Appendix C

Using CLASSmate on a network

Excerpt used with permission from Logical Operations.

Overview

The network version of CLASSmate is shipped with software that is compatible with Novell Netware versions 2.1x and above. If you are running other network software, please contact CLASSmate Support at (716) 482-7700 for installation disks that support your network environment.

Although we have attempted to make the network version of CLASSmate as transparent to you as possible, there are times when the behavior of the system is distinctly different from the single-user version of CLASSmate. For example, when many users are using CLASSmate at once, conflicts may arise.

To handle these conflicts, CLASSmate works "behind the scenes" to ensure that:

- your data is not corrupted;

- that multiple users can access the same information when there's no chance of data loss; and

- that the data you see is as up-to-date as possible.

To protect your data from these problems, CLASSmate attempts to "lock out" other users from changing the record you are changing. When you are through making your changes and you "Save" (ALT + S) the record, it is then available for another user to change (Edit mode).

If another user is working with a record in Edit mode, you are prevented from changing that record. If you try to change that record, CLASSmate displays a message similar to the following:

```
Record in COURSE FILE is in use by SMITH. Continue Trying?
```

Network messages are identified in Appendix A, "System messages and prompts," by the words "Network version only" in parentheses.

Examples of conflicts

Here are a few examples of situations in which you may encounter a conflict message:

- You are attempting to register a person, there are fewer than three seats available in the offering, and more than one user attempts to Add (ALT + A) a registration at the same time. CLASSmate identifies this as a conflict so that the seat you are reserving does not become reserved by another user while you are entering registration information.

- You are trying to change an offering while another user is also changing the offering.

- You are trying to work in CLASSmate while the system administrator is doing system maintenance.

The network and security

Network rights

The network version of CLASSmate includes security features in addition to the security already provided by CLASSmate.

Users of the network version of CLASSmate need network rights in addition to user IDs. Minimally, each CLASSmate user must have network "read" rights in both the CMATE\PROGRAMS and CMATE directories (or the directories in which you chose to install CLASSmate, assuming that you did not accept the installation defaults). Refer to your network user guide for more information about assigning network rights to network users.

The data for CLASSmate is kept in dBASE format files. The primary advantage of this storage format is that it allows other popular reporting tools to access the database, thereby giving you the ability to add your own custom reports. The disadvantage is that any user with dBASE knowledge can modify CLASSmate data directly, thus bypassing the security and data-integrity checks built into the CLASSmate programs. To avoid this situation, it is recommended that you do not give your users the right to view the file names in the CLASSmate data directory.

> **Tip:** If you are running CLASSmate in a Novell operating environment and you want to take this added precaution, do not give users "Search" (also called "Scan") rights in the CLASSmate data directory. If they cannot see the file names, they cannot open any files in dBASE, and your data is secure.

User IDs

There are two time-saving features available to you with the network version of CLASSmate. Both assume that you have installed CLASSmate on your network, and that you have chosen to activate the security features of CLASSmate.

- Bypass the login screen.

  If you enter **Y** in the "Bypass login" field on the System Defaults screen (**Administration** menu⇨**Maintain System Defaults**), your users will bypass the CLASSmate login screen completely, as long as their network user IDs match their CLASSmate user IDs. If the IDs match, the CLASSmate Main Menu is displayed and the login screen is bypassed.

  > **Note:** With the bypass option enabled, you still have the advantage of CLASSmate's security features.

- *If you do not enable the bypass login option*, CLASSmate automatically defaults the user ID on the Login screen to the user's network ID. Then the user simply needs to enter his or her CLASSmate password.

> **Tip:** Set up each user's user ID within CLASSmate to be identical to their network user ID. This allows that user to take advantage of these time-saving features.