Optional Activities

Optional Activities allow sequence Authors to create several activities which Learners can choose between. Depending on how the activity is set up, Learners can choose complete as few or as many of the activities they choose.

NEW! In LAMS 2.1, the added functionality of Optional Sequences has been added. Info on this is available in the authoring section, just below.

Animated Tutorial
This animation explains how to create and use Optional Activities Activity

Using Optional Groupings
Learn how to use this powerful feature of LAMS.

Optional Activities in Authoring

To find out about Optional Sequences, click here, but you should read these instructions first.

**How to Create Optional Activities**

1. Find the **Optional** button on the Sequence Management Toolbar:

2. Once you have selected the Optional Activities box, click where you want to create the box on the Authoring Canvas.

3. You then either drag-and-drop existing activities from the Authoring space into the optional box, or create new activities directly inside it.
You can edit activities from inside an optional box by double-clicking - they behave as if they were independent activities.

For more advanced customisation...

...open the Properties Inspector with the Optional Activity selected:
Here you can create a **title** for the set of activities, provide some short **instructions** for Learners, and set the **minimum and maximum** number of activities that must be completed before the learners can progress in the sequence.

⚠️ **NOTE:** If you leave the Minimum Activities set as zero, the learners can skip pass all of the activities in the Optional Box. ⚠️

**Optional Sequences in Authoring**

*A completed Optional Sequences box with three optional sequences.*

Notice how the LAMS activities display as icons only, with no headings. Optional Sequences are a combination of the Optional Activities described above and the Branching Tool.

To create an Optional Sequence container, follow the steps described above, but click ![Sequence](image) rather than **Activity**.

Next, either drag-and-drop existing activities from the Authoring space into the optional box, or create new activities directly inside it. You can edit activities from inside an optional box by double-clicking - they behave as if they were independent activities. The same applies for the split-screen activities (Chat and Scribe, Forum and Share Resources, etc.). When double clicked, these activities will open.

- Purely as a space-saving device, activities inside an Optional Sequence container display only as the activity Icon. To view the title, select the activity in the container and open the Properties inspector.

- By clicking on the colored rectangle behind the inserted activities (or by clicking on an empty sequence) you can assign a name to each sequence in the Optional Container. This name will display in the Learning Environment.

To create or remove additional sequences to choose from, load the Properties Inspector with the Optional Sequence selected, and choose the appropriate number from the **Number of Sequences** drop-down box. You can choose from between 1 and 10 Optional sequences.

**Split Screen Activities inside Optional Activities/Sequences**
Now when you add a Split-screen activity to an optional activity or sequence, LAMS will open the split-screen activity from the optional container.

Monitoring Optional Activities and Sequences

The functionality of Optional Activities and Sequences in the monitoring environment is little different from other basic activities.

Lesson Tab

Most noticeably on the Lesson tab, the Required Tasks section will divide any required monitoring input according to each optional sequence. For example, if there are two optional sequences, each with a monitor-release Stop point, each stop point will display under the appropriate sequence title (defaults are Sequence 1 and Sequence 2)

Sequence Tab

On the Sequence tab, the interface is still double-click based - you can open any activity in any optional container and view learner contributions for that activity.

Learner Tab
Optional Activities and Sequences on the Learner tab allow Monitors to quickly identify which parts of an optional activity a given learner has completed.

### Optional Sequences on the Learner Tab

- **Required Tasks Grouped by Optional Sequence (LESSON TAB).**
- **Optional Sequence icon on the timeline.**
- **Displaying the activities from the Uncompleted option.**
- **Display after one click on the icon.** From here, monitors can view which parts of the Optional Activity a learner has completed.
- **Activity display after double-click on the timeline.**