



## Sakai Newsletter

February 8, 2007

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### 1. 7th Sakai Community Conference Updates

#### CALL FOR PROPOSALS IS OPEN

The Call for Proposals for the 7th Sakai Community Conference in Amsterdam is now open! Develop your proposal and submit it at:

<https://sakaiproject.org/conference/proposals/index.php>

The deadline for submissions is March 15.

#### HOTEL RESERVATIONS

The conference will be held at the Moevenpick Hotel Amsterdam City Centre. Sakai needs the support of the community in helping to keep the conference expenses as low as possible. You can do this by booking your room at the conference hotel as early as possible. If our room block requirements are met, we will receive substantial conference service discounts. Take advantage of the increased opportunities to spend more time with your colleagues at the conference by staying at the hotel.

The hotel is non-smoking. It is on the water's edge between the adjacent Passenger

Terminal Amsterdam and Muziekgebouw, Amsterdam's newest Music Hall. The Sakai conference rate of \$195 euros per night (approximately \$250 U.S. dollars) will be available for June 9 to June 17, 2006. There will be free wireless internet service in your room and throughout the hotel.

There are three ways to reserve a room: online, by phone, and by Fax. Go to <http://sakaiproject.org/conference/amsterdam> and click the "Hotel Information" link for further information about reserving a room.

#### CONFERENCE LOGO

If you have an idea for a conference logo for t-shirts and polos, please send the your idea to Pam Dietz ([pld@umich.edu](mailto:pld@umich.edu)).

#### CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Online registration for the conference opens March 11, 2007

#### CONFERENCE WEBSITE:

Look here for regular updates and information:  
<http://sakaiproject.org/conference/amsterdam>

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## 2. Sakai Version 2.3 Accessibility Review

The Sakai Accessibility Working Group (WG) has teamed with the Sakai QA WG to review version 2.3 accessibility.

Megan May, Senior Analyst at Indiana University and Sakai QA lead, has sent a note asking her team to help out. "We're in between releases but there is still work the QA WG can do! For instance, 2.3 accessibility testing is going to kick off February 5th and I encourage everyone to participate."

Mike Elledge, Sakai Accessibility Team Lead, has also sent out a note asking Accessibility WG members to join in. "Thank you to everyone who has helped in the past, and thanks in advance for those who can help review Sakai 2.3; participating in this process will help make Sakai a more accessible application for everyone."

The sign-up list, and links to the protocol, templates and examples can be found at: <http://issues.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/XIk>. The accessibility review is scheduled to take place from Monday, February 5 to February 28. Any time you can contribute, large or small, will be a great help.

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### 3. Last Call for Sakai 2.4 Tool Promotions

With approximately five weeks left to code freeze for Sakai 2.4 (15 March 2007) it's nearly time to finalize what tools are being evaluated for promotion from Contrib to Provisional status and Provisional to Core status. As discussed in the Criteria for Provisional Status (<http://issues.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/4i0>) the goal is to have any tool being considered for promotion ready for inclusion in the release 30-days prior to code freeze, and for the community to use the remaining time prior to code freeze to evaluate, discuss and decide what will or won't be promoted. So if you have a tool that you would like to see considered for promotion there's only about one week left until 15 February 2007.

Currently the following tools have been nominated for consideration and their project teams are working towards meeting the Provisional criteria guidelines:

Mailtool --- Current Status: Contrib; Proposed Status: Provisional  
PageOrderHelper --- Current: Contrib; Proposed: Provisional  
Polls --- Current: Contrib; Proposed: Provisional  
SiteStats --- Current: Contrib; Proposed: Provisional  
User Membership --- Current: Contrib; Proposed: Provisional

Discussion of tool promotion is being carried out in Confluence. You can also view a handy table for each tool, which presents the Provisional Tool criteria and the status of the tool towards meeting the criteria. Follow the links off the following page in the Release Management WG for each tool, and if you're using a tool in your Sakai instance please share your thoughts and experiences:

<http://issues.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/REL/Sakai+2.4.0>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks.

Peter Knoop  
knoop@umich.edu  
Sakai Project Coordinator

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#### 4. JA-SIG Summer 2007 Conference

This year's JA-SIG conference, which will be held 24-27 June in Denver, Colorado, has been expanded, adding an additional day and optional pre- and post-conference in-depth seminars covering such topics as AJAX, CAS, Kuali and Sakai.

JA-SIG conference page:

<http://www.ja-sig.org/conferences/07summer/index.html>

JA-SIG conference wiki:

<http://www.ja-sig.org/wiki/display/JCON/Home>

JA-SIG conference tracks:

##### Addressing the Enterprise

This is the track for enterprise strategies and partner-based solutions where the topics are: making community source work in the enterprise; investing in community source; governance, support, and risk reduction; where policy, requirements, and technology meet; executive planning and strategy; integration with infrastructure; the value of service-oriented architecture and web services models; project oversight, user requirements; working with functional offices; change management; marketing and promotion.

##### Projects, Applications, and Solutions

In this track the focus is applications and how they are implemented to deliver solutions. Topics include project management, application solution deployment, operational and configuration issues, load balancing, portals and portlets, content management, channel development, repository management, release management, identity management, authentication and authorization, service-oriented architecture, and database management.

##### Design and Technical Development

This track covers everything to do with coding and the environments in which coding is done, including the design process. If your interests include building code, understanding APIs and protocols, or design work that leads to code, this is the track for you. Topics include technical aspects of Java IDEs, development frameworks, Spring, WSRP, AJAX, Eclipse, Hibernate, Java Server Faces, WS-\*, and Kuali Rice as well as the technical underpinnings of services such as CAS and uPortal.

## Sakai Project Topics

This track is designed for content pertaining to Sakai at all levels. A special addition to this year's JA-SIG summer conference, it is designed to compliment this year's Sakai summer conference in Amsterdam. (See more information about Sakai at the JA-SIG Conference in the next section of this newsletter.)

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### 5. Sakai Track at the JA-SIG Summer 2007 Conference

The JA-SIG summer conference in Denver, 24-27 June, will for the first time include a Sakai track. This is an exciting development and one that presents an opportunity for the Sakai and JA-SIG communities to explore the interoperability possibilities that exist between Sakai's CLE and JA-SIG's uPortal and the Central Authentication Service (CAS) projects.

Session proposals are being solicited on all aspects of Sakai. Proposals that cover integration topics relative to Sakai and uPortal and/or CAS are especially welcome. JA-SIG session proposals are due 7 March 2007.

Call for proposals:

[http://jan-tng.mannlib.cornell.edu:8080/jasigconf/call-form.jsp?conf\\_id=jasig12](http://jan-tng.mannlib.cornell.edu:8080/jasigconf/call-form.jsp?conf_id=jasig12)

I'm serving as Sakai's liaison with the JA-SIG conference committee, so if you have any questions feel free to contact me at any time.

Cheers,

Anthony Whyte  
arwyte@umich.edu

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### 6. Sakai Documents from Charles Severance

I often get requests for Sakai documents. I have started using the Announcements group Resources area to upload/publish these. Here are three that you might find useful or interesting. (Sorry about the line wrapping of the URL.)

-- Final Report to Mellon Foundation - Sakai Project

This is a report which Joseph Hardin provided to the Mellon Foundation to describe the activities of the Sakai project (2004 - 2005). It gives some historical context to the current Sakai Foundation activity.

[http://collab.sakaiproject.org/access/content/group/sakai-educ/Documents/2006/2006\\_10\\_mellon\\_final\\_public.pdf](http://collab.sakaiproject.org/access/content/group/sakai-educ/Documents/2006/2006_10_mellon_final_public.pdf)

-- Interoperability Roadmap (2006)

This is a roadmap which proposes a number of tasks (without resources or deadlines) that need to be addressed going forward in Sakai.

[http://collab.sakaiproject.org/access/content/group/sakai-educ/Documents/2006/2006\\_07\\_Roadmap\\_Interop.pdf](http://collab.sakaiproject.org/access/content/group/sakai-educ/Documents/2006/2006_07_Roadmap_Interop.pdf)

-- Two Page Overview of Sakai

This is an overview of Sakai suitable for printing front and back as a handout to introduce folks to Sakai.

[http://collab.sakaiproject.org/access/content/group/sakai-educ/Documents/2006/2006\\_08\\_two\\_pager.pdf](http://collab.sakaiproject.org/access/content/group/sakai-educ/Documents/2006/2006_08_two_pager.pdf)

Charles Severance  
csev@umich.edu

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## 7. CMS Selection Process at University of Wyoming

At the University of Wyoming, we are embarking on an extensive course management system (CMS) selection process, and we have something to offer on that subject, along with general pedagogy.

I gave a talk on these matters at the 2006 Sakai Conference at Atlanta in December. On the session page for my talk, "How Pedagogy Drives Our Goals and Plans for Sakai," you will find:

1. A list of criteria for an "ideal" CMS that supports campus (face-to-face) courses.
2. The slides of my presentation, both zipped (an attachment), and individual (plain Wiki pages in PedagogyGuidesOutline), which list seven teaching scenarios and how a course site might be used to enhance each.

I welcome comments that map either set of materials to Sakai, that is, specific suggestions on:

- How the CMS criteria might be implemented in Sakai.
- How the teaching scenarios might be supported through Sakai site templates.

Even obvious and trivial suggestions, of Sakai tools and facilities, will help to get us all started.

For those who are not experienced with the resources, here's how to find those materials:

On the Confluence site, <http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/>

- 6th Sakai Conference
- Conference Sessions
- "How Pedagogy Drives Our Goals and Plans For Sakai"

For those who, like me, had no experience with Wiki markup, to convert my HTML slides, I used the HTML2Wiki web service at:

<http://diberri.dyndns.org/wikipedia/html2wiki/>

With dialect choice "Confluence," and a little final editing.

Robin K. Hill, Ph.D.  
[hill@uwyo.edu](mailto:hill@uwyo.edu)  
University of Wyoming

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## 8. Unicon Webinar: Open Source Cooperative Support for Sakai and uPortal

February 15, 2007, 2:00 pm EST (12 pm Mountain)

The purpose of Unicon's Cooperative Support Programs is to safeguard and ensure the continued, long-term success of your Sakai or uPortal implementations. Our Open Source Cooperative Support Programs provide access to a dedicated team of expert Sakai and uPortal developers and administrators. These teams are available to provide assistance with your support cases and development issues.

We invite you to join Unicon for our free, live Webinars as we present the Open Source Cooperative Support Program. If you are already using Sakai or uPortal, or are considering implementing them on your campus, this session will answer your questions, address your concerns, and explain the unique differences between this open source support model and traditional support offerings.

Some of the topics this Webinar will include:

- Why the Open Source Cooperative Support Program was developed
- A step-by-step model of how the program will function
- Support program membership advantages

- How the program benefits the continuing development of the Sakai and uPortal projects

Be sure to join us for this upcoming Webinar as Unicon begins to blaze the trail of open and community source support!

To register for the Webinar, please go to this webpage:  
[http://www.unicon.net/press\\_room\\_551.html](http://www.unicon.net/press_room_551.html)

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## 9. Unicon Webinar: Sakai Guided Tour

February 16, 2007, 2:00 pm EST (12 pm Mountain)

Are you curious to learn more about the Sakai collaboration and learning environment? The Sakai Project provides an application framework and the course management tools needed to create worksites specifically suited for courses, projects, and research cooperation. Increase learning opportunities for students; provide greater access to materials, and improving interaction with peers, tutors and students with Sakai. See its functionality and what this community source technology can do for your educational institution.

You are invited to join Unicon for a free guided tour of Sakai on Friday, February 15th with one of Unicon's top trainers, Patty Wolfe. Her comprehensive expertise in Sakai will provide a fulfilling Webinar event where viewers receive in-depth knowledge of the tool suite.

The Webinar will be conducted both online and over the phone, to allow you the best opportunity to ask questions and explore the technology thoroughly. Once you sign up for the Webinar, you will be sent a direct URL for the session. Seating is limited, so sign up early!

To register for the Webinar, please go to this webpage:  
[http://www.unicon.net/press\\_room\\_551.html](http://www.unicon.net/press_room_551.html)

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## 10. Events

### eLearning Africa 2007

KICC -- The Kenyatta International Conference Centre

May 28 - 30, 2007

Nairobi, Kenya

<http://www.elearning-africa.com>



**Sakai Amsterdam Conference**  
Movenpick Hotel Amsterdam City Center  
June 12 - 14, 2007  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
[www.sakaiproject.org](http://www.sakaiproject.org)

**JA-SIG Summer 2007 Conference**  
June 24 - 27  
Denver, Colorado  
<http://www.ja-sig.org/conferences/07summer/index.html>