

J Street LIMS

Laboratory Information Management System

J Street LIMS Version 6.0 Release Notes



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System Requirements

- **Computer:** 1 GHz or faster processor.
- **O/S:** Windows 10 or 11.
- **Hard Drive:** 3.0 GB free for typical installation.
- **Monitor:** 1024 x 768 or higher resolution.
- **RAM:** 1 GB RAM (for 32-bit Office); 2 GB RAM (for 64-bit Office).
- **Database:** An existing Microsoft SQL Server instance (2014 or newer version) using Windows Authentication mode (See SQL Server Requirements below).
- **ODBC Driver:** We recommend [ODBC Driver 17 for SQL Server](#) or newer. ODBC Driver 13 for SQL Server may also be used, or 'SQL Server Native Client 10.0'.
 - Note for users with multiple licenses that it is best practice that all LIMS workstations use the same ODBC driver.
- **Miscellaneous:**
 - Microsoft Office (32-bit or 64-bit) for Excel interface.
 - Outlook 2016 or newer (for Messaging component. Email delivery for reports).
 - PDF viewing software (for User's Guide and other documentation).
 - PDFCreator version 3.x or newer (for Messaging created PDF files). Not required if you don't intend to use the optional Messaging component.

SQL Server Requirements

J Street LIMS v6 requires an existing Microsoft SQL Server instance (2014 or newer version) using Windows Authentication mode. The J Street LIMS database can be added to any existing SQL Server instance. If your organization does not already have a SQL Server instance, you can download and install the [free SQL Server Express](#) version.

SQL Server Express can be installed on any LIMS or non-LIMS workstation in a peer-to-peer network or on a dedicated Windows server. If you have a single-user J Street LIMS license and no network, install SQL Server Express on the dedicated LIMS workstation.

IMPORTANT: In order to set up the LIMS Database, ensure that you have also installed **SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS)**. SSMS is a Microsoft tool for viewing and configuring SQL Server database structures. SSMS is an included download component of most modern versions of SQL Server 2019 and newer. If your SQL Server version does not include SSMS, you can [download it for free from Microsoft](#).

What's New & Improved in J Street LIMS

Updated Branding & New Support Resources:

- MSC-LIMS is now **J Street LIMS**. It's still the same great LIMS you know and love.
- Expanded Support & development team to bring you new features, additional improvements, and to quickly respond to technical support questions.
- New case tracking method for support issues and questions keeps a record of communication and implemented fixes. This tracking allows us to maintain procedures for answers to common questions and will help us improve J Street LIMS in future releases. For questions or issue resolution, email Support@JStreetLIMS.com.
- New online [Knowledge Base](#), accessible in the "Support" section of the J Street LIMS website. Browse both MSC-LIMS and J Street LIMS Support content, FAQ's, software documentation and more. Includes search capabilities to pinpoint relevant support resources.

Improved Software Architecture:

- **Updated Installer:** Supports Microsoft Access 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019, 2021, and Office 365 apps. Previous versions could only install up to Access 2010. Use the latest Access features in modern versions.
- **New Access file format:** Converted from .mdb/.mde to .accdb / .accde.
- **64-Bit VBA Compatibility:** Will run on both 32-bit & 64-bit versions of Office 365, accommodating the new default 64-bit Office apps AND older 32-bit Office apps. This ensures maximum compatibility with the rest of your Office Suite.
- **Improved SQL Server Database Structure:** License information, laboratory branding information, and system updates now stored in the back-end database. This allows us to provide more frequent updates and new feature deliveries. Sample & Analytical data table structures remain the same. When updates are available, simply click "Apply Database Updates" to update your system.

New Access Command Ribbon User Interface:

- Originally developed and released in Access 2016, the new ribbon menu gives the LIMS a more modern look and feel, is more intuitive and user-friendly, and has more custom configuration options.
 - The most common functions are available with a single click.
 - Less frequently used buttons are available via ribbon dropdowns.
 - Format and customize certain elements in the ribbon.
 - Automatically show/hide the entire ribbon menu or certain menu options depending on what screen, form, or report is open.
 - New short keys for efficiency.
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Customizable Logos & Company Name:

- Users can now customize the report logo, as well as the logo and company name shown on the Main Menu.
 - Go to Admin > System Configuration > Reports tab to make changes to the Report Logo.
 - Go to Admin > System Configuration > Main Menu tab to make changes to the Logo and Company Name on the Main Menu.
 - Supported logo formats include *.png, *.jpg, *.ico, and *.bmp.

Improved Licensing Process:

- **Easier Subscription/License Renewal:** For Annual Subscribers, copy/paste a “license key” code into the LIMS after renewing your subscription to keep your LIMS running as is. Previous versions required a new application file to be installed and re-configured each year.
- **Concurrent User Licensing:** Install the LIMS on as many machines as you need, the system will perform concurrent “user checks” in the database to verify the number of logins to your license quantity.

Changelog:

- A constantly-maintained log of all program changes and updates so it’s easy to follow what’s new or updated with each release. To view the Changelog, click on the “Changelog” button in the Help section of the main ribbon tab.
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How to Utilize Support Services

Technical Support and version updates & upgrades are included for each subscription year for MSC-LIMS / J Street LIMS Annual Subscribers. For existing Full System License holders, technical support services can be purchased under a separate Annual Maintenance & Support plan, which includes the same services listed below. *Please read carefully as some items not covered by this Support Policy are services J Street Technology can help with for a separate charge.*

How to Utilize Support:

Questions and support requests that cannot be answered through the User's Guide content in our online [Knowledge Base](#) may be directed to J Street by emailing Support@JStreetLIMS.com, or by calling us at (425) 679-6206. We will usually respond to support requests within one business day and will address support requests during evening or weekend hours on a case-by-case basis. Support requests can also be scheduled outside of business hours with advance notice. Upon submitting your request, a case number will be generated and emailed to you for documentation, and we ask that you reference your case number on additional communications. We may request further information from you depending on the nature and complexity of your request. Upon resolution of your question or support request, your case number will be closed.

Support Duration:

J Street Technology will provide unlimited phone and email support while you have an active support agreement with us through your Annual Subscription, or through the optional Full System License Annual Maintenance & Support plan (included for first year for Full System License holders).

Customers who have purchased Full System Licenses may continue to use J Street LIMS even if they allow their Annual Maintenance agreement to lapse. However, if they choose to re-instate Annual Maintenance after lapsing, they must "catch up" by paying all prior and new Annual Maintenance fees.

What's Covered:

1. How-To Questions: Your subscription includes various self-help tools including FAQ's, help articles, and documentation on the J Street LIMS Knowledge Base (www.JStreetLIMS.com > Support > Knowledge Base – Get Resources). Each license also comes with a J Street LIMS User's Guide, Messaging Component User's Guide, Installation Guide, and Release Notes. If you are unable to get your issue resolved using the self-help tools, a member of our support team will gladly assist you in resolving your issue.

2. Issue Resolution: J Street will resolve any issues within the LIMS that prevent it from performing its normal functions.

3. Version Updates: Periodically, upgrades to the J Street LIMS software will be released to customers and may include improvements and new features. Customers will be notified in advance of version updates being available. Full System License customers with an Annual Maintenance contract will need to contact J Street in order to schedule their updates and review any customizations or integrations that could be affected.

What's Not Covered:

1. Updating or Development of custom Excel report templates: Many labs use custom Excel templates to organize LIMS data into custom reports. J Street WILL assist with the development of custom Excel templates for this purpose. However, development time will be billed at J Street's current shop rate in quarter-hour increments. When upgrading the LIMS from an older version, updates to any existing custom Excel templates may be required and will also be charged per template in quarter-hour increments. Generally, most templates can be updated within 0.5-2 hours.

2. Database Migrations: (Only applicable to existing Annual Subscribers who use an older version of the software, MSC-LIMS version 4). It is necessary to migrate the LIMS' Microsoft Access .accdb database to the new SQL Server database. This step is not necessary for customers using MSC-LIMS version 5, which already uses a SQL Server database. We offer self-service instructions for this process, but we recommend our Support team's white-glove migration service for a fee of \$600. This service includes an initial database conversion for testing version 6 and a second conversion when you feel comfortable migrating production from version 4 to version 6. MSC-LIMS version 4 Full System License customers must contact Support for a database review, as any customized databases may require additional work to migrate, billed hourly at J Street's current shop rate.

3. Issues due to customizations: Our support policy does not cover the resolution of issues resulting from or affecting unique customizations to the software. Some customers with Full System Licenses may develop customizations which can alter the J Street LIMS source code and can affect the system's performance or add complexity to the update process. Issues resulting from customizations, including porting customizations to new versions of the software when upgrading, will be estimated and charged in quarter-hour increments at J Street's current shop rate.

4. Instrument and 3rd Party Software interfacing: J Street WILL assist with instrument and 3rd party software integrations through the development of custom Excel templates, where suitable. However, template development is not a covered service under this Support policy and all work

associated with 3rd party interfacing will be charged in quarter-hour increments according to J Street's current shop rate. Interfacing with new scientific instruments or software will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Please contact us to discuss your needs and requirements here and how we may be able to help.

5. Server-Related Issues: Our support policy does not cover the resolution of server setup problems where J Street Technology is not hosting the database.

Contact Us

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