

# RMLSweb and the iPad

Guest Post by Terry Romel

With the recent release of the iPad and the significant adoption by the general masses I thought it appropriate to make you aware of what to expect when using the iPad with *RMLSweb*.

As I'm sure many of you already know, *RMLSweb* works best with Internet Explorer 7 and higher. All of the *RMLSweb* system functionality is available and fully supported on IE 7 and up.

That being said, with the proliferation of new browsers, we frequently get questions at the Help Desk as to why *RMLSweb* is not fully bi-browser compatible. That question is a complicated one and the entire answer would be much too long to discuss here. Bottom line is that all new modules written for *RMLSweb* are compatible in many of the new browsers, but some of the existing core functionality (ex. Listing Load) is still in the queue for re-write. (Here's a list of what parts of *RMLSweb* currently work in other browsers.)

So, what about the iPad? The native browser on the iPad is a hybrid version of Safari. I say hybrid because it is neither the "full" version nor the iPhone version. What it does share in common with the iPhone version is it presents itself to websites as a "mobile" version of browser. Because of this reality, the iPad is automatically redirected to the *RMLSweb* Mobile site.

Now there are browsers out there for the iPad that can "spoof" other browser identification strings and as a result take you to the "full" version login page for *RMLSweb*. They will allow you to log in, but from that point forward all bets are off. One of the most disconcerting behaviors of non-supported browsers is the lack of integrity while performing searches on

RMLS*web*. Let's never forget that one of our core responsibilities as a MLS is to provide accurate data to our subscribers.

As a result of the inconsistency of this core function of the RMLS*web* system I suggest you proceed with caution regarding the iPad. While it is a wonderful new tool that fits well in the real estate space and undoubtedly has many other benefits for our Realtor® subscribers, accessing RMLS*web* is not currently one of them. We are starting to look at the overall functionality of the iPad Safari browser in relation to RMLS*web*, but in keeping our eye on the bigger picture it may be some time before you see it fully supported.

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Terry has returned to RMLS™ as the Help Desk Manager after a few years of working with other real estate related companies in the Portland Metro area. We're happy to have him back!