



Exam Scheduler 3.5.3

Release Notes

Document summary

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Support

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1 About this release

1.1 About Exam Scheduler

Exam Scheduler 3.5.3 is a set of components that enable users to easily and efficiently create an examination timetable. Exam Scheduler can schedule the students, staff, and invigilators that are taking or supporting each exam into the rooms where the exams can take place. Manual, semi-automatic, or automatic scheduling provides the flexibility to create a timetable that meets all delivery requirements while optimising the use of exam room space and invigilator time.

1.2 Reasons for this release

Exam Scheduler 3.5.3 includes functional improvements and addresses a number of problems identified in preceding releases.

For more information about the principal improvements in this release, see the *Functional changes at this release* table in *Release details* (on page 2).

1.3 Supported platforms

For supported platforms, see the *Exam Scheduler 3.5.3 Installation Guide*.

2 Release details

This section contains the following information about this release:

- A summary of the functionality that has been added or changed since the previous release.
- A summary of the problems that are resolved in this release. Only problems that were present in a previous full release are listed.
- A summary of salient known problems. If you encounter any of these problems, contact your local support team to add your experiences to the investigation (see *Support* on page ii).

2.1 Functional changes

ID	Description
US2148, US2225, US2231	<p>Performance improvements (general)</p> <p>The loading times of the home lists for students, exam requirements, exam activities and students on exam activities has been significantly improved.</p>
US2106	<p>Performance improvements (Schedule Exam Activity window)</p> <p>The Schedule Exam Activity window now gives the user the option of disabling the calculation of valid starts and violations. This can significantly improve performance when navigating up and down the list of exam activities to locate the exam activity of interest.</p>
US2190	<p>New tag object</p> <p>Students can now be associated with tags. These tags can be used to identify particular attributes or needs for a student and are visible on the session screen for any exams the student is sitting. An example use would be to flag students that need particular equipment or invigilators to be present.</p>
US1504	<p>New option is available when dividing students between exam rooms</p> <p>Students sitting an exam that has been split over multiple rooms can now be divided between the rooms based on the student host key. The existing options of splitting based on candidate number or student name are still available.</p>

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ID	Description
US2332	<p>Moving students between exam rooms</p> <p>After scheduling, it is now possible to move students between rooms used by the same exam activity. The Students tab (which is within the Schedule Exam Activity tab) now contains a drop down list that enables the user to choose the location that the student is assigned to. Bulk moving of students between locations is supported.</p>
US2230	<p>Moving students between exam activities</p> <p>It is now possible to move students between exam activities on the same exam requirement (singly or in bulk). For example, to resolve a timetable clash, the user can move students to an exam that occurs at a different scheduled time.</p>
US1502	<p>Sessions for serial exams</p> <p>Sessions can now be generated for serial exams and invigilators can be allocated to those sessions. For example, to allocate an invigilator to a preparation room, or to provide a chaperone or monitor for oral exams. The generation of sessions for serial exams can be controlled by a configuration setting on the Scheduling and Session Control tab.</p>
US2191	<p>New gender option available</p> <p>To meet legislative requirements for modelling transgender individuals, a new attribute value, <i>Non-Specific</i>, has been added for the Gender attribute. This attribute value can be used for staff, students, and invigilators.</p> <p>The following attribute values are now available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Male• Female• Non-Specific• Unknown
US2206	<p>User text and numeric fields for exam sessions</p> <p>Sessions now have User Text and User Numeric attributes. To give the attributes a different label in the user interface, they can be renamed in a configuration file.</p>

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ID	Description
US2150	<p>Default invigilator role for exam sessions</p> <p>During invigilator allocation, Exam Scheduler allocates invigilators to the roles that the session requires. For example, the session might require two senior invigilators. However, satisfying these requirements might not provide the session with enough invigilators. This situation can occur because Exam Scheduler also calculates how many invigilators are required in total, based on an invigilator-to-student ratio. The session might require more invigilators than the allocation to roles has provided for it.</p> <p>In this release, the user can choose an existing role and declare it as the default role. The remaining invigilator requirement is satisfied by allocating invigilators to the default role.</p>
US2226	<p>User-specified ordering for auto-allocating invigilators</p> <p>Auto-allocation of invigilators to sessions is now done in the order that the selected sessions appear in the Session home list.</p>
Various	<p>Usability enhancements – additional data visible on screen</p> <p>The user interface contains the following additional columns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Paper home list now contains columns that show the associated child papers, allocated exam requirements, and allocated exam activities. • The Exam Requirement home list now contains a column that shows the scheduling violations for any associated exam activities (if any). • The Session home list now contains columns that show whether a session involves NEP students, and show the zone of the location where the session is taking place. • The Scheduled Exam Activity home list now contains columns that show any staff allocated and any scheduling violations. • The Invigilator home list now contains columns that show each invigilator’s roles, zone preferences, and suitabilities. • The Exam Requirements details pane now shows the associated exam papers on a new Exam Resources panel. The panel contains Exam Papers and Staff tabs. • The number of students on the exam is now included in the exam activity information that is displayed on Timetable tab of the Location window.

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ID	Description
US2009, US2202, US2220, US2221, US2222, US2223, US2224, US2271, US2039	<p>New navigation shortcuts</p> <p>Some shortcut menus (which are opened by right-clicking on particular screens) now contain new menu items that improve navigation and efficiency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Exam Requirements home list now supports <i>Go to schedule</i>, <i>Go to Violations</i> and <i>Go to Exam Sessions</i> operations on selections of single or multiple exam requirements. • The Schedule Exam Activity home list now supports <i>Go to Exam Requirement</i>, <i>Go to Violations</i>, and <i>Go to Exam Sessions</i> operations on selections of single or multiple exam activities. • The exam activity list of the Exam Requirements tab now supports a <i>Go to Exam Sessions</i> operation. • The exam activity list of the Session window now supports a <i>Schedule exam activity</i> operation. • Multi-selecting exam activities on the Location Timetable grid now supports right-click and <i>Go to schedule</i> operations.
US2305, US2308	<p>New menu items for setting and removing fixed times for activities</p> <p>Right-clicking on a “date and time” cell in the Schedule Exam Activity tab’s Calendar grid now displays the following new menu items. These operations are valid for single or multi-selected sets of exam activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unset fixed start time • Set fixed start time to selected date/time • Set fixed start time to currently scheduled date/time
US2011	<p>Bulk editing of invigilator numbers supported</p> <p>Bulk editing of the required numbers of invigilators and the associated roles needed for an exam session is now supported.</p>
US1378	<p>Automatic invigilator allocation configuration options</p> <p>The Scheduling and Session Control tab now supports configuring the following invigilator allocation options. Previously, changing these settings was possible only by modifying a configuration file.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign at least 1 male and 1 female invigilators • Balance invigilator loading

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ID	Description
US1503	<p>User interface configuration options</p> <p>A new “Enterprise Timetabler compatible” colour scheme is available for the grid on the Schedule Exam Activity tab. This colour scheme displays constraint bars in colours that correspond to similar constraints in Enterprise Timetabler.</p>
US2113	<p>New default values for exam activities</p> <p>Creating a new exam requirement now sets the User Text and User Numeric attributes on the default exam activity so that they match those attributes of the exam requirement.</p>
US2201, US1153	<p>New behaviour around cascading of changes</p> <p>Changes to the Exclusive use of room and Notes attributes of exam requirements can now be cascaded to their exam activities.</p>
US2286	<p>New reports</p> <p>This release contains a new <i>Scheduling Violations</i> report.</p>
US883	<p>Historic data removal tool</p> <p>A utility to remove historic data from the Exam Scheduler database is included in this release. When run, the user is prompted for an exam period; all data prior to that exam period is removed. This tool enables users to remove data they no longer need or are no longer allowed to store under the terms of data protection legislation.</p>
US2293 and others	<p>Integration with EMS</p> <p>This release supports integration with the new Exam Management System (EMS) module that records students that need extra provision (NEP). The integration can make data about NEP students available in Exam Scheduler.</p>

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ID	Description
Various	New Web API for integration Web API methods are provided for creating, updating, and deleting exam requirements, students, and the relationship between them. Although the API is aimed at supporting integration with other systems through Scientia Connect, the API can also be more generally used by customers for their own integration projects.
US2319	EMIT enhancements EMIT now supports the importing of exam papers and the relationships between exam papers and exam requirements.

2.2 Resolved problems

ID	Description
US2300	Setting just the fixed time on an exam activity enables an exam to be scheduled on non-standard days.
US2278, US2314	Changes to the planned size of an exam activity is not causing the recalculation of the number of invigilators required.
US1899	Removing all students from a session then adding new students does not update the count of students on the session.
US2316	<i>Avoid concurrency</i> rules between location configurations are not applied in some circumstances.
DE1030	No default host key is generated when creating an exam paper (if one is not supplied by the user).
DE1081	EMS causes error in Exam Scheduler if invigilators are set to be unavailable on the last day of the exam period.

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ID	Description
DE1078, DE1080, DE10883, US2159	Setting or changing valid from or valid to dates on temporal objects causes errors in some circumstances.
US1262	When creating a partitioned sub-location, the zone of the parent space is not inherited by the children.
US1759	Changes to the layout of the Exam Activities pane on the Exam Requirements tab are not saved.
US2130, US2157	Grid columns that display times should filter and group by time, not date.

2.3 Known problems

ID	Description	Workaround
US408	If exam periods overlap and exams are scheduled in each exam period for the same room at the same time, duplicate sessions are generated.	Avoid overlapping exam periods.

3 Install and upgrade

3.1 Installing the software

For information about installing Exam Scheduler 3.5.3, see the *Exam Scheduler 3.5.3 Installation Guide*.

3.2 Upgrading an installation of a previous version

Existing installations of Exam Scheduler 3.5.0, 3.5.1, and 3.5.2 can be upgraded to Exam Scheduler 3.5.3. For more information about this process, see the *Exam Scheduler 3.5.3 Installation Guide*.

To upgrade from Exam Scheduler 3.4.1 or earlier, Exam Scheduler must first be upgraded to version 3.5.0. Then, Exam Scheduler can be upgraded to version 3.5.3. For information about upgrading to Exam Scheduler 3.5.0, see the *Exam Scheduler 3.5 Installation Guide*.