

# APIs.... What is Really Out There in Aviation Beyond the Buzz Words?

June 2018, Lufthansa  
Frankfurt am Main



Aylin Ceylan

Junior Venture Development Manager

Lufthansa Innovation Hub

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ceylanavlin>



Marcus Wagner

IT Architect

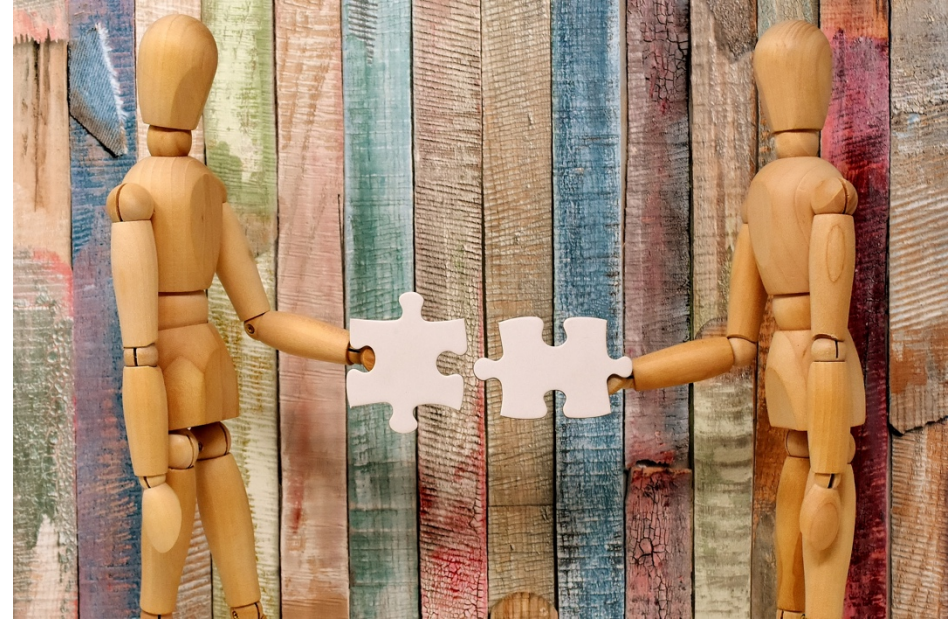
Lufthansa Hub Airlines IT

<https://linkedin.com/in/marcus-wagner>

# APIs at Lufthansa Group

## Coming from SOA and ESB

- Lufthansa Group IT systems inter-connection is using ESB and SOA methods
- Internally connectivity, security and management processes



# APIs at Lufthansa Group

## APIs

- In 2014 Lufthansa Innovation Hub was founded in Berlin
- To allow interaction with partners, access to data and services was required

⇒ Inception of LH OpenAPI





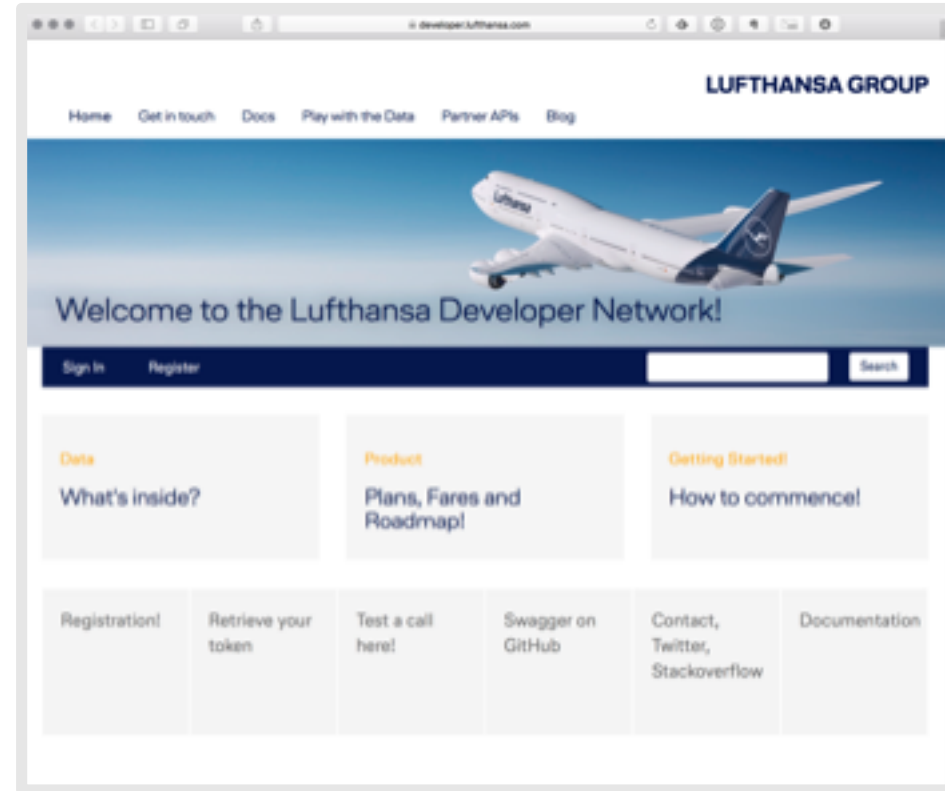
# Initial Goals of the LH OpenAPI

Provide controlled access with governance and legal aspects covered

Allow partners to easily connect and consume services

Provide outside reachability

Leverage Internet standards (https, REST, JSON, OAuth)



# Unlocking Potential with APIs – there is more we do now

Put the consumer/developer and its prospective usage in focus

Abstract business processes and reduce complexity to become accessible

Automating all aspect of API creation to support high pace while retaining control

⇒ **An API is a managed product and the API provider needs to understand how this product will be used in which context**



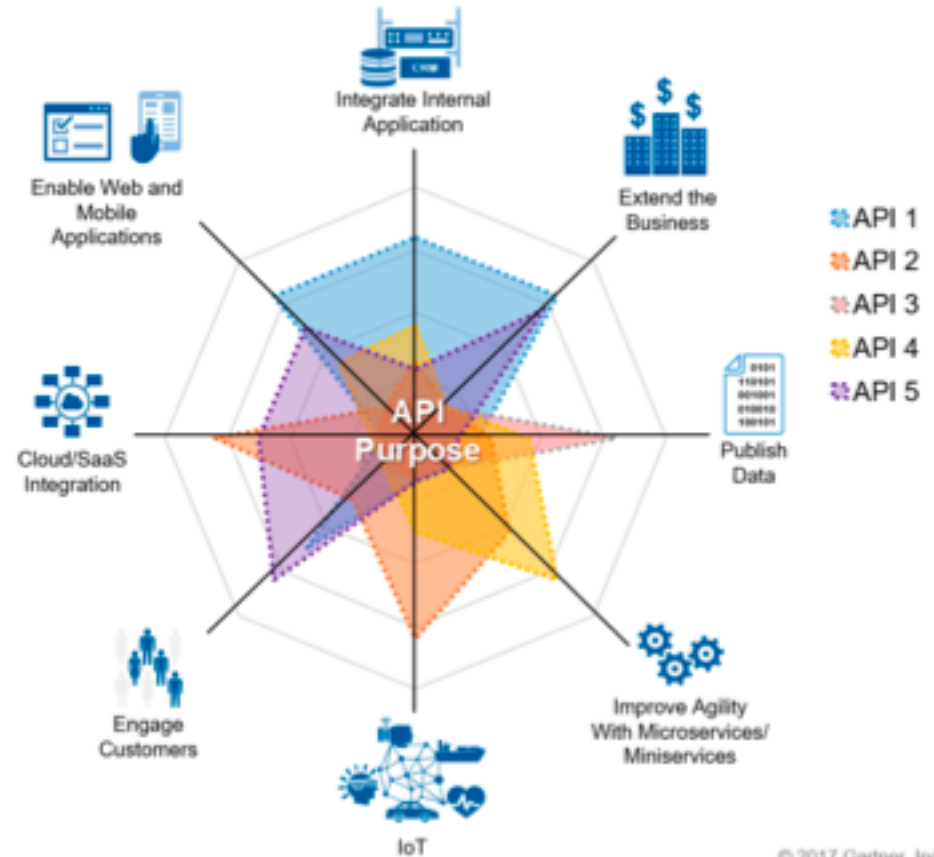
# Using APIs at LH Group

Powering new customer channel  
([http://lufthansa.com/chatbot\\_en](http://lufthansa.com/chatbot_en))

Enabling mobile apps for crew and ground staff

Leverage developer portal and API Gateway throughout the Lufthansa Group beyond Hub Airlines

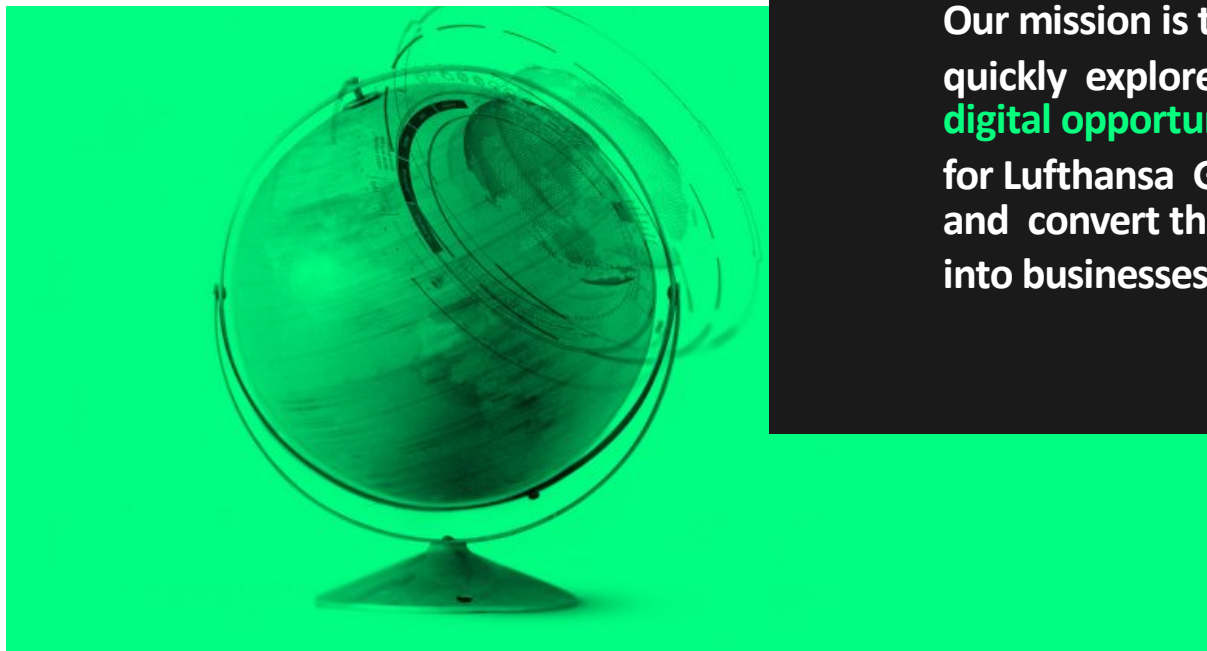
Support fast iteration for new ideas with limited costs



© 2017 Gartner, Inc.



## Our Mission



Our mission is to quickly explore **new digital opportunities** for Lufthansa Group and convert them into businesses.



# LH as the interface between the startup ecosystem and Lufthansa Group

**Global Travel  
and Mobility  
Tech ecosystem**

Constantly monitoring  
relevant trends with  
deep expertise,  
authentic footprint and  
extensive network



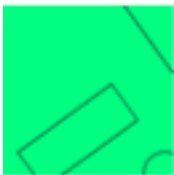
Close structural link,  
access to assets of  
different LH Group  
entities

**Lufthansa  
Group**





## Strategic fields of action



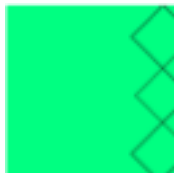
### **Build**

Develop and build our own digital products & services.



### **Partner**

Foster selected partnerships between digital players and Lufthansa Group



### **Invest**

Educate and support Lufthansa Group at strategic venture capital investments in startups



## BUILD - Flightpass

A 10-flight ticket in cooperation with Eurowings, SWISS and Lufthansa Airine

Built, operated and successfully validated by LIH

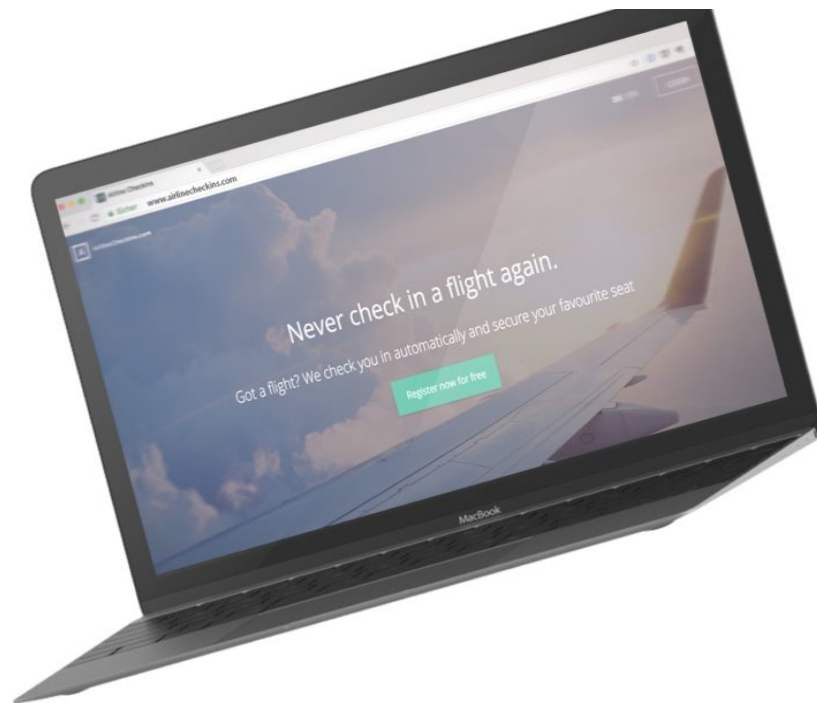




## BUILD - AirlineCheckins.com

Automatic check-in  
assistant for more than 200  
airlines worldwide

Empowered with flight  
status and reference data



Lufthansa



**LUFTHANSA GROUP**



## INVEST - Cargo.one

cargo.one offers cargo airlines a fully digital sales channel, attracting new business at lowest transactional cost and higher operational efficiency

cargo.one's customers include two of the largest cargo airlines in Europe as well as several of Europe's largest forwarders

OpenAPI provides the LH Cargo data





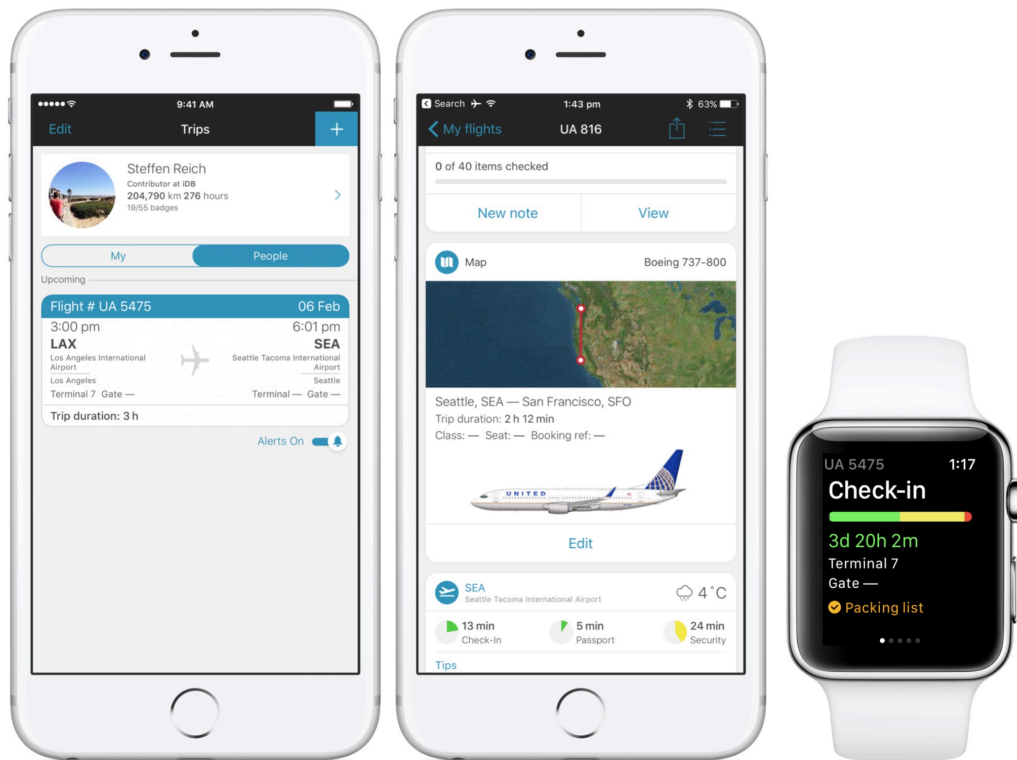
## PARTNER - App in the Air

Data exchange with App developer to further enhance a seamless cross airline journey

Aims to be your everyday travel companion.

Got feature on Apple's WWDC 2014

OpenAPI provides flight status plus will enable the app to book flights from LH ticket stock.



Austrian



Lufthansa

SWISS

LUFTHANSA GROUP



# Challenges

## Lots of players in API space

- Discoverability of APIs
- 530 travel APIs at programmable web

## Diversity, both content and technical

- Standardizing efforts such as IATA OpenAPI Group need to retain flexibility  
technology is ever evolving and changing

## Making good APIs

- Business Process hard to put into APIs
- Manage APIs as a Product



# Future

API Thinking is crucial for digitalization with airlines' business

IoT and real-time capabilities are on the rise. Serve your customers in their ecosystem, at the right time.

An holistic API Strategy allows value driven API Product creation



Thank you.  
Questions?  
Answers!

The Future of

# Dynamic Pricing

Presentation by *Josef Habdank*,  
Chief Data Scientist & Data Platform Architect at  
**INFARE**

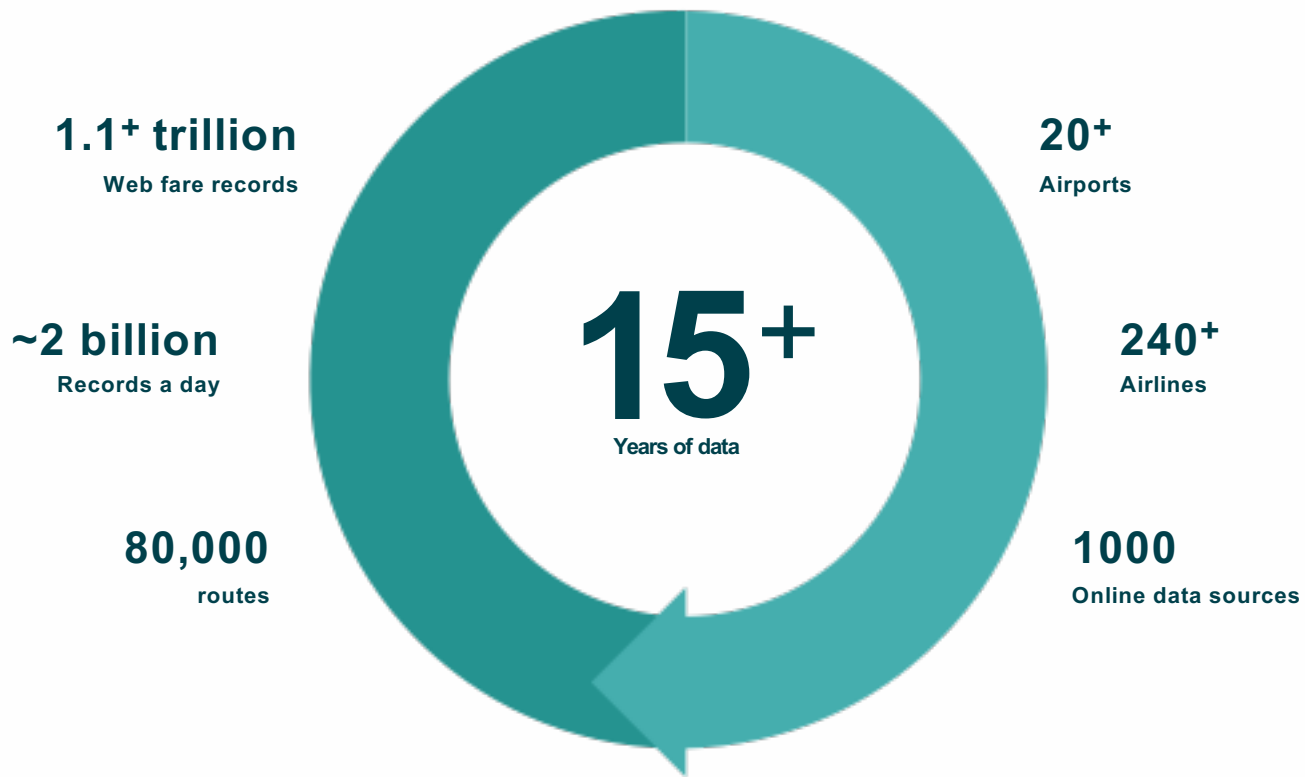
June 20, 2018

 [jha@infare.com](mailto:jha@infare.com)

 [@jahabdank](https://twitter.com/jahabdank)

 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jahabdank>

# Who we are





The Holy Grail:

# Dynamic Pricing and Marketing



from Los Angeles to Beijing  
departure on 21<sup>st</sup> of March  
return on 30<sup>th</sup> of March

Thinking 1199\$ is cheap?  
Try 749\$ on the same dates  
with premium seating included  
Buy now, use code XXXZZZ

The advertisement features a white airplane flying over a blue sky. Red arrows point from the text to the corresponding bullet points on the right.

- **Personalized offers** to individual specific departure of interest (departure dates, origin and destination) based on shown interest by the customer
- **Market awareness of the offer** price offer computed accordingly to the current market state
- Prices reflecting **services most desired** by the individual
- **Individual offer** that can be purchased

The Holy Grail:

# Dynamic Pricing and Marketing System Architecture



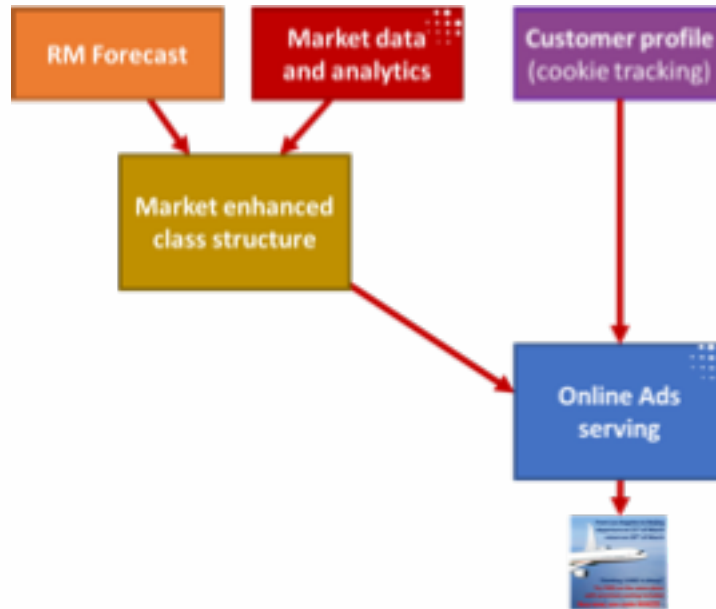
## Level 2 Dynamic Pricing

RM forecast automatically enhanced using current market state  
Prices modified by opening/closing classes  
Targeted custom discounts

## Level 2 Dynamic Marketing

Real time market aware AD building and servicing system

# Dynamic Pricing and Marketing System Architecture



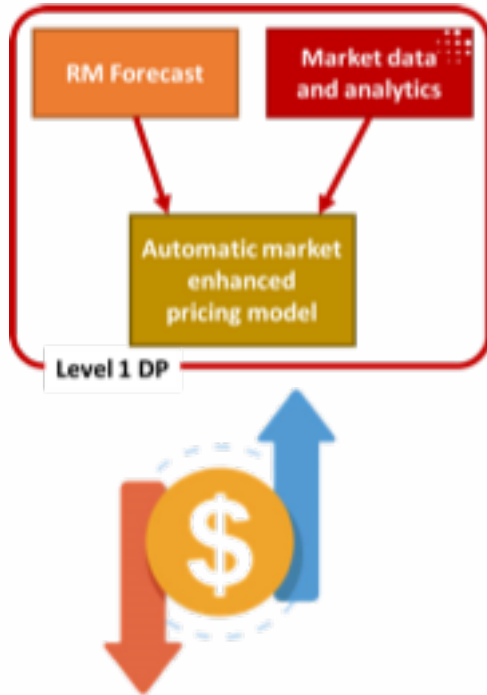
## Level 1 Dynamic Pricing

Automatically adjusting the pricing structure (class-seat allocation) based on market state

## Level 1 Dynamic Marketing

Real time market aware AD building and servicing system targeted for user searches no individual offers yet

# Dynamic Pricing Alerts



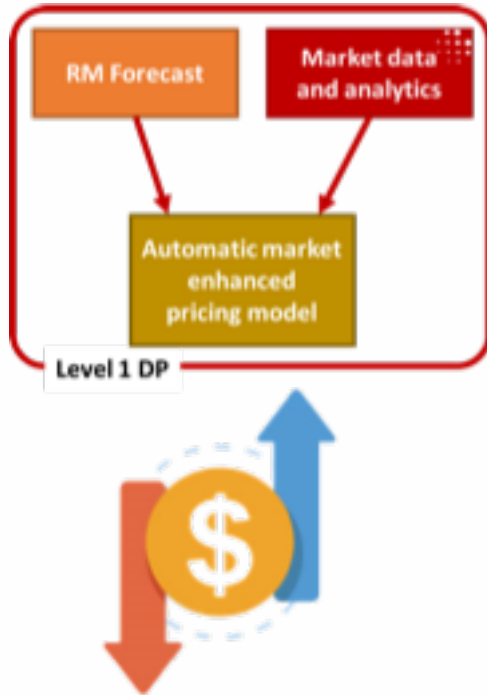
## Requirements

- continuous market state awareness (dynamic scanning of the competitors prices)
- clear definition of desired market position (e.g. cheapest by min 5%, second cheapest by 2% etc.)

## How to execute

- RM forecast + market distribution + business rules
- have a fine distribution of classes
- adjust the class availability accordingly

# Continuous Market State Awareness

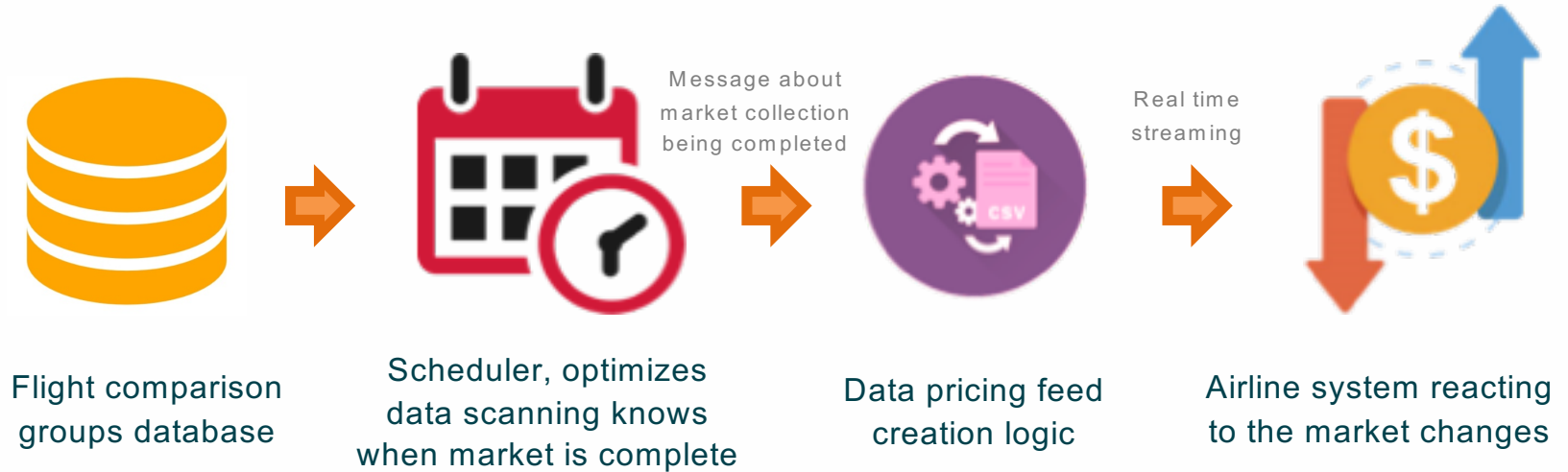


## Goal

- contains **only actionable data**, a list of messages when specific flight departure is not following the business rules
- single message/row contains **all the data needed to take an action**, no need to big IT infrastructure analysing the market as a whole
- **real time notifications**, messages sent immediately when it is found that given flight departure is not following the defined business rules



# INFARE Dynamic Pricing Alerts: System Overview



# Automatic Creation of Flights Comparison Groups



## Why?

- Manual creation of flight comparison requires constant maintenance, as network changes over time
- If done manually does not react to dynamic aspects such as price



Flight comparison  
groups database

## How?

- Created as a Machine Learning Recommender System
- Can be price centric, thus dynamically change as the market evolves. E.g. some flights might not be considered a competition, except when the price difference becomes very large

INFARE Dynamic Pricing Alerts:

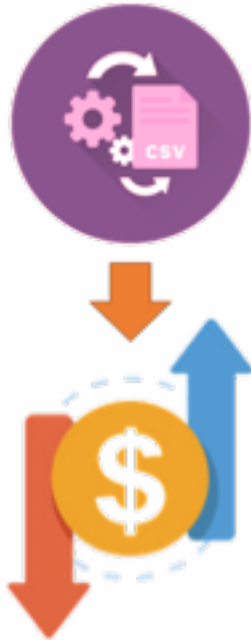
# Message Structure

## Actionable data only

- Only creates a message when a rule is violated
- Single row in the feed contains all the data required to take an action, no need for BigData system to pivot data

## Data Format

- Full airfare observation of your fare
- Full airfare observation of the lowest competitor fare
- Statistics about the flight comparison group
- Possibly predictions about prices in the group

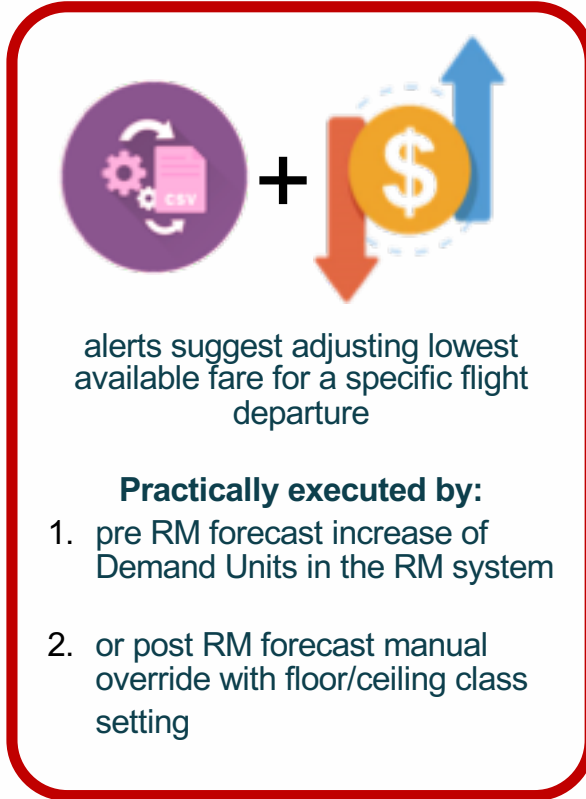


INFARE Dynamic Pricing Alerts:

# Integration



real time streaming of alerts



market adjusted class structure



# Summary



## 2 - 3 years Vision

**Level 2 Dynamic Pricing** creating individual offers and marketing them online



## This year

**Level 1 Dynamic Pricing** bringing the money from sub-optimally priced markets (both under and over priced)



# Thank you!

**Josef Habdank**

Chief Data Scientist & Data Platform Architect, INFARE



[jha@infare.com](mailto:jha@infare.com)



[@jahabdank](https://twitter.com/jahabdank)



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jahabdank>

The Sabre logo is displayed in white text on a red rectangular background. The background of the entire slide features a photograph of two men in a professional office setting. One man is standing and leaning over a desk, while the other is seated at the desk, smiling and looking towards the standing man. They appear to be in a collaborative work environment.

**Sabre.**

# Connecting the enterprise to enable intelligent action

---

**Rodrigo Ramos**

Managing Director, Sabre Iceland  
Product Head of Intelligence Exchange

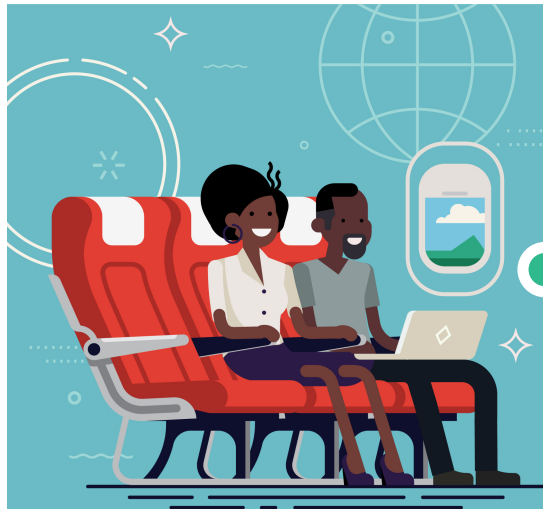
**Magnus Sigurdsson**

Director Delivery Management – IX Managed Services

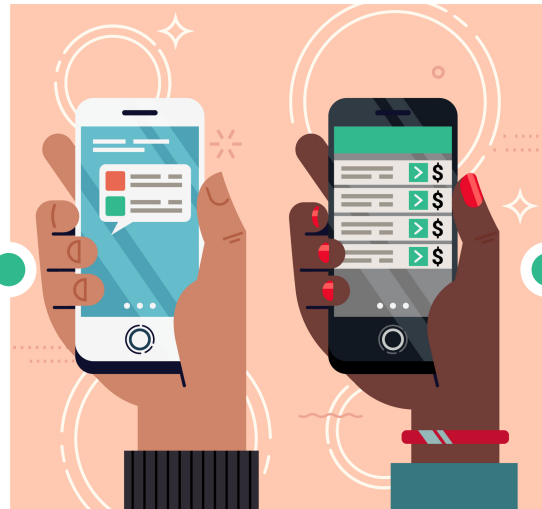
20 June 2018



**Last Minute Upgrades** checks for upgrades and automatically notifies qualified customers based on tier or other criteria.



On the day of departure, WorldWide Air identifies that they have unsold seats in a particular cabin.



In order to fill that cabin, WWA decides to offer promotions to qualifying customers to encourage upgrades.



Based on rules in the Micro-App, promotions are sent to customers and front-line agents.





#hackanapp

How many hours before departure should we check for upgrade availability?

- 8 hours
- 6 hours
- 5 hours
- 3 hours





#hackanapp

On which route should we check for upgrades?

- LHR – AUH
- AUH – SYD
- YYZ – AUH





#hackanapp

How many seats need to be available in higher class to make offer?

- 1 seat
- 2 seats
- 3 seats
- 4 seats







#hackanapp

How many point/miles should the upgrade cost?

- \$500 or 30k points
- \$600 or 35k points
- \$1,000 or 60k points
- \$1,500 or 100k points



Can you  
imagine...



...Lazy Susan

Source: wired.com



The advent  
of the PSS  
System was  
revolutionary



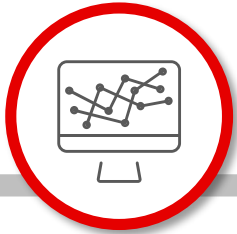
...it changed the  
way we travel



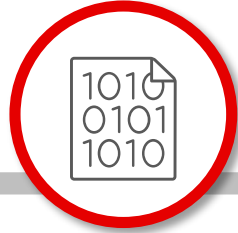
Source: [wired.com](http://wired.com)

# Key challenges for airline IT and the business

---



The PSS is not designed for custom business process and sense and respond actions



Complexity of bringing together disparate, data sets to achieve digital transformation



A customer-centric business requires non-core systems to have customer data



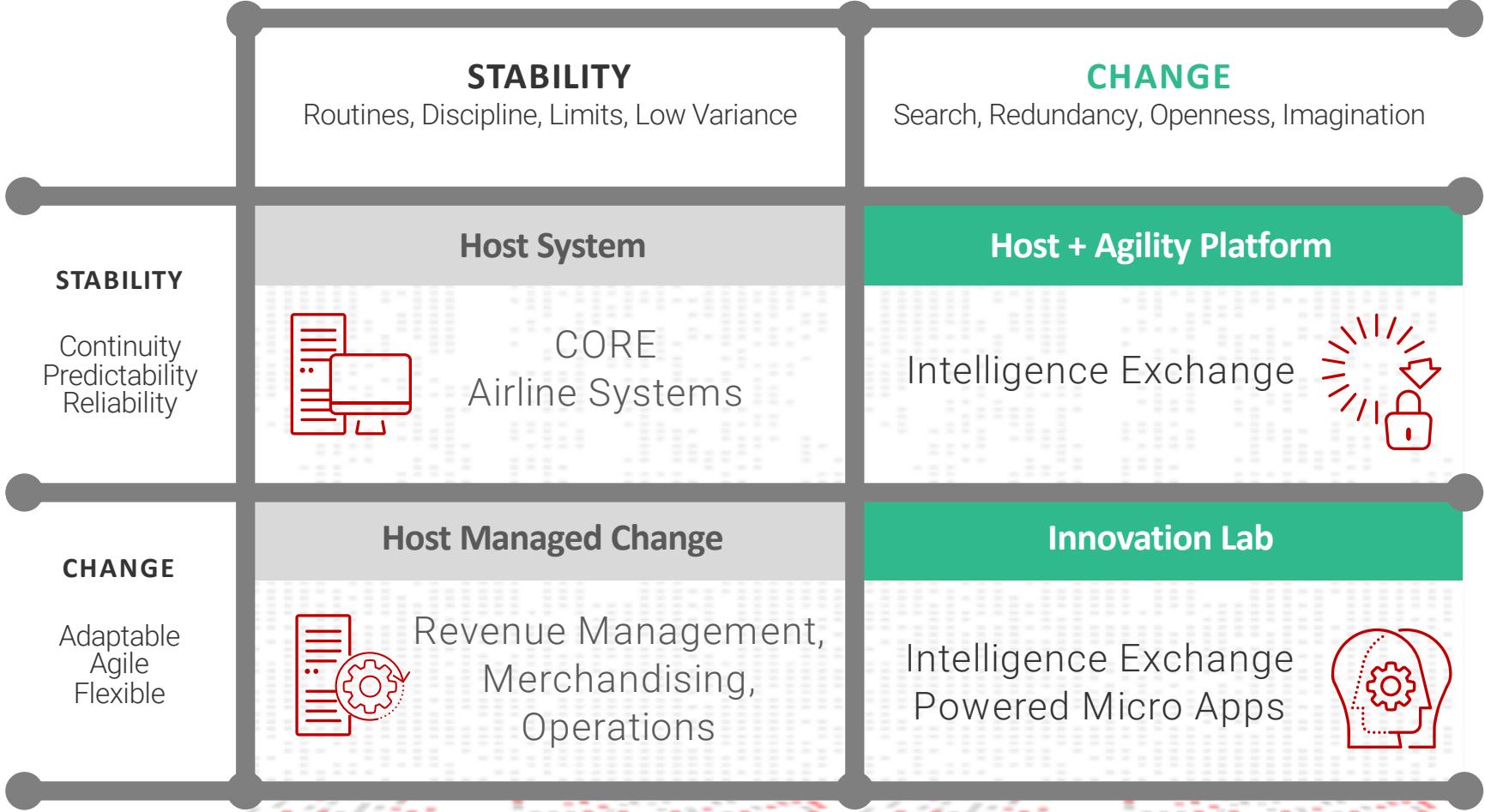
There is a huge need for airlines to leverage more data and a DWH is not enough

---

12% of enterprise data is typically utilized for analysis

29% of the IT budget is now generated by business unit investment rather than IT

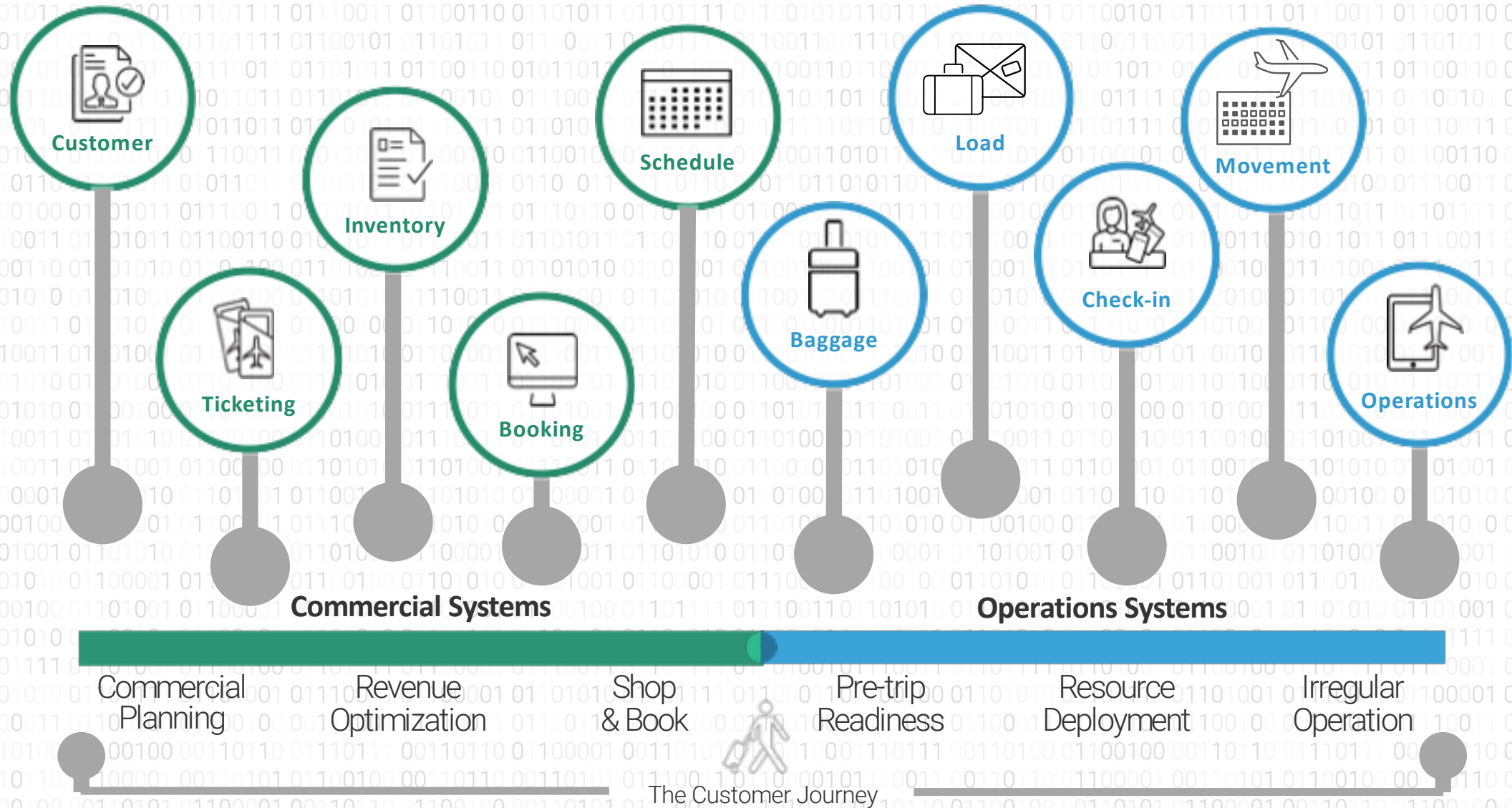
# PSS are not designed for agility and experimentation



Source: T2RL

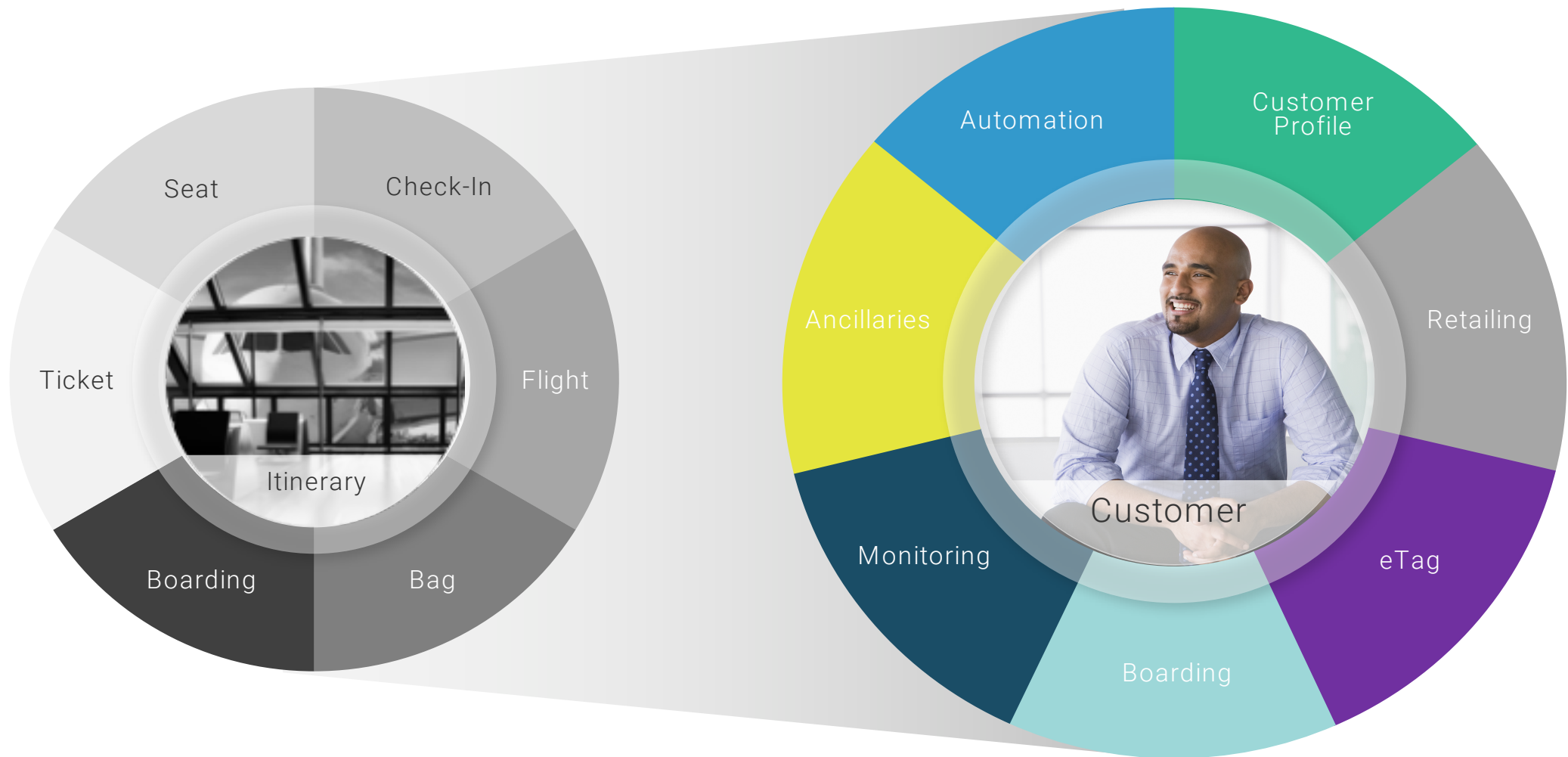


# Vast amounts of siloed enterprise data are being created



# A paradigm shift from an itinerary-centric to a customer-centric focus

---



# Existing airline architecture has limited 'sense and respond' capabilities



Reliability



High performance



Scalability



Structured and cleansed



Inexpensive to access



Includes non PSS data



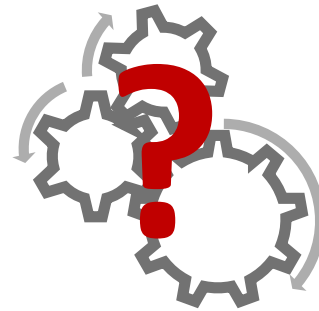
Expensive to change



Siloed data



Lack of flexibility



Rear view mirror



Latency challenges





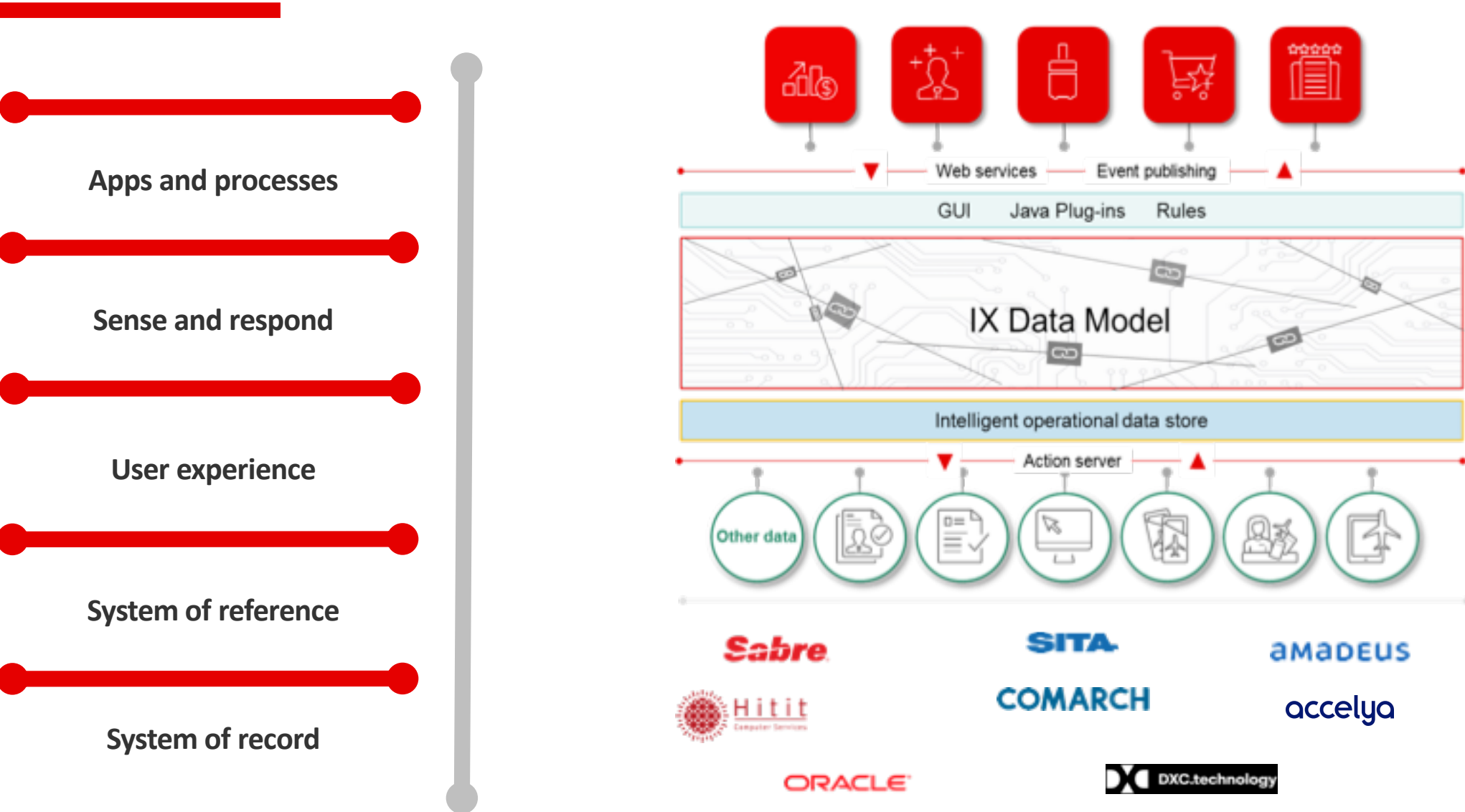


“IT application development time is highly correlated with IT’s impact on business performance...”

Forrester Research

“The speed... to convert mass amounts of customer data into insights, and insight into action is now a critical differentiator.”

# Intelligence Exchange: the open airline enterprise agility platform



#hackanapp



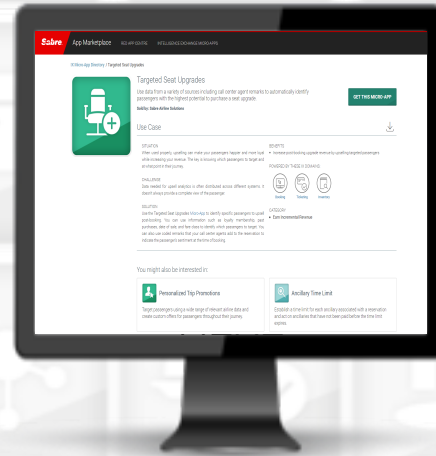
# Intelligence Exchange **MICRO-APPS**

An ecosystem of  
**micro-apps** built on  
the **Intelligence  
Exchange Platform**

<https://vimeo.com/274572139/50f82f670e>



# What is a Micro-App?



Business process templates

75% standard / 25% configurable

Take action across enterprise systems

Deploy fast to save time and money

[marketplace.sabre.com/IX](https://marketplace.sabre.com/IX)



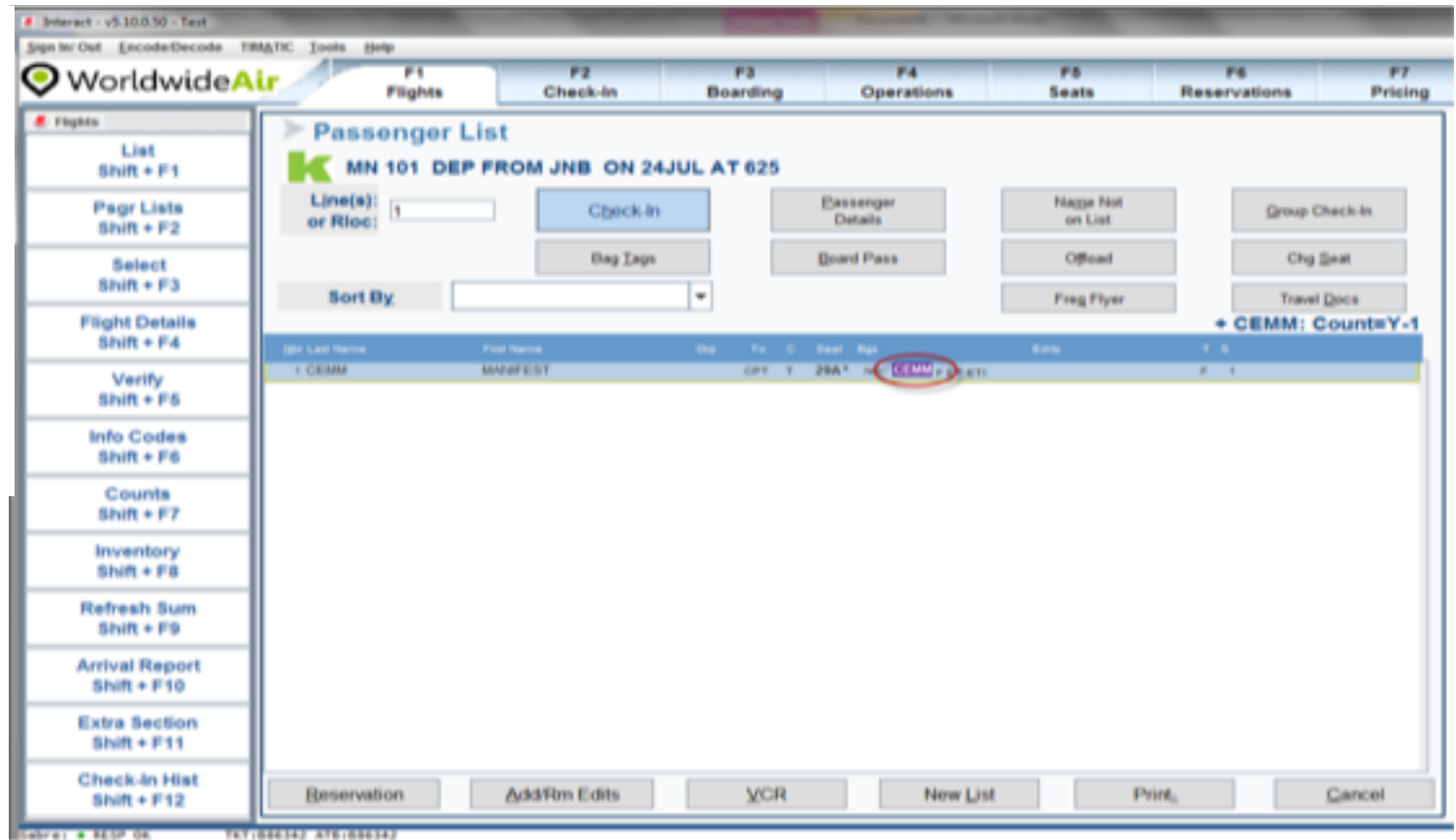
#hackanapp



# Capture incremental revenue with the Last Minute Upgrades Micro-App

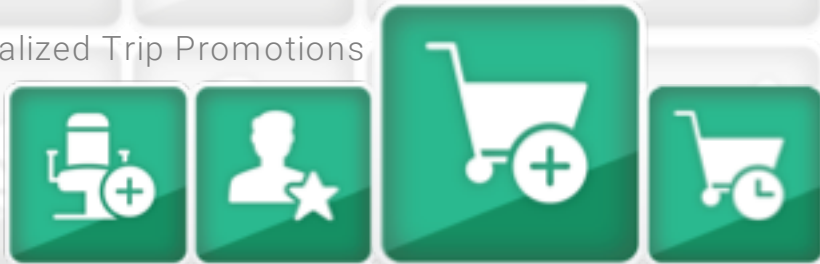


- Customized parameters to meet unique business needs
- Take action into other core systems out of the box
- Fast deployment for rapid innovation and testing
- Limited IT dependency

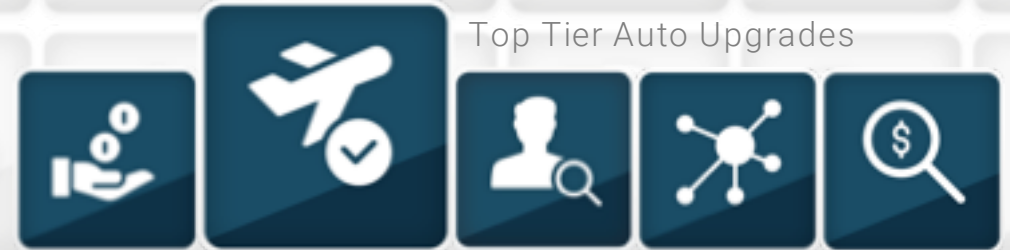


# Solve **PERVASIVE BUSINESS CHALLENGES** across the customer journey

Personalized Trip Promotions



Top Tier Auto Upgrades



Earn incremental revenue

Enable customer centricity

Fare Error Detector



Real Time Flight Analysis



Prevent revenue leakage

Streamline airline operations

# Customer Centric Strategy (Next Best Action) Overview & Art of the Possible



# For More Information about Customer Centric Strategy:

I have a You Tube [channel](#) called “[Customer Centric Strategies](#)” with several narrated Power Point videos with greater details about this **personalization** approach and the processes

You can access my [You Tube](#) “[Customer Centric Strategies](#)” [channel](#) through my LinkedIn profile page under “[publications](#)”

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/stevepinchuk/>

# Agenda

- Customer *Expectations*
- *What* Does Next Best Action (NBA) Do?
- How Does Next Best Action Do This?
- Results
- Appendix: Personalized Pricing and Offers Airline Case Study

## Expectations: Customers want it their way or they will leave to find it.

Customers want a mutually beneficial lifetime relationship not impersonal tactical sales targeting



Do you know  
**WHAT**  
**Your**  
**Customers**  
**WANT?...**

**Can You Consistently Give Them What They Want ANYTIME, ANYWHERE**

# Agenda

- Customer *Expectations*
- *What* Does Next Best Action (NBA) Do?
- How Does Next Best Action Do This?
- Results
- Appendix: Personalized Pricing and Offers Airline Case Study



# What: NBA adds a *new technique* to the customer communications continuum

Who starts the action

Type of action

Level of personalization

Customer Segment **Campaigns**

Market Segment

company triggered & non-triggered



company triggered & non-triggered

Behavioral Cluster



⊕ Now let's add Next Best Action(s)

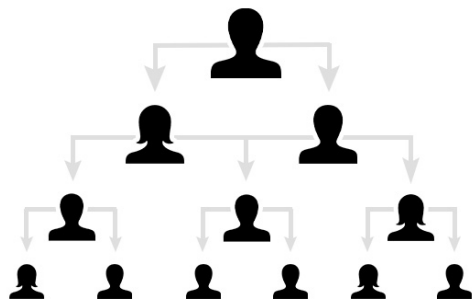
customer triggered outgoing batch 1 to 1 NBA actions

Individual

customer triggered inbound real time 1 to 1 NBA interactions

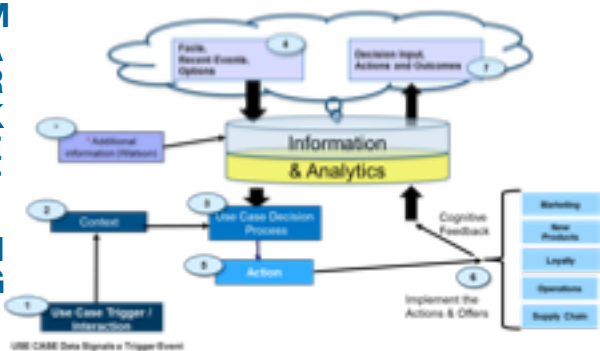


TRADITIONAL MARKETING



NBA 1 to 1 Personalized **Interactions**

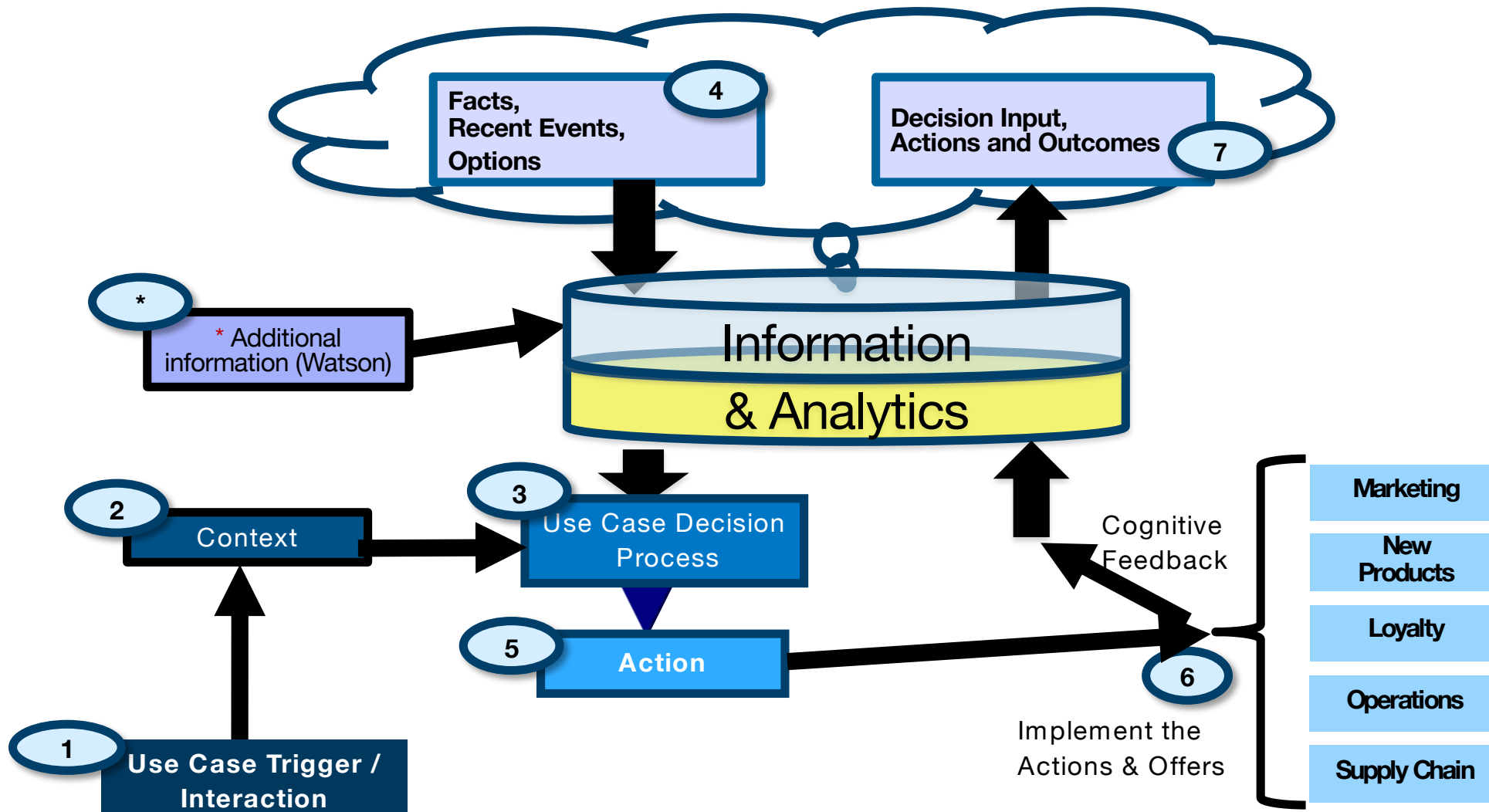
NEW MARKETING



# Agenda

- Customer *Expectations*
- *What* Does Next Best Action (NBA) Do?
- How Does Next Best Action Do This?
- Results
- Appendix: Personalized Pricing and Offers Airline Case Study

# How: NBA's decision process, is called a *Use Case* and is how NBA interacts with customers



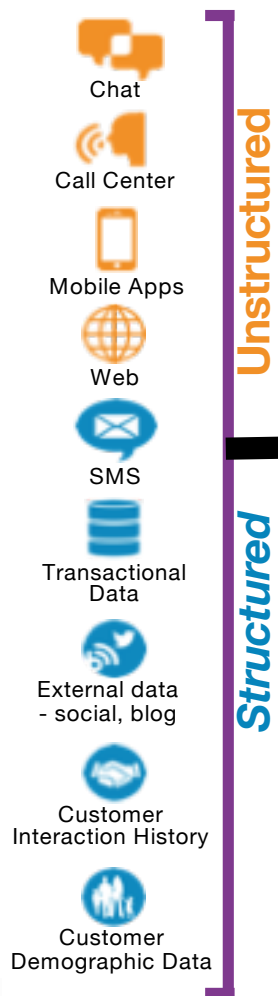
USE CASE Data Signals a Trigger Event

\* Gather social & external/internal unstructured data & apply it to NBA customer profiles or use it for event or life event triggers

# How: NBA is the analytical engine between your data and your customer communication channels

## Data Sources

(structured & unstructured)



## Next Best Action Predictive Analytics Engine & Platform



## Multiple Customer touchpoints

### Outbound Batch Mode

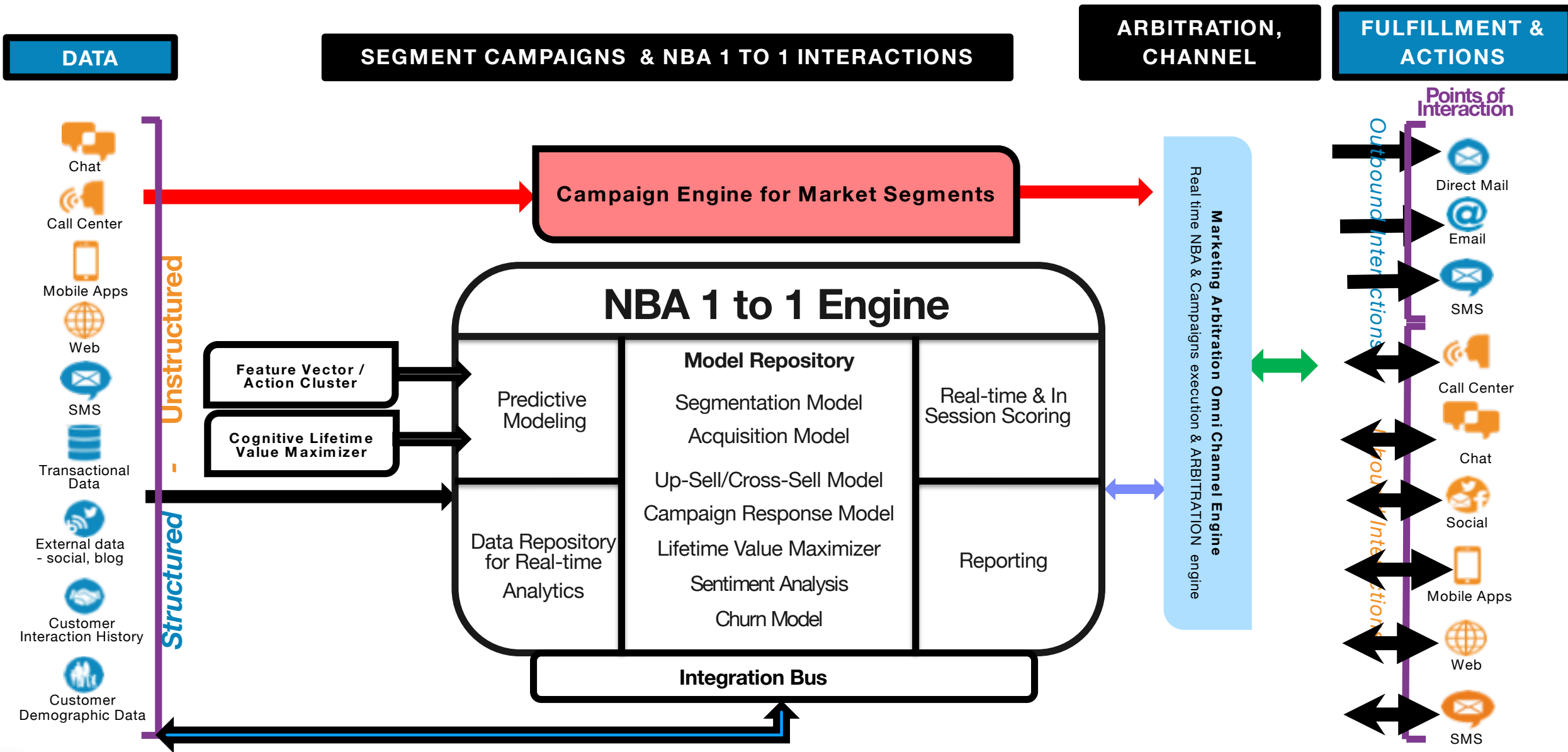
- SMS
- E-mail
- Direct mail
- Social
- Mobile Apps

### Inbound Real Time

- Face to face
- Chat
- Call center
- Social
- Mobile Apps
- Web

\*Adapted from Forrester, 2014

# How: 1 to 1 NBA, and an arbitration layer, sits between data and customer actions



## How: Implementing Next Best Action

- YOU - develop the Customer interactions to target
- IBM & YOU Select and align NBA

Next Best Action  
“Architecture & Tools”



Customer Data  
“Building Supplies”



Building your “Framework  
of Optimized Customer  
Interactions”



# Agenda

- Customer *Expectations*
- *What* Does Next Best Action (NBA) Do?
- How Does Next Best Action Do This?
- Results
- Appendix: Personalized Pricing and Offers Airline Case Study

## Results: IBM Customer Successes – Across Multiple Industries Over the Past 5 Years

Use Case	Business Results
<b>Increase Customer Retention</b>	<b>50% reduction in customer churn</b> <b>25% increase in Loyalty program membership</b>
<b>Increase Customer Acquisition</b>	<b>50% increase in response rate for analytics-driven actions to new customers</b>
<b>Cross-Sell &amp; Up-Sell</b>	<b>270% increase in cross-sales of accessory products;</b> <b>50% increase in effectiveness of customer retention actions</b>
<b>Next Best Action to Personalize Customer Experience</b>	<b>300% increase in spending among loyalty members;</b> <b>400% increase in incremental sales to customers receiving personalized offers</b>
<b>eCommerce Real-Time Recommendations</b>	<b>20% increase in on-line purchases, fewer shopping cart abandonment.</b>
<b>Pricing Optimization</b>	<b>10% revenue increase from smarter pricing by category, individual/behavioral clustering, and individual brands</b>
<b>Call Center Optimization</b>	<b>10% increase in call center operations productivity from smarter guided advisement, quicker issue resolution</b>



# Thank You!

## For More Information about Customer Centric Strategy:

I have a You Tube [channel](#) called “[Customer Centric Strategies](#)” with several narrated Power Point videos with greater details about this **personalization** approach and the processes

You can access my [You Tube](#) “[Customer Centric Strategies](#)” [channel](#) through my LinkedIn profile page under “[publications](#)”

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/stevepinchuk/>

# Agenda

- Customer *Expectations*
- *What* Does Next Best Action (NBA) Do?
- How Does Next Best Action Do This?
- Results
- Appendix: Personalized Pricing and Offers Airline Case Study

Drive conversion and margin expansion with  
Personalized Pricing & Offers

PPPO

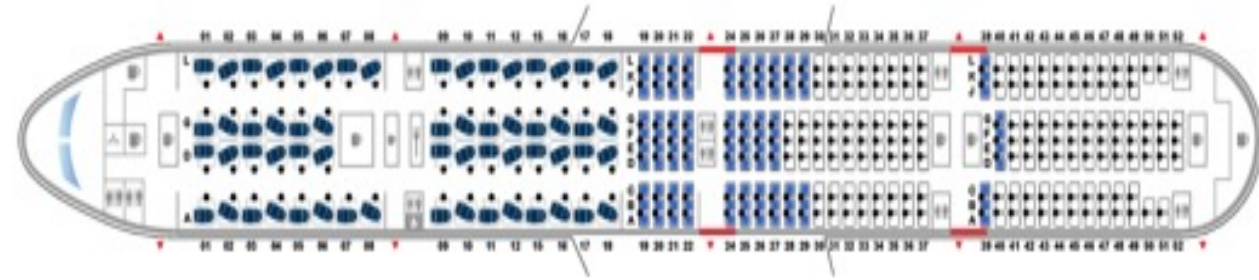
## What is the best personalized offer out of **460,800,000 possibilities?**

The sheer scale of possibilities will outstrip the best rules engine. This will require a **cognitive decision platform**.

A platform that's **exceptional at machine learning**.

IBM has developed **patented travel-specific optimization** algorithms that understand travel context, apply past learning to select optimal offers, and learn from offers and orders.

The cognitive engine **NEVER STOPS** learning and adjusting optimization.

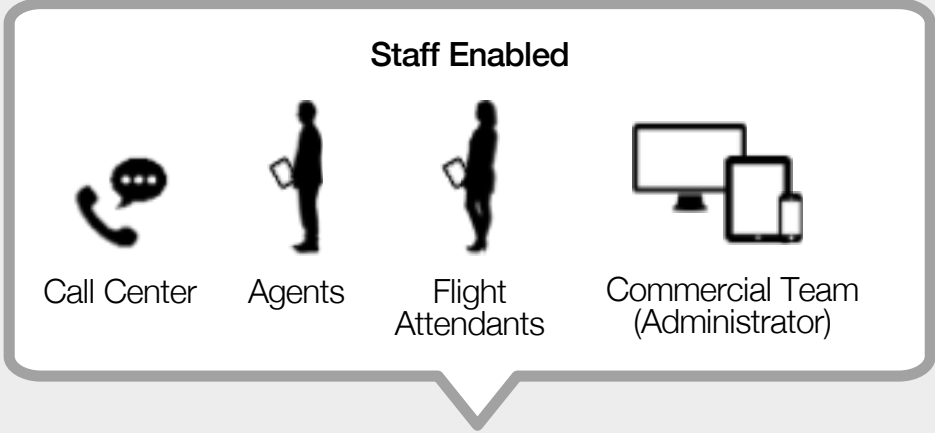
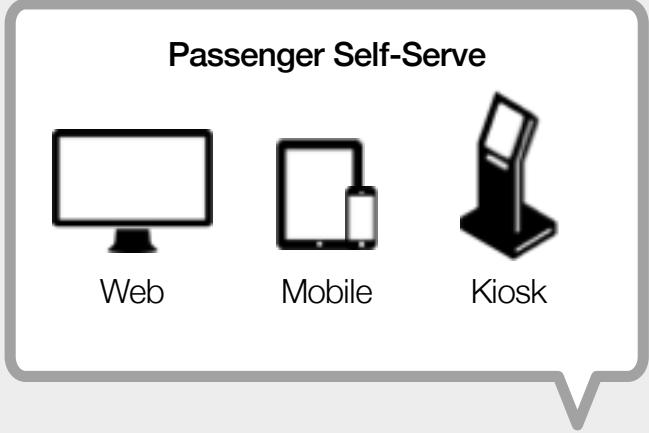


### Think about it...

- More complex view of customer
- More air, non-air and bundle options
- Offered at more journey points
- Through more channels
- AND, be ready to continuously change

### Consider One Market:

- 40 routing/flight options
- 3 class of service options
- 80 price points/base products
- 40 air ancillary service options
- 100 non-air ancillary service options
- 12 customer segments



**Micro Services**

Initial Offer

Post ticket purchase

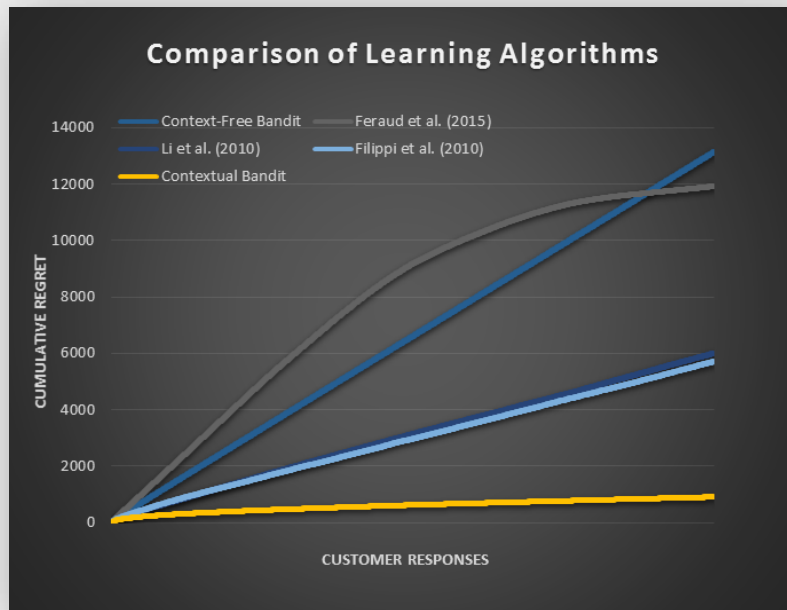


**Cognitive Learning Engine**

Proprietary Algorithms outperform state-of-the-art learning methods

## Proprietary algorithms

- Recommending personalized offers or promotions based on customer insights (“context”)
- Behavioral progressive profiling of new customers to create fast, relevant engagement
- T&T Specific Algorithms patented



24

US patents

granted or pending

Contextual bandits increase speed of learning and **reduce testing costs**



## Case Study: Personalized Destination Offers

Using our patented algorithms, create **personalized destination offer recommendations** for passengers using information from loyalty systems, PNR databases and campaign management systems.

### AI features

- Long Short Term Memory Networks (LTSMs) model the temporal dependencies across historical travel history
- Stacked "deep" LSTMs learn a hierarchy of feature representations across both time and feature space
- Transfer learning (e.g., knowledge distillation) to enable swift deployment

## Pilot Results

Personalization leads to higher

**conversions & revenue** during campaigns

---

Customers that received personalized recommendations made over

**20% more bookings**

than customers in the control group

---

**54% more bookings**

in business class (F, A, J, Z, C, D)

---

Test Group members created

**44% more revenue**

compared to Control Group members



## Case study: Paid class upgrades

Personalized class-of-service upgrade offers prior to travel

- Develop AI-based dynamic pricing services to identify personalized class upgrade recommendations for select airline customers using information from CRM systems, PNR databases, and campaign management systems.
- Evaluate its efficacy based on agreed upon performance metrics (revenue lift, conversion improvements) during a live test in selected test markets

### AI Features

- IBM Research proprietary AI algorithms analyze hundreds of thousands of data points on a continual basis and set prices on what the software believes passengers will be willing to pay.

## Pilot results



---

AI-based pricing leads to higher

**conversions & revenue**

during promotional campaigns

---

Pilot deployments show that personalization can deliver over

**Up to 35% uplift in top-line revenue**



# Do you Have Enough Data Already?

**Tom Gregorson**  
Vice President, Products & Solutions

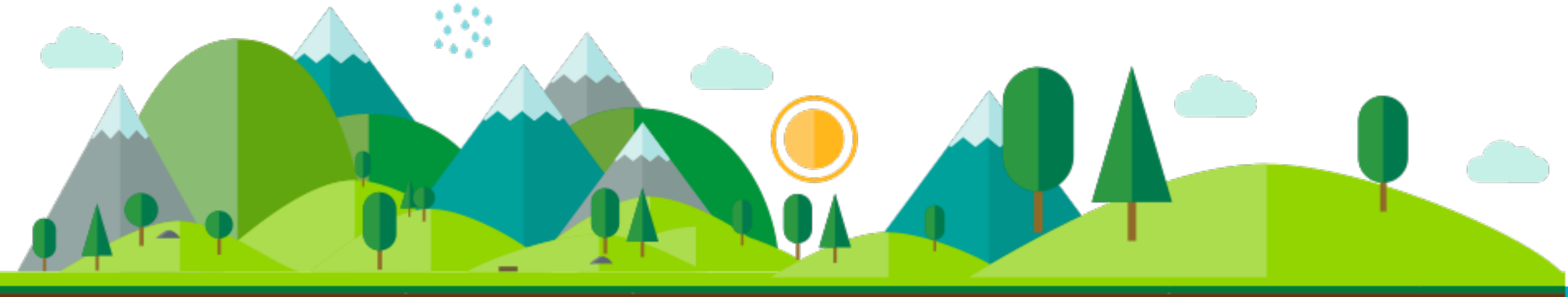




atpco

 routehappy  
by atpco

# Today we are talking about data lakes



①  
Legacy  
databases

②  
Website  
clickstream

③  
Production/  
performance metrics

④  
Organization  
guidance

⑤  
Location or  
geospatial data

⑥  
Social media





# Do we have enough data lakes?

- **90%** Of the world's data has been created in the last two years
- **2.5 quintillion** bytes of data a day
- More than **2.5 petabytes** per database



## In the travel space

- **1,000 gigabytes** of data generated by the average transatlantic flight
- **200 million** weekly searches
- More than **50 input sources** are used to all available industry data



## In the travel space

- Airlines use as little as **12%** of their data
- Some larger carriers housing more **than 50 data sources**
- Managing and integrating data is the single biggest challenge



---

Our Fares & Rules system grew from  
19 million in 1998 to **186 million** in 2018

Approximately  
**822 million**  
tickets were  
processed by  
ATPCO in 2016 and  
**903 million** in  
2017

## Various Data Sources: Industry Sales Record (ISR)

- 118 customers
- 50 carriers provide their TCN data directly to ATPCO
- 75 hosted carriers (TCN)
- 89 carriers (ARC/BSP data)

# More than 5.7 billion transactions in the DDS (ARC/IATA) database



World's largest repository of the ticketing data



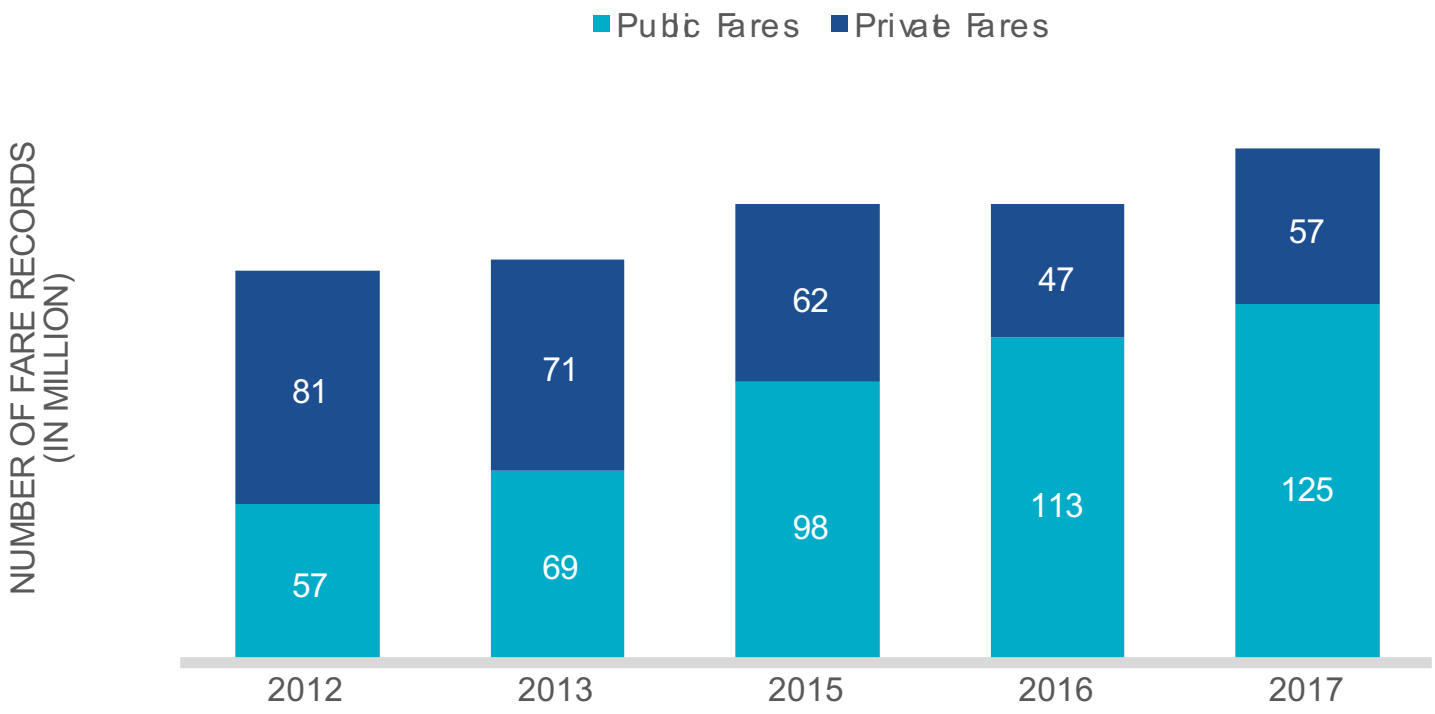
Several data delivery methods: Web-based Tool, Integrated Data Feed, Customized Files



Supports variety of functions: sales, distribution, network planning, and revenue management

# Comprehensive: Fares

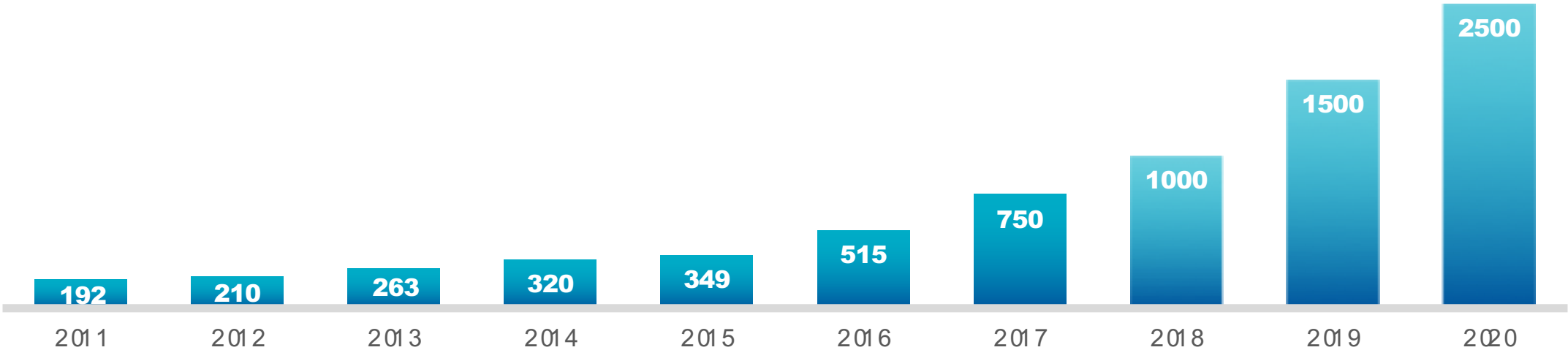
87% of all prices – Over 32% growth in last 5 Years



# Timely Data

## Growth triples the volume within the next 3 years

Hourly updates – 3.9M updates per day



Average (in millions) weekday subs recorded

# Various Data Sources

	2006	2009	2015	2017	2018*
Carrier-Imposed Fees (2005)	282	336	328	348	368
Ticketing Fees (2007)	N/A	24	92	121	135
Optional Services (2008)	N/A	14	137	201	207
Branded Fares (2009)	N/A	1	18	94	97
Baggage Allowance and Charges (2011)	N/A	N/A	397	418	434

\*Data is as of May 2018





## 3 Keys to Success

- Merge Unstructured & Structured Data
- Data Cleansing and Protection
- Sophisticated Data Processing

# Structured and Unstructured Data

**80%**

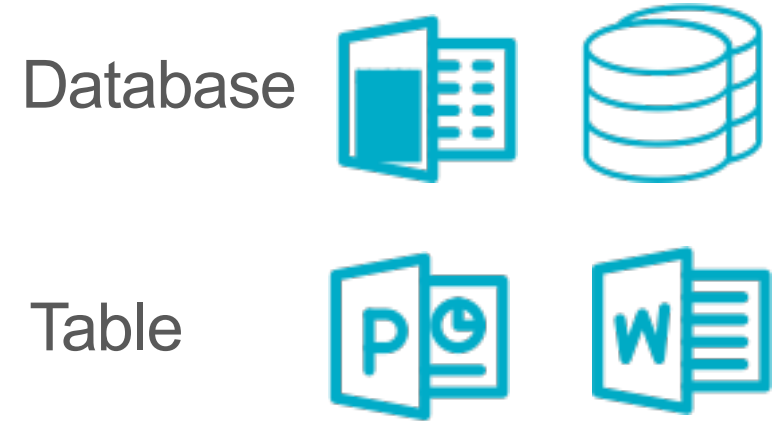
Unstructured



**Vs**

**20%**

Structured



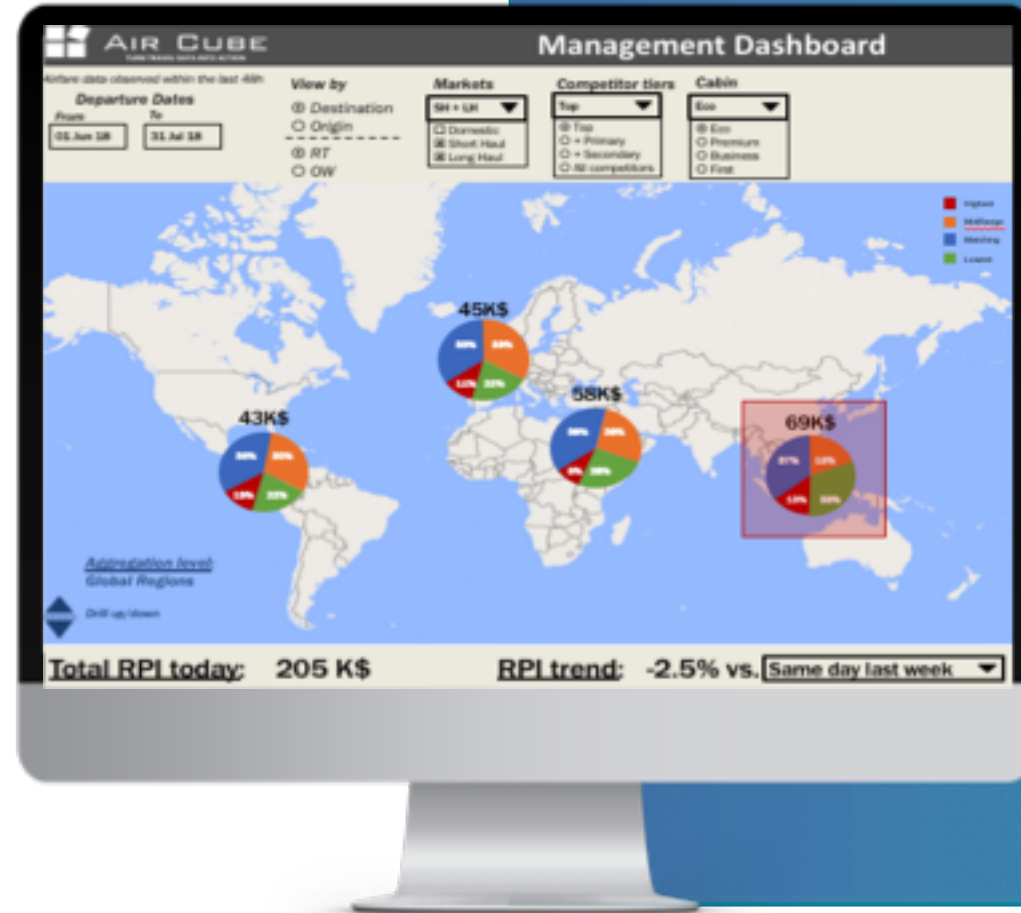
# Worldwide Operations

## INFARE

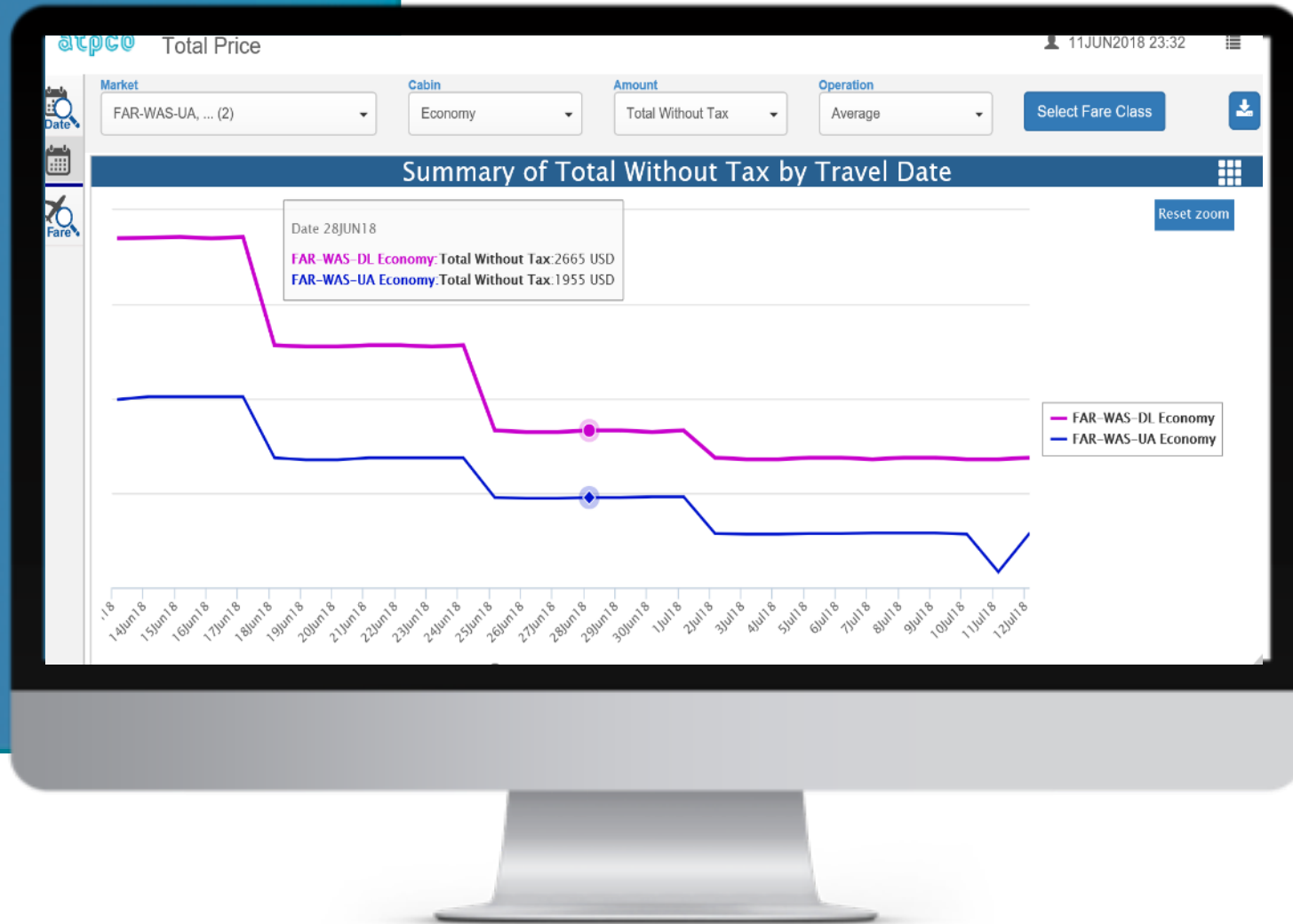
- 100 Million records
- 5 Gb compressed data

## ATPCO

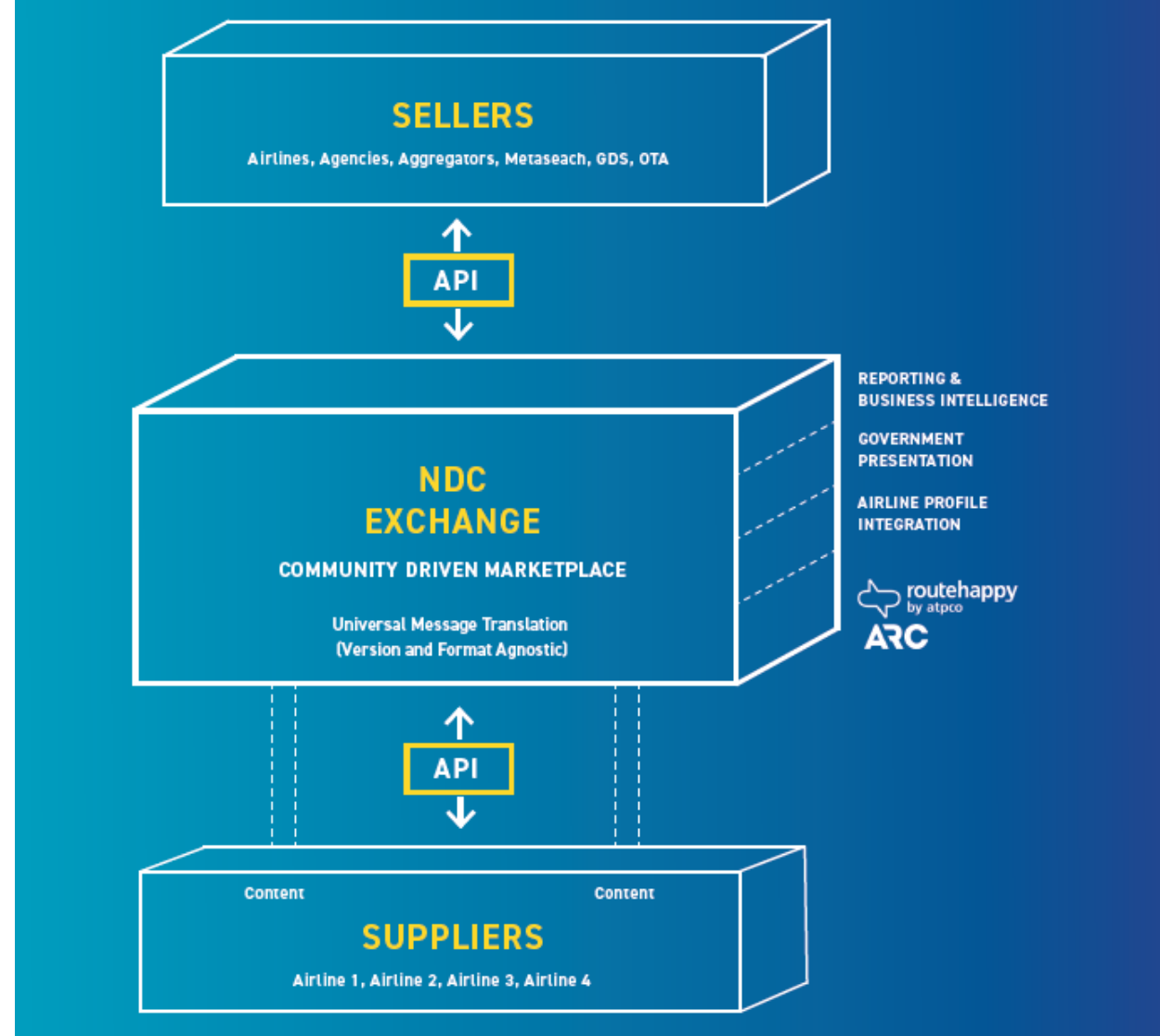
- 1.200 Million records
- 90 Gb compressed data



# Sophisticated Data Processing



# Data Cleansing & Protection: NDC Exchange



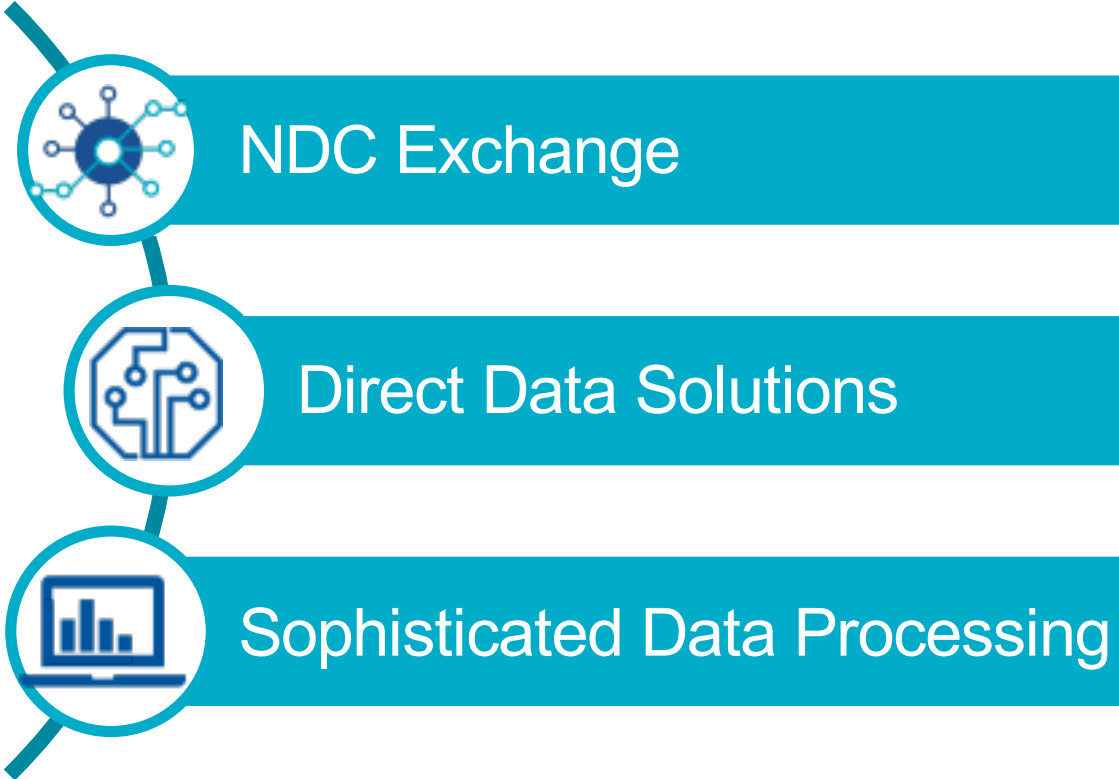
# Case Study

## Challenge

- Achieve data normalization and cleansing in the Global Ticket Behavior
- Include NDC and non-NDC transactions
- Add value to the published pricing monitoring

## ATPCO's Fare Data and DDS

### Solution



# Advances in Airline Pricing, Revenue Management, and Distribution

## Evolution of airline pricing, revenue management, and distribution

### Price selection mechanisms

- Assortment Optimization
- Dynamic Price Adjustment
- Continuous Pricing

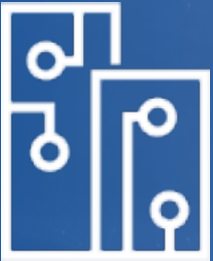
### Next generation mechanisms

- More frequent updating of fare structures
- Dynamic availability of fare
- Additional RBD capabilities
- Dynamic price adjustments (increments or discounts)
- Continuous pricing
- Dynamic offer generation



# Innovation at ATPCO

---



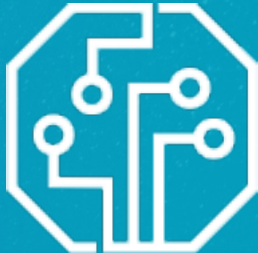
R&D/Tech



Bridge Labs



Partner  
Co-Innovation



Open  
Ecosystem

# How Do We Move Forward?



- Stop asking do we have enough data (lakes)...
- Look to find ways to turn data into information:
  - Merge Structured & Unstructured
  - Data Cleansing & Protection
  - Sophisticated Data Processing



atpco

atpco.net