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OVERVIEW.

Users have identified the need for faster and more flexible Management Reports.

The current Offline Management Report function, whilst providing accurate and valuable information, is limited with regard to how up-to-date the reports which it generates can be. The CAR record is currently available for statistical purposes after being purged from the system.

The solution is to make all AWB and Flight data readily available for download from the Cargo System Mainframe to PC Database. This will also improve the time within which individual reports can be generated as a result of removing the burden of processing the reports from the Cargo System Mainframe.

Once recorded by the PC, this data can be manipulated at will to create any number of statistical reports, thus ensuring maximum flexibility, speed and accuracy of data to the User.

SYSTEM PROCESS.

SITA will design a number of formatted machine-readable displays which will contain data taken from each stage in the life-cycle of an AWB and a Flight. These displays will be accessed by functional inputs sent by the PC to the Mainframe.

This "dialogue" between PC and Mainframe will consist of a string of functional inputs following a local path which will culminate in the retrieval of the chosen display. Each display will be identified by a specific code and will be made up of a series of basic items of data standard in all displays, and a series of specific items of data relevant only to a particular area of statistical interest.

This data could be downloaded in this way to a single, central PC or to any number of individual PCs. The same data could be downloaded as many times as required by the User. If a PC were to request the same download more than once, the latest download could be made to overwrite the existing data or saved separately, according to the wishes of the User.

The User would be wholly responsible for the nature of the PC software and the exact nature of the statistical reports generated by the PC once the download from the Cargo Mainframe had taken place.

EXAMPLE.

The following is an example of how a typical logical path may look.

The PC would request from the Mainframe a list of all flights departing from a given boardpoint on a specified date. Following this the PC would ask the Mainframe to display the manifest for all flights on the list which were infact manifested. Finally, the PC would ask for the display and download of one or more machine-readable displays for each CAR on these manifests.

One advantage of this approach is that the Mainframe would only have to deal with one specific request at a time from the PC, and would not move on to the next request until it had fully processed the previous one. This would avoid any undue strain being placed on the Mainframe by a glut of simultaneous requests.

PC to Mainframe :

*** S/F02MARLHR-D**

(request for all flights departing
LHR on specified date)



Mainframe to PC :

**RESPONSE IN THE FORM OF A
MACHINE-READABLE LIST OF
FLIGHTS.**



PC to Mainframe :

*** XS001/02MAR-M**

(request for the manifest of first flight
on the list, now held in PC memory)



Mainframe to PC :

**RESPONSE IN THE FORM OF A
FLIGHT MANIFEST.**



PC to Mainframe :

- RES/CHG*95012345678

(request display and download of
"reservation" and "charges" display for first CAR on manifest)

Having requested and received the required download from the Mainframe for the first CAR on the Manifest, the PC would request the download for the second CAR then the third CAR and so on until all CARs on the Manifest had been actioned. At this stage the PC would request the Manifest of the second flight on the list of flights and proceed to request the required download for all the CARs on the Manifest, one by one. The PC would follow this procedure for all the flights on the original list provided by the Mainframe.

I hasten to stress that the above example is purely theoretical at this stage and serves only to illustrate the concept on which we shall be working. The format of each functional input, the exact nature of the logical paths (for there shall be more than one possible path for the PC to follow) as well as the contents and nomenclature of each machine-readable display are still to be established.