

21-July-2024

Here is the final information about the post-end-of-life HCA “Friends and Family” plan.

To start, I urge you to again read over the announcement of this plan I wrote a few months ago. Here is that link:

<https://homecontrolassistantlegacy.com/HCA%20After%20Party.pdf>

I want to stress again the main points for those who sign up:

- You will receive support and answers to your questions, but responses may be slower than before.
- You will have continued access to all the documentation and library on the legacy site.
- You will have access to all updates, upgrades, and bug fixes or anything HCA related that I do. HCA Standard is gone. Everybody gets HCA Plus.
- While I will try, I can’t guarantee to resolve every support issue. Over the years there were some support issues I was unable to solve – usually some network issue – and this new plan has that same limitation.
- I am not guaranteeing to make any changes to HCA during the time this plan lasts. I expect to make changes and improvements but only time will tell how many and at what pace.

As to that last point, there is a bit of a story.

I have never been satisfied with the HCA User Interface. Not the “development” interface but the “Control User Interface”. I want something that looks good, and I can show people who may ask “What’s the screen on the wall?”. Over the years I have tried to come up with something that lets me look at all the aspects of my house in an organized manner and be nice looking too. Some of these attempts I have previously posted to the library, but I’ve been unhappy with some aspects of all of them.

Besides being functional and looking good, I wanted something extensible. That means if I get a new idea for a display then it could be added into the system easily. All the parts would work well together. I had created some good stuff, but part “A” didn’t really fit with part “B” and there were no consistent configuration methods.

Also, as I have written about many times, one tends to forget things. I put in new sensors, and because I didn’t write down the procedure, I didn’t remember what programs and displays to update. It was a mess. I wanted something where I could add a new device without needing to remember all the details of what to change; those changes are made with minimal effort.

Over the last few months, I have taken all my previous attempts and are reworking it all into something that satisfies my needs and, at least to me for now, looks reasonably good.

It will be released to “friends and family” when it’s ready. This is a good example of the sort of project that you can expect from me during this time. Just know that I have many non-HCA projects to mess about with as time goes on, so don’t expect a steady stream of HCA changes.

OK, time for the details.

To join this program costs \$250. That gets you on the list until 31-December-2024. If after that you want to continue, it is \$250 for the full 2025 year. There is no “PayPal button” so log into your PayPal account and “Send Money” to sales@hcatech.com. If you prefer to use Zelle or send a check, just email me and I’ll send you the details.

If you do join, please make sure that you tell me your preferred email address either in “notes to seller” in PayPal or just send me an email. Many people have a different email address in PayPal than they normally use.

I’ll acknowledge your purchase via email and then sometime after August 1st, I’ll assign your new access credentials to the HCA legacy site and send them to you. I’ll also put together an old-style mailing list so I can keep you all updated when new things are available. I’ll send a “welcome” message to that list with details on the latest downloads.

All the other questions about what you can still access and what keeps working if you don’t join are all answered in my original announcement.

If you still have questions just send them to me and I’ll do my best to answer.

##end##