

# SWIFT, PNR, and more

European cooperation with  
USA dataveillance in the “war on terror”:

The state of play in the European Parliament

# SWIFT = Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Transfers

Belgian company with branch office in USA; handles electronic funds transfers worldwide

Extra-judicial US Dept. of Treasury access to SWIFT data through “Terrorist Finance Tracking Program” (TFTP) and SWIFT office in USA

# European objections to US access to SWIFT data

- Secrecy: US access to SWIFT data was revealed after the fact by US newspapers in 2006 (act first, ask forgiveness later, rather than ask permission before acting)
- Intrusion into EU internal affairs (records kept by EU company about EU citizens transferring money between banks within the EU)

# SWIFT/TFTP state of play

1. SWIFT/TFTP “agreement” between DHS and EU rejected by EP in Feb. 2010 (376-198 vote)
2. Agreement re-negotiated by EC
3. Revised proposal for agreement published last week (text at [Statewatch.org](http://Statewatch.org) and [JanAlbrecht.eu](http://JanAlbrecht.eu); analysis at [EDRI.org](http://EDRI.org))
4. EP vote on new agreement maybe in July 2010?
5. In absence of any agreement, US must now go through normal judicial/police channels for access to SWIFT data.

PNR = Passenger Name Record  
(airline, etc., reservations)

“What’s in a PNR?”

<http://hasbrouck.org/articles/PNR.html>

Most airlines outsource hosting of PNR  
databased to 3rd-party Computerized  
Reservation Systems (CRS’s)

62  
\*\*\* ELECTRONIC TICKET \*\*\*

F 1.1 HASBROUCK/EDWARDMR

WW1ACWW 29AUG PMIME5

1 AC 761 A SA 9SEP YULSFO HK1 0830 1130 CABY

FONE-

1.WW1-H 1 415 824-8562

2.WW1-P 1 415 824-0214

3.WW1-A 1130 TREAT AVE./\*\*/SAN FRANCISCO CA/94110 US

4.WW1-A AIRCANADA//HASBROUCK.ORG/MEMBER EMAIL

TKT-

1.1 K29AUGWW1WW 0142138066453

AP FAX-

1.1 SSRFQTVYYPN1 /UA00168716753

RMKS-

1.1 C/H IS EDWARD HASBROUCK/CA USER ENTERED CREDIT CARD/USD 248

.78/ALL PSGRWEB BOOKING/EMAIL TO C/H

2. MOP: CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD

3. PASSENGER REQUESTED I/R DELIVERY BY EMAIL TO AIRCANADA//HASBROUCK.ORG

4. TIDGERGJK1J4

5. BKIP 172.24.96.31 29AUG06 17:22

---HISTORY---

RCVD-INTERNET PNR GUEST

WW1 AC WW 1723Z/29AUG

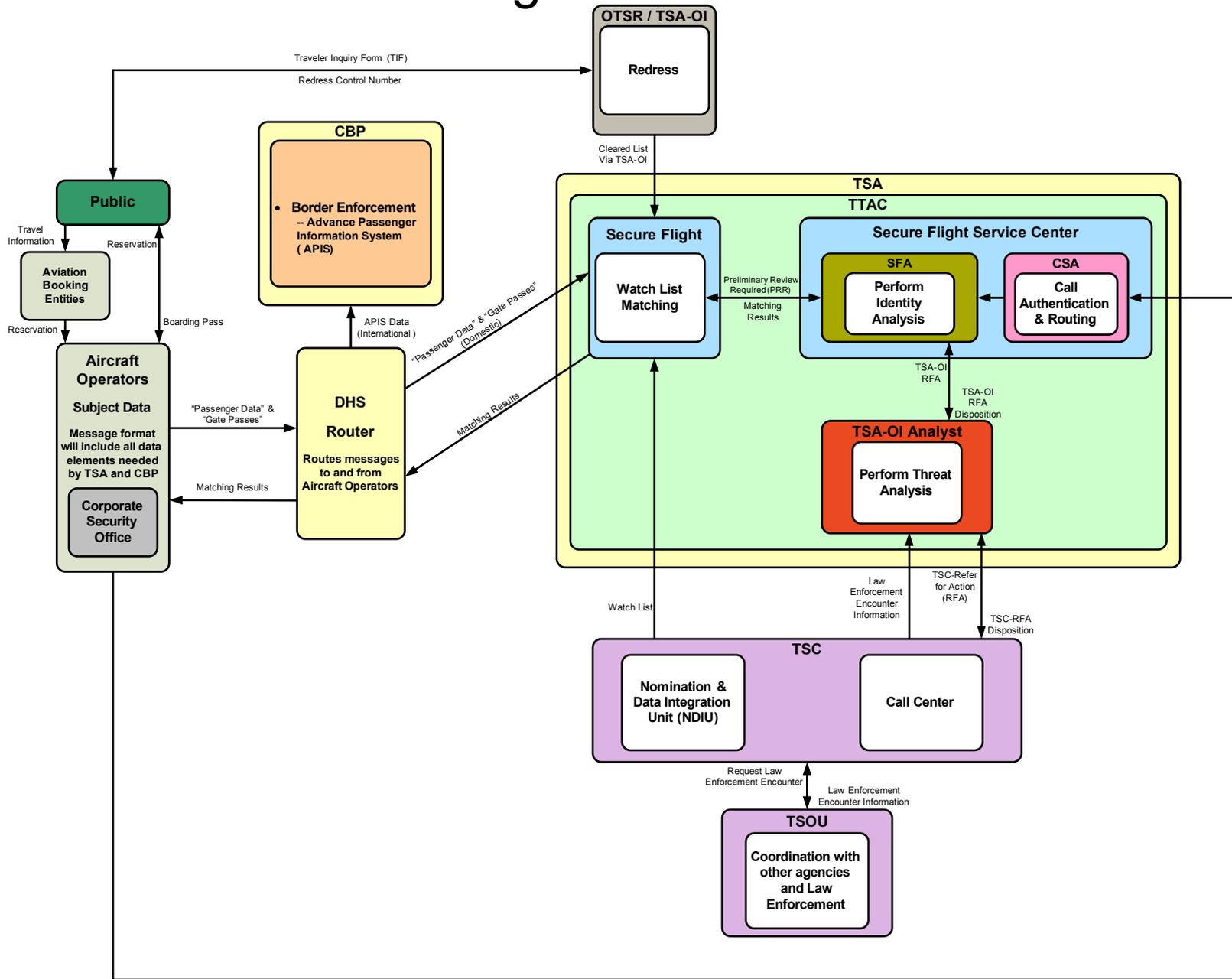
WW1 GS WW IOIBM01 1723Z/29AUG

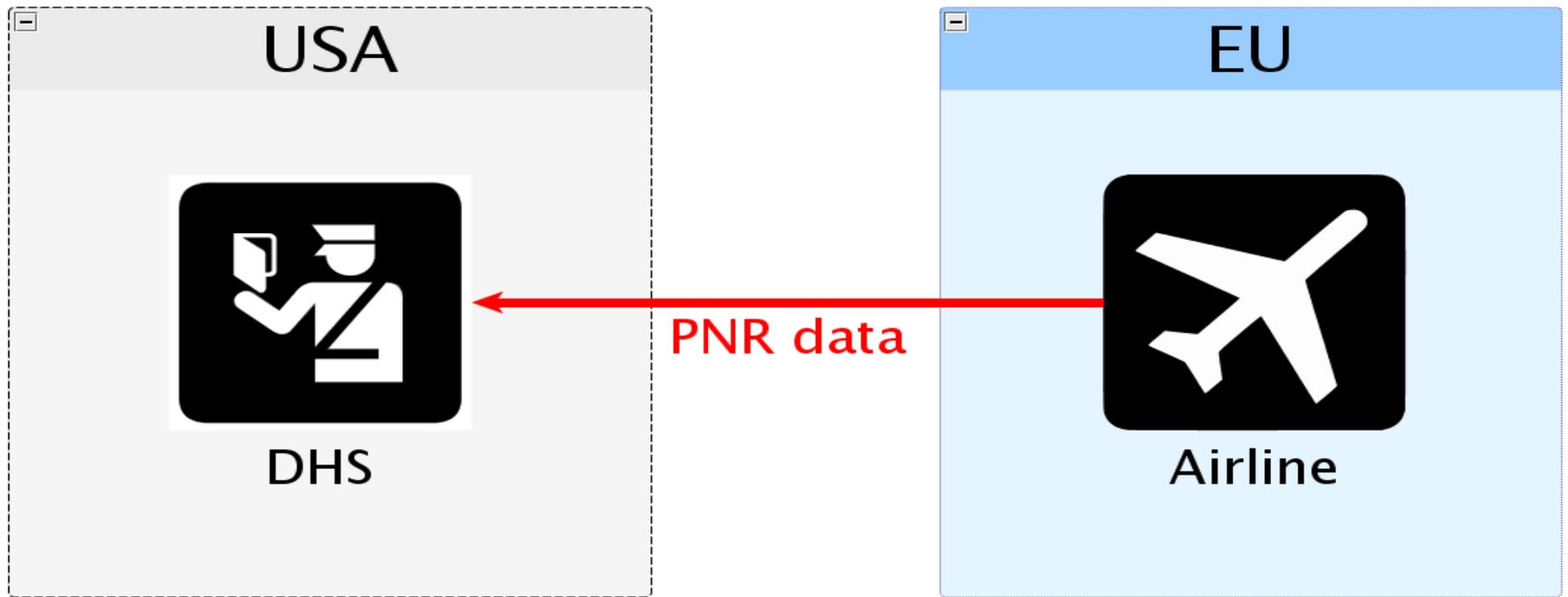
NO FLOWN SEGS

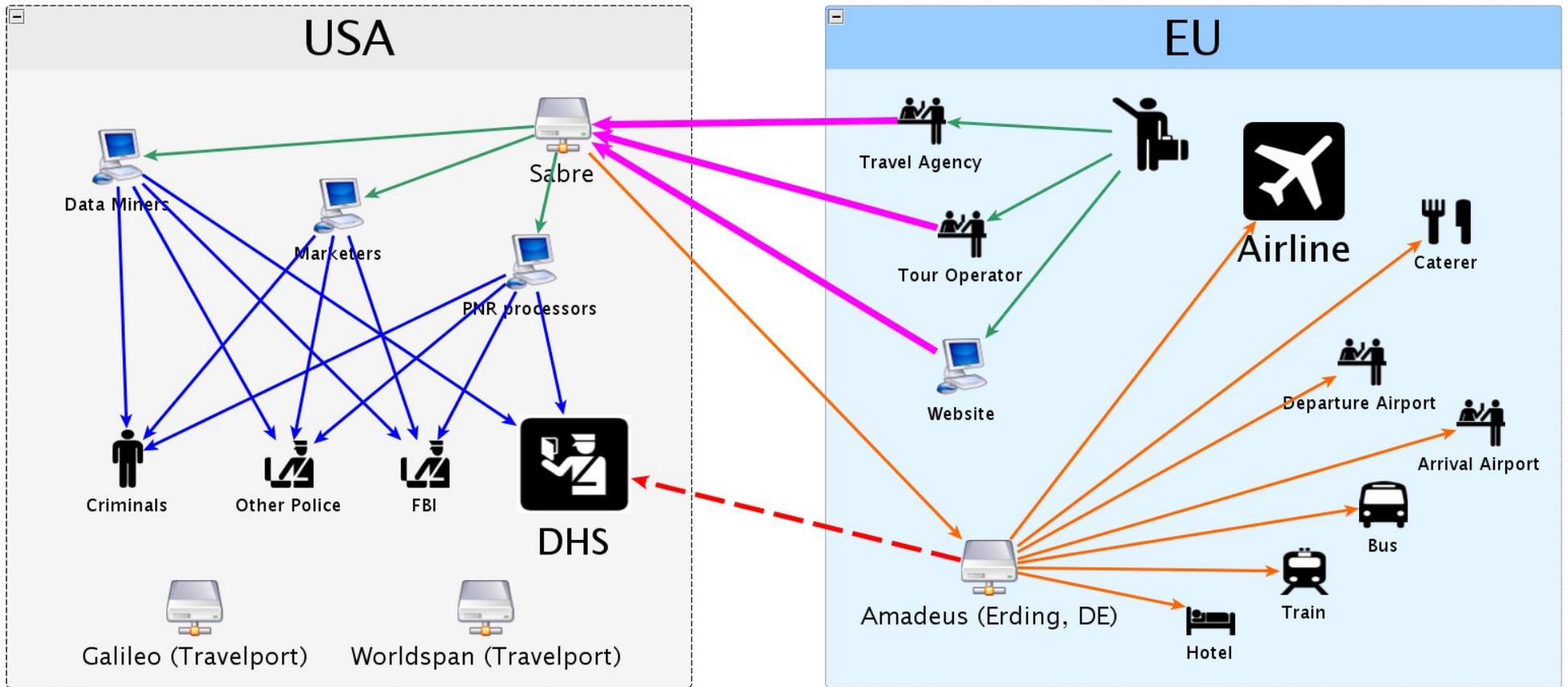
# How does DHS use PNR data?

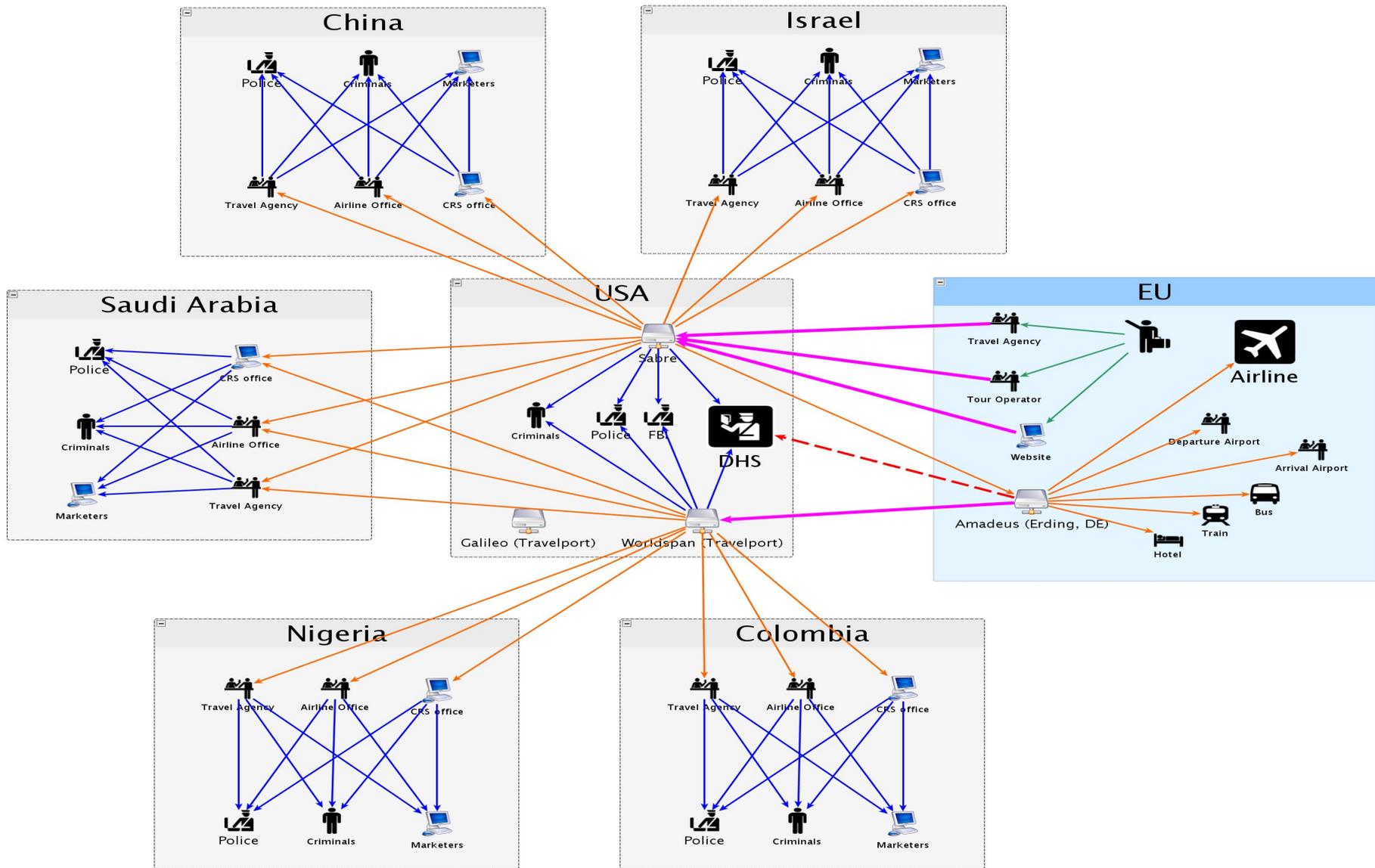
1. Airlines give DHS root access to CRS's to pull PNR data. (CRS's don't keep access logs.)
2. DHS imports PNR data into CBP "Automated Targeting System" (ATS) database of lifetime travel history records.
3. ATS records are used as part of the basis for making real-time fly/no-fly decisions.

# Secure Flight Business Model









Where has *your* PNR data gone?

# A short, oversimplified history of European policy on PNR data:

1. US demands extra-judicial access to PNR data
2. DHS (Stewart Baker) “agreement” with EU (1<sup>st</sup> agreement annulled on technical grounds; followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> agreement in 2007)
3. After Lisbon Treaty took effect in Dec. 2009, agreement no longer valid in EU without EP approval, but...
4. In absence of explicit rejection by EP or legal challenge in EU courts, DHS access has been allowed to continue. First lawsuit against US PNR access filed March 2010, pending in Belgian Constitutional Court.
5. Proposal for EP approval of previous agreement is pending.

# EP debate on PNR data (to be continued)

EP resolution adopted April 2010:

- Expresses opinion of EP. Not a binding decision.
- Postpones yes or no decision on current proposal.
- EP thinks current proposal is unacceptable.
- Sets criteria for approval of a revised proposal.
- EC now renegotiating with DHS.
- EP delegation to Washington on PNR, June 29-July 2
- Revised agreement likely to be submitted to the EP for consideration in September 2010.

# EU meta-debate on SWIFT, PNR, and more

- Proposal for an EU-US framework agreement on “data protection in the context of police and judicial cooperation” (which would apply to financial, travel, etc. data)
- MEP Jan Albrecht (German Green, member of LIBE Committee, [JanAlbrecht.eu](http://JanAlbrecht.eu)) appointed “rapporteur” in EP for this dossier

## Timeline:

- September 2010: Negotiations begin between Council/EC and USA
- September 2010: EP LIBE Committee hearing w/ expert witnesses
- September 2010: EP LIBE Committee delegation trip to Washington
- Later in 2010, or 2011: Negotiations conclude, proposed agreement goes to EP and Council for ratification

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