

XML Select *Overview*

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What is XML Select?

XML Select represents Travelport's next generation environment for interfacing with our computer reservation systems. By taking advantage of advances in internet and interface technologies, Travelport has created an environment that allows developers to create robust travel applications by using tools and protocols that are commonly available in the development world. Furthermore, Travelport has created specialized components that process data to be directly compatible with our host systems.

XML Select comprises a set of components that integrate transactions between customer applications and the Travelport computer reservation systems, Galileo™ and Apollo™. XML Select provides the customer with the ability to create high-volume web booking engines and server-based applications, as well as desktop applications. Using customized XML tags, Travelport's structured data is delivered to the computer reservation system (CRS).

XML Select operates in a Microsoft® Windows® COM environment that allows for highly flexible scalability and configuration. In brief:

- XML Select derives from a method of data transport (XML) that already has a standardized structure and readily available parsers. XML Select eliminates the need to code directly to structured data, as well as the need to design specialized parsers for that data.
- **Transaction Agent** components provide "translation" between customized XML tags and Travelport's data structures.
- A **Host Connection Manager** (HCM) component offers an automated means of packaging data for compatibility with the CRS. The HCM attaches appropriate protocols to the raw data so that it can be properly routed and recognized by the CRS.

Together, these components provide a "conduit" for transactions to travel between the customer's application and the computer reservation system (CRS). Because Travelport has already created this base, application developers can focus on creating applications rather than building specialized communication components. The pre-defined structures and components allow for an orderly interface with the CRS.

While XML Select uses APIs to transport data between the application and the other components, applications themselves can be designed in a variety of programming languages. XML allows for the flexibility of coding applications in C++, as well as a number of languages such as Visual Basic and JavaScript. Developers can therefore code in the programming environment of their choice, provided that the environment is compatible with COM/DCOM models.

Features and Benefits

Features

- Provides the ability to create high-volume, Web booking engines and server-based applications. It also can be used to create desktop applications.
- Provides the ability to develop applications within a sessioned or session-less environment using structured data and terminal emulation.
- Provides the ability to submit transactions in a synchronous and asynchronous interface.
- Provides automatic session management and message queuing.
- Provides a multi-threaded communication layer and multi-processor support.
- Utilizes TCP/IP to communicate with the host systems.
- Uses COM/DCOM to access the API components.
- Provides an XML Translator that renders Travelport's structured data API in an XML representation.
- Provides load balancing and fault tolerance solutions.

Benefits

- **New Revenue Opportunities**
By using XML Select, high-volume, Web booking sites can be created, providing the customer with the ability to expand distribution of their products and service offering. This will provide the customer with new revenue opportunities and distribution channels.
- **Saves Time and Money**
Using XML Select, host system data can be incorporated directly into established business processes – leaving staff free to concentrate on sales activity and customer services.
- **Enables greater control of the sales process**
By using applications compliant with XML Select, customers can implement their own preferred sales processes across all staff workstations. This helps ensure that the customer experience remains consistent irrespective of where or with whom a reservation is made.
- **Applications are more robust – data exchange is more efficient**
Because XML Select utilizes structured data, applications delivered against this standard are inherently more stable than those based upon screen scraping. XML Select eliminates the data volatility problems that can be caused by host data changes in certain screen scraping applications. Structured data dialogues improve the efficiency of data exchange between applications and consequently reduce operating costs.
- **A widely-used public interface standard**
XML Select delivers structured data in an XML messaging format and uses COM/DCOM to access the API components. Therefore, expertise in programming to these standards and experience in working with compatible applications is widely available across industries. For example, training in COM/DCOM and writing XML compliant applications and support material is widely available from a number of sources.

Product News

Create new revenue opportunities by creating high-volume web booking engines, server-based applications, as well as desktop applications using customized Extensible Markup Language (XML) tags. Using these tags, Galileo's structured data is delivered right to the computer reservation system (CRS).

XML Select eliminates the need to code directly to structured data, as well as the need to design special parsers (organizers) of that data. Application developers can focus on creating applications rather than building specialized communication components.

XML Select allows for the flexibility of coding applications in C++ as well as a number of languages such as Visual Basic and JavaScript. Since XML Select operates in a Microsoft® Windows® COM environment, there is a high amount of flexibility and scalability allowed.

Travelport's XML Select API solution can help accelerate business into the future faster. Current XML Select customers prefer Travelport's API product due to its ease of interface and savings on development time. Its Host Connection Manager (HCM) offers an automated means of packaging data for compatibility with the CRS. Customers using XML Select can create new revenue opportunities, save time and money, enable greater control of the sales process, and make data exchange more efficient.

Technical Specifications

The following prerequisites are important to note for any customer considering using XML Select.

Skills and Knowledge

XML Select developers must possess knowledge of:

- A programming language that supports COM
- Experience with development in COM/DCOM environments
- XML
- CRS business model
- Microsoft® Windows® 98, NT 4.0, or 2000 operating systems

Supported Programming Languages

With the XML Select solution, programming can be written in the language of the customer's choice that allows the creation of application and supports COM/DCOM. The following are examples of supported development environments that support COM/DCOM:

- C++
- Visual Basic
- Visual Basic Scripting
- JavaScript

Operating System and Hardware Requirements

The following are minimum requirements for the XML Select components and Software Development Kit (SDK):

- Operating System: Windows® 98, 2000, or NT 4.0 with Service Pack 5 or higher.
- Processor: Pentium® 133 or higher.
- RAM: 32 MB desktop application or 128 MB RAM server application
- Disk Space: 25 MB or higher.
- Browser: Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.01 or later (for some SDK tools).
- Connection: A dedicated IP line is recommended for access to the host.

Testimonials

Travelport has received powerful testimonials about XML Select from customers who participated in our beta program.

“By using XML Select in conjunction with our own structured data technology, we have further solidified our position as a leader in the use of XML as a protocol and an industry standard.”

Marka Jenkins
President and CEO
Highwire

“Working with XML Select has cut our development time in half compared to similar interfaces. Initial prototype results show significantly fast responses.

Both technical and sales support are dedicated and professional. We welcome the cutting edge technology that Galileo offers to the travel industry and look forward toward future development efforts.”

Bob Bora
Team Lead – CRS Interface
Apple Vacations

“Patheo has recently received Galileo’s XML Select product, and is excited about its new features. XML Select is a step ahead of the rest in its class.

Patheo believes this new development environment will allow for more efficient transactions, reduce errors, and improve the reliability of its software and applications. Patheo is incorporating the XML Select technology into its Internet Booking Engine.”

Soheil Naimi
VP Technology
Patheo