

TabScore

User Guide

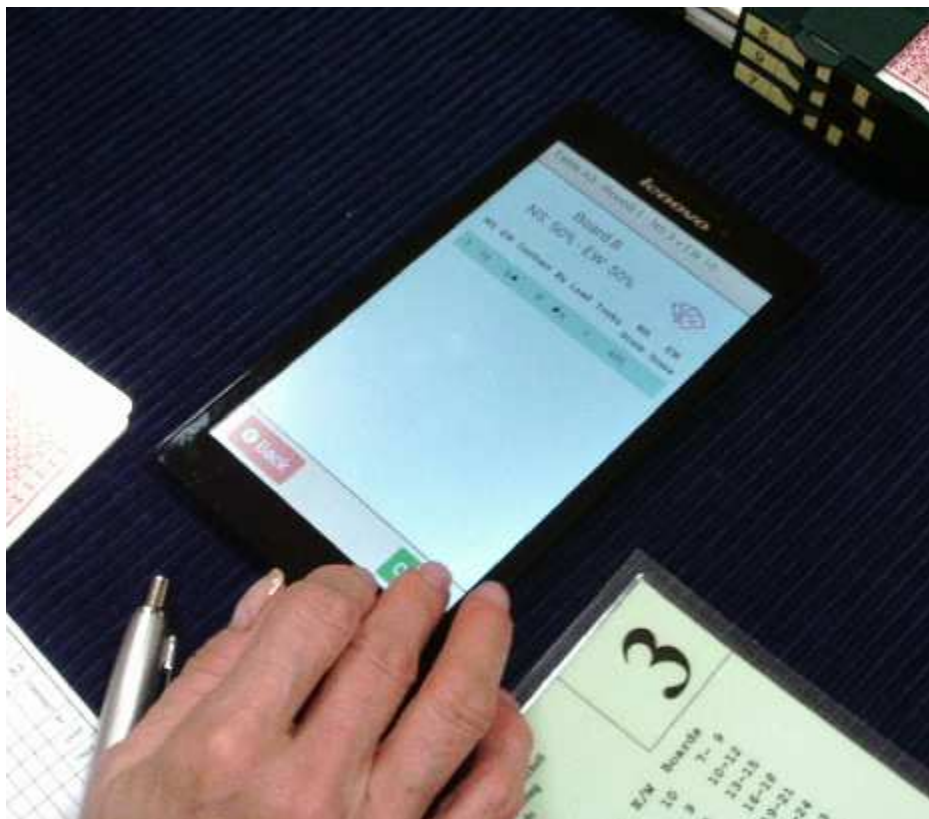


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Description and Features

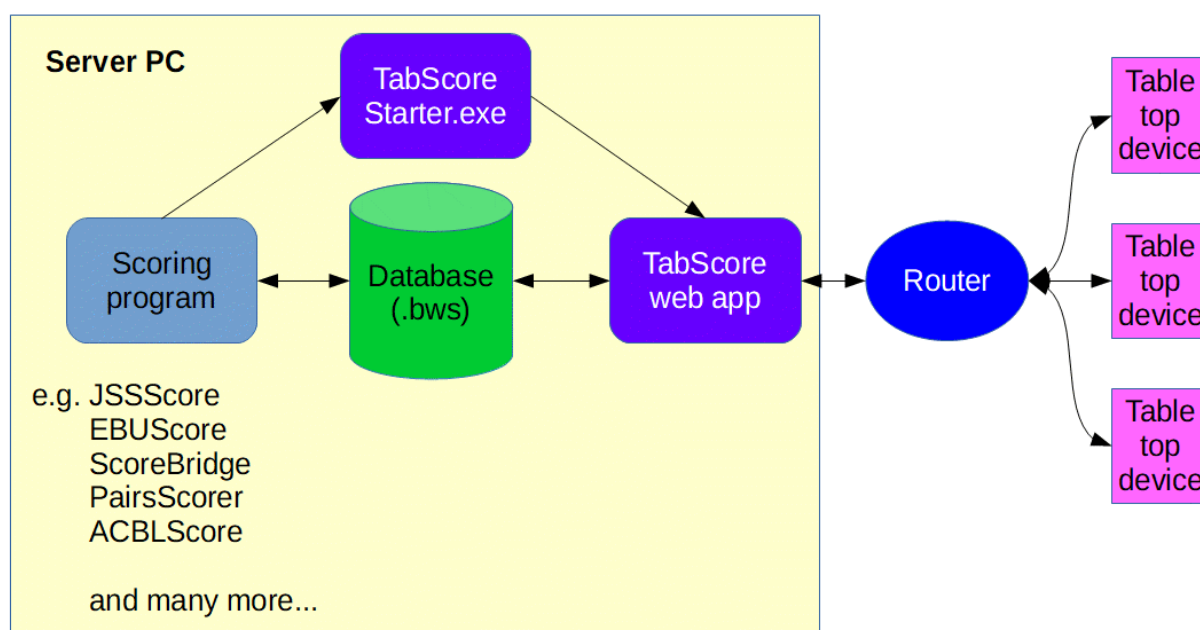
What is TabScore?

Over the years, Bedford Bridge Club has used a variety of scoring (ScoreBridge, EBUScore, JSSScore) and wireless scoring (BridgePad, BridgeTab) software. Having settled on JSSScore for our scoring program, we found that there was no wireless scoring software that met our requirements for functionality, ease of use, robustness and price. So Peter Flippant sat down and wrote TabScore to meet those requirements.

TabScore is primarily a web application that runs across a local wireless network. Unlike most wireless scoring systems, TabScore uses modern thin-client architecture that provides consistent data by using a single scoring database. That database is a Bridgemate .bws standard Access database, so TabScore is a direct replacement for BridgeTab (or Bridgemate, BridgePad etc) and it should work with any scoring software that can run Bridgemates.

TabScore requires a server PC or laptop computer, a wireless router, and some sort of table-top device with a browser on each table (tablet, phone, etc). Bedford Bridge Club has a set of 18 seven-inch tablets that are used only for scoring. In the rest of this document, the table-top devices will be referred to as tablets. Other than a browser, no special software is needed on the tablets, although some customization of the tablets will provide a much better user experience. See later in this Guide for more details.

TabScore Architecture



For those interested in the technical specification, TabScore is written using C# and MVC, and the web pages use HTML5 and Bootstrap for formatting, and some basic JavaScript. The source code is available on GitHub.

Features

TabScore can be used to score pairs, teams, individual and Swiss events. It is currently configured for club use and is limited to 4 section (A, B, C and D in that order) and 30 tables per section. It offers a range of options that can be set via the scoring software. In particular, TabScore offers:

- The option to import deal files and display hand records on the tablets. It uses Bo Haglund's double dummy solver to analyse hand records, and can display the makeable contracts.
- The option to enter a lead card and validate that lead card against the hand record.
- If the scoring program provides the necessary data, the option to display the Pairs ranking list at the end of each round.
- The option to use either or both of an internal or external player names database. This is useful if your national bridge organization, like the EBU, provides a database of membership numbers.

A full list of available options is at Appendix 1.

Prerequisites

TabScore has been developed for a server PC running Windows 10 (which includes Internet Information Services (IIS) 10), .NET Framework 4.6.1 and ASP.NET 4.7. In theory, it should run on a Windows 7, 8 or 8.1 PC but it has not been tested on these platforms.

A local wireless (Wi-Fi) network, ideally using a dedicated router and network. However, the system should run over a pre-existing Wi-Fi network without any problem.

Tablets, phones or other devices with an internet browser that supports Javascript (ie any mainstream browser). For an Android full-screen locked-down browser, Fully Kiosk Browser (<https://www.ozero.de/fully-kiosk-browser/>) has been used successfully at Bedford Bridge Club.

A scoring program that creates a Bridgmate-compatible scoring database (.bws file). Examples include JSSScore, EBUScore, ScoreBridge and BridgeScorer. For full TabScore functionality, JSSScore by Jeff Smith is recommended.

Words of Warning

TabScore is not an 'out-of-the-box' solution. To get the system up and running, you will need to install and configure IIS, configure your network, install the software, set up the tablets, and integrate TabScore with your existing scoring program. Doing all this requires some degree of IT competence.

TabScore comes with 2 Windows installer files (TabScoreIISSetup.msi and TabScoreSetup.msi) to make the installation and set-up process as automated and as straightforward as possible. But please make sure you read and understand the installation instructions thoroughly before proceeding.

The other issue to consider with using tablets is charging. The tablets in use at Bedford Bridge Club will generally last 2 sessions of bridge between charging, and it is worth investing in good quality tablets to obtain a long battery life. We have adopted a system using battery packs. We charge up the battery packs during the bridge session, and then use the battery packs to re-charge the tablets overnight. This avoids the need to leave the tablets charging unattended on mains power. The picture shows the charging boxes we use with tablets and battery packs.



Installation

IIS Installation

IIS provides the framework to run a web application on the server PC. It is a feature of Windows 10, but it is not installed by default. To install IIS and configure Windows Defender Firewall, either:

- **Automatic Installation:** Run the installer file TabScoreIISSetup.msi. If you have proprietary security software installed, please also see the section on Windows Defender Firewall.
- **Manual Installation:** Follow the steps below.

IMPORTANT: In either case, it will be necessary to restart the PC once this part of the installation is complete.

Manually Install IIS Features

To install the necessary IIS features on the server PC:

- Control Panel – Programs – Programs and Features - Turn Windows features on or off (requires Administrator privileges)
- Ensure that the following are selected:
 - .NET Framework 4.7 Advanced Services/ASP.NET 4.7
 - Internet Information Services
 - Internet Information Services/Web Management Tools/IIS Management Console
 - Internet Information Services/World Wide Web Services
 - Internet Information Services/World Wide Web Services/Application Development Features/ASP.NET 4.7

Manually Configure Windows Defender Firewall

You need to enable Port 80 on the server PC for incoming browser requests. If you have proprietary security software installed, then you may need to make the changes in that software. If using just Windows Defender Firewall, then:

- Control Panel – System and Security – Windows Defender Firewall
- Advanced settings (requires Administrator privileges)
- Inbound Rules – New Rule.
- Port, TCP, Specific Local Ports = 80

- Allow, Private
- Name the rule something meaningful (eg Tabscore Port 80) and Finish

Configure and Test Network

Configure Network

Various network configurations are possible, and this guide cannot consider all possibilities. The essential requirement is that the tablet browsers can consistently find the server PC across the router network. One approach is to use a static IP address for the server PC. This can usually be set on the router:

- Log on to the router and set a DHCP device reservation (static IPv4 address) for the server PC. If there is no other network, an IP address something like 192.168.0.100 is probably suitable
- Setting a DHCP reservation may require the PC's physical MAC address. This can be found by opening a command prompt (cmd.exe) and typing 'ipconfig /all'

If your router does not support DHCP device registration, you can go to the router network's settings via the Control Panel, select Properties/Internet Protocol Version 4 (TCP/IPv4)/Properties and specify the IP address you require.

It is possible to have the server PC connected to the internet via one network and TabScore connected via another. This would require 2 network cards (Wi-Fi or Ethernet). A configuration that has worked successfully at Bedford Bridge Club is internet on Wi-Fi (using subnet 192.168.0.xxx) and the TabScore router on Ethernet (using subnet 192.168.2.xxx and a static IP address of 192.168.2.100 for the PC)

Test Network Connection

Connect a tablet to the router network. This may require a password that is usually supplied with the router. Enter the IP address of the PC in address bar (or default URL) in the tablet browser (so it should look something like <http://192.168.0.100>). If IIS is working correctly, the tablet browser should display the default IIS webpage.

TabScore Installation

TabScore comprises 2 main components: a web application that runs under the default IIS website; and a Windows executable (TabScoreStarter.exe) that is called by the main scoring program. Again it is possible to do either:

- **Automatic Installation:** Run the installer file TabScoreSetup.msi. This copies the necessary files and configures IIS to run the web application.
- **Manual Installation:** Follow the steps below.

Manually Copy Files

Copy files and folders to the following locations, creating folders if necessary:

- TabScore folder to C:\Program Files (x86). This includes the WebApp subfolder.
- TabScoreDB.txt to C:\Public\TabScore

Manually Configure IIS

Open the Internet Information Services (IIS) Manager:

- Application Pools – Add Application Pool...
 - Name = TabScoreAppPool
 - Start application pool immediately
- TabScoreAppPool – Advanced Settings...
 - Enable 32-Bit Applications = True
- Sites – Default Web Site – Add Application...
 - Alias: = TabScore
 - Application pool: = TabScoreAppPool
 - Physical path: C:\Program Files (x86)\TabScore\WebApp
 - Start Website immediately

Complete the Set-up

Test the TabScore Web Application

Enter the IP address of the PC in address bar (or default URL) in the tablet browser, followed by /TabScore (so the URL should look something like http://192.168.0.100/TabScore). If IIS is working correctly, the tablet browser should display the TabScore start screen.

Modify Scoring Program

The scoring program needs to start TabScoreStarter.exe as its wireless scoring software. How this is done varies considerably by scoring program. Please see your scoring program documentation.

In JSSScore and EBUScore, this is done from the TabScore (or ArcScorer or Bridgemate) Scoring/Admin tab and BCS Scoring Program – Browse button. Point it to:

C:\Program Files(x86)\TabScore\TabScoreStarter.exe

Setting Up Tablets

As mentioned previously, the tablets do not need any form of special configuration to run TabScore – just a web browser. However, to give a good user experience, it helps to configure and lock down the tablet to some extent, so that the user is presented with a simple start-up screen. For example, it makes sense to set the TabScore URL as the home page in the tablet's browser.

Bedford Bridge Club uses dedicated tablets with the following software: Fully-Kiosk-Browser-v1.28.1; Nova Launcher_v5.5.4 and Icon Changer_v2.0. This has been configured as follows:

- Set Nova Launcher as the default start app.
- Set the following settings in Nova Launcher:
 - Desktop/Desktop grid 4x4
 - Desktop/Icon size/Font size = about 75%
 - Desktop/Wallpaper scrolling off
 - App & widget drawers/Frequently used apps off
 - Dock/Enable off
 - Look & feel/Normalize icon size off
 - Look & feel/Screen orientation Force Portrait
 - Look & feel/Show notification bar off
- Using Icon Changer, set the Fully icon to TabScore.png (included in zip file) and set label to TabScore.
- Delete all icons from desktop except TabScore
- Set wallpaper to something suitable. Bedford Bridge Club has created it's own wallpaper as you can see in this image.
- Set Fully start URL to static IP address of laptop + /TabScore
- Set Fully/Web Zoom and Scaling/Set Font Size = 150%



It is possible to use the Fully setting Device Management/Launch on Boot to start Fully automatically when the tablet is switched on. However, we have chosen not to do that.

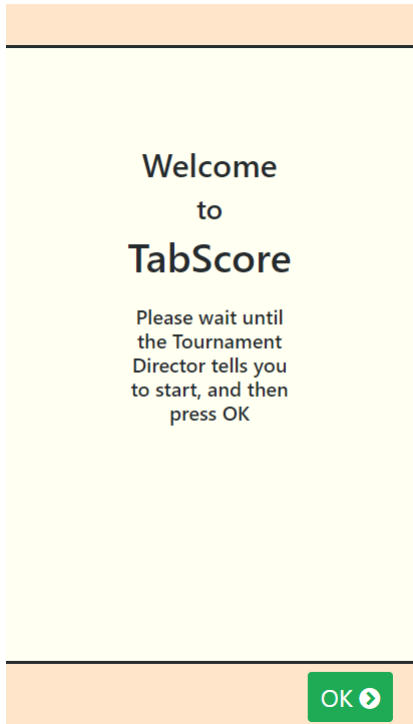
Using TabScore

Overview

Compared to installing TabScore, using it is pretty straightforward. The tablets will sit at the Start Screen until the event organizer has set the movement, created the scoring database, and launched TabScoreStarter.exe. See your scoring program documentation for how to do all this.

Once TabScoreStarter.exe has been launched, players will be able to enter their section and table numbers (TabScore defaults to Section A if there is only one section), enter their player ID numbers, and then proceed to enter contract details and results for each round of the movement and each board. A diagram showing the flow through the various TabScore screens is at Appendix 2.

In general, a TabScore Enter or Edit button allows users to enter or change details, and the OK button moves on to the next screen when all details have been entered. In some cases, there is also a Back button that goes back to the previous screen.



Player Numbers



Player numbers and/or names can be set within the scoring program before creating the scoring database. However, it is normally easier to let the players enter their own player numbers into TabScore at their tables.

How TabScore resolves player numbers to names is determined by an option that is set by the scoring program. Names can come from either an internal database of player names/numbers set up within the scoring program, or from an external database (as, for example, provided by your national bridge organization), or both. It is usual for numbers in the internal database to be in the range 1-9999 and for 10000+ for the external database.

If a player doesn't have or doesn't know their player number, TabScore provides the option to enter Unknown. Internally, this sets a value of 0, so 0 should not be used as an actual player number. Names can be updated or corrected within the scoring program at any time. However, the scoring program needs to write the changes to the scoring database for the names to appear correctly in TabScore.

Entering Contracts and Results

TabScore shows a screen with all the boards to be played in the current round. Contract details and results can be entered for these boards in any order by tapping on the appropriate Enter button. And contract details and results can be amended up until the end of the round by tapping on an Edit button. This allows players at the table to confirm all the results for the round. However, once the round is complete, amendments can only be made from within the scoring program.

If you tap on OK before entering details for all the boards, TabScore will give a warning, but it will allow you to proceed to the next round. This is useful if you wish to skip certain boards (as part of the movement, for slow play, or any other reason). If you inadvertently skip to the next round, you will need to return to the Start Screen (see Troubleshooting below).

Table A2 - Round 3 - NS 2 v EW 5

Board 4
Enter contract:

| | | | | |
|----------|---|----|---|---|
| PASS Out | 1 | 2 | | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| NT | ♠ | ♥ | ♦ | ♣ |
| | X | XX | | |

by:

| | | | |
|-------|-------|------|------|
| North | South | East | West |
|-------|-------|------|------|

Back OK

Table A2 - Round 3 - NS 2 v EW 5

Board 4
NS: 50% - EW: 50%

| NS | EW | Contract | By | Lead | Tricks | NS Score | EW Score |
|----|----|----------|----|------|--------|----------|----------|
| 4 | 4 | 2♥ | E | ♦J | -5 | 500 | |
| 2 | 5 | 1♥ | S | ♦3 | = | 80 | |
| 3 | 2 | 3NTx | S | ♦Q | -1 | | 200 |

Back OK

Viewing Hand Records

If you have imported a hand record file and have selected the option from within the scoring program to view hand records, TabScore will allow you to view the hand records and makeable contracts (TabScore uses Bo Haglund's double dummy solver to do the analysis). On the Traveller Screen, you will see a cards symbol – tap this to open the Hand Record screen.

Table A2 - Round 3 - NS 2 v EW 5

Board 4

Dealer: W

♠AQ86
♥T4
♦A765
♣AK5

♠J9
♥K8
♦Q9832
♣Q862

♠K
♥AQJ753
♦
♣JT9743

N (17)
W (8) (11) E
S (4)

♠T75432
♥962
♦KJT4
♣

| | NT | ♠ | ♥ | ♦ | ♣ |
|---|----|---|---|---|---|
| N | 1 | 4 | 3 | | |
| S | 1 | 4 | 3 | | |
| E | | | 3 | 4 | |
| W | | | 3 | 4 | |

OK

Troubleshooting

Return to Start Screen

If anything goes wrong during the scoring process, the usual and simplest remedy is to return the tablet or tablets to the TabScore Start Screen. Examples of common problems include logging on to the wrong table and skipping to the next round without entering details for some of the boards. This may also be necessary if the server PC goes down or you lose the Wi-Fi connection for any length of time. TabScore will automatically go to the Start Screen if it detects a problem with the connection.

The procedure for getting to the Start Screen will depend on the browser. There may, for example, be a Home button. For the full-screen version of the Fully Kiosk browser, the procedure is usually to swipe right to get to the menu, and then tap on Goto Start URL.

From the Start Screen, tapping OK allows you to re-select a table. If you have already logged on, you will get a warning; however, if you are re-logging on to a table, it is safe to proceed. When you have logged back on, TabScore will take you to the beginning of the last round for which scores have been entered. This allows you to check that the scores have all been entered correctly before proceeding to the next round.

The thing to remember is that all the data is stored on the PC, and TabScore merely shows a view of that data. Thus, for example, it is always possible to resume scoring a previously aborted session simply by loading an existing database into the scoring program and launching TabScore. Likewise, it is easy to replace a tablet (if the battery runs out, for example), just by logging on to the same table.

Making Changes in the Scoring Program

TabScore provides only limited opportunities to correct player names, contract details and results. Any other corrections will need to be done via the scoring program. In particular, any scores that are adjusted by the Tournament Director will need to be entered at the scoring program.

Because TabScore uses a direct connection to the scoring database, any changes to that database will be visible on the tablet as soon as you go to the next screen. This includes name changes, and changes to contract details and results. However, be aware that some scoring programs do not automatically update the database by default. Please see the documentation for your own particular scoring program.

Appendix 1 – BridgeMate BCS Options in TabScore

The following table lists all the BridgeMate and BridgeMate II options and identifies whether they are applicable for TabScore. The options that are available should be set by the scoring program when it creates the BCS database. Any changes to options will take effect immediately.

| BridgeMate Option | Status in TabScore | Effect in TabScore |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--|
| ShowResults | Used | Shows the traveller if True |
| ShowOwnResult | Not used | |
| RepeatResults | Not used | |
| MaximumResults | Not applicable | |
| ShowPercentage | Used | Shows the percentage if True |
| GroupSections | Not used | |
| ScorePoints | Not used | |
| EnterResultsMethod | Not used | |
| ShowPairNumbers | Not used | |
| IntermediateResults | Not used | |
| AutopoweroffTime | Not applicable | |
| VerificationTime | Not used | |
| ShowContract | Not used | |
| LeadCard | Used | Requests entry of a lead card if True |
| MemberNumbers | Not used | |
| MemberNumbersNoBlankEntry | Not applicable | |
| BoardOrderVerification | Not applicable | |
| HandRecordValidation | Not applicable | |
| AutoShutDownBPC | Not applicable | |
| BM2PINcode | Not applicable | |
| BM2ConfirmNP | Not used | |
| BM2TDCall | Not applicable | |
| BM2RemainingBoards | Not used | |
| BM2NextSeatings | Not used | |
| BM2ScoreRecap | Not applicable | |
| BM2AutoShowScoreRecap | Not applicable | |
| BM2ScoreCorrection | Not applicable | |
| BM2AutoBoardNumber | Not applicable | |
| BM2FirstBoardManually | Not applicable | |
| BM2AutoBoardNumber | Not applicable | |
| BM2ValidateLeadCard | Used | Will validate lead card against hand record if True and hand record exists. Validation only occurs on the first attempt at lead card entry |
| BM2ResultsOverview | Not applicable | |
| BM2ShowPlayerNames | Not used | |
| BM2Ranking | Used | Will show ranking if scoring program populates Results table according to: 0=don't show; 1=show after each round; 2=show at end of session |
| BM2GameSummary | Not used | |
| BM2SummaryPoints | Not used | |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---|
| BM2ResetFunctionKey | Not applicable | |
| BM2RecordBidding | Not used | |
| BM2RecordPlay | Not used | |
| BM2ValidateRecording | Not used | |
| BM2ShowHands | Not applicable | |
| BM2NumberValidation | Not used | |
| BM2NumberEntryEachRound | Used | Will allow player number entry each round if True (eg for pivot teams or team member changes). Should not normally be used for pairs |
| BM2NumberEntryPreloadValues | Not applicable | |
| BM2NameSource | Used | Will change the source for player names data according to: 0=table "PlayerNames" in .bws file; 1="C:\Bridgemate\BMPlayerDB.mdb" database lookup file; 2=no name source, names are preset/updated by the scoring program; and 3=first look in .bws file, then look in BMPlayerDB.mdb database. |
| BM2TextBasedNumber | Not used | |
| BM2ViewHandRecord | Used | Will show hand record if True, if ShowResults is True and hand record exists |
| BM2EnterHandRecord | Not applicable | |
| BM2EnterHandRecordWhen | Not applicable | |

Appendix 2 – TabScore Workflow Diagram

