

Introduction

This is the recommended minimum hardware for running your SIMS system effectively. We believe that schools should budget to replace hardware on a three year cycle. This specification for network workstations will be easily exceeded by a PC purchased within the last three years, except for memory which can be upgraded easily if required.

Workstations of minimum specification would be recommended for occasional use and are likely to be less able to deal with multiple open applications. Staff who spend significant amounts of time using SIMS are strongly recommended to use equipment bought within the last three years. Similarly, minimum specification SQL Servers will not be adequate in larger schools; a poor performing SQL Server will give all users a poor experience of the software.

SIMS/FMS SQL Server

Component	Requirement
Computer and processor	Single Core 3.0GHz processor or higher (Quad Core 3.2GHz or higher recommended for optimum performance in Secondary schools and sites using InTouch).
Memory (minimum recommended)	2GB or higher (8GB recommended for optimum performance in Secondary schools, sites using InTouch and advanced usage of the SIMS Home Page).
Disk space guidance	Overhead space — 1GB working space + 1/4GB for SQL Express. Customers should allow 5MB per pupil/student. For example, a 1000 pupil/student school would be advised to have at least 5GB free for SIMS. File Server — 2GB for applications and SIMS Setups folder.
Drive	CD and DVD drive.
Display	1024x768 or higher monitor resolution.
Operating system and software	Operating System — Microsoft Windows Server 2008, Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows Server 2012 and Windows Server 2012 R2. We also support Microsoft Windows 7, Windows 8.1 and Windows 10 as servers for low numbers of users (i.e. five client PCs or less). Software — Microsoft SQL Server 2012 or 2014. Please refer to the Technical Roadmap for planned support and retirement dates for SQL Server. We recommend that Secondary schools or sites using InTouch use the full Microsoft SQL Server Standard edition or higher for optimum performance. Both .NET Framework 3.5 and 4.0 are required. These can be delivered via SOLUS3.
Backup of whole system required?	Yes.
Other	A DVD/CD compatible drive is required for software installation. It is not recommended that servers are used 'normally' as workstations except in small schools. Non-dedicated servers are unlikely to be suitable with more than five concurrent users of SIMS. Capita Children's Services recommends the purchase of a dedicated database server where there are 20 or more concurrent users, or where the network server is of a low specification. A whole school network will almost certainly require a dedicated database server. The use of Lesson Monitor and/or Assessment Manager in each classroom usually means that a dedicated database server running a SQL Server edition of Standard or higher is required. Internet access is required. SOLUS requires access to the http protocol on dl.capitasolus.co.uk and solusmanager.sims.co.uk and all sub-folders therein.

Backups

You are reminded that it is critical that backups are moved to an alternative media on a daily basis, i.e. that one is kept in a physically separate place to the server that is backed up. Customers need to ensure that they have a disaster recovery plan (DRP). This includes where they will source a replacement server and what they will do whilst the system is down. The DRP is only worthwhile if on a termly basis, the backups are restored to another machine and proven to work.

Capita recommends Attix5 Backup Professional software for the back up of SIMS. SIMS and Backup Professional are fully integrated to provide seamless, offsite backup for SIMS data.

See the Capita website for more information on Attix5 software:

<http://www.capita-sims.co.uk/products/attix5-pro>

Additional Requirements for Attix5 Users

If using Attix5 Backup Professional to backup and protect SIMS, you will need to ensure that you have sufficient disk space available on the server or workstation. The free space available on the device needs to be 150% of the amount of SIMS data (i.e. if you have 1GB of SIMS data, you will need 1.5GB of free disk space).

Document Server

Component	Requirement
Computer and processor	Single Core 3.0GHz processor or higher. (Quad Core 2.4GHz or higher recommended for optimum performance in Secondary schools and schools using InTouch).
Memory (minimum recommended)	2GB or higher (8GB recommended for optimum performance in Secondary schools, sites using InTouch and advanced usage of the SIMS Home Page).
Disk space guidance	At least 10GB of free disk space should be dedicated to the document server. Disk space on the Document Server is based solely on customer usage and should be monitored. Profiles is usually the largest user of disk space on the Document Server. The production of three profiles a year for 1000 students of 100Kb each (8 page word document without graphics) would give rise to 300MB per year. The largest profiling session we have heard of generated 12GB for 2400 students. This would compress to about 3GB on the Document Server. Other SIMS applications will also make use of the Document Server.
Drive	CD and DVD drive.
Display	1024x768 or higher monitor resolution.
Operating system	Please refer to <i>Operating System</i> in the <i>SIMS/FMS SQL Server</i> section on page 1.
Backup of whole system required?	Yes.
Other	Internet access is required. SOLUS requires access to the http protocol on dl.capitasolus.co.uk and solusmanager.sims.co.uk and all sub-folders therein.

Workstation

Component	Requirement
Computer and processor	Single Core 3.0GHz processor or higher (Quad Core 2.4GHz or higher recommended for optimum performance in Secondary schools and advanced SIMS Home Page users).
Memory (minimum recommended)	2GB (4GB or higher recommended).
Disk space guidance	Workstations will need 1.5GB free including 500MB on system partition for third party components in the Windows directory. Workstations using FMS should allow for an additional 150MB.
Drive	CD and DVD drive.
Display	1024x768 (1280x1024 or higher for optimum experience).
Operating system and software	Operating System — 32-bit and 64-bit versions of Microsoft Windows 7 Professional (SP1), Windows 8 Pro and Windows 10 Pro. The PC will require Microsoft .NET Framework 4.0 to be present. This can be delivered via SOLUS3 or it can be downloaded and applied separately. Software — Microsoft Office 2010 (32-bit and 64-bit) and Office 2013. Adobe Reader 10 or above.
Other	Internet access is required. SOLUS requires access to the http protocol on dl.capitasolus.co.uk and solusmanager.sims.co.uk and all sub-folders therein.

Standalone/Peer to Peer

Component	Requirement
Computer and processor	Dual Core 2.4GHz processor or higher (Quad Core 2.4GHz or higher recommended for optimum performance in Secondary schools and advanced SIMS Home Page users).
Memory (minimum recommended)	2GB (4GB or higher recommended for optimum performance or sites using InTouch).
Disk space guidance	Please refer to the Server and Workstation specifications.
Drive	CD and DVD drive.
Display	1024x768 (1280x1024 or higher for optimum experience).
Operating system and software	Please refer to the SIMS/FMS Server specification.
Backup of whole system required?	Yes.
Other	Please refer to the Server and Workstation specifications.

InTouch School Services Server (Web Server)

Component	Requirement
Computer and processor	Dual Core 2.4GHz processor or higher (Quad Core 2.4GHz or higher recommended for optimum performance in Secondary schools).
Memory (minimum recommended)	2GB or higher (8GB recommended for optimum performance in Secondary schools).
Disk space guidance	Please refer to the Server and Workstation specifications.
Drive	CD and DVD drive.
Display	1024x768 or higher monitor resolution.
Operating system and software	Please refer to the SIMS/FMS Server specification. In addition, Internet Information Services (IIS) version 6, 7 or 7.5 is required.
Backup of whole system required?	Yes.
Other	Internet access is required.

SIMS Discover System Requirements

Workstation Specification

Component	Requirement
Computer and processor	Minimum: Dual Core 2.4GHz processor or higher. Recommended: Quad Core 3.2GHz processor or higher.
Graphics Card	Minimum: DirectX 9 graphics device with WDDM 1.0 or higher driver. Recommended: Dedicated graphics card with the latest drivers installed and <u>not</u> an integrated chipset. Recommended screen resolution: 1280x800.
Memory	Minimum: 2GB or higher. Recommended: 4GB or higher.
.NET Framework	.NET Framework 4.
Operating system and software	Please refer to the Workstation specification on page 2.

Server Requirements

Component	Requirement
Computer and processor	Minimum: Dual Core 2.4GHz processor or higher. Recommended: Quad Core 3.2GHz processor or higher.
Operating system and software	Please refer to the SIMS/FMS SQL Server specification.

SOLUS3 Server

Component	Requirement
Computer and processor — Primary schools	Minimum: I3 with 2GB RAM Recommended: I3 with 4GB RAM recommended for optimum performance.
Computer and processor — Secondary schools	Minimum: I5 with 8GB RAM Recommended: I7 with 16GB RAM recommended for optimum performance.
Disk space guidance	5GB or higher.
Display	800x600 or higher monitor resolution.
Operating system and software	Please refer to the SIMS/FMS SQL Server specification.
.NET Framework	.NET Framework 4.5.