

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why do we need standards?

Standards are vital within the technology sector to ensure seamless operations between devices and systems, and to secure sensitive information. Bodies such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and Common Criteria (CC) are key in fulfilling this role.

These standards, however, are vast, covering many sectors and needs. It is therefore important to develop application standards that are uniquely created for a specific marketplace and function, such as the ticketing community.

By defining a 'baseline' that all parties can access and use within these sectors, those implementing the technology, such as public transport operators and authorities, do not get 'locked-in' to using a single vendor. This in turn encourages competition, keeps lifecycle costs low and enables focus on other ways to innovate and differentiate products.

Vital to application standards success is the ability for all participants within the community to be able to input, share knowledge and shape the future of the technology standards created. Public transport operators and authorities must have ultimate control of their systems.

2. Who provides specific transporting ticketing application standards today?

Calypso Networks Association (CNA) and OPST Alliance govern the Calypso® and CIPURSE™ standards respectively. Both have a wide reach globally, significant adoption and have co-existed in the market for many years.

In addition to standards development, the technical bodies have vast and active membership communities which contribute to the work programmes and shape their futures. Both bodies welcome new members from any organisation with an active interest participating in the ticketing and access control markets.

3. What is the aim of this collaboration?

The joint effort is not a revolution of the great work that has taken place to date, but an evolution to realise the potential of ticketing systems long-term. Working together, standards will evolve to align with existing systems and offer current users a roadmap to benefit from the latest innovations.

Combining insight, technical expertise and skills, as well as networking across a wide base of members to share visions for the future, the evolved standards will not only remain one step ahead, but they will become the central gateway to consumer mobility and access control services. The possibilities are limitless.

4. What are the benefits for PTOs / PTAs?

Open standards designed by and developed specifically for the transport community empower public transport operators and authorities with the ability to control the advancement of ticketing systems and have a 'voice' in the process.

This is achieved by:

- Advancing global standardisation through the development of interoperable systems, which helps to share knowledge and contain system costs, by reducing manufacturer costs.
- Promoting competition and lowering lifecycle management costs by avoiding vendor lock-in.

- Encouraging the use of open source software, which is accessible and usable by all.

More widely, the long-term objective of the collaboration is to simplify:

- Understanding of why open standards are valuable by creating a single, unified community.
- The decision-making process by creating a common harmonised open approach for transport ticketing systems.

5. What are the benefits to the wider industry?

The collaboration combines unparalleled expertise from across the CNA and OSPT Alliance networks to focus on the next generation of ticketing systems. Insight, requirements, capabilities and future-thinking will merge to enable the ticketing community to achieve its potential and offer an innovative gateway that supports all mobility and access control services.

Defining a baseline in a transparent and trusted environment also creates a platform for new technology partners to successfully, effectively and efficiently engage in delivering ticketing systems. As media evolves – alongside new business partnerships and opportunities – a secure, solid and accessible infrastructure becomes fundamental for the industry to welcome new players, support disruptive innovations and achieve commercial scalability.

6. How will the collaboration impact existing deployments of Calypso® and CIPURSE™?

It will have no impact. CNA and OSPT Alliance will continue to maintain the existing specifications and tools. Any long-term developments will consider backwards compatibility and the compatibility of existing systems. Both associations will develop

migration scenarios, detailing step by step how to transfer from an existing CALYPSO or CIPURSE implementation to a future joint specification. These will be developed in close cooperation with users / operators and shall be described in corresponding migration whitepapers.

7. What is the status of this activity?

Many activities are progressing operationally to establish the required governance to support the aims of this project, while protecting the legacy of both the Calypso and CIPURSE standards. This process requires extensive due diligence to safeguard all stakeholders.

In tandem, key industry participants are contributing to technical roadmap discussions to define how the collaboration achieves its goal, and the steps and processes required to succeed.

Informing audiences of this activity is also important, to ensure transparency in the process and awareness of the intentions of both bodies to the wider ticketing and access control community.

8. How can I get involved?

As truly open communities, both technical bodies welcome any party active or interested in digital ticketing. Organisations can become a member of the respective associations and support work efforts to promote the adoption of open standards. Both alliances gladly accept companies not yet supporting open standards in transport ticketing to join us on this journey.
