G2S

Game to System Protocol

"Bally was charter member of GSA, and we're pleased with the focus on standards that the organization continues to demonstrate. The G2S standard is groundbreaking. One of the concrete benefits to our organization is that engineers are up to speed on the protocol 50% faster than with past protocols. This is due to the in-depth documentation, sample messaging and reference implementations that have been created as part of the protocol development effort."

Walt Eisele, Bally Technologies

"IGT is committed to open standards and the G2S protocol. Without the G2S protocol, the player window would not have been possible as the open standard that it is today."

Adrian Marcu, IGT

Gaming Standards Association
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What is G2S?

Game to System (G2S) is a communication protocol that unlocks the power of networked gaming and revolutionizes the way information is exchanged between Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs) and back-of-house systems. It provides a common interface between devices and systems, as well as supports essential networked gaming functions, such as software download, remote configuration, and advanced features. With G2S certified systems, operators have the ability to control and extract information from their gaming floors.

G2S supports a player window interface that enables operators to dynamically adapt their floor to suit their players. With features such as hot player functions, operators can quickly locate key players regardless of whether they are using a player card – and provide the appropriate level of service.

In addition to supporting a host of new tools and capabilities, G2S also supports remote configuration and software download functions critical to meeting lottery jurisdiction requirements and the needs of distributed gaming machine markets. The G2S protocol, or G2S in combination with the System to System (S2S) protocol, provides a ready-made, standards-based protocol solution to support these functions.

Because G2S is an open, event-driven protocol, operators can scale the amount of information transported between host and EGM systems based on their communications bandwidth. Operators also have the flexibility to add new features as they are developed, regardless of manufacturer. This feature helps ensure distributed and casino operators that their system resources will not become obsolete and they will not be bound to a particular manufacturer's solution.

Who is developing and using G2S?

It is becoming clear that the promise of network gaming can only be delivered by using G2S, and almost all manufacturers involved in developing gaming devices and gaming systems are developing G2S applications. Niche-market and specialty-function manufacturers also see opportunities to provide value-added plug-ins to back-of-house systems. As a result, the G2S protocol is available to an entirely new set of manufacturers, giving operators more choices for services than they have today. Look for G2S applications from both traditional and new manufacturers in 2010.

When will we see G2S?

G2S is already successfully installed in major markets such as Missouri and Mississippi. G2S is expanding in California and Nevada, and we expect it to make inroads in Canadian and the Northwest U.S. lottery markets in 2010. As G2S can be "phased" in and co-exist with existing slot floor networks, new applications will continue to find their way through regulatory approval and onto casino floors. Many major manufacturers are expected to have products ready by the end of 2009, with at least one full-scale G2S casino floor expected. As G2S capabilities are demonstrated in more venues, the advantages are expected to spur integration of G2S into more casino architectures.

Where will we see G2S?

Regulators in the important jurisdiction of New South Wales, Australia, have decided to allow G2S as a second wire solution in that jurisdiction. This decision will enable New South Wales to lead in gaming technology and to add new features and excitement to gaming in Australia. G2S, and G2S in combination with the S2S protocol, is moving into the lottery markets in Canada and the United States. The flexibility and extensibility of GSA protocols provide lottery operators with the unprecedented ability to upgrade and enhance their lottery systems, helping them "future-proof" their systems as new technology becomes available.

There are also applications deployed in California, Nevada, and Florida. California tribes have always been quick to implement new technology to set themselves apart from each other and from Nevada, and they are continuing on that track. Nevada is also a hot spot for G2S as the competition for patrons is tougher than ever and operators look for new ways to enhance the customer experience and differentiate themselves. Mississippi and Missouri have also joined the list of G2S jurisdictions, and G2S will provide operators and regulators with new features designed to deliver floor flexibility as well as reduced labor costs. These operators are leading the way as G2S finds its way into the mainstream of gaming worldwide.