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SIMS Enhanced Support

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Deploying an Upgrade Using SOLUS 3

Guide to deploying SIMS, FMS, and
Discover upgrades for schools

Introduction

This document is designed to help customers upgrade SIMS, FMS and Discover using SOLUS 3.

Please Note: This document uses a SIMS upgrade as an example but the process is the same for an FMS or Discover upgrade.

It is essential that a SOLUS 3 Agent is present on ALL workstations using SIMS, FMS and/or Discover.

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Version	Date	Change	Updated By
1.4	Spring 16	Updated InTouch info in upgrade order, added My Account link	Barry Wright
1.4	Summer 16	No change	Barry Wright
1.5	Spring 2017	Updated screenshots for SOLUS deployments. Amended text to reflect more up to date version of SIMS/FMS/Discover. Updated footer.	Neal Revell
1.6	Autumn 2017	Minor adjustments to layout	Neal Revell
1.7	Summer 2018	Minor adjustments to footer	Geoff Kemp

Upgrade Order - Reminder

Customers using SLG, and Partnership Xchange will need to upgrade in a particular order, outlined below.

SIMS Learning Gateway

Details on how to obtain this release will be distributed to you via email shortly after the release has been authorised.

SIMS Learning Gateway customers should wait until the SIMS Learning Gateway release has been applied to their system before applying the SIMS release.

InTouch

An update to InTouch has been made available to ensure compatibility with the SIMS release. The update will be applied to your InTouch installation automatically via SIMS Services Manager and should not require user interaction.

Partnership Xchange (PX)

An update to PX has been made available to ensure compatibility with the SIMS release. Details on how to obtain this update will be distributed to you via email shortly.

PX customers should wait until the PX Release has been applied to their system before applying the SIMS release.

SOLUS 3

Step One - Launching SOLUS 3

Note: Please ensure all users are logged out of all SIMS/FMS software before continuing.

1. On the server or the computer hosting your SOLUS 3 database, double-click the **SOLUS 3 Deployment Server UI** icon on the desktop. Or launch via the menu route **Start | All Programs | SOLUS 3 | SOLUS 3 Deployment Server UI**.



2. When SOLUS 3 UI loads it will default to the **Upgrade Library** screen.

The screenshot shows the SOLUS 3 Upgrade Library interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Environment', 'Upgrades', and 'Settings'. Below the tabs, there are buttons for 'Update Library' and 'Deployment History'. The main area is titled 'MANAGE UPDATES' and contains a table of updates. The table has columns for Release date, Product, Description, Version, Status, Size, and Type. Below the table, there are buttons for 'Check for updates', 'Authorisations', 'View', 'Extract', 'Download', and 'Deploy'.

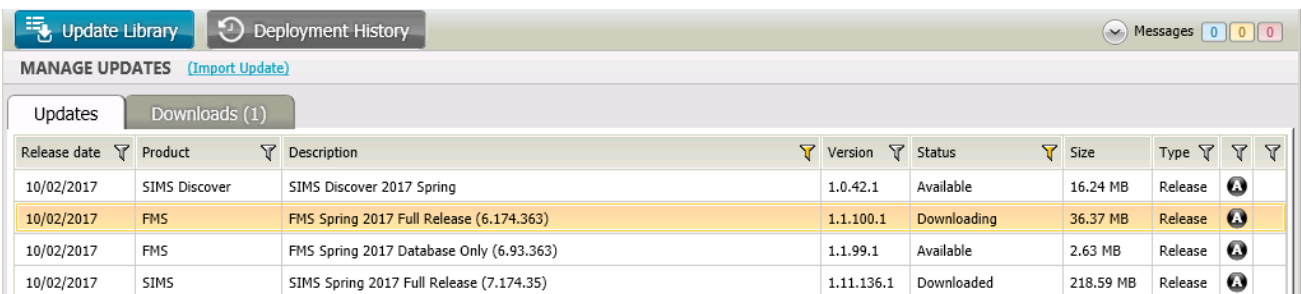
Release date	Product	Description	Version	Status	Size	Type
10/02/2017	SIMS Discover	SIMS Discover 2017 Spring	1.0.42.1	Available	16.24 MB	Release
10/02/2017	FMS	FMS Spring 2017 Full Release (6.174.363)	1.1.100.1	Available	36.37 MB	Release
10/02/2017	FMS	FMS Spring 2017 Database Only (6.93.363)	1.1.99.1	Available	2.63 MB	Release
10/02/2017	SIMS	SIMS Spring 2017 Full Release (7.174.35)	1.11.136.1	Downloaded	218.59 MB	Release
10/02/2017	SIMS	SIMS Spring 2017 Database Only (3.62.667)	1.11.135.1	Downloaded	15.21 MB	Release
20/01/2017	SIMS	SIMS Autumn 2016 - Workstation Patch 2 - School Census Spring 2017 Classes in NC Years E1 or E2	1.11.111.1	Available	1.59 MB	Release
07/12/2016	SIMS	Patch 22463 [3.62.491-3.62.575] - Teacher App dinner register patch Spring 2017	1.11.44.1	Available	12.33 KB	Patch

Step Two - Find update and download it:

1. Click on **Check for updates**.



2. A pop-up message will display if SOLUS 3 has detected any new updates. If however the SOLUS 3 auto download functionality is enabled, the updates may already have been downloaded.

A screenshot of the "MANAGE UPDATES" interface. It shows a table with columns for Release date, Product, Description, Version, Status, Size, and Type. The table lists several updates, with the "FMS Spring 2017 Full Release (6.174.363)" highlighted in orange. The status of this update is "Downloading".

Release date	Product	Description	Version	Status	Size	Type
10/02/2017	SIMS Discover	SIMS Discover 2017 Spring	1.0.42.1	Available	16.24 MB	Release
10/02/2017	FMS	FMS Spring 2017 Full Release (6.174.363)	1.1.100.1	Downloading	36.37 MB	Release
10/02/2017	FMS	FMS Spring 2017 Database Only (6.93.363)	1.1.99.1	Available	2.63 MB	Release
10/02/2017	SIMS	SIMS Spring 2017 Full Release (7.174.35)	1.11.136.1	Downloaded	218.59 MB	Release

Please Note: - If SOLUS 3 finds new updates, they will need to be downloaded before proceeding. To do this please select the appropriate release and click the **Download** button. You are able to check progress of this by clicking on the **Downloads** tab.

Step Three - Deploy Upgrade

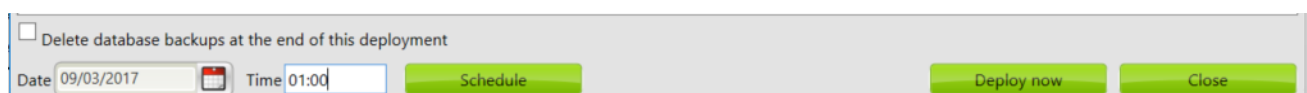
Each SIMS, FMS and Discover upgrade will be listed in the **Manage Updates** screen. The upgrades will usually be named after the school term in which they have been released. For example SIMS 2017 Spring or FMS Spring. **The upgrade to be released will be pre-fixed with 'Full Release', e.g. SIMS Spring 2017 Full Release.**

The exact wording will be displayed on the www.capitaess.co.uk upgrade notification.

1. Highlight the latest upgrade and click on **Deploy**.



2. A new page will now open giving you the option to deploy now or schedule for a later time.

A screenshot of a deployment options dialog. It includes a checkbox for "Delete database backups at the end of this deployment", a date field set to "09/03/2017", a time field set to "01:00", and buttons for "Schedule", "Deploy now", and "Close".

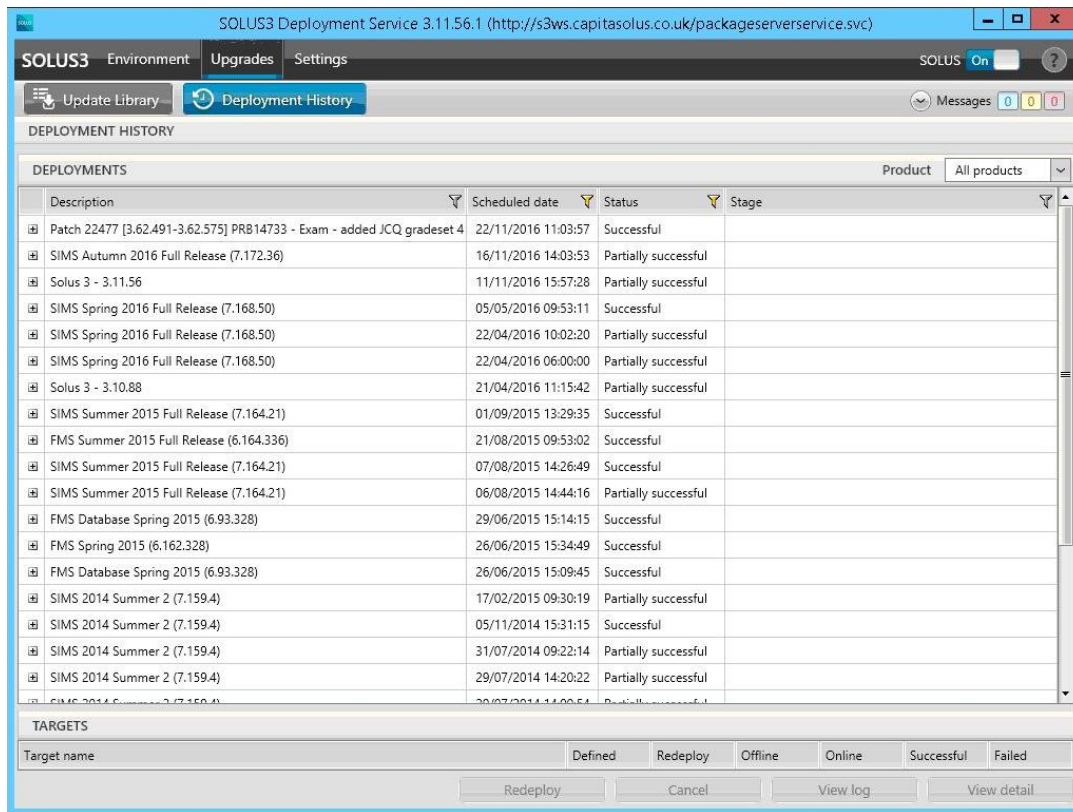
Delete database backups at the end of this deployment

Date: 09/03/2017 Time: 01:00

Schedule Deploy now Close

Step Four - Monitoring Progress

1. Once the upgrade has been deployed you are able to monitor its progress. Please click **Upgrades** and then **Deployment History** to see a list of current and previous deployments



The screenshot shows the SOLUS3 Deployment Service interface. The 'Deployment History' tab is active, displaying a table of deployment records. The table has columns for Description, Scheduled date, Status, and Stage. The status of each deployment is either 'Successful' or 'Partially successful'.

Description	Scheduled date	Status	Stage
Patch 22477 [3.62.491-3.62.575] PRB14733 - Exam - added JCQ gradeset 4	22/11/2016 11:03:57	Successful	
SIMS Autumn 2016 Full Release (7.172.36)	16/11/2016 14:03:53	Partially successful	
Solus 3 - 3.11.56	11/11/2016 15:57:28	Partially successful	
SIMS Spring 2016 Full Release (7.168.50)	05/05/2016 09:53:11	Successful	
SIMS Spring 2016 Full Release (7.168.50)	22/04/2016 10:02:20	Partially successful	
SIMS Spring 2016 Full Release (7.168.50)	22/04/2016 06:00:00	Partially successful	
Solus 3 - 3.10.88	21/04/2016 11:15:42	Partially successful	
SIMS Summer 2015 Full Release (7.164.21)	01/09/2015 13:29:35	Successful	
FMS Summer 2015 Full Release (6.164.336)	21/08/2015 09:53:02	Successful	
SIMS Summer 2015 Full Release (7.164.21)	07/08/2015 14:26:49	Successful	
SIMS Summer 2015 Full Release (7.164.21)	06/08/2015 14:44:16	Partially successful	
FMS Database Spring 2015 (6.93.328)	29/06/2015 15:14:15	Successful	
FMS Spring 2015 (6.162.328)	26/06/2015 15:34:49	Successful	
FMS Database Spring 2015 (6.93.328)	26/06/2015 15:09:45	Successful	
SIMS 2014 Summer 2 (7.159.4)	17/02/2015 09:30:19	Partially successful	
SIMS 2014 Summer 2 (7.159.4)	05/11/2014 15:31:15	Successful	
SIMS 2014 Summer 2 (7.159.4)	31/07/2014 09:22:14	Partially successful	
SIMS 2014 Summer 2 (7.159.4)	29/07/2014 14:20:22	Partially successful	

The deployment process is an automatic process and will require no further user interaction. The status of the deployment will initially show as **In Progress**. As each element of the upgrade is undertaken, a pop-up will display with a two minute countdown and a **Deploy Now** button.

Once the deployment is completed the status will change to **Successful** or **Partially Successful**.

Please Note: A status of **Partially Successful** means that the upgrade was unsuccessful on one or more of the targets (workstations). An example of this would be if a machine is turned off. SOLUS 3 will then upgrade the machine when it is next switched on.

Step Five - Discover

If the school is using the Discover product it is now important that you upgrade it to match the SIMS version. Once the SIMS release has been verified as **Successful** or **Partially Successful** it is important for schools using Discover that steps one to four are repeated for the Discover release.

Failure to do so will result in failed Discover transfers and potential issues with backup software.

Post Upgrade Tasks

Importing SIMS Reports

Included in every release of SIMS are an updated set of Predefined reports.

To ensure your system has the latest reports available, it is essential to import the reports following the steps below.

1. Open **SIMS**
2. Click on **Reports | Import**
3. Click on the **Open/browse** button and locate the SIMS installation path (typically C:\Program Files\SIMS\SIMS .net)
4. Highlight **Predefined_Reports_<Version Number>.RptDef** and click on **Open**
5. Click on **Import**

You can locate your SIMS version number by logging into SIMS and selecting **Help | About SIMS .net** which will list your new version number.

Automatic Updates for AMPARK

If there are updates to AMPARK available, a screen will appear when a user with Assessment Co-ordinator access rights first enters Assessment following the upgrade.

- Click **Yes**. It is recommended that Assessment users do not make changes to aspects or templates while this process takes place.
- Follow the screen prompts and the AMPARK resources are imported. The content of the import will vary with the type of school. The appropriate Key Stage files will be imported and Primary schools will have the option of importing the new Programme of Study Tracking Resources.
- This process will only take place after an update to AMPARK and will only need to be undertaken once for all workstations to use the materials.
- The usual report of the imported material concludes the process.

Appendix - Software Links

Links to all the latest Capita SIMS software, including SIMS/FMS upgrade ISO files can be located on the following web page:

<https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk/Notifications/SIMS-Release-Download-Links/>