

SIMS

SIMS Learning Gateway 2009 Roadmap

Version 1.0

About This Document

This document confirms the SLG Product Strategy and provides a high-level overview of the 2009 Roadmap. All items are provided under Annual Entitlement except where specifically stated.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that this information is correct at the time of publishing, Capita reserves the right to modify the roadmap should the need arise. It is, of course, our intention to deliver this roadmap as published, which follows consultation with schools and Local Authorities to understand the key priorities against the currently known Government agenda.

Product Status in the Market

SLG2, hosted by schools, Local Authorities and Capita is presently used heavily by school staff and parents, with most customers expecting to open access to pupils in the future. Customers are reporting that it is beneficial to offer classroom staff browser access to learning data in SIMS. They are either using it to replace or compliment the SIMS client application, or to provide access as part of a SharePoint-based Learning Platform that integrates other ICT applications. Parents are beginning to benefit from real-time access to their children's SIMS information and such deployments are expected to accelerate as the government targets for September 2010/2012 approach.

Since Capita began developing SLG, Microsoft's SharePoint portal software has become something of a standard across schools, Children's Services and County Councils.

The product strategy and 2009 Roadmap is a reflection of the above usage profile and consultations with customers to find out their needs.

Product Strategy

The product strategy is to continue enhancing SLG so that parents, teachers and pupils have improved access to their information in SIMS, whilst gradually supporting additional stakeholders.

During 2009, SLG will complete delivery of the requirements for the 2010/2012 government targets so that schools can securely and appropriately share data that is held in SIMS with parents and carers. The intention is that the product will be developed to offer options that will further reduce school administration, streamline parent interaction with the school and improve links between home and school.

The aim of SLG access for school staff will continue towards meeting the needs of classroom teaching staff. The strategy does not prioritise mirroring capabilities that are not used by "regular" teaching staff such as timetabling in NOVA, administrator access and specialist roles such as Assessment Coordinator. The current SLG functions will be improved and the user interface of SLG will be brought into line with new SIMS layouts and designs (such as Teacher View) where appropriate.

SLG pupil access will be enhanced, though this is not the priority for 2009, reflecting the requests from SLG consultations.

SLG will be gradually extended to include other key stakeholders, reflecting the demands of initiatives such as the DSCF's Children's Plan and 14-19.

Platform and infrastructure support will be extended as needed by our customers.

2009 Roadmap Overview

Parental Engagement

The *Core Web Part Package* will be enhanced under Annual Maintenance to provide appropriate access to children's *SEN* records in SIMS (scheduled for October 2009), and to reports generated by *Profiles* and *Assessment* (scheduled for October 2009). It is the intention that the reports will be published as Acrobat PDF files to the end user. Greater web part flexibility will be provided in key areas such as behaviour, so that schools can control what is displayed. These will be delivered before the start of the 2009/2010 academic year.

The *My Children* web part will be enhanced to show summary (i.e. Key Performance Indicator) data without further clicks (scheduled for October 2009). This KPI data will include flags for attendance, achievement and behaviour (the final detail of this is to be determined). The web part will be modified to contain buttons for access to more detail in each of these areas. The newly designed *My Children* web part will be more graphical while ensuring that accessibility (and compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act) is maintained.

The *Pupil Report Card* will be available to parents online, allowing improved and timely communication with parents where intervention is happening (scheduled for October 2009).

An *Options* web parts will enable parents to see their child's course selection and will allow linking to school guidance and course information. This is a priced web part option that will streamline the process and reduce school administration.

Staff Access for Flexible Working

Several key minor fixes, navigation improvements and enhancements will collectively provide a more intuitive and useful browser interface. Highest priority improvements, such as warning when data is not saved, returning a user to the same position on a previous page in SharePoint and improving navigation in tables will be delivered in June and August 2009.

Read/write/update *Behaviour & Achievement* and *Pupil Report Card* will be provided (scheduled for October 2009). The *Student Summary Page* will contain new web parts that provide access to the pupil's reports (available to parents) as well as a *SEN* summary (scheduled for October 2009). Staff SIMS Alerts and Notices/Bulletins will be available in SLG (scheduled for December 2009).

The gap between SIMS and SLG functionality for *Registers*, *Profiles* and *Marksheets* will be closed by delivering various advanced features that are becoming popular with staff (scheduled for December 2009).

Pupil Access – Keeping Pupils Informed & Up to Date

Pupils will be provided with access to their online *Report Card* (scheduled for December 2009) and, if the school chooses, will be able to see their own *SEN* summary (scheduled for October 2009).

An option will be provided to allow schools to opt for more lenient password formats, especially useful for younger learners.

A new *Options* web part will enable pupils to see and select their course options and will allow linking to school guidance and course information. It will be a priced option and will enable pupils to be better informed and the school process to be streamlined.

System Administrator Access – Enabling Smoother Operation

During 2009 a range of *Quick Reference Guides* will be provided (scheduled for June 2009) and many system administrator functions will be further enhanced with features such as such error logging, filtering in *System Manager* and a utility for un-consolidation (scheduled for August 2009). Support will be extended to Microsoft Exchange 2007 (scheduled for August 2009) and to new browsers such as Google's Chrome browser (scheduled for October 2009).

Security reviews will be continual and hot-fixes will be delivered into releases as necessary.

Governor Access – Extending SLG to a new key Stakeholder

Support for Governors will be improved so that Governors, entered into SIMS, will have user accounts created and maintained by ADPS. Schools will have a Governor's SharePoint site with new Governor web parts that allow the display of relevant high-level summary SIMS information (scheduled for December 2009). This will be a priced option and it is expected to include some standard web parts that will be useful to all schools and a web part that allows Governors to run reports that have been set up for them in SIMS. This will allow schools to use SLG to meet their particular needs for efficiently sharing information held in SIMS with Governors.

Detailed SLG 2009 Roadmap

June 2009 Release

Area	Administrator	Staff	Pupils	Parents	Governor	Other	Description
Assessment		•					Add the ability to access marks history and delete marks via the marksheet web part.
Assessment		•					Add the ability to navigate quickly between pupil's Comment entry screens in the marksheet web part.
Assessment		•					Reduce the vertical screen space taken up by headings in the marksheet web part to maximise use of the screen space for data display.
Assessment		•					Allow collapsing of the top frame of information in a marksheet to leave the marksheet grid open and maximise use of the screen space for data display.
Assessment		•					Improve navigation of the marksheet web part where column headings are currently lost from the screen when working with long lists.
General Usability		•					Add Class Codes to the My Planner web part so that the calendar information displayed is more useful to staff.
Registers		•					Prevent staff from overriding attendance marks in the Register web part, like in SIMS Attendance.
Assessment		•					Add the ability to 'cut and paste' directly in to a cell in the marksheet web part to save staff time.
Profiles		•					Add the ability to 'view all' sections in the Profile web part so that staff can review content more easily, like SIMS Profiles.
Behaviour		•	•	•			Allow display of the Activity Type column (often used to associate subject with an Achievement or Behaviour entry) in the Conduct web part, so that users can see this additional information where chosen.
General Usability	•						Provide 4 new Quick Reference Guides. For <i>Upgrading SLG</i> , <i>Provisioning Users</i> , <i>Registering a new School in ADPS</i> and <i>Registering a new School in SLG</i>
Infrastructure						•	Undertake security review and delivery of any hot-fixes.
Behaviour			•	•			Allow hiding of columns – e.g. Comments column – in the Conduct web part so that schools can control what behaviour data fields are displayed to parents and pupils.

August 2009 Release

Area	Administrator	Staff	Pupils	Parents	Governor	Other	Description
Assessment		•					Return a warning when a user attempts to save too many characters in a comment cell in the Marksheet web part (to avoid truncating on saving).
Infrastructure						•	Add support for Basic Authentication. Currently Windows Authentication is supported.
Infrastructure						•	Support for Microsoft Exchange 2007.
Behaviour		•	•	•			Add the ability to withhold particular behaviour or achievement entries (in the Conduct web part) allowing, for example, a school to resolve an issue before publishing to parents.
Infrastructure						•	Remove a dependency in which one erroring ADPS client can stop all ASPS Clients in the same enterprise system from operating.
Profiles		•					Add support for bullet points in comment banks in the Profiles web part
General Usability		•					Warn the user if they attempt to close the browser or to navigate away from an SLG page where this would result in data loss.
ADPS	•	•	•	•	•		Amend ADPS to allow the use of Preferred Name in username and email aliases.
System Manager	•						Add filters in System Manager so that administrators can manage 'users' quickly and effectively.
General Usability		•					Improve navigation so that on returning to a previous page the user returns to same location on the page/screen. Will be applied to key screens.
General Usability		•	•	•	•		Allow use of more lenient password formats so that, for example, simple passwords can be given to young pupils.
Assessment		•					Add the pupil's name to the title bar in the Comment Entry screen so that the user is sure that they have selected the required pupil.
Infrastructure	•						Provide appropriate error messaging for the SIMS Client web service.
ADPS	•						Improve ADPS and related functions so that an administrator can intervene appropriately when a user has not been successfully created.
Infrastructure	•						Provide a utility to enable an administrator to un-consolidate user accounts easily.
ADPS						•	Allow people with a hyphen in their name to be provisioned.
ADPS	•						Remove the need for multiple instances of the ADPS Client where SIMS is centrally hosted to reduce the administrative overhead.
Infrastructure						•	Provide the ability to consolidate AD accounts for non-teacher (ie support) staff.

ADPS	•						Improve ADPS so that if SIMS data is missing (that is required for a username or email alias) the system will inform the administrator before attempting to provision.
General Usability			•	•			Increase the length of the security question and answer fields.
Infrastructure	•						Implement clearer version control labelling.
Infrastructure	•						Implement version numbering in line with SIMS.
Assessment		•	•	•			Amend the Display Assessment web part so that column titles are changeable via the web part properties.
ADPS	•						Improve ADPS so that distribution/security groups can be maintained for the teachers of children in each academic and registration class.
ADPS	•						Improve ADPS so that the status of 'Parental Responsibility' is collected and can be used through ADPS script customisation, as needed by customers. For example, this could be to disable or delete the corresponding Active Directory account.
ADPS	•						Improve ADPS so that an administrator can bulk delete pending requests.
General Usability	•						Implement a SIMS web part folder in the web part gallery.
General Usability						•	Undertake a security review and delivery of any hot-fixes.
General Usability		•					Improve the use of the spell checker so that it can be set to auto-run at distinct intervals and automatically highlight unrecognised words.
Assessment		•					Allow a school to set the default list length of a marksheet (e.g. 10, 20, 30 40 or 50+...) using a web part property.

October 2009 Release

Area	Administrator	Staff	Pupils	Parents	Governor	Other	Description
ADPS	•						Improve ADPS so that it can implement and maintain folders in Active Directory for Pupils by Year and for other similarly useful groupings.
ADPS	•						Implement filtering or searching in ADPS to enable easier data maintenance and intervention by an administrator.
General Usability				•			Improve the My Children web part to show key “at a glance” summary information for the child - including attendance, achievement and behaviour - without needing further clicks. Improve the web part to add buttons to access to more detail in each function areas. The newly designed <i>My Children</i> web part will be more graphical while ensuring that accessibility (and compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act) is maintained.

Online Pupil Reports		•		•			Add the ability for schools to publish pupil reports (from Assessment or Profiles) online to parents. The new web part will allow current and previous pupil reports to be accessed independently from the SIMS Document Management System (to avoid performance implications for the SIMS Server).
Behaviour		•					Allow staff to enter Behaviour and Achievement entries via the Register web part
Behaviour		•					Allow staff to access and update a Pupils Report Card via the Register web part
Profiles		•					Amend the Profiles list entry web part so that the Next / Previous button is greyed-out until Save is clicked.
Infrastructure	•	•	•	•	•	•	Extend platform support to include new browser versions including Google's Chrome (assuming improved market traction of this browser during 2009).
SEN		•	•	•			Add a new SEN web part so that staff and parents (pupils too if required) can access summary SEN data.
Registers		•					Amend the Register web part so that the cursor will automatically move to the next cell when Caps Lock is not on.
Registers		•					Amend the Register web part so that the Late (L) code is applied to the second and third lesson for double and triple periods respectively, like in SIMS.
Options			•	•			Implement an Options web part so that parents and pupils can select online to reduce the administrative overhead of managing this process. <i>Note: This is a priced option.</i>
Assessment		•					Improve the Marksheet web part so that the following additional data columns can be added - Authorised Absences, Unauthorised Absences, Possible Sessions and Percentage of Attendance - so that staff can benefit from accessing this data too.
Assessment		•					Amend the Marksheet <i>web part</i> so that '&' can be used in comments by staff.
Infrastructure	•						Review the range and quality of exception error trapping and deliver improvements in ADPS and SLG where useful to aid problem resolution by administrators.
Infrastructure	•						Amend the School Registration process to seamlessly deploy an integrated view of the timetable/SIMS diary with Exchange Outlook data so that this reduces the implementation time of the manual process by an administrator.
Infrastructure						•	Undertake a security review and delivery of any hot-fixes.
Registers		•					Improve the Register web part so that indicators for SEN, Behaviour Incident today and G&T are displayed to staff.
Registers		•					Improve the Register web part to enable a member of staff to click-through to the Pupil Summary Page, quickening navigation to pupil information.

December 2009 Release

Area	Administrator	Staff	Pupils	Parents	Governor	Other	Description
Governors					•		Add support for Governors so that Governors entered into SIMS will have user accounts created, a School Governor's SharePoint site and Governor web part(s). <i>Note: This is priced option.</i>
General Usability		•					Add capability so that SIMS User Alerts and SIMS Notices/Bulletins are displayed to staff, in line with SIMS.
ADPS		•	•	•	•		Improve ADPS so that it will support random email alias creation for pupils.
Infrastructure						•	Provide a de-license patch for ADPS version1 to deactivate the obsolete SIMS menu function.
Behaviour			•	•			Allow schools to add the Pupil Report Card web part to the Student Summary Page that is accessed by parents and pupils.
Registers		•					Amend the Register web part to default to Preferred Name for staff members.
Profiles		•					Implement the Profile Review mode so that staff can undertake this quality checking process via SLG, like in SIMS.
Assessment		•					Improve the Marksheet web part to allow the displaying of Chronological Age.
Assessment		•					Improve the Marksheet web part to allow adding and editing of Notes for a Result Cell so that staff can annotate and use the marksheet date more easily, as in SIMS.
Assessment		•					Improve the Marksheet web part to allow the applying of colour to cells so that staff can mark and navigate the data more easily, like in SIMS.
Assessment		•					Improve the Marksheet web part to allow the showing or hiding of columns so that staff can navigate data more easily, as in SIMS.
Behaviour		•					Implement a web part to display Exclusions.
Infrastructure		•					Undertake a security review and delivery of any hot-fixes.
Profiles		•					Improve the Profiles web part to provide a tooltip that displays the whole comment when hovering over the link, in order to save staff time when reviewing.
Registers		•					Improve the Register web part to display class and individual photos so that staff (especially supply staff) can identify pupils easily and accurately.

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