

Airport Security: One Step Ahead or Playing Catch-Up?



New security concerns.

Security has always been a primary concern for airports, but in today's volatile geo-political environment it's become more important – and more tightly regulated and scrutinized – than ever before.

Delivering increasingly stringent security measures has often led to escalating costs for airports and additional inconvenience for passengers. While the move to a global “one-stop security” system is still very much in its infancy, new technologies, such as automated passenger profiling, biometrics and intelligent CCTV applications, can help reduce operational expense while enabling a more comfortable experience for passengers and enhancing airport security.

As passenger numbers continue to grow, further layers of security regulations are added, and airports expand their aviation and non-aviation business activities, the complexity of providing adequate safety and security will also increase. Without the processes and technology in place to handle this added complexity, operating costs will rise and the passenger experience will take a backward step, rather than becoming the stress-free experience airports are working so hard to create.

In addition to the physical security concerns airports have always faced, they must now take the same rigorous approach to information security and ensure robust compliance with a wide range of regulatory mandates.

Enhancing security

Airports recognise the need to move towards more efficient and less intrusive security to help them reduce the high cost of implementing security and to provide the hassle-free experience today's travelers demand. As well as redesigning facilities and providing additional training to improve security services, airports need to take an automated, proactive approach that makes passenger journeys faster and more comfortable while taking into account the constantly evolving threat environment.

Of course, this must be accomplished in a cost-efficient way to ensure it doesn't add to already onerous security costs. Advanced detection technologies, more efficient security procedures and improved intelligence will involve close collaboration between airports, airlines and national or regional governments.

Turning compliance into competitive advantage

As airports start to implement growth plans and find new ways to improve the passenger experience, they will work more closely with their partners; from airlines and freight companies to government agencies and regulatory bodies. Collaborating and sharing information with partners will require a fresh approach to information security compliance.

Protecting sensitive data – whether from honest mistakes or from malicious attacks or theft – is a critical issue for all businesses today. The potential legal and financial implications are huge, and a high-profile data breach can cause irreparable damage to an organisation's reputation.

But compliance presents an opportunity too. Those airports able demonstrate to regulators, shareholders and customers that they have the right people, processes and technology in place to protect the information they are entrusted with will be at a significant competitive advantage.

However, regulatory compliance is often viewed in isolation from other risk management activities, and seen as a box-ticking exercise when it could be a real driver of competitive differentiation. Taking a more holistic approach means stepping back to get a broader view of the airport's risk profile and then mapping compliance activities to overall business objectives. In this way, compliance will be aligned with all other security activities and be clearly focused on delivering desired business outcomes. This will help reduce administrative burdens and operational costs, while enabling more effective collaboration, both internally and with partner organisations.



Learn more

From automated passenger profiling to comprehensive data protection, Fujitsu helps airports and their partners simplify compliance and deliver robust security. Get in touch today to find out more about how we can help you ensure passenger safety, reduce business risk and build a secure foundation for profitable growth.

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