

Chapter 5 Written Exercise

Nicole Wozniak

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Internet access from smartphones and tablet devices has greatly improved the work environment of long-distance truck drivers. Using your favorite search engine, identify at least three apps that a trucker might use to do two or more of the following: obtain routing information, manage fuel consumption, find truck stops or truck-friendly rest areas, record what they have hauled and where they have hauled it, track required permits, locate Department of Transportation weigh stations, maintain electronic log books, or find potential loads and place bids to carry them. For each app you identify, write a paragraph that explains what the app does, how much it costs, and on what type of devices it runs.

I oddly enough have a close friend who has helped his father run a trucking company and I did reach out for some insight and information. I also did my own research as well of course. All three of the applications I listed are available for iOS, Android and have tablet/web access as well.

The number one application I found and was also the first thing I was told of was [Trucker Path](#). Provides real life traffic updates for routes that also take into consideration restrictions and ordinances such as weight, height, size and noise. It also keeps a live update for places that have open space for the driver to stop and rest for the required breaks truck drivers follow. Information can also be included in a driver's route for gas stations and the price of fuel, weighing stations and more. This app really does a lot though it comes at a cost of 29.99 a month for individual drivers, though Fleet plans are also available at a discount. It does come with TruckLoads app for free which is a load boarding application for finding freight.

Another app that came up was [HOS247 ELD Logbook](#). This one is focused on electronic logbook part of the business. This is a way to automatically track a driver's time, as well as letting them update their status easily to track breaks and stops. They keep HOS regulations and exemptions updated to align with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) requirements. This is a great thing as it works to force drivers to take proper breaks keeping them and others on the road safe as just an example. This application is priced starting at \$19 a month but with many other levels/options for different levels of features.

Last app is one that is directly related to when dealing with automotive transporting as a driver. Super Dispatch, this is used to solution out the drivers loads/hauls in a way that is like a scrum board in programming which I thought was rather neat. This is used to manage what drivers/truckers are hauling but also provides a way for truckers to find brokers, dealers, and others who need automotive transportation and work in sales. This last one is priced starting at \$55 a month but they do seem to have a free option along with more premium options that range closer to \$259 a month.

I wanted to name two others just in a general sense, TCS Fuel is one for finding best deals for diesel fuel along drivers routes, and Digital Permit Book Mobile for finding information on permits and compliance documentation for drivers as each state can be drastically different.

URLs to applications:

<https://truckerpath.com/>

<https://hos247.com/resources/eld/elogbook-usa/>

<https://superdispatch.com/>