Getting started with IDEAS+
Interactive Data Exploration and Analysis Software

What is IDEAS+?
IDEAS+ is a software program you can download from the AusPIPS website. It allows you a greater ability to interact with, customize and compare your data in the ways that you find useful.

What can I do with IDEAS+?
There are many functions included in IDEAS+, but two of the main benefits are that you can customise and compare groups using IDEAS+, and that you can generate individual student reports for a variety of purposes. This leaflet will help you to use these two useful functions.

Navigating IDEAS+
The program is controlled by two main toolbars. The IDEAS+ Toolbar is visible as soon as you open the program, and is the starting place for all IDEAS+ tasks.

Comparing groups
You may wish to compare certain groups in your class with others—for example boys and girls, reading groups or students identified as ‘at risk’. IDEAS+ allows you to create charts for comparison. You are able to filter by one or a combination of:
- Year
- Sex
- Class
- Intake
AND
- You can create custom groups of your own.

First, this leaflet will explain how to create custom groups, and then it will look at applying filters and highlighting to compare groups.

Creating custom groups
1. Click on ‘Custom Groups’ on the IDEAS+ toolbar.
2. Click on ‘Add’ and enter a name for your group, then click ‘OK’.
3. Select students from the list on the right, and use the arrow button to move them to the list on the left. Once you have all the students you want, click ‘OK’ and ‘Done’.

Your custom group has now been created. It will be available for you to apply in your list of filters.
Comparing groups using highlighting

One way to compare groups using IDEAS+ is to apply highlighting. You may highlight boys one colour and girls another, or reading groups in different colours.

1. To apply highlighting to groups, click on ‘Filter/Highlight’ on the IDEAS+ toolbar.

2. From the ‘Highlight’ drop down box at the bottom of the screen, choose the classification you wish to highlight by and click on it.

3. Select the group you wish to apply a colour to. Hold ‘shift’ to select multiple groups. Click OK.

4. Click on ‘edit colours’ and select ‘Done’ to accept the default colours assigned to each group. To edit colours, click on the box containing the group you wish to change the colour for.

Comparing groups using filters

Another way to compare groups is to use filters to show only certain students and exclude others. You may wish to generate separate charts for certain groups so you can use them for comparison.

1. To apply filters, click on ‘Filter/Highlight’ on the IDEAS+ toolbar.

2. Select the types of filter you wish to apply from the drop down boxes. You can apply as many filters as you like by selecting them from the drop down box, and then specifying which sub-group you want to show in the box which pops up.

3. The example below shows filters which will generate charts for boys tested in 2009 in the Blue Group.

3. If you want to remove a filter, click the ‘Drop filter’ button.

Quick Tip

Filters stay active until they are dropped so, if you ever find there are students missing from your charts and tables that should be there, check that you have dropped any filters which may exclude them.
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Individual student data
IDEAS+ makes it possible for you to create a range of individual reports which can be used in student files or shared on parent teacher evenings. You can create individual reports for one student, a small group or your whole class or school.

Pupil Information screen
You may want to check the progress of a particular student on screen as you work through your PIPS results. Clicking on a student in any chart or table will bring up a window which outlines their results such as the one shown below.

![Pupil Information Window](image)

The student will also be highlighted on the chart or table for you. The table row will be boxed in a colour, or in the case of a graph the point or points indicating the student will be highlighted as shown below.

![Highlighted Student](image)

Generating individual reports
A more comprehensive set of reports can be generated for each student. First this leaflet will look at generating a Basic Report for each student. Next it will look at creating Individualised Tables and Charts.

Basic Reports
1. From the Pupil Information screen, click “Pupil Report”.
2. The report generated will look similar to the one below.

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Raw 1</th>
<th>Raw 2</th>
<th>Raw 3</th>
<th>Raw 4</th>
<th>Raw 5</th>
<th>Raw 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

3. Clicking the ‘Bulk’ button on the IDEAS+ toolbar will generate a new spreadsheet with a page for each student included in the filters you have set up.

Individualised Tables and Charts
When reading charts such as the Box-and-Whisker plot, it can be difficult to locate individual students. Creating an Individualised Table or Chart can help to highlight the position of a particular student.

1. Set your filters to define the group you want to view.
2. Generate the table or chart you want to view for the whole group.
3. Click on an individual student to bring up the Pupil Information screen.
4. Click ‘Bulk’ on the IDEAS+ toolbar.
5. A new spreadsheet with a page for each student will be generated. The student’s name will be highlighted on their individual chart or table.

Quick Tip
You can make the data anonymous in order to share it with third parties. Click on ‘Chart/Table’ on the IDEAS+ toolbar. Click the ‘More’ button at the bottom of the ‘Chart/Table’ toolbar. You can select from the following settings:

- Show all names (default)
- Hide all names
- Show specified pupils only (to show names for students included in individual reports only)

Quick Tip
If you are looking at a chart like the one above and wish to locate a particular student, click on the ‘Find Student’ button in the IDEAS+ toolbar, choose the student from the list and they will be highlighted for you.