Sakai Newsletter

June 28, 2007

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1. . JA-SIG's uPortal Receives Prestigious EDUCAUSE Catalyst Award

Open Source Organization Sets Industry Standard for Groundbreaking Technological Solutions, Market Adoption, and Community Participation

PRINCETON, NJ - JA-SIG, the non-profit organization responsible for the uPortal community source enterprise portal, today announced that uPortal has received the prestigious EDUCAUSE Catalyst Award for its innovations and initiatives centered on information technologies that provide groundbreaking solutions to major challenges in higher education. uPortal is the leading open source enterprise portal framework built by and for the higher education community. uPortal continues to evolve through contributions from its global community and is supported by resources, grants, donations, and memberships fees from academic institutions, commercial affiliates, and non-profit foundations. Membership information can be found at: www.ja-sig.org/membership and the uPortal software can be downloaded at: www.uportal.org/download.html.

"It is an honor for uPortal to be recognized and receive the EDUCAUSE Catalyst Award. This award is particularly meaningful because it reflects the robust health and size of our community, as well as the maturity of the uPortal platform," stated Jonathan Markow, Chairman of JA-SIG, the non-profit organization responsible for uPortal. "We are extremely appreciative to all of our active and participating member organizations, commercial affiliates, and contributors from around the world that have made uPortal the success it is today."

Excerpts from EDUCASE Catalyst Award Description for uPortal

"The uPortal project is arguably the most successful portal framework in higher education, with hundreds of active installations and over 650 commercial licenses sold."

"uPortal helped provide legitimacy to the approach before it became clear that portals represent the electronic equivalent of a 'one-stop shop' that has led to many service improvements across our institutions."

"The uPortal project is an exemplar of community source in higher education, demonstrating that by working together in a structured, managed way, using open standards, and designing for generic flexible use, we can create applications tailored to higher education and make them available at a cost that lowers barriers to even the smaller institutions. It has been an inspiration for many important projects that are now maturing, including Sakai, OSP, Kuali, and others."

Recipients of the EDUCAUSE Catalyst Award are selected by the EDUCAUSE Recognition Committee.

About EDUCAUSE -- EDUCAUSE is a nonprofit association whose mission is to advance higher education by promoting the intelligent use of information technology. The current membership comprises more than 2,100 colleges, universities, and educational organizations, including 200 corporations, with 16,500 active members. EDUCAUSE has offices in Boulder, Colorado, and Washington, D.C. Learn more about EDUCAUSE at www.educause.edu.

About uPortal -- uPortal is the leading open source enterprise portal framework built for and by the higher education community. uPortal is built on open standards-based technologies such as Java and XML, and enables easy, standards-based integration with authentication and security infrastructures, single sign-on secure access, and end user customization. It is one of the most widely deployed open source enterprise portal frameworks, having been adopted by hundreds of institutions and the eResearch community in over twenty countries.

About JA-SIG -- JA-SIG, Inc. is a non-profit (501(c)3), international consortium of educational institutions and commercial affiliates supporting open source software development and promoting open computing architectures for higher education. JA-SIG

has been in operation for over six years, holding bi-annual conferences and sponsoring community-driven, open source software applications like uPortal, the enterprise-grade portal solution; CAS, a flexible Central Authentication Service deployed for single sign-on; and HyperContent, lightweight but powerful web content management. For more information, visit the JA-SIG website at www.ja-sig.org.

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JA-SIG
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2. Stanford Goes into Production with Sakai

Dear Sakai community,

After a yearlong pilot, Sakai went into full production at Stanford on June 21, fully replacing our legacy homegrown system. We've taken a long, careful path toward deployment to assure a seamless transition to the new system. It is localized, integrated and well tested, and today we flipped the switch. This is a big achievement for us, fulfilling the commitment we made to ourselves, and to our collaborators at Indiana, Michigan and MIT three years ago when we started this project. We've had a lot of ideas, support and encouragement from the whole community along the way, and are delighted to be part of the Sakai community.

Please join me in congratulating the Stanford development team for a job well done, and in popping the [virtual] champagne cork.

Lois Brooks
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coursework
stanford university

Welcome to CourseWork v5!

Welcome
About
Help Resources
Request Site
Sites

CourseWork v5 is an integrated set of web-based tools for teaching, learning, and collaborating.

For more information about this latest version of CourseWork and tips on how to get the most out of this system for your teaching and learning needs, follow the links on the menu to the left.

Click the **Login button** (upper-right) to get started using CourseWork v5.

NOTE: Beginning **Summer 2007**, all new CourseWork sites will be created in the new CourseWork system. Click on the **Request Site** link on the menu to the left to request a CourseWork site for Summer 2007.

To access sites created on the **old CourseWork** system, go to http://coursework-archive.stanford.edu

| Academic Computing | Stanford University | Contact Us (HelpSU) | Help Resources |

Powered by Sakai

Copyright © 2003-2007 Stanford University
Coursework 5 - Summer 07 Release 1 - Sakai 2.3.x_J - Server "cw5app05"

This is a screenshot of the welcome page showing the arches and chapel in the Stanford Quad, and a "Powered by Sakai" label.

3. Quick Sakai Amsterdam Conference Survey

Hello, Sakai Amsterdam Attendee,

Here is your chance to give your own quick comments on the Sakai Amsterdam Conference. The survey is easy and simple. Please help us learn from your experiences. We will use these comments to help make the December Sakai Conference in Newport Beach, California, USA, better.

http://lessons.ummu.umich.edu/2k/conference_survey07/sakai_amsterdam_conference_survey

and a tiny url for those with wrapping-challenged mailers

http://tinyurl.com/yv988h

Tell me if you run into any problems. Thanks,

Joseph Hardin
hardin@umich.edu

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4. Susan Hardin Leaving as Sakai Foundation Web Master

Susan Hardin is resigning as the Sakai Foundation web master July 1. I would like you to join me in thanking Susan for her dedication and high quality work for the three years that she was our web master. Susan has worked tirelessly on the website and the web presence as well as many other tasks.

Anthony Whyte (arwhyte@sakaifoundation.org) will be the interim website coordinator going forward. Over the summer we will be redesigning the website and moving so that it is hosted inside of Sakai itself. This will be a way to "eat our own dog food" and help us better understand the use cases of our software as a portal for a small group.

Again, I would like to publicly thank Susan for her dedication and accomplishments as our web master for the entire life of the project to date, and wish her well going forward.

Charles Severance
csev@sakaifoundation.org

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5. Sign Up for Sakai Accessibility Reviews!

Yes, it's time again to review Sakai tools for accessibility. We made lots of progress in our last review thanks to the tremendous efforts and contribution of Mary Stores and her colleagues at Indiana University. A special thank you goes to them and to their supervisor, Margaret Londergan, who made their time available.

We have targeted twenty tools for testing, some that have changed from the last review, and some that are new to Sakai. Testing will take place during the month of July. Please

take a moment to sign-up at this address:
http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/uq4

The kick-off meeting is next Monday, July 2, via teleconference @ 10:30 AM EDT
gmt -4.   Dial-in: 812-856-7060. Conference Code: 348. PIN: 72524.

We need your support! All you need to get started is on Confluence: templates, protocols,
sample reports, etc. Your efforts will make Sakai a better product for everyone.

Thanks in advance, and talk to you next Monday!

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6. Michigan Releases 2007 CTools Survey Results

The CTools Team at the University of Michigan is pleased to announce the release of
selected results from the 2007 Information Technology and CTools Survey for the Ann
Arbor campus:

https://ctools.umich.edu/access/content/public/surveys/portal.html

These selected results include responses from the 1,481 instructors and 2,281 students
surveyed about their use, preferences, and attitudes about information technologies and
CTools (CTools is the Michigan instance of Sakai) for their courses and projects.

Overall, 98% of students and 83% of instructors find CTools valuable or very valuable
for teaching or taking a course.

New this year, the annual survey asked instructors and students about Open CourseWare
websites and the potential value of their various uses. Also, instructors were asked an
open-ended question about how their CTools use has changed their in-class time. The
2007 results include example quotes from qualitative survey questions.

Several CTools-related questions were expanded or slightly modified to reflect the
growing variety of uses of this technology for courses and projects. New questions

included rating the value of individual tools, rating the importance of making project-related materials available to the public, and rating the necessity for increased instructor and/or student training.

Past CTools-related surveys dating to 2005 may also be found on the website mentioned above. Other Sakai institutions interested in surveying their users are highly recommended to also review the Sakai Survey Question Bank:

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

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the CTools team:
ctools@umich.edu

The CTools Team Usability, Support, and Evaluation Lab Digital Media Commons University of Michigan

Steve Lonn
slonn@umich.edu

7. Collab (collab.sakaiproject.org) is Moving

The server hosting Collab (collab.sakaiproject.org), the Sakai instance which supports a variety of our community's activities, is moving. I'd like to thank Virginia Tech for hosting Collab over the last year. The server will be moving this coming Saturday, 30 June 2007, to the University of the Highlands and Islands, Scotland. The move will take place at 5:00am Eastern US Daylight time gmt -4, so you will likely find some of your favourite Collab sites and email lists unavailable for up to seven hours, or until noon Eastern US Daylight time gmt -4, during the transition.

Peter Knoop
knoop@umich.edu

8. This Week's Community Poll Question -- Which Contrib Tools are You Using?

This poll is open from 28 June to 13 July 2007, 12:00PM Eastern US Daylight Time, gmt -4.

Which of the following Contrib tools are you using in your Sakai implementation?

Agora
Evaluation System
Gallery
IMS Tool Interoperability (IMSTI)
ImageQuiz
Reset Password
JForum
Sakaibrary
SiteStats
Breeze Link
Config Viewer
Goal Management
OCW
Checklist
Clicker Registration
Melete
Mneme
SCORM Player
WebCT2Melete

To respond, please use the Polls tool in the "DG: Open Forum" site on Collab, http://collab.sakaiproject.org/ (Note: you need an account on Collab and have to be a member of this site to access the poll; if you need an account, go to Collab's home page and use the New Account tool to self-register for an account; if you are not a member of the site, then use the Membership tool in your MyWorkspace to join the site.) The URL for the DG: Open Forum site is:

 http://collab.sakaiproject.org/portal/site/2e66a685-bcee-40ac-80a1-6d02b 80456f0

Please vote!

The results of the previous poll, with 48 folks participating, were:

Which three areas of Sakai do think are the most important for your implementation?

25.0% Resources
19.4% Assessment Tools (e.g., Assignments, Samigo, Tests & Quizzes)
8.3% Grade Tools (e.g., Gradebook, Post'em)
7.6% Thread Discussion Tools (e.g., Discussion, Forums)
6.3% Portfolio Tools
5.6% Announcements
5.6% Wiki
3.5% Email Archive

3.5% Site Info/Worksite Setup
2.8% Calendar Tools (e.g., Schedule, Calendar Summary)
2.8% Sending Email (e.g., Mailtool, Messages)
2.1% My Workspace
2.1% Syllabus
1.4% Roster
1.4% Section Info
0.7% Blog
0.7% Chat
0.7% Drop Box
0.7% Podcasts
0.0% Linktool
0.0% News
0.0% Presentation
0.0% Search
0.0% Web Content

Peter Knoop
Sakai Project Coordinator
knoop@umich.edu

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9. The rSmart Group Announces the Availability of rSmart Sakai CLE 2.4 at the 7th Sakai Conference

This represents the newest version of the industry's first and only commercial distribution of the open source Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment (CLE). With it, the company is pleased to make its CLE distribution freely available under the terms of an OSI-approved open source license. Starting in July, the rSmart Sakai CLE may be downloaded in both source code and binary forms from the company's website.

The full announcement is located here: http://www.rsmart.com/news/the-rsmart-group-announces-the-rsmart-sakai-cle-2-4

Mike Zackrison
www.rsmart.com

10. Cerritos College and The rSmart Group Will Host Sakai Administrator Training

July 31 - August 2, 2007 at Cerritos College

If you are new to Sakai system administration, considering installing Sakai, or are using Sakai and would like to become more proficient administering it, then this training is for you! Participants will acquire the skills and knowledge needed to manage Sakai at their institution.

For more information and to register visit:
http://www.rsmart.com/products/cle/admintraining

Mike Zackrison
www.rsmart.com

11. Events

Sakai California Symposium -- "SakaiCAL"
Claremont McKenna College
Monday, 9 July 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
The Claremont Colleges and the University of California, Santa Barbara
http://web.cgu.edu/sakaisymposium/

1st International Conference ONLINE EDUCA MOSCOW 2007
September 30 - October 3, 2007
President Hotel
Moscow, Russia
http://www.online-educa-moscow.com/index_eng.php

Eportfolio 2007 Conference
October 17 - 19, 2007
Maastricht, The Netherlands
http://events.eife-l.org/ep2007/overview

Defining the Scientific Evolution of Technology Enhanced Learning: The Kaleidoscope 2007 Symposium
Hotel Intercontinental, Berlin
November 26 - 27, 2007
Berlin, Germany
http://www.noe-kaleidoscope.org/group/symposium/

Online Educa Berlin
Hotel Intercontinental, Berlin
November 28 - 30, 2007
Berlin, Germany
http://www.online-educa.com/