A national MLS? C.A.R. livestream suggests strong appetite

What if, instead of 700 or so multiple listing service databases nationwide, there were only one? It's an idea that's floated in the industry for years, but appears to be taking on new urgency as real estate leaders become increasingly impatient with the inefficiencies that come with maintaining and accessing hundreds of separate databases. In a livestreamed panel hosted by the California Association of Realtors (C.A.R.) Wednesday, C.A.R. CEO Joel Singer asked a dozen industry leaders if "a standards-based national backend" should be the industry's goal "because it’s technically possible and also by definition it’s the most efficient, isn't it?" None disagreed with Singer and Mark McLaughlin, CEO of prominent brokerage Pacific Union, was quick to say, "That is the goal. It is in process." Singer replied, "Well, it’s in process in several ways, right? Within the MLS system and outside the MLS system and that’s the message for those of us inside organized real est...

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