

Automating SOLUS 2 for Schools

Contents

Introduction.....	2
Modes of Upgrade	2
Download Only	2
Upgrade Only	2
Download and Upgrade	2
Forced Upgrades	3
Proxy Server Configuration.....	3
Passwords	3
Command Line Parameters	3

© Capita Business Services Ltd 2006. All rights reserved.
No part of this publication may be reproduced, photocopied, stored on a retrieval system, translated or transmitted without the express written consent of the publisher.

Capita Education Services, Franklin Court, Priory Business Park, Cardington, Bedford, MK44 3JZ
Tel: 01234 838080 Fax: 01234 838091 <http://sims.capitaes.co.uk>

Introduction

SOLUS 2 can now be scheduled or called from a command line. Fully automated upgrades can be performed for SIMS only and not for FMS. FMS requires manual input to run the database upgrade tool, but downloads can be scheduled.

Customers are recommended, in the main, to schedule downloads. This usually gives the biggest time saving and allows users to make decisions over upgrades.

Modes of Upgrade

Download Only

This will download any available upgrade and not apply it. With this method upgrades can be downloaded overnight to minimise the impact on bandwidth usage. The upgrade can then be applied at a time of the administrator's choosing.

Alternatively downloads can be scheduled during the day and then applied at a time of the administrator's choosing. Typically the upgrade takes a few minutes to complete – it is the downloading that takes the time (patches excluded).

```
SOLUS /USER=SYSMAN /PASSWORD=PASSWORD /AUTO=DOWNLOADONLY  
/AGREETOTERMS
```

Upgrade Only

This will apply any previously downloaded upgrades to SIMS. This does not download any further files or deal with failed downloads. It will either upgrade or record the error.

For example, if a network administrator wanted to run the upgrade at 8pm and left for home at 5.40pm, then this option can be used.

```
SOLUS /USER=SYSMAN /PASSWORD=PASSWORD /AUTO=UPGRADEONLY  
/AGREETOTERMS
```

Download and Upgrade

As it suggests, both the download and upgrade are done in succession. However FMS application files will only be downloaded as all FMS upgrades must be carried out manually.

```
SOLUS /USER=SYSMAN /PASSWORD=PASSWORD /AUTO=DOWNLOADANDUPGRADE  
/AGREETOTERMS
```

Forced Upgrades

These must be used with care. If the system is actually in use data can be lost and, in extreme cases, the database damaged.

If you choose this option you are asserting the role of the SQL Administrator by passing your **SA User ID** and **SA Password** and telling it to force the upgrade.

As SA you have the authority to turn off the server and make a physical decision of a similar nature and hence it has been added as an option. As such the onus is on the SA to ensure that their decision is a sensible one.

```
SOLUS /USER=SYSMAN /PASSWORD=PASSWORD /AUTO=DOWNLOADANDUPGRADE  
/AGREETOTERMS /FORCEUPGRADE /SAUSER=SA /SAPASSWORD=SHHH
```

```
SOLUS /USER=SYSMAN /PASSWORD=PASSWORD /AUTO=UPGRADEONLY  
/AGREETOTERMS /FORCEUPGRADE /SAUSER=SA /SAPASSWORD=SHHH
```

Proxy Server Configuration

The Proxy Server credentials can also be passed.

```
SOLUS /PROXYSERVERNAME=<PROXY URI> /PROXYSERVERUSER=<USER ID FOR  
PROXY SERVER> /PROXYSERVERPASSWORD=<PASSWORD>
```

```
SOLUS /PROXYSERVERNAME=PROXYSERVER /PROXYSERVERUSER=FRED  
/PROXYSERVERPASSWORD=HELLO
```

Passwords

Windows Scheduler stores jobs using Windows Security. Storing passwords in these jobs is therefore relatively secure. The same cannot normally be said of batch files, etc.

Command Line Parameters

These are NOT case sensitive.

With the exception of any password parameters, command line parameters can be stored in be stored in a config file which can itself be called as a parameter.

Support Units can pass a school number as a parameter to point to SOLUS 2 at their test school.

It is also possible to pass a parameter to prevent a backup of the SIMS database taking place. This is not recommended as if an upgrade fails, and a backup has not taken place, the data can be irreversibly damaged.

The following is a list of all the command line parameters that can be passed:

```
/CONFIG="X:/CONFIG.INI"  
/SERVER=SIMSQLSERVER  
/DATABASE=SIMSDATABASE  
/USER=USERNAME  
/PASSWORD=PASSWORD  
/AGREETOTERMS  
/AUTO=DOWNLOADANDUPGRADE OR /AUTO=DOWNLOADONLY OR  
/AUTO=UPGRADEONLY  
/NOPROXYSERVER  
/PROXYSERVERNAME=PROXY:8080  
/PROXYSERVERUSER=PROXYUSERNAME  
/PROXYSERVERPASSWORD=PROXYPASSWORD  
/PROXYSERVERDOMAIN=DOMAINNAME  
/FMSUSER=FMSUSERNAME  
/FMSPASSWORD=FMSPASSWORD  
/FORCEUPGRADE  
/SAUSER=SAUSERNAME  
/SAPASSWORD=SAPASSWORD  
/SCHOOLNUMBER=SCHOOLNUMBER  
/SCHOOLPOSTCODE=SCHOOLPOSTCODE  
/NOBACKUP  
/HELP or /?
```

When automating SOLUS 2 the parameter `/agreetoterm`s must be included.

Batch files can be written excluding the `/auto` parameter. In this case the SOLUS 2 Wizard will open with all the fields correctly filled in.

For example, a batch file might include the following:

```
SOLUS /USER=JBLOGG /PASSWORD=TGY152 /AUTO=DOWNLOADANDUPGRADE  
/AGREETOTERMS /PROXYSERVERNAME=145.23.53.6:8080  
/PROXYSERVERUSER=JBLOGG /PROXYSERVERPASSWORD=TGY152  
/FMSUSER=BURS321 /FMSPASSWORD=MONEY520 /FORCEUPGRADE  
/SAUSER=ADMINISTRATOR /SAPASSWORD=6823IFH25
```