Sakai is an open source Collaboration and Learning Environment. Many users of Sakai deploy it to support teaching and learning, ad hoc group collaboration, electronic portfolios and research collaboration.

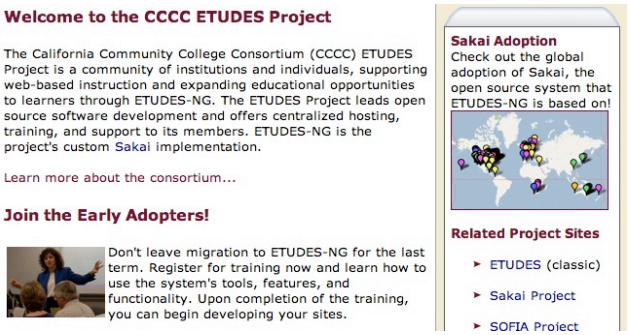
Sakai[1] is a free and open source product that is built and maintained by the Sakai community. Sakai's development model is called "Community Source". It builds on all the best practices of open source and adds directed resources from many members of the Sakai community.

Sakai Adoption

Sakai is in use in a number of applications at many institutions around the world over a wide range of applications from teaching and learning to research.

Indiana University uses Sakai to support teaching, learning, research collaborations, student portfolios, shared campus-wide file space and ad hoc collaboration space for over 100,000 users

The California Community College Chancellor's Office supports a consortium project called ETUDES. Housed at Foothill College, the ETUDES Project develops tools for Sakai and makes Sakai services available for over 35 institutions around the state.



The Teaching, Learning, and Research Programme (TLRP) fosters educational research to improve outcomes for learners in the United Kingdom. The TLRP uses Sakai as a virtual research environment (VRE) to support collaborative activities among TLRP project teams.

Kapiolani Community College, Portland State University, Virginia Tech and many other institutions use Sakai's portfolio capabilities to build electronic portfolios for student and organizations

The University of South Africa (UNISA) employs Sakai to support over 100,000 distance education learners across Africa and the world.

If you would like to access an interactive map showing the Sakai community, you can visit

www.sakaiproject.org/sakai-map/

[1] Sakai is named for Hiroyuki Sakai - a long-time favorite on the television program "Iron Chef"

Sakai Commercial Affiliates

The Sakai Commercial Affiliates (SCA) are commercial firms that offer support and expertise for institutions using the Sakai Project's community source software. Commercial Affiliates typically provide a variety of services including hosting, consulting, installation, integration, and support services.

Unicon (www.unicon.net) has integrated Sakai into its Academus Open Campus product and provides commercially hosted services that allow individuals and institutions to outsource their technical support of Sakai.

The rSmart company (www.rsmart.com) packages and supports Sakai as the rSmart Collaborative and Learning Environment (CLE) and also provides consulting and hosted services for Sakai.

Other commercial partners range from large vendors to publishers and include IBM, Oracle, SUN, Unisys, Ostracon, Pearson Education, Harvest Road, SunGard, Apple, Embanet, and Stoas.

About the Sakai Product

A set of generic collaboration tools forms the core of the Sakai product.

Announcements	Preferences
Drop Box	Presentation
Email Archive	Profile / Roster
Resources	Repository Search
Chat Room	Schedule
Jforum	Search
Threaded Discussion	Web Content
Message Center	WebDAV
Message Of The Day	Wiki
News/RSS	Site Setup

The core tools can be augmented with tools designed for a particular application of Sakai.

Teaching Tools	**Portfolio Tools**
Assignments	Forms
Grade book	Evaluations
Module Editor	Glossary
QTI Authoring	Matrices
QTI Assessment	Layouts
Section Management	Templates
Syllabus	Reports
	Wizards

The Sakai community is actively developing new Sakai tools and capabilities: IMS Common Cartridge, SCORM, Blog tool, shared whiteboard, shared display, multipoint audio, multipoint video, pod-casting, Library/Digital Repository integration, IMS Tool Interoperability, and others.

The Sakai Community

The Sakai community draws on the contributions of volunteers from many organizations around the world. The Sakai community is responsible for all aspects of evolving the Sakai product including architecture, look and feel, tool design, usability, requirements, development, quality assurance, release management, and bug fixing.

As an example, the QA team for the Sakai 2.2 release consisted of 82 volunteers from 28 institutions and seven countries. This volunteer QA team spent a total of 2050 hours during a focused six-week period.

As with the proven model of open source development of the Apache Web server, the Sakai community operates on the basic principle of "meritocracy". A self-governing leadership team is responsible for each major aspect of Sakai. A new member is invited to join the leadership team when they demonstrate sufficient interest, commitment and proficiency.

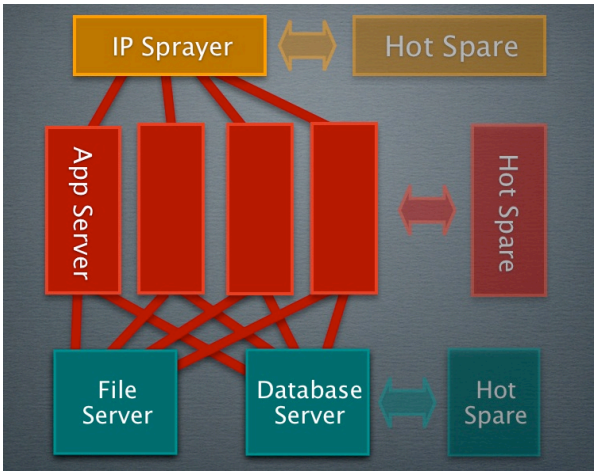
Running Sakai in Production

We designed Sakai to be used by a wide range of institutions ranging from individual teachers, to small schools, up to large multi-campus universities and large companies.

For an individual without any IT support, a single instructor can purchase Sakai for a single course from a Sakai commercial affiliate. Commercial affiliates can also provide dedicated server hosting for a complete campus or small pilot. These hosted solution allow an institution to use Sakai with no local IT staff required.

For a small campus, Sakai can easily support 5000 users with a single server using a freely available database like MySQL. Sakai is relatively simple to install and maintain.

To support the largest installations with over 100,000 users and terabytes of user data, Sakai uses a three-layer architecture for scalability, reliability, and 24x7 production operation.

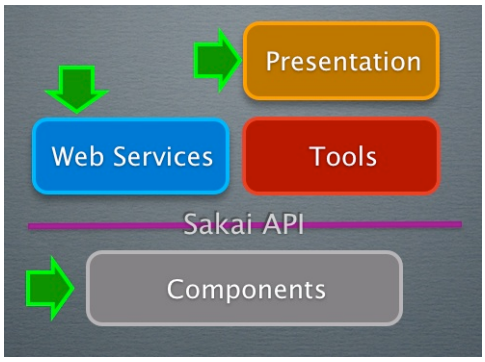


Sakai is designed to allow for the application of maintenance and patches using a "rolling upgrade" approach so that your production Sakai system remains up and available throughout the maintenance process.

Sakai Software Architecture

With Sakai, functionality is broken into several major components in order to insure portability, interoperability and customization.

User-visible functionality is built in Sakai as tools. Tools make use of the Sakai API to access all storage and business logic around Sakai business objects. Tools also make use of a common presentation layer to enable a common look and feel across tools, as well as uniform support for accessibility and localization across tools.



One of the advantages of using the Sakai API and the Sakai component approach to persistence and business logic is that all of the Sakai Components are directly available as web services. Web services can be used to integrate Sakai with external applications written in any language.

Because Sakai can be adopted for so many different purposes, it is important to be able to quickly and reliably customize a Sakai implementation. By providing standard "hooks" for customization of presentation, components, or using web services, users can easily upgrade to newer versions of Sakai with no loss of any data or local customizations.

The Sakai Foundation

The Sakai Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to coordinating activities around Sakai and the Sakai community to insure Sakai's long-term viability.

A small central staff supports the activities of the Sakai Foundation. A full-time Executive Director manages the daily operation of the Foundation. Additional Sakai staff coordinate community activities including: project management, quality assurance, release management and conference planning.

The Sakai Foundation is supported by voluntary partner contributions. The Sakai Partners elect the Sakai Foundation Board of Directors, which provide the strategic leadership for the Sakai Foundation.

Each year the Sakai Community conducts meetings and conferences worldwide. Anyone can attend Sakai events.

Sakai
Atlanta, Georgia
December 5-8 2006

If you would like more information about Sakai please visit the Sakai web site or send your question to info@sakaifoundation.org.

Sakai Web Site: www.sakaiproject.org
Sakai Community Site: collab.sakaiproject.org