

Glossary of Terms

Air to Ground (ATG)

A communications path from an aircraft to ground stations. ATG may carry media or Internet information.

Audio descriptions

A track of narration intended to make movies or television programs accessible to people who are blind or visually impaired. Audio descriptions convey key visual elements, such as actions, body language, graphics, and scene changes. Descriptions are recorded and mixed into natural pauses in the program soundtrack, and are delivered simultaneously with the program.

AVOD (Audio/Video on Demand)

An [IFES](#) that gives the passenger control over the program selection and display.

Bitmap image

An image composed of a grid of dots, or pixels. Bitmap images can be used to represent text, such as [subtitles](#) or [open captions](#).

Cached content

Content that is stored and played back onboard the aircraft from [network storage](#) or [physical storage](#) systems. There are two types of cached content:

- **Linear:** the content is delivered to everyone simultaneously on a predetermined schedule. [Communal screens](#) and [personal screens](#) can both display linear content.
- **On-demand:** each viewer can receive a transmission separately, at any time. Viewers have control over “trick modes,” i.e., fast-forward, rewind, or pause. On-demand content may support [closed captions](#).

Captions

A textual representation of the program’s audio track. Captions are always displayed in the same language as the program's audio track. They are typically a verbatim representation of the narration or dialog, although they

can also be edited for language or reading speed. Captions also contain [non-speech information](#), such as sound effects, speaker attributions or other aural cues.

Closed captions

Captions which can be turned on or off by the viewer. In IFE, closed captions require a [personal screen](#) for each viewer.

Communal screens

A video screen that serves multiple passengers simultaneously. Communal screens are often called “overhead” screens because they are placed high enough in the aircraft so that many passengers can see them at once. Communal screens provide no options for individual control. Their content is linear, and they support only [open captions](#).

[IMSC 1](#) (Internet Media Subtitles and Captions)

A profile (or subset) of [TTML 1.0](#) which specifies authoring and delivery methods for text- or image-based captions and subtitles.

Inflight connectivity

The ability to use a [wireless system](#) onboard the aircraft to connect to the Internet on the ground. This connection may be provided via satellite or an [air-to-ground](#) (ATG) system. Inflight connectivity is generally provided via a WiFi network that is separate from the one for IFE, although the two may be integrated, and in the future may more often be from a common platform.

Inflight entertainment (IFE)

Motion pictures, television content, music audio, music videos, games, news and information made available to passengers via some kind of [inflight entertainment system](#) (IFES). IFE is not the same as [inflight connectivity](#).

Inflight entertainment system (IFES)

The onboard hardware/software system that supports [IFE](#) content. There are two primary kinds of IFES, [communal screens](#) and [personal screens](#).

Live TV

Content which originates outside the aircraft and is transmitted to the aircraft principally via satellite. "Live" does not mean that the content is occurring in real time (e.g., a news or sporting event). Instead, it refers to the fact that the transmission from the ground to the aircraft is occurring in real time, even though the transmitted content may actually be pre-recorded. Live TV is conveyed to passengers via [wired systems](#) or [wireless systems](#) and is generally [linear](#).

Network storage

Content that is stored centrally on an onboard computer server and is broadcast or streamed to [personal screens](#) or [communal screens](#).

Non-speech information

Text that is added to captions to represent sounds that are not spoken, such as music, sound effects or speaker identifications.

Open captions

Captions which are a permanent part of the visual presentation. They cannot be turned off by the viewer. In [IFE](#), open captions are used on communal screens for safety videos (all safety videos are required to be open captioned). Safety videos are produced to meet the requirements of communal screens, and are reused on seat-back screens.

Personal screen

Displays that convey two types of [IFE](#), [cached content](#) or [live TV](#). There are two types of personal screens:

- **Seat-back screens:** the screen is built into the seat back. Also called embedded screens.
- **Personal entertainment devices (PEDs):** passenger-owned mobile devices (smartphones, tablets or laptop computers); or airline-owned mobile devices (primarily tablets or media players).

Physical storage

Content that is stored on either a centralized storage device, e.g., a server, for distribution to IFE screens, or locally on a playback device (e.g., on the hard drive or an SD card) and is played back directly on an individual device.

Subtitles

A translation of a program's audio track into words shown on the screen. Subtitles are always displayed in a language that is different from the program's audio track. Subtitles do not include any [non-speech information](#).

[TTML 1.0](#) (Timed Text Markup Language)

A non-proprietary markup language from the W3C that specifies an interoperable format for distributing captions and subtitles.

Wired system

Content that is delivered through cables that run from a central storage device (such as a computer server) on the aircraft to boxes in walls or under passenger seats, which are in turn connected to individual screens (either [communal](#) or [seat-back](#)).

Wireless system

Content that is delivered to each screen over a wireless network (WiFi). A central computer server on the aircraft sends signals to wireless access points (WAP) that are positioned throughout the aircraft. Each WAP serves approximately 50 seats. Passengers can view wireless transmissions on [personal entertainment devices](#) or [seat-back screens](#). Wireless systems can also receive streamed content.