



Focus on Airline reservation system, GDS, RM

Advanced Information Systems and Business Analytics for Air Transportation M.Sc. Air Transport Management May16-21, 2016

Slides prepared by Benny Mantin







Background

Airlines need to process manifold information

Route information Destinations served by an airline

Aircraft information Information on the aircrafts used by an airline

Schedule information Information on when the flights operated by an airline are scheduled to run

Fare information Flight prices

Reservation information Passenger tickets and cargo reservations





Background

Prior to 1950 information on inventory (available seats on a flight) was published by airlines in large books, with separate books for each type of information

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- Travel agents had to manually look through several books for booking tickets that covered multiple airlines
- It was impossible to get a real-time view of the inventory since airlines could synchronize data from multiple locations only once a day



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5)







- 3) Fares were the same on each flight with each airline (pre-1978).
- 4) Reservations staff retrieved an index-card for that specific flight from revolving tray.





's query answered based on retrieval.





Brief history





In 1964 American Airlines and IBM developed the first computerized reservation system (CRS) that would allow realtime access to all its data across all its offices and travel agents: Sabre or Semi-Automated Business Research Environment.

Initially, it was used only internally and agents still had to call.

The first non-North American CRS, **<u>aMaDEUS</u>**, was developed jointly by Air France, Lufthansa, Iberia and SAS in 1987.





CRS Overview

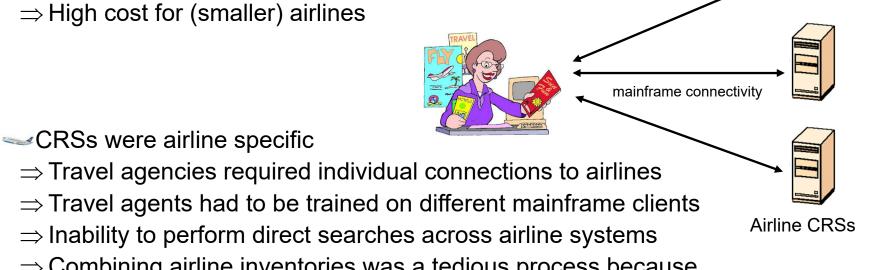
- Storing and retrieving information and conducting air travel transactions
- Originally designed and operated by airlines, later extended and used by Travel Agencies
- Single travel providers store their reservations
- CRSs contain:
 - Airline flight schedules
 - Availability information
 - 🥪 Fare tariffs
 - Passenger reservations, ticketing and cancellations/refund records
- An airline's distribution works within their own reservation system, as well as pushing out information to the GDS
- Airlines also manage direct distribution channels where consumers make their reservations directly with the airline (call centre, Internet)





Growing Pains of CRSs

- CRSs simplified the task of maintaining airline data, but new challenges arose:
 - Increasing passenger traffic required larger and more expensive computer systems
 - \Rightarrow High cost for (smaller) airlines



 \Rightarrow Combining airline inventories was a tedious process because inventory searches and reservations had to be performed in individual airline CRSs separately





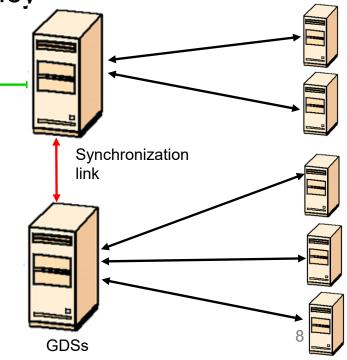
From CRS to GDS

- Need to host data for more than one airline for more efficiency for growing airline industry
- CRSs transformed from being single airline reservation systems to multi airline Global Distribution Systems (GDSs)
- GDSs share data to increase efficiency

Airline CRSs



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Lower cost distribution

From CRS to GDS

Current

Alternative ("hybrid")

Distribution System

mechanisms (providing web-

based visibility while "pulling

inventory" from the GDS, e.g.

Travelocity, Expedia, Opodo)

2006 GDS contracts expire

- 2005 Alternative GDS emerge, low-cost carriers
- 2004 GDS deregulation

2003 Growth of web-only (non-GDS) content

2001 Increasing growth of web fares; airlines begin diverting GDS

1990's Internet emerges as direct consumer channel; GDS struggle for market shares

- 1980's CRS become GDS
- 1970's Travel agents use CRS
- 1960's Airlines create CRS

Higher cost distribution





Advantages of a GDS

Simplified access to most airlines through one interface

Ability to connect to multiple airlines either through legacy mainframe clients or PC based clients

Less maintenance and up-keep overhead

Ability to combine airline inventories





How GDSs have evolved

- Since airlines' CRSs were mainframe-based, GDSs were mainframe-based as well
- Over time, GDSs offered direct connectivity over the internet to nonmainframe clients such as PCs
- GDSs also lease hosting space (hardware, software and connectivity) to airlines which do not want to create and host their own CRSs
- GDSs now interconnect
 - Travel agencies
 - Airlines
 - Hotels
 - Rent a car companies
 - Railways
 - Other travel-related companies.
- Susiness Intelligence
- GDS can very quickly process travel transactions in huge volumes





Major GDSs

→ **AMADEUS** (1987)

- by Air France, Iberia, Lufthansa, SAS, Turkish Airlines
- ──Based in Madrid, Spain
- Largest booking share in Europe
- Third largest booking share in the world
- Used by <u>www.ebookers.com</u>, <u>www.expedia.co.uk</u> and <u>www.opodo.com</u>



Worldspan(1990)

- by Delta Airlines, Northwest Airlines, and defunct Transworld Airlines
- Merged with Galileo in 2006
- Used by <u>www.orbitz.com</u>, <u>www.hotwire.com</u>, <u>www.priceline.com</u>

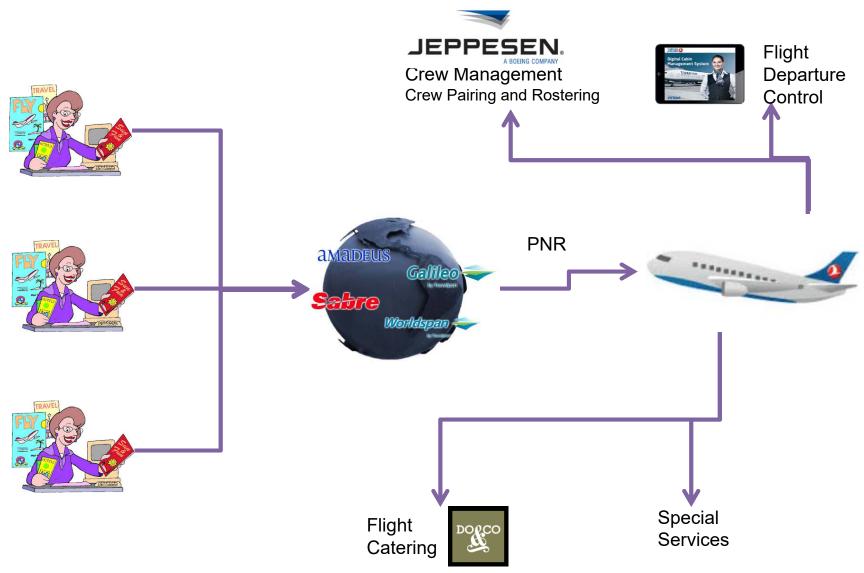
Sabre (1964)

- where the second state of the second second
- ✓Based in Southlake, Texas, USA
- Largest booking share in the world
- Used by <u>www.expedia.com</u>, <u>www.travelocity.com</u>
- Jalileo 🔷 (1993)
 - by Aer Lingus, Air Canada, Alitalia, British Airways, KLM, Swissair, TAP, US Airways and other air lines
 - 11 major North American and European airlines
 - Based in Atlanta, Georgia, USA
 - Second largest booking share in the world
 - Used by <u>www.cheaptickets.com</u>, <u>www.ebookers.com</u>





Ticket Issuance Process





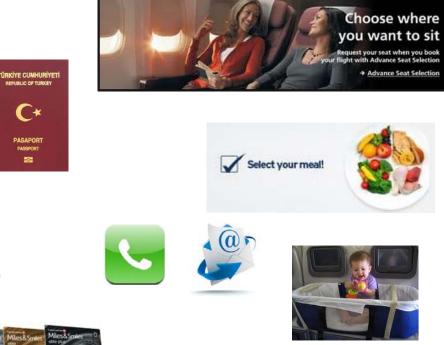
- Active travel reservation in a GDS
- PNR contains the information such as:
 - Name of the passenger
 - 🥪 Gender

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- Contact details
- Ticketing details
- Itinerary segments
- Additional (optional) details:
 - Sare details
 - Payment methods
 - Other personal info (age, email)
 - Preferences: seat, meal
 - Frequent Flyer .etc.



- Each GDS stores vast databases of PNRs with past and present reservations.
- \Rightarrow Every PNR that is created in GDSs has associated historical information.







Passenger Name Record (PNR)

- The historical information of the PNR and any Additions, Cancellations, Deletions that are subsequently made to it.
- The GDS System updates PNR history at each End of Transaction entry.
- Although PNRs were originally introduced for air travel, they are now also being used for bookings of hotels, car rental, railways, etc.
- PNR is an alphanumeric code, typically 6 characters in length
 Ex: RMT33W, KZVGX5, IIRCYC

Other core members

International Air Traffic Association (IATA)

- Trade association for the airlines
- Support many areas of aviation activity and help formulate industry policy on critical aviation issues
- Societe Internationale de Telecommunications Aeronautiques (SITA)
 - Airport operations
 - Baggage operations
 - Cargo operations
 - Passenger operations
- Official Airline Guide (OAG)
 - Large airline schedules database which holds future and historical flight details for more than 1,000 airlines and over 4,000 airports
- Airline Tariff Publishing Company (ATPCO)
 - Publishes latest airfares for more than 500 airlines multiple times per day.
 - Airline CRS/GDS, Sabre, Amadeus, Online Travel agencies (Expedia, Travelocity) are prime users



















INFORMATION SYSTEMS AT THE CENTER OF ONGOING TENSIONS





How do GDSs make money?

Booking fee

- About \$4.50 per segment
- Cancellation fees
- Traffic fees (per inquiry)
- Agencies' subscriptions
 - Minus bonuses for productivity
- Sales of MIDT

– Professors' budget is often insufficient...

Hosting inventory for airlines

Advertising





Bypassing the GDS

Airlines pay GDSs for

- Traffic
- Bookings
- To bypass, Airlines create own internet channels:
 - **SRBITZ** in USA
 - (Continental, Delta, NW, United, AA)
 - **"opodo** in Europe
 - (BA, AF, Alitalia, Iberia, KLM, LH, Aer Lingus, Austria, Finnair)
 - Internet-based, no need for GDS
- GDSs pay kick-backs to agencies
- Do airlines lower fares?





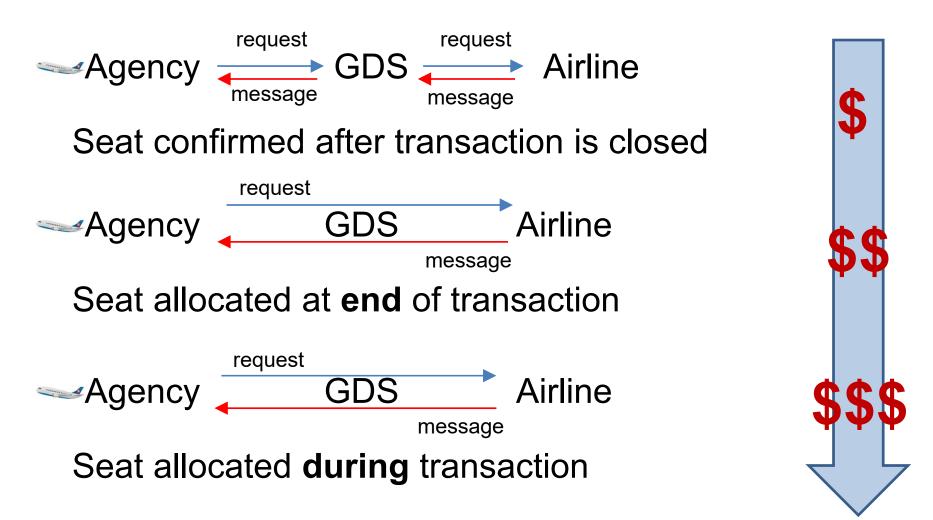
Information Technology

- The Internet gives rise to new business models:
 - Opaque channels:
 - Name-your-own-price: Priceline
 - Reverse auction: Hotwire
 - Intended to clear inventory via market segmentation
 - Virtual agencies: Expedia
- *More decisions:*
 - Which GDS to use?
 - What inventory to offer through which GDS?
 - Which fares to offer in each GDS?





Level of Connectivity







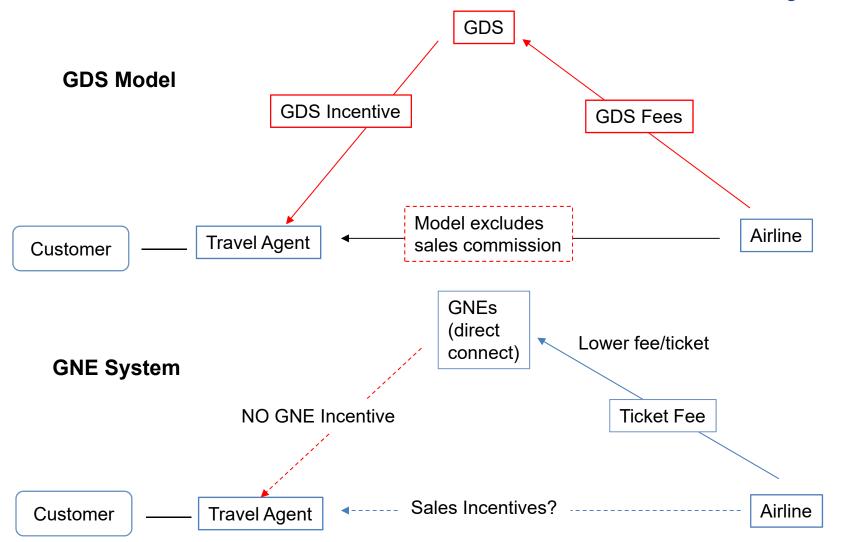
GDS alternatives: GNEs Global New Entrants (or Alternative Content Access Platforms):

- Farelogix
- G2 Switchworks (now Travelport)
- ITA Software (now Google)

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Cash flows for GDS and GNEs systems







Barriers for GNE's

- Agencies rely heavily on GDS kick-backs since airlines capped/cut commissions
- Switching costs for agencies (equipment, training, back-office integration) can remain a barrier for GNEs
- However: United Airlines (Star Alliance member) considers paying agencies \$5 bonus for each booking made through a GNE
- No car and hotel
- Limited worldwide coverage





Chances for GNE's

- Can make distribution more competitive (breaking oligopoly of GDS')
- Direct link to airline inventory
- Need for airlines to cut costs (distribution costs 20% of total costs, the only costs that are controlled most easily)
- Star Alliance consider GNEs (they spend \$2billion on GDS fees/year)
- Agencies get access to all fares (public- and webfares)
- Desktop no longer controlled by GDS





Preferred Booking Channels

- Airlines have now the right to decide whether they want to be present in a GDS and also have the option to decide the level of participation (making a selection of all available fares, schedules, and inventory)
- \Rightarrow Preferred- or Competitive Booking Channels
- Using a preferred- or competitive booking channels airlines pay less to a GDS
- July 2006: Major US Airlines will start charging users (agencies and corporate clients) a booking fee of \$3.50/segment if they are booked through non-preferred booking channels





Why Preferred Booking Channels?

- Airlines maintain control of distribution model
- Reduction of GDS fees
- Shift of cost of GDS-distribution from supplier to subscriber:

Agencies have to pay the airline a surcharge when a ticket is booked through GDS





GDS' response

Opt-in programs to protect from paying booking fee, which vary by the subscription fee:

- Option 1: full content, no segment fee
- Option 2: full content, segment fee
- Standard: regular content, service fee
- Raising fees: in Nov. 2010 Travelport informed AA that it raises the booking fee in many international POS
 - AA has responded by imposing a premium to offset this fee increase
 - In Dec. 2010 AA excludes Orbitz! (AA is one of its founding parents)
 - Due to failed negotiations over "direct connect"





Direct Connect



Orbitz was first up to renew distribution contract

- AA demanded Orbitz uses Direct Connect (contracted by Farelogix)
- Expedia was next
 - Sided with Orbitz and voluntarily pulled AA flights!
 - Sabre (who provides airfares to Orbitz) followed and removed AA from results (Jan. 2011)
- Can AA afford to be on its own?





Online search

According to Amadeus:

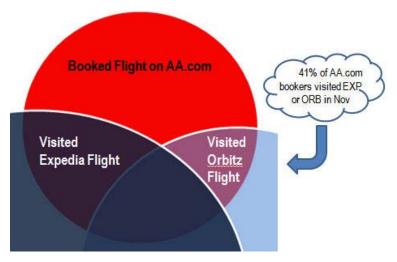
- "Travel search is exploding. The look-to-book ratio is 1,000 to one. A few years ago it was 10 to one. [But] direct sales are becoming reintermediated 70% of airline.com traffic comes through intermediaries.
- "What you thought were direct sales are, in fact, indirect sales and the cost of sale in this channel is growing. With some OTAs, airlines pay \$88 per booking."





The dynamics of search

- Even when consumers end up purchasing at AA.com, many of them visit OTAs first
 - Cross-shopping data from 2010:
 - 41% of AA website shoppers visited Expedia/Orbitz
 - 70% of Expedia/Orbitz shoppers did not visit Kayak
 - Can AA lock itself out from millions of potential passengers?







- Priceline a competitor announced its Direct Connect with AA (Jan. 2011), noting it has been operational since Q4 2010.
- In April 2011 Expedia agreed to Direct Connect
 - Hybrid model: using GDS aggregation technology
- In April 2011 AA sued Travelport and Orbitz saying they made its fares look higher than they were to consumers







Similarly, US sued Sabre accusing the firm for monopoly and unfair practices

US cannot offer fares on its websites that are not available through Sabre

In June courts orders AA fares to return to Orbitz

- Just one day after AA's video "A Whole World is Missing:"...

March 2013, the firms resolved their dispute

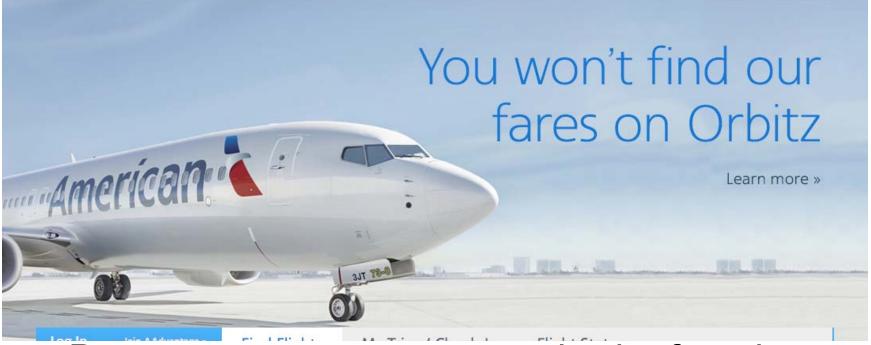
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And all over again...

August 2014:



But an agreement was reached a few days later...





Recent developments

Starting September 2015, Lufthansa started levying a €16 surcharge on all GDS reservations (LH, Austrian, Swiss and Brussels)

According to LH, it was paying a "three-digit million €" fee, although this pays for services that are "primarily used by other partner sites in the value chain" (i.e, OTAs)

What is the direct cost of distribution?

- LH states it is about € 2
- Amadeus:

"The Euro 2 direct distribution cost seems to be significantly understated. We do not know how LHG has reached this number but we believe the technology and internal costs to LHG alone for direct distribution are above Euro 2.

Furthermore, this figure seems to omit the substantial cost of online traffic acquisition, commonly understood in the industry to be Euro 15-Euro 20 per ticket. Therefore, it seems LHG is driven by reasons other than cost."





Recent developments



Amadeus (shares dropped 5%!) charged back arguing this will reduce transparency and that the extra IT costs will ultimately be passed on to the traveller

- 2015 Q4 reveals neutral effect:
 - Less revenues from outside home market
 - Compensated by surcharge revenue and ancillary revenues via the direct channel

So far no other airlines is following suit, but considering.

In March 2016 Lufthansa Group filed a lawsuit against Sabre after the GDS company informed the airline group that it believes Lufthansa is in breach of contract.



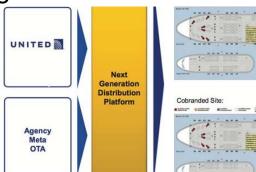




Final thoughts

- OTAs only show lowest fare, no ancillary products.
- Travel agencies now want to have a piece of the cake:
 - "Consumers have that fundamental right to know the upfront cost of their entire trip and not be surprised at the airport by extra fees charged by the airlines"
 - "If consumers can see a fee but not purchase it, they really haven't solved a problem [...] We think airlines are actually leaving cash on the table by not pursuing all these distribution channels."
- Airlines suffered when comparison websites facilitated price matching. Careful in introducing ancillary services
 - UA experiments with Amadeus

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One more thought

Mistakes happen and they can be (very) expensive.

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Fly From NYC To LAX www.delta.com/ Book Your Flight To LAX With Delta Air Lines®!

Hotels in Los Angeles www.google.com/hotels Feb 7-10, prices per night







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Brief history of fare glitches

Airline	When?	The Glitch	Holy Deal	Honoured?
United Airlines	2007	Missing '0's	\$1062 (not \$10,620) Los Angeles to New Zealand in Business Class	Yes
United Airlines	Jul-12		\$43New York to Hong Kong	No
United Airlines	Sep-13	\$0 Fare, Only Charged Taxes & Fees	\$10Washington to Hawaii	Yes
United Airlines	Oct-13	MileagePlus Account Tricked into Thinking Customer has Enough Miles for Award	\$49New York to Dublin	No
United Airlines	Nov-13	Widerøe Booking Site Drops YQ (fuel surcharge)	\$250New York to Milan	Yes
Aer Lingus	2009		\$7Across Europe in Business Class	No
British Airways	2009	Tried to Lower Fares by \$40	\$550US to Mumbai	No*
American Airlines	2010	Dropped a '0'	\$1100US to Australia in First Class	No
Korean Airlines	2011	Dropped a '0'	\$500US to Seoul	No
Delta Airlines	Dec-13	Price Tweak Gone Awry	\$7US to Hawaii	Yes

IATA'S NEW DISTRIBUTION CAPABILITY (NDC)



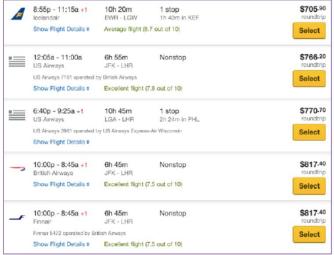






Travel agents

Have limited access



Cannot see entire airline's offerings





Idea

Let agents have same capacity as websites



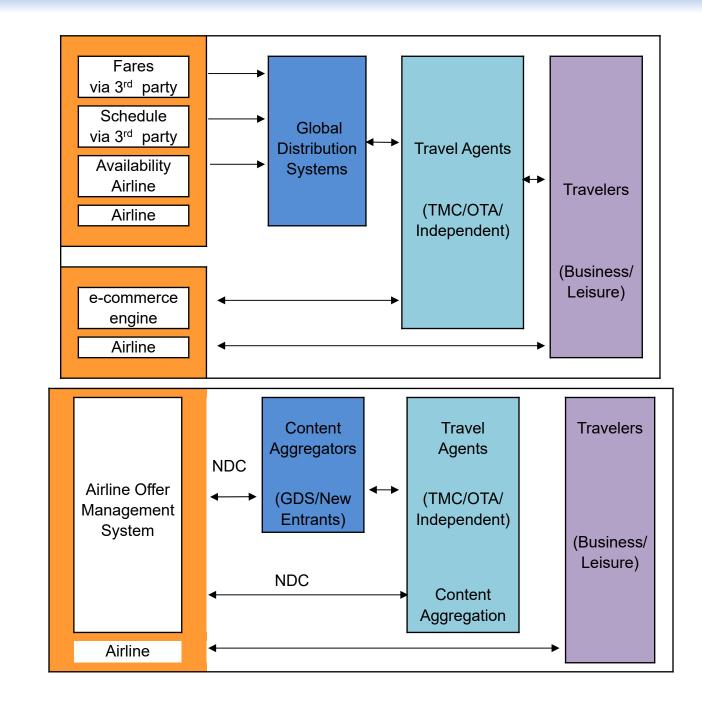
The NDC standard will enhance the capability of communications between airlines and travel agents, and will be open to any third party, intermediary, IT provider or non-IATA member, to implement and use.





Now:

NDC:



43





Benefits

Airline IT Providers	Resellers	Corporate Buyers (incl. CBT)	Travelers
Product Differentiation	Access to full & Rich Content	Access to full & Rich	Access to full & Rich
- Distribute the entirety of the	 Access to the entirety of the 	Content	Content
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- Offer value-added products and			
services when applicable			
New Products faster to Market	Real Time Price Update - Work with real-time pricing, product and policies information, under rich format	Gain greater Span of control	Transparent Shopping Experience - Select the most appealing travel option, based on product quality, service level, schedule and price or what it is they value
Personalization Opportunities	Personalization & Tailored	Personalization & Tailored	Personalization
- Provide personalized service if	Opportunities	Opportunities	Opportunities
passengers choose to be	 Provide personalized/tailored 	 Provide personalized/tailored 	 Option to receive
recognized	service based on customers'	service based on customers' full	personalized offers from
	full travel history and	travel history and preferences, if	preferred resellers based on
	preferences, if they choose to be recognized	they choose to be recognized	their travel preferences, if they choose
	berecognized		
	Cost & Time Optimization	Comprehensive Reporting	Cost and time Optimization
	True Product Sourcing	Policy-based Shopping	
	Comparison (*)	 Greater transparency on 	
	- Deliver improved comparison	products and ancillaries	
	shopping to customers, based	that are available to	
	on product and service rather	travelers	
	than price only		
(*) In an airline this would be referred to as	True Comparison Shopping		



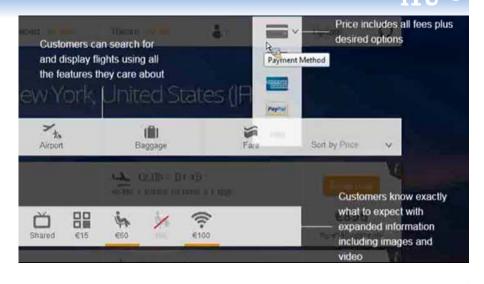


Fundamentals

XML-based standards

- Airlines respond to shopping requests from travel agents
- Order process
- Airlines fulfill reservation transactions, create booking records, issue documents and send confirmations
- Enable comparison shopping
- So agents decide which airlines to contact, shopping requests are sent to airlines, offer responses are consolidated and presented to travellers.

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Search and share

Share you personal information with the following airlines:



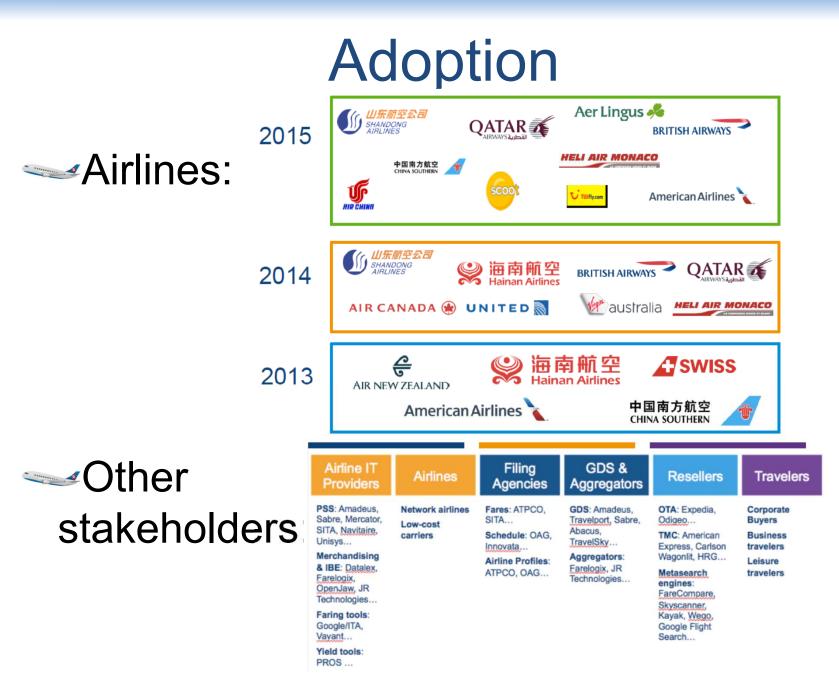
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- Demeter Air
- ✓ Fly Apollo
- ✓ Jet Hera
- Hermes Gold
- V Hypnes Air
- Sky Pontus
- Zeus Airways













AIRLINES' REVENUE MANAGEMENT





Fundamentals of RM

- Fixed inventory or capacity that is expensive or impossible to store
- Inventory/capacity committed to a customer before all demand is known

Different customer segments exist

- firm can differentiate and price-discriminate among customers
- Same unit of inventory or capacity can satisfy different customer segments





RM timeline

Capacity control
 Leg-based RM
 Network: O&D RM
 Margin: Pricing management
 Choice-based RM
 Ancillary revenues





Lessons learned

Customers tolerate –but do not support –RM logic and practices

- Current RM software has a limited functional scope (air fare) and does not work with CRM
- Most ancillary products are perceived as punitive tactics
 - Checked bag fee, seat selection fee to avoid middle seat, entertainment fee.
- Branded fare products are a representation of the conventional fare rules
- Fare levels are not fully related to the cost of delivering the service, but more to time
- Overall, the RM logic is not communicated, or not communicated well
- Strategic opportunity for RM is in democratizing value creation in collaboration with customers





CRM and RM

Limited evidence of true loyalty - May be driven by external factors

Trends:

CRM

•From FFP => CRM => CFM •Profiling, analytics •Deep segmentation •Touch point integration Choice-based offering

RM

 Simplification of pricing Value-based offering ∘À la carte Unbundling Subscription-based

•Optimize revenues for maximized profitability

Complete Complete Co

•Facilitating life-time loyalty for repeat business and revenue growth

Conflicts:

•Focus on individuals •Focus on long-term

Source: Millennium aviation

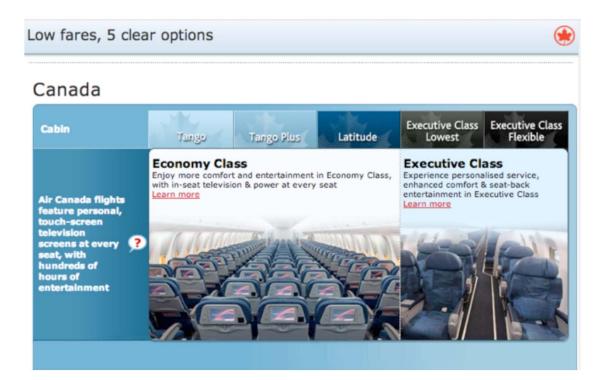
 Focus on market segments Transactional-level focus 52





Some Trends

- Fare families
 - Clustering of fares
- Unbundling
 - Lowest fares + add-ons
- Democratization
 - Premium amenities available to all at a cost







Some trends

Mobile apps Watch apps

My bookings AF6U8D BCN - LED

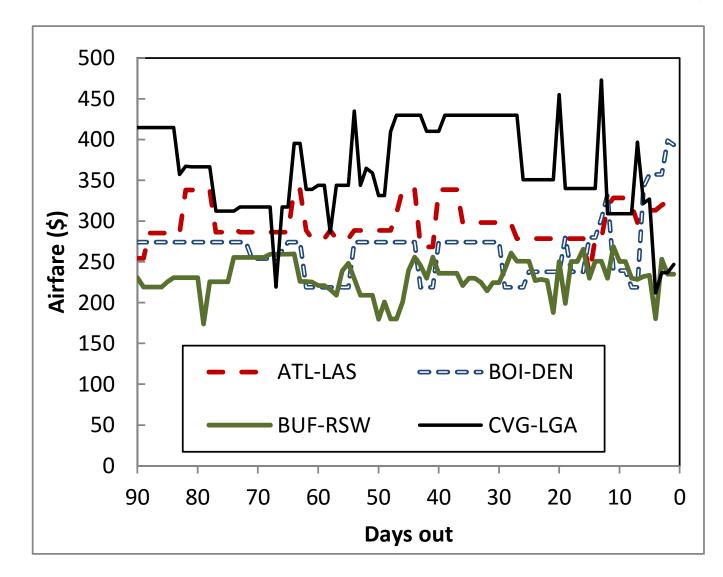
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Prices fluctuate: When to buy?



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DSS for passengers?

Given the volatile nature of prices, consumers would like to know whether they should purchase right now or wait.

How should they do that?

- What if price goes up?
- What if prices goes down?
- In order to make the decision, need to derive probabilities and account for magnitude of changes (see theory in next slides)
- Problem: consumers need knowledge and information. Probably they lack both.





RM and price volatility

- Assume class j is the lowest available fare at time t:
 - The fare class closes if c_t $\sum_{i=1}^n s_{i,t}$ $y_{j-1,t-1}$ and price goes up protection of
 - A lower fare class reopens if $c_t \sum_{i=1}^n s_{i,t} > (y_{j,t-1})$ and price goes down protection of next capacity protection of lower class

higher class





RM and price volatility: Example

Why 19? This								
(fractile of the joi			period					
of Class 1 is N	(17.5,5.67)	3	2	1				
Class 1 : \$500	distribution	N(1,1)	N(7.5,4.69)	N(9,3.38)				
	Protection level	19	18	10				
Class 2: \$200	distribution	N(5,5)	N(5,5)	N(5,5)				
	Protection level	39	32	18				
Class 3: \$100	distribution	N(9,3.38)	N(Z.5,4.69)	N(1,1)				
Adopted from Ander	rson and Wilson (200	3)						
Starting seating capacity is $C_3 = 50$ and cheapest fare available is \$100								

RM and price volatility: Example

			period						
		3	2	1					
Class 1 : \$500	distribution	N(1,1)	N(7.5,4.69)	N(9,3.38)					
	Protection level	19	18	10					
Class 2: \$200	distribution	N(5,5)	N(5,5)	N(5,5)					
	Protection level	39	39 32						
Class 3: \$100	distribution	N(9,3.38)	N(7.5,4.69)	N(1,1)					
Adopted from Anderson and Wilson (2003) Now assume 8 customers buy Class 2 and 11 customers buy Class 3. $C_2=31 < y_{2,2}$ so Class 3 is closes and cheapest fare available is \$200. Prices spike up $C_2=31 < y_{2,2} = 1 < y_{$									





60

Wait-or-buy

In order to make the decision, need to consider probabilities:

- The probability that class 3 reopens at the end of period 2 is $Pr(d_{1,2}+d_{2,2})<31-18=0.53$
- Expected saving of \$53
- The probability that class 2 closes is $Pr(s_{1,2}+s_{2,2})>31-10=0.11$.
- Expected loss of \$32

Hence: wait.

Problem: consumers need knowledge and information. Probably they lack both.





Farecast: Internet + Big Data/Analytics

- "Big Data": Decision support websites:
 - Farecast (later Bing, now defunct) and recently Kayak
- Based on Etzioni et al.'s (2003; patent) prediction process
- Using databases (past airfares) it employed inference techniques to predict movement of lowest available airfare
- Received wide media attention
 - E.g.: PC World's 20 Most Innovative Products, Popular Science's "Best of What's New for 2006", a TIME Magazine's 50 Coolest Websites, "Best Trip Planning Tools" by Business Week

STOPS		New York, NY (JFK) to Los Angeles, CA (LAX)							
☑ Non-stop	\$337	Mon, 10/10 - Mon, 10/17 · 1 ac	dult · Economy · Change se	earch					
☑ 1	\$34 <mark>8</mark>	PRICE PREDICTOR		FARE HISTORY					
☑ 2+	\$418	Tip: Wait Fares dropping \$31	Confidence: 62% Details & fare history						



How It Works – Using Farecast.com



Fare Prediction and Fare History – Know When to Buy

We predict where fares are going and show where they've been—now for more than 75 home airports (indicated in green within the search form). Our free airfare predictions are 74.5% accurate. Read more about the third party audit of our accuracy in our recent <u>press release</u>.

Fare Prediction

A Fare Prediction shows if the lowest fare is rising or dropping over the next seven days for the specific dates and cities searched. Each prediction includes the following elements:

- 1. Arrow: An indication of whether the lowest fare is rising, dropping, or staying the same.
- Confidence: A percentage based on our track record for similar predictions for the market searched.
- Average Fare Change: An amount reflecting the average fare change recorded when similar predictions were correct for the market.
- 4. Buying Tip: Our recommendation based on the prediction information.



Fare History

Fare History charts the lowest fare observed each day for your trip, up to 90 days ago. In other words, it's as if you would have searched for your trip every day and plotted the lowest fare actually available. To provide the airfare history, we have made more than 175 billion, and counting, airfare observations based on real pricing and availability.







go back to your search 🛛

 Tip: Wait
 There is a high likelihood of at least one major price drop within the next 7 days. Note: Price drops are sporadic and 50% of them do not last longer than 48 hours. Consider your risk tolerance.

 If We Are Right:

Lowest fares will Drop \$22 - \$72 | 62% confidence

If We Are Wrong:

7-day low fare prediction

Lowest fares will Rise \$18 - \$43 | 8% confidence

Lowest fares will Stay within \$15 | 30% confidence

Confidence numbers are based on our track record for predictions in this and similar markets.

daily low fare history



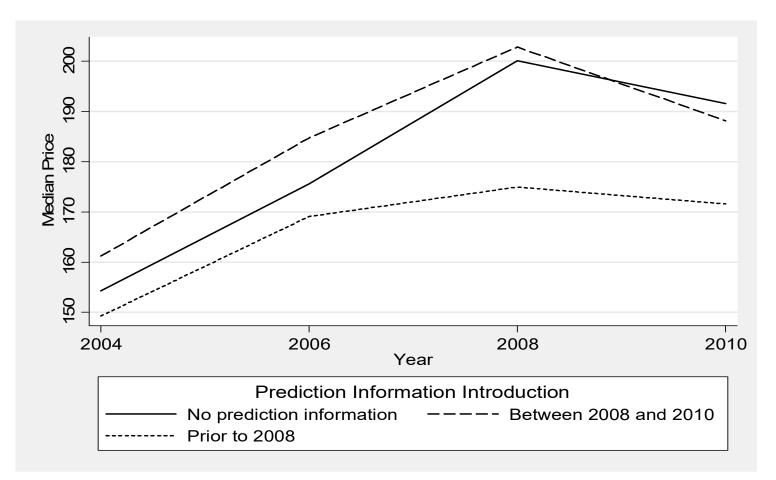
Fare History charts the lowest fare observed each day for your trip. In other words, it's as if you would have searched for this trip every day and plotted the lowest fare actually available.

To provide the airfare history, we have made more than 175 billion, and counting, airfare observations based on real pricing and availability. Learn more by visiting Our Technology and Data.





Any impact?



Empirical estimations suggest an impact of 4-6%!





Flexible dates: DSS for passengers

Return 🕨									
Fri	sat	Sun							
Mar 21	Mar 22	Mar 23							
\$200 Nonstop	Samon Stop	S200 Nonstop							
<u>\$242</u>	\$242	\$242							
Nonstop	Nonstop	Nonstop							
\$315	\$315	\$315							
Nonstop	Nonstop	Nonstop							
	Fri Mar 21 \$200 Nonstop \$242 Nonstop \$315	Fri Mar 21 Sat Mar 22 \$\$200 \$\$200 \$\$100 \$\$200 \$\$200 \$\$200 \$\$100 \$\$200 \$\$242 Nonstop \$\$242 Nonstop \$\$315 \$\$315							

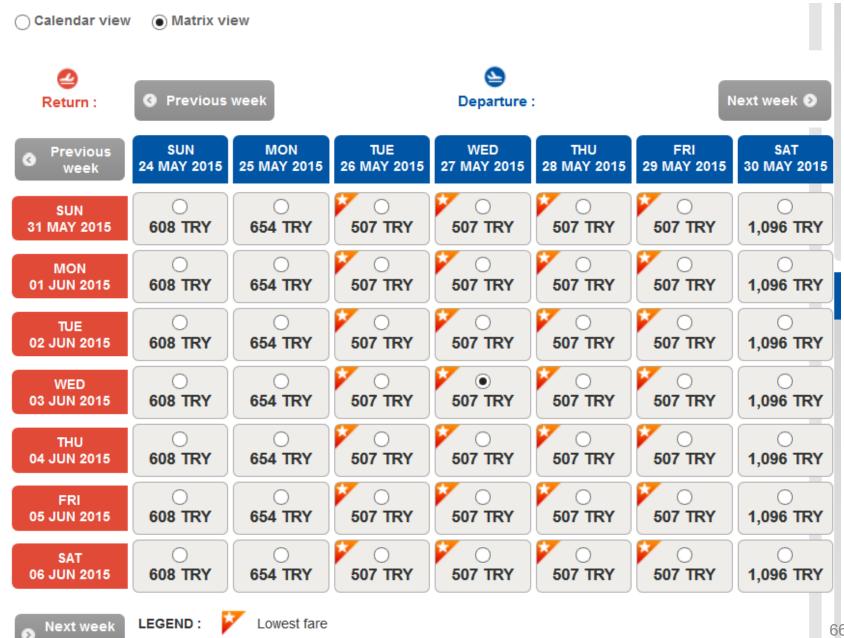
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Leaving: Thu, Mar 13	From \$299 1 Stops	From \$321 1 Stops	From \$416 1 Stops	From \$414 1 Stops	From \$406 1 Stops	From \$321 1 Stops	From \$374 1 Stops
Leaving: Fri, Mar 14	From \$334 1 Stops	From \$356 1 Stops	From \$451 1 Stops	From \$449 1 Stops	From \$441 1 Stops	From \$356 1 Stops	From \$389 1 Stops
Leaving: Sat, Mar 15	From \$334 1 Stops	From \$356 1 Stops	From \$451 1 Stops	From \$449 1 Stops	From \$441 1 Stops	From \$356 1 Stops	From \$389 1 Stops
Leaving: Sun, Mar 16	From \$384 1 Stops	From \$406 1 Stops	From \$501 1 Stops	From \$499 1 Stops	From \$491 1 Stops	From \$406 1 Stops	From \$439 1 Stops
Leaving: Mon, Mar 17	From \$296 1 Stops	From \$319 1 Stops	From \$414 1 Stops	From \$411 1 Stops	From \$404 1 Stops	From \$319 1 Stops	From \$351 1 Stops
Leaving: Fue, Mar 18	From \$276 1 Stops	From \$299 1 Stops	From \$394 1 Stops	From \$391 1 Stops	From \$384 1 Stops	From \$299 1 Stops	From \$331 1 Stops

Northwest







Prices per adult including taxes, fees and carrier charges





Decision support systems

- Can help users overcome their cognitive limitations and thus extend their bounds of rationality
- The design restricts decision makers to certain decision processes that are embedded into the system
- Users will employ a decision strategy that is often a function of the amount of effort required
 - Maximize decision quality
 - Minimize effort

Hence, effort required while using the tool for decision tasks should be given much attention

Conflictina!!!

But the latter is more important





Flexible Dates

- Concentration of information on a single page reduces decision effort:
 - It reduces cognitive effort
 - Fewer tasks (mouse movements, keyboard, scrolling)
 - It reduces the time required for search
 - Response time during web navigation takes away from the time that can be devoted to the actual decision task
 - Fewer interruptions to the decision process
 - There is a negative relationship between performance evaluations and web-induced delays (which are common in flight search queries)
 - It enables easier integration of information
 - Less effort in keeping track of information, reduced memory invested
- Offer flexibility?
 - this may divert consumers from expensive flights into cheaper ones...





Why offer flexibility?

- Competitive advantage
- Market pressure
- Consider the following (1):
 - Demand for low-priced tickets increases
 - Demand for high-priced tickets decreases
 - Hence, as more travel date combinations are displayed, the lower is the variance of the lowest prices across dates
- Consider the following (2):
 - Without flexible dates search, demand may be lost
 - Demand for low-priced tickets increases
 - No change in demand for high-priced tickets decreases
 - Hence, as more travel date combinations are displayed, the higher is the average fare

APPENDIX GDS SCREENSHOTS; NDC









User Interface

 Start: Dumb Terminals (Workstation)
 Now: Intelligent Terminals (=PC)
 Expert Mode (e.g. Focalpoint Galileo)
 GUI (e.g. Viewpoint Galileo, Amadeus Vista)





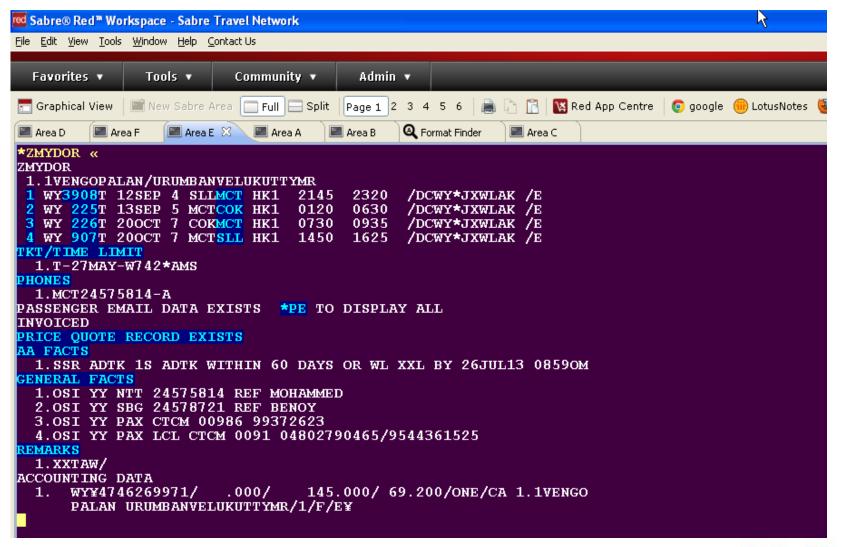
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Sabre Red Workspace









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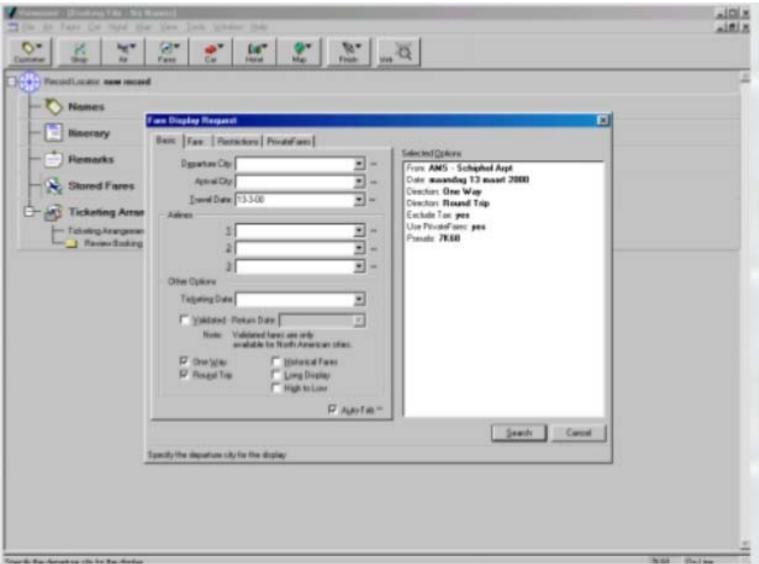
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Galileo GUI-Mode





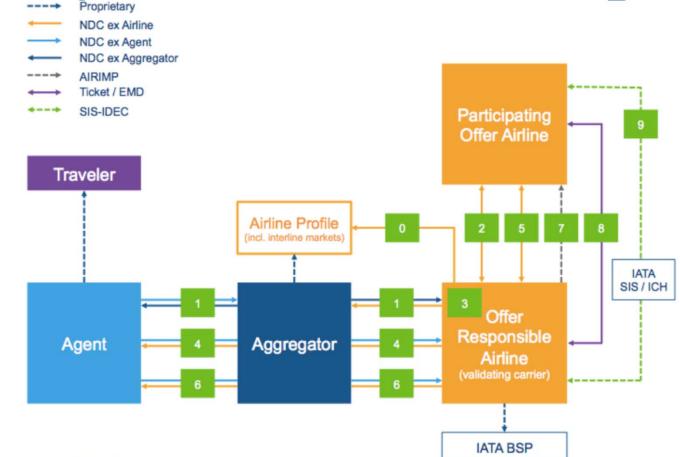


NDC: The full process Step 0. Setup Proprietary Step 1. Shop Step 2. Order NDC ex Airline Cash - Credit Credit Card NDC ex Agent Step 3. Pay / Ticket - Check Authorization NDC ex Aggregator **Report Sales** Step 4. Step 5. **BSP Confirmation Payments Profile** Step 6. Traveler Distributor E-Ticket Server Airline Profile 1A 2 Agent Aggregator Airline 3D or 5B **BSPLink** (Agent & Airline) Files for credit card remittance 5C 5A 6A IATA BSP. **Billing and** Source: IATA 79 **Settlement Plan**





NDC: The process for interlining



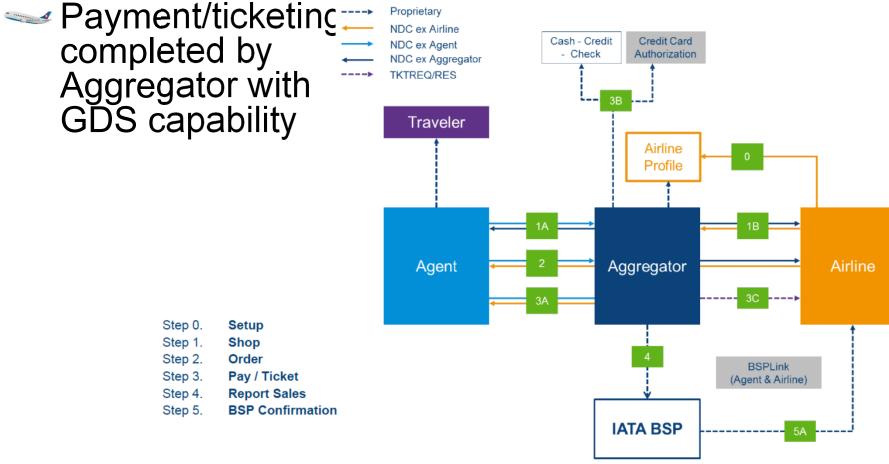
- Step 0. Setup
- Step 1. Shop with ORA
- Step 2. ORA relays complementary Shop RQ to POA
- Step 3. ORA consolidates POA RS into its Aggregator RS
- Step 4. Agent sends Order RQ to ORA
- Step 5. ORA accepts POA's offer with Order RQ and confirms interline order with Agent
- Step 6. Ticketing & payments all with ORA as validating carrier (incl. BSP reporting & settlement)





NDC process for 'shopping'

Airline uses NDC for shopping and ordering



Source: IATA