



S2S

System to System Protocol

“The Seminole’s Hard Rock Casino in Florida succeeded in large part due to a full scale implementation of GSA’s S2S protocol.”

Lyle Bell, Seminole Gaming





What is S2S?

GSA's System to System (S2S) communications protocol helps untangle the jumbled web of casino back-of-house network interfaces. S2S provides a common server-to-server communication protocol that allows manufacturers to develop a single communications interface for connecting any number of servers. The S2S protocol also enables operators to connect with servers outside of the physical casino, simplifying connectivity with local business partners, across jurisdictions, or across casino locations over a wide-area network. In all cases, S2S standardizes information communication, secures it with strong encryption methods, and improves communication consistency to increase operational efficiency.

Who is developing and using S2S?

All major gaming manufacturers are implementing the GSA S2S protocol. Manufacturers of specialty casino equipment, such as money handling devices and voucher redemption kiosks,

are also implementing S2S to reduce the number of different communication protocols they must support. The S2S protocol enables them to implement a single protocol and plug into many manufacturers' systems.

S2S is being used extensively by class 2 operators to connect multiple back-end servers for providing centralized voucher, player tracking, and accounting solutions. S2S is also finding its way into other areas such as central monitoring, hospitality, and retail. The ability for manufacturers to connect their systems using a common protocol offers more options for operators, and ultimately for patrons. Simplifying casinos' IT infrastructures reduces cost and management requirements, which makes migrating to S2S systems compelling. Strong operator demand is expected to bring S2S into more venues and more jurisdictions in the upcoming year.

When will we see S2S?

S2S is installed in several jurisdictions today, and new installations are underway. Currently, Native American class 2 casinos have been the primary implementers of S2S. However the simplicity of supporting a single communications protocol for applications such as money handling equipment and

voucher redemption solution is creating widespread interest. S2S is also finding applications in central monitoring systems and has been mentioned in legislation and RFPs in several U.S. states.

Where will we see S2S?

Full-scale S2S implementations already exist in several Oklahoma and Florida casinos. Other class 2 operators have watched these implementations and begun their own S2S implementations to support central voucher and player-tracking capabilities. Operators in California and Nevada are expected to rapidly adopt S2S for increasing operational efficiency, with special interest in streamlining interoperability for connecting their operations beyond just the gaming floor.

The newest area for S2S involvement is in the central monitoring area. Recent legislation and proposal definitions in some U.S. states have specifically requested or required S2S protocol-based solutions. Governing agencies recognize the protocol's scalability, ability to protect regulatory infrastructure from obsolescence, and flexibility to add new technology as it becomes available. We expect S2S to quickly

become the dominant protocol in the central monitoring market.

Why S2S?

S2S can significantly simplify the deployment and management of casino back-of-house systems to improve reliability, efficiency, and flexibility. As gaming markets become more competitive, operators are looking for ways to cost-effectively improve their operations and add capabilities – and S2S fits the bill. Additionally, S2S is finding its way into central monitoring roles as it becomes clear that an open and extensible communication protocol is necessary for lottery operators to be able to adapt to new business requirements and opportunities. The ability to choose equipment based on capabilities, instead of by manufacturer, provides new flexibility in configuring, managing, and monitoring lottery operations. Currently, all major manufacturers support the S2S protocol and are working to introduce interesting new applications. Whether enabling standard hardware deployments, simplifying networks, reducing management, or future-proofing capabilities, the S2S protocol is the right choice.