From Tour Planning to Order Processing: Optimally Digitizing Transport Processes

platbricks® Driver App with SAP TM Integration
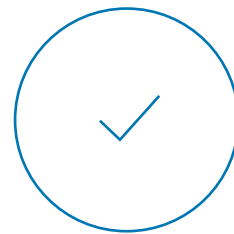
Initial Situation and Challenge

Transport and freight costs are decisive factors in whether the chosen logistics processes are economical. Many companies face the question of how they can reduce transport and freight costs while meeting other requirements, such as lowering CO_2 emissions.

An essential aspect of reducing transport and freight costs is the optimized consolidation of outbound or inbound deliveries. In addition to cost benefits and optimized capacity utilization for the sender - e.g., space allocation in the container or optimized delivery frequencies - the recipient also has advantages. He receives his goods bundled so that a high degree of synergies and flexibility can arise between the companies.

Manual Transport Planning without software support is complex, often inaccurate, not optimized, and time-consuming. If these logistics processes are mainly carried out without IT support, the susceptibility to errors increases, which leads to higher costs or even delivery bottlenecks. In addition, the actual progress of the tour in terms of the current processing status is often not transparent for the dispatchers as soon as the driver leaves the yard.
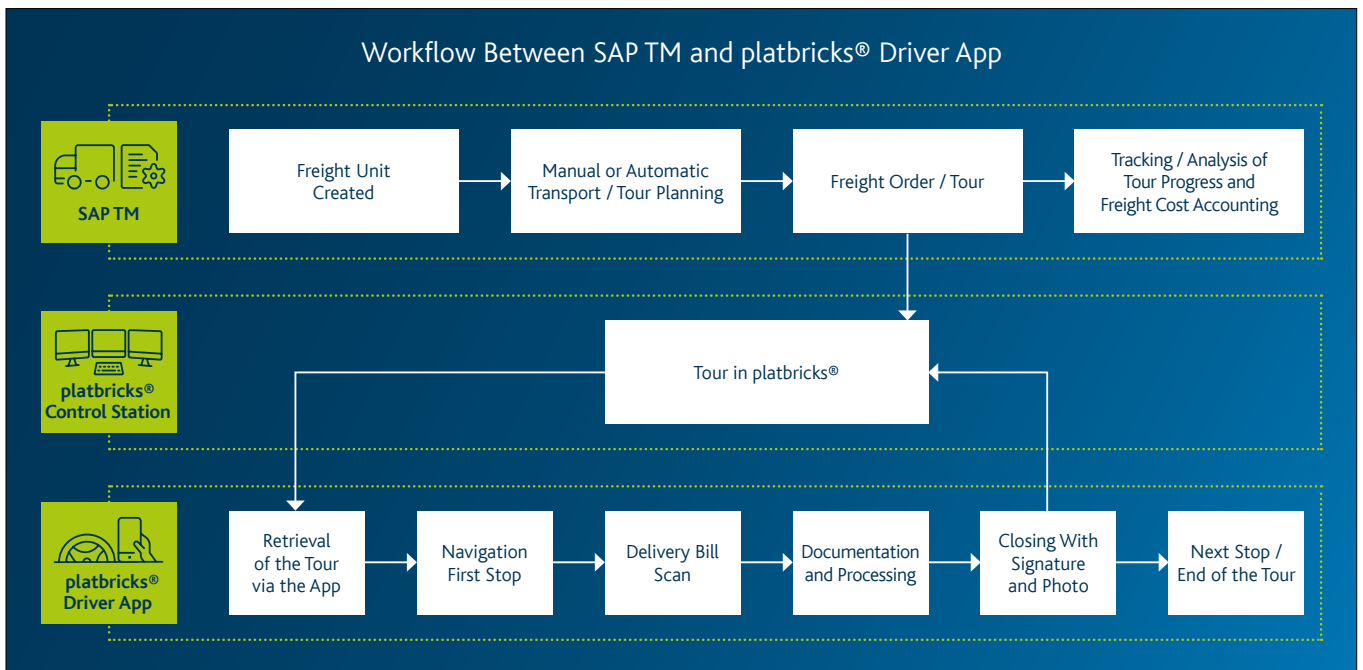
We have developed a valuable solution for companies that use SAP Transportation Management and have their own fleet of vehicles by combining SAP TM with our cloud logistics platform platbricks®. With the help of SAP TM and its connectivity with the platbricks® Driver App (communication via the platbricks® control center), the above-mentioned logistical processes can be mapped completely digitally and planned and executed with automatic consideration of the defined restrictions and optimization criteria.

Benefits

- Transport logistics are executed and tracked digitally

- Reduced transport costs through optimized & automated Transport Planning

- Direct communication between SAP TM and platbricks® control center

- Guided processing of assigned tours in the app

- Digital documentation of delivery note, loading equipment, and other transport-relevant documents

- GPS tracking leads to transparency of the driver's current location

- Current tour progress in SAP TM (confirmed events)

Workflow Between SAP TM and platbricks® Driver App

SAP TM

Freight Unit Created → Manual or Automatic Transport / Tour Planning → Freight Order / Tour → Tracking / Analysis of Tour Progress and Freight Cost Accounting

platbricks® Control Station

Tour in platbricks®

platbricks® Driver App

Retrieval of the Tour via the App → Navigation First Stop → Delivery Bill Scan → Documentation and Processing → Closing With Signature and Photo → Next Stop / End of the Tour

Our Approach

To master the challenges mentioned above, we have designed and developed an integrative solution with two systems. This solution combines the advantages of SAP TM with the platbricks® Driver App.

In SAP® TM, you plan and optimize your freight and transport orders across all freight scenarios. SAP TM supports the connection of all transfer requirements from order and delivery documents from SAP ERP or other systems. These transfer requirements are divided into freight units and can then be planned and scheduled manually or automatically regarding defined optimization criteria. The resulting freight costs generate a high level of cost transparency in the system.

The platbricks® Driver App is a native application for mobile devices, which allows the driver of a transport a digital order processing. In combination with SAP TM, freight orders can be displayed, processed, and reported in the platbricks® Driver App. The driver processes the tour assigned to him / her and can document the delivery via the app (e.g., delivery documentation, GPS tracking, documentation of possible damage, replacement of loading equipment, etc.). This leads to a high level of transparency over the entire tour and its processing status in SAP TM and the platbricks® Driver App.

Technical Solution

To exchange the freight order data from the SAP TM with the platbricks® Driver App, the data are sent or replicated to the platbricks® control center via SAP standard web services/REST APIs. Via the platbricks® control center, the data is sent to the drivers' mobile devices and reported back. The SAP TM communicates exclusively with the platbricks® control center and not directly with the mobile devices.

Watch the demo video now!

You have questions, need information or a contact?
Get in touch with us.

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