

8 April 2005

Welcome to our first release of 2005!

This is our first release for 2005 as we have been busy working on some great new features, especially to A+, our Electronic Roll Marking module. We have also been working closely with a number of schools that have been very cooperative with testing and suggestions for improvements and enhancements. A big thank you to these schools.

We are now ready!!

Some of the important changes are...

- Students on camps or excursions are automatically marked in the electronic roll marking module
- Scheduled absences can now be recorded and will be automatically applied to roll marking. Students who will be away for periods of time (one or more days) can be recorded as a scheduled absence thus improving the roll marking process.

Work is also progressing well on the SQL version of First Class, with most reports now converted to the SQL database. Further information will be available soon.

If you need any further information about electronic roll marking in First Class then please call Gary Stoneham on 1300 550 765.

Remember, we depend on the feedback of our users to determine the enhancements to be included in our software. If you have any brilliant ideas, (or even not so brilliant, but important), give me, Robert Bakker, a call on 1300 301 931, or email me at rob@humanedge.biz.

First Class		
Menu	Sub-Menu	Details
General	Reports	The "House" of the student is now included on student timetable reports, class lists, form lists and student allocations.
Maintenance	Extras	Camps and excursions set up here now affect rolls in A+ (see below). Students can be excluded from, or added to, the groups that are going on the camp/excursion using the "Students" button.
	Security	This has been upgraded to allow for the changes in A+ and First Class Web.

A+ Electronic Roll Marking		
A+	Edit Rolls	<p>It is now possible to schedule absences. Click on the "Scheduled Absences" button and then on "Add". Use the "Add" buttons at the bottom of the next screen to add students and further date ranges. The default date range can be amended by passing the mouse over the date field, clicking on the context button that appears at the end and changing the date. Click "OK" to accept the entry.</p> <p>Changes that are made in Extras before the "Generate Roll Data" are now included. Any camps or excursions will have those students away marked as such.</p>

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A+	Options	"Lock Roll on Save" has been added.
	On the PDA	<p>A+ now offers "Direct Connect" for PDA users with a wireless network. This means that data is written directly to the database on "Save". This also means it is available to First Class, First Class Web, and the PDA database as it is saved.</p> <p>For schools with wireless networks, A+ now uses "Direct Connect". Changes made on either of the PDA, First Class Web, or "Edit Rolls" in First Class itself are automatically synchronized between these, making changes immediately available to all users. No need to take the PDA back to the "home" computer to synchronize. As a secondary advantage to this, as data is passing between these as they are entered, there is no heavy exchange that is characteristic of synchronization of all data at once.</p>

First Class Web

First Class Web	A+ - Take Rolls	This has been completely re-written for better speed and usability. Although there is little change in the look of the screen, you must now click on "Edit" button to mark the rolls. This allows First Class Web and First Class to record that, if all students are still marked as present, the roll has been actually marked.
		Security in First Class has been upgraded to accommodate these changes.
		Absence Reasons are changed now by left-clicking on the icon (red/green/yellow) on the left side of the grid and a drop-down menu appears.
		You can now select roll date to make changes to.
		You can now filter by Student and Class.
		Removing a student that has been added to a class is now done by left-clicking on the "A" icon ("A" for addition student), and then selecting "Remove Student" from the drop-down menu.
		Cancelling an edit undoes all the changes you have made to the current class.
		You can now add notes to a roll, just as on the PDA.
	The pop-up menu of reasons now won't disappear off the bottom of the page.	
	A+ - Timetable Viewer	When rolls have been marked, the icon will be marked with a red tick.
		This option has now been renamed to "Roll Search", which is a more appropriate name for its function.
		Rolls that have been marked will be indicated by a red tick over the icon.