

SQL 2012 Migration



Frequently Asked Questions

SQL 2012 Migration



What is the SQL 2012 migration?



SQL 2012 refers to Microsoft SQL Server 2012, which is the database technology SIMS uses to store its data. The migration process involves moving the SIMS, FMS and Discover databases from the older Microsoft SQL Servers (2008 or 2008 R2) to a new 2012 SQL Server and reconnecting the software to the new database location. The new location could be either on a different or the same physical machine.



When will the SQL 2012 migration take place?



Customers can migrate to SQL 2012 from the SIMS 2013 Summer Release until the end of support date for their current SQL Server edition.

- Customers on SQL Server 2008 will be supported until they apply the SIMS 2014 Autumn Release.
- Customers on SQL Server 2008 R2 will be supported until they apply the SIMS 2015 Spring Release.

NOTE: Discover users must upgrade to the Autumn 2013 releases of SIMS, FMS and Discover in order to use the automatic redirection facility for Discover.



How will the SQL 2012 migration work? What do I need to do?



We provide a utility that enables you to:

- install a SQL 2012 Express Instance.
- migrate the SIMS, FMS and Discover databases to the new SQL Server.
- redirect SIMS, FMS and Discover (from Autumn 2013) clients automatically to the newly moved database server.

Alternatively, you can choose to do any of the above steps manually. However, most customers will find it easier and more applicable to use the SIMS SQL 2012 Migration Utility to perform these tasks.



How will I obtain the SIMS SQL 2012 Migration Utility?



The utility is available as a download.



What are the benefits to the school/LA by moving to SQL 2012?



SQL 2012 is the latest Microsoft database server platform and development organisations wanting to take advantage of its new features need to move onto this platform. Sites using the free Express edition will see their storage limit increased to 10GB.

A full list of the features for each edition of Microsoft SQL Server 2012 is available (<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc645993.aspx>).



How easy it is it to complete the migration? Will Capita help?



The SIMS SQL 2012 Migration Utility makes the migration as simple as possible and assists you with the installation of a new SQL Server and moving the SIMS, FMS and Discover databases to it. However, if you need assistance with the process, please contact Professional Services on 0844 893 6000 or email the team (info@capita-sims.co.uk) so we can provide consultancy options for you.



What happens if we do not move to SQL 2012? Will SIMS stop working?



The SIMS suite will stop support for SQL 2008 on the SIMS 2014 Summer Release and for SQL 2008 R2 on the SIMS 2014 Autumn Release. When support has ended for a version of SQL Server, we will not support you if any errors or security issues occur as a result of using an unsupported version of SQL Server.



Are there any costs for the school/LA that we need to budget for?



If you are using the free Express edition of SQL Server we have previously provided then we recommend that you use the SIMS SQL 2012 Migration Utility to install the SQL 2012 Express edition, which has no additional cost.

If you have purchased a licence for a previous version of SQL Server (e.g. SQL Server 2008) then dependent on your purchasing agreement, it might also cover you for a licence for SQL 2012. We recommend that you check your licence agreement because it might already cover you for installing or upgrading to SQL 2012. Further details on Microsoft licensing agreements are available (<http://www.microsoft.com/licensing/about-licensing/sql2012.aspx#tab=4>).



Is SQL Express 2012 suitable for my school?



SQL Express 2012 is a free version of SQL Server 2012, ideal for small schools. It is free to install and run, however it is limited to 10Gb database size and cannot utilise all of the power available on servers, resulting in reduced performance.

A full comparison of the different editions of SQL Server, including SQL Express, is available

([http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc645993\(v=SQL.110\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc645993(v=SQL.110).aspx)).



I need more details on the SQL 2012 migration for SIMS and FMS



A utility is available to assist with the migration of SQL 2008 Databases for SIMS and FMS to a SQL 2012 Instance. By default, SQL Server 2012 is installed with FILESTREAM turned off. Where scanned documents are stored in FMS, this must be turned on.

It is our recommendation that sites using SOLUS³ use the new SOLUS³ 3.6 release in tandem with the other database moves to make it as seamless a transition as possible. The utility redirects SIMS and FMS clients automatically to the newly moved database server.



I need more details on the SQL 2012 migration for Discover



We recommend that both the SIMS and Discover SQL migrations are performed at the same time. If these are performed on the same machine then the SQL Migration utility will also reconnect the Discover services to the newly moved databases.

If the migrations are performed 'out of step' or are migrated to a different server, this can still be accomplished. In this case, you will be required to update the configuration of the Discover service to point to the newly moved database servers. If Discover is migrated to a different server, it is recommended that SIMS is migrated first in order for the Discover configuration to operate correctly.

In addition, with the SIMS 2013 Autumn Release, the Discover clients can redirect automatically when the SQL databases are moved.



I need more information on the SQL 2012 migration for InTouch



Customers using InTouch who choose to install a new SQL 2012 Instance on the same machine will be asked to run a configuration tool that configures the service to connect to the newly moved SIMS database.

Customers using InTouch who choose to install a new SQL 2012 Instance on a different machine before the SIMS 2014 Spring Release will require the InTouch service to be re-installed. Please contact SIMS Professional Services on 0844 893 6000 or email the team (info@capita-sims.co.uk) so an appointment can be arranged.



I need more information on the SQL 2012 migration for SLG



If you are a self-hosting the SIMS Learning Gateway system, you will need to move the supporting infrastructure over to the new SQL 2012 Server. Documentation is provided alongside the release on how to do this, similar to previous SQL Migrations.

Customers whose SLG systems are hosted by another party (e.g. Capita or their Local Authority) should inform their hosting provider of the new location for the moved SIMS database.



I need more information on the SQL 2012 migration for SOLUS³



We have kept the SQL 2012 migration of the SOLUS³ system outside of the SQL 2012 Migration Utility to maintain security. We released the SOLUS³ 3.6 update in August to support the migration. SOLUS³ 3.6 fully supports SQL 2012 and contains functionality that enables you to migrate your SOLUS³ system to a new server and enables the SOLUS³ 3.6 agents to redirect to the new server with minimal intervention.

Full details are included in the SOLUS³ documentation available from SupportNet (<http://support.capitaes.co.uk>).



I am supported directly by Capita. What do I need to do with the SQL 2012 migration?



You can choose to perform the SQL 2012 migration yourself. However, if you are a school supported directly by Capita and would like Capita to perform the upgrade for you, please contact your account manager or local support team to discuss the available options.