

Release Note of Standalone Timetabling Tool (STT) Version Upgrade

The STT Upgrade Package for version **1.0.43.29052018** is now available for download from WebSAMS Download Site (URL: <http://www.websams.edb.gov.hk/eng/stt/index.html>).

The STT can carry out auto-update for this version if users select “Enable Auto Update” under “Setting” in the STT with access to the Internet/server for update.

The prerequisite version for this package is **1.0.39.28062017** or above.

*** For prevention of data loss, users are reminded to back up the STT_EDB.DB located at the db folder under the installation directory to another location if the users choose to **uninstall** or **reinstall** the STT.*

1. Application

Major Enhancements / Changes

1. Manage Data Set
 - a. The button of “Save to STT / 儲存到 STT” is renamed “Save as STT file / 儲存為 STT 檔案”.
 - b. The button of “Load from STT / 從 STT 載入” is renamed “Load STT file / 載入 STT 檔案”.
2. School Data Setup
 - a. An option is added for propagating the change of Default Room to related Normal Lessons in Lesson Setup when (batch) editing Subject. The new Default Room can also be propagated to existing result sets unless the room has been changed manually in result set.
 - b. An option is added for propagating the change of Default Room and Teacher to related Normal Lessons in Lesson Setup when (batch) editing Class Subject. The Teaching Load of the new Default Teacher will be reset to default. The new Default Room and Teacher can also be propagated to existing result sets unless they have been changed manually in result set.
3. Lesson Detail
 - a. Constraint Group, which includes Consecutive Time Slot (CTS) and Same Time Block (STB), are extended to Special Lessons. Users can now add/edit/delete CTS and STB involving both Normal and Special Lessons.

4. Data Validation
 - a. Two columns, “Fixed Usage” and “Variable Usage”, are added under Room Validation:
 - Fixed Usage:
The usage of room that are occupied by the lesson. These can be single room or all rooms being used in the lesson.
 - Variable Usage:
The usage of room appeared in a room group of a lesson. One of the rooms will be assigned during timetable scheduling.
 - b. The passing criteria of Room Validation is revised such that it will be invalid only when the Fixed Usage is larger than the Base, *i.e.* the required usage of those rooms that are confirmed is larger than the total available capacity of that room.
5. Pre-assignment
 - a. CTS and STB involving Special Lessons are supported.
6. Generation and Tuning
 - a. CTS and STB involving Special Lessons are supported for the following functions:
 - Auto/Resume/Partial Generation
 - Auto Suggestion
 - Swap/Schedule in Interactive Tuning

Other Enhancements / Changes

1. School Data Setup
 - a. “Home Room” is translated to “主班房間” in Chinese version.
2. Lesson Setup
 - a. Warning message is added when joining/disjoining/deleting any lessons that are associated with Constraint Group. Users are suggested to delete the corresponding Constraint Group first before joining/disjoining/deleting these lessons.
 - b. “Home Room” is translated to “主班房間” in Chinese version.
 - c. The refresh mechanism for the tab “Cross-class Subject” is refined and the No. of normal/special lessons of Cross-class Subjects in the tab will be auto-refreshed after updating related normal/special lessons.
 - d. The refresh mechanism for the tab “Summary” is refined and the Summary will be auto-refreshed after updating:
 - Class
 - Class Subject
 - Subject
 - Lesson
3. Lesson Detail
 - a. The column “Lesson Code” in the tab “Constraint Group” is added.

4. Data Set Report
 - a. Two columns, “Fixed Usage” and “Variable Usage”, are added under Room Validation in Data Validation Summary.
 - b. The sorting order of the Rooms in Room Group List Report is revised.
 - c. The format of zone ID is revised to two digits, i.e. “01” instead of “0”.
 - d. The calculation of Teacher Actual Workload in Lesson Summary for Teacher is revised.
5. Interactive Tuning
 - a. The message indicating the result of blocking/unlocking periods for lessons is removed from Message Window.
 - b. The wording of message shown when splitting the lessons associated with Constraint Group is refined.
6. Result Set Report
 - a. A remark illustrating the sorting order of the free rooms in Free Room List Report is added.

Problems Resolved in This Version

1. School Data Setup
 - a. Home Room is not displayed in those room groups that are associated with Home Room.
 - b. The calculation of max non-adjacent days in Subject and Class Subject is occasionally inaccurate.
2. Data Set Report
 - a. Home Room is not displayed in those room groups that are associated with Home Room in the Room Group List.
3. Pre-assignment and Interactive Tuning
 - a. The column “No. of Periods Blocked” under the lists of “Lesson Found” & “Lesson Unscheduled” could not be updated with the blocking of upper levels.
 - b. Lessons associated with the constraint group “Consecutive Time Slot” is unable to be pre-assigned/scheduled to a timeslot if the soft constraint “Multiple Lesson per Day” is violated.
 - c. A lesson is unable to move to a free time slot on the same day when the day is already scheduled with 3 Single/2 Double/1 Triple lessons for the same class subject.
4. Generation and Tuning
 - a. The warning message is missing when violating the following constraint:
- 3-Single / 2-Double / 1-Triple-1-Single Allowed (Evenly distributed)
 - b. The symbol “B”, instead of “U”, is incorrectly used for period blocking of upper level in Manage Period Blocking panel.
 - c. The soft constraint “Non-Successive Day” for some CLPs does not function properly in Partial Generation.
 - d. More than 4 Sessions are assigned for the same Class Subjects by Auto Generation/Auto Suggestion in some situations.

- e. Feasible time slots are incorrectly displayed during Interactive Tuning as more than 4 Sessions are allowed for the same Class Subjects.
- f. The term “No. of Periods”, instead of “Period Type”, is wrongly used in the window of “Show Free Resources”.

Known Issues

- 1. If Adobe Reader DC is used to open user manual, it may not be possible to open other PDF files until the user manual is closed. It is known that previous version XI of Adobe Reader is not affected.

Remarks

- 1. There is no change in the database schema.
- 2. User Manual (Chinese & English versions) is updated.

2. Housekeeping on Major / Minor upgrade

The minimum hard disk spaces required to run major / minor upgrade are:

Installation Drive: 100MB

Each Major / Minor Upgrade will download major / minor package in the STT installation folder.

Should you have any queries or need any assistance, please contact your School Liaison Officer of WebSAMS Team or STT Hotline at 3464 0579.

Gentle Reminder to STT Users

With an aim to safeguarding the security of STT, schools are recommended to follow the guidelines of "IT Security in Schools – Recommended Practice" (ITSS) at the location of:

http://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/edu-system/primary-secondary/applicable-to-primary-secondary/it-in-edu/WiFi900/IT_SecurityinSchools_RecommendedPractice_Aug2016.pdf

Every item included in the IT Security in Schools – Recommended Practice (ITSS) is applicable to STT and essential for the establishment and maintenance of the IT Security Policy defined by every school.

Besides, STT users are recommended to regularly visit the Information Security website of HKSAR (<http://www.infosec.gov.hk>) for updated information of IT security.

In particular to the areas of password management and incident handling procedures, the followings are highlighted in order to assist schools to review their definition and enforcement:

- a) All STT users are recommended to set password for the reports exported from STT. Passwords should not be shared or divulged unless necessary. The risk of sharing passwords is that it would increase the probability of security being compromised.*
- b) Schools should well define their own Security Incident Handling Procedures for IT Systems including STT and notify the right people timely for procedures.*