What's new?
SIMS has been upgraded
Welcome to the SIMS 2016 Summer Release

SIMS 7.170
This information is also available from the Documentation Centre, which is accessed by clicking the Documentation button on the SIMS Home Page.
Admissions

- Schools that are their own Admission Authority now import versions 12.0 and 13.0 of the ADT files. Previous versions are no longer imported. Schools that are their own Admission Authority now export a version 13.0 ASL file.

AMPARK

The Assessment Manager and Performance Analysis Resource Kit (AMPARK) provides a set of resources for use with SIMS Assessment. This kit has been updated for the SIMS 2016 Summer Release.

Assessment

- An additional date field has been provided, enabling the Start Date for Attendance, Conduct and Exclusions to be specified before running the SIMS School Report.

- The KS4 Assessment Mapping Tool Resultsets.xml file has been updated to include additional result sets, enabling the comparison of different student outcomes against the School Improvement Programme resources. The new result sets are accessible only when mapping Assessment aspects in the Assessment Mapping Tool, not when mapping Examination aspects.

Course Manager

- When importing qualification data, the details displayed in the Select Performance Measures panel have been modified for clarity.

- An additional column has been provided in the Memberships and Results panel, enabling you to indicate whether the course is part of a Traineeship.

CTF

- Before 1 August 2016, this release supports CTF version 14.0 or 15.0 for the import of CTF. From 1 August 2016 onwards, CTF version 15.0 or 16.0 can be used for the import of CTF.

- Before 1 August 2016, this release supports CTF version 15.0 for the export of CTF. From 1 August 2016 onwards, CTF version 16.0 will be used for the export of CTF.

- In CTF version 16.0 onwards, new tags are now included in General CTF imports and exports for the following: Country of Birth (<CountryofBirth>), Proficiency in English (<ProficiencyInEnglish>) and Nationality (<Nationality>).

Examinations Organiser

- An Export button has been provided on the Student Assessment Results Detail page, enabling the data to be exported to Microsoft Excel. The Student Assessment Results Detail page is accessible by clicking the Assessment link in the Links panel on the right-hand side of the Student Details page.

- An Export button has been provided on the Student Examination Results Detail page, enabling the data to be exported to Microsoft Excel. The Student Examination Results Detail page is accessible by clicking the Examinations link in the Links panel on the right-hand side of the Student Details page.

- When importing qualification data, the details displayed in the Select Performance Measures panel have been modified for clarity.
• Cosmetic enhancements have been made to the Add External Exam Result and Edit External Exam Result dialogs.

• The formula used to calculate the Attainment 8 Points value now rounds the value to two decimal places instead of one.

• Cosmetic enhancements have been made to the Add Result and Add Results dialogs. The Change Season dialog has also been enhanced with the addition of a Help button.

• Improvements have been made to the identification and recognition of BTEC and OCR qualifications from within the imported QWS file.

• UCI and Exam Number are now displayed in the Registrations panel on the Student Details page. These details are populated from the information held in Examinations Organiser and can be amended only in Examinations Organiser.

• The Summary output has been enhanced to reflect the changes to Average Point Score data. Additional rows have been provided: APS per A level entry expressed as a grade, APS per academic entry expressed as a grade and APS per vocational entry expressed as a grade.

Home Page

• The Attendance Summary and Conduct Summary widgets can now be displayed on the SIMS Home Page by default for the Senior Management Team, Head of Year, Head of House and Reg Tutor. The Conduct Summary widget can now be displayed on the SIMS Home Page by default for the Class Teacher.

Reporting

• It is now possible to include the Country of Birth field when designing a report. This information is required for the purposes of Autumn 2016 Census returns. It is also possible to include the UPRN (Unique Property Reference Number) field when designing a report.

• Four Data Collection Sheet reports have been updated to include Country of Birth and Nationality.

• It is now possible to include a student’s Linked Documents in a student report by selecting the Documents node when designing a report.

School Census Autumn 2016 Return

• Includes the functionality to produce the School Census Autumn 2016 Return.

• To ensure that on-roll children age 0 to two are collected correctly in the return, Year Taught In E1 and E2 are now included in the applicable census panel and reports.

• In Care is no longer collected for students who have been excluded from school.

• Adopted from Care is now known as Post Looked After Arrangements; the user interface has been updated accordingly. Related column headers (e.g. in reports) are displayed as PLAA.

• The Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN) for both on-roll students and leavers is collected for the School Census Autumn 2016 Return. The UPRN can be entered in the Addresses panel on the Student Details page.

• Additional data items (located in the Ethnic/Cultural panel on the Student Details page) are collected for the first time in the School Census Autumn 2016 Return.

• Traineeship (a course with work experience) is collected for the first time in the School Census Autumn 2016 Return. Whether a student is undertaking a traineeship as part of a course can now be indicated in the Membership and Results panel in Course Manager.

• The reason for withdrawing from a Learning Aim is collected for any Learning Aim with the status of Withdrawn within the collection period (01/08/2015 to 06/10/2016). Previously, it was collected for the current academic year only. The Learning Aim Status can be selected in the Membership and Results panel on the Course Details page.
Three new data items (Country of Birth, Proficiency in English and Nationality) are now available for selection via the Bulk Update routine.

School Workforce Census Census Autumn 2016
- Includes the functionality to produce the School Workforce Census 2016 Return.
- A new absence code has been introduced, enabling an absence caused by a pregnancy-related reason to be recorded: Category = PRG, Code = PRG, Description = Pregnancy Related. If applicable, the Workforce Member Areas Details and Workforce Member Absence Details detail reports display this absence as Pregnancy Related.
- Regional Pay Range is no longer collected for the School Workforce Census so the Scale/Range column has been removed from the Workforce Member Payment Details and Workforce Member Pay Details Comparison detail reports.
- A number of additional enhancements have been introduced, including changes to the Create and Validate routine relating to spot allowance.

SIMS Core
- It is now possible to record a student’s country of birth by navigating to the Ethnic/Cultural panel on the student record and selecting a country from the Nations browser, adjacent to the Country of Birth field.
- For the purposes of maintaining an accurate Census, it is now possible to bulk update the Nationality and Country of Birth for a selected group of students by selecting the relevant option from the Data Item drop-down list.
- The House, Year Group, Reg Group, Boarding Status and Year Taught In are now visible read-only fields on a leaver's record. It is also possible to report on this data.

- The Web Address Validation and Bulk Address Validation databases have been updated to ensure that new, deleted and modified addresses are being verified and validated correctly. Once WAV or BAV have been run, the UPRN will be displayed on the address record. It is now possible to revalidate an existing address when running a Web Address Validation or Bulk Address Validation to ensure that the UPRN is displayed.
- When managing User Defined Groups, the Bulk Update End Dates button enables the extension of multiple group memberships from the end of the current academic year to the end of the next academic year.
- It is now possible to view the Total and Current number of members in a group, and the Latest membership date in the Maintain User Defined Groups browser.
- When managing User Defined Groups, it is now possible to terminate the memberships of multiple students using the new Terminate selected membership(s) on effective date end, Extend selected membership(s) to effective date end and Extend membership(s) forever options, which are available from the Action drop-down list.
- The read-only Unique Property Reference Number (UPRN) has been added to all personal addresses in Address panels throughout SIMS, and is displayed below the Current Home Address Details field once an address has been selected and validated.
- The Proficiency in English table has been added to the Ethnic/Cultural panel on the Student Details page. With the necessary permissions, it is possible to record, edit and delete details of a student’s current and past proficiency in English.
- It is now possible to bulk update the Proficiency in English for a selected group of students by selecting the relevant option from the Data Item drop-down list.
Where to find more information

It is strongly recommended that you read the SIMS Release Download Links and Product Information document associated with this release, which is available via the My Account website (https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk) by searching for RESOURCEID-1-2236. The document provides additional, up-to-date information about the release. Release notes from previous releases are also available on My Account.

We publish highlights of the changes and benefits of each release on our blog (http://www.capita-sims.co.uk/resources/blog).

The SIMS Documentation Centre provides access to all the documentation stored on your SIMS Server, e.g. handbooks, quick reference sheets, reporting catalogue, yearbooks, etc. It can be accessed by clicking the Documentation button on the SIMS Home Page.

Online help can be accessed by pressing F1 or by clicking the applicable Help button in SIMS.

Additional supporting documentation can be found on the My Account website (https://myaccount.capita-cs.co.uk) by using the search options.

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