

7 September 2006

About This Release:

Release 827 is now available for downloading from our website. Some important new features contained in this release are:

In First Class:

- A new **"Home Screen"** feature is now available. This screen has links to all the most used functions of First Class and can be used as your "navigation screen". It can be closed at any time to revert back to your standard menus, and there is an option on the "Window" menu to open it again. This is a very useful screen for first-time or intermittent users of First Class. Our next version of the software will provide you with the ability to customize the Home Screen to your exact menu needs therefore saving even more time when using First Class.
- You can make a **copy of an SQL database** so you can move it between SQL Servers. This can be useful if, say, you are upgrading or changing your SQL server.
- Class lists and form lists can now include **photos**. Quickly match the names on the roll with the faces.
- **Automatic version checking** is now included in First Class. First Class will automatically check for a newer version of the software from our Website once per week. You will be notified if there is a later version and be given the option to download and install, subject to your security settings and your current service and upgrades program status.
- You can create **custom groups** of student and teachers for use with email and SMS messaging.
- **Messaging** is now possible from First Class. Send emails, with attachments if necessary, or SMS messages, directly from First Class. You can use the custom groups to send messages to particular students, teachers or parents. For example, the daily organizer can now simply email the list of the day's extras to all staff, or to absent staff with a few mouse clicks. A year level coordinator can easily email or SMS all teachers of a particular student. All the students taught by a particular teacher can also be easily emailed or contacted by SMS. **An "Email" button has been added to all preview screens, allowing you to email the selected report to any individual or custom group.**

In A+:

- There is an extra filter in "Edit Rolls" when "Class" is selected that allows you to confine the list to classes involving particular forms. This will reduce the search time for the roll you wish to edit.
- The "Absence Activity" and "Attendance Alert" reports can be sorted by form, year level, form by year, house and custom group.
- You can import A+ data between databases. This is done for a given date range and could be used to copy a particular year's data to an archived database.
- You can archive your data and open that database for analysis.
- Internal email and SMS messaging is now possible. Custom groups of students and/or teachers can be set up for emailing.

Just a reminder that when a new database is created, all Explanation Letter bar codes are reset to start again at 1. This may cause some problems with letters that were generated using the old database. In this case, the Edit Roll will not recognize the letter, so you will have to edit the student's absence manually.

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First Class Web version 827 is also available. The main changes are:

- Class lists and form lists can now include photos. Quickly match the names on the roll with the faces.
- For A+ users who have student photos included, when a roll is opened under any filter, passing the mouse over a student's name will bring up that student's photo to the right of the list.







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.



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	 Home Screen	A new "Home Screen" opens by default when you open First Class. This screen has many of the most used menu options as selectable buttons.
	Startup	Once a week, First Class will look for upgrades on the Human Edge website and, if one exists, download the file to the default download folder.
	 Toolbar	The toolbar now has an "Email" button on it when a report is displayed. Selecting this creates an email message with the report as an attachment which can then be sent just the same as any other email either to individuals, or to a custom group (see below).
File	 SQL Server Setup – Copy database	This function allows you to easily move an SQL database from one SQL Server to another. This function would be used, for example, if you were upgrading your SQL Server computer.
	 SQL Server Setup – Setup Archives	This function allows you to archive your data to another (new) database so that you "current" database doesn't become too large.
	 SQL Server – Select Archive	This allows you to select the archive (see above) you wish to analyse.
	 Import – Photos	Use this function to import you students' photos into First Class. The image name should be the same as the student id, and be in JPG format. These can then be printed on class lists and form lists in both First Class and First Class Web. (See below)
Maintenance	Student Edit	Email addresses for students and email addresses and mobile phone numbers for up to two parents can now be included for messaging (see below). If you do not wish to enter these details into the First Class database, they can be linked via an external file (see below)
	Teacher	Mobile phone numbers and email addresses can now be included on the teacher's details. This could be used for contacting relief (emergency) teachers, for adding to custom groups (see below), or for email or SMS messaging(see below). If you do not wish to enter these details into the First Class database, they can be linked via an external file (see below)

	Blocks	The teacher edit selection screen now shows the number of times teachers in the "Allocated" list are unavailable because of possible clashes. It shows directly if the teachers are displayed fully, and on the tool tip if in "Code only" format.
	 Custom Groups	Set up groups of teachers and students for use in email messaging (see above and below).
	 External Data	Link the mobile phone and email details of students and staff to an external (CSV) file. This could have been extracted from another source, such as an administration program, and means you don't have to have these details in the student and teacher maintenance screens.
Tools	Timetables	Students can now be filtered by house, by year and house, and by form and house.
	Enrol Students	"House" is now included in this screen. Now, when you enrol a student, you can, if used, enter the house here, without the need to refer back to the student maintenance screen.
A+	Edit Rolls	There is a checkbox visible when "Class" is selected (default) that opens another filter. This filter allows you to restrict the list to classes/rolls involving a particular form.
	Reports	The "Absence Activity" and "Attendance Alert" reports can be sorted by form, year level, form by year, house and custom group.
	On the PDA	Consecutive periods (doubles, triples, etc.) can now be marked at one time. Students names will appear a number of times in the one roll. Marking the first instance will mark all when saved.
Reports	Class and form lists	Photos which have been imported (see above), can, as an option, be printed on these lists.
 Messaging	Send Email	Send emails (with attachments, if required), to staff and students.
	Send SMS	Send SMS messages to any mobile phone.
	Notify Parents of Absences	This option, which was on the "A+" menu, has been re-written and moved to this menu. There are many selection criteria, including the periods or reasons for which you wish to send messages to parents.
	Options	Set up the options for email and SMS messages. Included are the default return email address, the mail server, the email user and password, and the SMS server access code (where used), and a default domain. This last option allows you to only enter the users unique id (the part of the email address before the @) in the maintenance screen, eg brown.john.x, and put the default domain, eg, edumail.vic.gov.au here. This will combine to create the full address brown.john.x@edumail.vic.gov.au.



First Class Release Notes – V4 Build 827

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Help	About	A "Check for Updates" has been included. Select this to check the Human Edge website for a new version.
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First Class Web

First Class Explorer	Reports	Both class lists and form lists can now show photos as an option.
A+		For schools that have included photos, passing the mouse over a student's name in any roll will bring up that student's photo to the right of the roll.