



## The „Final Examination“

How did your holiday planning go this year? Did it all run smoothly in the end, or did some of those usual holiday mishaps still manage to turn up?

Personally, I didn't want to miss out on the fun so I decided to draw up a holiday plan. There are just so many things to think about!

Starting with the most important factor, "Where shall we go?", then moving on to other important issues such as: Who? When? How? How much?

The who, when and where were all resolved pretty quickly. The only difficulties arose when we had to decide on the mode of transport. After all, we were going to have to cover a distance of 1000 kilometres. Other factors which we had to consider were the number of passengers; in my case this was eight people with corresponding luggage, a dog and the additional aspect of taking two bicycles with us. Furthermore, during our stay at the holiday destination we wanted to be as mobile as possible. Oh yes, and the journey should also be as cheap as possible. This meant that flying was the first option to be crossed off our list, closely followed by a sea route as this posed a number of problems for our journey from Austria to the middle of Italy...

In the end, we basically had two alternatives – motorail or driving ourselves. With our decision primarily based on the lower costs, we opted for the latter. As a sub-variant we chose to drive with two estate cars equipped with bicycle racks, which meant foregoing any comfort and being completely fully loaded. We decided that the option of a minivan with trailer was too restricting, plus the fact that the cost of the additional fuel and toll charges for the trailer (yes, even these things were taken into consideration) should not be underestimated.

And how do you organise transportation in your company? Do you have a system for optimising transportation costs? Or do you also have to manually plan each individual journey? Wouldn't it be great if you could just set parameters for all your products and customer requirements, and a system would automatically select the ideal or rather most cost-oriented mode of transport.

Optimisation systems can bring many advantages to business practices, not just time saving. They ensure better utilisation of the vehicles thus reducing the number of journeys which in turn promotes environmental awareness.

In any case, I personally would have saved lots of time if I had been able to make use of an automated solution.

Yours,  
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