

SPEAKER'S BRIEF – SYSTEMS

The Level 2 Train Planning workshop is designed to introduce students to the manual training planning skills used before the introduction of computer technology. The aim is that by the end of the 3 days, they can turn a Bid into a validated schedule and prepare a hand-drawn timetable graph. The aim of this spot is to help delegates understand how train planning data is used once a schedule is completed in ITPS. Where it goes and how it gets to where it is needed. The role of 'B' Plan in transferring physical data (SRTs etc) to TOCs as well as timetable files. The role of ATOS Origin. What down-stream systems use the data. How Associations are vital to the Timetable processor (TTP) in many modern signalling centres. The need for accurate coding of line codes for ARS to function correctly.

Copies of the current PowerPoint Presentation and student notes are attached.

Part of the course objectives are to develop students skill in making presentations. For this purpose, this session (delivered during the late morning of the second day) attracts some syndicate work. It would help therefore if the speaker is prepared to spend some time with each syndicate (there should be three syndicates each of four delegates) and receive their feedback.

The suggested questions for each syndicate are:

1. What exactly is a timetable?
2. What use is made of timetable data?
3. What can we, as planners, do to make a 'better' timetable?

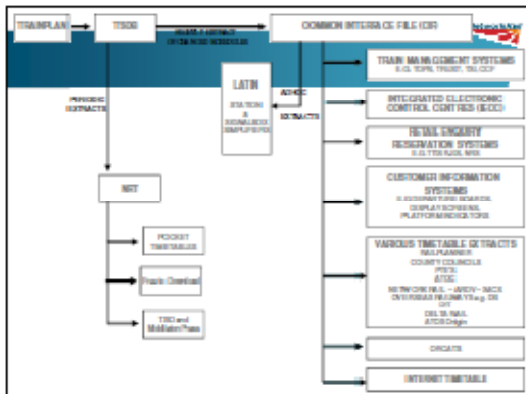


Current Level 2 PowerPoint Slides:

Informed Traveller
"THE RULES WE LIVE BY"

Timetable data requirements:-

- Accurate data to be available electronically to customers 12 weeks prior to date of travel (G.I.G.O)
- EVERY train running schedule to be in TSDB on EVERY occasion



The Planning Systems

- TOCs – Voyagerplan
- Combined Timing & Diagramming
- Contains only individual TOCs trains (plus Area of Interest)
- Geography & Train data from NR

The Planning Systems (contd.)

- Network Rail – TrainPlan II
- Timing/Validation
- National Database
- TSDB Upload

The Planning Systems (contd.)

- Network Rail – Bplan
- Master Geography for all Planning Systems (updated by NR)
- TOCs maintain their Areas of Interest
- Creates Geography .pif outputs for TrainPlan II and Voyagerplan

Current Student Notes:

THE TIMETABLE PLAN

Network Rail provides a core service to Train Operators by scheduling their trains and advertising these trains in the NRT file. This responsibility for the oversight of the national timetable was given to Railtrack as part of the Railways Act 1993, which set up the privatisation of the rail industry.

Operational Planning teams prepare timetable train data but only Network Rail staff can input data to the rail industry's national timetable database: TSDB (Train Service Database). Many people and computer systems have access to the data for 'read only' or for 'extraction only' but remember only Operational Planners can input/change that data. The purpose of TSDB is to provide data to the customer/user who needs it.

Working Timetables are produced from TrainPlan. They include all permanent timetabled trains including passenger, freight, empty stock, etc. They include detailed operational information as against the purely commercial information of the national passenger timetable. Working Timetables are the basis for operating the railway. Other timetables e.g. Special Traffic Notices, Weekly Amended Train Notices, Passenger Advices etc, contain similar operational data.

The NRT file is produced by Network Rail from data input to TSDB and is available on line. A printed edition was traditionally produced but the final issue published by Network Rail was in May 2007. Since then, The Stationery Office (TSO) have published it as have The Middleton Press. The files that form the timetable are published (in PDF) on the Network Rail website and are free to download.

Local passenger timetables are produced by Train Operators. They vary in size, shape and presentation e.g. Pocket Timetables, Derivatives, Posters, Cards etc., BUT remember the data comes as a result of the Train Planning Process, via the NRT edit function in TSDB.

LEVEL 2 TRAIN PLANNING

The LATIN (Local Access to Train Information) system enables staff on the ground at stations to access the data to produce local publications. Particularly popular are Signalling Centre and Station Simplifiers or Working Books which give either printed output from the computer or downloaded files to a purpose designed micro package. These outputs enable users to edit the data to fit their local needs and provide staff with local information in a user friendly way.

Some of the more important systems are able to extract their data every night, seven days a week, 52 weeks per year. To do this TSDB looks at every new item of data input by the Operational Planners, amended trains, new trains perhaps running for one day only like some freight or engineering trains.

Three major systems used for the running of the operational railway are:

- TOPS (Total Operational Processing System)
Providing timetable data (whether permanent, or short term for Operators using it round the clock to provide the most robust plan for the current performance of the railway
- TRUST (Train Running System on TOPS)
provides information about the current movement of a train on its journey. Measurement is taken from track circuits (part of the signalling system) against the point to point times generated in the schedule, to determine that trains' performance.
- IECC (Integrated Electronic Control Centre)
These 'Super Signal Boxes' take data on a daily basis as the signalling plan. An IECC is in effect a replacement for a large number of signal boxes and provide computer based signalling operation frequently covering hundreds of mile of track.



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We need to mention three other very important examples of electronic timetables because these demonstrate how YOUR data gets into the public domain. This emphasises that YOU are part of the railway industry team.

Retail Systems give Train Operators retail staff and National Rail Enquiry Scheme staff the ability to provide journey information including the ability to produce tickets with train journey times and reservations printed on them.

Railplanner is a Windows-based timetable enquiry system produced by a private company and widely used by business houses, and individual customers. You can find it on local networks.

Internet Timetable – the National Rail website provides a timetable enquiry facility, the data being supplied by Network Rail, updated regularly and attracts millions of enquiries per year.

GOLDEN RULE

G.I.G.O - Garbage In - Garbage Out.



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