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4.3 mio.

An airline can generate considerable

cost savings relying on Lido/FlightBag from Lufthansa Systems. Besides optimizing cockpit information processes, our Electronic Flight Bag (EFB) solution significantly reduces the amount of paper carried on board. Navigational charts, technical publications, and flight operations manuals are easily available in electronic format and always up-to-date. Altogether, this can save a major international network carrier as much as 4.3 million U.S. dollars per year.

Hot Topics

Lufthansa Systems' new NetLine Fleet Assigner optimizes capacity planning

Smart aircraft allocation for increased profitability

Airline planners constantly face the problem of assigning an aircraft to a route or flight without knowing whether the number of seats suits actual demand. Even a route with a rather homogenous demand situation may be influenced by trade fairs or sports events, vacation periods or public holidays. As a result, flights could be half-empty or overbooked. In both cases, the airline faces a financial loss, either through high operational costs not covered by passenger revenues, or through foregone revenues due to a limited number of seats. Now, airlines can achieve a new level of planning efficiency with the latest Lufthansa Systems optimizer, the NetLine Fleet Assigner. For several years, Lufthansa Systems has been offering its NetLine/Plan Strategic Fleet Assigner and the NetLine/Sched Tactical Fleet Assigner. The NetLine/Plan Strategic Fleet Assigner is used in the very early planning stage to calculate a standard week for a schedule that is two periods ahead. It optimizes the capacity distribution across the entire airline network to yield the highest possible overall profit. The NetLine/Sched Tactical Fleet Assigner is used at a later stage. During the last few months before departure, this optimizer also follows the goal of maximum profit through optimum capacity allocation. However, valuable information such as detailed booking figures and forecast data is available at this stage and allows for a more precise planning and optimization.

The new NetLine Fleet Assigner replaces the two individual solutions, combining strategic and tactical fleet assignment. This increases the level of automation, and it also speeds up the process. Yet, its greatest advantage is the use of one database for all calculations, so that results of earlier optimizations can be seamlessly taken over for the next steps. The NetLine Fleet Assigner performs capacity allocations quickly and thoroughly, considering passenger demand. It also features an automated maintenance planning function. It identifies suitable legs for aircraft swaps, reducing costs and increasing revenues. The financial advantage of this solution is beyond any doubt.

A recent benchmark study showed that a mid-sized airline can boost its profitability by up to 600,000 euros per month through the NetLine Fleet Assigner. This substantial amount can be achieved by processing forecast passenger numbers on an O&D (origin and destination) basis, combined with estimates for revenues and operational costs. A high-speed algorithm generates multiple scenarios and shows optimization options based on a flexible rule framework.

Lufthansa Systems has developed the new NetLine Fleet Assigner in association with Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific Airways. As one of the leading airlines in Asia, Cathay Pacific is known for its expertise and high quality standards. Users of the NetLine Fleet Assigner will benefit from this fruitful collaboration, which is based on excellent airline management and long-standing technical know-how. In addition to the NetLine Fleet Assigner for strategic and tactical fleet assignment, Lufthansa Systems provides the NetLine/Sched Swapper solution which can be used until a few days before departure to swap individual aircraft among flights if capacity gaps occur. Both fleet assignment solutions are part of the NetLine airline resource management suite. As an integrated platform for network planning and control, it captures all aspects of the planning process through its modules NetLine/Plan for long-term planning, NetLine/Sched for schedule development, NetLine/Ops for operations control and NetLine/Crew for crew management.

EasyMain drives down airline IT costs

Innovative all-inclusive package for application lifecycle management from Lufthansa Systems

When airlines work on spending less money for their IT, they are not just looking for ways to save money for the acquisition and implementation of new solutions. They know that around two-thirds of all costs over an application's lifecycle will go toward its operation, maintenance and continued development. This means high costs and employees being tied to a large extent to routine tasks. To tackle these expenses Lufthansa Systems has developed the innovative service package EasyMain. EasyMain covers all aspects of application and service lifecycle management. It includes all of the services needed to guarantee the stable routine operation, regular maintenance and continual development of an application. It is an all-inclusive package, which offers clearly defined services and service levels as well as straightforward fees. This dramatically reduces administrative effort on the customer's side. Along with the complete lifecycle management for their IT applications airlines profit from the extensive experience the Lufthansa Systems experts have with high-availability systems.

EasyMain is an outstanding example of how outsourcing certain tasks to an organization of specialists set up precisely for this purpose can generate significant cost savings. Airlines opting for EasyMain can achieve significant cost savings. For some customers, IT costs have been reduced up to 20%. For one of its customers, Lufthansa Systems currently manages over 50 applications based on a variety of technologies, some of which are business-critical and must be available 24 hours a day. Each application is assigned to a team of experts with the necessary technical and process knowledge. In the event of an incident, this team not only promptly rectifies the error and restores the system to full operability; it also looks into how to prevent such an incident from reoccurring. This process of continual optimization creates a win-win situation for the customer and for Lufthansa Systems as well. One important aspect of this service package is that it can be tailored to the customer's requirements. While one customer may only need basic maintenance and operation services at defined times on workdays, another may choose around-the-clock full service with on-call technicians first- and second-level support and application consulting services for the highly critical applications, and just stand-by support for the less important ones.

News

Alitalia Group opts for Lufthansa Systems' navigation charts Five Italian carriers join the growing customer base of Lido/RouteManual

Alitalia Group, including Alitalia, Alitalia Express, AirOne, AirOne Cityliner and Volare, has decided to take the navigation charts from Lufthansa Systems on board. They recently signed a five-year contract over the use of Lido/RouteManual. With the innovative solution the airlines can optimize their flight operations and benefit from the high quality of the navigation charts. Alitalia Group also opted for the electronic version of the charts and will implement Lido/eRouteManual in two phases - initially on the pilot's laptops and later on EFBs in the cockpits.

The first flights with Lido/RouteManual on board already took-off. Giancarlo Schisano, Chief Operating Officer at Alitalia comments: "The new solution fully meets our requirements in terms of quality and user-friendliness. Our pilots very much appreciate the easy legibility and the clear structure of the individual charts. This reduces their workload in the cockpit, especially during key flight situations such as take-off and landing."

Lufthansa Systems produces around 1.4 million charts for the first delivery and will equip the 155 aircraft with new ship manuals until mid of October 2009. During the implementation more than 3,800 binders will be replaced in the cockpits. "Alitalia Group has been optimizing their flight operations with our IT solutions for many years. I am very pleased that the airlines have decided to expand our cooperation and have joined the growing Lido/RouteManual community. This agreement strengthens our position as the leading provider for airline operations solutions in Italy," said Stefan Auerbach, Senior Vice President Sales EMEA at Lufthansa Systems.

Sirax AirFinance Platform from Lufthansa Systems successfully deployed at Southwest Airlines

Airline sees improvement in revenue accounting processes

Southwest Airlines is the first U.S. airline to optimize its revenue accounting with Lufthansa Systems' Sirax AirFinance Platform. The companies successfully completed the implementation of the product, which can improve efficiency and help achieve cost savings through precise revenue accounting. Other leading carriers who deployed the Sirax AirFinance Platform were able to reduce their operating costs by up to 45 percent.

"The new Sirax system not only improves the revenue accounting process but will also give us greater flexibility to respond more timely to changes in the business environment," said Leah Koontz, Vice President Controller for Southwest Airlines. The Sirax AirFinance Platform from Lufthansa Systems is the first integrated platform to optimize all of an airline's financial processes. By checking ticket sales against actual flight data, the highly automated system speeds up the accounting process. Sirax also helps to control processes that involve a variety of complex rates, codeshare agreements, alliances, as well as taxes and fees. It delivers precise, timely information for the management and the accounting division of an airline. Sirax also provides data on route and network revenue.

Austrian Airlines increases profitability with NetLine Fleet Assigner from Lufthansa Systems

Austrian Airlines will optimize its fleet assignment with innovative IT from Lufthansa Systems. After extensive tests and a benchmark analysis the airline opted for the NetLine Fleet Assigner solution in order to increase revenues and cut costs. Both companies recently signed a three-year contract to this effect. Fleet assignment is one of the most important steps in an airline's flight planning process. With the NetLine Fleet Assigner Austrian Airlines can optimize the distribution of capacity within its network and analyze the effects that decisions have on its cost and earnings situation. To maximize an airlines' profit, the IT solution matches the seating capacity as closely as possible to passenger demand and exploits cost saving potentials as regards fuel consumption, maintenance and airport charges. Thereby the NetLine Fleet Assigner not only takes constraints such as aircraft range and regional take-off and landing regulations into account, but also considers fleet size and maintenance times.

Turkish Airlines continues to rely on codeshare management solution from Lufthansa Systems

Turkish Airlines will continue to optimize its codeshare flights with IT from Lufthansa Systems. Both partners recently renewed their contract for the use of the codeshare and schedule management solution SchedConnect for another 3,5 years. SchedConnect is the most advanced system of its kind available today and offers a high degree of automation. Each day, it calculates the optimum codeshare assignments based on the current flight schedules. The system processes up to five million schedule changes of all SchedConnect customers every month. If a minimum connecting time is violated due to a schedule change or if a partner flight is cancelled, SchedConnect assigns automatically the marketing flight number to another suitable connecting flight. Changes are sent through the reservation systems to travel agents and customers as well as to the operations and passenger-related systems of the airlines involved.

Meet Lufthansa Systems

If you would like to talk to one of our IT experts about any specific solution in detail, we would be happy to coordinate a meeting. You can find us at the following events:

Name of Event	Date, Location	Solutions presented
IATA 125th Schedules Conference	November 19 - 22, 2009 Vancouver, Canada	NetLine, SchedConnect, NetLine/Market
IATA Commercial Strategy Symposium	December 9 - 11, 2009 Athens, Greece	ProfitLine, DPE, NetLine, Advance, FrequentLine