



HERMES

Border Management and Passenger Screening



**Software
that matters**

Challenge

Airlines alone welcome around **4.2 billion** passengers per year. While only a few of these passengers may pose a security threat, their identification is essential. As a result, in 2018, the UN mandated the implementation of Advance Passenger Information (API) screening.



To identify and manage risk, border authorities use passenger data available to them before passengers arrive at border checkpoints. Early risk alerts and early watchlist hits provide substantial assistance to border personnel.

A superb passenger screening system is fast to implement, easy to use and maintain. It helps prevent and fight terrorism, smuggling, visa fraud, visa overstays, illegal immigration, and other international crimes, while facilitating smooth and secure processing of legitimate travelers.

Typos and terrorists – what's at stake?

Watchlist data quality is not always optimal, and discrepancies can have serious consequences. The Boston Marathon bomber story is just one example. In this case, Federal agencies overlooked the suspect because his name in travel documents was inconsistent.

Terrorism cannot be prevented with a single keystroke. But one keystroke can create a crack in the defenses that allow terrorists to slip through.

WCC's MITRE Award-winning "human-like" matching resolves such issues. It easily handles spelling variants, typos, and other data quality problems. As a result, the number of manual checks border officials need to carry out is reduced.

Solution

HERMES is a person-centric, integrated border security solution for screening Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data.

HERMES enables border control agencies worldwide process large quantities of passenger data at airports and seaports. It is flexible, ready-to-use, easy to implement, configure, maintain, and operate.

Three-step approach:

- 1.** HERMES imports any type of passenger lists, upon receipt it performs data quality check, and it provides feedback if a message contains errors. WCC's advanced matching features link and enrich passenger data, using the combination of API and PNR data if available. HERMES checks the data against various watchlists and flags any hits. It can also match data against pre-configured risk assessment rules established by border experts and machine learning algorithms to flag suspicious passengers.
- 2.** All passengers are matched against configured watchlists and rule-based targets ("risk profiles") in order to assess their risk. Data from national law enforcement controlled databases can be loaded into and synchronized with HERMES to use as watchlists. People can also be added manually to a short-term watchlist if necessary. HERMES provides external connectivity to international watchlists like Interpol or the EU Schengen Information System (SIS). Rule-based targets can be created and maintained by officers or analysts.
- 3.** Users can perform advanced investigations using available passenger data, and very little training is needed due to the easy-to-use interfaces. HERMES visual tools provide immediate insights into traveler actions, routes, and links to other travelers. Its analytics monitor illustrates the overall effectiveness of the system for easy management.



Multi-cultural name matching is another significant security pitfall. For instance, take the Arabic name محمد – Mohammed. Transliteration into the Latin alphabet can yield many different spelling variants, such as Muhamet or Muhammed. Identification documents may also contain diminutives (Bill for William or Sasha for Alexander), and patronyms too (Ivanovich or Ivanovna, son or daughter of Ivan).

By the same token, similar issues arise with international variants of place names. Watchlists may, for example, store the Dutch city of The Hague as Den Haag (Dutch), The Hague (English), La Haye (French), La Haya (Spanish), and so on.

Ambiguous dates pose yet another hurdle: does 06/08/1999 stand for June 8, or August 6? HERMES and our ELISE ID Platform catch and match any such variants with ease.

Features and benefits



Full watchlist matching functionality load data from national law enforcement-controlled databases to use as watchlists. **Connect to national and international watchlists** or integrate with systems already connecting to these (e.g. Interpol SLTD). **Fuzzy matching** on incomplete or incorrect watchlist data. **Short-term local watchlist functionality** and temporary “be-on-the-lookout-for” alerts.



Connectivity to airline and ship data providers of passenger data.



Risk assessment based on expert profiles. Easy to edit and/or add your own.



Compliance with national privacy legislation. Adherence to WCO/IATA/ICAO standards.



Support of UN/EDIFACT PAXLST format and PNR GOV and CUSRES standards. Automatic load balancing, failover, and disaster recovery capabilities.

The screenshot shows the HERMES Hit Screen interface with a navigation bar at the top containing 'Home', 'Flights', 'Vessels', 'People', and 'History'. The main content area displays four search results cards, each with a person icon in the top right corner and a red triangle with the word 'match' at the bottom. The results are:

- JAMES STAURVIK**: PVK > AMS(HV947)12:14 (today). Interpol Red Notice 2012-295174.
- MIKA PERALA**: BEG > AMS(JU338)19:36 (today). Interpol SLTD 17.
- LOAN LEFEBVRE**: NTE > AMS(AF1792)13:27 (today). Passport Expiry Warning.
- SUVI WALKKY**: LCY > AMS(KL215)12:56 (today). Passport Expiry Warning.

The need for passenger screening

Compliance with mandatory UN regulations

ICAO, a specialized UN agency, declared Advanced Passenger Information (API) systems mandatory for all member states in 2018. Meeting this requirement is an important step towards secure and fast border management processes.

Optimal security and flow at the border

Governments and citizens expect borders to be secured without blocking passengers flow.

Meeting strategic goals in border management

Border management systems are becoming increasingly interconnected. New technologies allow for new ways to prevent and fight international crime, terrorism, and illegal immigration. A good passenger screening system helps countries harness these technologies and stay on top of border security in order to achieve long-term strategic goals in integrated border management.

Why choose WCC's HERMES?

1. Flexible and customer-centric, offering expert consultancy and 24/7 tech support
2. Easy to configure, use and maintain
3. Supports international identity standards including ICAO, NIST, and IEC/ISO

Advance Passenger Information - API

Advance Passenger Information, part of the UN EDIFACT standard, is data sent to the destination border authority. It is usually sent in batch mode, a single manifest for all passengers onboard. Interactive API (iAPI) is also possible, individual passenger data sent in real-time gives border authorities forewarning allowing for boarding denial when necessary. API includes the passenger's name, birth date, nationality, country of residence, gender, and travel document type and number.

Passenger Name Record - PNR

Passenger Name Record includes booking information of passengers or groups of passengers travelling together created when booking the travel. It includes the travel itinerary, and information on payment method, frequent flyer status, seat allocation, food preference, final destination, and more.

HERMES

HERMES is a flexible API / PNR software solution enabling border control agencies worldwide process large quantities of passenger data at airports and seaports. Fast to install, easy to use and maintain, thus lessening costs, HERMES is a unique product of its kind. Successfully deployed at airports worldwide, and at seaports in Europe, HERMES runs on WCC ELISE Smart Search and Match technology software, making it a future-proof solution that supports API/PNR, and Interactive API (iAPI).

About WCC

A leading advanced solutions provider for Public & Private Employment Services and ID/Security government agencies. Built on its unique search & match platform, WCC software solutions see 1/3 billion people every day, enabling organizations to seamlessly capture, generate, and analyze big data from multiple sources gaining valuable insights paramount to effective decision-making.

Our team of professional services experts provides exceptional support and consulting, allowing our customers to maximize their investment.

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