

Progress Statistics: Week of July 5 - 11, 2010

Schools in production	1,981
Number of active students	613,875
Number of inactive students.....	163,833
Maximum distinct user logon sessions in a day	954
Total distinct user logons for the week	4,410
Maximum number of reports run in a day.....	3,154
Maximum concurrent users in a day	508

YET

Dorothy Ward

Due to the importance and imminence of Year End Transition, the YET Conference Call was combined with the main L1 Conference Call this week.

As a result of the final YET test run which completed Monday, the Ministry approved a recommended change to the start date for the Production run. Originally scheduled to begin on July 30th, **YET will now begin at 12:01 am on Monday, July 26th and is scheduled to complete on Monday, August 9th.**

The last full test run was done on as close to an exact copy of Production as possible, and it took considerably longer than anyone anticipated. We had originally scheduled a 10-day outage, but the processing time alone, excluding verifying or analyzing, took 12 days. Though we understand that this change impacts districts with schools still in session, unfortunately there is no other choice. We can't extend the end date as this would impact Alternate YET (run Aug 14th for Summer Schools), as well as course based admin staff refining schedules for the new school year.

A Technical Update bulletin was sent out on Monday to all L1s and YET Contacts and the information was also posted as an Alert on the ISW, along with the updated service outage dates. The bulletin also notified districts about the need to change the Schedule End Dates for schools still in session, where applicable. The BCeSIS Service Desk is following up by phone with affected districts. If we are unable to contact anyone with the required security and knowledge to make the change, we will request approval from the provincial Data Custodian to perform the task.

SD200 asked how confident we are that the process will complete by August 9th, and whether possible extensions should be anticipated.

Dorothy Ward responded that we have done as much due diligence as possible in our testing, and we have every indication that we will be back online by August 9th as scheduled. There are always possibilities that the process could stop, usually because of data or it could be a simple network error, but we will have staff monitoring the YET run on an hourly basis, 24 hours a day, throughout the 12-day run and, if it stops we will have someone onsite within a short period of time to restart it.

Discussion:

SD42 expressed **concern about the change in dates and the short notice** for something that will upset teachers and cause problems for districts that have made every effort to work around the original schedule.

Andrew Macauley responded that he had just spoken to senior directors at aal to express strong concern about the situation and not being able to do the testing we required in a timely manner. The chances of a code change this year are nil, but he pushed very strongly on the difficulty this is causing and the need to revisit and change the entire YET process for next year. A post-mortem has been scheduled for the first week of September to go over the impacts this has had, and to look at changes for next year. We have been expressing to the vendor for the last several years that YET is a long and heavy process, and have asked for a review of the entire process so this won't be a problem in the future. Andrew will be in contact with the SMC chair about whether any further communication is required.

SD69 thanked Andrew for this response, and acknowledged that getting the code from aal has been a difficulty in the past, and that it is important to receive the code as early as possible. Looking at the calendar, this is now the final week in Production before YET, and there were a lot of people missing from today's call – how can they be contacted to make sure every district is aware of the change?

Dorothy Ward replied that as soon as the change was confirmed we posted an alert on the ISW, and followed up with emails to all L1s and all YET contacts.

SD28 asked for confirmation re the **currency of SD Test during YET**.

SD Test will be a full copy of Production as of midnight July 25. The copy process is scheduled over two days, as always, so it will be back online the morning of Wed. July 28th.

SD61 asked about the **possibility of sticking to the July 30th start date** and having a later completion date.

Dorothy reiterated that this was not possible as it would delay Alternate YET for Summer Schools (which will be run following the main YET run), and this would in turn impact administrative staff in schools that are back in session in August, as well as the ability of Summer Schools to enter marks the week of August 9th. Additionally, a later completion date would conflict with the scheduled infrastructure changes in August.

SD42 inquired **whether SMC representatives** were notified of the change in dates.

Andrew replied that the SMC Chair was notified; however as the testing results and change in date only occurred yesterday there was not time to contact all the SMC representatives yet.

SD67 said their school end date is July 23 so they were anticipating having a week to get marks in. If the marks are not entered, **will courses be dropped** when their **Summer School** goes through regular YET?

Daniel Bond replied that yes, they will, and suggested extending the end of Summer School to August 13th, so those students won't be picked up by regular YET, but will go through Alternate YET. The school sub-type needs to be set as Summer School. This is recommended for any districts with Summer School end dates between July 26 and 30.

SD42 commented that **YET contacts** will now need to be on call for two weeks – a burden on those staff.

Dorothy agreed, and mentioned that in the event we need to call a YET contact and are not able to reach them, there is a provincial data custodian (a member of the SMC) who can give approval in their absence if we need to fix data that is causing a problem.

SD43 asked about the **YET test results**.

These results are posted on the ISW in the test summary. All test cases have been run now – the more recent testing was to confirm the timeline. Attendance transition is being run now and that is the final test run.

There was a discussion about entering marks and **running report cards from SD Test**. Several districts expressed concern about having to then enter the data again into Production after YET. The BCeSIS team will look into a possible workaround for this and follow up with their findings by emailing all L1s and posting the information on the ISW in a Technical Update.

Application Maintenance

Dorothy Ward

On Wednesday evening, July 21st, we will use the regular maintenance window to implement the YET code. Beginning at 4:00 pm, the system will be offline for not more than one hour – we will bring it back up as soon as possible. (Code for pre-releases, application and database changes has already been implemented. The second set of code is the actual YET code – this is what will be implemented on Wednesday.)

On August 18th we will be implementing a few minor changes to the application: small **changes to 1701 and SADE** to accommodate CE Schools, and fixing the password validator as discussed a few weeks ago. Those changes were to be part of the November release, but we are moving them ahead to accommodate 1701 and SADE.

Operations

Tim Reilly

There will be an **SD Test Refresh** July 26/27.

Last Thursday at approximately 4:00 pm there was a service interruption due to an application-related incident, which necessitated the system being brought offline for approximately 45 minutes. We determined the root cause of the incident, and have made the necessary fix to ensure it will not happen again.

Infrastructure changes: Summer is a busy time for upgrading the infrastructure in preparation for the new school year. The next set of changes will be made in the Training environments on July 24/25. Production upgrades are scheduled for the weekend of August 14/15, following YET. We will keep you posted about further infrastructure upgrades as they are scheduled.

Training and Support

Chris Wilson

No update this week.

Governance

Andrew Macauley

There are no governance operations underway during the summer.