

Progress Statistics: Week of September 14 - 20, 2009

Schools in production	1,507
Number of active students (not including withdrawn students, e.g. graduated)	468,134
Maximum distinct user logon sessions in a day	14,352
Total distinct user logons for the week	70,379
Maximum number of reports run in a day.....	43,688
Maximum concurrent users in a day	4,490

Hot Topics

Session Timeout

Andrew Macauley

This was discussed at length at last week's SMC meeting, and a document was reviewed which described the issues brought forward by L1s with respect to the advantages and disadvantages of both shorter and longer session timeout periods. It was decided that, going forward, the SMC referendum process will be used to identify the setting that makes the most sense for the majority of users throughout the system. Though L1s will continue to provide valuable input, the ultimate responsibility for decisions that affect all districts rests with the SMC. In order for the SMC to reach the best collective decision, and in each district's own best interest, L1s should make sure they communicate with their SMC representative so they are aware of your concerns and input, and can bring them forward.

Operations

General Information and Notifications

Tim Reilly

We continue to see that the hardware and supporting infrastructure is responding well to the load of school start up.

In the past few weeks, two screens have been identified as being involved in over 50% of blocked user instances: **STU147 Lookup Course by Period** and **STU541 Student Course Selections**. However, it's important to keep in mind that this accounts for only 900 blocked sessions on screens which have been accessed *over one million times* so far this month.

We have also seen a definite increase in system usage. The maximum number of forms accessed in a single day in September has risen by 40% from 650,000 to 915,000. The maximum number of reports run in one day has increased by 33% from 37,000 to 50,000.

Reminder: The next SD Test Refresh will be October 3 and 4th.

The emergency fix put in on Friday evening was successful. The system was not taken down, but access to BCeSIS was removed for one hour at 10:00 p.m. while we implemented the fix. Reminder that, other than emergencies, no changes will be implemented during this critical timeframe, so that we can continue to ensure system stability.

Four districts on the call reported the system running slowly Monday afternoon. We will investigate this and report back any findings.

SD44 reported a problem they have been having and asked if anyone else had been encountering this. When users click on the BCeSIS icon on the ISW to login, they get a blank screen. Closing and reopening the browser and trying again solves the problem. Several districts responded saying that they had seen this and one advised that they had solved this, and a lot of other issues, by installing the newest version of Java while maintaining the supported one on their workstations. Making sure that Jinitiator was removed would also help, another district noted.

Implementation and Support

Learning Events / Resource Materials

Chris Wilson

Several learning events are scheduled for this week, including three on Student Services topics related to school startup and Ministry reporting. These sessions are designed for, and participation is limited to, those districts that have completed the Student Services implementation process. However, the Elluminate recordings of these will be posted so that districts can review them at a later date either for training purposes or to learn more about the module.

A recording of one of the TRAX learning events, also scheduled for this week, will be posted as soon as possible after the second event is delivered and the decision is made as to which one should be used.

We are posting a number of new documents in conjunction with the learning events being delivered, and you can find these in the Learning Resource Centre on the ISW in the related sections under Recurring Events and Processes – e.g. Ministry Reporting.

Application Management

1701

Dorothy Ward

The 1701 extract and verification report is capping courses at 12. This appears to be an old funding rule that was never removed from the code. We are working on this and will be implementing a fix as soon as it is ready.

Support Blocks

Dorothy Ward

A fix is also going in for support blocks on the 1701 extract. If the number of courses is less than eight, you can count support blocks. However, the code is set at seven or less; therefore, if a student has 7 ½ courses they are not being counted. The fix will rectify this.

Continuing Courses in Alternate and other non-DL schools

Bert van der Geest

There was discussion about courses that alternate students did not complete last year. There are students continuing courses from last year and the concern is that this will look like a new course and will be counted for 1701 funding.

Bert van der Geest commented that he would check with Kathy Corder regarding the differences in alternate funding and would provide the response for the minutes (*see below*).

Update Sept. 25, 2009

Any courses that have not been completed at year end transition and are moved over to the new school year are counted in the student's course count (annual plan of courses) for the new year.

- Alternate students are included in the above statement and are funded a full FTE providing the student is taking at least 1 course.

- DL 1701 has additional logic which checks for any new course active dates based upon the Active Course Date parameter entered on the DL 1701 submission screen.
- Adults rules are slightly different since they must have met the 10/10 rule or active rule before they are included in any course count.

End Dating Programs

Dorothy Ward advised that, at this time, you may submit HEAT tickets to end date your programs. It is not necessary to submit a ticket for every student; one ticket for each school or the whole district is sufficient.

SD28 enquired whether it was still necessary to identify students and programs specifically, and the response was yes. Alyson Oshust, representing SD23 and SD53, offered a suggestion to assist districts with this: run an ad hoc export to identify programs and their end dates. Distinguish where different and put results in an Excel spreadsheet. It is necessary to do a bit of deleting and filtering, but this identifies the students with programs that need end dating fairly quickly. Password protect the spreadsheet, submit it as an attachment to the HEAT ticket generated for the request, and put the password in the ticket. For more information, you can contact Alyson directly – using the Contact Search under the District Collaboration Centre > Search.

SD67 commented that they tried this on Alison's recommendation and it worked with no issues at all.

SD23 commented that there is a lot less clean up needed this year compared to previous years.

Bert van der Geest added that this topic is now with the OSWG. Norm Walker said that the standards group will look at this to see if there are different ways we can configure at both or either the enterprise and district level so there is consistency in how programs are end dated.

Refugee Coding

Norm Walker

This will be presented to the OSWG. There are a couple of ideas for solutions which will be discussed at the next meeting.

SADE Extract

Dorothy Ward

We will be implementing some high priority changes to the SADE extract on Oct 1st. These were part of the SEWG enhancement bundle but are being delivered in advance of that release to assist with the upcoming reporting. Reminder that the SADE extract for the reporting term of July 1 to Sep 30 can be submitted to the Ministry starting Oct 1. However, as these important enhancements won't be implemented until late afternoon, Oct 1st, districts may want to wait until Oct 2 before creating extract files.

High level release notes regarding these changes will be posted as soon as available.

Change Management

For information regarding past and upcoming releases, please refer to the **Business Events** page on the ISW. You must be logged on to see this link.

Reminder: There will be no changes implemented, unless urgent, for the next 4-6 weeks until Ministry reporting and other back to school activities are completed.

Other Agenda Items

Student Services Eligibility Report

SD28 reported a number of instances where the BC Student Services Eligibility Report is not showing students with eligibilities. In most cases it looks like the eligibilities have been entered correctly though they reported having to Reopen and re Finalize most of them. The district expressed concern about the funding implications if, as it appears, there is something wrong with the report.

The BCeSIS Team will investigate and report back.

Governance

General Information and Notifications

Andrew Macauley

Last week the full SMC met via telephone conference call, the first one in some time, which is part of the process to ensure the SMC representatives are more heavily involved in the planning process and in understanding the issues in the field.

There was a referendum last week regarding the date on which Class Size data will be extracted from BCeSIS and submitted to the Ministry web form. The date selected was October 4th. Reminder that this is a function that cannot be done individually for schools or districts, it must be done for the entire province.

Update Sept. 25, 2009

An Information Update was sent out to all L1s regarding the selected date. It included information whereby schools or districts can submit their own Class Size data. This information has also been posted to the ISW under District Collaboration Centre > Information Updates > Class Size. A news item on the front page of the ISW links directly to this page.

Duplicate Student Records

Andrew Macauley

Morag Masterson requested that the topic of duplicate students be brought up, as there are quite a few on the system and these need to be eliminated to reduce the amount of re-work that must be done if they are not removed prior to 1701 reporting. If you have duplicate student records in your school or district, please report them to the BCeSIS Service Desk by end of day on September 28th so they can be removed prior to 1701 reporting. Any that are not removed by that time will be removed in the regular process which is on a weekly basis.

Student Services

Andrew Macauley

The Student Services Users Group will be meeting again this week by conference call. This is a great opportunity for more regular communication amongst users, in the districts currently using the module. Please contact David Levine (SD6) or Ken Arkell (SD42) to join the group or to add an agenda item for upcoming calls – keeping in mind that your district must be using the module to participate.

Software Enhancement Working Group / Ministry Reporting Working Group

General Update and Notifications

Bert van der Geest

A schedule for the upcoming meetings of the SEWG and MRWG is expected this week.

Operations and Standards Working Group

General Update and Notifications

Norm Walker

The next meeting of the OSWG will be in the first week of October. There are several items identified for the agenda.