Pre-Travel Verification : Challenges and Opportunities

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Pre-Travel Verification

⬛ **Purpose**

- Tools and processes supporting border authorities to securely determine the admissibility of passengers to travel (and enter their country) in advance of the travel journey

⬛ **Increasing Predictability**

- **Authorities** - Identification of passengers and risk assessment performed in advance, increased border security and expediting border processes

- **Passengers** - Trust that they can proceed with their journey (transit, destination)

- **Airlines** - Reduce the risks of incorrectly determining the admissibility to travel of passengers

Responsibility and Liability of Airlines

Document Check

Annex 9 – Facilitation: Airlines shall take necessary precautions to ensure passengers are properly documented as per regulations

Increasingly Complex Entry Requirements

- From - Travel documents and visas

- To - Manual checks on unharmonized eVisas printout, travel insurances, hotel booking, contact details, travel history, health proofs and insurances, digital passenger declarations, stamps in passport…

Increasing number of inadmissible persons and increasingly disruptive passengers

Harmonization is key for global interoperability

Interactive API (iAPI) System

- o Interaction between systems prior to boarding
- o Two-way communication in real-time (CUSRES)
- o Issuance of a boarding response message for each passenger to the operator at check in
- o ICAO Annex 9 Recommended Practice

iAPI – Databases Screening and Border Control Response

ICAO TRIP 2024
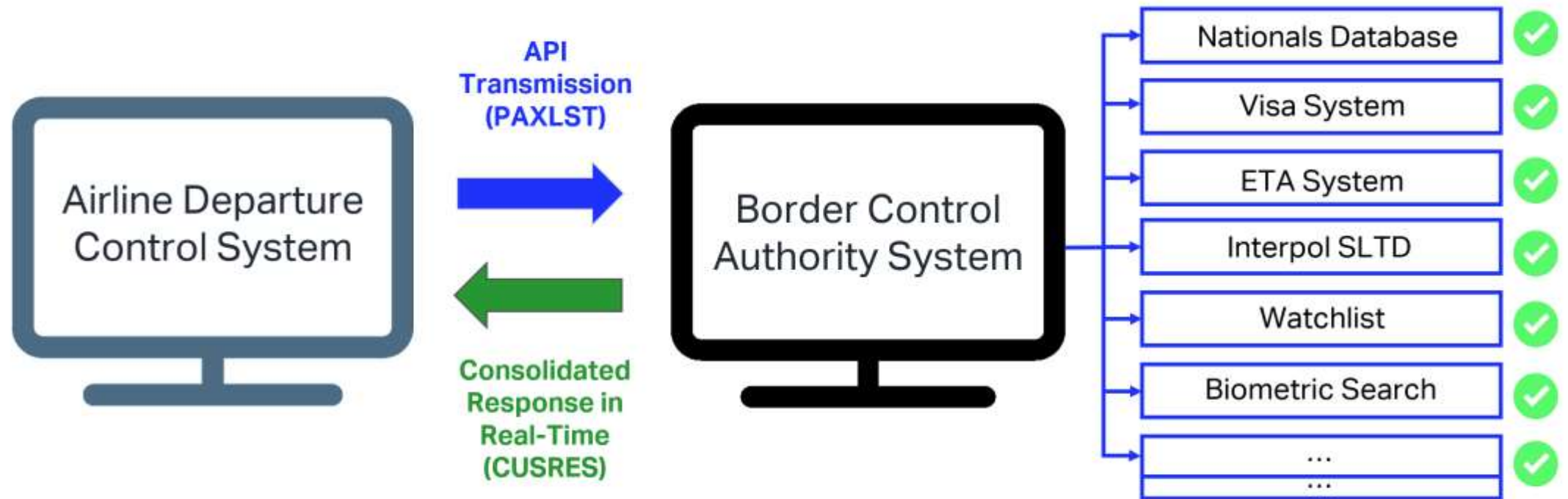
Batch vs Interactive API

BATCH API

Identity and Travel Document Data for **all passengers** on a particular flight sent in a batch, **after** flight closure.

INTERACTIVE API

Real-time communication of API **per passenger** at the time of check-in (**before** flight closure).

Allows the authority to issue a Board / No Board advisory message.

Benefits of iAPI

o Greater control of authorities over their borders

o Increase predicatbility

o Ability to resolve immigration-related issues in advance and/or rrevent individuals travelling to or leaving a country

o Advance screening leading to the targetting of individuals that warrant additional scrutiny

o Reduce inadmissible persons

o Enhance low risks traveler's facilitation and experience

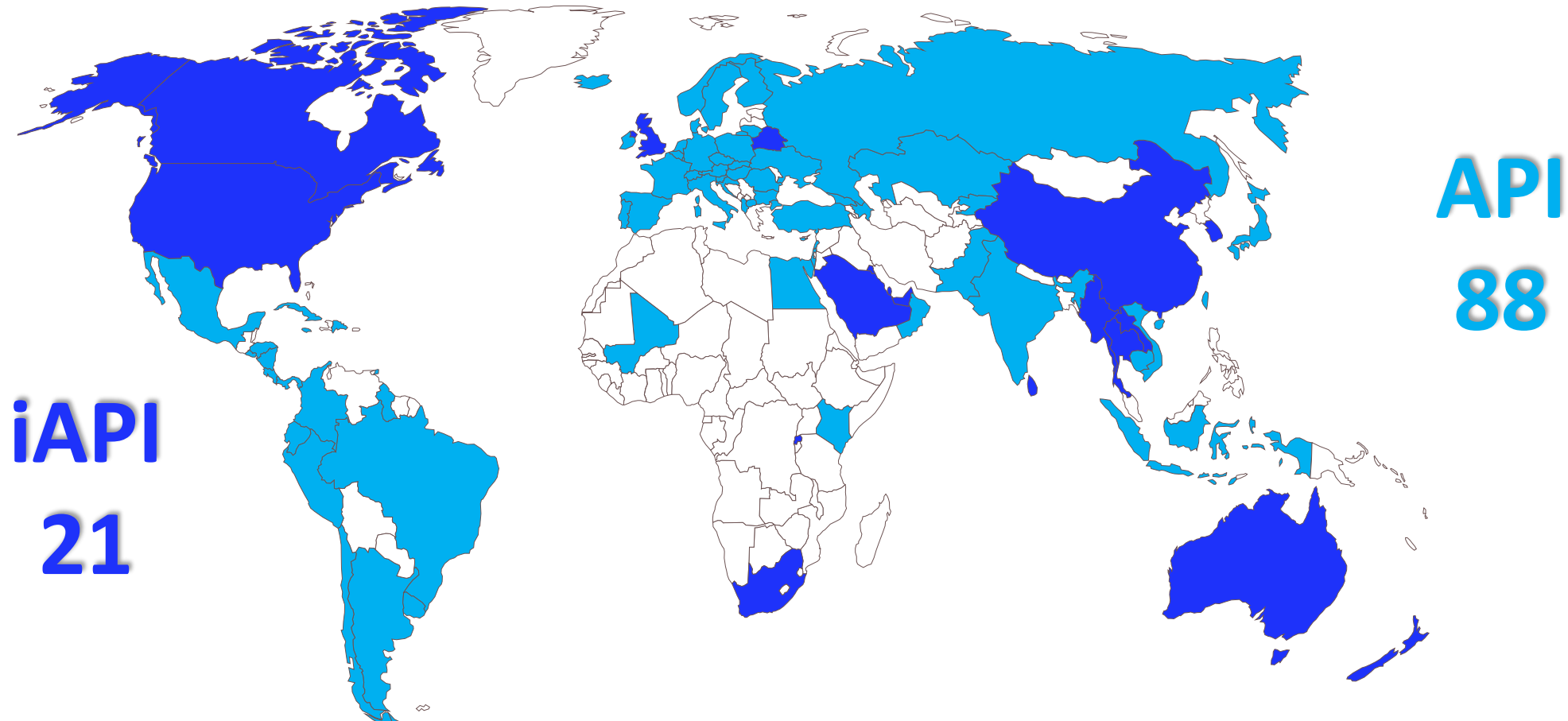o Reduced carrier's liabilities and penalities
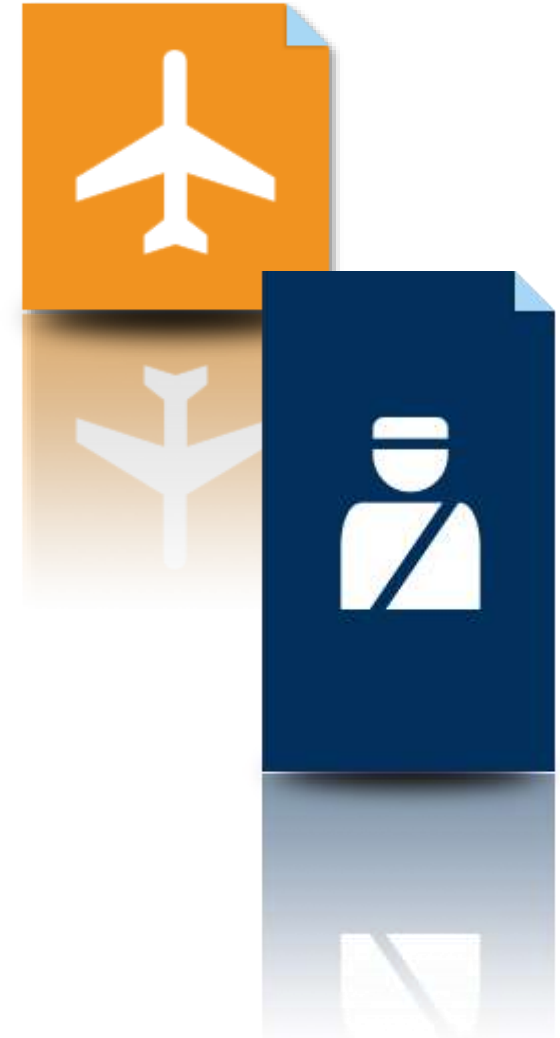
WCO/IATA/ICAO
iAPI Best Practice

Available Shortly – IATA API/PNR Toolkit

- Determining the scope
  - Full integration of security and immigration (travel documents and visas)
  - Boarding and guidance boarding messages
- Crew >> out of scope
- CUSRES Recommendations
  - Security
  - Immigration
  - Health (prospective) – Government digital health platforms
- CUSRES Timing – 4 seconds
- Implementation period – 12 to 36 months (legislation, IT development and system implementation)
- Progressive implementation

Interactive Advance Passenger Information (iAPI) Best Practice (2024)

World Customs Organization / IATA / ICAO

wcoomd.org / iata.org / icao.int

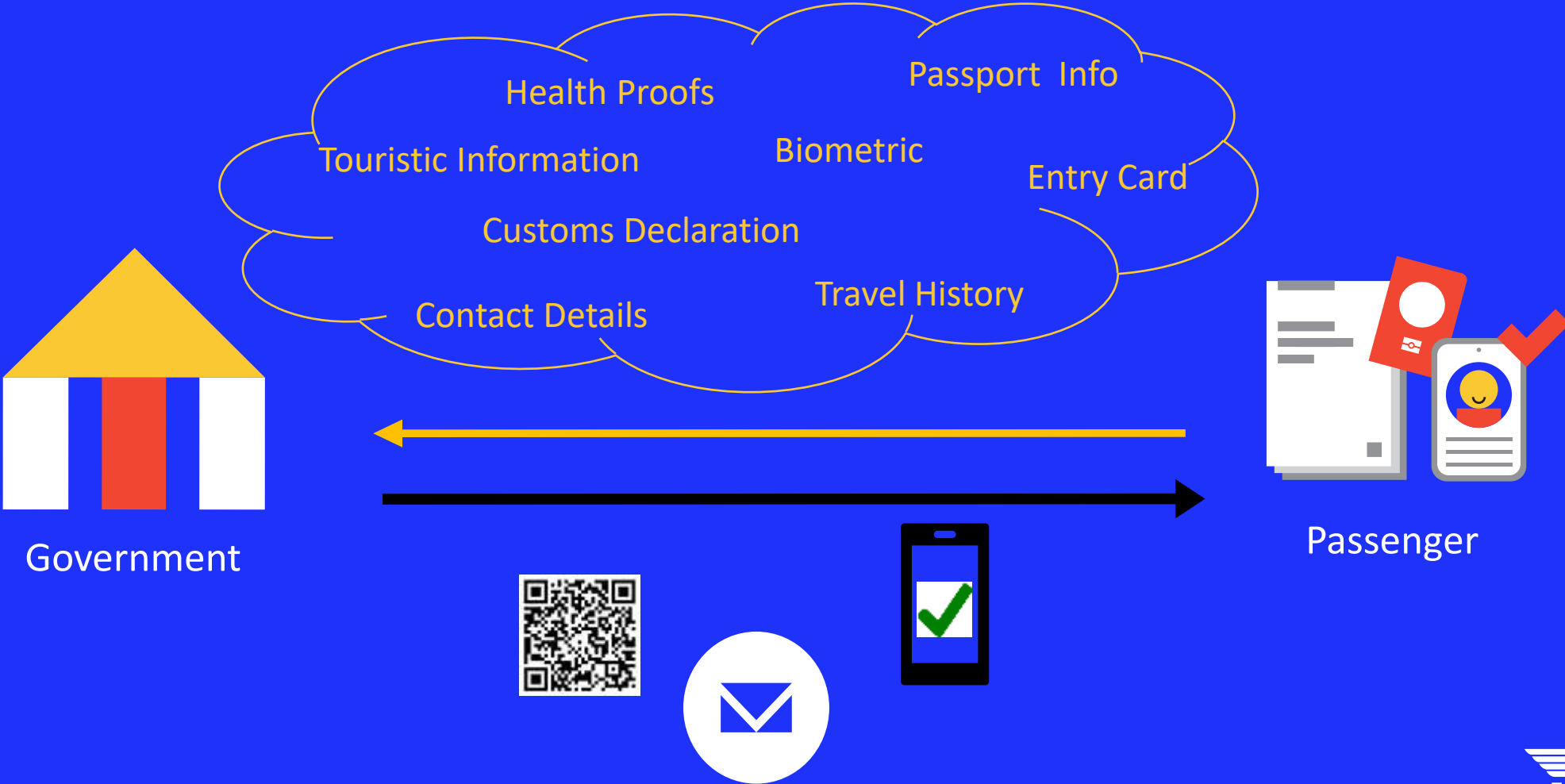# Global API / iAPI Implementation Status

API 88

iAPI 21

Legend

- iAPI in force
- API in force

API: 78 UN States – 10 Territories

iAPI: 19 UN States – 2 Territories

Source: IATA API PNR World Tracker

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Government Digital Travel Platforms

Government ⟷ Passenger

Health Proofs

Passport Info

Touristic Information

Biometric

Entry Card

Customs Declaration

Travel History

Contact Details

Government

Passenger

IATA

Government Travel Platforms

Verification of the proof by airlines – How to harmonize going forward?

Government

Passenger

Interactive API
(iAPI)

Airline

IATA
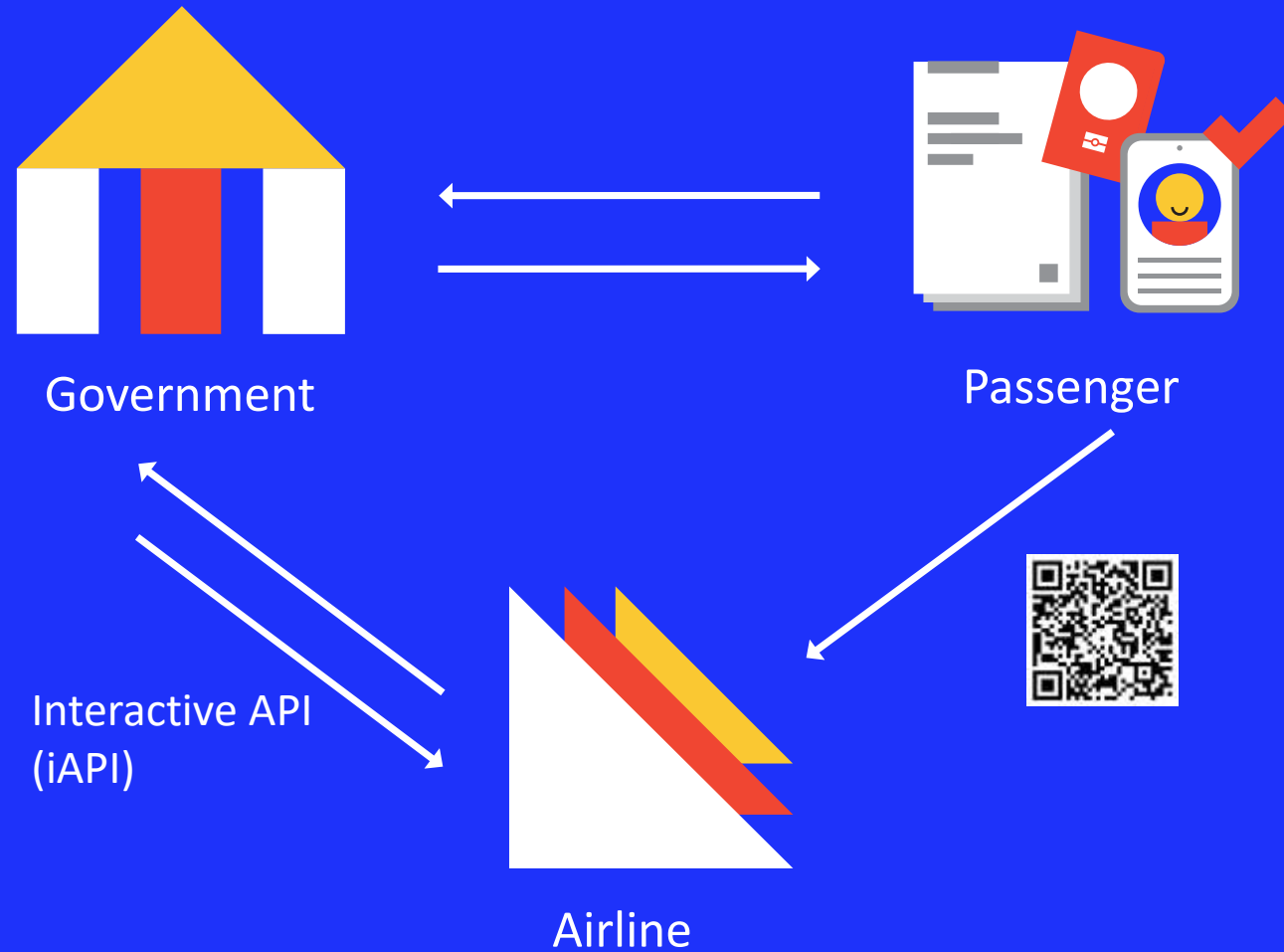
Digitalization of Processes and Credentials - Opportunities and Challenges

✔ Reducing intermediaries: direct communication between the data requester and the data owner

✔ Increasing the predictability and reliability of passenger processes

✔ Digital first, but not only digital (digital accessibility for passengers)

✔ Measures should be available upon arrival to mitigate the risks of passengers being inadmissible

✔ Collection of digital ID and biometrics for enabling a seamless travel journey

✖ Balanced approach between creating new digital entry requirements (such as mandatory touristic information in advance) versus requirements that contribute to national border security

✖ Digitalization of credentials creating new responsibilities on carriers with manual doc check

Thank You

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