

RI-CAS/DAS FAQ

rev. 14 May 2008

Why is RI going to stop distributing and supporting RI-CAS and RI-DAS?

When RI purchased the Clubmate application in August 2003 and re-branded it as Rotary International Club Administration Software (RI-CAS) and Rotary International District Administration Software (RI-DAS), the intention was to provide Rotary clubs and districts with an administrative tool that would eventually integrate with RI's online services, such as the Member Access Portal (MAP).

Since then, however, it has become clear that supporting and developing RI-CAS/DAS is diverting key resources away from other technology projects critical to the infrastructure and future direction of Rotary International. In addition, RI-CAS and RI-DAS are still only being used by a very low percentage of clubs and districts around the world, making continued support of the software even less cost-effective.

Therefore, in order to re-direct resources to more critical projects, such as a long-overdue upgrade to our membership database and enhancements to the Member Access Portal, RI will no longer distribute or support RI-CAS and RI-DAS as of 31 December 2008.

How many clubs and district are using RI-CAS and RI-DAS?

All district governors were contacted this year and asked to provide details on the use of both RI-DAS and RI-CAS in their district. The results showed that only about 1.5% of our clubs/districts are using the software.

Can we still use RI-CAS and RI-DAS after 31 December 2008 even though RI will not support it?

Yes, clubs and districts may still use the software after 31 December 2008. However, no support will be available from RI and no new versions of the software will be forthcoming. Also, if the software should be corrupted or lost, replacement editions will not be available.

Will we be able to move our data to another application?

Yes, it will be possible to extract most of your data into a standard file format. Instructions will be provided upon request and assistance will be available via e-mail at cats@rotary.org (RI-CAS) or dats@rotary.org (RI-DAS).

Are there other software packages similar to RI-CAS and RI-DAS that we can use for club and district administration?

While RI cannot endorse any particular product, there are other club and district management packages available. Searching the internet for some of the following terms via Google or another search engine should return a number of relevant websites : club or district + administration or management + software or application. Rotary will also distribute a list of software alternatives with the clear understanding that it does not endorse any single product. Clubs and districts are advised to research their options carefully.

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Would RI consider selling the rights to the software?

RI is exploring the possibility of providing the software source codes to a user group or another entity. RI would not be in any way affiliated with this third-party service other than to advise that it is available.

Would RI consider allowing users to pay for support?

RI is reviewing the possibility of having an alternative third-party paid-service model of support to users. RI would not be in any way affiliated with this third-party service other than to advise that it is available.

Why hasn't RI done more to promote and upgrade the software since it was released?

It is true that no substantial improvements were made to the software after its initial release. While RI-CAS and RI-DAS were promoted over the years, RI recognizes that software also needs to be upgraded on a regular basis and training provided on its use. However, Rotary is not in the software development business as a core function and so was unable to provide the appropriate level of support and development.

Does RI have plans to add the functionality from RI-CAS and RI-DAS to its Member Access Portal (MAP)?

While RI is planning to upgrade security and provide additional functionality, we do not anticipate that these additions will allow clubs and district to manage all of their activities and needs via MAP.

Can RI tell me what other clubs/district use the software in my area?

While RI does have a list of e-mail addresses of the clubs/districts that downloaded the software, we cannot disclose this information due to privacy concerns.

Our club uses the online version of RI-CAS and RI-DAS. Will RI continue providing this service?

A small number of clubs and districts who were using the online version of Clubmate at the time RI purchased the software were permitted to continue doing so temporarily at no cost. Starting 1 July 2008, RI will no longer support the online version of RI-CAS and RI-DAS. Access to the online service will not be available after 1 September 2008.

Can the data be moved from the online version to the standalone version?

The data can be moved. An overview of the process follows:

1. Download and install standalone version
2. Export data from online version
3. Import data into standalone version.

RI is currently determining how much support we will be able to provide to users going through this type of migration. Detailed instructions can be obtained via e-mail at cats@rotary.org (RI-CAS) or dats@rotary.org (RI-DAS).

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Would RI consider allowing users to pay for on-line hosting?

RI is looking at the issue of whether or not a third party could take over the online version of the software and provide the necessary support and enhancements. However, RI itself would not play any part in such a service model other than to advise that it is available. Clubs and district would need to work directly with any vendor willing and able to take on this service.

Our club was using the online version. Where can I get instructions on how to use the standalone version?

The standalone version should operate in much the same way as the online version. The main difference is that the standalone version is designed to be loaded onto a single computer and is not accessible by multiple members or via the internet.

Can multiple members access the standalone version via the internet?

No, the standalone version is designed for use on a single computer. Members cannot log in to the standalone version via the internet. The software can be loaded onto more than one computer, and there is a synchronization process available. However, synchronization is difficult to maintain and RI does not recommend this type of installation.