



Commonwealth Authentication Service (CAS)

What is CAS?

COV's Enterprise Solution for Identity Management and Authentication

Why does Virginia need Identity Management and Authentication?

A strong Identity Management and Authentication system provides confidence and trust in user online identities, thus averting fraudulent activity, providing protection to COV systems and ensuring citizen privacy.

How does CAS fill this need?

- Individuals enroll once in the central CAS system and undergo an identity proofing process in which their identity is bound to an authentication token. This process creates a single, unique online identity which is reusable across all CAS protected websites.
- CAS uses a risk-based approach that separates valid from invalid identities using a combination of COV data and proven quantitative techniques. This approach is widely adopted as a best practice in financial, ecommerce, health care and telecommunications industries.



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How was CAS created and how is it maintained?

In partnership with the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA), the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), DMV delivered CAS in 2013 and continues to oversee the operations, management and enhancements to the shared enterprise service. CAS leverages the Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) and Enterprise Data Management (EDM) solution, while also providing full compliance with all MITA, COV and Federal standards, including NIST. CMS provided the required funding for building the Commonwealth Authentication Service Project through DMAS.

Who uses CAS?

While designed, sized and built as an enterprise solution, the only user of CAS today is the DSS CommonHelp website.



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What is the future of CAS?

- While several agencies have shown interest, no other agencies have stepped forward to onboard to CAS at this time.
- Even though CAS was built as an enterprise solution, support costs have fallen on DSS alone. DSS is reevaluating the CAS enterprise solution and considering a single agency solution.
- Ownership of CAS continues to sit with DMV. Should DSS decide not to use CAS and no other agencies onboard, CAS may be decommissioned and placed "on the shelf".
- DMV and VITA are aggressively working on options to reduce the cost of CAS while still providing an enterprise identity management and authentication solution for the Commonwealth.