

17 November 2005

In This Release:

There have been some major changes to First Class and A+ Electronic Roll Marking.

Some important new features contained in this release are:

- Some A+ reports have been combined as they displayed the same data but with distinct filters, e.g. with a single date, or a date range. These can now be handled from within the one screen.
- An “Active For Roll” has been added to the “Year Level for Rollover” and “Period” maintenance screens to allow you to govern which year levels and periods are involved in roll marking.
- “Explanation Letters” can now be generated to send to parents to request explanations for unexplained absences.
- A report of unmarked rolls has been added.

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.

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.

First Class		
General	Grid screens	When you click in a cell in any grid-type screen, eg, a maintenance screen, the cell will now highlight. You will be able to navigate the grid using the arrow keys.
Maintenance	Extras	The "Frees" column for available teachers has been enhanced to take into account classes lost (camps/excursions) and classes gained (extra/in lieu/under-allotted classes) for the day.
Reports	Form lists	If tick boxes were being included on this report, they were displaying over the house name for the student. Now if tick boxes are required, house is not shown.
A+	Edit Roll	If you filter by student and click "Edit", it now leaves periods as "unmarked". If you are filtering by class, holding down the <Ctrl> key when clicking "Edit" will leave the students "unmarked".
	Scheduled Absences	You can now select a date range as well as a single date for displaying.
		This now shows all scheduled absences for the date or date range selected.
	Reports - General	All reports now use Year Level for Rollover rather than Year Level. This will only affect schools where some year levels are combined for blocking.
		If a student has been deleted, they no longer show on reports after the next SQL Server Synchronize or Generate Roll Data.
		A number of the reports have had a complete overhaul and there are some new reports.

	<p style="text-align: center;">new!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Reports – Absence Activity</p>	<p>“Daily Absences” has been replaced by “Absence Activity”. It now list students’ absences with the possibility of selecting a summary or detailed report. You can select a single date, or a date range. It is possible, by selecting from a tree-view, to report on particular year levels, forms and even students. You can select particular reasons to report on, or, generalize the reasons and select only general reason types.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “Summary”... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can be grouped by year level or form ○ Can be ordered by student or date ○ Can show hyperlinks to a detailed report on the selected student • The “Detail(ed)” report... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can have periods filtered out ○ Can be grouped by period or student
	<p style="text-align: center;">Reports – Attendances By Student</p>	<p>“Attendances By Student” is a breakdown of absences by student. It has the following possible variations...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a tree-view for selecting by year level, form or student • You can select a single date, or a date range. • Absences can be sorted by date, period and subject in any order • You can show only marked classes or all classes • You can show only absences or show classes where the student was present as well • Page breaks can be set at year, form or student

	<p style="text-align: center;">Reports – Attendance Rate</p>	<p>“Attendance Rate” shows the attendance of the student and the number of absences that are approved and unapproved. The possible variations are...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the tree-view to select students by year level, form or student • Select a single date, or a date range • Defaults to sorting by form, but you can also sort by subject and, select the subjects to report on • You can set a % absence cut-off • You can apply the report to all absences or to unapproved absences only • You can show the rate in raw numbers, percentages, or both • You can base the report on the total number of periods, in which case “unmarked” periods are treated as present, or only on marked periods • There are a number of options as to what can be displayed in the four available columns. These include – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Blank columns ○ Total days ○ Total Periods ○ Periods unmarked ○ Present (in class) ○ Present out of class ○ Present (in class and out of class) ○ Total Approved (Present and Approved Absence) ○ Approved ○ Unapproved • You can have a page per form • You can show hyperlinks to detailed reports on the selected student
--	---	---

	<p>new!</p> <p>Reports – Unmarked Classes</p>	<p>There is a new report that shows unmarked classes. You can...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select a single date or a date range • Sort by date or teacher • Have a line for each period unmarked, or a line for each day with a summary of unmarked periods for the day.
	<p>Reports - Cases</p>	<p>Cases reports are now printed from the one screen. The variations are...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can select a single date or a date range • You can now indicate periods that you do not wish to be part of the reporting. • You can sum the absences by AM/PM absences (not as accurate, but may be sufficient for some areas, eg Victorian Government Schools), or period-by-period, which is more accurate • There are radio buttons to select which variation of the report you wish to print <p>The "Summary" option will give you the "Cases Absence Summary" report and the "Detail" option the "Cases Significant Absence" report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a report checker that ensures there are no problems with the data that may give incorrect results

	<p style="text-align: center;">  Explanation Letter </p>	<p>You can send home a “please explain” letter to parents asking for an explanation of an unapproved absence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The letter can be designed and printed directly from First Class, or a Word template set up, with which you merge the details <p>A default template will be provided with the installation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student file of some parent details, in CSV (Comma Separated Variable) format, is needed <p>A default file will be provided with the installation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using a tree-view, student letters can be printed by year level, form, or student • You can confine the report to students with more than a set number of periods or days absence • You can select a single day, or a date range • You can sort the reports by count of absences • There is a “Refresh” button that updates the students listed when parameters are changed • Each letter has a number, which can be in numeric form, or bar code form. When the letter is returned and “Explanation Letter” is selected as the filter in “Edit Roll”, either the number is keyed in, or, if used, the barcode scanned and that student’s absences will appear. It can then be edited with the new reason • You can change the status of the letter by selecting “Letter Status” on either the “Explanation Letter” or the “Edit Roll” screen. This may be necessary if, say, a print run was done prematurely
--	---	---