Making heavy vehicle fleet management easy for you

REAL November 2020 Torque

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Telematics

Telematics is the name given to explain the broad use of technology used to gather data remotely on vehicles including, but not limited to, its location, the route taken, vehicle performance, and diagnostic information, to name a few.



Our most common interaction with telematics is for electronic Road User Charges and payments. However there is a lot more to telematics these days.

In today's world the data that is received from all these connected vehicles are used to find ways to increase fuel efficiency, reduce running costs, diagnose vehicles remotely, and also reduce our impact on the environment by reducing CO_2 by decreasing fuel consumption, improving driver experience, and providing some easy tips to get the most out of the vehicle.

So how does it work?

This is an example of how most modern telematics systems work.



The telematics hardware installed in the vehicle communicates with GPS satellites to obtain data such as location, speed, and time.



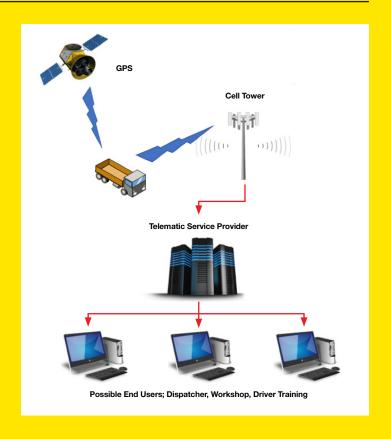
This GPS data along with the vehicle-specific information (odometer reading, diagnostic fault codes) are collected and transmitted via the cell phone network to secure servers.



Once received by the telematics service provider, the data is collated, processed, and stored securely on servers.



From here, the data is made available via different software providers for authorised users.



Here are some of the examples of what telematics is used for:.

Vehicle location and route planning

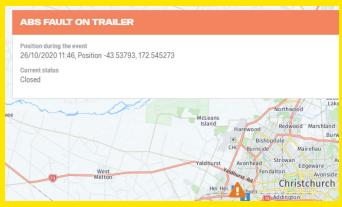
Just knowing the current location of a vehicle and where it has been is a great help to dispatchers for route planning, as well as updating customers on the location of freight.



Service planning and remote diagnostics.

Telematics is a valuable tool when managing a fleet for servicing. Just knowing how many kilometres a vehicle has travelled allows for efficient forward booking of services and repairs.

Where some OEM telematics come into their own is through remote diagnostics. Some systems will alert you to faults, such as the one shown here for an ABS fault on a trailer.



Driver Training.

Driver training is no longer just about teaching or showing someone how to drive. By using telematics we can now review how a vehicle or fleet of vehicles are being driven and identify key areas for improvement. This means accurate and targeted training, reducing time spent with the driver. By using telematics, we can also follow up and view improvements after the training has been provided.



Supporting fleet safety, efficiency and compliance

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Electronic RUC providers.

Electronic RUC
payments have been
around for several
years now and they
have revolutionised
the process around
keeping track of
RUC. Many providers
of this technology



opened the door to the possibilities of telematics that we benefit from today.

Reducing our impact on the environment.

One of the biggest gains to be had from monitoring vehicles via telematics is reduced fuel consumption. A reduction in fuel consumption can be as simple as reducing idling, better route planning, and more efficient driving. These factors not only reduce fuel consumption but also directly lowers ${\rm CO_2}$ production, reducing your carbon footprint.





TR Tips

Tips and Tricks

- Speed has a huge impact in fuel consumption. For example a truck travelling 90km/hr uses 10% more fuel than if it was doing 80km/hr.
- Idling uses, on average, about 3 litres of diesel an hour. Not only does this increase wear on the engine, it also wastes a lot of money.
- Telematics is not just for GPS tracking these days. At TR Group, telematics integration is used in our own in-house computer system, which allows for world-class service planning.

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