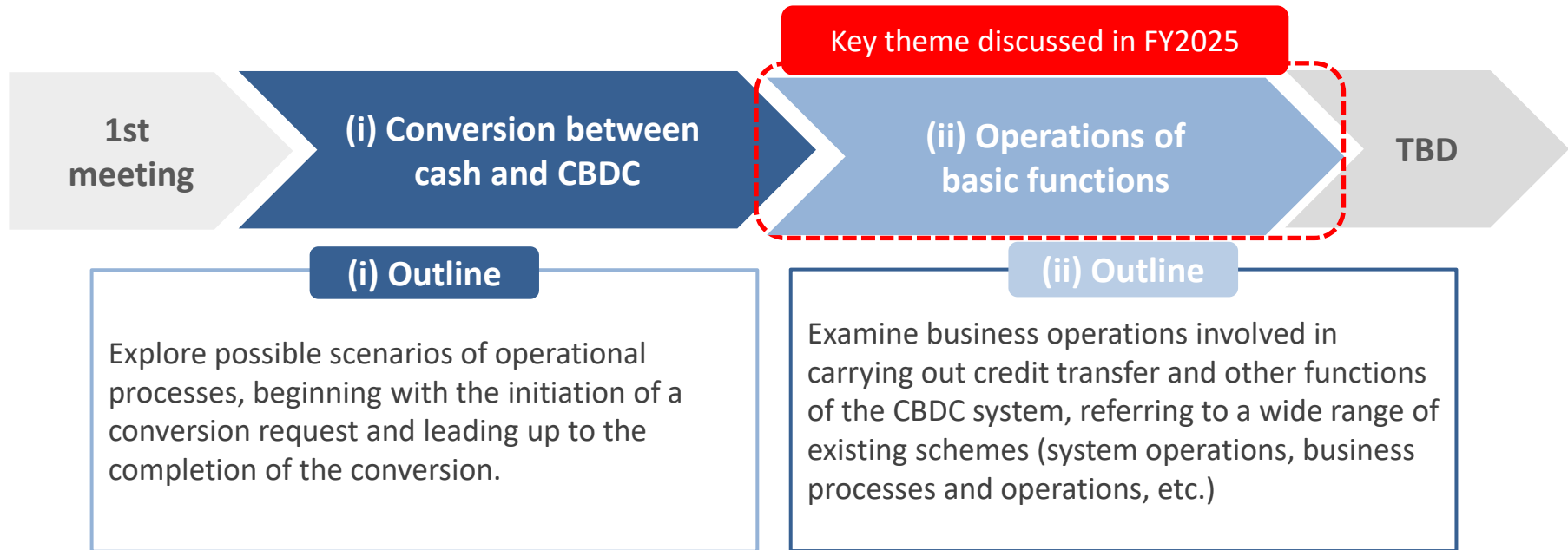
- **WG6** has discussed issues including smooth conversion between CBDC and private digital money, coexistence of CBDC with other payment instruments, and competitive and collaborative areas for CBDC and private digital money, while exploring the current state of business related to private digital money.



- **WG6** has discussed the following themes in fiscal 2025.
 1. Coexistence of CBDC with other payment instruments
 - ✓ Role of payment service providers as intermediaries
 - ✓ Challenges for private digital money caused by smooth conversion to and from CBDC
 - ✓ Service design that enables horizontal coexistence
 2. Competitive and collaborative areas for CBDC and private digital money
 - ✓ Implementing CBDC to enable in-store payments
 - ✓ Allocation of costs arising from CBDC issuance and circulation
 - ✓ Offline payment services by private digital money providers

WG7: Operational flow of basic functions

- **WG7** has discussed possible operational processes involved in the conversion between cash and CBDC. The WG has also discussed possible operations for the basic functions of the CBDC system, with feedback from the Bank on its development of a system for the pilot program and experimentation.
- Specifically, the Bank has presented a common process flow for CBDC transfers in a system for the pilot program, and WG members have discussed issues for consideration with reference to existing commercial payment services.



WG7: Key themes discussed in FY2025

- **WG7** has discussed the following themes in fiscal 2025, focusing on a common process flow for CBDC transfers in a system for the pilot program.
 1. Feasibility of a common process flow for CBDC transfers in a system for the pilot program
 - ✓ Ensuring consistency and instant payment capability between ledgers
 - ✓ Responding to possible system failures during processes
 2. Configuration patterns of the CBDC system
 - ✓ Organizing issues throughout the process flow for scenarios assuming a single CBDC system or a distribution across multiple systems