

Contents

Revision History	2
Introduction.....	2
Upgrading Using SOLUS	3
Backing up SIMS and FMS	3
Permissions	4
SLG Compatibility.....	4
SIMS and One Compatibility.....	4
Accessing Other SIMS Applications	4
Included in this Release.....	5
Analysis 7	5
Assessment 7	6
B2B:Personnel	7
B2B:Student.....	7
Course Manager 7	7
Cover 7	7
Dinner Money 7	8
Examinations Organiser 6.74	8
Fees Billing 7	9
Options	10
Partnership Xchange.....	10
PLASC	11
Profiles 7	11
SIMS Learning Gateway 2	11
STAR 7	12
Updated Handbooks Available with this Release.....	13

Please read this release note carefully before installing or upgrading your software. Do not attempt any installation or upgrade without first making a fully restorable, verified backup of your SIMS system.

Revision History

Version	Change Description	Date
1.0	Initial release	20/08/09

Introduction

The SIMS 2009 August Update Release (7.122) incorporates new functionality in Examinations Organiser, Partnership Xchange, SIMS Learning Gateway 2 and STAR.



IMPORTANT NOTE: *It is recommended that the SIMS 2009 August Update Release is applied to existing installations by running SOLUS on the SIMS SQL Server.*

Generic Reporting

The content of the report output generated by clicking the **Print** button on any browser or detail page in SIMS has been amended to display only the information that is visible on-screen.

For example, from the **Detention Details** page (**Focus | Behaviour Management | Maintain Detentions**), clicking the **Print** button now produces a report containing only the information displayed on this screen.

Where to Find More Information

Release notes for previous releases can be obtained by clicking the appropriate menu link on the Home page of our SOLUS website (<http://www.capitaes.co.uk/solus>).

All handbooks referred to throughout this release note can be obtained from any of the following locations:

- The **Documentation** button on the **Home Page** in SIMS. Once open, click the **Handbooks** button, select the required category, then click the required handbook from the **Handbooks** page.
- SupportNet – copies of all handbooks are posted to SupportNet (<http://support.capitaes.co.uk>) and can be obtained by clicking the **Documentation** button on the Home page, then selecting **SIMS Handbooks** from the **Category** drop-down list and clicking the **Search** button.

- Copies of handbooks are now installed on the Central SIMS File server as PDFs and can be found in the S:\SIMS\Documentation folder (where S: indicates the location of your SIMS File server). Double-click the required PDF name to open the handbook.

If you are unable to obtain the required handbook using any of these methods, please email publications@capita.co.uk and we will be pleased to email a copy to you.



IMPORTANT NOTE: *Capita Children's Services has made this release note available in both Microsoft® Word (available from SupportNet) and PDF format to enable Local Authorities to edit the information supplied herein. Capita Children's Services cannot be held responsible for any changes, errors or omissions resulting from the subsequent editing of this supplied document.*

Editing School Numbers

It is no longer possible to edit the Local Authority Code, Establishment number or the DENI number (in the case of Northern Ireland) of the school, once it has been entered. This is in response to the problems created when new schools, commonly academies, are created from old ones. In the rare cases where the number of a school is genuinely changed or a mistake has been made, please refer to the *Modifying the School Number in SIMS* News Item (Resource Number **15723**).

Upgrading Using SOLUS

The SIMS Online Update Service (SOLUS) enables you to download and run SIMS releases and patches via the Internet. This is achieved using the SOLUS 2 Wizard.

For instructions on carrying out an upgrade, please refer to the *SIMS SOLUS Wizard 2 User Guide*, which is available from the SOLUS website (<http://www.capitaes.co.uk/solus>).

Backing up SIMS and FMS

Where SIMS Personnel is used to generate Salary Projections in FMS, SIMS and FMS backups should be carried out at the same time. If one of the databases needs to be restored, the other database must be restored to the same point, i.e. if you restore the SIMS database, you must restore the FMS database to the same point and vice versa.

Permissions

A permissions spreadsheet listing all permissions relating to SIMS 7.122 can be accessed from our SupportNet website (<http://support.capitaes.co.uk>). Enter **PERMLIST** in the **Site Search** field then click the **Go** button.



IMPORTANT NOTE: From the SIMS 2009 June Main Release, permissions for the School Administrator user group has reduced access to staff data. Only the **Basic Details** and **Personal Information** panels are now displayed on the **Staff Details** page for users with these permissions.

SLG Compatibility

SLG2 is guaranteed to support the previous two main releases of SIMS, inclusive of any main release it is shipped with (and any update releases in between).

Supported SIMS Versions with SLG2 August Update Release

The SIMS Learning Gateway 2 August Update Release can be used alongside the following versions of SIMS:

- SIMS 2009 August Update Release (SIMS 7.122)
- **SIMS 2009 June Main Release (SIMS 7.120)**
- SIMS 2009 March Update Release (SIMS 7.118) – for Partnership Xchange customers only
- **SIMS 2009 March Main Release (SIMS 7.116)**

If you install the SIMS 2009 August Update Release (SIMS 7.122) and continue to run an older release of SLG2, this is not guaranteed to work and is therefore not supported.

SIMS and One Compatibility

The SIMS 2009 August Update Release is compatible with the One 3.36 June Release, as well as the One 3.36 July Update 1 Release and B2B:Personnel Update Release.

Accessing Other SIMS Applications

The method of accessing other applications within SIMS has now changed. Previously, the **SIMS Shortcuts** bar on the left-hand panel of SIMS was used to access applications such as System Manager, Schoolcomms and Nova T-6. These applications are now accessed from the **Focus** menu, e.g. **Focus | System**. The **SIMS Shortcuts** bar has now been removed.

Included in this Release

This release includes fixes and enhancements in the following areas:

- Analysis 7
- Assessment 7
- B2B: Personnel
- B2B: Student
- Course Manager 7
- Cover 7
- Dinner Money 7
- Examinations Organiser 6.72
- Fees Billing 7
- Options
- Partnership Xchange
- PLASC Return
- Profiles 7
- SIMS Learning Gateway 2
- STAR 7

Analysis 7

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- User defined groups now display all pupil/students correctly (via **Focus | Assessment | Group Analysis**).
- The group filter now works correctly in Group Analysis (via **Focus | Assessment | Group Analysis**).
- An error message is no longer displayed when creating a Chance Analysis that does not contain a row or column aspect (via **Focus | Assessment | Chance Analysis**).

Assessment 7

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- When selecting a **NESTED IF THEN ELSE** formula, the **Read Only** check box is now displayed correctly in the **Column Details** dialog (via **Focus | Assessment | Template**).
- The **Aspect Name** is now displayed correctly when printing pupil/student assessment results (via **Focus | Student | Student Details**).
- The **Application Status** column (which is an additional pupil/student information column) now populates correctly for pupil/students who have been accepted (via **Focus | Assessment | Marksheet Entry**).
- It is now possible to create graphs containing up to nine rows and nine columns for individual reports (via **Focus | Assessment | Individual Report**).
- It is now possible to remove notes associated with a mark on a marksheet by deleting the text from the **Edit Notes** dialog (via **Focus | Assessment | Marksheet Entry**).
- Marksheets now display the most recent result (via **Focus | Assessment | Marksheet Entry**).
- If a pupil/student is not recorded as having a special educational need, the **SEN Need** column (which is an additional pupil/student information column) is no longer populated (via **Focus | Assessment | Marksheet Entry**).
- The correct values are now displayed when selecting an **Outcome Type of Count** in a Group Analysis (via **Focus | Assessment | Group Analysis**).
- When creating an OMR sheet for a class, the Class Teacher is now displayed as the Supervisor (via **Focus | Assessment | OMR Template**).
- The **Previous School** column (which is an additional pupil/student information column) is now populated for pupil/students with an application status of **Applied** or **Accepted** (via **Focus | Assessment | Marksheet Entry**).
- The Individual Report tag for percentage lesson attendance now matches that in the Individual Subject Attendance Summary report (via **Reports | Lesson Monitor | Individual Student Reports | Individual Subject Attendance Summary**).

B2B:Personnel

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- An error message is no longer displayed when exporting to One after a staff absence record has been deleted from Personnel 7 (via **Routines | Data Exchange | B2B Personnel | Export ALL**).
- When importing data into SIMS, the **Always Import** option now works correctly for the Absence Container (via **Routines | Data Exchange | B2B Personnel | Field Processing**).

B2B:Student

Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- Pupil/student core data is now being generated correctly via B2B:Student (via **Routines | Data Exchange | Manage Tasks**).

Course Manager 7

Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- An error message is no longer displayed when assigning a QAN to a D&T – Resistant Materials course (via **Tools | Academic Management | Course Manager | Maintain Course**).
- A message is displayed and a course membership is not saved, if the End Date and the Planned End Date are different and when the End Date is in the future.

Cover 7

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- It is now possible to generate room closures for examinations with a 0 duration (via **Tools | Cover | Generate Room Closures**).
- Reasons for Closure in Cover 7 are now retained on completion of the Nova-T4 migration, and Exams in Cover now works correctly.
- Any changes made to a room on the Cover Diary are now reflected on printed Cover Slips (via **Focus | School | Arrange Cover**).

- The Detect Timetable process no longer causes a database timeout (via **Tools | Cover | Detect Time Table Changes**).
- Displaying a day on the Cover Diary now works correctly (via **Focus | School | Arrange Cover**).
- The Noticeboard Absence Grid can now be produced correctly (via **Focus | School | Arrange Cover**).
- HTML reports are now generated correctly on Linux systems (via **Focus | School | Arrange Cover**).

Dinner Money 7

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- The **Autofill Default Meals** routine no longer completes meals for leavers regardless of whether or not the meal pattern has an end date (via **Routines | Dinner Money | Autofill Default Meals**).
- The **Autofill Default Meals** routine now records a meal for Accepted Applicants after their Date of Arrival.

Examinations Organiser 6.74

New Features

This release includes the following new feature:

- **Manual Adding and Editing of Data in PI**

Focus | PI values | Edit PI Data

A new facility is provided to enable you to add, and make accessible to PI calculations, additional qualifications that have no basedata support and therefore cannot be managed through the normal processes. This facility also makes it possible to fine-tune the calculations to produce a closer approximation to official figures.



*NOTE: Only the first six characters of the **Level** field (QUAL/LEV) are displayed, both in the **PI Calculated Values** dialog and the **PI Results** dialog. This means that, for example, all levels of BTEC Diploma display as **BTEC/D**. For clarification purposes, you are advised to view the full description, which is displayed alongside the level code.*

- **Additional Reporting Formats**

Additional reporting formats are provided for PI outcomes, including:

- a breakdown of summary PI data by SEN, FSM and ethnicity, exported as XML (for schools in Northern Ireland).
- support for the Survey of Secondary School Performance (SSSP) in the form of the addition of the Core Subjects Indicator (for schools in Wales).
- modified calculations to recognise the equivalence of Welsh with English (for schools in Wales).

These additional reporting formats are available to users from all locales (with the exception of the last bullet point).

- **Basedata Changes**

The basedata changes introduced by version 12 of the JCQ Formats book (effective from 1st September 2009) are fully supported, but the changes to the Results format will be implemented in the SIMS 2009 Autumn Main Release. This will be in time for the first version 12 results in January 2010. Examinations Organiser 6.74 will not import basedata that conforms to version 11 or earlier.

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- It is now possible to use the cursor keys or a mouse click to navigate to the next cell in an Entry by Forecast marksheet (via **Focus | Marksheet – Data Entry**).
- An error message is no longer displayed when running the **Components with Incomplete Seating** report (via **Reports | Seating Organiser | Components with Incomplete Seating**).
- All registration groups are now displayed on a printed marksheet (via **Focus | Marksheet – Data Entry**).

Fees Billing 7

Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- When transferring bills, FMS now displays the Billing Term that is specified on the bill (via **Focus | Fees Billing | Periodic | Transfer Bills**).

Options

Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- It is now possible to change a student's band membership (via **Focus | Student, Student | Edit Bands**).

Partnership Xchange

New Features

This release includes the following new features:

- **Manual Attendance Mapping**

In some circumstances, the automatic mechanism that is used to interpret incoming lesson marks in the context of the local lessons cannot be run successfully, resulting in apparent gaps in the lesson mark record. This new feature provides an opportunity to manually map the received marks to specified periods at the local school.

For more information, please refer to the *Working in Attendance/Lesson Monitor* chapter in the *Partnership Xchange for School Administrators* handbook.

- **Assessment Marksheet Templates**

Partnership Xchange enables results on marksheets to be published or shared (made available to other schools for request). To control these functions, it is now possible to mark each Assessment template with a **Partnership Type** – a status indicating whether its marksheets are suitable for either of these operations.

For more information, please refer to the *Working in Assessment* chapter in the *Partnership Xchange for School Administrators* handbook.

- **Partnership Status of Marksheet Results**

Marksheets in Partnership Xchange are now provided with an alternative colour scheme that indicates when a result has been published or shared with other schools in the partnership.

For more information, please refer to the *Working in Assessment* chapter in the *Partnership Xchange for School Administrators* handbook.

PLASC

Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- Pupil/students in care are now displayed correctly on the **Pupil Detail Basic** report (via **Routines | Statutory Returns | PLASC**).

Profiles 7

Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- The correct class name is now displayed on Profiles reports (via **Focus | Profiles | Student Profiles**).
- The school logo now displays correctly on Profiles reports (via **Focus | Profiles | Student Profiles**).
- Blank pages are no longer displayed on the **Missing Entries** report (via **Reports | Profiles | Missing Entries Report**).
- Bulleted text pasted into a comment from a Microsoft® Word document now displays correctly on the generated profile (via **Focus | Profiles | Student Profiles**).
- Comments added in List Entry now have the correct formatting (**Focus | Profiles | Data Entry | List Entry**).
- The appropriate spacing is applied when an embedded result is added to a comment, (via **Focus | Profiles | Comment Banks**).

SIMS Learning Gateway 2

For information on the new version of SIMS Learning Gateway 2, please refer to the release notes that will be made available from our SOLUS website (<http://www.capitaes.co.uk/solus>) on product release.



IMPORTANT NOTE: Support for SIMS Learning Gateway 1 expired on 31 March 2009.

STAR 7

New Features

This release includes the following new feature:

- **Home Page Groups**

To improve the relevance of information displayed on your **Home Page**, the ability for schools to set up their own Home Page groups has now been added to SIMS.

Setting up Home Page groups enables the display of a default set of panels on the **Home Page** for each group member.

Certain Home Page groups have been predefined in SIMS, enabling the display of a default set of panels on the **Home Page** for group members who have never had access, or are new to the SIMS system. For example, a new class teacher of registration group 7A is automatically assigned to the **Registration Tutor** Home Page group, and receives panels displaying information on registration group 7A on their **Home Page** by default.

For staff already familiar with the **Home Page** and not a member of a predefined group, your School Administrator is able to set the new panels to display by default on their **Home Page** without removing any of their previously configured panels.

In addition, your School Administrator is able to set up additional Home Page groups and to configure the panel sets for the group members.

For more information, please refer to the *Adjusting the Home Page Display* chapter in the *Managing Pupil/Students in SIMS* handbook and the *General SIMS Setups* chapter in the *Setting Up and Administering SIMS* handbook.

Enhancements

This release includes an enhancement in the following area:

- **Personalising the Quick Letter Template**

You can now personalise the Quick Letter template without affecting the templates of other SIMS users.

The ability to have local copies of the quick letter templates should enable Terminal Server / Citrix installations to share the SIMS .net installation folder for all the schools on the server, saving much time and effort during upgrades to SIMS. Server administrators may wish to deploy appropriate copies of a school template to the My SIMS Documents folder for each user in a given school to enable this new facility.

For more information, please refer to the *General SIMS Setups* chapter in the *Setting Up and Administering SIMS* handbook.

Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- Pupil/student core data is now being generated correctly via B2B: Student (via **Routines** | **Data Exchange** | **Manage Tasks**).

Updated Handbooks Available with this Release

The following handbooks have been updated for this release. Please refer to the *What's New in This Release* section in each handbook for details of the specific changes.

- Active Directory Provisioning 2 for System Administrators
- Maintaining Pupil/Students in SIMS
- Partnership Xchange for School Administrators
- Setting Up and Administering SIMS
- SIMS Examinations Organiser
- SIMS Learning Gateway 2 for System Administrators