

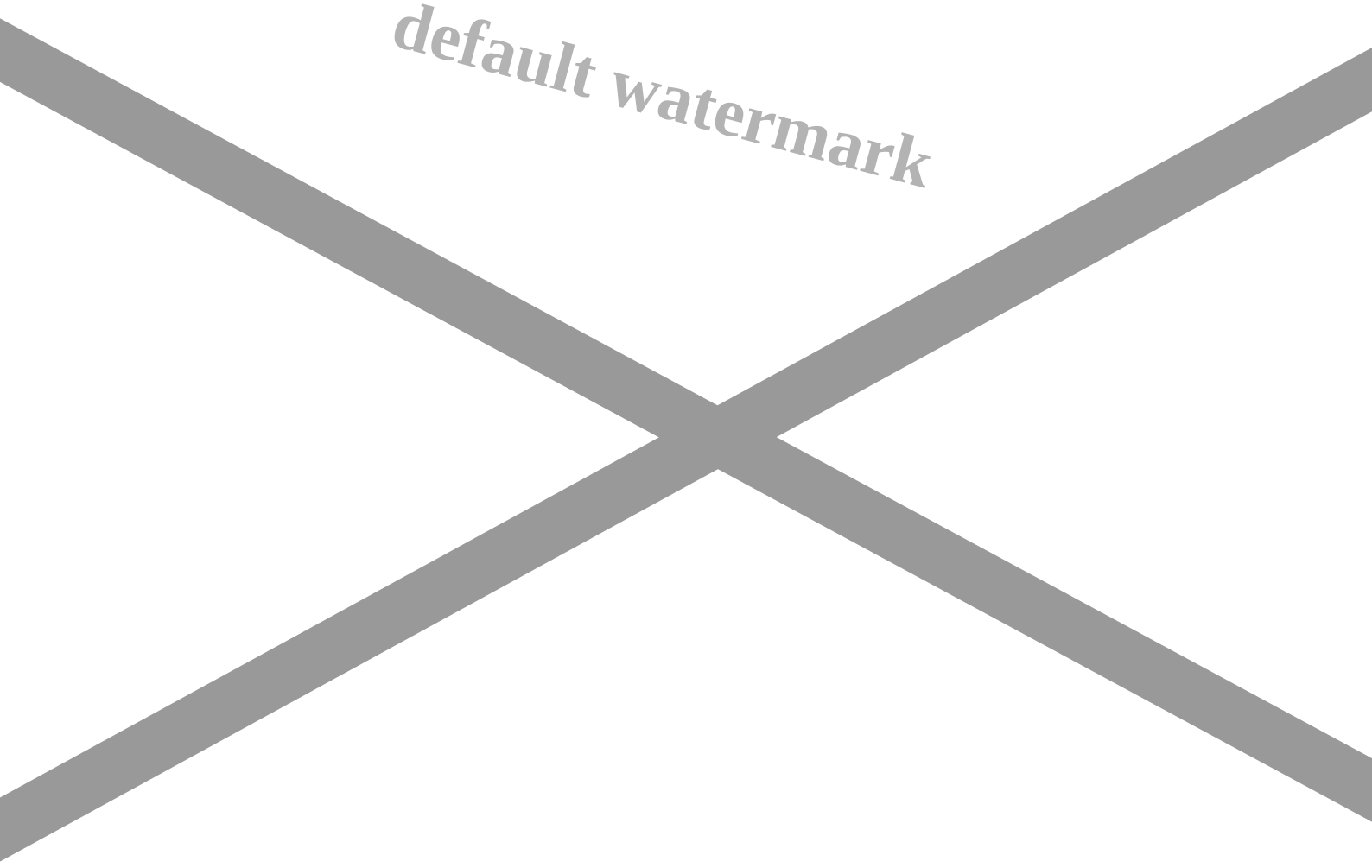
Grab Launches Micro-Investing with AutoInvest from $1

Description

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Grab has just launched their latest feature â?? AutoInvest â?? to help you invest as you spend. Is it any good, and who is it suitable for?

Ever since Grab acquired robo-advisory Bento earlier this year, we knew something was brewing. The answer is now clear, with AutoInvest being progressively rolled out starting from today.


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Youâ??ll now be able to invest as you spend with your everyday Grab transactions, from as little as $1 per transaction made with Grab services. This happens automatically once youâ??ve completed the initial set-up and whenever you

- book a Grab ride
- order via GrabFood
- shop via GrabMart
- Pay with your GrabPay Wallet or Card

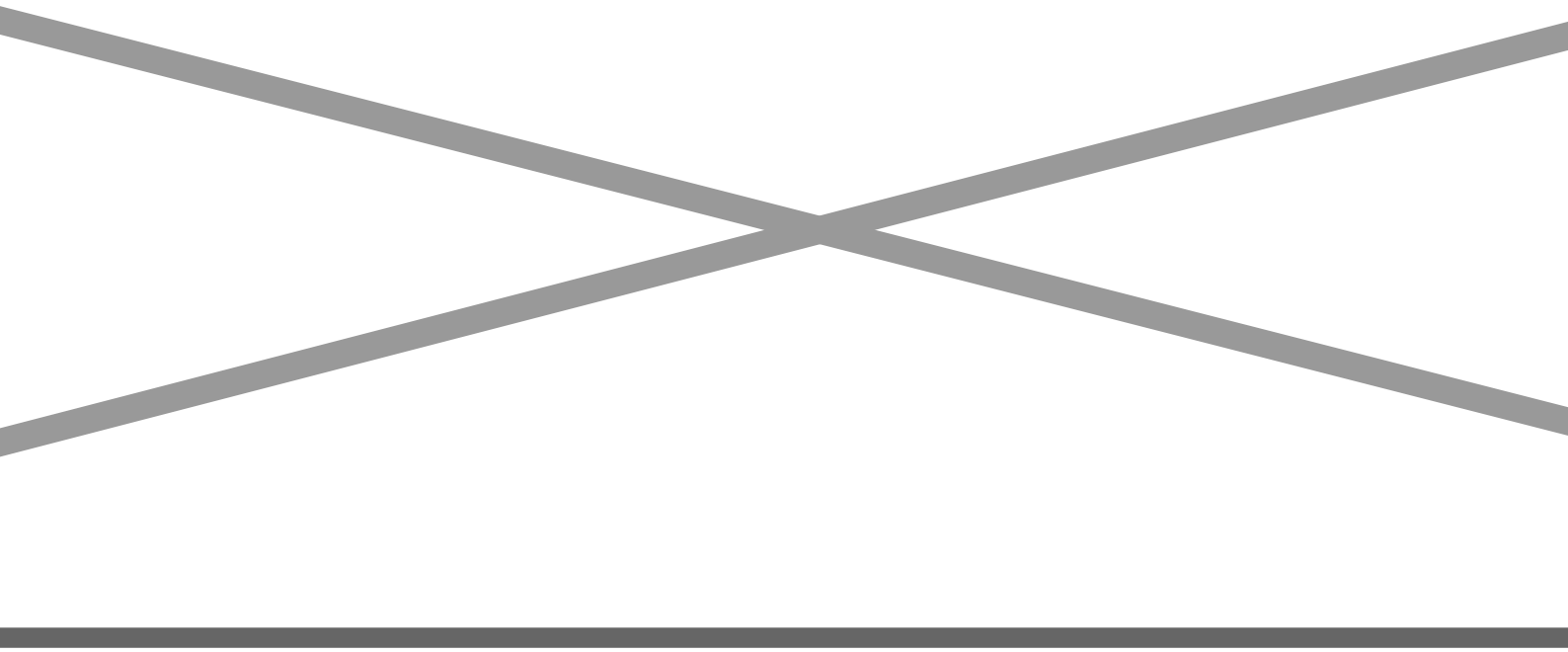
Each time you use Grab, an amount (that you choose upon the set-up on AutoInvest) will be transferred and invested. Thereâ??s no lock-in period or penalties, which means you can transfer your money back to your GrabPay Wallet whenever you wish.

Returns: 1.8% per annum

Fees: less than 0.45% p.a. (*i.e. less than $0.45 for every $100 invested)*

For execution, your funds will be placed in a portfolio of money market and short-term fixed-income mutual funds managed by Fullerton Fund Management and UOB Asset Management. Rebalancing takes place every quarter, and Grab says they earn less than $0.20 for each $100 that you invest.

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Based on the product design, I view this as a great way to get more folks introduced to the power (and returns) of investing. While 1.8% p.a. definitely wonâ??t get you sizeable returns, AutoInvest looks like a better solution to nurture an investing habit, and hopefully create more investors through this.

> â??With the right use of technology and the solution we are launching, you can start with one dollar. You donâ??t need a different mind space and hours of research â?? product features, fee comparison, safety â?? to do thisâ?• â?? Chandrima Das, Head of Wealth

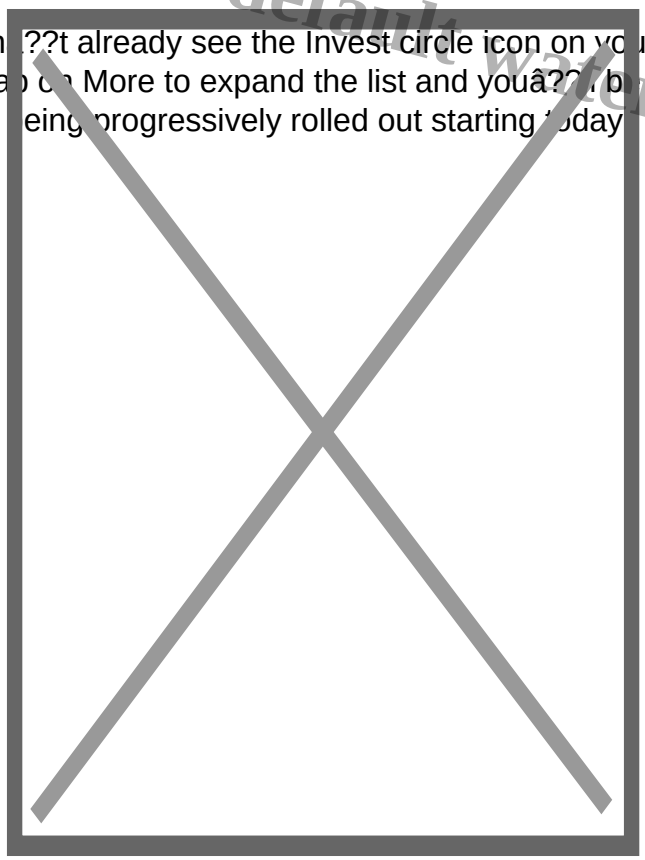
Because the minimum sum is so low, it should eliminate much of the barriers that many beginner investors are confronted with when they first start investing. Although robo-advisory platforms like Syfe and MoneyOwl have reduced that barrier significantly, there are still many people who have yet to start investing â?? and this is where AutoInvest may come into handy.

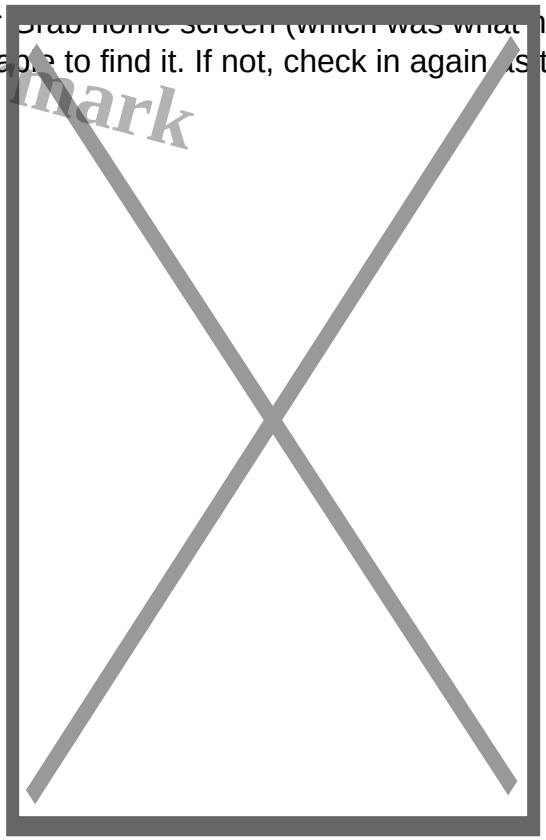
During the media briefing held last month, I asked if the deposits are insured or protected by the SDIC. The short answer is no, which isnâ??t surprising given that the invested amounts are likely to be much lower. So if you want protection on that front, then perhaps another solution like Dash EasyEarn would be more suitable (2% p.a. for a minimum of $2,000).

The biggest value I see in Grabâ??s AutoInvest feature is its ability to get beginners to start investing. So if youâ??ve had no luck convincing your uninterested spouse (or friend) to get started, this might just change their mind.

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If you don't??t already see the Invest circle icon on your Grab home screen (which was what happened for me), tap on More to expand the list and youâ??ll be able to find it. If not, check in again as the feature is being progressively rolled out starting today.





As a long-term investor myself, I donâ??t find this solution particularly useful, but can imagine it being a perfect fit for some of my friends who donâ??t really get my investment speak (lol).

This is an interesting move by Grab, and definitely sets GrabPay apart from other e-wallets by allowing users to micro-invest through their day-to-day transactions. Iâ??ll be waiting to see if other e-wallets in Singapore will follow suit.

Category

1. Investing

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