

Statistics: Week of August 10 - 16, 2009

Implementation Progress	Statistics
Schools in production	1,457
Number of active students (not including withdrawn students, e.g. graduated)	462,490
Access and Reports Statistics	Current
Maximum distinct user logon sessions in a day	394
Total distinct user logons for the week	2,013
Maximum number of reports run in a day	1,070
Maximum concurrent users in a day	138

OPERATIONS

General Information and Scheduled Service Interruptions	<p>You may have noticed in the last week or so that the automated emails from BCeSIS (regarding things like user roles and PENs) have been coming from a different sender. Instead of coming from no-reply@isw-bc.ca as usual, they were coming from csijobs@s415v21.rhcci.net. If you have not seen any of the automated emails lately, please check if they have gone to your trash or spam folder. This has been corrected, so the emails should now again be coming from no-reply@isw-bc.ca.</p> <p>SD Test was refreshed yesterday after Alternate YET was completed, so it is now in synch with all changes in Production as of August 16th. The Conversion Refresh is on schedule for this Friday. After the refresh the Conversion environment will also be updated with post-YET data.</p> <p>Hardware upgrades are complete and Operations is now fully ready for September. We will be watching to see how many users will be logging on to the system as school startup commences.</p>
Change Management	<p>For information regarding past and upcoming releases, please refer to the Scheduled Maintenance Windows page on the ISW.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> The page itself is publicly accessible, but you must be logged on to see and use the embedded links to the release notes.</p>

IMPLEMENTATION / SUPPORT

Learning Events / Resource Materials	<p>Learning Events for the new school year are available for registration on the ISW, so check them out – and watch for announcements about new resources, etc.</p> <p>We are well into our preparation process for the upcoming Back to School series of learning events which are designed to assist districts with required tasks and related activities for school startup. We are currently actively involved in the first two of our three phase approach to the delivery of learning events and related resources. The first phase, Discovery and Planning, involves an extensive review of all existing resources and information on a given topic, including upcoming fixes or enhancements, changes in Ministry policy or BCeSIS standards, and data from HEAT incident and problem tickets. An important addition to our process this year will be the creation of Known Issues appendices which will be added to reference guides and other resources wherever appropriate.</p> <p>The second phase, Development and Quality Assurance, involves the revision of existing/creation of new resources which are reviewed by others on the Team for quality in both content and standardized presentation. Organization and management of resources on the ISW is another key activity for the Team during these preparation phases. Changes in resource presentation or organization may occur as a result of the review and revision of materials but this does not typically mean moving resources, from one section to another for example. This year we will be reorganizing two Focused Areas of Interest sections: Counsellor Resources and Student Services. A news item will be posted when this work is completed in Production.</p> <p>Important note re the Training databases: YET cannot be run in these environments but, as in past years, we have executed the process in Districts4 which we developed to bring the databases forward to the current school year. Districts5 will be updated in its normal refresh cycle this weekend.</p> <p>Reminder: We are presenting a new Learning Event this year on Reporting Periods. We encourage those of you who are new, or those who would like a refresher, to register for this. There are a couple of new related resources which will be posted this week.</p>
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APPLICATION MANAGEMENT	
YET	<p>Alternate YET for Summer Schools was run on the weekend. We've had a few calls regarding students' cross enrollment records not being ended. We are investigating this and it has been submitted as well to aal.</p> <p><u>Update Aug 20th</u>: A problem has been identified with the Summer School Alternate YET. Although their marks were successfully archived to Credit Details, many Summer School students were not withdrawn from Summer School as expected - i.e. the cross enrollment history was not updated. aal is actively working on this and updates will be provided as they become available.</p>
Program end dates	<p>Last week there was a question re whether YET had ended program types. An update was provided this week:</p> <p>We did get a fix from aal which was implemented pre-YET, and we can confirm that things are working as per the instructions that were posted on the ISW – i.e. if the transfer withdrawal date is set to Yes and the student has no next school in the pre-transition list, the program will be end dated. We encourage districts to check to make sure that things are as expected.</p> <p>SD35 confirmed that they have students with open programs because they had a next school indicated on the pre-transition list. They indicated that the fix doesn't really solve the problem if the programs are only end dated when no next school is indicated. There will always be a next school indicated if the transfer is within the same school district.</p> <p><u>Response</u>: If programs are district level, then they can be manually end dated. However, when the student moves from one district to another, the receiving school can't close the program type. Some districts prefer not to have programs end dated because they're using the same type throughout the district. SD39 commented that they had considered end dating everything, but staff opposed.</p> <p>SD35: If a student moves from one school to another, programs should be end dated, whether it's within the same district or not. Others on the call concurred.</p> <p><u>Response</u>: This needs to be submitted to SEWG as a CR: to end date all programs if withdrawal transfer is set to Yes. Schools would then have to open/create all programs every year.</p> <p>SD63 asked whether a program not end dated from another district would affect 1701?</p> <p>SD35 responded that it would not, but it will pick up other the school's programs. It's not accurate and the data should be right.</p> <p>Bert van der Geest said he would discuss this with the SEWG.</p>
Early School Startup	<p>We have been advised of a district which is starting back to school a week early this year, so as to accommodate extra time off at Spring Break. The "official" back to school date is September 8 this year. If your district will be starting earlier than this, please let us know.</p>
UA Testers needed for SEWG Enhancements	<p>We are looking for User Acceptance Testers for the SEWG enhancements, specifically to test the new option to exclude cross enrolled students from the BC Enrollment Report. This will entail a couple of hours of your time. If you are able to help out with this, please notify the Service Desk.</p>
BCeSIS Good Practices document	<p>We have revised the Good Practices document that has been sent out at this time each year. It was circulated with last week's minutes and a slightly updated version is included with this week's. Please note that the stop sign graphic, added this year, indicates practices that would have a negative impact on the system. We urge you to circulate it amongst your users.</p>
Session TimeOut - Discussion and poll	<p>After a good discussion, in which districts presented rationale for either a shorter or a longer session timeout, a poll of all districts on the call was conducted. It was decided to limit the options to two: 30 and 90 minutes, and the result was 16 to 11 for 90 minutes. (One district declined to vote, and one submitted their vote by email prior to the call, as they were unable to attend).</p> <p>Based on these results, the session timeout will be changed to 90 minutes this week, with the understanding that this will be revisited in early September or at any time should the need arise. It can be adjusted again quickly if necessary – most likely in either the Wednesday or Sunday scheduled maintenance window.</p> <p><u>Update Aug 19th</u>: The timeout was successfully increased to 90 minutes.</p> <p>The BCeSIS Team will prepare documentation re what is known currently to cause user blocking.</p>
Session Termination	<p>During the discussions about session timeout, districts indicated that it would be helpful if they could request session termination, and asked if this would be possible. Sue Bennett said this would be brought up for discussion with the management team. An update on this will be provided next week.</p>
GOVERNANCE	
Andrew Macauley	<p>A document is being prepared on Fees and Grants, this will be posted as soon as possible.</p>