

Ask Technical Terry: Dueling Logins, Map Coordinates, Trade Fair Tips



Ask Technical Terry is a series RMLS™ aims to offer once a month. RMLS™ subscribers will drive the content—submit any question about RMLS™ to Technical Terry in the comments or by emailing communications@rmls.com. Don't be shy—we won't identify you by name.

Dear TT-

I am SO frustrated just getting logged in to RMLSwab. Why, for gosh sakes, are there two login buttons on the login screen? Which one should I be using?

Frustrated in Fairview

Dear FF-

Understood completely! Let me explain the concept behind the two unique login options and how they will eventually transition to a single login for RMLSwab.

As you may be aware, last year RMLS™ transitioned into a new customer relationship system. This is how RMLS™ manages your subscriber information. An important part of the project was replacing Internet Member Services (IMS) with My.RMLS.com—the website where subscribers paid RMLS™ dues.

This transition required a more stringent password system for access due to the new system being PCI-compliant. RMLS™ built up a single sign-on process so that subscribers would be able to access both RMLSwab and My.RMLS.com with one set of login credentials.

Our new vendor needs to prove their uptime meets our strict requirements before RMLS™ will rely solely on the new login option. We're still running analytics on the vendor's uptime and once we're confident they can match or exceed our expectations we will eliminate the dueling logins and subscribers will transition to a single login using their email address and password to log in to both RMLSweb and My.RMLS.com.

In the meantime RMLS™ provides both options: the Public/Private ID which provides access to RMLSweb, and the email address/password which provides access to both RMLSweb and My.RMLS.com.

It may sound like a lot of work just to transition to a new payment website. If that was the only benefit I might agree, but the new system offers more billing and payment options, a single login for REALTORS® with dual licenses, and other features we'll be rolling out as time goes on.

Imagine, for example, a central location for downloading CE certificates from RMLS™ education events, so you'd no longer need to chase down paperwork when it's time for license renewal. The new system has a more robust registration process for training classes and events, including confirmations, reminders, and wait list management.

While the transition period may be frustrating as RMLS™ works out the details, the net gain to RMLS™ subscribers like yourself will be worth the wait!

Technical Terry

Dear Technical Terry:

My Thomas Guide is always at the ready, but I've been increasingly finding listings on RMLSweb without Thomas Guide

coordinates. Why would REALTORS® fail to include such a key piece of information?

Lloyd Multnomah

Dear Lloyd:

It's great that you still have your Thomas Guide for fast reference, but not everyone has easy access to this useful tool anymore. Rand McNally (owner of Thomas Guide) ceased publishing any street guides for Portland or Oregon, and you may recall in 2013 RMLS™ halted the map coordinates requirement for new listings.

There's more news than that though, Lloyd.

Do you have any saved searches on RMLSweb that search using map coordinates? If so, an important change is on the horizon: *RMLS™ will be eliminating map coordinates fields with the RMLSweb forms change coming this spring.* This means that any saved searches you have that utilize map coordinates through Thomas Guide (or Pittmon Maps) will need to be updated with a map shape to replace this geographic component of each of your saved searches.

Adjusting your search may sound difficult, but RMLS™ will help subscribers effected by this change as much as possible. Look for a video in the coming weeks about how to replace map coordinates in a saved search with a drawn shape on a map.

You may be wondering *why* RMLS™ is eliminating these fields from RMLSweb. Usage of these fields has been steadily declining. Brokers who search using these fields are missing active properties on RMLSweb—a big problem in markets with low inventory! The RMLS™ Forms Committee recommended removal as part of its annual set of RMLSweb forms changes.

Sorry to break the bad news to you Lloyd, but we'll be doing our best to make the transition as smooth as possible for you.

Sincerely Yours,

Technical Terry

Hey Technical Terry–

This is the first year I'll be able to attend the RMLS™ Education Summit and Trade Fair. I'm making the drive from The Dalles to take the SentiLock class. Really looking forward to it. Do you have any tips you'd recommend for someone who has never been to this event?

It's Gorge-ous in the Dalles

Hey Gorge-ous:

What a great question! It's great that you're making the trek from The Dalles to attend the event. Even if you weren't taking the SentiLock class, there's still plenty of aspects of this annual event that will make the trip worth your time.

Top tips for a first-timer:

- *Bring plenty of business cards.* Business cards will not only be useful when you're chatting with industry vendors and networking with other REALTORS®, but they're also your key to prize drawings! This year RMLS™ has 50 door prizes lined up valued at nearly \$6,000.
- *Waitlisted? Show up!* Class registration may be full, but not everyone makes it the day of the event. If you're on the wait list, we can't get you into a class if you're not there! Show up for class and there's a good chance we'll have a spot for you.
- *Sign in AND sign out for classes.* If you're going to a class, make sure to sign in when you arrive AND sign out when you leave. Without a signature, time-in, and time-out, you

will not receive a CE certificate after the event.

- *Parking advice.* If you've parked inside the DoubleTree parking structure, check in at the RMLS™ info desk for a \$3 parking voucher. If you don't have a voucher, your parking will be more than \$3. There's also a parking pay station located inside the DoubleTree event space, if you want to pay before heading back to your car.

If that's not enough, I'd also keep your eyes peeled for the basketball tournament happening inside the trade fair hall. REALTORS® will be shooting hoops all day, and the winner will receive a free quarter of RMLS™ dues!

We hope to see you at the event, Gorge-ous! Be sure to stop by the RMLS™ info desk and say hello.