

Exercise 10 Page 251 Chapter 5, “Electronic Commerce”, by Gary P. Schneider.

10. Internet access from smartphones and tablet devices has greatly improved the work environment of long-distance truck drivers. Using your favorite search engine, identify at least 3 apps that a trucker might use to do two or more of the following: obtain routing information, manage fuel consumption, find truck stops or truck-friendly rest areas, record what they hauled and where they hauled it, track required permits, locate Department of Transportation weigh stations, maintain electronic log books, or find potential loads and place bids to carry them. For each app you identify, write a paragraph that explains what the app does, how much it costs, and what type of devices it runs.

The 2 solutions I solve with the 3 apps, are 2 apps which provide the information on potential loads and place bids to carry them, and 1 app which provides an electronic log-book. I choose 2 from the loads and bids because this is such a vital application for truckers to make money. Also, I tried to limit my apps which are cell phone and/or tablet apps that require no purchase of other electronic devices like a dedicated GPS unit which comes with all kinds of extra software also. This made the search extremely difficult as it excluded many of the potential solutions.

Finding loads and bidding on being the carrier is called “load board” from what I have been able to determine from my research. These apps are extremely expensive, but vital to a trucker to make money.

The first app is called “DAT Load Board” and the website to find more information is <https://www.dat.com/load-boards> . The app is available for both iPhone and Android. The minimum plan starts at \$54 per month. The website shows the most popular option is for \$169 per month. Other plans are available to go up to \$329 per month. The app shows the loads available closest to your current location and offers for the trucker to pick up and carry the load to the destination. Assuming the 300 million loads per year are booked with this app is accurate, then, this app is a necessity for any trucker attempting to make a living hauling freight.

The second load board app is called “Truck Stop Go”. The website is <https://truckstop.com/mobile/> . At first, of course, I thought this app was about finding truck stops. But it is, in fact, a find loads and bid on them app. The Basic Plan starts at \$42 per month. There are plans up to \$159 per month available also with more features. The app is available for both iPhone and Android. Again, load board apps are for finding available loads in your current location and bidding on carrying the load to the destination. There is not much information here on the amount of load connections between those needing freight hauled and the number of truckers hauling them, but again, these types of apps are vital to a trucker making money. I wanted to have perhaps a cheaper alternative to the first app also described in this assignment analysis.

Finally, I want to provide information about an electronic logbook app available for mobile. ELD stands for electronic Logging Device. This one is a tough find because it is buried within a total trucker solution supplier. The app is called “TN 360”. The website to find information is <https://www.teletracnavman.com/fleet-management-software/compliance/eld/resources> . Teletrac Navman is a total solution supplier for all things trucking. Bing search engine provides information that the app costs between \$25 and \$40 per month. I’m not even sure that the app can be obtained without getting a whole bunch of other parts of the total solution from Teletrac Navman. The video here shows more information, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6_k3GpXUks . I can say for certain I can get the app on my Android Phone in the Google Play Store. Since I don’t have an iPhone, I cannot say for sure on that platform. The idea here is basically 1 tap to start your day and 1 tap to end your day and everything else happens automatically by driving with your phone turned on. It electronically files the necessary paperwork and other Department of Transportation compliance information. The reason this category is so difficult is that many solution providers I researched want to sell you complete GPS units for your dashboard, which have all the apps, and everything built in. The trouble is the cost of the device and the monthly charges for the software, when in fact I wanted a solution which is fully available on your phone directly. I believe that Teletrac Navman will sell you this type of GPS device, but they also just have the phone ELD app available from what I can find. The paywalls on the Teletrac Navman website hide most of the information you might like to find. Teletrac Navman wants to know how many trucks you own and what company you are hauling for and a bunch of other information before it will even show you cost and other vital information. Therefore, the youtube videos are needed to navigate information in front of the paywall of the website.