

6 May 2005



## Software for Absences Attendances and Alerts

*"Today, with A+, schools can easily and quickly capture student attendance and absence information directly from and into their **First Class** timetable"*

This release focuses on the electronic roll-marking module in First Class. We call it A+. There have been some major improvements along with some wonderful new features on the PDA side of this application.

Some of the important changes are...

- A Kiosk mode has been added to the PDA. This disables the Start bar, and access to all other PDA programs for greater security. The PDA can be effectively dedicated to the A+ function.
- Security pincodes have also been added for better control over the usage of the various options.

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.

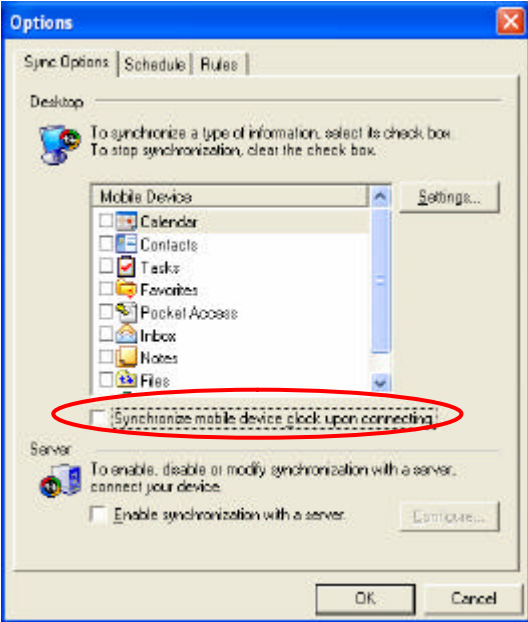
**If you need any further information about electronic roll marking in First Class, please call Gary Stoneham on 1300 550 765.**

**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](mailto:rob@humanedge.biz).**

**First Class**

<b>A+</b>	<b>Reasons</b>	For Victorian Secondary schools the CASES reason codes within First Class have been updated to take into account the "Treat As" field. The use of this field is to classify absences into four groups – Unapproved Absence, Approved Absence, Present and Present out of class.
	<b>Cases Reports</b>	<p>The Cases Significant Absences Report was summing both approved and unapproved absences incorrectly. This has been corrected.</p> <p>The Cases Absence Summary report was displaying the Truancy information in the Unexplained column and vice versa. This has been corrected.</p>

**A+ Electronic Roll Marking**

<b>On the PDA</b>	<b>General</b>	<p>The PDA time will now check and update to match the SQL Server time before synchronizing.</p> <p>Please ensure that the option "Synchronize mobile device clock upon connecting" <b>is turned off</b>.</p>  <p>This option is accessed by double-clicking on the "Active Synch" icon in the task bar and, when it opens, clicking on "Options". Uncheck the "Synchronize mobile device clock upon connecting" box.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> This does not apply in direct connect as the PDA's time is not used.</p> <p>The auto update of A+ on the PDA was failing in some circumstances. Changes have been made to this process and the auto update of A+ on the PDA should now work in all cases.</p> <p>To personalize the PDA, your school name will show on the main screen.</p>
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## A+ Electronic Roll Marking

<b>On the PDA</b>	<b>General</b>	Some schools were experiencing out of memory errors running A+ on the PDA. To reduce memory usage the A+ database on the PDA is compacted before and after a "Sync".
		Some PDA's have quite a small memory. For those schools that have added memory cards to their PDA's to supplement the internal memory, this change may mean that the memory card may no longer be necessary for A+ to run.
	<b>Routes</b>	Previously, if the settings were incorrect, A+ would not start. Therefore, there was no way to alter them. This has now been fixed.
		The speed of direct connect has been improved when moving between classes on a route.
		Routes no longer set a class as marked if the marking is cancelled.
		Deleted routes no longer show in direct connect mode.
	<b>Rolls</b>	Routes now filter correctly in direct connect so only appropriate rooms/classes show.
		Roll marking speed in direct connect has been improved.
	<b>Kiosk Mode</b>	Roll marking has been updated so that the last selected teacher is remembered the next time the roll is marked. This does not apply to routes.
		Kiosk Mode is a new feature designed for added security. In this mode: The start bar is hidden. This stops users (or students), accessing other areas of the PDA. A+ takes up the whole screen. Buttons such as mail have been disabled. If the PDA is reset, A+ automatically restarts, closing another possible avenue to tampering with the PDA.
	<b>Options</b>	A quit button has been added so that A+ can be quit in Kiosk Mode
	<b>Pincodes</b>	Pincodes have been added so that they can be assigned to all areas of A+. The PDA can even be locked down. This will make the PDA more secure as students will not be able to run anything unless they know the pincode for that function.