

Technical Integrator Newsletter

Support

The global pandemic reduced opportunities for the SIMS Partner Team to engage as frequently with our Integrators as we would have liked. As working practices return to a level of normality we are very keen to engage with all Integrators in person or virtually on a more regular basis. We have increased engagements since the start of 2022 and hope to continue this trend throughout the year. Your Account Manager will contact you in advance of your annual renewal date but if you wish to arrange a catch up sooner, please feel free to request a meeting at any point.

BETT 2022

The SIMS Partner Team will be attending [BETT 2022](#) and will be available throughout the 3-day event. If you are attending or planning to attend, we would be delighted to arrange a meeting over tea or coffee to discuss any aspects of the Partner Programme. Please [email the team](#) to arrange a meeting time.

Ensuring best practice for integrations for Hosted / SIMS Connected schools

As part of our integration with Parent Pay Group, ESS has been undertaking continual improvement reviews, including maximising security standards.

A recent review has identified that a service account, created to facilitate the testing of Third-Party Connector has been reused by one or more TIs in a small proportion of schools that access SIMS services.

The reuse of accounts across multiple uses is not good practice and we are working with the schools affected to remediate this situation. As part of this each school is advised to contact their TIs to ensure any shared accounts are disabled and replaced with discrete, identifiable, secure credentials for each integrated product.

Should a school contact you to this we look forward to your assistance in this programme to improve data security with our joint customers.

You may of course wish to pre-empt this and assist schools who have your product by providing clear guidance on how to update the account details in your product or assisting them to do this yourselves.

Best Advice on SIMS TI accounts

Schools who have their SIMS hosted by ESS require a Third-Party Connector (TPC) to enable a TI product to securely exchange data with SIMS. This will usually be installed by ESS as part of your Hosting or SIMS Connected set up.

To enable access, a user login is required within SIMS System Manager. This user should only be granted the minimum permissions required. We recommend the username should contain a clear inference to the TI or to their product, for example:

```
<TI Name> [User] '  
<Product Name> [User]  
<TI Name> <Product Name> [User] '
```

An individual user should be set up for each TI / TI Product. This will enable clear identification of all TI users and provide the ability to ensure each TI / TI Product has been granted the minimum level of permissions required. TIs are responsible for identifying the access rights required by their product and may require an account per product if they offer a set of wide-ranging solutions and would normally identify the permission set required during the testing of their product.

For further guidance on how to add a user for your TI Product(s) please see our online resource: [Granting access permissions to SIMS 7](#)

Engagement & feedback

Integrator feedback on our developer resources

Many thanks to everyone who has responded to Esther's request for an introduction and interview. In addition to meeting so many of you, she has received valuable feedback about our integrator resources. A common theme was that our developer pages were confusing and difficult to navigate. We have embarked on an on-going effort to make our technical information easier to use. To date, we have rewritten and simplified several sections:

- [SIMS Web Integration](#)
- [SIMS Local Integration](#)
- [Finance](#)

We encourage all Integrators to review the updates made to date. If you have suggestions on how we can further improve our technical information we would be glad to receive all feedback.

Technical

WEB APIs

We now have the following web API support available:

- DeX OData - Sandbox, Sample Code and Postman
- One Roster - Sandbox, Sample Code (new)
- RAPAPI - Sandbox, Sample Code (old)
- [Vendor Management APIs](#).

Schools will need to enable the above in addition to enabling your application in the tile store and in SSM prior to live running.

It is also possible to have an application that can access all the above, but this requires two separate requests for identity tokens with different scopes, client IDs and secrets. However, the school simply chooses 1 tile.

The sandboxes are based on a Virtual Machine (VM) with appropriate training data based on Waters Edge and Green Abbey test data.

Vendor management APIs allow you to have a set of credentials that enable the collection of credentials for DeX, OneRoster and RAP for all the schools choosing your product without the need to share secrets by email or other uncontrolled means.

Sample Code

We will shortly make further sample code and other resources available to speed up integration with our web APIs. Some of these samples will be provided as password-protected zip files. The password will be provided to new Integrators upon registration, and we will communicate the password to existing Integrators via our newsletters. Any updates to the password will be communicated in the same way. If you know of colleagues who require access, please contact partner.management@educationsoftwaresolutions.co.uk and ask for them to be added to the list. There is no charge for these resources, but copyrights and usage conditions apply.

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