

Syllabus Plus Users Information Update – Jan/Feb 2006 Edition 13

Introduction

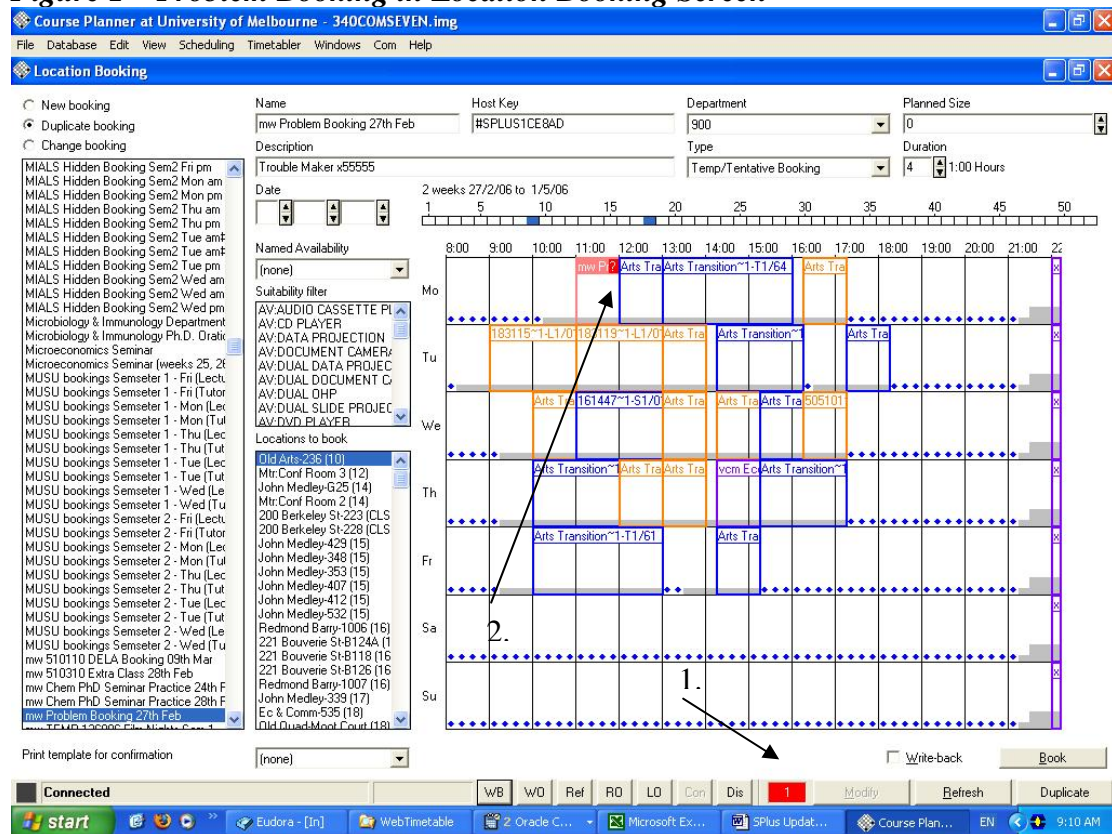
Welcome to 2006 – Hard to believe that we are already 1/6th of the way through the year! Below is an update on what is going on in the world of Syllabus Plus at the moment. If you manage to read through the explanation on errors on the database (and what to do about them) there is some useful info on the update to 3.5.0, and a pretty handy tip for improving mouse functionality in the program.

Current Syllabus Plus Issues

Errors on the Database

It is easy to spot when there is an error on the database. A bright red box appears down at the base of the screen. The number inside this box indicates how many errors are on the system (See 1. in Figure 1 below)

Figure 1 – Problem Booking in Location Booking Screen



So what does the error mean?

The error usually indicates that a booking exists in a venue that is incompatible for the parameters set for class. For example if a class it is set to run in a venue that does not have the right AV requirements, or is not in the correct building, or it is set to run in weeks when the room is not available, the an error will arise.

Errors oftentimes spring up in classes when changes are made to a room (i.e removing a data projector from a theatre would cause a lot of errors on the database) or altering the weeks over which a class will run. The latter is the most common error that everyday Syllabus Plus users will come across.

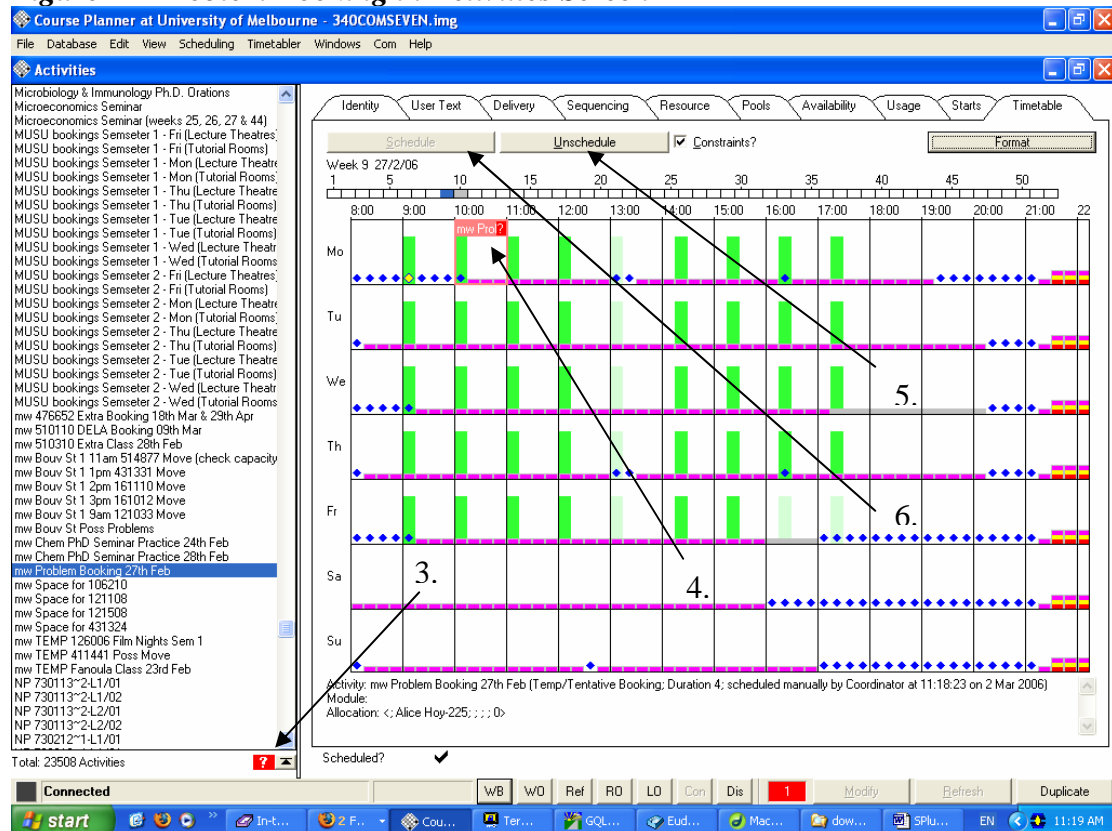
An error has just appeared. How do I know if it is mine or not?

Click on the booking that you have just been working on. Depending on if you are working in the 'Location Booking' screen, or the 'Activities' screen, the error will show up differently.

In the Location booking screen, a red box appears in the top right corner of your booking (See 2. in Figure 1).

In the 'Activities' screen, it shows up as a red question mark towards the bottom of the left of the window when the booking is highlighted (See 3. in Figure 2). A red box is also visible in the top right corner of the booking when viewing the 'Timetable' tab (See 4. in Figure 2).

Figure 2 – Problem Booking in Activities Screen



So how can I clear the error?

There are two methods:

1. The most straightforward way to clear your error would be to delete it and start again. This could however be considered to be a little brutal.

2. The most efficient method of clearing the error is to unschedule and then reschedule the class. This can be done from the 'Timetable' tab in the 'Activities' screen. (See 5.& 6. Figure 2).

*****Make sure that you schedule the booking in the same location and timeslot when you do this though!*****

You can reach the 'Activities' screen by double clicking on your booking in the 'Location Booking' screen

What if I still have a problem?

If you are having trouble removing an error that you think you have created, you will need to change one of the parameters in your booking (it is not always easy to spot what is causing the problem though!)

If you have any queries about sorting out error on your system, please feel free to contact our office.

What do I do if I don't think an error is mine?

Up until a short time ago, we were running with permanent 'errors' on the database. We were doing this (and will occasionally do this in the future) in order to temporarily 'solve' certain timetable problems. Our office will endeavour to advise all Syllabus Plus users when we have deliberately created errors on the system.

Errors can also indicate that there is a more fundamental problem with the database.

If you have an error on your system that you are unsure of the origin for, please advise our office.

Syllabus Plus Upgrade

It has been proposed that we will upgrade Syllabus Plus to version 3.5.0 in the days just before or just after the Easter break. This time has been identified as a period that will cause minimal disruption to users. At this stage we are hopeful that Syllabus Plus will be out of action for a maximum of one day only whilst the upgrade takes place. More details on the upgrade will be provided in the next edition of the update. Please advise our office if you expect that it would be a major problem to be without Syllabus Plus for a day in this period.

Syllabus Plus Tip – Mouse Wheel in Syllabus Plus

Recent editions of Syllabus Plus have not been compatible with the 'scroll' wheel present on the bulk of mice. If you are used to scrolling through lists of data with the aid of the wheel in other programs, it is frustrating not to be able to use it in Syllabus Plus.

Through a contact in Syllabus Plus world, we have recently been advised of a program which overcomes this problem. The program (called katmouse) is really easy to set up. We have been using in our office for over a month now without any problems.

You can download the program at:

<http://ehiti.sdf-eu.org/katmouse/>

If you are interested in using the program, we recommend that you consult with your LITE to ensure that the program is properly installed.

Contact Us

Please feel free to get in touch with us if you have any feedback

sa-timetable@unimelb.edu.au, or give us a call.

Sandi Robertson – Timetable Coordinator x49689

Matt Wright - Timetabling Systems Support x43690

Kamila Kaniski – Timetable Officer x47699

Chris Thornton – Manager, Timetabling, Venue & Conference Management x48858