

## SIMS.net Summer Main Release (7.132) Secondary Schools

### Introduction

The Summer Main Release of SIMS.net version 7.132 is an essential upgrade for all schools. This release must be taken order to complete the Autumn School Census 2010 and the School Workforce Census which takes place in November 2010..

This upgrade to your SIMS system contains some new features in addition to enhancements and fixes. The most significant of which are in the following areas: (in all cases more detailed information is available later in these notes)

- Revised files to support the Autumn School Census 2010
- Revised files to support the School Workforce Return Census in November 2010
- Timetable printing includes the functionality to view and print a wide variety of timetables from within SIMS. Advanced formatting options are also available. Timetables can now be produced for staff, student, rooms and non-class codes, plus a range of timetables including Free Staff and Subjects.
- Assessment Manager now includes the option to print the colours on individual parental reports for data derived from Nested If Then Else formulas.
- Course Manager; two new routines have been added to enable the bulk updating of course end dates: Bulk Update Course End Dates Routine and Bulk Update Course End Dates Leavers Routine
- In Personnel; A new field, **SWC Total Pay** (annual salary equivalent + allowances), is available
- Examination Organiser includes changes to diploma codes and new functionality to enable the management of diplomas. This release also includes the JCQ revised formats that are required from September 2010. Examination Officers should read the detailed notes below.
- SIMS Options Offer. This is the initial phase of the SIMS Options Offer process in SIMS. The first phase provides the ability to define and maintain Options Offers, create associated courses and lists of choices, assign students to the appropriate offers for their National Curriculum Year groups and define the band structure for eventual import into Options 5.70 and Nova-T6.
- Dinner Money 7; relaxation of staff and pupil deletion where no financial transactions recorded
- Pre-defined reports; a new pre-defined report has been created, called the Free School Meal Current Report.
- In addition to the modules mentioned above, there are fixes in the following areas: Academic Management, Assessment, Analysis 7, Attendance, Cover, Lesson Monitor, Profiles, & STAR

## DCSF has been Renamed DfE

The DCSF (the Department for Children, Schools and Families) has recently been renamed to DfE (the Department for Education). Our documentation will be updated to reflect this name change from the SIMS 2010 Autumn Release onwards.

## SLG Compatibility

SLG 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 SLG Summer Release

The SIMS Learning Gateway Summer Release can be used alongside the following versions of SIMS:

- SIMS 2010 Summer Release (SIMS 7.132)
- SIMS 2010 Spring Release (SIMS 7.128)



**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you install the SIMS 2010 Summer Release (SIMS 7.132) and continue to run an older release of SLG, this is not guaranteed to work and is therefore not supported.

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## B2B – Compatibility Between One and SIMS

As part of the SIMS 2010 Summer Release, we have undertaken full testing of both B2B:Student and B2B:Personnel to ensure that the release is fully compatible with both One v3.39 and One v3.40.

## Supported SIMS Versions with PX Summer Release

The SIMS PX Agent should be upgraded to the 2010 Summer Release immediately after, or in conjunction with, upgrading to the SIMS 2010 Summer Release.



**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you install the SIMS 2010 Summer Release (SIMS 7.132) and continue to run an older release of the PX Agent, this is not guaranteed to work and is therefore not supported.

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## Academic Management

### Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- When viewing class details through the Pupil (or Student) Details page, the class Description now displays the correct information (via **Focus | Pupil (or Student) | Pupil (or Student) Details | Links | Classes**).
- It is now possible to edit details in Manage Classroom Staff on an unpinned window (via **Focus | Person | Manage Classroom Staff**).

## Analysis 7

### Enhancements

This release includes an enhancement in the following area:

- The performance of the Group Analysis functionality has been enhanced (via **Focus | Assessment | Group Analysis**).

### Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- When selecting an Outcome Type of Percentage of Students, the correct figures are now displayed because only the most recent result is included (via **Focus | Assessment | Group Analysis**).

## Assessment 7

### New Features

This release includes the following new feature:

- **Shading Cells with Colour** **Focus | Assessment | Individual Report**  
The ability to shade cells with colour in Individual Reports has been provided. This facility can be switched on by selecting the Print Report with Colour checkbox in the Basic panel of Individual Reports. Once selected, colour is only applied to cells in a table in a report, and where there is one aspect to a cell.  
For more information, please refer to the Individual Reports chapter in the Assessment in SIMS handbook.

### Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- The Title Bar on a marksheet now displays a teacher's Preferred Surname rather than their Legal Surname (via **Focus | Assessment | Marksheet Entry**).
- A Head of Year can now view all class marksheets (via **Focus | Assessment | Marksheet Entry**).
- A fault no longer occurs when you zoom into a marksheet (via **Focus | Assessment | Marksheet Entry**).

## Attendance 7

### Fixes

This release includes a fix in the following area:

- In Edit Marks, names are now sorted according to the option selected in Attendance Setup (via **Focus | Attendance | Edit Marks**).
- The E mark, to indicate an Exclusion, is now populating the register correctly in the appropriate sessions (via **Focus | Student | Student Details | Links | Attendance**).

## Course Manager 7

### New Features

This release includes the following new features:

- **Bulk Update Course End Dates Routine**

#### Tools | Academic Management | Course Manager | Bulk Update Course End Dates

This routine should be used by schools in England if they have inadvertently set the Planned End Date for classes to a date in August. Running this routine sets the Planned End Date to 31 July to ensure that the courses are not excluded from the funding calculations.

- **Bulk Update Course End Dates Leavers Routine**

#### Tools | Academic Management | Course Manager | Bulk Update Course End Dates

This routine identifies and corrects course memberships where the Actual End Date for leavers occurs before the Planned End Date of the course.

For more information, please refer to the Managing Courses chapter in the Managing Courses in SIMS handbook.

- **Additional Classification Codes**

#### Tools | Academic Management | Course Manager | Maintain Course Classification

Two new classification codes have been defined for DAS Generic QAN and PPoS (available in England and Wales). These support the implementation of the Diploma Aggregation Services and Planned Programmes of Study for Diplomas from September 2010.

- **Display of the ULN for Schools in England and Wales**

For schools in England and Wales, the ULN is now displayed in the Members panel of the Course Details page (via **Tools | Academic Management | Course Manager | Maintain Course**).

- **Entering Free Text for a Course**

A Notes box is now available on the Basic panel of the Course Details page, enabling you to enter free text (via **Tools | Academic Management | Course Manager | Maintain Course**).

- **Display of Course Title**

The background of a course title on the Student Courses page will now be displayed in yellow if the course has one or more members in Year 12 and Year 13 with a Completion Status of Missing (via **Focus | Student | Courses**).

- **Searching for Courses with an Inactive Level**

The Level field in the Find Course browser now includes an active/inactive filter (via **Tools | Academic Management | Course Manager | Maintain Course**).

- **Identifying Inactive Levels in Course Details**

A course with an inactive level can now be identified by a warning triangle adjacent to the Level field in the Basic panel of the Course Details page (via **Tools | Academic Management | Course Manager | Maintain Course**).

## Cover 7

### Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- If you have selected No Cover Required for one or more periods, the correct number of absences are now being reported on the Absence Statistics report (via **Tools | Cover | Statistics | Absence**).
- When specifying the print options for the Notice Board Summary, the Hide empty columns check box is enabled only when you select to print the Full List report (via **Focus | School | Arrange Cover**).
- When you have booked a member of staff for exam invigilation, the details of this booking are now available through Manage Bookings (via **Tools | Cover | Organisations and Bookings | Manage Bookings**).
- Members of staff are now displayed only once on the Cover Statistics report (via **Tools | Cover | Statistics | Cover**).
- If a teacher's class is suspended and they are subsequently assigned to provide cover for another class, this is no longer displayed as a clash on the Home Page timeline (via **Focus | Home Page**).
- When a room closure ends, ??? is no longer displayed on the Home Page timeline for classes (via **Focus | Home Page**).
- Where a clash has occurred on the Home Page timeline, it is now possible to open the Take Register screen for both classes affected by the clash (via **Focus | Home Page**).
- When an indirect cover has been assigned to a room assignment, it is possible to edit the room closures (via **Focus | School | Arrange Cover**).

## Dinner Money 7

### Enhancements

This release includes an enhancement in the following area:

- **Pupil and Staff Delete**

Amendments have been made to relax the staff and pupil deletion rules. This will allow the deletion of pupil and staff records where no financial transactions (i.e. payments, reversals, refunds, etc.) have ever been recorded, and where the value of opening balances and meals taken is £0.00. Schools will be able to delete meals recorded and amend opening balances, in order to delete a duplicate pupil record. The record deletion will be logged within the Dinner Money Audit Log.

For more information, please refer to the Setting up Dinner Money chapter in the Setting up and Maintaining Dinner Money in SIMS handbook.

### Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- Today's meals are now included in the Brought Forward Balance on Charge Forecast letters (via **Reports | Dinner Money | Letters | Charge Forecast**).
- The Unbanked column no longer displays reversed payments (via **Focus | Dinner Money | Staff Payments**).

## Examinations Organiser 6.80

### New Features

This release includes the following new features:

- **Changes to Levels for Nova-T6 and Course Manager**

The following expired levels have been made inactive in Nova-T6 and Course Manager:

- GNVQF
- GNVQI
- VCEA
- VCEAS
- VCEDA

- **New Fields in the Reporting Data Dictionary**

Additional fields have been made available in the Performance Detail Focus node for inclusion in user-defined reports:

- PI Cohort
- Place Taken

A new Focus node has been added for Timetabling and this includes the following fields for inclusion in user-defined reports:

- External Subject Code
- Level
- Periods in Timetable Cycle
- Period Time

- Weeks in Cycle

For more information, please refer to the Producing Reports chapter in the SIMS Examinations Organiser handbook.

- **JCQ Formats Version 13**

JCQ has introduced version 13 of the EDI Formats, with effect from September 2010. Version 13 is backward compatible with version 12.

An amendment has been made to the option definition file and to the results file to accommodate the two new result types that were introduced previously by version 12 of the JCQ Formats:

- Result type B where a certification grade is to be accompanied by the four-digit UMS score on which the grade is calculated.
- Result type C for a genuine dimorph, where an item serves both as a certification and a unit under different qualification frameworks (e.g. Advanced FSMQ) with a four-digit UMS score.
- The Option definition file has been amended to accommodate new qualification/level combinations. There are new Exam Qualifications to support items Exam Type: Qualification (certification) and Exam Type: Qualification (unit).
- Additions have been made to the Gradesets file. The updated file can be downloaded from the JCQ website at [www.jcq.org.uk](http://www.jcq.org.uk).
- A change has been made to the basedata containing Result type B, to correct an anomaly where the aspects of Mark and Grade were both being classified as type 'Result'. The Mark aspect is now correctly classified as type 'Equivalent'.

For more information, please refer to the Importing and Administering Basedata chapter in the SIMS Examinations Organiser handbook.

- **Management of Diploma Administration**

- The facility to manage diploma administration has been provided for secondary schools. This facility enables schools to create and upload batch files to the Diploma Aggregation Service (DAS), record new diploma registrations and update existing registrations.

Several changes have been made to support the management of diploma seasons:

- A Diploma Maintenance dialog that enables the recording and viewing of a pupil/student's diploma information and a DAS Registered (Diploma Aggregation Service) check box on the Internal Candidate Details dialog that must be selected for all diploma pupil/students before processing begins.
- Changes have been made to the Submission Details dialog to offer the single option of Synchronise. The usual submission process is not available for a DAS season. A Submission Report can be printed from this dialog to show the updates to any DAS batch files created.
- Proxy basedata is available at version 13, to support the DAS registration process and the recording of Work Experience, Personal Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS) and Initiate Claim results for each LoL/Level combination. There is no basedata provided for Set Intention to Claim as this forms part of the Learner/Diploma registration process. Currently, there are 14 LoLs for which basedata is available. There are no QCA codes

provided for the latest four LoLs introduced from September 2010. As these become available, we will re-issue the basedata.

- A Diploma Status Check report can be produced showing pupil/students who are members of the course associated with the award at the membership date, and who are also members of the All Candidates group for the duration of the season pattern for the selected year.

For more information, please refer to the Diploma *Management in Exams* handbook.

## Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- The Unique Learner Number (ULN) is now displayed on the Statement of Entry report if the Include Component Information check box is selected in the report criteria (via **Reports | Entries | Statement of Entry**).
- Missing coursework components of external candidates are now displayed on the Candidate Timetables – Default report (via **Reports | Entries | Candidate Timetables – Default**).
- All the equivalence grades are now displayed correctly on the Element Component Results report (via **Reports | Results | Element Component Results**).

## Lesson Monitor 7

### Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- In Edit Marks, names are now sorted according to the option selected in Attendance Setup (via **Focus | Lesson Monitor | Edit Marks**).
- It is now possible to run the Group Analysis By Attendance Category report for either Sessions or Lessons (via **Reports | Lesson Monitor | Group Reports | Group Analysis By Attendance Category Report**).
- Exceptional circumstances are no longer being counted as a possible lesson when running the Individual Register report (via **Reports | Lesson Monitor | Individual Pupil Reports | Individual Register Report**).

## Personnel 7

### New Features

This release includes the following new feature:

- A new field, **SWC Total Pay** (annual salary equivalent + allowances), is available when adding a Service Agreement (via **Focus | Person | Staff**).

### Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- It is now possible to remove the expiry date (Expires on) of a CRB Check (via **Focus | Person | Staff**).

- It is now possible to change the end time of a new absence (End Time of Absence, via **Focus | Person | Staff**).
- Modifications have been made to the way in which Service Terms are exported and imported (via **Tools | Staff | Pay Related Import**).

## Reporting

### New Features

This release includes the following new feature:

- **Timetable Printing**

A range of timetable reports (**Reports | Timetables**) are now available from within SIMS. These reports replace the ones that until now have been available in Nova-T4.

For more information, please refer to the *Producing Timetable Reports* chapter of the *Producing Student List, Student Analysis and Timetable Reports in SIMS* handbook.



**IMPORTANT NOTE:** For the SIMS 2010 Summer Release, there are two methods of obtaining timetable printouts – the new method (Reports | Timetables) and the original method (Reports | Print Timetables).

However from the SIMS 2011 Spring Release onwards, the original method will be disabled.

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## School Census Autumn Return 2010

The dates for the School Census Autumn Return 2010 are:

- Census Day – 07/10/2010
- Age at Date – 31/08/2009 (for Attendance) and 31/08/2010 (for Hours at setting, etc.)

## New Features

This release includes the following new feature:

- Reconcile Learning Aims and Results Reports

## Tools | Statutory Returns Tools | Reconcile Learning Aims & Results

For Secondary schools with a Sixth Form only, this new menu route provides access to four reports (in .CSV format), which can be generated to assist in the reconciliation of Learning Aims and exam results. The following reports can be generated:

- Course Memberships with no exam results
- Exam results with QAN and no course memberships
- Exam results with matching QAN
- Exam results with no LA QAN.

## School Workforce Census Annual Return 2010

The date for the School Workforce Census Return 2010 is:

- **Census Day** – 04/11/2010

## SIMS Options Offer

This is the initial phase of the SIMS Options Offer process in SIMS. The first phase provides the ability to:

- define and maintain Options Offers.
- create associated courses and lists of choices.
- assign pupil/students to the appropriate offers for their National Curriculum Year groups and define the band structure for eventual import into Options 5.70 and Nova-T6.

The second phase of the SIMS Options Offer process will enable pupil/students and their parents to select and approve Options Choices via a SIMS Learning Gateway web page.

There is also a Student Choices page that can be used by class teachers to explain the choices to parents and to directly involve pupil/students in making the best possible Options choices for their future development. This process can be incorporated into parents' evening or a specific Options consultation time can be arranged to discuss the possibilities.

Once pupil/students have made their Options choices, the resulting selections can be imported into Options 5.70 to enable the generation of classes and the creation of an Options solution.

Defining Options Offers enables the outlining of future course choices without using Nova-T6 at an early stage. This enables the timetabler to experiment with the structure of the future curriculum and timetable plan. This process can be carried out as many times as necessary until a satisfactory structure is achieved.

## STAR 7

### Fixes

This release includes fixes in the following areas:

- When you have recorded and saved a behaviour incident via the Links panel, the Behaviour Incident Details dialog remains open, enabling you to add any further details (via **Focus | Attendance | Take Register | Links | Behaviour**).
- Duplicate behaviour incidents are no longer recorded when adding them through Take Register (via **Focus | Lesson Monitor | Take Register | Links | Behaviour**).
- Missing Register notifications are no longer displayed on the Home Page prior to the start of a session (via **Focus | Home Page**).
- It is now possible to delete unlinked contacts (via **Tools | Housekeeping | Delete Unlinked Contacts**).

### Updated Handbooks Available with this Release

The following handbooks have been produced 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 Service for System Administrators
- Assessment in SIMS
- Diploma Management in Exams Organiser
- Managing Courses in SIMS
- Managing Pupil/Student Profiles in SIMS
- Nova-T6
- Producing Student List, Student Analysis and Timetable Reports in SIMS
- Producing the School Census Autumn 2010 Return (English Secondary/Middle deemed Secondary Schools)
- Producing the School Workforce Census 2010 Return
- Setting Up and Maintaining Dinner Money in SIMS
- SIMS Examinations Organiser
- SIMS Learning Gateway for Parents & Carers
- SIMS Learning Gateway for Students
- SIMS Learning Gateway for System Administrators
- SIMS Learning Gateway for Teachers
- SIMS Learning Gateway Web Parts
- SIMS Options Offer
- SIMS Pre-Defined Reports Catalogue