



eBook

10 Tools Every Fleet Manager Needs

Introduction

Connect to the future of fleet management

Although the new decade has barely begun, the 20s have already had more than their share of surprises. Whether working through coronavirus surges or inflation, fleets are fighting unprecedented challenges.

Fortunately, cutting-edge technology gives fleet managers the strength they need to fight even harder.

In this guide, we'll reveal how telematics systems track assets, monitor equipment, and streamline fleet management. In an unpredictable world, they provide insights and information that make tomorrow more certain. The economic outlook may be shaky – but we'll put your business on firm ground.





Tool 1

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Tool 1

Fleet operations tools

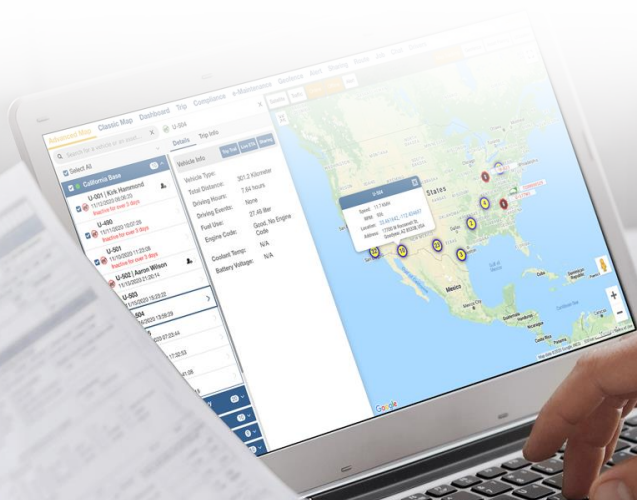
More than many industries, fleet professionals have had an attachment to old school grit. When so much of the business takes place in garages and behind the wheel, it's no wonder. The kind of people who want to work in this industry like to get their hands dirty.

But the old school era is coming to an end. Fresh competitors have entered the space and proven that manual management won't cut it. Cutting-edge fleet software makes businesses leaner, cheaper, and faster. It helps companies underbid their competitors – and increase their profit margins while doing it.

That's why many companies have leapfrogged from 1990s management tools straight to 2020 technologies. Instead of using a barrage of software programs to manage different aspects of their business, they're using a single comprehensive telematics solution.

Telematics captures every aspect of fleet management, from GPS location to engine status to driver behavior and more. The best telematics platforms show the real-time status of assets, employees, and worksites on one interactive screen. Managers not only see their entire operation in real time, they're also able to click on assets to contact drivers, send ETAs to customers, and do the detailed work of fleet management.

Telematics speeds up fleets, cutting fat and adding muscle. It helps businesses add new customers and compete in new markets without hiring new employees, buying more assets, or increasing management workloads. Telematics adoption will continue to grow and make fleets more competitive throughout the industry.



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Tool 2

Fuel waste reduction

[According to the US Department of Energy](#),

“Typically, a long haul truck idles about 1,800 hours per year, using about 1,500 gallons of diesel.”

While most drivers should idle less, some are worse offenders than others. In the average fleet, 20% of drivers contribute to 80% of fuel waste.

Solutions like FleetUp’s patented fuel management system fight the problem from several directions at once. Automatically generated reports show you

which drivers and which vehicles are using the most gas. With individual drivers, you’ll see a chart which breaks down each of their fuel wasting behaviors (speeding, idling, etc.) by percentage, so you can show them exactly how they can improve.

Fuel costs have eaten up profits since the era of the Model T - but today, you can reduce your fleet’s gas usage to the barest possible minimum. There’s no more effective way to cut costs and boost revenue.

Tool 3

Engine maintenance tools

You already know how important it is to hire smart and experienced mechanics. But even if you’ve got the world’s hardest-working garage, there’s no way that your team can identify an engine issue if it pops up while the vehicle is hundreds of miles away.

That’s why engine maintenance tools are an absolute must-have. They’re the equivalent of hiring a mechanic to live under your vehicles’ hoods, checking and re-checking engine health throughout every mile of every drive.

Real-time engine diagnostic solutions monitor engine temperature and battery level. The best also regularly send Diagnostic Trouble Code (DTC) data, so mechanics can cheaply fix small issues before they explode into catastrophic problems. Because

these solutions are always tracking engine health, they’ll notify you of a problem even if a vehicle is on the opposite coast.

If you want to enhance the effectiveness of your Real-time engine diagnostics solution, vehicle e-maintenance scheduling is a complementary addition to your carrier’s tool set. It streamlines communication between your drivers, office staff, and mechanics by automating maintenance log management. There’s no other error-free method of tracking how often oil, tires, spark plugs, air filters, and more are changed. [The most cutting-edge maintenance scheduling tools](#) let you set your own parameters, so you, not some one-size-fits-all algorithm, decide how often your vehicles come to the shop.

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Tool 4

Driver safety tools

While managing vehicles is one of a fleet manager's primary jobs, it's not hard to guess that most of your work hours aren't devoted to dealing with mechanical issues. At the end of the day, the majority of a fleet manager's time is spent managing people, not engines - because people are far more unpredictable than any machine ever could be.

That's why [a suite of driver safety tools](#) can have a huge impact on your fleet.

Driver safety scorecards significantly reduce your carrier's risk of being found at fault in crashes. They show you exactly how often each of your drivers engage in risky behaviors like speeding, sharp turning, and harsh braking.

Driver safety scorecards can be a powerful reality check for drivers who don't realize how many risks they're taking, but they're an after-the-fact reminder that their work isn't always up to par.

That's why driver coaching tools are another strategic way to improve fleet safety - they teach drivers in real time. Usually accessed through apps, these tools feature voice assistants that speak up the moment drivers start speeding, brake too hard, or turn too fast. They give your staff the training they need - before they do something they regret.

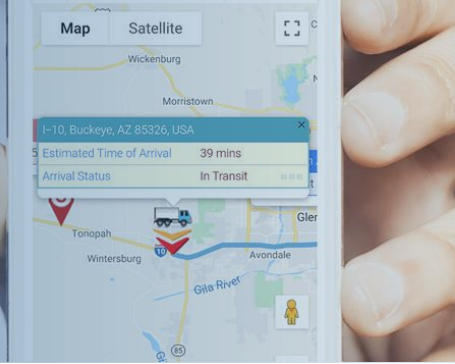
Tool 5

Driver management tools

Fortunately, most of your day-to-day work doesn't involve accidents or crashes. The far more humdrum tasks that take up a large chunk of most fleet managers' time involve paperwork, payroll, and record-keeping. It's stuff that has to be done - but it's not exactly multiplying your fleet's profitability. That's why so many fleet managers have taken advantage of workforce management solutions. These tools automate record keeping and payroll reports. [The best also analyze driver availability, monitor how many hours vehicles have been in use, and help you minimize driver and vehicle downtime.](#)

Another detail-oriented job that takes up too much of your team's time is researching routes and making sure your drivers stick to them. That's why an automatic route optimization tool can have such a big impact on your day-to-day. All drivers have to do is input their vehicle class and destination - route optimization does the rest. The best of these tools don't just free up the back office - they also reduce drive times by 35%.

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Tool 6

Communication tools

Back in the '80s, drivers had to stop and find a payphone if they wanted to talk to you. Today? They can make a phone call from the cab, shoot you a text, write an email, start a video call, and even hit you up on social media.

While no one would argue that smartphones have made communication more difficult, the proliferation of communication options has made it easier for important messages to get lost in the shuffle. Maybe you accidentally sent a text to a driver who only trusts phone calls, or left a voice message with a driver who never checks his voice message box. When these all-too-common mix-ups occur, pick-ups get missed, shipments get delivered late, and clients get upset.

The best fleet managers cut through the noise by streamlining their communications with an all-in-one app. These solutions give you everything you need to assign tasks to staff, communicate with on-the-road drivers, and make sure everyone from your mechanic to your accountant can easily see and send the documents they need. When a driver in California wants to send a message to your payroll staffer in New York, a photo to your mechanic in Arkansas, and a DVIR to the FMCSA, an [all-in-one app](#) helps them do it all without having to log in and out of umpteen different accounts.

Tool 7

Trip sharing tools

Cutting-edge technology will help you tame your vehicles and your staff. What's more surprising is that it can also help you manage the fussiest, most exasperating beast of them all - your customers!

In the era of Amazon, carriers face two problems: Customers want a huge amount of information about their shipments, while their loading docks are busier than ever. Both of those issues put an immense amount of pressure on drivers and fleet managers. One tool helps reduce that pressure: [trip sharing](#).

Trip sharing tools allow you to send customers alerts about exactly where their shipments are and when

they'll arrive. These features provide the Amazon-level service that many people have come to expect. The most well-designed trip sharing tools also help customers plan their loading schedules more efficiently, so your drivers don't waste countless hours waiting at their docks. This helps you manage the wait times that keep your drivers off the road. Trip sharing tools help you build trust, develop positive client relationships, and reduce loading dock inefficiencies. You already expertly manage your staff - now you can expertly manage your customers, too.

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Step 8

Fleet operations tools

Any trailer, reefer, or container is a target for thieves and smugglers. But in order to steal goods – or to sneak contraband into containers – criminals have to get through the door.

The only asset tracker that notifies you the moment a door opens is FleetUp's. Criminals have to cut or unlock the FleetUp SmartLock if they want to open trailer or container doors. When they do this – even if they're collaborating with an employee who has a key – a real-time text or email alert will be sent to your administrative team.

In worst-case scenarios, both vehicles and valuable shipments can disappear into thin air. A simple tool will prevent that from ever happening – [the Portable Asset Tracker](#). These small devices are easy to throw into a pallet or tuck into a hidden nook. If a thief steals a vehicle outfitted with this tracker, they won't get very far before they're found.

Customers concerned with smuggling, international terrorism, and high-value theft have used FleetUp tracking devices to rapidly respond to suspicious incidents. When countering criminal activity, every second counts. Fight back immediately with FleetUp.

Step 9

Tools to streamline compliance

At this point, HOS, IFTA, and DVIR logs have largely been digitized, either by technology companies or by the regulating agencies themselves. But too many carriers have one solution for this set of regulations, another solution for that set, and a separate app for the third. While it's better than the old school way of handling the problem - endless file cabinets and infinite paperwork - it can still turn into a disorganized mess.

That's why it's smart to use an all-in-one solution that takes care of all your compliance requirements. When drivers and office staff only have to use a single app [that's accessible from any iOS or Android device](#), compliance processes are streamlined, confusion is minimized, and fines are avoided.

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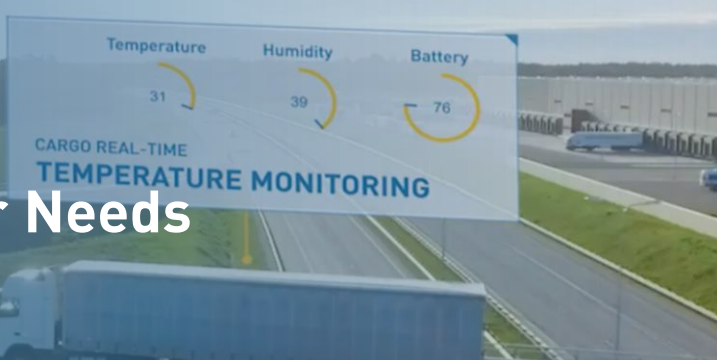
Step 10

Advanced trip monitoring tools

While GPS is still incredibly useful, it has become an almost standard-issue tool, not the revolutionary feature it once was. Today, technology lets fleet managers do a whole lot more than just watch their vehicles move on a digital map.

Innovative engineers have created advanced GPS tools like dynamic geofencing, a tool that doesn't just show where vehicles are, but monitors when they enter and leave borders drawn on a virtual map, how fast they drive within those borders, and more. It's a powerful solution that can be used in many different ways. For example, shippers use geofencing to know when trucks have reached delivery destinations and warehouse managers use it to see when staff drives recklessly on job sites.

Then there are solutions that monitor temperature and humidity within trailers. With these tools, managers can see where vehicles are on the road and the exact real-time temperature and humidity level inside those vehicles. They're a must-have for any carrier who regularly delivers temperature sensitive goods like food and medicine. If humidity levels fly off the charts and air conditioners break mid-trip, drivers and managers get notified before shipments gets spoiled.



Conclusion

Prepare for the future with fleet management software

Every year offers its challenges; that's why it is important to continually evolve and find new ways to keep your fleet on their toes. Don't let those surprises knock your organization off balance.

Prepare for the unexpected with a comprehensive set of telematics tools.

For more information , visit www.fleetup.com

Learn more



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