

# SIMS Discover

Product Guide

January 2011



# SIMS Discover

The future of 21st century school analysis

SIMS Discover uses the latest technology to deliver a tool with incredible power to analyse SIMS data.

The heart of Discover is a data warehouse designed and optimised for high performance data analysis and data mining. Discover brings key information to you with a few simple drag and drop actions. Data will be presented as a series of 'palettes' which will include such items as student totals by gender and ethnicity, attendance and assessment statistics. The powerful user interface enables the data to be presented in a variety of ways, e.g. Venn diagrams, bar charts, pie charts and line graphs, with the ability to drill down into the data.

### Simple drag and drop interface

The main SIMS Discover screen allows you to choose from a bank of predefined and customisable graphs and drag them onto the workspace. You can then create your own analyses from these graphs and see which children fall into the specific categories. The benefit of this system is that all users can instigate their own investigations into areas of data that interest them, quickly and easily. The screen has deliberately been kept free from clutter and there are no complex menu routes or right mouse click menus. This interface will open up the sometimes challenging area of data analysis to all school staff.

### Intervene earlier

Another use of the analysis charts in Discover will be to create a Dynamic Group from an area of the chart. For example, you could create a Venn diagram of pupils whose attendance is below 85%, with below average assessment results and who have more than 10 behaviour points. The central intersection of this Venn diagram will contain a set of pupils that may need some interventions and a Dynamic Group can be created which can be moved into SIMS for management and tracking of this group of pupils. The ability to add assessment marksheets to a Dynamic Group will be added to monitor the success of interventions on pupil performance. These groups will automatically update so the user can see who falls into that category without having to go into the software each day.

### Automatic alerts

Alerts can be set up to indicate changes to the group membership. This means that staff could be automatically alerted to changes to groups they are interested in: students joining; students leaving; the group membership hitting a set number etc. This will benefit staff as they will be alerted when pupil data changes and students move into a group that they are monitoring. This could be for poor attendance or equally for a certain number of achievement points. There are plans to also send these alerts through our SIMS InTouch product.

### Summary of features

#### Predefined graphs for:

- Pupil numbers
- Attendance
- Punctuality
- Behaviour and achievement
- Exclusions
- SEN, FSM, EAL, etc.

#### User definable graphs for assessment

##### Bar graphs

##### Pie charts

##### Progression lines

##### Venn diagrams

##### Dynamic Groups

##### Alerts on Dynamic Group membership changes.



## Ten reasons why you should use Discover

### 1 Understand your data

Find out trends and patterns in your pupil data, monitor at risk groups, assess intervention strategies - see the whole picture.

### 2 Find out about the middle 80%

In the fast pace of school life it is difficult to manage all aspects of all pupils. Let the software do that for you and alert you to significant changes in that data.

### 3 Be told when pupils' data changes

Without even opening the screen, staff will be alerted to pupils joining or leaving Dynamic Groups. Staff will know of all significant changes to pupil performance or behaviour. Other areas of SIMS will be able to use these groups for filtering etc.

### 4 Stylish and simple intuitive interface

Staff will not need to be data managers or maths graduates to make good use of this software.

### 5 Works out of the box

The core, attendance, behaviour graphs, etc. will work on install. The school will need to identify their Assessment Aspects and then Discover will calculate the national measures.

### 6 All pupil data can be combined

Rather than having to look in different software packages or on different screens, all available pupil data will be present on one screen.

### 7 Demystify data analysis

Rather than data analysis being the domain of a few, all staff will be able to easily access the school's pupil data and find their own answers to traditionally complex queries.

### 8 Identify specific pupils

Pupils that may have previously slipped under the radar, with positive or negative attributes, will now be identified and appropriate actions can then be taken. This will help to ensure that no pupil goes unnoticed.

### 9 Venn diagrams can easily be created



With the simple click and drag on the graphs data points, a Venn diagram can easily be created. This gives a high level query that shows which pupils fall into all three categories.

### 10 Unlock the power of your data

Your SIMS system holds an incredible amount of data and information. With SIMS Discover, you can easily unlock the full power of your entire database.

# Your questions answered

## When can I have it?

From Spring 2011.

## How much is it?

It is an upgrade to the SIMS Performance Suite and is part of your annual maintenance entitlement.

## Will it work out 5+A\*-C?

Yes.

## How can we make sure we get the most from Discover?

Our Professional Services team can support your use of SIMS Assessment to ensure you get the most from the new analysis tools. This support includes scheduled training courses across the country, on-site consultancy using your own data and support in-school to customise your use of SIMS by setting up new templates for example. Our support will help all your staff to become managers of their data. Call 0844 893 9000 to find out more.

Contact us on **01234 832100** or email **sales@capita-cs.co.uk** and we will be happy to discuss these options with you and answer any other questions you may have.

“ We are a Discover pilot school, and are very excited at seeing our analyses in full colour interactive graphs! It will, for example, reinforce our focus on children’s attainment in English and maths in Venn Diagram format. ”

Jane Girle, Headteacher, Penn Wood Primary School

Pupil analysis that previously took days to set up and hours to do can now be done in minutes by all staff!

