

Hosting Services Overview



Options abound when implementing the AASHTOWare Project™ software, and accessing the software in a hosted environment is one area of increased interest and growth. Utilizing the hosted environment allows your agency to run the AASHTOWare Project software with no significant capital investment and without impacting IT staff.

Key benefits

Benefits that any agency, regardless of size, can obtain via hosted services include:

- **Scalability:** Data centers can handle immense server loads and changes in load more easily than traditional in-house environments.
- **Recovery:** A failed system can be replaced more quickly than traditional environments through software automation and streamlined administration.
- **Security:** Software is hosted at data centers that have the very highest levels of security. Software controls internal networking within the data centers to provide maximum isolation of network content, and backup storage is strongly encrypted at rest.
- **Customizable storage and size:** Services can be created with as much capacity as needed.
- **Minimal burden on internal resources:** An organization can allow internal resources to focus on core operations without concerns about equipment.
- **Disaster recovery:** A “hot backup” of the database is maintained and will automatically switch over when needed, and multi-site backup of the data can be established if desired.

Hosted Services Available

Hosted services can take many forms, and therefore a variety of options exist.

- **Hosted evaluation environment** - Agencies can have a hosted sandbox environment to evaluate new releases of the AASHTOWare Project software for a short period, or can choose to maintain a hosted sandbox environment for a long-term. This service also includes data obfuscation. With data obfuscation, sensitive data is replaced with generic data or manipulated in such a way that it is no longer sensitive and thus no longer requires encryption.
- **Hosted data migration** - Agencies can have the data migration from client/server software to web-based software hosted. The project includes several runs of the Data Migration Utility (DMU). The utility performs data validation checks and reports data that is not migrated due to validation failures. Issues are documented and fixed as is practical and within scope and budget. As an example, an agency seeking to migrate from the PES®/LAS® software to



the AASHTOWare Project Preconstruction™ software could utilize this service. Since multiple executions of the DMU are typically required to complete this analysis, this service includes three (3) iterations of the DMU execution in a test environment. This also includes the results analysis, performing some data repairs, and reporting the results. When an agency is ready to switch over to production mode, one final DMU run is executed to migrate remaining PES/LAS data to the AASHTOWare Project Preconstruction software. The finalized data is then provided to the agency for import into the production system.

- **Hosted Implementation** - Whether an agency is doing an initial implementation of the AASHTOWare Project software, is migrating from the client/server AASHTOWare Project software to the web-based software, or is upgrading to the latest release, hosted implementation services can assist. This approach can expedite an implementation by several months since the ability to configure, load data, and test without acquiring equipment can be a significant timesaver. In a hosted environment, agencies can begin work almost immediately rather than waiting for the necessary funding and resources to become available to both acquire and configure the appropriate servers for an installed production implementation. For example, the hosted environment can be used for testing configurations and for the development of roles.

As part of the implementation process, hosted training is available. It can be for initial end-user training during the implementation phase or for customized training after implementation. Thus, user training on the hosted system can occur while final installation and preparation is being done for the production system. Since the training is occurring outside of the production system, potential conflicts with production data are avoided.

- **Hosted production** – Agencies can be in full production with the AASHTOWare Project software in the hosted environment. Hosted production is convenient and provides great flexibility in provisioning the environment and scaling it to meet user requirements with capacity adjustments as needed. The hosted production environment includes both a test environment and a production environment.

Why choose Info Tech, Inc.?

Info Tech, Inc., as an AASHTOWare Project contractor, is authorized to provide the hosting service utilizing AASHTO Service Units as a payment option if preferred. Info Tech offers agencies the combined expertise of an AASHTOWare® contractor with the reliability and security of a qualified, reputable service provider with more than a decade of experience in providing hosting to state transportation agencies. Info Tech is an end-to-end hosting services provider, assisting in all phases of an agency's use of the AASHTOWare Project software.

Next steps

Info Tech has developed a questionnaire to collect information needed to begin an assessment for an agency interested in hosting services. To learn more about hosting services for AASHTOWare Project products and to obtain the hosting questionnaire, please contact the Info Tech Account Manager for your agency. Additional information about hosted services is available in the AASHTOWare Catalog available at www.aashtoware.org.

For more information about this service contact AASHTO or the AASHTOWare® contractor:



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