

Date: Tue, 22 Nov 2005 16:04:11 -0500 (EST)
From: Ian Dolphin <i.dolphin@hull.ac.uk>
Subject: uPortal 3: From the Java SIG Board
To: sakai <sakai@ctools.umich.edu>

Best wishes and congratulations from the Board of the Java Architectures SIG on the formation of the Sakai Foundation, and the success of the Sakai Project.

The JA-SIG Board met recently to discuss plans for uPortal following the expiration of Mellon-Sakai grant. We aim to establish a clear future for uPortal 3, and to communicate that direction at the Austin Conference and beyond.

The conference will highlight uPortal 3 accomplishments. These efforts, driven by requirements of the Sakai project, have resulted in significant contributions to the next generation of uPortal. The uPortal 3 effort has also spun off considerable improvement to the uPortal 2.x branch.

uPortal 3 has not yet been tested by the community, and requirements essential for enterprise deployment remain. When grant funding expires, the Board will coordinate the integration of the existing uPortal 3 effort into the overall uPortal community development effort. JA-SIG Board uPortal liaison, Bill Thompson, of Rutgers, will lead this process.

The Austin JA-SIG conference will mark the launch of a significant six-month effort to engage the diverse uPortal community and and "second wave" enterprise portal adopters in requirements gathering for the next generation of uPortal. The JA-SIG Board seeks to engage community members, corporate affiliates and OS project partners. We welcome Sakai Foundation input to that process, and seek to extend dialogue regarding the meeting point of the enterprise portal and enterprise LMS.

We wanted to be sure that Sakai was aware of these key messages, and that we could all be confident that they would dovetail with Sakai reporting requirements for Mellon grant funding. The JA-SIG Board would welcome discussion regarding uPortal direction with the Sakai Board at any time, and seeks to collaboratively chart a course for the relationship between Sakai and uPortal into the future.

Best

Ian

Ian Dolphin
JA-SIG Vice-President

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