



## Sakai Newsletter

April 4, 2006

### Sakai News

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#### 1. Experimental Site Statistics Tool Developed at Universidad Fernando Pessoa (UFP)

UFP developed an experimental Site Statistics tool (Site Stats) matching some of the needs identified by the Usage Data Working Group. The tool, available in Sakai-contrib, is currently being tested by instructors, and it is expected that their feedback will guide the design of some sort of data warehouse that will allow acceptable performance. We are looking forward to comments and suggestions, and will happily collaborate with others pursuing the same goals.

Feliz Ribeiro Gouveia  
fribeiro@ufp.pt

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## 2. Sakai Fellows Program

The Sakai Foundation seek nominations for extraordinary individuals to be recognized as Sakai Fellows. The Sakai Fellows program recognizes and supports leaders and contributors who bring varied expertise to the community, including architecture, design and development of software, best practices in teaching, learning, research and collaboration, and coordination of community functions. The purpose of the Sakai Foundation Fellows Program is to enable outstanding Sakai volunteer contributors to continue and extend their involvement in Sakai by providing material resources to support their work. The Sakai Fellows program will recognize such contributions and support the efforts of the Fellows through a modest stipend. The contributions of the Fellows will be showcased across the boundaries of the current work/discussion group structures of Sakai, offering a way for the entire community to be introduced to areas of the project that they may not follow closely, and providing a view to the public of the peer leaders' endeavors within the Sakai community.

Information about the Sakai Fellowship Program, including information on how to nominate a prospective Fellow, will be posted on <http://sakaiproject.org>. Nominations should be submitted by April 17. Sakai Fellows will be announced during the week of May 1, 2006.

Lois Brooks  
Stanford University

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## 3. Requirement Polling Results

The Requirements Working Group finished their polling process last month. The results from the Community and Institutional Representative polls were generally similar. The Polling results have been included in this newsletter and are also available at:

<http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/uDg>

The results are being used by the Project Leads for the various components of Sakai as guidance in deciding what issues they choose to work on. If you are interested in helping out with the development effort -- perhaps ensuring that your favorite requirement is addressed -- please visit:

<http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/dTs>

Peter Knoop  
University of Michigan

## Community Ranked Requirements

These are the Community's Top-25 Requirements as ranked by points (a Critical vote = 3 points, Essential = 2, Desirable = 1, and Not Applicable = 0 points).

Rank	Points	Jira ID	Jira Summary
1	168	<a href="#">REQ-5</a>	Site Usage Statistics Tool
2	134	<a href="#">REQ-40</a>	Section and Group-Enable Existing Sakai Tool Set and Require it of New Tools
3	131	<a href="#">REQ-25</a>	View Site as if in a Different Role
4	126	<a href="#">REQ-12</a>	Sakai Import and Export using IMS Content Packaging
5	123	<a href="#">REQ-3</a>	Gradebook should focus on getting data in
5	123	<a href="#">REQ-9</a>	Structuring content for presentation
7	117	<a href="#">REQ-19</a>	Make storage and display of assessment scores consistent
7	117	<a href="#">REQ-2</a>	Gradebook Export More Configurable
9	115	<a href="#">REQ-10</a>	Support for HTML editors
10	114	<a href="#">REQ-1</a>	Selective release of assignments in Gradebook
11	112	<a href="#">REQ-79</a>	Browser back-arrow behaves as expected
12	110	<a href="#">REQ-54</a>	Log Searching Tool
12	110	<a href="#">REQ-8</a>	Need the ability to deny permissions
14	107	<a href="#">REQ-15</a>	Comprehensive 'remove user' functionality
14	107	<a href="#">REQ-174</a>	Allow administrator to view list of user's sites
16	104	<a href="#">REQ-214</a>	Release widget that allows content created or posted in Sakai to be 'hidden' until user specifies
16	104	<a href="#">REQ-375</a>	Timed Release of documents/files in Resources tool
18	103	<a href="#">REQ-50</a>	Manage Users and Courses Tool
18	103	<a href="#">REQ-55</a>	Indicate Read/Unread Messages
20	102	<a href="#">REQ-152</a>	Server-wide Usage Statistics
21	101	<a href="#">REQ-21</a>	Standard Calendar Widget
21	101	<a href="#">REQ-27</a>	Import/Export/Synchronize Schedule Data
21	101	<a href="#">REQ-287</a>	All tools included in the Sakai 'bundle' should be fully integrated with one another
21	101	<a href="#">REQ-313</a>	Gradebook integration with other Sakai tools
21	101	<a href="#">REQ-95</a>	Percentage based grading

## Institutional Representative Ranked Requirements

These are the Institutional Representative's Top-25 Requirements as ranked by points (a Critical vote = 3 points, Essential = 2, Desirable = 1, and Not Applicable = 0 points).

Rank	Points	Jira ID	Jira Summary
1	87	<a href="#">REQ-5</a>	Site Usage Statistics Tool
2	84	<a href="#">REQ-25</a>	View Site as if in a Different Role
3	82	<a href="#">REQ-214</a>	Release widget that allows content created or posted in Sakai to be 'hidden' until user specifies
4	81	<a href="#">REQ-40</a>	Section and Group-Enable Existing Sakai Tool Set and Require it of New Tools
5	79	<a href="#">REQ-9</a>	Structuring content for presentation
6	75	<a href="#">REQ-8</a>	Need the ability to deny permissions
6	75	<a href="#">REQ-375</a>	Timed Release of documents/files in Resources tool
8	74	<a href="#">REQ-12</a>	Sakai Import and Export using IMS Content Packaging
9	70	<a href="#">REQ-79</a>	Browser back-arrow behaves as expected
10	67	<a href="#">REQ-2</a>	Gradebook Export More Configurable
10	67	<a href="#">REQ-330</a>	generate usage reports from within Sakai
12	66	<a href="#">REQ-54</a>	Log Searching Tool
12	66	<a href="#">REQ-152</a>	Server-wide Usage Statistics
12	66	<a href="#">REQ-72</a>	"be able to specify site quotas on a user user type or site basis"
12	66	<a href="#">REQ-74</a>	Ad-Hoc Group Management
16	65	<a href="#">REQ-183</a>	Sakai should warn a user before the user's session times out and data is inadvertently lost
16	65	<a href="#">REQ-310</a>	"Site maintainers can select an option to make a file or folder visible or not visible to site participants."
18	64	<a href="#">REQ-15</a>	Comprehensive 'remove user' functionality
18	64	<a href="#">REQ-27</a>	Import/Export/Synchronize Schedule Data
18	64	<a href="#">REQ-95</a>	Percentage based grading
18	64	<a href="#">REQ-93</a>	Configure Order of Items in Worksite's Lefthand Menu
22	63	<a href="#">REQ-10</a>	Support for HTML editors
22	63	<a href="#">REQ-55</a>	Indicate Read/Unread Messages
22	63	<a href="#">REQ-37</a>	Sakai Saving State - Moving between tools and within pages of a tool should behave consistently for users.
22	63	<a href="#">REQ-222</a>	Administration of site roles and permissions needs UI and performance improvements
22	63	<a href="#">REQ-232</a>	Resources - greater granularity for permissions

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## 4. University of California Davis Hosts Sakai Programmers Boot Camp

Last February, thirty-seven Sakai programmers from as far away as Tokyo, Japan met at the University of California in the cozy, rural city of Davis. In a three-day boot camp led by Davis' Sakai System Architect, Thomas Amsler, participants dove head first into the intricacies of effectively developing Sakai tools to meet institutional needs. The goal of the event was not to develop a specific tool, but rather to learn as much as possible about the tool writing process, the Sakai framework, and the logistics of using collaboration in process of coding.

The interactive, hands-on sessions grew organically; these meetings generally take on a life of their own, as programmers feed off each other's excitement and dedication to building new and innovative solutions for their development needs. To that end, the boot camp agendas were kept loose, open, and ready to accommodate the needs and desires of participants. After morning introductions and planning, programmers broke up into groups, each working in parallel on different parts of the same project to later regroup and merge their parts into a single Sakai tool. In this case, the group worked to develop a simple quiz and polling tool.

The event went off without a hitch and several new constructive technical dialogs were initiated. Following the event, UC Davis was asked to host a similar conference in Vancouver, where the action-packed three-day program will be refined into a single-day session that the campus believes people will find both enjoyable and rewarding.

For those who were unable to attend February's boot-camp, UC Davis has set up a podcast of the entire three-day workshop, available by pointing any podcast-capable media player (such as iTunes) to [http://podcast.ucdavis.edu/sakai\\_bc/sakai\\_bc.rss](http://podcast.ucdavis.edu/sakai_bc/sakai_bc.rss). In the future, the team hopes to stream both audio and video versions of their Sakai presentations over the internet using Macromedia Breeze.

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## 5. Requirements To-Do List

In order to encourage participation across continents and Greenwich Mean Times, the Requirements Working Group is moving to fewer synchronous communications and more email, wiki, and small group activities. To scaffold this approach, we have started our to-do list:

<http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/gjs>.

An example of some of the critical tasks currently on our plate are the development of a new charter that reflects our ongoing activity, an updated practice document that can be vetted with the community, and a timeline for our clumping and clustering and prioritization activities.

Feel free to add items to the list or add yourself to a to-do if you have time and interest in taking it on.

We will continue to have one monthly phone call with the to-do list reports as our agenda topics. Hopefully this will act as an incentive for all our busy souls to make progress on our to-dos prior to the meetings.

A proposed monthly calendar will be posted at the Confluence Wiki site soon.

Mara Hancock  
mara@media.berkeley.edu

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## 6. Stephen Marquard is the New Lead for the Help Project in Sakai

Please join me in welcoming Stephen Marquard and the University of Cape Town as the new lead for the Help Project in Sakai. This project will work on the Help tool in Sakai. In addition to developing the functionality of the Help tool, this project will also work with other Sakai groups to ensure that the documentation presented by the Help tool is kept current.



To find out more about this project, please visit:

Confluence Space:  
<http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/HELP>

Collab Site: <http://collab.sakaiproject.org/portal/site/help>

If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Stephen Marquard (marquard@ched.uct.ac.za).

Peter Knoop  
University of Michigan

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## 7. JISC/CNI Meeting - Envisioning Future Challenges in Networked Information

The Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) are proud to announce the 6th International Meeting, which will be held at the York Moat House Hotel, York on 6 and 7 July 2006.

Presenters:

Reg Carr, Director of University Library Services & Bodley's Librarian, The Bodleian Library  
Lorcan Dempsey, Vice President, OCLC  
Professor Derek Law, Librarian and Head of Information Resources Directorate, University of Strathclyde  
Joan Lippincott, Associate Executive Director, CNI  
Clifford Lynch, Executive Director, CNI  
David Nicholas, Centre Director, CIBER, University College London

Topics for parallel sessions include:

- e-Theses
- ICT in the Humanities and Social Sciences
- Institutional repositories
- Resource Discovery
- Open Access
- Anyone planning to attend the JISC/CNI Meeting in York on July 6/7th

For more information, go to:

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/events/jisc-cni-2006/>

## Position Opening

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### 8. Join The UC Davis Sakai Programming Team

UC Davis is hiring Sakai programmers. For more information and to access the position description, see <http://jobs.hr.ucdavis.edu/jm/ViewVacancy?id=4860> or contact Kirk Alexander at [kdalex@ucdavis.edu](mailto:kdalex@ucdavis.edu).

Position Responsibilities: This position serves as an advanced programmer/developer on the LMS/Sakai programming team. Serves as a lead developer of functional tools within the LMS, and performs advanced-level programming in multiple languages, provides expertise in architecture, design, programming in support of campus-wide web-based learning management systems, including the campus' UC Davis Learning Management Software (powered by Sakai). Listing: VL# 4860 External (Extended) (1-2 positions) Senior Programmer - Sakai Tools Specialist (PROGRAMMER V UCD) \$4,209.00 - \$7,155.00/Mo. Open Until Filled

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### 9. Sakai Babies, Etudes Babies and More

Photos of many of these babies can be seen on the last page of the pdf version of this newsletter. If we missed a baby announcement or photo, we'd be happy to include it in the next issue.

ALBERT

December 6, 2002

Joanne Yuanyuan Sui, University of Michigan

**EDITH REBECCA**

August 8, 2003

Rachel Gollub, Stanford University

**JET YUE**

May 21, 2004

Qingru Zhang, Stanford University

**SOPHIA**

September 25, 2005

Joanne Yuanyuan Sui, University of Michigan

In 2005, Foothill proudly released two tools (Melete & Jforum) and two babies (Tanush & Saahil), back-to-back! Our ETUDES babies - our future developers. :) Mallika and Rashmi, lead Melete developers, are back part-time and will soon be returning to full-time coding.

**TANUSH Ramesh Maheshwari**

10/19/05.

He was definitely in a hurry to meet mom, Rashmi, and the world.

**SAAHIL Vasu Thoppay**

10/24/05.

Saahil looks like daddy but he's mommy on the inside, says Mallika. :)

**ZOE**

Seth Theriault

Columbia University

**SARA CATHERINE**

On 10/29/2005 one of our Middleware gurus at UC Davis, Brian Donnelly, became the first campus Sakai-father! Born 7 pounds 3 ounces and 19 1/2" long, his daughter Sara Catherine will undoubtedly appreciate the joys of collaborative learning some day!

**BRANDON ROBERT**

14 December 2005

8 Lbs 6 Ounces 21 inches long. Mother and child were both healthy and well after delivery.

Rob Lowden, Indiana University

**JACK**

December 19, 2005

8lbs, 3 oz., 20.5 inches

Anthony Whyte, University of Michigan

**BELIZE JACQUELINE**

March 23, 2006

8 lbs 4 oz.

John Ellis, rSmart

**BABY GIRL AMSLER**

Thomas Amsler, UC Davis Sakai Programmer and System Architect, is expecting a baby girl in May! What does this mean for Thomas? Java - config - xml - baby girl - reboot - servers - diapers - coding - bottles - late nights - Sakai - rattles - no more sleep!



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## 10. Events

### 5th Sakai (with OSP) Conference in Vancouver

May 30 - June 2, 2006

<http://www.sakaiproject.org/vancouver/>

### Sakai Tools Developer Training Seminar

April 18-20, 2006

Boston MA

[www.unicon.net](http://www.unicon.net)

### Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI)

6th International Meeting

York Moat House Hotel, York

6 and 7 July 2006

<http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/events/jisc-cni-2006/>



**TANUSH**  
October 19, 2005  
Rashmi Maheshwari

**BELIZE**  
March 23, 2006  
John Ellis



**EDITH**  
August 8, 2003  
Rachel Gollub



**JACK**  
December 19, 2005  
Anthony Whyte



**ALBERT**  
December 6, 2002



**SOPHIA**  
September 25, 2005  
Joanne Yuanyuan Sui



**COBIE**

**BRANDON**

December 14, 2005  
Rob Lowden



**JET YUE**  
May 21, 2004  
Qingru Zhang



**SAAHIL**

October 24, 2006  
Malika Thoppay

