

**Date:** Mon, 19 Mar 2007 14:07:56 +0000  
**From:** John Norman <[john@caret.cam.ac.uk](mailto:john@caret.cam.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** ED Announcement and Other Things  
**To:** [announcements@collab.sakaiproject.org](mailto:announcements@collab.sakaiproject.org),  
advocacy <[advocacy@collab.sakaiproject.org](mailto:advocacy@collab.sakaiproject.org)>,  
Sakai Foundation Partners <[partners@collab.sakaiproject.org](mailto:partners@collab.sakaiproject.org)>  
**Cc:** Sakai-board <[sakai-board@umich.edu](mailto:sakai-board@umich.edu)>

Dear Sakai community,

I am writing to update you on several important initiatives and changes at the Sakai Foundation.

Chuck Severance resigned from the position of Sakai Foundation Executive Director, effective June 1 2007, but Chuck will remain an active voice in the Sakai technical community through the University of Michigan. Please join me in extending thanks to Chuck for his hard work and dedication to make Sakai what it is today. The Sakai Foundation Board will consider the next steps for the Executive Director post at its retreat during the first week of April, and I will keep you apprised of our progress.

Several important initiatives are underway. In a few cases there will be a short administrative pause due to Chuck's new plans; those are noted below. However, most work continues apace.

The 2.4 release goes into code freeze today and QA is gearing up. Contributions to this release bring code improvements, 4 tool promotions from contrib to provisional, and 3 new core tools in this release. Lance Speelmon, Indiana University, is release manager and Megan May, Indiana University, is QA lead. With an anticipated six week QA cycle, the 2.4 release is expected to be released on May 4. More information is available at: <http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/QA/2.4+Release>

At December's conference, user delight emerged as a theme of wide community interest. The Sakai Board understands that improving the user experience is a top priority. To that end, we have been organizing a community initiative to fund a new Foundation position for a User Experience (UX) Lead. Six Foundation members have already made commitments to the initiative (<http://issues.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/V48>). Hiring for the new position will be delayed slightly while Executive Director position is filled, but a lot of good work continues in the Sakai-UI world. The UI group has gathered a wealth of documentation and suggestions, and have been working on a roadmap for improving Sakai's UI. The U-Camp planning team for Amsterdam has been producing an action-packed and developer-engaging agenda. Finally, the Foundation Board has committed to the FLUID project and we will work to incorporate the ATRC TransformAble technology into Sakai. Look out for <http://fluidproject.org> coming soon.

The 7th Sakai Conference is just around the corner. A rich set of presentations will focus on pedagogy, user experience, and technology, and Hal Abelson of MIT, a founding director of the Free Software Foundation and Creative Commons, will offer the keynote address. Meanwhile, JA-SIG, the Java Special Interest Group is

hosting a track on Sakai at their summer conference in Denver. More information on both conferences can be found on the Sakai website.

As the community continues to grow and strengthen around the world and as the software matures, there is still much to do and much going on. Sakai remains a testimony to what can be accomplished by working collectively for the common good.

John

-----  
This automatic notification message was sent by Sakai Collab (<https://collab.sakaiproject.org/portal>) from the DG: Strategy & Advocacy site.

---

X-Account-Key: account2  
X-UIDL: 200613-1116672769  
X-Mozilla-Status: 0003  
X-Mozilla-Status2: 00000000  
Received: from lennier.cc.vt.edu ([198.82.162.213])  
by vms053.mailsvcs.net (Sun Java System Messaging Server 6.2-6.01  
(built Apr 3 2006)) with ESMTTP id <0JF500FBSLYB3E10@vms053.mailsvcs.net> for  
jxf@immagic.com; Mon, 19 Mar 2007 09:08:35 -0500 (CDT)  
Received: from cardgage.cc.vt.edu (cardgage.cc.vt.edu [198.82.161.228])  
by lennier.cc.vt.edu (8.12.11.20060308/8.12.11) with ESMTTP id  
12JE8Gdp004286;  
Mon, 19 Mar 2007 10:08:16 -0400  
Received: from wolfbane.caret.cam.ac.uk ([131.111.21.16])  
by cardgage.cc.vt.edu (JAMES SMTP Server 2.1.3) with SMTP ID 27; Mon,  
19 Mar 2007 10:07:58 -0400 (EDT)  
Received: from insidepixpool.dmz.caret.local  
([192.168.101.24] helo=[10.0.0.180]) by caret.cam.ac.uk with esmtp  
(Exim 4.66)  
(envelope-from <john@caret.cam.ac.uk>) id 1HTIWi-0002xD-Vx; Mon,  
19 Mar 2007 14:07:57 +0000

Message-id: <28EDA514-8C19-4EE9-8C11-C86917CD626E@caret.cam.ac.uk>  
X-Mailer: Apple Mail (2.752.2)  
X-Content-Type-Outer-Envelope: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII; delsp=yes;  
format=flowed  
X-Content-Type-Message-Body: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII; delsp=yes;  
format=flowed  
X-Antivirus: AVG for E-mail 7.5.446 [268.18.14/727]  
Mime-Version: 1.0  
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit  
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII; delsp=yes; format=flowed