



ACCESS: INSIDE KNOWLEDGE **AN UPDATE ON ODBC-LINK DECOMMISSIONING AND YOUR NEXT STEPS**



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ODBC-LINK MIGRATION

- Reminder of UCAS link product strategy
- XML-Link
- Migration progress
- Next Steps
- Experiences/Questions

UCAS

WE'RE
DECOMMISSIONING
ODBC-LINK



ODBC-LINK DECOMMISSIONING

2024 cycle applications will not be made available in ODBC-Link

- Affects both the Undergraduate and Conservatoire schemes

All HEPs will need to be using XML-Link

- To connect a Student Record System (SRS) to UCAS

LINK PRODUCT STRATEGY



ODBC-LINK

Will be decommissioned at the end of 2023 cycle.

UCAS will only make changes to resolve incidents, deliver mandatory updates, where fairness is at risk or where not doing so will break the existing service.



XML-LINK

Medium term interface.

Stabilisation programme underway

Enhancements to existing functionality only

Will be incrementally replaced by REST APIs.

Two-year decommissioning plan once feature parity with RESTful API is reached.



UCAS LINK

We will build all new Link functionality using REST APIs.

We will not be providing a corresponding XML-Link option.

Functionality will be released before parity is reached.

More details and examples on [UCAS.com](https://ucas.com)

XML-LINK

- **Currently used by 82 HEPs**
- **Ongoing programmes of service improvements**
 - BAU improvements
 - Improvements to support migration
- **Performance testing**
 - BAU ABL/C&C
 - Existing load expected to increase x3.5 with new users
 - Tested x6 load on current infrastructure
 - Proved scalable to x21 current load

MIGRATION PROGRESS

- **All SRS vendors and In-House HEPs are aware**
 - Most vendors/In-House HEPs have already delivered system updates for XML-Link
 - All vendors expect functionality to be available for the start of the 2023 UG cycle
 - **Contact your vendor for more details**
- **75 HEPs in the process of migrating** (out of approximately 160 current ODBC-Link users)
 - Pilot schemes
 - Contacted UCAS
 - Engaged with Vendors
- **88 HEPs connecting** to XML-Link in test environments in 2023
- **40 HEPs connecting** to XML-Link in production environment in 2023
- **5 HEPs have fully migrated** from ODBC-Link
 - **More expected to dual** run ahead of 2024 cycle opening

*All figures as of May 11 2023

NEXT STEPS

Not started

- Check with your SRS vendor
- Resources

Planning

- Test plans
- Test environment configuration/data
 - Logins
- Firewalls
 - URLs
 - IP addresses

Testing

- System/functional/user testing
- Rollout
- Dual running

HEP TESTING

- **XML-Link/Web-link/Applicant user interface** are available in the HEP1 test environment
 - **XML-Link/Web-Link** in HEP2
- **Test data** is available in bulk by request via support portal
- **Single applications** can be created by self service for end to end testing
- **More details** on [UCAS.com](https://ucas.com)

UCAS NEXT STEPS

Decommissioning steps have started

2024 applications in test environments will not be available in ODBC-Link

Production change planned for June



December 2023

Access to ODBC-Link will be removed (soft decommission)

After release of data for HESA returns ('Star J')



Spring 2024

Shutting down ODBC-Link (hard decommission)



EXPERIENCES & QUESTIONS



- Planning
- Development
- Testing
- Roll out



For more information see [UCAS.com](https://www.ucas.com) or contact [Service Delivery Management Team](#)

