Create and configure breakout rooms in a Kaltura Room

Content updated: 04/13/2023

This article is designated for moderators and hosts

About

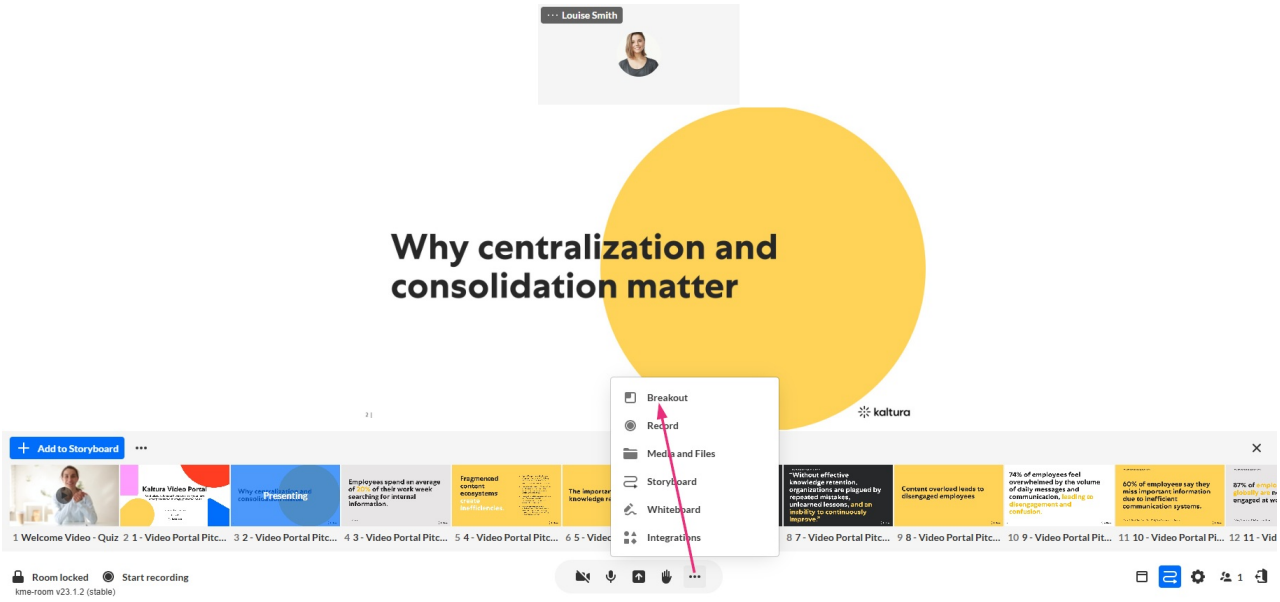
Breakout rooms allow moderators to divide participants into smaller groups for discussions, workshops, or collaborative activities.

This article explains how to create and configure breakout rooms before starting a breakout session.

Breakout room creation and configuration aren't available on mobile. To create or configure breakout rooms, join the room from a desktop browser.

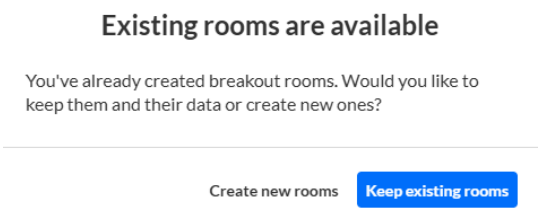
Create breakout rooms

1. Click the **three dots** on the bottom toolbar and select **Breakout**.

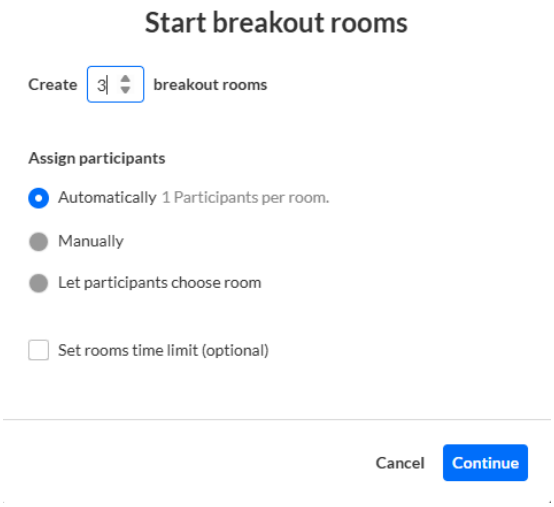


If breakout rooms already exist, you will be prompted to either use the existing rooms or create new ones.

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When creating new rooms, the 'Start breakout rooms' window opens.



2. Configure the breakout session:

Create breakout rooms - Use the **Create** field to define how many breakout rooms to create (up to 15 using this window). You can add more rooms later from the breakout rooms dashboard (up to 100 total).

Assign participants - Choose how participants will be assigned to rooms:

- **Automatically** – Participants are distributed automatically across the breakout rooms.
- **Manually** – The moderator assigns participants to rooms from the breakout rooms dashboard.
- **Let participants choose room** – Participants select which breakout room to join.

Set room time limit (optional) - Select **Set room time limit** to define how long the breakout session lasts. When the timer ends, participants return to the main room automatically.

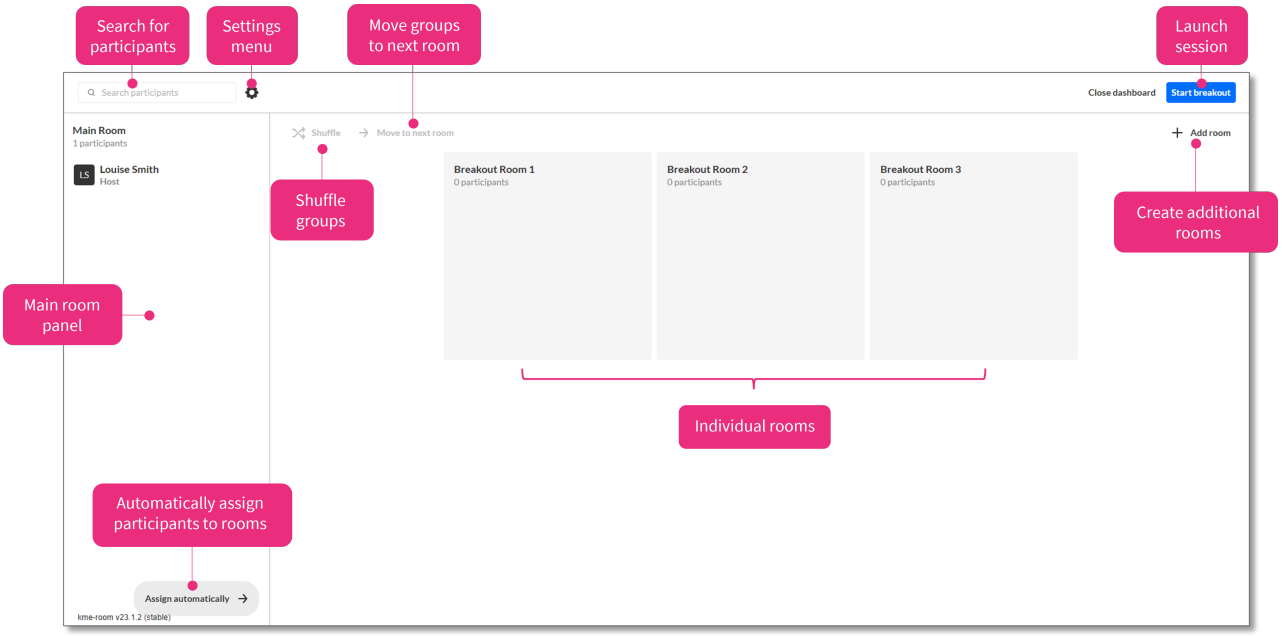
3. Click **Continue**.

The Breakout rooms dashboard opens, where you can review rooms, assign participants, and start the breakout session.

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Breakout rooms dashboard

The breakout rooms dashboard allows moderators to review the rooms and configure session settings before the breakout session begins.



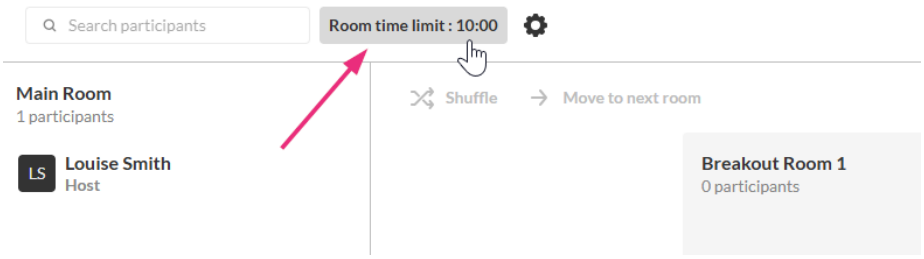
From the dashboard you can:

- Review the breakout rooms that were created
- Adjust the session time limit
- Configure participant permissions
- Assign participants to rooms (if manual assignment was selected)

Set or adjust time limit

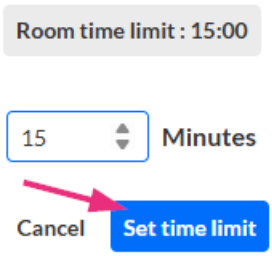
If a time limit is set, it appears on the dashboard (default: 10 minutes). To adjust the duration:

1. Click the time display.



2. Adjust the time limit, then click **Set time limit**.

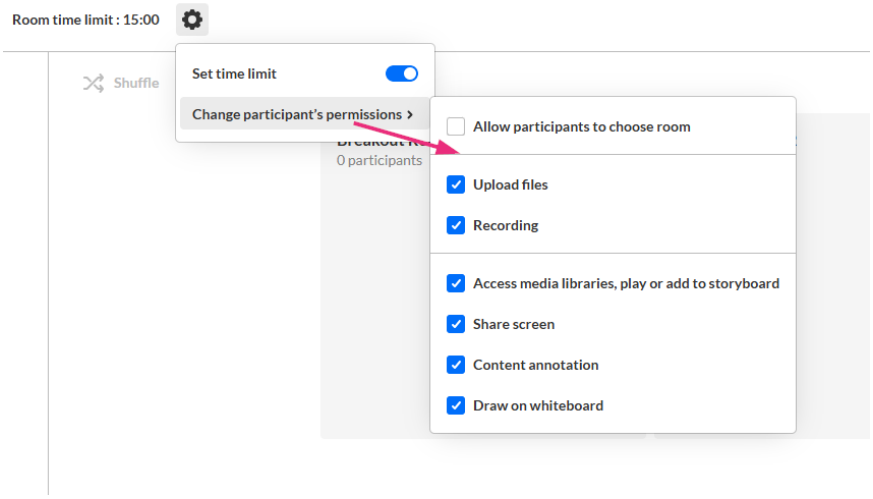
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When the timer expires, breakout rooms close automatically and all participants return to the main room.

Configure participant permissions

Click the **settings (gear**) icon and select **Change participants permissions** to define what participants can do in breakout rooms.



By default, all permissions are enabled. You can uncheck individual items to restrict specific actions:

- **Allow participants to choose room -** Participants can move between rooms or select their own room.
- **Upload files -** Participants can share documents or images from their device.
- **Recording -** Participants can record their breakout session locally.
- **Access media libraries, play or add to storyboard -** Participants can use Kaltura media tools and shared playlists.
- **Share screen -** Participants can share their screen with others in the room.
- **Content annotation -** Participants can use markup tools on shared content.
- **Draw on whiteboard -** Enables the collaborative whiteboard for brainstorming.

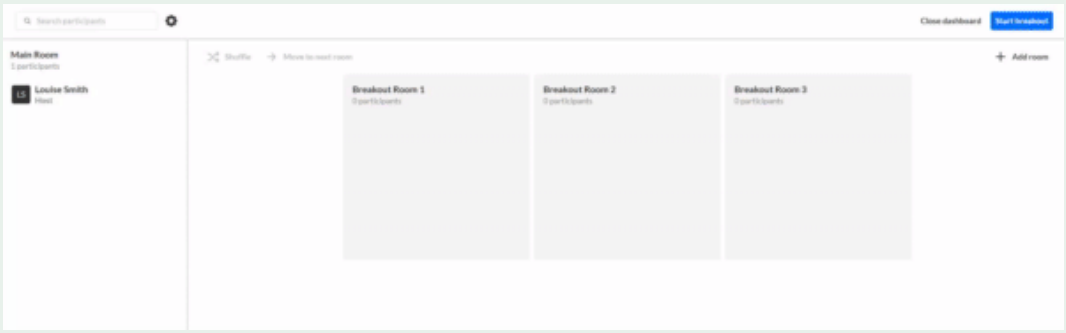
Assign participants

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If **Manual assignment** was selected when creating the breakout rooms, participants appear in the **Main room** panel.

From here you can move participants between rooms or leave some participants in the main room if needed.

You can also **click and drag** participants between rooms as needed.



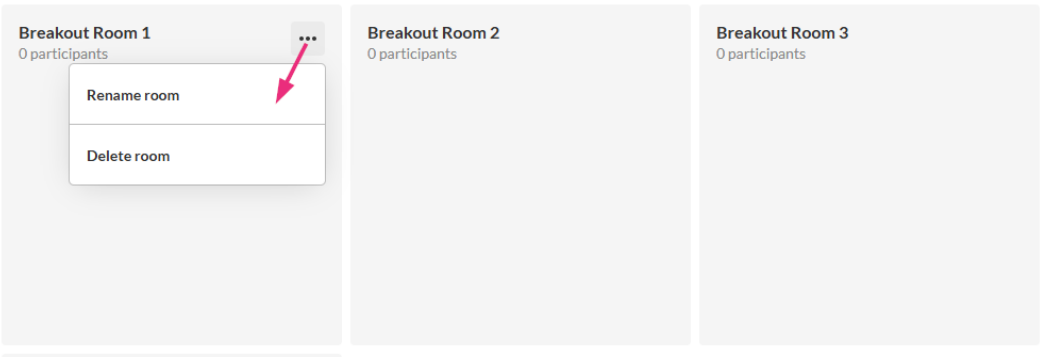
Manage rooms

Each breakout room displays the names and number of participants assigned to it.

You can:

- Rename a room
- Delete a room
- Move participants between rooms

Hover over a room and click the **three-dots** to rename or delete it.



You can also create additional rooms using the **+ Add Room** button on the top right.

Next up, see Launch and manage breakout sessions in a Kaltura Room.

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