



Carolina Multiple Listing Services, Inc.

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL REALTOR® ASSOCIATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: All CMLS Member Participants, Subscribers, CDS/IDX program vendors
FROM: Steve Byrd, CTO
DATE: June 3, 2011
SUBJ.: Termination of the Carolina Data Share (CDS) program;
changes to the Internet Data Exchange program (IDX)

This memorandum is to inform all CMLS Member Participants, Subscribers and their CDS/IDX program vendors of upcoming changes to the CMLS CDS and IDX programs. Please distribute this memo freely to all parties involved, as it contains critical information pertaining to the continued operation of your CDS/IDX websites.

All current CDS/IDX vendors retrieve data from CMLS in one of two ways. Regardless of your retrieval method, this memo applies to you and your vendor.

1. IDX vendors will no longer receive flat text files via FTP directly from CMLS servers effective Oct. 3, 2011.

With encouragement from the National Association of Realtors® (NAR), industry consultants and security professionals, CMLS is phasing out delivery of IDX data via FTP. FTP is an outdated and less secure method of delivering data. We are transitioning all data recipients, IDX and otherwise, to the Real Estate Transaction Standard (RETS) system. See below for additional information.

2. CDS/IDX vendors will no longer receive data via RETS access from WolfNet servers effective Oct. 3, 2011.

The CDS program will end effective Nov. 1, 2011. In summary, two of the six original participating MLSs have dropped out of the program, and another one has chosen to not renew the contract that expires in November. The remaining three MLSs are unable to justify the costs of continuing with the limited benefit to members. We are sorry for the inconvenience this may cause some members, but this was largely beyond our control.

Requirements

All CDS/IDX data recipients must convert to CMLS RETS access by 8:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 3, 2011. This deadline gives IDX vendors four months from the date of this notice to comply.

Please follow these steps to obtain your CMLS RETS access credentials:

1. Email Gary Frank at gary.frank@carolinahome.com with your request. Please include your name, your company name, and a contact phone number and email address.
2. Once Gary has confirmed that we have an existing contract on file for you, he will create your RETS account and reply with your login information the one business day.
3. After your transition is complete, inform Gary when you no longer require FTP access. However, all FTP access will be terminated, regardless of whether you create a RETS account, on Oct. 3, 2011.

Additional information

- You may begin programming immediately after receiving your credentials.
- CMLS RETS is access to live data, not test data, so you can convert to it immediately if you wish.
- You have until 8:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 3, 2011 to convert your systems from FTP to RETS, or from CDS RETS to CMLS RETS.
- For vendors using CDS, the CMLS RETS dataset is not the same as the CDS RETS dataset. Do not wait until the last minute to begin this transition.
- RETS provides an easy and effective way to download listing photos in real-time from TEMPO. Therefore, after switching to RETS, CMLS will discontinue the Carolinaphotos.com service.
- For vendors that have no RETS experience, RETS programming is not an easy undertaking. Please do not wait until the last minute to begin this transition.
- RETS Connector (www.retsconnector.com) is a user-friendly RETS client available at no charge to CMLS IDX vendors. CMLS recommends it if you are new to RETS.
- CMLS staff cannot train you on RETS; please start at www.rets.org for RETS education.
- Please direct questions about your RETS account to gary.frank@carolinahome.com.
- Please direct questions about RETS data or access problems to harman.gill@carolinahome.com.

CMLS considers this requirement part of the continual advancement in technology that is prevalent in our world today. To that end, we will not reimburse members or vendors for costs incurred to meet this requirement. In fact, we will begin charging IDX vendors in October.

Billing for data access to begin in October

In 2009, the CMLS Board of Directors approved the direct billing of IDX vendors for access to CMLS data. Due to technical limitations, CMLS has not yet begun collecting that fee.

In October, CMLS will begin charging vendors for access to data. The charge will be \$100 per month per type of feed (IDX or VOW), assessed to any IDX vendor serving more than one member client.

Examples:

1. Brokers/firms acting as their own vendor – no charge.
2. An IDX vendor with two or more IDX clients – \$100/month.
3. An IDX vendor with two or more IDX clients and two or more VOW clients – \$200 per month.

CMLS will issue a separate communication in mid-September with more details on billing.

Please direct questions about this letter or policy to steve.byrd@carolinahome.com.