

Syllabus Plus Users Information Update – Jul/Aug 2006 Edition 16

Introduction

Welcome to another issue of the Syllabus Plus update. This issue is a little shorter than usual due to the fact that we are a tad busy with the construction of the 2007 timetable at present.

Current Syllabus Plus Issues

Construction of the 2007 Database

Construction of the 2007 database has begun. After preliminary scheduling has been completed, users responsible for timetabling subject on Syllabus Plus will be given access to the system. We would expect that this will be at some stage in early August to allow time to schedule classes prior to the release of the 2007 timetable on Monday October 02nd. Those of you looking to make ad-hoc bookings in spaces for 2007 will be given access to the database after this date.

There is a Timeline for the construction of the 2007 timetable on the new timetabling website at <http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/timetabling/downloads/timeline.pdf>

Other News

2006 ASPRG Conference

Chris and Matt recently attended an Australasian Syllabus Plus Conference over three days up on the sunny Gold Coast (yes- there are actually conferences to discuss timetabling and the utilisation of Syllabus Plus). As well as enjoying a bit of warm weather, they were able to learn a lot about new developments in the program, and also discuss problem solving and timetabling methods with other timetablers from various universities across Australia and New Zealand. All up it was three very worthwhile days packed full of useful seminars and discussions. The team is looking forward to attending the next conference in 2007 in Western Australia. Please contact our office if you would like more information about this year's conference, or if you think that you may benefit from attending next year's conference – you would be more than welcome to come along.

Syllabus Plus Tip – Automation of Timetabling Processes (COMS interface)

Syllabus Plus has the ability to 'talk' to other systems via a programming language known as Visual Basic. This is called a COMS interface. This programming language can be used to automate processes in common Office Applications such as Excel, Word and Access. It can also be used to extract, process, and import information into Syllabus Plus to and from these and other programs that have a COMS interface. Our office for example uses COMS to automatically extract information from Syllabus Plus to place various timetables up on the web, as well as utilising it to build the database on which the timetable is constructed.

If you have to regularly extract information from Syllabus Plus, your task may be made easier by usage of COMS. Contact our office if you are interested in finding out more about it.

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.

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Check out the Syllabus Plus web pages at

<http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/timetabling/syllabus/index.html>