What are API and PNR – and How Are They Used?

11th Symposium on Machine Readable Travel Documents

16 October, 2015 - Montreal

Evolution of API and PNR

↗ Where did this come from

↗ API's Humble Beginnings

↗ PNR: Then and Now

REQUIREMENTS IN EARLY 2000

REQUIREMENTS TODAY

as of September 2013

ADVANCE PASSENGER INFORMATION (API)

Information about a person's identity.

- API can be useful for:
  – Immigration
  – Customs
  – Security

API – TRANSMISSION
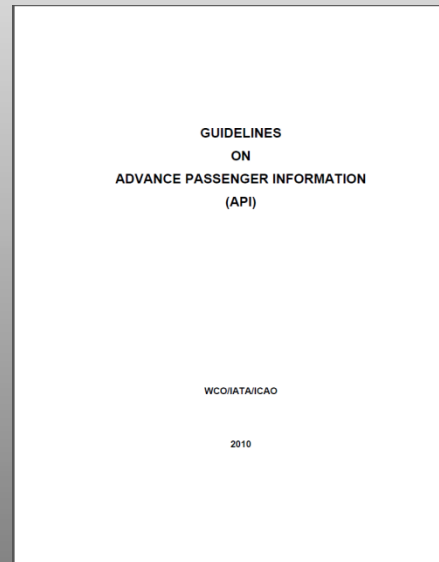
Legacy (Batch) API

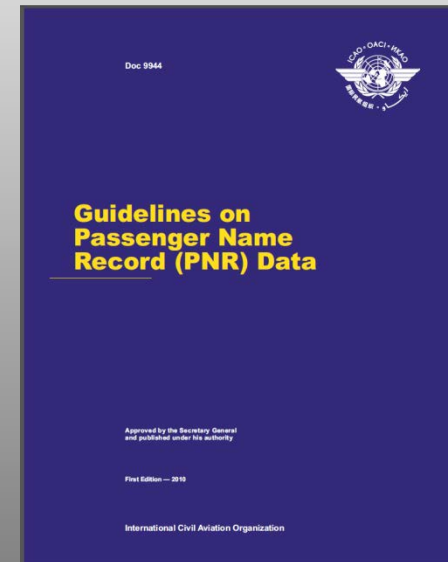# API – TRANSMISSION

Interactive API (iAPI)

WHERE TO FIND THE LIST OF DATA ELEMENTS

Standards and Recommended Practices for API, iAPI and PNR

API and iAPI data elements are listed in the WCO-IATA-ICAO Guidelines on API

PNR data elements are listed in the ICAO Guidelines on PNR Data (Doc. 9944)

Legacy vs iAPI: Which Provides Greater Return?

↗ iAPI allows pre-board vetting and government guidance on boarding

↗ iAPI can prevent travel versus identifying threat while flight is in the air

↗ iAPI can respond to UNSCR 2178 more effectively

↗ The answer seems self-evident

PASSENGER NAME RECORD (PNR)

Information about a person's travel reservation.
It can be useful:

- For customs, law enforcement, security

- To help identify contraband, smuggling, etc

- To assist in risk assessment

PNR TRANSMISSION TIMINGS AND FREQUENCY

TIMING

Transmission(s) closer to the time of flight departure(s) will ensure more complete data.

FREQUENCY

Repeated scheduled and ad-hoc transmission(s) may be necessary to fulfill State requirements.

PNR

PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION

- PNR contains personal data
- Countries have different perspectives on how much is "private" or how much can be shared
- State to State agreement may be necessary
- Sensitive data should be protected

Important Considerations

↗ Not an Opportunity to Demonstrate Creativity

  ↗ Must comply with global standards

  ↗ Needs to be built around existing capabilities

  ↗ Data requirements in national program must align – message cannot support "surprise" elements

Important Considerations

↗ API Cannot Support "Days in Advance" Screening

  ↗ Verified data collected at check-in on day of flight

  ↗ Data stored at time of booking subject to inaccuracy and is not normally trusted for vetting purposes

  ↗ Requirement for complete API data at -24 hours is unrealistic and does not align with existing capabilities

Important Considerations

↗ API and PNR are Not Combinable Processes

  ↗ Separate systems hold the data

  ↗ Standards require transmission in differing formats and at different times

  ↗ Standards and best practices support separate systems

  ↗ Combining involves huge costs for carriers and will impact on compliance

  ↗ Why – when separate global standards exist?

Systems' Applications

↗ For Legacy or Batch-Style API:

- ↗ Primarily supports Immigration process – facilitates legitimate travelers upon arrival based on pre-arrival vetting
- ↗ Can identify persons of interest for more intensive examination
- ↗ IT resources can respond to only so many in given period
- ↗ Provides little enhancement for national or aviation security as vetting normally commences upon flight's departure

Systems' Applications

↗ For interactive API systems:

- ↗ Facilitates legitimate travel through pre-board vetting
- ↗ Can prevent boarding and travel for known inadmissible persons
- ↗ Can identify and prevent travel for person representing a known or suspected threat
- ↗ Supports vetting against external intelligence sources to ensure more accurate boarding response
- ↗ Can effectively respond to UNSCR 2178 and States' obligation to prevent travel by FTFs

Systems' Applications

↗ For Airline Reservation System (PNR) Data:

  ↗ Allows authorities (typically Customs) to identify potential threats based on movements, trends, identifiable relationships with known threat, etc.

  ↗ Most effective as law enforcement tool to combat smuggling and transnational criminal activity

  ↗ Does support risk assessment when combines with API

  ↗ However, costs and complexity of systems must be considered

And Finally !!!!!

↗ Some concluding thoughts

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And Finally !!!!!

↗Some concluding thoughts