



Sakai Newsletter

May 18, 2006

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1. Invitation to the 1st European Sakai Days

The oncampus-team of the Luebeck University of Applied Sciences in Germany invites you to the 1st European Sakai Day September 6-7, 2006. The focus of this meeting is to provide comprehensive guidelines on the development and usage of Sakai in the European context. Currently the agenda has a preliminary status and you're welcome to contribute further ideas.

Please visit the website for the 1st European Sakai Day:
<http://www.oncampus.de/sakai>

To register, please use the registration form at www.oncampus.de/sakai

For further information, please contact:

Andreas Wittke (+49451300-5436 or wittke@oncampus.de)

Sven Riedel (+49451300-5422 or riedel@oncampus.de)

We hope to see you here in our beautiful city near the baltic sea in Northern Germany.

- The oncampus-team

2. Vancouver Sakai (with OSP) Conference Updates

This is an exciting time in our preparation for the 5th Sakai (with OSP) conference. We have over 80 great session proposals in and the conference -- with its longer sessions tailored to audiences (like developers and faculty, just to name a few) -- looks like it will be chock full of great content and opportunities to connect with colleagues.

The room block is now completely full at the conference hotel, but there are other hotels in the area. Here are a few hotels that are a short walk to the conference hotel:

Sheraton Century Plaza Hotel & Spa 604.687.0575 <http://www.century-plaza.com/>
Holiday Inn Downtown 604.684.2151 <http://www.holidayinnvancouverdowntown.com/>
Best Western Chateau Granville 604.669.7070 <http://www.bwcv.com/>
Howard Johnson Hotel 604.688.8701 <http://www.hojovancouver.com/>

-- As we plan to have large enough rooms for each session, it helps to know how many of you are planning on attending the conference. Please register for the conference today at:

http://www.sakaiproject.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=171&Itemid=520 .

-- As you register, you can also fill out the facebook!

-- It's not too late to propose a technical demonstration at <https://sakaiproject.org/conference/proposals/>

-- Here is the new conference schedule:

<https://www.sakaiproject.org/conference/admin/schedule.php>

Please contact me with any questions you have about this upcoming conference! Hope to see you in Vancouver,

Wende Morgaine
Conference Planning Co-Chair, Sakai Foundation
wendemm@gmail.com (best way to contact me)
(503) 725.8137 Office (503) 577.7712 Cell
GTalk-wendemm@gmail.com AOL-wendemm

3. Course Management Work Group at the Conference

The Course Management Work Group will hold a Birds of a Feather (BOF) meeting at the Sakai Conference. This BOF is intended to serve as outreach to the community to help validate our model of institutional course data and to disseminate information to integrators who will work with the Course Management Service. Please keep a watch on the BOF page:

<http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/Conf2006Vancouver/Course+Management+WG+BOF> -- to learn more about the meeting.

Also, don't miss presentations from the Course Management Work Group:

User-Centered Design Process for the Course Management Project -- Marc Brierley and Daphne Ogle Weds. 3:00 PM, Grand Ballroom D

Enterprise Integration through the Course Management Service -- Josh Holtzman Weds. 10:15 AM, Grand Ballroom A

- Duffy Gillman
University of Arizona
duffy@email.arizona.edu

4. Message Center is a Provisional Tool in Sakai 2.2

Message Center, Indiana University's solution for discussion and private messaging, facilitating one-on-one and group communication, is provisional in Sakai 2.2. Through private messaging, users within a site can quickly and easily communicate and can even auto-forward private messages to their favorite email client. By providing authors with extensive control over permissions and forum/topic status and giving users a more intuitive navigation, the discussion forum feature complements private messaging well.

For more information, visit <http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/MFT/>

- Kristol Hancock
Indiana University
khancock@iupui.edu

5. Post 'Em is a Provisional Tool in Sakai 2.2

Post 'Em, an automated reporting system that enables faculty to post grades and comments without compromising student privacy, is provisional in Sakai 2.2. Developed by Indiana University, Post 'Em accepts CSV files, empowering faculty to track student grades in a spreadsheet application of their choice. Post 'Em files are not restricted to grades and comments, making this tool beneficial to the research community as well.

For more information, visit <http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/PEM/>

- Kristol Hancock
Indiana University
khancock@iupui.edu

6. Sakai Accessibility QA Season is Here – Hardy Souls Needed

It's that time of year again... Sakai Accessibility QA. I'm looking for some hardy souls to perform accessibility checks on Sakai 2.2.

The protocol is on Confluence so you can see what's involved:

<http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/2ACC/2.2+Testing+Protocol>

The steps move pretty quickly. Let me know if you are interested, and I will assign tools for people to review.

Many, many thanks!

- Mike Elledge Michigan State University elledge@msu.edu

7. Kualifoundation.org Created

The Kualifoundation.org is pleased to announce the formation of the Kualifoundation.org. Like the Sakai Foundation for teaching/learning/research, the Kualifoundation.org was created to hold the copyrights and coordinate partner activity for administrative systems software. The Kualifoundation.org Financial System (KFS) and Kualifoundation.org Workflow are its first projects with other administrative software for Endowments and Research Administration planned to follow. www.kualifoundation.org

- Kualifoundation.org Board

8. SSS is for Student Services System at CSW

Community Source Week (CSW) will be the first public reporting of the initial assessment of a potential community source student services system. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation provided support to assess college and university interest in a next generation student system. A Friday session (2 June) will report on the initial findings and likely next steps for SSS. <http://student.osnext.org>.

- Bradley Wheeler
Indiana University
bwheeler@indiana.edu

9. Unicon's Academus Online Campus Portal Chosen by Seven Colleges & Universities

Economical, Standards-Based Solution Integrates with Legacy Systems

PHOENIX-May 10, 2006--Unicon, Inc., the leading independent provider of open source-based enterprise portal, collaboration, learning, and integration technology for higher education institutions, announced that its Academus(R) Online Campus Portal has been chosen by seven colleges and universities in the first quarter of 2006. The Academus Portal delivers campus services online and plays a key role in showcasing an institution's brand with prospects, existing students, faculty, and alumni. It also provides an economical, customizable solution for connecting classrooms, departments, and existing legacy systems while meeting an institution's technical requirements, budget, and IT strategy.

"Unicon works closely with leading institutions, partners, and professionals to understand both the technical requirements and budget needs of higher education," stated John C. Blakely, CEO of Unicon, Inc. "Considering the ever-changing landscape of technology options and products they have to select from for their online campuses, we're extremely pleased these latest customers have chosen our Academus Web portal and services."

New Academus Portal Customers in Q1 - 2006

- Heartland Community College, Normal, IL
- Joliet Junior College, Joliet, IL
- Simmons College, Boston, MA
- Southwestern University, Georgetown, TX
- Spartanburg Technical College, Spartanburg, SC
- Tacoma Community College, Tacoma, WA
- University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK

About Academus Portal 2.0

Academus Portal is a comprehensive, cost-effective Web portal solution for academic enterprises that connects and supports all campus constituents by facilitating communication, collaboration, and organization through a single portal framework. Built on uPortal open-source technology, Academus is based on open standards and designed to connect the critical components of higher education institutions' existing legacy systems.

10. Events

5th Sakai (with OSP) Conference in Vancouver

May 30-June 2, 2006

http://www.sakaiproject.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=319&Itemid=527

JA-SIG Summer Conference

13th Semiannual meeting

June 4-6, 2006

www.ja-sig.org/conferences/06summer

4th IMS Global Learning Consortium Advanced Learning Technology conference

Indianapolis, Indiana

June 19-22, 2006

<http://www.imsglobal.org/altilab2006/>

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

6th International Meeting

York Moat House Hotel, York

July 6-7, 2006

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

1st European Sakai Day

Luebeck, Germany

September 6-7, 2006

<http://www.oncampus.de/sakai>