



## Sakai Newsletter

June 29, 2006

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### 1. Major National Conferences Accept Marist Proposals for Presentations on Sakai Work

Marist College has had presentation proposals on the Sakai work we are engaged in accepted at two major national conferences coming up in Fall 2006. One presentation, titled "Innovating with Sakai at Small/Mid-Size Colleges: Leveraging Partnerships and Resources," will be presented at EDUCAUSE 2006 in Dallas, Texas, and the other, titled "Sakai: A New Model for Innovation in the Design, Development and Support of Learning Environments," will be presented at the 12th Sloan Consortium International Conference on Asynchronous Learning Networks in Orlando, Florida. Both of these presentations will build and expand on the one given at the recent Sakai conference in Vancouver, and highlight lessons learned from our recent production implementation of Sakai (called the iLearn System -- Innovative Learning Environment and Resource Network -- locally at the College), including results from a student survey and faculty feedback. Our long-standing academically-based IBM Joint Study Project, under which

research and development work on Sakai is being conducted, will also be discussed.

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## 2. Changes in Support of Sakai Services

A University of Michigan Information Technology Central Services (ITCS) team has supported the Sakai community through the administration of Sakai, Confluence, and Jira for the past two years. The end of this month marks the transition of support away from the University of Michigan to two schools that have volunteered to assume control.

On June 29 (today) the Sakai "collab" instance that supports the community work groups and discussion groups will be transferred to Virginia Tech. On June 30, Jira and Confluence will be transferred to the University of Arizona. Both transitions may incur downtime. (With the Confluence/Jira migration there may be an interruption of service for most of the day -- at least 6 hours – on Friday, starting at 10:30 EDT gmt -4.) We appreciate the community's patience and understanding during these changes.

Many thanks are owed to the University of Michigan ITCS team for their support of the project and the community. Members of the team include Linda Place, Jeffrey Cousineau, Ramaswamy Aditya, Rick Carter, Ken Hammer, Jenny Howard, Chris Messina, and Qinsheng Zhu.

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## 3. "Supporting Sakai" Panel to Participate in the Upcoming Campus Technology 2006 Conference

Gloria D. Hardman, Cheryl A. Wogahn (Yale University), Clay Fenlason (Boston University), Sean DeMonner and Linda Place (University of Michigan) will present a panel on Supporting Sakai at the upcoming Campus Technology 2006 Conference in Boston. (Session W03, "Supporting Sakai," Wednesday, August 02, 2006, 8:30 am)

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#### 4. Utility to Expand Content Packages from Blackboard 5.5 is Completed

I just finished working on a utility to expand content packages from Blackboard 5.5 so we can import them into Sakai via WebDAV. It's a bit clunky, but we've been unable to import our BB 5.5 resources through any other means. We've found that these content packages are difficult or impossible to open with standard tools, since they apparently don't follow the 1.1 spec (that's what I've been told, anyhow).

If this utility is of use to anyone else out there, feel free to check it out from contrib:  
[https://source.sakaiproject.org/contrib/ucb/ims\\_cp\\_expander/](https://source.sakaiproject.org/contrib/ucb/ims_cp_expander/)

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#### 5. Michigan 2006 CTools Survey Results

For those who are interested, we've put together a "public" view of our Winter 2006 survey results. The survey asked instructors and students about their use, attitudes, and opinions about CTools, Michigan's implementation of Sakai.

[https://ctools.umich.edu/access/content/group/CTNG-Support/Surveys%20-%20Winter%202006/Public\\_View/2006\\_sel\\_results.html](https://ctools.umich.edu/access/content/group/CTNG-Support/Surveys%20-%20Winter%202006/Public_View/2006_sel_results.html)

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#### 6. Announcing the Sakai Survey Question Bank

In an effort to help institutions evaluate their Sakai instance, interested members of the Sakai community are building a shared question bank. While each institution may construct their surveys to fit their local needs, by using similar questions the community can more easily look across instances and compare users' attitudes and experience with the tools. The question bank is organized by Goals and Question Types.

Like other aspects of Sakai, this is a community effort that will grow and change to benefit the needs of every institution that chooses to adopt Sakai as their Collaboration and Learning Environment. Anyone is free to edit this question bank.

Community members are also invited to share their survey experiences and also upload a copy of their survey as a reference to the Confluence site.

The direct link for the Survey Question Bank is:

<http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/UDAT/Survey+Question+Bank>

Please feel free to ask questions, make comments, etc., on the Survey Bank Confluence page or to the Data Analysis email list.

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## 7. University of Windsor (Canada) Officially Adopts Sakai

I'm pleased to announce that the University of Windsor (Ontario, Canada) has officially adopted Sakai to replace our home-grown learning management system; we're piloting this fall and preparing for full production in Fall 2007.

Thank you to everyone on the list who has provided input, insight and answers during our evaluation process this past year.

Let the fun begin!

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## 8. Article on CRN Website: "Red Hat CEO Bemoans State of Education, Tech Talent Pool"

Matthew Szulik, Red Hat Chairman, CEO and President, suggests Sakai's collaborative open-source process can be applied to problems in education and tech talent recruiting.

See the full article:

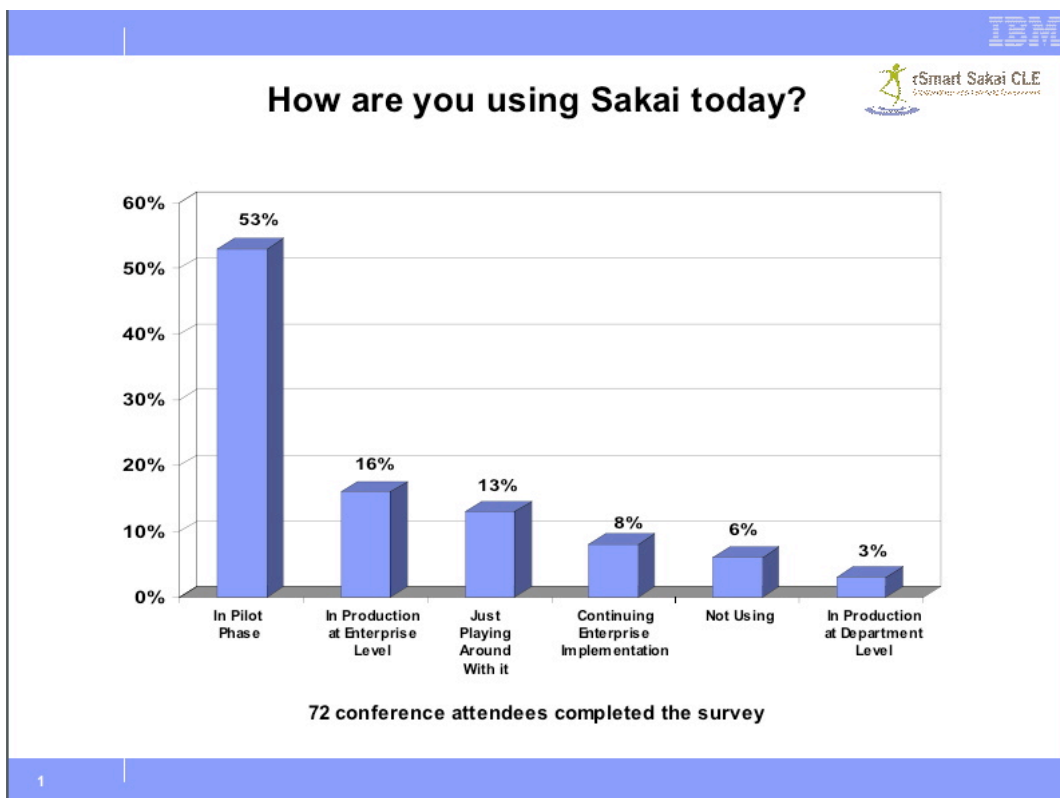
<http://www.crn.com/sections/breakingnews/breakingnews.jhtml?articleId=189601910>

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## 9. Survey Results: Vancouver Attendees' Use of Sakai

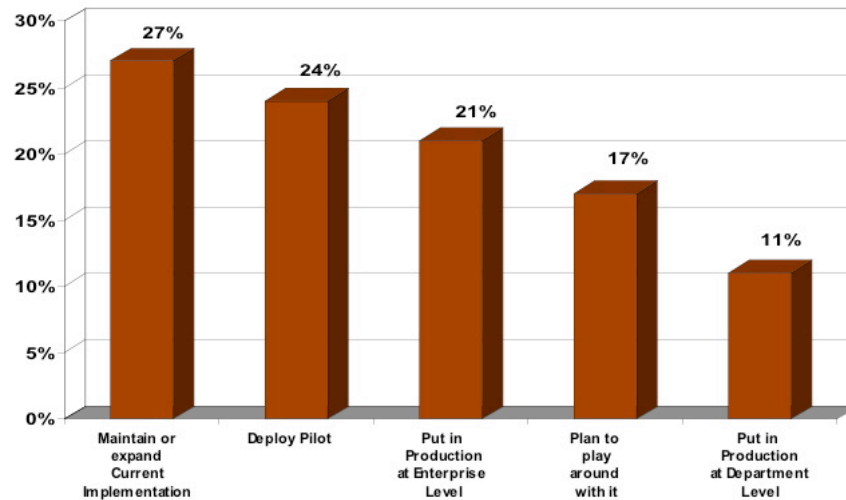
At the 5th Sakai Conference in Vancouver, rSmart and IBM partnered on a survey for attendees regarding their current use of Sakai and future plans for using Sakai. Of the 487 attendees, 72 completed the survey. <http://www.rsmart.com/news-and-events>

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*More...*

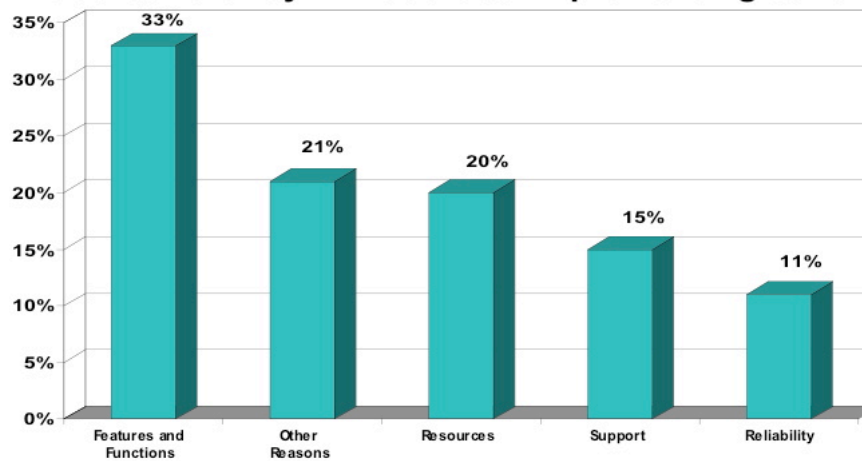
### What are your plans over the next 12 months for the implementation of Sakai?



72 conference attendees completed the survey

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### What are/were key inhibitors to implementing Sakai?



\*Other reasons were broken down into 3 categories:

- A. Solutions
- B. Institutional Culture / Politics
- C. Accessibility of Tools

72 conference attendees completed the survey

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## 10. Events

### 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/>

### OSCON Open Source Convention

Oregon Convention Center

Portland, Oregon

July 24 – July 28, 2006

<http://conferences.oreillynet.com/os2006/>

### Campus Technology 2006 Conference

Sheraton Boston Hotel

Boston, MA

July 31 – August 3, 2006

<http://www.campus-technology.com/conferences/summer2005/>

### 1st European Sakai Day

Luebeck, Germany

September 6 – 7, 2006

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