

29 July 2005

### Before Upgrading:

**Users of A+ must synchronize their PDA's before installing this version of First Class.**

### In This Release:

User suggestions continue to feed the A+ Electronic Roll Marking development. There have been some major changes and enhancements to further enhance the ease of use of the software.

Some important new features are contained in the latest release:

- To highlight unmarked classes, students are now initially shown as “unmarked” in all methods of roll marking. The “Edit” option will change these to “Present” until otherwise marked. The exception to this rule is the Route method – which assumes that editing is to be conducted immediately.
- “Reason” maintenance has been changed for Victorian Government Schools that use CASES so that the CASES codes can be retained. A more meaningful reason will now display on the PDA and Computer. To allow a tighter control of the different reasons displayed in First Class Web a new field has been added to allow you to restrict the display.
- To make navigation of the database more uniform, the menu items “Scheduled Absences” (from “Edit Rolls”) and “Pin Codes” (from “Options”) have been moved so that they are separate items on the First Class A+ menu.
- “Roll Conflicts” is a new, simple to use item which allows you to resolve any data conflicts between the PDA and First Class or First Class Web with just a few mouse clicks.
- Synchronizing between the PDA and First Class has been overhauled to allow a quicker and smoother response.

### Any Other Ideas ?

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).

### Coming Soon:


*The focus of development has now shifted to the new SQL version of First Class. We are looking forward to completing this exciting new platform, and to introducing you to some of the great new changes made possible by this move.*



## Electronic Roll Marking Software

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

<b>First Class</b>		
<b>File</b>	<b>SQL Server</b>	This item now appears regardless of whether you have First Class Web or A+. This also allows users of the Human Edge administration Program SAS2000, who have First Class but not First Class Web or A+, to view First Class data.
<b>Export</b>	<b>To Another Application</b>	An export to ACE Reporter has been added.
		The SIMON export has been updated.
		The SIMON export now asks for a 'Semester Prefix' that will be attached to the start of the subject in the export file.
		Form maintenance has had a field added called 'Subject Export Suffix'. This field is appended to the end of the subject for the SIMON export.
<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>Form Edit</b>	A field called 'Subject Export Suffix' has been added (see above).
<b>Security</b>	<b>General</b>	Items in the tree-view in the lower-left pane of Security are now more consistent with their names in First Class.
	<b>A+</b>	"Print" and "Export" options have been added to A+ menu items so that they can be restricted from display or use by security settings.
<b>Reports</b>	<b>Custom Bar Code</b>	This report now orders students according to surname instead of first name, making it easier to distribute.
		You can now size all barcodes to allow for longer names, eg the Student name, or Subject name barcodes.
		The table of contents on the report now provides an accurate representation of the locales.
<b>A+</b>	<b>Reasons</b>	"Reason" maintenance from within First Class now has an extra field called CasesCode. This addition, for Victorian Government schools, allows you to use your own code for a reason while having it associated with a reason code for CASES reports. You can even have 2 reasons with the same CASES code. This will allow the PDA to show you defined reason codes instead of the less readable codes such as '100', '204' etc.
		A new field has been added to "Reason" maintenance so that the reasons that show in First Class Web can now be chosen independently of the reasons shown in roll edit in First Class.
		There was a problem when changing generic codes to CASES codes for Victorian Government schools. This has been corrected.

<b>First Class</b>		
	<b>Edit Rolls</b>	When initially going into a class that has not been marked, all of the students will now show as "unmarked". This gives a clear indication that the class has not been marked. When you click edit all the students will be changed to "Present".
		This has been updated to work more like the roll edit in First Class Web. It now goes back to view mode after editing each class. It also checks whether the record has been changed by another user.
	<b>Scheduled Absences</b>	This is now a separate item on the menu. It is no longer accessed through "Edit Rolls" as it was previously.
	 <b>Roll Conflicts</b>	If conflicts are created in roll records, after the synchronization, they will show up in this screen. They can then be resolved. The screen has a dropdown that will show only the dates that have clashes. It will also show in brackets the number of clashes on that date.
	<b>Reports</b>	Minor errors with the CASES reports for Victorian Government schools have been corrected. The errors were mainly in the positioning of the columns of information, or using incorrect reasons to tally results.
		The "Attendance Rate Report" now shows students who have had a perfect attendance record, and those students who have had some absences all of which have been approved.
<b>Pin Codes</b>	This has been moved from the "Options" screen to a menu item on its own. This will make it easier to access. They have also been re-ordered more logically on the screen.	

## A+ Electronic Roll Marking

<b>On the PDA</b>	<b>General</b>	Starting up on the PDA is now much faster.
		<p>There has been a complete rewrite of synchronization process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It now compacts the PDA database before and after doing a synchronization to reduce memory usage.</li> <li>• Speed has been improved for those occasions where a table does not need to be synchronized, eg no students' status have been changed.</li> <li>• Roll conflict resolution has been implemented. If a roll record is marked on the PDA and the PC (or First Class Web) differently, then a conflict record is created which can be resolved by going to the new A+ - Roll Conflict menu.</li> <li>• Synchronize now checks that the PDA is connected to an A+ database.</li> <li>• Synchronize also checks that it is connected to the same A+ database that the PDA was originally synchronized to. Previously it was possible to synchronize to one database and then attempt to synchronize to another.</li> <li>• Synchronize also checks that the roll data has not been deleted from within First Class. If it has you will need to empty the database on the PDA and synchronize again.</li> <li>• The confirmation screen now shows the number of records uploaded and downloaded and the number of clashes.</li> </ul>
		You can now select the date you wish to mark when in Direct Connect mode. Below the battery indicator, there is now an indication of the day being marked. The default would be "Today". Tap on this and a date selector appears.
	<b>Routes</b>	<p>The PDA now remembers the last selected route. The period is incremented each time the route screen is accessed and set back to the first period each day.</p> <p>The Route screen has had an extra button added – "Mark a Different Class" - so that you can mark any class without the need to exit the route.</p>

### A+ Electronic Roll Marking

<b>On the PDA</b>	<b>Rolls</b>	The "Summary" and all types of Timetables can both now be sorted by clicking on the column headings.
		The icons on the left-hand-side of the screen have been improved.
		When accessing a roll via one of the timetable icons, once the "Save" and then "Close" buttons are tapped, the screen now goes back to the timetable screen, instead of to the opening screen. Instead of having to select the icon again, and having to go through the process again, another teacher/timetable can be selected immediately.
		Columns now automatically resize to show reasons more clearly and to provide more room to show the student name.
		The class count at the bottom of a roll screen now indicates the number present. For example, if all students are present, then it may simply say 21 students. However, if one is marked absent, it will say 20 of 21.
		You are now only asked to save if the roll data has changed (previously it always asked).
		When initially going into a class that has not been marked all of the students will now show as "unmarked". This gives a clear indication that the class has not been marked. When you tap "Edit" all the students will be changed to "Present". This does not apply to routes because you tapped Edit before going into the class.
	"Add Additional student" and "Remove additional student" on the pop-up menus has been reworded to "Add Student" and "Remove Student".	
<b>Kiosk Mode</b>	The PDA Kiosk Mode now includes a battery indicator on the main screen of A+ and on the route screen.	
<b>Options</b>	When emptying the database you are now given a different warning if the PDA contains unsynchronized data (data will be lost) as opposed to when the PDA has been synchronized (no data will be lost).	

<b>First Class Web</b>		
<b>General</b>		The interface has changed to a white background, a change of logo and a change of colours.
<b>Take Rolls</b>		Students now show initially as “unmarked” as is the case in First Class and on the PDA. Once “Edit” is clicked, students are presumed to be present until marked otherwise. This is in keeping with the methods used in both First Class and the PDA.
		Reasons showing on the pop-up menu when you click on the icon to the left of the student’s name can be restricted now by settings in First Class.
		The pop-up menu now does not disappear off the top of the screen. It now goes to the bottom of the screen if it is larger than the screen.