

# Tool Versions and Signatures

All LAMS tools must have a known signature. This signature will be used to ensure that jar file names do not conflict.

The signature will have the following format:

[mmtttvv]

Where:

mm: is a two letter code denoting the maker of the tool

ttt: is a two to four letter code denoting the name of the tool

vv: is a two digit code indicating the major and minor version of the tool

For example, the survey tool produced by lams has a signature of lasurv10. The "la" indicates that it was developed by the main LAMS team, "surv" stands for "survey" and "10" indicates that it is version 1.0.

We are trying to ensure these codes are unique to each person/company/institution/etc but if we need to double up it won't be fatal as it is the combination of "mmtttt" that needs to be unique. LAMS doesn't split up the tool signature into its parts and assign them any meaning so if we start running out of codes we can switch to "mmtttt".

The tool's tables in the database should be named tl\_<signature><rest of name>. For example, a survey tool table is tl\_lasurv10\_survey\_content. The signature is kept short to allow the <rest of the name> to be meaningful and yet be compatible with databases that allow 32 character tablename. See [Database Conventions and Datasources](#) for more information.

The jar and war files for the tool must also use the signature. So the jar and war files for the survey tool are lasurv10.jar and lasurv10.war.

When you start developing a tool, please contact the [Fiona Malikoff](#) or [Ernie Ghiglione](#) to reserve your tool signature.

## Existing Tool Signatures

Developed by the core LAMS team. They are "11" for 1.1 - LAMS 2.0 was originally going to be LAMS 1.1 and we had already determined the signatures when we changed the version to 2.0.

Assessment	laasse10	
Chat	lachat11	
Data Collection	ladaco10	
Dimdim	laddim10	
Example	laex11	Example tool used as starting point for new tools. Not included as an usable tool in production.
Forum	lafrum11	
Google Maps	lagmap10	
Images	laimag10	
Mind Map	lamind10	
Multiple Choice Questions	lamc11	
Notebook	lantbk11	
Noticeboard	lanb11	
Pixlr	lapixl10	
Question and Answer	laqa11	
Share Resources	larsrc11	Share URLs, files, websites and learning objects.
Scribe	lascrib11	Write a group report with one learner as the scribe.
Submission	lasbmt11	Submit a file to the teaching staff for marking.
Survey	lasurv11	
TaskList	latask10	
Video Recorder	lavidr10	
Voting	lavote11	
Wiki	lawiki10	

## Maker Codes

The following maker codes are either used or reserved for someone working on a tool.

mm	Group using the code
kk	
la	Core LAMS team

## Date Based Tool Version

When you create your tool entry, you find you also need to supply a version in the format YYYYMMDD. This is used for installation scripts to update your database and by the import/export logic to convert any old export files to a version compatible with the "current" version of your tool.

It is very important that you stick to this format for the `lams_tool.tool_version` column. LAMS will work initially if you use a different format, but there will be problems for your users in the future when you produce a new version. We would like to think your tool will be so popular that you will want to bring out new features for your tool and hence new versions.

This version does **not** have to match the `vv` in the tool signature. The `vv` in the tool signature should match something meaningful for your users.