

WebMentor LMS version 8.5 adds several enhancements most requested by customers. Customers of Avilar’s hosted learning management service receive the updates automatically as they are deployed on the hosting servers. Licensed customers may contact Avilar Customer Support to arrange for upgrades to their installations.

This document describes the most important new features of this release.

COURSE CREATION TOOL - PRESENTATIONS

The Instructor role now provides features for creating basic course content directly within the LMS, without requiring use of external course authoring tools. An Instructor may create PRESENTATIONS in a variety of formats, and associate them with one or more course sessions. Students then view the presentations online, as part of that course, via links that appear in the course Syllabus tab.

Benefit: You may now create basic course content directly within the LMS.

Presentations can be created in one of two formats:

- Flash - Generates the presentation in Adobe Flash format. Using the Flash option allows you to have more control options but limits the type of files/features that can be included in the presentation.
- HTML - Generates the presentation in HTML format. Using the HTML option allows fewer control options but supports more types of files/features to be included in the presentation.

Note that you can change the format of the presentation any time before the presentation is saved.

For both the Flash and HTML formats, you may specify the width and height of the presentation display window, in pixels.

FLASH PRESENTATIONS

The following fields are only present when the Flash format is selected.

- Auto Play - Specifies whether to play the presentation automatically
- Controls Location - Specifies the location of the presentation controls
- Show Notes - Specifies whether the notes tab is present in the presentation control panel
- Show Outline - Specifies whether the presentation outline is present in the presentation control panel
- Show Search - Specifies whether the search tab is present in the presentation control panel

Flash presentations consist of one or more blocks of content, including:

- Manually-typed text that can include HTML markup
- A text file that can include HTML markup

- A PowerPoint presentation
- A Flash file (.swf)

A Flash presentation may contain any number of Text blocks, Flash SWF blocks, HTML, and PowerPoint blocks and they may be arranged in any order to generate the desired slide presentation. Each presentation block may contain one or many presentation slides. A presentation block containing text or an HTML file generates a single slide. A presentation block containing a Flash SWF file generates a single slide in which the SWF is played. A presentation block containing a PowerPoint file generates the number of slides contained in the PowerPoint file.

HTML PRESENTATIONS

HTML presentations consist of one or more blocks of content, including:

- Manually-typed text that can include HTML markup
- A text file that can include HTML markup
- A PowerPoint presentation
- An assessment test, survey or quiz
- A PDF file (.pdf)
- A Word document (.doc)

An HTML presentation may contain any number of Text blocks, HTML and PowerPoint blocks, assessment tests, surveys or quizzes, PDF and Word documents and they may be arranged in any order to generate the desired slide presentation. Each presentation block may contain one or many presentation slides. A presentation block containing text or an HTML file generates a single slide. A presentation block containing an assessment test, survey or quiz generates a single slide. A presentation block containing a PowerPoint file generates the number of slides contained in the PowerPoint file.

You may specify notes for a presentation block. The block notes will be displayed when the slide or slides within the block are displayed.

COURSE CREATION TOOL - ASSESSMENTS

The Instructor role now provides features for creating ASSESSMENTS directly within the LMS, without requiring use of external course authoring tools. Once an assessment exists, an Instructor may associate it with one or more course sessions. Students then take the assessment(s) online, as part of that course, via links that appear in the course Syllabus tab.

Benefit: You may now create tests, quizzes, and surveys directly within the LMS. You may also associate the same assessment with multiple course sessions.

ASSESSMENT TYPES

An Instructor may create four types of assessments:

- **Test** - A test is a *graded* assessment. Student test results are saved in the database and made available to the student, instructors and administrators in various reports.
- **Quiz** - A quiz is an *ungraded* assessment. Results are only available to the student as he or she takes the quiz. The results are NOT saved in the database.
- **Survey** - A survey is an *ungraded, opinion-gathering* assessment. Student responses are saved in the database and made available to the instructors and administrators in various reports.
- **Question Pool** - A question pool is a collection of assessment questions that you can use later to create a *pooled assessment*: a test created from one or more question pools.

For tests and surveys, you may specify the condition under which students can retake the test or survey:

- **Unlimited retakes** - There is no restriction on the number of times that a student may take the test or survey.
- **No retakes** - A student may take the test or survey only once.
- **Retake: *n* times** - A student may retake the test or survey the number of times specified in the input field.

You may optionally specify a passing grade for a test. If you specify a passing grade for a test, it will be used to determine the student completion status for any course to which the test is assigned.

You may optionally specify that the test is to be timed. The number of minutes that a student will have to complete the test will be counted down as the student takes the test. If a student does not complete the test in the allotted time, the test will be automatically submitted for grading.

A test may contain any number of seven different question types, plus any number of section headers. The section headers may be placed anywhere within the test. Optionally, you may include an image at the top of a question or section header which is displayed to the student in the question or section header.

The following question types are supported:

- Multiple Choice
- True/False
- Matching
- Fill in the Blank
- Select all that Apply
- Pick One
- Essay

You may specify the number of points to be awarded when a student answers a question correctly. If the question type is Matching or Select All That Apply, you may specify that the points are to be awarded for each correct choice rather than the entire question.

Assessments may be assigned to one or more course sessions. Once assigned to a course session, the assessment is accessible to students via the course Syllabus screen.

You may randomize the order of the questions when they are presented to students. If you do not choose to randomize questions, they are displayed in the order in which they were created.

You may hide the individual question results when displaying the assessment results to a student. If the results are not hidden from the student, the individual question results from the assigned assessments are displayed to the student.

You may specify the date and time on which the assigned assessments become available to students. If you do not specify an availability date, the assessments become available to students immediately upon assignment.

COURSE SESSION “TIME TO COMPLETE” ENHANCEMENT

The course session “Time to Complete” feature has been extended to allow the time that a student has to complete a course to begin at one of the following occurrences:

- **From course registration** – the time in which a student has to complete the course begins when the student is registered in the course session. *This was the original setting, and remains the default.*
- **From first entry to course** - the time in which a student has to complete the course begins when the student first enters the course

If the start time for completion of a course is modified for an existing session, any student currently registered for the course session will be immediately affected.

Benefit: You may now choose to start the “time to complete” clock ticking when the student first launches a course rather than from when the student is registered in a course.

COPIED SUBSCRIPTION ENHANCEMENTS

If a subscription has one or more copies, the subscription number of each copied subscription is now displayed in the base subscription screen as Base Subscription for these Copies.

If the subscription is a copy, the subscription number of its base subscription is now displayed as Copied from Subscription.

In previous releases of the LMS, clicking the **Change** button on a base subscription screen caused all fields in copied subscriptions to be set to their corresponding values in the base subscription. If you had made any changes to copied subscriptions at an earlier point in time, those changes would be overwritten by the values in the modified base subscription.

In v8.5, you may limit which fields will be modified in copied subscriptions when the base subscription is modified using the checkbox labelled **Update only modified fields in copied subscriptions (Change button only)**. If this checkbox is checked when you click the **Change** button, only fields that you are modifying in the base subscription are modified in the copied subscriptions — thereby preserving any unchanged values in the copied subscriptions. If this checkbox is not checked, all fields in copied subscriptions will be set to their corresponding values in the base subscription.

Note that when a base subscription (i.e. one having copies) is deleted, its copied subscriptions are not deleted and remain unchanged.

Benefit: You may now choose which changed properties of base subscriptions get pushed to any copies of the subscription. And the relationship between base subscriptions and any copies is now displayed.