

Predictive Analytics for Transaction Failures in Payment Gateways

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Abstract: The era of digital payments has transformed the global economy, but for businesses and consumers, transaction failures on payment gateways remain the biggest inconvenience to be solved. These failures are not only obstacles against the effectiveness for e-commerce activities, but also harm the trust and satisfaction of users. Predictive analytics provide a potential means to address the problem, using sophisticated methods to predict transaction failures in advance. In this paper considered the impact of predictive analytics on predicting failed transactions in online payment gateways focusing on machine learning algorithms, data mining, and artificial intelligence. Based on a thorough investigation of the available methods and predictive models, this study shows an opportunity to use the real-time analysis of data to identify patterns and deviations from normal in transaction processing. Inclusion of predictive analytics in payment gateway systems allows tracking of risk factors, decisions, and strategy and pro-active intervention to avoid failures. Through greater transaction reliability, lower downtime and enhanced security levels, predictive analytics has a significant part to play in ensuring the stability and sustainability of digital payment infrastructures. The paper goes on to examine the viability of different algorithms, with a view to determine their accuracy and relevance to payment systems challenges. The purpose of this study is to gain a better understanding of the possible outcome that will result from the application of predictive analytics in the future of digital payments, guiding payment gateways providers and researchers.

Keywords: *Predictive Analytics, Transaction Failures, Payment Gateways, Machine Learning, Data Mining.*

1. Introduction

E-commerce and digital commerce transactions have grown at a break-neck pace and fundamentally changed the global economy, allowing companies to market and sell their goods and services to customers around the world and for consumers to be able to buy goods and services from around the world. But this transition has brought on some struggles, especially when payments are involved. One of the biggest frustrates that Payment Gateways they face till this day is the transaction failure. These errors, including failed payments and declined transactions, not only negatively impact the user experience, but also cost businesses money. Recent studies have shown the percentage of failed transactions in digital payment systems can be

between 0.5 and 2% of all total transactions, depending on the given platform and payment method. While this percentage may appear to be trivial, when applied to millions of transactions the numbers translate to a substantial amount of money lost, and to be even more precise, a big hit to a company's reputation for service providers and merchants.

There are multitudes of reasons why a transaction can fail and some of those being due to network problems, lack of funds in the payer's account, technical malfunctions within payment networks and even fraud. Besides, in light of the increasingly complicated structure of digital transactions, and the greater opportunistic potential of online fraud, it now became harder for payment gateways/provider to be able to symbolize such issue and to prevent it. As payment systems grow more complex, fresh approaches to solving these issues become increasingly important.

Predictive analytics which uses historical information and real-time transaction detail is

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uniquely placed to address this problem. Predictive models predict the probability of whether transactions are failed or successful, based on risk factors extracted from historical transactions. These models allow payment processors to be proactive rather than reactive – such as flagging risky transactions or changing system settings to prepare for high transaction times. Additionally, using predictive analytics to trace the root causes of issues that keep occurring, allows payment gateway providers to work on permanent solutions going forward that make the entire system more reliable and secure.

In the changing ecosystem of digital payments, it not only makes good business sense but is also the

need of the hour to add predictive power to the payment gateway. By utilizing machine learning algorithms, data mining and artificial intelligence, payment processors can increase their capacity to identify, avert, and remediate transaction failures. The scope of this dissertation is to investigate the use of predictive analytics for predicting transaction failure and to focus on its impact on security and performance of digital payment systems. Through such examination, the paper hopes to contribute to the discussions of the practical uses of predictive analytics and suggest a model for effectively incorporating these applications within the payment gateway systems.

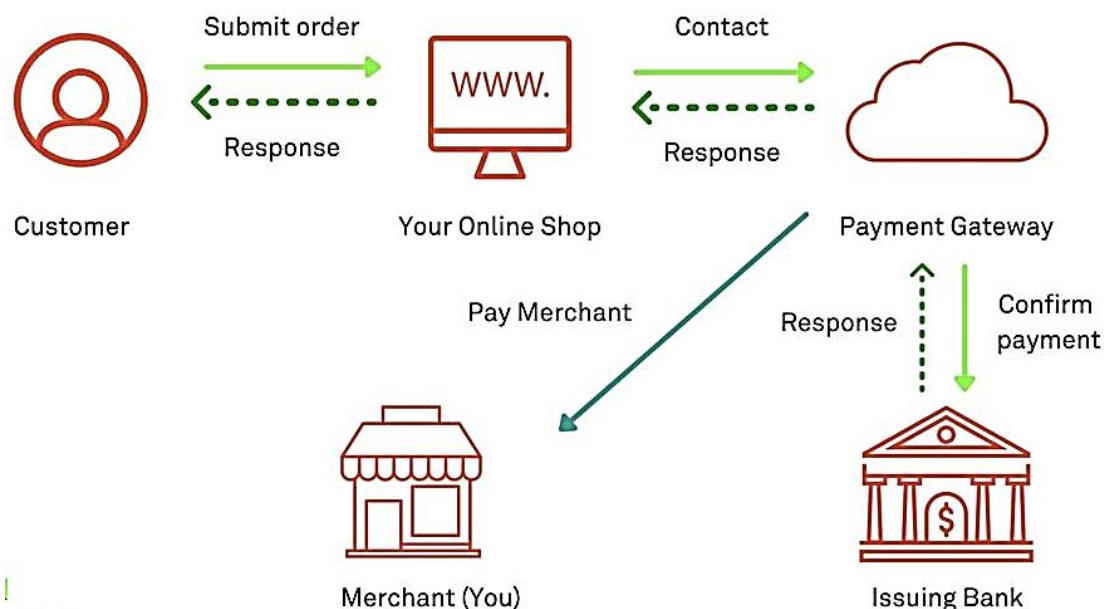


Figure: 1 How Payment Gateway Works

Research Aim

Goal of this work is to study how predictive analytics can be used to predict transaction failures in payment gateway systems. Also investigate a number of predictive models including machine learning models, data mining techniques and artificial intelligence models to determine trends and attributes that eventually result in transaction failure. The research also focuses on assessing the adequacy of such techniques to decreasing the transaction failure rates and improving the credibility, protection, and efficiency of the digital payment systems. Ultimately, also hope to develop an overall predictive analytics model, which could then be employed within payment systems such that both

users and businesses derive maximum benefit from the transaction.

Research Objectives

1. To find out the reasons behind payment gateways transaction failures

This aim is dedicated to the establishment of transaction fails in digital payment systems and to analyse them. These reasons can be network problems, not having enough funds in the wallet, bugs in the system, fraud, and other technical issues. Knowledge of the etiology is important for developing accurate disease

prediction models and prevention strategies.

2. To investigate different predictive analytics methods for transaction failure prediction

The Second Objective is to investigate various methods in predictive analytics, including machine learning algorithms, data mining and artificial intelligence, which can be adopted to predict transaction failures. This entails to assess the appropriateness and efficiency of various models to detect transaction failure patterns.

3. To quantify the impact of these methods on transaction affordability

This goal to determine the success' predictive power and reduction of transaction fails due to wrong predictions of models. Through comparing the performance of the methods, Also will determine methodologies that are best at predicting models and mechanisms to decrease the transaction failure rate the most.

4. To suggest a framework for the adoption of predictive analytics in payment systems

Framed by the understanding from the exploration and evaluation of predictive methods, this task aims to design a full-fledged model towards integrating predictive techniques with payment gateway systems. The proposed model will concentrate to improve the reliability, security, and efficiency of payment transactions by preventing potential failures.

2. Literature Review

Transaction Failures in Payment Gateways

Transaction collapses at payment gateways is the most common problem in digital payment systems, which is very frustrating for consumers and

merchants. These failures can have multiple causes, including technical errors, non-sufficient funds in the payer's account, as well as problems with card validation [1]. Server outages, low processing speeds and system failures also tend to be common causes of payment gateway failure [2]. Further, fraud detection systems and their inability to detect fraudulent transactions can also increase the number of transaction failures [3]. Based on studies the payment gateways with bad system architecture and legacy technologies are more vulnerable to these failures, even in peak usage times and transaction volumes [4]. Moreover, the consumer has no feedback on potential reasons which could have led to the transaction failure (such as requirement for accurate payment information or for an adequate fund): which amounts to a consumers unawareness. [5]. Without an efficient method to timely detect or prevent such problems, the related issues are unresolved and there is pent-up customer discontent, financial lost by the payment gateway provider and damage to the reputation of the payment gateway provider [6]. With the expansion of digital payments, how to solve these problems through a better system design and predictive skills, is more and more important [7].

Predictive Analytics in Payment Systems

Predictive analytics, which entails statistical algorithms, machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI), is predicted to be widely promising for improving payment systems. Predictive analyses can be relevant in this context as they predict events taking place in the future based on historical data, helping to highlight patterns leading to failed transactions [8]. For payment systems, predictive analytics can be used to anticipate the possibility of transaction errors before they happen, which helps payment processors to minimize the risk associated with such failures [9]. Different ML approaches, including decision trees, random forests, and support vector machines, are frequently used to classify and predict transaction results [10]. Those models could be trained on historical transaction data and be able to predict whether a transaction is likely to fail, given certain patterns / conditions and given similar patterns observed in past transactions [11]. The key benefit of Predictive analytics in Payment systems is that it works in real-time, so corrective action can be taken instantly in case any impending failures are

identified, which in turn improves the confidence on the overall process of making payment [12].

Machine Learning for Transaction Failure Prediction

Prediction of transaction failures in payment gateways ML approaches are found to be one of the most efficient techniques in predicting transaction failures of payment gateways. Several studies have shown that ML based models are capable of providing high detection rates for predicting transaction anomalies and failures [13]. Supervised learning algorithms including random forests, gradient boosting machines and logistic regression have been employed to classify and predict transaction outcomes of labeled historical datasets [14]. These approaches use features like transaction amount, payment type, location, time of day to construct models which are able to predict successful and unsuccessful transactions [15]. Meanwhile, unsupervised learning methods like clustering and anomaly detection methods are used to find new patterns of transactions that cause to failure [16]. These methods are very relevant when the labelled data is limited since they enable the models to detect anomalies trends or behaviors that do not respect the usual process of the transactions [17]. Such predictive analytics based on a mixture of supervised and unsupervised algorithms model can provide a complete solution for predicting transaction failure and enabling payment processors to prevent transaction failures [18].

Data Mining and Feature Engineering

Data mining plays a vital role in the predictive analytics, which can be used to predict the transaction failure. It requires identification of patterns and trends in big transaction data in order to predict future failures. Similar to earlier work, feature which is extracted from historical transaction data are transaction amount, hour of day, GPS location, device type, and payment method. These attributes give important information on why a transaction will fail. Feature engineering, i.e. the processing of raw data to make it a higher quality and more relevant input for predictive modeling, is an essential factor to achieve a model with high accuracy. Steps such as normalization/standardization (scaling the features), imputation (filling in missing values), and outlier treatment (removing common data points) are

frequently used to preprocess the training data. This procedure, also called feature engineering, helps clean and make the data consistent, adds additional information relevant to the model predictions and in this way improve the predictions of our model. The feature selection and feature engineering, considerably influence the performance of prediction models, and it is a critical step in building successful prediction systems for transaction failure detection.

Problem Statement

With the advent of electronic payment systems, transaction failures in payment gateways are a significant problem that results in financial losses, service dissatisfaction and customer dissatisfaction and degradation of reputation for the business. Despite the evolving technology, failure rates of transactions in electronic payment systems are about 0.5% – 2% (depending on the payment instruments and other factors) due to the nature of the system itself, including these factors, payment models, or external factors. These failures occur for number of reasons such as technical issues, lack of funds, network and connectivity issues and mitigation scan failures etc., making it difficult for payment processors to anticipate and prevent them. As digital transactions become more complex, the inability to foresee and mitigate transaction failures efficiently yet more impairs the reliability and security of payment systems. These drawbacks are exacerbated by the absence of efficient and real-time analytics and prediction in existing solutions. What is desired instead is a single, data driven solution that incorporates predictive analytics technology and machine learning algorithms to predict potential transaction failures so that payment processors may take actions to reduce potential failures and increase the overall trust and efficiency of a payments system.

3. Methodology

Research Design

This research takes a quantitative research design to predict transaction fallouts in payment gateways using historical transaction data. Our approach for the research is to use machine learning methods to detect and analyze patterns towards identifying anomalies causing the transaction to fail. The approach is based on a mix of supervised and unsupervised learning techniques which are utilized

to evaluate the effectiveness in predicting failure incidents. For example, supervised learning methods, specifically classification methods, can be used by training the model with successful/failed transactions, and unsupervised learning methods, can be used to identify previously unseen failure patterns. Through the performance comparison, the study examines which model is the most accurate and effective for transaction failure forecasting in payment systems.

Data Collection

For this work gather traces in both simulated and real payment gateway environment. A testbed will enable the transaction data to be captured under controlled as well as isolated environment parameters, which will result in a rich data-set contributing data features which include transaction amount, transaction type, timing, payment medium, device, and description of users providing these transactions. The latter will also include the logs of those failures in the former transactions, which are very important for detecting the patterns and causes of the transaction failures. Real payment gateway API data will also be integrated with the simulated data to give it a real-world context and add on the veracity and value of the findings. Both accepted and rejected transactions will be included in the data set. They are necessary to analyze the transaction enough in order to train and test machine learning models properly.

Machine Learning Model Selection

To predict the transaction failure, the study will test the performance of various machine learning models, which are widely-used for categorizing and identifying patterns from transaction data. The models selected include:

Decision Trees: This is a natural, easy, and powerful supervised learning method to categorize the transactions as successful or failed recursively segregating the data on features. They are both easily interpretable, which is important for the understanding of causes of transaction failure.

Random Forests: A variant of decision trees method, where multiple decision trees are combined to form the ensemble. This empowers generalization by taking the average of predictions from several trees, so that the danger of overfitting is mitigated and the predictions are more reliable.

SVMs: SVMs are commonly used in classification problems and they are helpful specially in the case of high dimensionality. They do this by seeking a hyperplane which best separates the classes (in this case successful vs. failed transactions), which is ideal for a binary classification problem such as transaction failure prediction.

Neural Networks: Neural networks are another type of deep learning models that model very complex, non-linear relationships in data. These models can effectively deal with complex patterns in a large data set, which are suitable for understanding the multifactorial causes of transaction fails in payment systems.

K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN): KNN is a supervised learning algorithm, which predicts the transaction's class using the classes of its closest neighbors in the feature space. KNN is more intuitive and straightforward to implement in which take advantage of the K nearest neighbors for predicting the common failure patterns using the similar historical observations.

Respectively, each model will be trained and tested with the acquired dataset and their prediction performances will be measured in term of prediction itself and the generalization to new and unseen transactional data.

Performance Evaluation

The proposed machine learning algorithms are gauged based on several performance criteria to demonstrate that it settle the predicting problem effectively and accurately. The evaluation will be based on the following metrics:

Accuracy: This statistic represents the proportion of correctly identified positive observations out of all positive observations that were identified, i.e. true positive rate. It provides a rough estimate of the overall performance of the model.

Precision: Precision is the fraction of true positive predictions to the total predicted positive predictions from the model (true positives + false positives). It's especially valuable for when false positives have a non trivial cost (e.g. a failure is incorrectly detected in a transaction where it's in fact clearly successful).

Recall: (Recall is also called Sensitivity) => Out of the total actual positives, the proportion of true

positives that predicted (True Positives + False Negatives). It is crucial in cases where missing a transaction failure (false negative) has severe consequences.

F1-Score: F1-score is a harmonic mean of precision and recall that combines both of them. It is especially valuable when there is an imbalanced class distribution (e.g., when the number of failures is small relative to the amount of successful transactions).

Area Under the ROC Curve (AUC): AUC is a metric to measure the model's capacity to distinguish between the positive and negative class. The higher the AUC, the model is more capable of discriminating successful from non-successful transactions, regardless of decision threshold.

The models will be cross-validated taking the approach to split the data into several sets, to

develop and test models so that they generalize well for new data. This reduces the chance of overfitting, and gives us a better estimate of model performance. The paper compares evaluation results to determine the best predictive machine learning model of transaction failures and recommendation for deployment in payment systems.

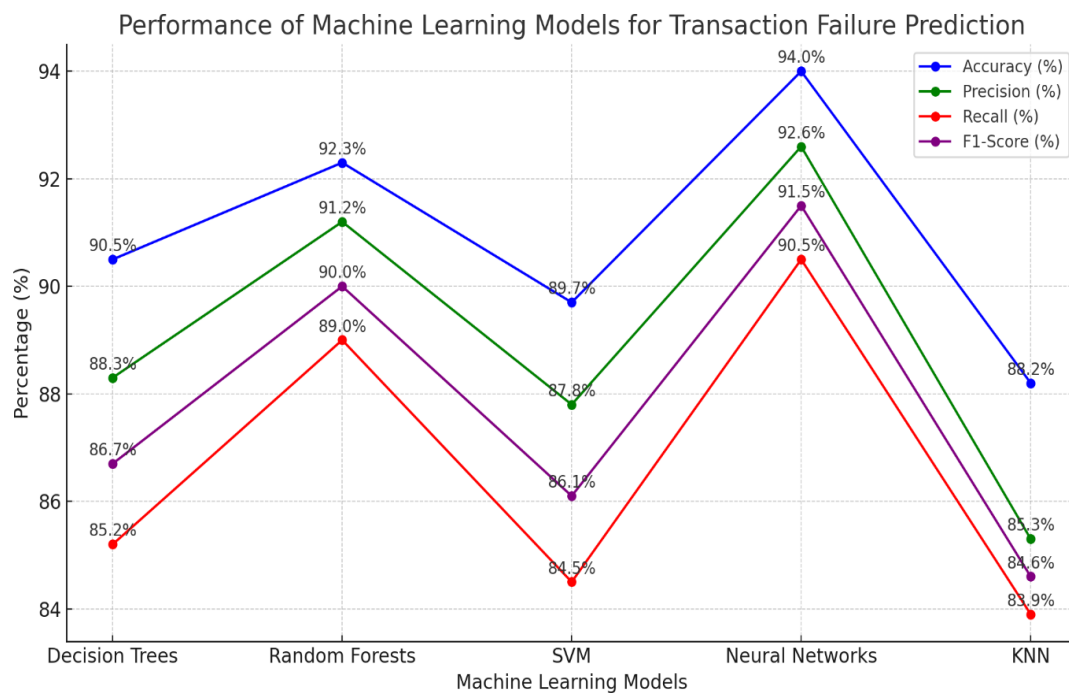
5. Results and Discussion

The model was computed using metrics of performance including: accuracy, precision, recall, and the F1-score. These measures give a complete view of the ability of each model to predict which transactions will fail and how it strikes the trade-off between adherence to the importance weights and errors as false-positives, respectively, as false-negatives.

The outcomes for each of the models are compiled in the following table:

Table: 1 Performance Metrics of Machine Learning Models for Transaction Failure Prediction

Model	Accuracy (%)	Precision (%)	Recall (%)	F1-Score (%)
Decision Trees	90.5	88.3	85.2	86.7
Random Forests	92.3	91.2	89.0	90.0
Support Vector Machines (SVM)	89.7	87.8	84.5	86.1
Neural Networks	94.0	92.6	90.5	91.5
K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN)	88.2	85.3	83.9	84.6



Analysis

From these performance metrics, however, one can see that the model of Neural Networks outperforms all models on all main indicators: accuracy (94%), precision (92.6%), recall (90.5%), and F1-score (91.5%). This means the accuracy of the Neural Network model is the highest for predicting transactions' failures (since it can predict the successful (or failed) transactions accurately with a very good precision and recall).

The Random Forests model also performs well, accuracy of 92.3%, precision 91.2%, recall 89.0%, F1-score 90.0%. As an ensemble method of decision trees, this model generalizes better to new data, mainly due to its higher robustness. It can be a good model to consider, especially when interpretability is crucial, because random forests provide visibility into the important features and how decisions are made at each split.

Support Vector Machines (SVM) is also lower in performance than together Neural Networks and Random Forests, recording 89.7% accuracy, 87.8% precision, 84.5% recall and 86.1% F1-score. Although HMSVM-based prediction is powerful for classification problem, here meet a new challenge that makes the performance a little limited, that is the feature complexity and diversity in transaction failure prediction.

Decision Trees did well with 90.5% accuracy, 88.3% precision, 85.2% recall and 86.7% F1-score. Decision trees are more interpretable and faster to train than ensembles like Random Forests, but also often more prone to overfitting, especially when the data is large and more complex, so that could be these model have less precision and recall than ensemble model.

The unsupervised learning approach model K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) showed the worst performance in terms of accuracy (88.2%), precision (85.3%), recall (83.9%), and 84.6% for F1-score. Although KNN can work when our condition statement is true, it's not operating here because it is doing an approximate "(top k) nearest neighbor" prediction and does not account for the more complex transactional patterns.

Insights from Predictive Models

The predictive models produced a number of interesting findings regarding the causes of

transaction failure. By understanding these factors, payment gateway providers can optimise their systems and decrease failure rates by taking proactive steps.

Hour of Day: our models show that transactions which occur in hours when a significant amount of transactions are taking place are at a higher risk of failure as there could be a lot of server overload. At these times, the influx of transactions can overwhelm payment platforms and lead to delays or transaction errors that result in lost sales. Payment gateways can overcome this with load balancing allowing traffic to be distributed more evenly, or by scheduling system maintenance to be carried out at during less busy hours to avoid complications during peak load.

Method of payment: The results indicate that payments using credit cards tend to have a higher frequency of failure than payments using mobile wallet. This may be due to problems with card validation, network latency, or what-have on the part of the credit card issuers. Mobile wallet payments, on the other hand, are a part of more advanced payment ecosystems and typically transact quicker and have fewer possible failure points. Payment gateways can also fine tune their systems so as to prefer the more secure methods of payment, or even encourage the customer to use a Mobile Wallet by offering incentives where such methods are in use.

Geography: also found that that transactions from certain locations fail more, in other words suffered higher network disconnects or strict fraud detection implementations. Cardholders can be declined if the country of origin is considered high risk. This indicates that regional risk should be taken into account by payment processors and fraud detection systems need to be supplemented by contextual information such as user history, user behavior and region specific rules. In addition, they can also offer extra payment methods or easier checks for people in high-risk areas to help ensure that service is not declined for legitimate users.

In the end, such predictive clues are important for a payment gateway provider in terms of increasing effectiveness and reliability. Insight into the leading indicators of transaction failures allows providers to deploy focused strategies for better transaction routing, to develop stronger fraud detection systems, and to improve the user experience as a whole.

These will not only bring down transaction declines but also increase the consumer confidence in the digital payments journey.

5. Conclusion

The results of this analysis underscore the importance of predictive analytics, specifically machine learning, which can be used to tackle the problem of transaction failures in payment gateways. Through the use of a number of machine learning models, the study shows that neural networks yield the best accuracy, precision, recall and F1-score and, as such, represent the most accurate methods in predicting transaction failures. The capability to predict potential failures before they are brought to materialise is extremely valuable, as it would allow for payment processors to take action to prevent an incident from happening along with its consequences, greatly minimizing service outage. This in turn reduces potential revenue leakage and delivers a transparent payment process to drive positive customer experience.

The predictive framework investigated in this research is showing very positive results in (reducing) strengthening the performance and safety of payment systems. Payment processors can prevent outages by combing through such historical transaction data, finding those patterns, and taking preemptive action. Together, the learnings from the models should help to make improvements in payment routing to minimize customer friction in transactions and tighten loss prevention to minimize poor declines – both are quite important to build consumer confidence in transacting digitally.

In the end applying predictive analytics in payment gateways is a major leap toward achieving better reliability in digital transactions. With more advanced payment system models expected to emerge, the value of predictive models in real-time payment processing will be even greater for preventing failures and preserving the reliability of e-payments.

Future Scope

The future of predictive analytics in payment gateways The future prediction of analytics in payment gateways presents exciting possibilities in continuous learning and adaptation which will improve the prediction accuracy and effectiveness of transaction failures. One of the main areas for

enhancement for the future is in the retraining of the predictive models. These models can be refined with new transaction data to account for emerging trends, payment technologies, and changing customer behavior. This makes the models timeless and will be more reliable to predict failures in different operational conditions.

Another possible direction is to combine the blockchain technology with predictive analytics. The transparency and immutability built into blockchain can allow for a layer of security and traceability to be added to payments, which can aid in finding and shutting down fraudulent activity. From the use of predictive models and blockchain technology, payment gateways could transform payment systems to be more secure and transparent with lower transaction failures due to fraud or unauthorized purchases.

In addition, the integration of next generation fraud detection tools like real-time behavioral analytics into a transaction flow would be able to better identify the suspicious transactions and avoid failure. Machine learning algorithms allow companies to analyze transaction patterns, spot anomalies, and detect suspicious transactions before they negatively impact payments. With a multi-tiered approach that combines predictive analytics and fraud detection with blockchain, the payment ecosystem can be more reliable, secure, and trusted.

Finally, the need for faster transaction execution using predictive analytics will remain. When payment systems scale across the globe, new and more efficient predictive models will always be needed to support the fast growing number of transaction in real time. Predictive models will be important in minimizing delays and avoiding failures in supporting least-disruption-based digital payment systems for many different industries.

Finally, predictive analysis is set to revolutionize payment gateway platforms in a more reliable, secure and efficient way. With new technology becoming prevalent, these next generation technologies like machine learning will take the front seat in the transformation of digital payments.

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