

HIMSA Product Life Cycle and Platform Strategy Document



May 31, 2023 – V. 3.34

Purpose and scope

Numerous companies depend on HIMSA manufactured software. The purpose of this document is to give all interested parties an overview of the current platform strategy from HIMSA. The scope of the document is to describe the current HIMSA platform.

Overview

This document serves both as an internal and external document. External readers will gain a clear overview of the current HIMSA platform. For internal use at HIMSA, it will be used for guidelines for testing and planning in terms of new operating systems, service packs, frameworks, SDK's, obfuscators, etc, but also for the development team to keep track of dependencies and requirements for the Noah environment.

The document is divided into the following sections.

- HIMSA platform technology roadmap
- Support of HIMSA products
- Operating Systems supported by HIMSA products, Noah languages, and locales
- HIMSA's use of third party components

HIMSA Platform Roadmap

Perspective

Since the very beginning of the Noah development, starting in 1989, HIMSA has chosen to support the Windows platform from Microsoft. It is the decision of HIMSA's partner companies that as long as the vast majority of the audiologists throughout the world use the Microsoft Windows platform as their preferred desktop software, HIMSA will produce software based on Microsoft Windows.

It is the decision of HIMSA partner companies to continue to utilize and support the Microsoft platform in the future.

Platform support in the future

With Noah 4.5 HIMSA released "Noah Mobile" which allows for non-Windows applications to read and write Noah data on the Noah server – through a REST API. Please read more about Noah Mobile on www.himsa.com.

At this point, there are no other projects to provide direct native support to operating systems other than Microsoft Windows (e.g. HIMSA does not have plans to create Noah that would execute on Android or iOS).

Noah ES will provide an integration API that will work with the Noah ES Cloud Services, [see here for more information](#).

Supported Operating Systems for all HIMSA Products

HIMSA products only support the Microsoft Windows platform for personal computers. HIMSA supports Windows platforms as long as Microsoft provides extended support. HIMSA will not support a platform after the Extended Support end date in the Microsoft product support lifecycle.

Unless otherwise noted HIMSA recommends and supports the latest MS operating system Service Packs, Updates, and patches.

Operating Systems	Variant Details	Projected End Of Support **
Windows 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Versions 21H2, 22H2 • All but "Insider Preview", "On ARM " • Supported starting with Noah 4.13 <p>See note about Long Term Service Channel/Branch releases below.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21H2 - April 2024 • 22H2 - October 2025
Windows 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Versions 20H2,21H1,21H2 • All but "Insider Preview", Mobile, S, and "On ARM " • Supported starting with Noah 4.4 <p>See note about Long Term Service Channel/Branch releases below.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21H2 - June 2024
Windows Server 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All but Nano or Server Core Supported, • Supported starting with Noah 4.14 	
Windows Server 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All but Nano or Server Core Supported, • Supported starting with Noah 4.9 	January 2029
Windows Server 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All but Nano or Server Core Supported, • Supported starting with Noah 4.7 	January 2027
↓ Unsupported ↓	↓ Unsupported ↓	↓ Unsupported ↓
Windows 8.X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All but RT Supported starting with Noah 4.3. • Not supported with Noah 4.13 and newer 	Noah 4.12 was the last version of Noah supported on Windows 8.X
Windows Server 2012 and 2012 R2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All but Server Core Supported with Noah 4.9-4.12. • Not supported with Noah 4.13 and newer 	Noah 4.12 will be the last version of Noah supported on Windows Server 2012 and 2012 R2
Windows 7 (Minimum SP 1 required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All but Starter Supported 	End of Support - January 14, 2020
Windows Server 2008 R2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All but Server Core Supported 	End of Support - January 14, 2020
Windows Server 2008 SP 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All but Server Core Supported - Not Supported 	Limited to Noah 4.7, 4.6, 4.5. Not supported with Noah 4.8 and newer

** The projected end of support is based on the Microsoft End of extended support, HIMSA typically follows dates provided by Microsoft unless there are special circumstances.

- Workstation OS [Windows 11 - release information | Microsoft Learn](#)
- Server [Windows Server release information | Microsoft Learn](#)

Q: Does HIMSA support Long Term Service Channel/Branch (LTSC LTSB) releases of Windows 10?

A: No, as Noah was designed to promote a common software platform for many different companies' software to run on HIMSA takes the stance that it is not advisable to implement the usage of Windows LTSC and LTSB. HIMSA does not test on these versions nor considers any potential impact during the product planning process. HIMSA is not aware of any current real-life issues but it seems reasonable that at

some point in the future it is realistic that Noah or one of HIMSA's member companies may require an important update to Windows (e.g. .Net Update) that will not be supported on an LTSC/B release.

Overview of HIMSA products and support timeline

In general, HIMSA will support a product version for two additional years after a newer version is released. In the support period, HIMSA will provide patches and hotfixes as needed. Supporting a product will normally require that the latest patch has been applied.

Noah Engine and System

Version	Release date	End of support	Notes	Installer Version*
4.15	Jun 5, 2023		4.15.0 (6206)	4.43.000
4.14.2	Nov 29, 2022	June 30, 2025	4.14.2 (5678)	4.03.0000
4.14.1	Feb 18, 2022	June 30, 2025	4.14.1 (5677)	4.02.0000
4.14	January 11, 2022	June 30, 2025	4.14.0 (5676)	4.01.0000
4.13	January 11, 2021	January 31, 2024	4.13.0 (5404)	3.66.0000
↓ Unsupporte d ↓	↓ Unsupporte d ↓	↓ Unsupported ↓	↓ Unsupported ↓	
4.12.1	January 20, 2020	January 31, 2023	4.12.1 (4884) service release to 4.12.0	2.98.0000
4.12.0	June 12, 2019	January 31, 2023	4.12.0 (4882)	2.95.0000
4.10.1	April 25, 2019	June 30, 2021	4.10.1 (4587) service to Noah 4.10.0	2.5.0000
4.10.0	February 6, 2019	June 30, 2021	Noah 4.10.(4585)	2.3.0000
4.9.2	November 19, 2018	February 28, 2021	Noah 4.9.2 (4165) service release to Noah 4.9.0 and 4.9.1	1.169.0000
4.9.1	May 29, 2018	February 28, 2021	Noah 4.9.1 (4163) service release to Noah 4.9.0	1.167.0000
4.9.0	May 4, 2018	February 28, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build 4162 released May 4th 2019 • Build 4161 release May 4th 2018 	Build 4162 = 1.166.0000 Build 4161 = 1.165.0000

4.8.1	November 19, 2018	May 31, 2020	Noah 4.8.1 (3806) released as a service release to Noah 4.8.0	1.116.0000
4.8.0	November 9, 2017	May 31, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build 3805 was released on November 9, 2017 Build 3804 was released on October 26, 2017 	Build 3805 = 1.114.0000
4.7.0	November 8, 2016	November 30th 2019		1.99.0000
4.6.0	May 9, 2016	November 30th 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build 2890 released May 9, 2016 Build 2892 released August 26, 2016 	
4.5.1	January 6, 2016	May 31st 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build 2880 released January 6, 2016 Build 2881 released January 18, 2016 	
4.5.0	November 6, 2015	May 31st 2018		
4.4.0	January 3, 2014	November 30th 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build 2277 released January 3, 2014 Build 2280 released October 3, 2014 	
4.3	October 2012	January 2016		
4.2	January 2012	October 2014		
4.1	October 2011	January 2014		
4.0	March 2011	October 2013		
3.X		As of October 31, 2013 support for any Noah 3 product ended		

*The installer version is listed in the "Apps & Features" - "Add/Remove Programs" Windows Control Panel Window.

Supported Versions of MS SQL Server

Noah System provides support to integrate with a full version of SQL Server for Noah System installations that have need for unlimited storage as the free database distributed with Noah System provides 4GB of storage. Below is a list of supported Microsoft SQL Server versions. Includes Standard and Enterprise and both 32-bit and 64-bit versions.

MS SQL Version	End Of Support
2022	
2019	January 2030
2017	October 2027

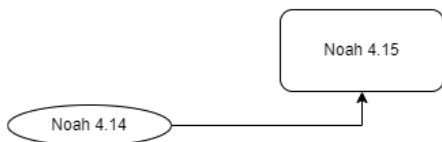
2016	July 2026
2014	July 2024
↓ Unsupported ↓	↓ Unsupported ↓
2012	July 2022
2008 R2	July 2019
2008	July 2019

Unless otherwise noted all dates reflect the end of support by Microsoft with the latest SP installed. HIMSA does not test or provide support on versions not supported by Microsoft.

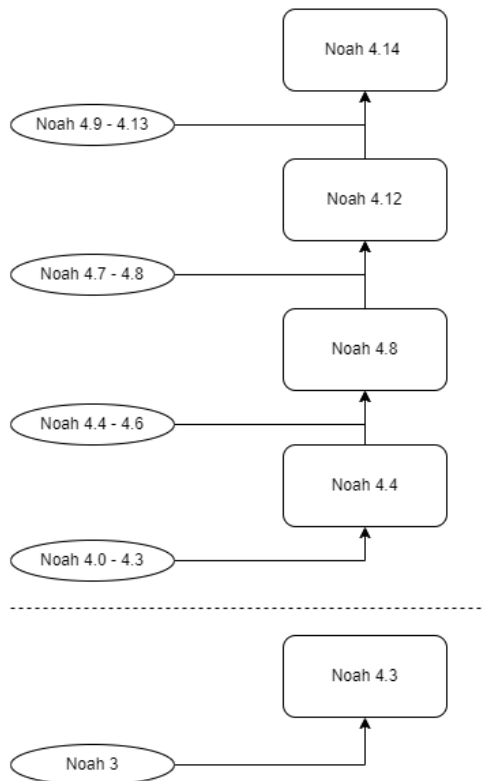
Noah System 4 Upgrade Path

Each time HIMSA releases a new version of Noah we test upgrading to the new release from several previous versions. When Noah is upgraded, it includes changes to the Noah application and the Noah database. HIMSA's recommendation is to upgrade to a Noah version that was tested for that Noah release. This may mean that you update Noah in steps.

Noah System 4 Upgrade Path



Noah Installer will require Noah 4.14 to upgrade to 4.15



Current Version	Noah 4.14	Noah 4.9 - 4.12	Noah 4.7 - 4.8	Noah 4.4 - 4.6	Noah 4.1 - 4.3	Noah 3
Upgrade to	Noah 4.15	Noah 4.14	Noah 4.12	Noah 4.8	Noah 4.4	Noah 4.3
Then upgrade to		Noah 4.15**	Noah 4.14	Noah 4.12	Noah 4.8	Noah 4.4
Then upgrade to			Noah 4.15**	Noah 4.14	Noah 4.12	Noah 4.8
Then upgrade to				Noah 4.15**	Noah 4.14	Noah 4.12
Then upgrade to					Noah 4.15**	Noah 4.14
Then upgrade to						Noah 4.15**

** Noah 4.15 is an important upgrade as the database technology is changed from MS CE to SQLite. The data migration process is only supported between Noah 4.14 and Noah 4.15. The Noah installation program will require that the installation is at Noah 4.14. For example, directly upgrading from 4.12 to 4.15 will not be possible.

In the future (e.g., Noah 4.16), older versions of Noah 4 will be required to first upgrade to Noah 4.15. For example, Noah 4.12 installations will first need to upgrade to Noah 4.14, then Noah 4.15, and then 4.16.

See [Upgrade Path for Unsupported Noah System Versions](#) for additional details

Third-party components used by Noah 4

HIMSA has chosen the Microsoft Visual Studio development environment as the basis for developing Noah.

Product	First Included in Noah Installation	Notes
Microsoft .NET Framework 4.6	with Noah 4.7	.NET 4.6 is the target framework
Microsoft .NET Framework 4.5	Effective with Noah 4.5	Noah 4.5 will install .NET 4.5 if not present.
Microsoft .NET Framework 4.0	Effective with Noah 4.0 - 4.4	

HIMSA Created Noah Compatible Modules

Noah Audiogram

Version	Release Date	End Of Support	First Released With Noah Installation
1.4.0 (875)	March 2019		Noah 4.12
↓ Unsupported ↓	↓ Unsupported ↓	↓ Unsupported ↓	

1.4.0 (874)	March 2019	March 2021	
1.3.0 (848)	July 2018	March 2021	Noah 4.10
1.2.1.823	November 2017	July 31, 2020	Noah 4.8
1.1.1(558)	May 2016	November 2019	Noah 4.6
1.1.1(556)	December 2015	May 2018	Noah 4.5, starting replacing NOAHaud3
1.0.1(528)	September 2014	December 2017	

The Noah Audiogram module supports the same languages supported by Noah System, see below section "Noah supported languages"

NOAHaud3

NOAHaud 3 is no longer officially supported but is still available for download if needed. HIMSA will not fix any issues or offer enhancements.

Version	Release Date	End Of Support	First Released With Noah Installation
3.1(2576)	March 2011	September 2016	4.0 Starting with Noah 4.5 this module was uninstalled and replaced with the Noah 4 Audiogram module.

Noah Journal

Version	Release Date	End Of Support	First Released With Noah Installation
4.7.0 (284)	May 1st 2019		4.12
↓ Unsupported ↓	↓ Unsupported ↓	↓ Unsupported ↓	
4.6.1 (274)	May 4th 2018	May 31 2021	4.9.0 (4162)
4.5.1 (257)	January 2017	May 31 2020	4.5.1
4.4.1 (122)	January 2016	January 2019	4.5.0
4.3.0 (2017)	January 2014	January 2018	4.4
4.3.0 (1990)	October 2012	January 2016	4.3
4.2.0 (1699)	January 2012	October 2014	4.2
4.0.13.1394	March 2011	January 2014	4.0

The Noah Journal module supports the same languages supported by Noah System, see below section "Noah supported languages"

Noah Questionnaire

Version	Release Date	End Of Support	First Released With Noah Installation
4.9.0 (428)	March 2019		Noah 4.12
↓ Unsupported ↓	↓ Unsupported ↓	↓ Unsupported ↓	
4.7.0 (412)	May 4 2018	March 2021	4.9.0 (4162)
4.6.1 (401)	March 2017	May 2020	4.8
4.6.231	November 2016	March 2019	4.7
2.0.0.2039	March 2011	November 2018	4.0

See https://www.himsa.com/Portals/0/downloads/NOAH/Marketing/questionnaire_en_sept2015c.pdf for details on supported languages.

Noah API's

Noah 4 Module API

The Noah 4 Module API is updated as new features are introduced and module developers are encouraged to stay current with supported versions of Noah 4 when releasing modules.

HIMSA has a strong commitment to maintain backwards compatibility for modules that have not been updated in some time. HIMSA will continue this commitment, if a change is needed in this commitment then significant input from HIMSA member companies will be acquired first.

Noah 3 Module API

The Noah 3 module API was originally created with NOAH 3. The API does function with Noah 4. HIMSA does support the API but has no plans to add any new features. If errors start occurring due to outside changes (e.g. Microsoft OS changes) it is doubtful that changes will be made but this will be a decision that will be made at the time and with significant input from many HIMSA member companies.

Noah 2 module API

HIMSA does not support the Noah 2 module API. HIMSA is aware that Noah 2 API modules will not function on any OS (64 or 32 bit) starting with Noah 4.7. There has been some unknown change to Windows.

The Noah 2 module API was originally created with NOAH 2. The API did originally function with Noah 4. Starting with Windows 8 MS made significant changes to the 16-bit subsystem and this was a clear signal to HIMSA that MS was making a clear statement about the life of 16-bit based code. Please note that this also impacts 32-bit modules that interfaced with the 16-bit based Noah 2 API via a provided Wrapper.

Noah 4 Business System API

The supported Business System API is tied to the versions of Noah 4 that are supported (see the above section "Noah Engine and System").

Q: Why is Business System API support not backwards compatible as is with the Noah 4 Module API?

A: As new features are introduced to Noah they often entail updates to data storage needs. As business systems store all Noah data they then must be updated in order for modules to be able to function as expected.

Noah System WSI API

Version	Release date	End of support	Notes
4.5	November 2015		This version also comes with Noah 4.6, 4.7,4.8, 4.9, 4,10
↓ Unsupported ↓	↓ Unsupported ↓	↓ Unsupported ↓	
4.4	January 2014	November 2017	
4.3	October 2012	January 2016 - No longer supported	
4.2	January 2012	October 2014 - No longer supported	

Noah Mobile API and support timeline

Version	Release date	End of support	Notes
1.6	June 12th 2019		Released in conjunction with Noah 4.12
↓ Unsupported ↓	↓ Unsupported ↓	↓ Unsupported ↓	
1.5	February 6th 2019		Released in conjunction with Noah 4.10
1.4	April 30th 2018		Released in conjunction with Noah 4.9
1.3	November 2017	November 2019	Released in conjunction with Noah 4.8
1.2	November 2016	November 2018	Released in conjunction with Noah 4.7
1.1	May 2016	May 2018	Released in conjunction with Noah 4.6
1.0	November 2015	May 2017	Released in conjunction with Noah 4.5

HIMSA Hearing Instrument Programmers

Noahlink Wireless

Firmware

Version	Release Date	End Of Support	Notes
2.24	November 2022		

2.23	January 2022		
2.19	April 2019		
2.18	July 2018		
2.17	June 12, 2017		Version 2.16 was not released to the public
2.15	December 14, 2016	June 30th, 2018	
2.14	October 25, 2016	December 31st, 2018	

CPD Host Driver

Version	Release Date	End Of Support	Notes
1.2.0.22	June 21 2018		
1.1.0.75	March 20 2017		

NOAHlink

NOAHlink end-of-life and support is scheduled for March 31, 2021. HIMSA will stop producing and selling NOAHlink at this time.

Version	Release Date	End Of Support	Notes
1.56.05	August 2013	March 31 2021	With Kernel 1.55.03. Older Kernels are not supported
↓ Unsupported ↓	↓ Unsupported ↓	↓ Unsupported ↓	
1.56.04	November 2012	August 2015	
1.56.03	June 2012	November 2014	
1.55.06	August 2011	June 2014	
1.55.04	January 2010	August 2013	
1.54	November 2007	January 2012	
1.53	July 2007	November 2009	
1.52.2	October 2006	June 2008	
1.50.4	April 2006	October 2007	
1.4.3	October 2005	April 2007	

Noah Data Standard and Converter Related

Schema Update Update Tool

The Schema update tool is a special tool used to occasionally distribute new data standard formats and related support functions without needing to update the installation of Noah. Only supported on Noah version 4.8 and newer.

Version	Release Date	Notes
V16	Sep 20, 2019	Providing support for the new Audiogram Metadata data standard
V17	Dec 19, 2019	Important converter fixes for Real ear and acoustic reflex data

NOAH 4 supported languages

Noah System will during installation ask the user to choose a locale. This selection will affect the handling of client demographic data, as well as the default behavior of some Noah modules. Also the default language is set. The locales available are:

NOAHLanguage/Locale	Language code ASCII / alfa 2	Noah 4
Chinese (PRC)	2052 / zh-CH	Yes
Chinese (Traditional)	1028 / zh-tw	Yes
Danish	1030 / da-DK	Yes
Dutch (Netherlands)	1043 / nl-NL	Yes
English (Australia)	3081 / en-AU	Yes
English (Canada)	4105 / en-CA	Yes
English (New Zealand)	5129 / en-NZ	Yes
English (United Kingdom)	2057 / en-GB	Yes
English (United States)	1033 / en-US	Yes
Finnish	1035 / fi-FI	Yes
French (Canada)	3084 / fr-CA	Yes
French (France)	1036 / fr-FR	Yes
French (Switzerland)	4108 / fr-CH	Yes
German (Germany)	1031 / de-GE	Yes
German (Switzerland)	2055 / de-CH	Yes
Hungarian	1038 / hu-HU	Yes
Italian (Italy)	1040 / it-IT	Yes
Italian (Switzerland)	2064 / it-CH	Yes
Japanese	1041 / ja-JP	Yes
Korean	1042 / ko	Yes
Norwegian (Bokmal)	1044 / no-NO	Yes

Polish	1045 / pl-PL	Yes
Portuguese (Brazil)	1046 / pt-BR	Yes
Portuguese (Portugal)	2070 / pt-PT	Yes
Russian	1049 / ru-RU	Yes
Slovak	1051 / sk-SK	Yes (4.3)
Spanish (International Sort)	3082 / es-ES	Yes
Swedish	1053 / sv-SE	Yes
Turkish	1055 / tr	Yes