

Auto Multiple Choice - Bug # 342: Multicols environment doesn't work for choicescustom

Status:	Closed	Priority:	Normal
Author:	David Dixon	Category:	
Created:	03/16/2015	Assignee:	
Updated:	02/07/2021	Due date:	
Description:	I use choicescustom for quiz slides because choices doesn't provide enough space between answers. If I try to get 2 columns using multicols environment, it works with choices, but not choicescustom.		

History

11/03/2017 11:27 am - Alexis Bienvenüe

- Status changed from New to Feedback

Maybe I'm too late...
Please provide a minimal complete source file that shows your problem.

11/05/2017 06:36 am - David Dixon

```
<pre>%% LyX 2.2.3 created this file. For more info, see http://www.lyx.org/.
%% Do not edit unless you really know what you are doing.
\documentclass[12pt,english]{article}
\usepackage[scaled=0.92]{helvet}
\renewcommand{\familydefault}{\sfdefault}
\usepackage[T1]{fontenc}
\usepackage[latin9]{inputenc}
\usepackage[landscape,letterpaper]{geometry}
\geometry{verbose}
\setcounter{secnumdepth}{2}
\setcounter{tocdepth}{2}
\usepackage{amsmath}
\usepackage{amssymb}
\usepackage{authoryear}{natbib}

\makeatletter
\@ifundefined{date}{}{\date{}}
%% User specified LaTeX commands.
\usepackage[insidebox,separateanswersheet,automarks]{automultiplechoice}
\usepackage{multicol}

%%
%% Remove paragraph indentation
%%
\parindent=0pt
\setlength{\parskip}{0.8\baselineskip}
\raggedright

%%
%% Set up AMC environment
%%
\AMCtext{draft}{}
\AMCtext{message}{}
%%
```

```

%%
%%
%% begin document
%%
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
\makeatother

\usepackage{babel}
\begin{document}
\newcommand{\course}{303}
\newcommand{\coursechap}{2}

\element{chapter2}{
\begin{question}{Question 2}
Suppose that Jones builds a new house, then she sells it to Smith,
and then Smith sells it to Williams. The total net investment from
these transactions is:
\begin{multicols}{2}
\begin{choicescustom}
\wrongchoice{zero. }
\correctchoice{1 house. }
\wrongchoice{2 houses. }
\wrongchoice{3 houses.}
\end{choicescustom}
\end{multicols}
\end{question}
}

\element{chapter2}{
\begin{question}{Question 2}
Suppose that Jones builds a new house, then she sells it to Smith,
and then Smith sells it to Williams. The total net investment from
these transactions is:
\begin{multicols}{2}
\begin{choices}
\wrongchoice{zero. }
\correctchoice{1 house. }
\wrongchoice{2 houses. }
\wrongchoice{3 houses.}
\end{choices}
\end{multicols}
\end{question}
}

\title{ECON \course}
\author{Quiz on Chapter \coursechap{} reading}
\maketitle
\onecopy{1}{
\insertgroup{chapter\coursechap}
}
\end{document}

</pre>

```

11/05/2017 06:39 am - David Dixon

I do a lot more with it to make the slides look like Beamer, and the code is modular so I can swap in different questions easily. I use AMC because I teach multiple sections of this course and I want the quiz to be different (order of questions, order of answers) for each section. I did my best to trim it down to the bare minimum, but I didn't strip out the LyX stuff.

11/05/2017 09:32 am - Alexis Bienvenüe

It seems to me that, in the first question, you don't see there is a second column because the 4 answers don't fill the first column.

If you add a paragraph break after each answer for exemple, you will see the second column (add the following right after `@\begin{document}@`).

```
\def\AMCanswer#1#2{#1 #2\par}
```

11/05/2017 10:16 am - David Dixon

David Dixon wrote:

But that doesn't explain why it makes two columns with choices but not `choicescustom`. The `\par` does work pretty cool, however - but I can't seem to adjust any other vertical spacing when I end with `\par`.

11/05/2017 10:22 am - Alexis Bienvenüe

> But that doesn't explain why it makes two columns with choices but not `choicescustom`.

I think it does make two columns with `@choicescustom@`. But if you provide text that does not fill one line of one column, you don't see the second column.

Please send code as attached files (Click on `_Files_` just under the text) instead of pasting it in the text.

11/05/2017 10:26 am - David Dixon

- *File Ch2_Quiz_TestB.tex added*

11/05/2017 10:30 am - David Dixon

So what I'm inferring is that `choices` does something like

```
<pre>
\def\AMCanswer#1#2{#1 #2\par}
</pre>
```

so I have to do something like that in `choicescustom` to get it to make columns. So in that sense, I concede, user error :)

What I was doing was

```
<pre>
\def\AMCanswer#1#2{\par\choice{label{#1}\hspace{24bp}\choice{answer{#2}\vspace*{12bp}}
</pre>
```

If I put the `\par` at the end

```
<pre>
\def\AMCanswer#1#2{\choice{label{#1}\hspace{24bp}\choice{answer{#2}\vspace*{12bp}\par}
</pre>
```

it doesn't help. It only works if I get rid of the `\vspace*{12bp}`, but I want that space.

11/05/2017 10:41 am - Alexis Bienvenüe

Maybe you can use (with standard @choices@ environment)

`\AMCinterlrep=24bp`

to add space between answers.

Also, consider using the @plain@ package option (do avoid interferences with AMC layout), and maybe also the @pdfform@ one (with AMC development version)?

02/07/2021 02:22 pm - Alexis Bienvenüe

- Status changed from Feedback to Closed

- % Done changed from 0 to 100

Files

Ch2_Quiz_TestB.tex	5.1 kB	11/05/2017	David Dixon
--------------------	--------	------------	-------------