



What is the Open Transport Initiative?

The belief that transport accounts need to be interoperable and that data can be shared between them via standard API technologies.

The Open Transport Initiative was set up by a group of transport industry and technical specialists with a common interest. They identified that as more transport providers/operators, suppliers and platforms enter the mobility market, an increasing amount of customer data is going to be stored in different proprietary systems.

Why was the Open Transport Initiative needed?

Customer and transaction data is locked away in different systems and is therefore a potential blocker to the adoption of multi-modal Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS). It also prevents the creation of a joined-up view of a customer's purchases and usage across multiple Transport Providers and MaaS Platforms.

Therefore the team decided to design a standard for the entire transport industry. Creating a consistent way for accounts provided by different suppliers and technologies to integrate and share transport data.

What has been created?

Two different API specifications which are now available for industry review here:

<https://app.swaggerhub.com/apis/open-transport>

1. Customer-account

This is a standard for the interoperability of transport account data. The current data types described are: Purchase, Usage & Concession

2. Operator-info

This is a standard for a central look-up service for all transport /mobility. Its main purpose is to act as a transport API directory service that can be queried to provide the URLs of each participating operator (including the location of each Customer-account API).

Who would this be of interest to?

Authorities & government departments, looking to encourage interoperability of customer transport accounts, to deliver a better user experience and encourage a blend of public and private transport landscape.

Transport operators, looking to future-proof their systems by specifying a standard way of integrating with other providers and MaaS platforms.

System vendors, looking to save time & effort in the analysis, specification and development of customer account integration functionality.

Other innovators, who may want to build upon the data provided by these APIs in new and exciting ways we have not yet thought of.

What are the next steps?

The plan is to circulate these specifications to as many transport industry representatives as possible, get feedback, make all agreed changes and then issue both as “version 1” in early January 2020.

This release will be an Open Standard, meaning it will be completely free to use by anyone and without conditions. Any future specification requests and updates will subsequently be overseen by a standards committee made up of transport industry representatives.

Further work, such as the implementation of the central operator-info look-up service and the creation of an example account that uses the customer-account specification, is then expected to follow later next year.

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