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Digital Trust in a Changing Civil Aviation Environment



The world is changing

- Civil aviation is most commonly defined by what can be seen at and around an airport
 - Passenger jets wide and narrow body
 - Air traffic control
 - CNS infrastructure
 - Private and general aviation
 - Maintenance
- There is now something else on the horizon...

PROTECTING AVIATION FROM CYBER ATTACKS









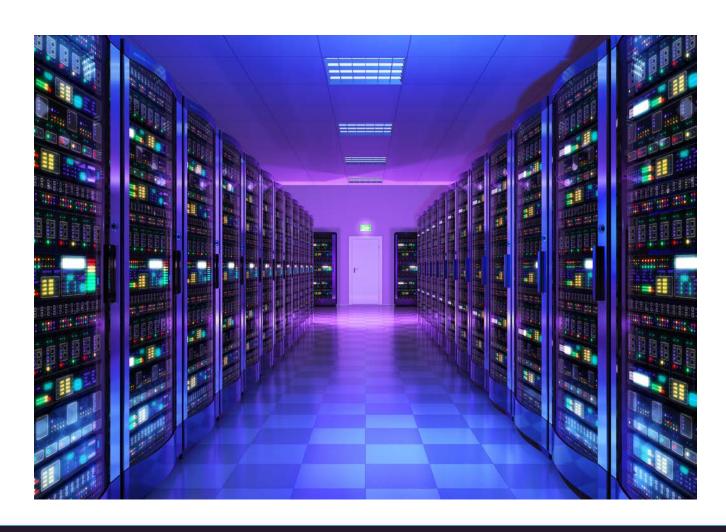






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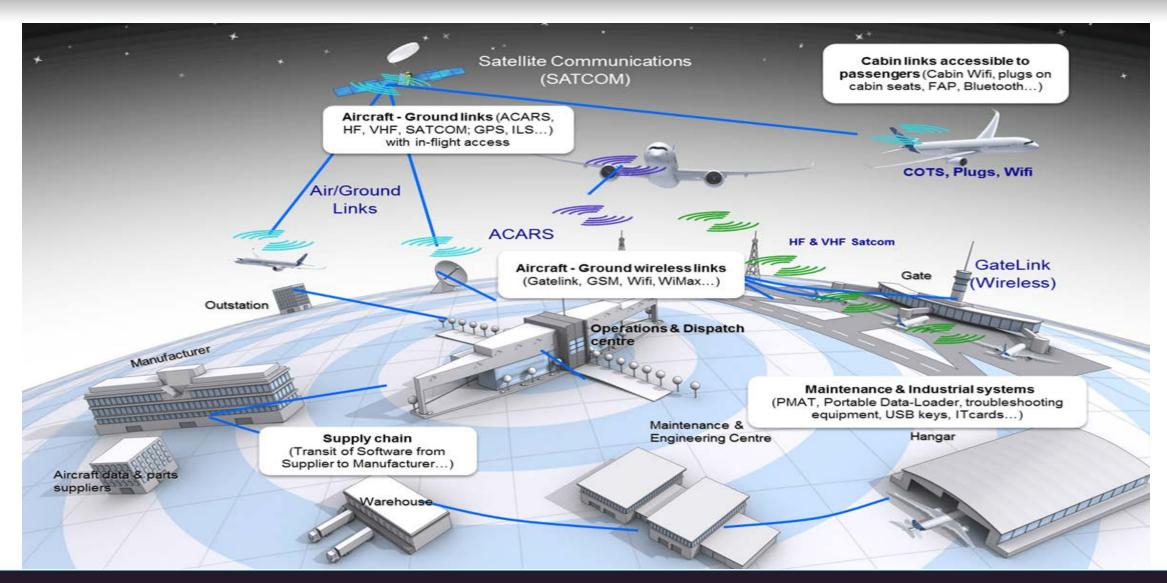






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"Traditional" civil aviation wants to go digital

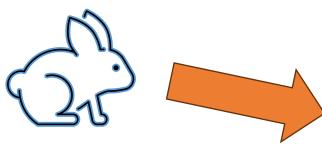
- "Digital Transformation" is all the rage
 - Electronic licenses
 - Electronic certificates
 - Electronic maintenance records
 - Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems
 - System Wide Information Management

All this will take time to achieve

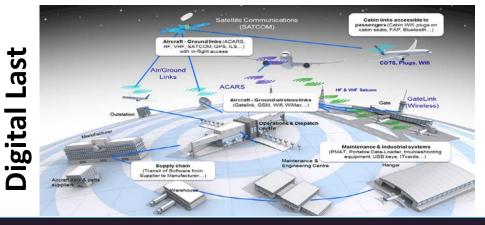


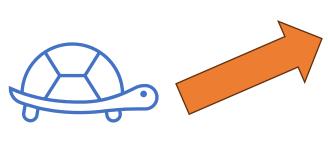
Different starts and speeds, same destination













The coming reality

- A fully connected digital civil aviation environment is an expectation
- Airspace users (human or machine) must be able to interact and interoperate rapidly and seamlessly

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- Translation: less human intervention
- This fully connected environment is predicated on knowing who you are communicating with, and that the information being communicated is trustworthy
- The "connected aircraft of the future" cannot function with a callsign or 24-bit address as its only means of identification







Why is ICAO getting involved in digital trust?

• Trust is the foundational principle of the civil aviation system

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Building trust has been a core function of ICAO since 1944

• ICAO can bring state, industry and others to the same table



Digital identity is the cornerstone

- ICAO's Trust Framework Panel is working hard on developing the minimum requirements for trusted digital identities (people, systems and signatures) in a fully connected environment
- Engaging with new and "old" airspace users and stakeholders to make sure their needs are captured
- Coordinating with ICAO panels and other expert groups (e.g. IETF, ASTM, RTCA, EUROCAE, etc...)



The road ahead for building digital trust

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- The scope of the work is challenging and broad
- Traditional civil aviation has a certain level of "innovation inertia" to overcome
- New entrants and innovators operate at a completely different speed
 - Business cycles are short
 - Attention spans are even shorter
- ICAO is still the best forum to bring people together to build trust (real and digital), and make the civil aviation environment's digital transformation a reality



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DOHA, QATAR | 6 - 8 NOVEMBER 2023



THANK YOU

