Quantifying Monetary Impacts of Forecasts



Rick Curtis Southwest Airlines 11/1/12



Measuring the Value

- How do we measure our improvements without any existing benchmarks?
- What meaningful measurements can be realized that benefit both the "consumer" and "producer" of the information?
- How can we measure easily available items to get this process started?



Airline Perspective

- Airlines are not always able to quantify weather support.
 - Quantifying weather delays are fairly easy.
 - Quantifying "avoidable" weather delays are not.
- Most efforts to quantify benefits are not done to an industry standard.
 - Fleets are different.
 - Service areas are different.
 - Route structures are different.
 - Schedules are different.
- Competitive forces may also inhibit sharing of data.



Airlines already measure and report some of this information

- Each month carriers report to the DOT:
 - The number of weather delayed flights per month.
 - The number of delay minutes due to weather.
- At Southwest we also internally report delays for:
 - Gate hold for weather at departure station.
 - Gate hold for weather en route or at destination station.
 - Cold soaked fuel frost delay.
 - Deicing Delays.



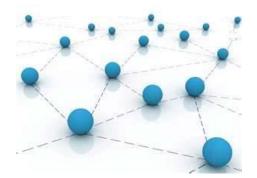
NWS TAF Verification

- NWS TAF Verification considers:
 - General Ceiling
 - Visibility
 - Flight Category
 - Weather Type/Obstruction
 - Wind



Connecting the Dots

- How do we compare the two data sets to provide meaningful results?
- How can en-route forecasts (ie. CCFP) verification results be compared with delay information?
- How does the information get reported?
- How many airlines can/will participate?
- Who performs the analysis?
- What priority does this have with both the government and industry?



Going Forward

- Suggest a one day meeting with interested stakeholders to:
 - Identify short term and long term goals.
 - Evaluate barriers (technology, resources, proprietary information issues etc.).
 - Identify ownership of this effort.
 - Establish a working committee.

