FMS 2023 Summer (version 6.212) Combined Release Notes

This article has combined all the new release features to enhance and improve accessibility. The following features are marked as relevant for each region and school type.

Welcome to the FMS Release v 6.212

Please read these notes carefully before installing or upgrading your software. Do not attempt any installation or upgrade without first making a fully restorable backup of your SIMS system.

Ideas Portal

Our ideas portal is the perfect place to raise any new ideas or enhancements to the existing functionality you may have. Take the opportunity to view, vote and promote ideas that you feel would make the most difference to your experience in SIMS.

You can access the Ideas portal via the support portal.

NOTE: You must log in to the support portal to access the ideas portal.

Satisfaction Survey

The FMS Satisfaction Survey is your direct opportunity to feedback to the product team on your experiences and views of the software itself. The short questionnaire will give you the chance to detail your thoughts on the modules, rate the user experience and evaluate the latest additions. This can be completed anonymously should you wish.

You can access the satisfaction survey:

- SIMS 7: Tools | SIMS Satisfaction Survey
- Online: https://www.ess-sims.co.uk/user-survey
- Support Portal (You do not need to log in to the support portal to access the satisfaction survey.)

SIMS Upgrade Support

Important Information – Please read before upgrading.

If you are performing a SIMS upgrade spanning more than one release, it is essential that you read the release note associated with each version.

IMPORTANT: For more support on performing the SIMS Upgrades please refer to the SIMS Upgrade support article.

Upgrading using SOLUS

The SIMS Online Update Service (SOLUS) enables you to download and run SIMS releases and patches via the Internet. This is achieved using SOLUS3.

For instructions on carrying out an upgrade with SOLUS3, please refer to the SOLUS3 for Schools or the SOLUS3 for Local Authorities handbook.

Support for SQL Server

SIMS, FMS, Discover, Partnership Xchange, SOLUS, and InTouch run on SQL Server 2012, SQL Server 2014 and SQL Server 2016 SP3.

SQL2019 Update

The SQL Migration tool has been updated to upgrade SIMS, FMS, Discover, Partnership Xchange, SOLUS, and InTouch run to SQL 2019 and Windows Server 2019.

For more information on support for SQL Server and Windows environments, please refer to the [SIMS Minimum Hardware and Technical Roadmap](#) on the support portal.

B2B

If you use B2B, and you want the SQL Server service to be configured to run as a Domain account instead of the built-in LocalSystem account on Windows 2008 R2 or Windows 2012 Server, a separate patch can be run to enable this functionality. This patch is available from your Local Support Unit (Patch 20419) and it must be applied to your SIMS database by a user with System Administrator permissions.

General

If your school uses both Fees Billing and FMS, then SIMS and FMS must be upgraded at the same time.

Backing up SIMS and FMS

Where SIMS Personnel is used to generate Salary Projections in FMS, SIMS and FMS backups should be carried out at the same time. If one of the databases needs to be restored, the other database must be restored to the same point, i.e. if you restore the SIMS database, you must restore the FMS database to the same point and vice versa.

IMPORTANT: Backups are no longer zipped, because of the number of issues caused by zipping backup files. Recent operating systems now allow the use of compressed folders, which are recommended for automatically compressing backups. Please refer to your operating system documentation for instructions on applying compression to a folder.

Important Information Regarding the Upgrade of SIMS and Discover

IMPORTANT: You must upgrade to the SIMS 2022 Autumn Release before upgrading Discover. If you upgrade Discover before upgrading SIMS, data will not be transferred between the SIMS and Discover databases until SIMS has been upgraded.

Auto-Deployment of SIMS and Discover
If SOLUS3 auto-deployment is enabled for Discover, we recommend that Discover auto-deployment settings start later than the SIMS auto-deployment start time plus the timeout.

If the times are not set like this, and the Discover deployment starts before the SIMS deployment, then the data transfer between SIMS and Discover will not work until the SIMS upgrade is completed.

Where to Find More Information?

Via SIMS…
For the software handbooks, navigate to the SIMS Home Page, then click the Documentation button to display the SIMS Documentation Centre.

Via the Support Portal…
User documentation is also available from the support portal (https://customer.support-ess.com/csm).

If you are unable to obtain the required handbook using any of these methods, please email us (mailto:publications@parentpay.com) and we will be pleased to send a copy to you.

The permissions spreadsheet, which lists all permissions relating to SIMS 7.212, is available from the Documentation Centre. To access the SIMS Documentation Centre, click the Documentation button on the SIMS Home Page.

In the support portal, open the 7.212 SIMS Permissions Spreadsheet (KB0036819).

Personnel ended with the release of One version 3.74 (Spring 2021). The B2B: Personnel table that has previously been present in this release notes have been removed.

FMS Release Notes

The FMS support arrangements depend on the supported versions of SIMS where Personnel Links is being used. Support for FMS is detailed in the following table.

Release	SIMS Version	FMS Version	FMS with Personnel Links/Equipment Register	FMS without Personnel Links/Equipment Register
Summer 2023	7.212	6.212	Supported	Supported
Spring 2023	7.210	6.210	Supported	Supported

NOTE: FMS 6.208 has been tested against SQL Server 2012, 2014 and 2016

Information on the new features, enhancements, and fixes for FMS 6.

Ability to Hide\Suppress redundant BK Ledger codes from transactions

Academy; All Phases; All Regions; INDEPENDENT; Maintained

In order to reduce errors when recording new Accounts Payable transactions, the ability to suppress historical Bank accounts from Accounts Payable transaction screens has been introduced.