

Introduction

This is the recommended minimum hardware for running your SIMS system effectively. We believe that schools should budget to replace hardware on a three year cycle. This specification for network workstations will be easily exceeded by a PC purchased within the last three years, except for memory which can be upgraded easily if required.

Workstations of minimum specification would be recommended for occasional use and are likely to be less able to deal with multiple open applications. Staff who spend significant amounts of time using SIMS are strongly recommended to use equipment bought within the last three years. Similarly, minimum specification SQL Servers will not be adequate in larger schools; a poor performing SQL Server will give all users a poor experience of the software.

SIMS/FMS SQL Server

Component	Requirement
Computer and processor	3.0 GHz processor or higher (Quad Core 2.4 GHz or higher recommended for optimum performance in secondary schools and sites using InTouch).
Memory (minimum recommended)	2GB or higher (4GB recommended for optimum performance in secondary schools and sites using InTouch).
Disk space guidance	Overhead space—1GB working space + 1/4GB for SQL Express. Customers should allow 5MB per pupil/student. For example, a 1000 pupil/student school would be advised to have at least 5GB free for SIMS. File Server—2GB for applications and SIMS Setups folder.
Drive	CD and DVD drive.
Display	1024x768 or higher monitor resolution.
Operating system and software	Operating System—Windows Server 2003 (SP2) and Windows Server 2008 (SP2). We support both 32-bit and 64-bit versions of these operating systems for server use. We also support Microsoft Windows XP Pro (SP2) and Windows 7 Professional 32-bit and 64-bit (SP1) as servers for low numbers of users (5 client PCs or fewer). Support for Windows Server 2008 R2 commenced in line with the SIMS 2010 Autumn Release. Software—Microsoft SQL Server 2008/SQL Express SP2. We recommend that secondary schools or sites using InTouch use the full Microsoft SQL Server 2008 Standard edition or higher for optimum performance. SQL 2005 is not supported with the SIMS 2010 Autumn Release. A minimum of .NET Framework 2.0 SP2 is required. For InTouch, Partnership Xchange, SLG and SOLUS ³ users, .NET Framework 3.5 SP1 is required. The SIMS 2011 Spring Release will require .NET Framework 4.0. This can be delivered by SOLUS ³ or it can be downloaded from the Microsoft website and applied separately.
Backup of whole system required?	Yes.
Other	A DVD/CD compatible drive is required for software installation. It is not recommended that servers are used 'normally' as workstations except in small schools. Non-dedicated servers are unlikely to be suitable with more than five concurrent users of SIMS. Capita Children's Services recommends the purchase of a dedicated database server where there are 20 or more concurrent users, or where the network server is of a low specification. A whole school network will almost certainly require a dedicated database server. The use of Lesson Monitor and/or Assessment Manager in each classroom will usually mean that a dedicated database server running full SQL Server 2008 is required. On RM CC3 networks, RM recommends that schools have a separate member server for SIMS and that admin systems are not installed on the Domain Controller. Internet access is required. SOLUS requires access to the http protocol on dl.capitasolus.co.uk and solusmanager.sims.co.uk and all sub-folders therein.

Backups

You are reminded that it is critical that backups are moved to an alternative media on a daily basis, i.e. that one is kept in a physically separate place to the server that is backed up. Customers need to ensure that they have a disaster recovery plan (DRP). This includes where they will source a replacement server and what they will do whilst the system is down. The DRP is only worthwhile if on a termly basis, the backups are restored to another machine and proven to work.

Capita recommends Attix5 Backup Professional software for the back up of SIMS. SIMS and Backup Professional are fully integrated to provide seamless, offsite backup for SIMS data.

See the Capita website for more information on Attix5 software:
<http://home.capitaes.co.uk/sims/partners/index.asp>

Additional Requirements for Attix5 Users

If using Attix5 Backup Professional to backup and protect SIMS, you will need to ensure that you have sufficient disk space available on the server or workstation. The free space available on the device needs to be 150% of the amount of SIMS data (i.e. if you have 1GB of SIMS data, you will need 1.5GB of free disk space).

Document Server

Component	Requirement
Computer and processor	3.0 GHz processor or higher.
Memory (minimum recommended)	1GB (2GB or higher for secondary schools and sites using InTouch).
Disk space guidance	At least 10GB of free disk space should be dedicated to the document server. Disk space on the Document Server is based solely on customer usage and should be monitored. Profiles is usually the largest user of disk space on the Document Server. The production of three profiles a year for 1000 students of 100Kb each (8 page word document without graphics) would give rise to 300MB per year. The largest profiling session we have heard of generated 12GB for 2400 students. This would compress to about 3GB on the Document Server. Other SIMS applications will also make use of the Document Server.
Drive	CD and DVD drive.
Display	1024x768 or higher monitor resolution.
Operating system	Windows Server 2003 (SP2 and above), Microsoft Windows XP Pro (SP2 and above), Windows Server 2008 SP2.
Backup of whole system required?	Yes.
Other	Internet access is required. SOLUS requires access to the http protocol on dl.capitasolus.co.uk and solusmanager.sims.co.uk and all sub-folders therein.

Workstation

Component	Requirement
Computer and processor	3 GHz processor or higher (Quad Core 2 GHz recommended for optimum performance).
Memory (minimum recommended)	1GB (2GB) or higher. 2GB or higher for Vista or Windows 7 installations, or for sites using InTouch.
Disk space guidance	Workstations will need 1.5GB free including 500MB on system partition for third party components in the Windows directory. Workstations using FMS should allow for an additional 150MB.
Drive	CD and DVD drive.
Display	1024x768 or higher monitor resolution.
Operating system and software	Operating System (32-bit only) —Microsoft® Windows XP Pro (SP2 and above), Microsoft Windows Vista Business (SP2) and Microsoft Windows 7 Professional (SP1). Support for Windows 7 (64-bit) commenced with the release of the SIMS 2010 Autumn Release. Please note that this does <u>not</u> include support for 16-bit applications, such as Nova-T4 and legacy Timetable Printing routines. Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0 SP2. Customers using InTouch or SOLUS ³ Phase 1 will require (and SOLUS ³ will install) .NET Framework 3.5. The SIMS 2011 Spring Release will require .NET Framework 4.0 to be present on all SIMS workstations. This can be delivered by SOLUS ³ or it can be downloaded from the Microsoft website and applied separately. Software—Microsoft Office 2003 or 2007 (32-bit <u>only</u>). Adobe Acrobat Reader 6 or above.
Backup of whole system required?	Useful.
Other	Internet access is required. SOLUS requires access to the http protocol on dl.capitasolus.co.uk and solusmanager.sims.co.uk and all sub-folders therein. Tablet PCs are recommended to use Pentium processors and have keyboards available.

Standalone/Peer to Peer

Component	Requirement
Computer and processor	3.0 GHz processor or higher (Quad Core 2.4 GHz recommended for optimum performance).
Memory (minimum recommended)	2GB (4GB or higher recommended for optimum performance or sites using InTouch).
Disk space guidance	Please refer to the Server and Workstation specifications.
Drive	CD and DVD drive.
Display	1024x768 or higher monitor resolution.
Operating system and software	Please refer to the Server Specification. In addition, Microsoft® Windows Vista Business (SP2) is also supported for small schools (5 PCs or fewer), 32-bit only. However, we recommend Windows 7 Professional over Vista Business. A minimum of Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0 SP2 is required. For InTouch, Partnership Xchange, SLG and SOLUS³ users, .NET Framework 3.5 SP1 is required. The SIMS 2011 Spring Release will require .NET Framework 4.0. This can be delivered by SOLUS³ or it can be downloaded from the Microsoft website and applied separately.
Backup of whole system required?	Yes.
Other	Please refer to the Server and Workstation specifications.

InTouch School Services Server (Web Server)

Component	Requirement
Computer and processor	Dual Core 2.4 GHz processor or higher (Quad Core 2.4 GHz or higher recommended for optimum performance in secondary schools).
Memory (minimum recommended)	2GB or higher (4GB recommended for optimum performance in secondary schools).
Disk space guidance	Please refer to the Server and Workstation specifications.
Drive	CD and DVD drive.
Display	1024x768 or higher monitor resolution.
Operating system and software	Operating System—Windows Server 2003 (SP2) and Windows Server 2008 (SP2). We support both 32-bit and 64-bit versions of these operating systems for server use. Windows Server 2008 R2 (64-bit) is also supported. We also support Windows 7 Professional 32-bit and 64-bit as a server for low numbers of users (5 client PCs or fewer). Software—Internet Information Services (IIS) version 6, 7 or 7.5 is required. .NET Framework 3.5 SP2 is required. The SIMS 2011 Spring Release will require .NET Framework 4.0. This can be delivered by SOLUS³ or it can be downloaded from the Microsoft website and applied separately.
Backup of whole system required?	Yes.
Other	Internet access is required.