

WHAT TO FIX IN 2026?

Data Management and Prioritization

Data Management and Prioritization is one of the most challenging aspects companies face today. Not long ago, data was much more limited in volume as well as ways of receiving it.

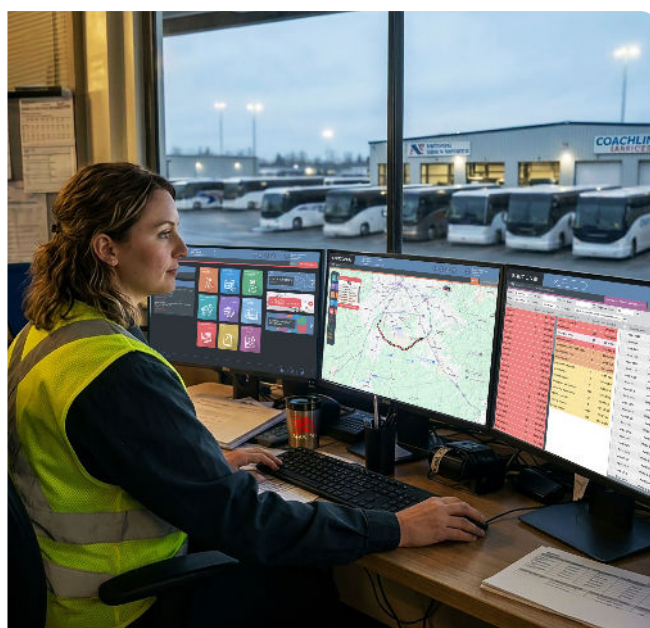
Today, data is everywhere recording nearly everything that ticks, moves, breathes and thinks. Data can be overwhelming for some, to the point data is dismissed or at a minimum not consulted. For others, data is a commodity trying to fill an insatiable appetite for information. In the end, most organizations use less than 50% of all data readily available.

It's time to look at data through the eyes of a transportation company leader to see what information there is available and how it can be best used.

DRIVER DATA

Five or so years ago a driver would leave the yard, leaving no idea where the vehicle went, how fast the vehicle was traveling, or the overall driver behavior behind the wheel. Today, nearly every move made by a driver is known. Telematics constantly record, monitor and track behavior of both drivers and vehicles.

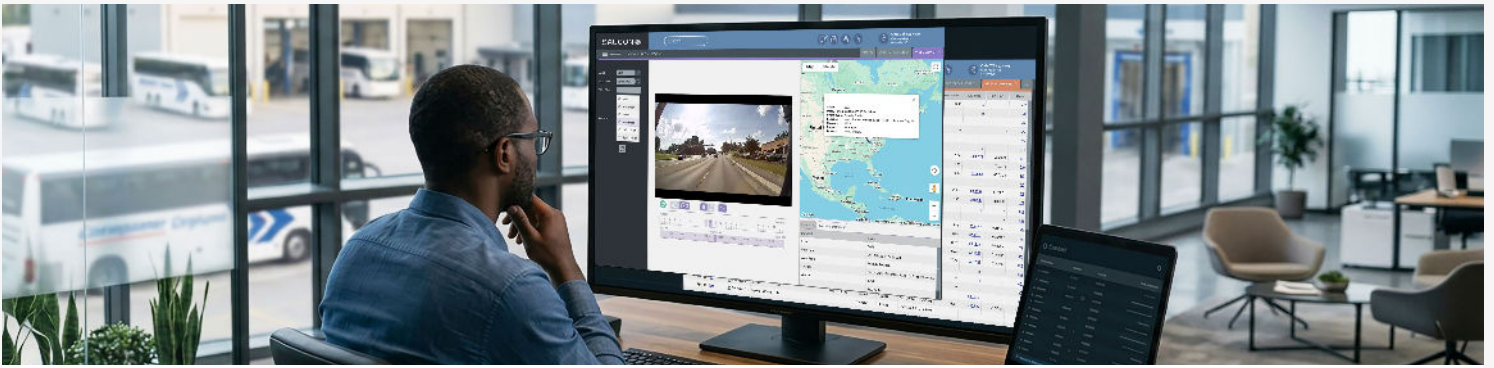
What is being done with this data? Is there a driver incentive program in place that uses these metrics



to maximize not only fleet safety but the telematics ROI? The driver data including hours of service, speed and vehicle control, vehicle inspection, and customer interaction plays an integral part of a full company story and the culture it supports. Driver data is a key factor that needs to be reviewed every day, throughout the day and be acted upon.

VEHICLE DATA

Vehicle data is another key aspect that needs to be monitored throughout the day. Telematics can show the symptoms of a vehicle with a potential



“In 2026, know what the data is stating, prioritize what matters, and act before small issues become big problems.”

problem long before the driver is notified. Today, over-the-air connectivity can be used not only to diagnose a situation, but also to trouble shoot and make repairs without leaving the office or home.

Vehicles today have more gadgets and gizmos on board than ever before. The equipment has been paid for, but is it being fully used? Automated Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS), fire suppression systems, video systems, electronic DVIRs, etc - this data collection can be as simple or as robust as it needs to be for any operation.

Many recent conversations with operators all center around the premise of “I didn’t know we had that” or “I didn’t know we could do that”. Time needs to be spent fully understanding these systems in order to better utilize the data being obtained.

DATA PRIORITIZATION

Data prioritization can be a very dynamic subject. Data is streaming at paces that hopefully match the operation’s business cycles. What matters most, when? There are always the regulatory data and driver behaviors that need to have a high priority to be reviewed and acted upon. Often, it comes down to “we don’t know what we don’t know”.

A significant amount of employee trust is given, with the hopes that the right actions are being taken. Be efficient with the data.

Reports are great tools, but dashboards and other data gathering systems that readily present the data more apparently will allow a more thorough review to help with decision making for taking the right actions in the most efficient manner. Be sure to document all of the reviews and actions taken based on these data systems.

NOTHING IS FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

The data obtained is obviously owned by the organization. However, that same data can be requested, subpoenaed or even confiscated if something bad would occur. When reviewing the data or deciding on what actions, if any, are taken, it is imperative to look at that information with several sets of eyes. Those eyes need to include those of the plaintiff’s attorney.

Lawyers today study telematics, and are fully aware what the systems are required to record, for how long it is maintained as well as how actions can be annotated in the systems. Don’t let an attorney be the one that reveals what is being missed.

Smarter Data. Faster Insights. Stronger, Continuous Support.

For more information on this topic or if you have suggestions for future topics, please reach out to Mike McDonal at mmcdonal@saucontech.com.