

Learner Information Suite version 14.03 Known Issues

Updated on 6 December 2007 (highlighted yellow)
Previous Update: 8 October 2007 (highlighted cyan)

1/ Attempting to open LISdata2000.mdb results in the error message "This database is in an unexpected state; Microsoft Access can't open it."

The LIS database has been changed to Microsoft Access 2000 from Microsoft Access 97. As a result of this change, the error message given when a user attempts to open LISdata.mdb is as above, instead of the "You do not have the necessary permissions. . ." error that displayed in previous LIS versions.

Suggested Action: Open the LISData2000.mdb from the shortcut in the folder C:\LIS\Release14.

2/ The Options-Maintenance-Compact Database function does not work once the FE funding viewer has been used.

Suggested action: Close and restart the LIS, then use the compact database function before using the FE funding viewer.

3/ Resolved in LIS 14.02. The command line function does not work when a named file path has a hyphen.

The Command Line Function will not work when a file path is used that contains a hyphen. The hyphen is used by the command line function to define the information type. The way these pieces of information are coded is as follows: -i <import directory> -f <filename to run> and -e <export directory>. If a hyphen appears in the actual information such as the file path then it will be misconstrued as a command and cause failure.

Suggested action: None. This issue was fixed in LIS version 14.02.

4/ When exporting a report from batch import, the filename of the export cannot be changed.

When setting up an export of a report from batch import the browser seemingly allows a new filename to be created for the export, however, when the report is exported the default filename is used. This can sometimes result in a previous export being unexpectedly overwritten.

Suggested action: None. Users should be aware that these reports always use their default filenames.

5/ Derived variable issues.

This affects four derived variables: A_SFLTYP, A_ACHIEVE, A16 and A53.

- A_SFLTYP – for a small number of Skills for Life aims, the SFL type is not correctly derived
- A_ACHIEVE – in some cases the value is set as -99 rather than being set to null.
- A16 – where there is more than one aim with the same start date and different values in A16 the value should be set to -99, some cases are set to null.
- A53 – same as for A16, where there is more than one aim with the same start date and different values in A16 the value should be set to -99, some cases are being set to null.
- A_ACHIEVE, A_TRANSFER and A_STATUS. If A34 = 6 then A_ACHIEVE AND A_TRANSFER should be set to -6 and A_STATUS should be 11, this is not happening.

Suggested action: Users should be aware of this issue when carrying out any analysis using the affected derived variables.

6/ Quotation mark in postcode field A23 causes an error in the derived variable calculation.

If the A23 postcode field of an FE file contains a quotation mark, the derived variable calculations run by the LIS will fail, reporting "Error inserting into the DeriveLearnerResults table". You can confirm that the quotation mark is the cause by looking through the validation report for validation errors A23_3 or A23_4. Although these validation errors are produced they are not flagged as 'funding' errors so the record is included in funding and derived variable calculations made by the LIS.

Suggested action: Remove the invalid quotation mark from field A23.

7/ Resolved in LIS 14.03. Errors in WBL Train to Gain data files in ILR field A02 are not being reported by the LIS.

If field A02 in a WBL ILR data file is "12" then it causes an error in the Train to Gain calculation module. Because the module reads in data from separate datasets for learners and aims, this error can put the module out of step, and subsequent records may also be affected. For instance, if Student 1 contains an entry of 12 in A02 then student 2 can have Student 1's learning aim data associated with it. No error is reported in the Errors sub window of the TtG Funding Viewer because of Known Issue 11. If this problem is suspected then users should confirm it by checking the table named "TtGCalcErrors" in the LISs mdb database – details about how to access the database can be found in the User Guide section 'Looking at data stored by LIS'.

Suggested action: Remove entries of "12" from ILR field A02. This issue was fixed in LIS version 14.03.

8/ Resolved in LIS 14.03. 99999999 is reported as an invalid entry for ILR field A54 Broker Contract Number.

Some LIS users validating Train to Gain data may have experienced the validation rule A54_2 "The broker contract number must be a valid lookup if entered" when using valid code 99999999 in A54 to denote that the Train to Gain learning agreement was not brokered. The LIS 14.02 software as originally installed - without any Provider Data Updates applied - does not include code 99999999 as a valid broker ID and so reports the error. All Provider Data Updates since 13 October 2006 contain an update to include 99999999 as a broker ID, which solves this issue.

Suggested action: Update LIS 14.02 with the latest Provider Data Update, available from the [LIS 14.03 page](#) of the LSC's website. This issue was fixed in LIS version 14.03

9/ Resolved in LIS 14.03. Train to Gain Summary of Funding report's period can be wrong when run from Batch Import screen.

On some PC configurations, in some rare instances, the Train to Gain Summary of Funding report's period and the data it displays do not correspond. The period displayed is the default from the current batch file and although the data also comes from the current batch file, it uses the previous batch file's default period.

This problem only appears when an ILR file is added to the LIS that has a different collection period from the previous, when this report is the first one run from the Batch Import screen, and only on some PC configurations.

Suggested action: Run the report from the Report Manager screen. This issue was fixed in LIS version 14.03.

10/ Messages associated with the Provider Data Update mdb.

a) **Resolved in LIS 14.03.** "TtG_Broker_Contracts table is already up to date"

Within the Provider Data Update are a set of tables that overwrite existing versions in the LIS's back-end database and these tables have a date-stamp. If the date-stamp of a table in a Provider Data Update is later than the date stamp of the equivalent table in LIS, then it will be updated.

The message "TtG Broker Contracts table is already up to date" will not appear, the message box following an update of provider details has been changed to say which tables have been updated and which haven't.

b) "This database is in an unexpected state; Microsoft Access can't open it."

The Provider Data Updates are not intended to be opened outside the LIS – this can be the result. The Provider Data Update file is intended to be opened from within the LIS application: Within the LIS, select 'Options' then on the 'Maintenance' tab select 'Update Data' and specify the location of the unzipped update file.

Suggested action: None.

11/ **Resolved in LIS 14.03.** Train to Gain Funding Calculation errors are not shown by Funding Viewer screen.

Funding Calculation errors exist when an element of the funding calculation cannot be carried out by the LIS. An example of this is when A02 is set to 12 as in known issue 6. A02 passes the validation stage of a batch import but the entry of 12 causes the funding calculation to fail.

When a Funding Calculation Error is found during a batch import the LIS populates a table in the LIS database called TtG_Calc_Errors with the necessary details. In LIS 14.02 the error is not shown in the Train to Gain funding viewer 'Errors' tab

Suggested action: None. This issue was fixed in LIS version 14.03.

12/ **Codes in field A46 are different between the LIS data tables and version 3 of the ILR Data Specification.**

The code description for 67, 68 and 69 in field A46 does not correspond to version 3 of the ILR specification. The LIS incorrectly labels these fields. "Progression Pathway" should read "Foundation Learning Tier".

Suggested action: None.

13/ **Resolved in LIS 14.03** Some negative values are incorrectly accepted in Proportion of Funding Remaining, field A51a.

Some negative values are not caught by the validation rules for field A51a, the Proportion of Funding Remaining. The error was corrected within the LSCs online systems in April 2007.

Suggested action: Correct the data within field A51a. This issue was fixed in LIS version 14.03.

14/ The hyperlink 'Learner Information Suite Web Page' within the Help – About Learning Information Suite window is incorrect

The hyperlink uses the old LSC website address. The correct website for information relating to the Learner Information Suite is:

www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/data/software/LIS

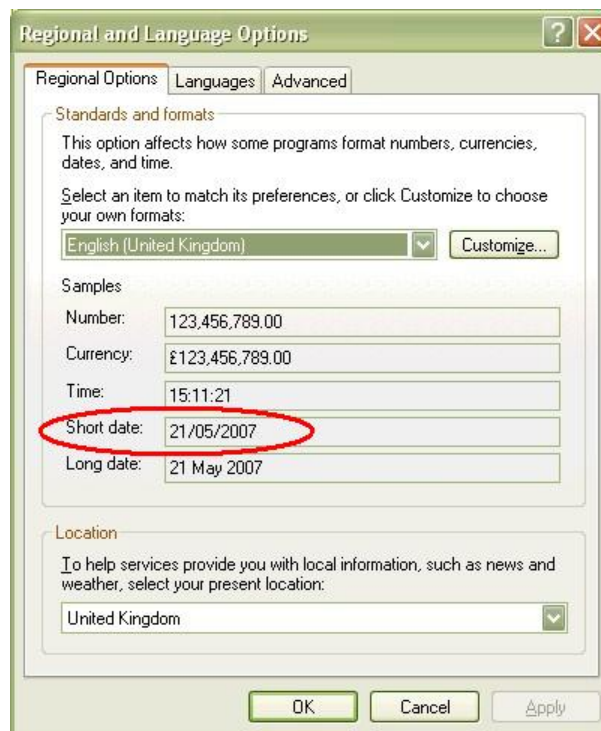
Suggested action: None.

15/ The TtG funding calculations do not produce any results if the Windows 'short date' format has only two digits for the year.

The TtG funding calculation module does not produce any results if the Windows 'short date' format does not have a four-digit year. The LIS does not report an error, so the problem may first be noticed by having no TtG funding shown in the TtG funding screens, in TtG reports or within exports.

The FE funding calculation is not affected by this issue.

Suggested action: If no TtG funding is shown, and you are expecting some, look within the control panel settings under 'Regional and Language Options' (or 'Regional Settings' in Windows 2000), see the screenshot of an unaffected machine below. Ensure that the short-date format uses four digits for the year. You may need administrator access – and so may need to contact your IT support – to achieve this. Please contact your local partnership advisor if you are affected by this issue, and ask them to log an incident against the LIS, as we may issue a new TtG funding calculation library.



16/ A11a_3 and A11b_3

Validation rules A11a_3 and A11b_3 are not listed in the validation rules specifications spreadsheet, yet appear in the LIS and online systems. This is due to the way that the A11a_1 and A11b_1 rules have been implemented, which splits the ACL validation into separate rules A11a_3 and A11b_3.

Suggested action: None.

17/ A10_AD04_1 does not trigger for some TtG learners that are less than 19 years old at the start of their aim

A10_AD04_1 should ensure that TtG learners are 19 years old or above at the start of their aim. However, the AD04 derived variable used by this validation rule only checks for the year and month when validating the learner's date of birth against the learning aim start date. This means that a learner is considered to have reached their 19th birthday if it falls at any point during the month of the start date. For example, if a learning aim start date was the first day of a month but the learner was not 19 until later that month then this rule does not trigger.

This issue only affects the LIS implementation of AD04 and the A10_AD04_1 rules. It is implemented correctly in the online systems.

Suggested action: Be aware of this issue if A10_AD04_1 errors are reported from online systems.

18/ TtG reports from W13 files or FE files with preparation dates after 31 July 2007 cause TtG reports to be generated for the wrong period.

When LIS 14 produces Train to Gain (TtG) reports, it tries to work out what default period it should use in TtG reports. This 'default period' is then used when running TtG reports automatically from the batch import screen, and to pre-populate the period filter in the report manager.

For WBL TtG providers:

For W13 files, the default period the LIS uses is '13'. For reports run from the Report Manager, this simply causes a message to appear 'The filter must be 1 - 12'.

For reports generated from the 'select reports' section of the batch import screen, this produces a 'Period 13' report. Although the 'year to date' section of TtG reports correctly shows information for all periods 1 to 12, the 'period 13' section of the report shows no information.

For FE TtG providers:

For FE files, the default period is calculated from the 'file preparation date' in the ILR file header. If a file prepared after 31 July 2007 is run through LIS 14.03, it will use a default period according to the month – for example a September 2007 file preparation date will produce a default period of '2'; The TtG report will be produced for period 2 of 2006/07.

Suggested action: For correct generation of TtG reports in these situations, please use the Report Manager and change the period to '12'.

19/ Section VI of the Learner Numbers with Funding (LNwF) report shows the wrong funding value against Full Level 3 learners

The funding values shown against the Full Level 3 learners do not include funding from A Level or AS/A2 aims. The Full Level 3 funding figures incorrectly includes Level_3_Cat_Codes of 1 only; it should include Level_3_Cat_Codes of 1, 2 and 3.

The Full Level 3 learner counts are correct and include A Level and AS/A2 aims. The Full Level 3 learner counts correctly include Level_3_Cat_Codes of 1, 2 and 3.

This issue affects the Learner Number with Funding report in LIS series 14 (2006/07), LIS series 15 (2007/08) and LIS series 13 (2005/06).

Suggested action: Be aware of this issue when using the LNwF report, particularly when using the LNwF Full Level 3 funding figures to report against other systems, such as the PaM system.

20/ Unique Learner Numbers (ULNs) may not be imported correctly, which then corrupts ILR file exports.

In some circumstances, Unique Learner Numbers (ILR fields L45, A55, E24 and H37) are not imported correctly by the LIS.

The incorrect imports occur where an ILR file has a mixture of learners with and without ULNs, and learners without ULNs occupy the first records in the file.

In the data viewer, you may notice blank entries against fields L45, A55, E24 and H37 for learners that should have ULNs.

However, this issue then causes ILR files exported using the Batch Import screen's ILR Export Option or the Export ILR File screen to be corrupted. If an exported file is then transmitted to the LSC's online data collections system, or loaded back into the LIS, it will produce import validation errors (validation rule I01) against fields L46, A56, E25 and H38, for all learners which should have ULNs.

Suggested action: If you are affected by the issue, do not use the LIS file export functionality.