



Sakai Newsletter

July 12, 2007

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1. Kualif KFS Goes Live!

Strathmore University in Nairobi, Kenya went live as they started their new fiscal year. As you might imagine the implementation had some unique challenges, the greatest was with communications. Keiko and Dave Lyons got on the phone with the Strathmore group on a regular basis; however, the quality of the communications was anything but "regular". However, with great perseverance on part of the assembled implementation team from rSmart and the Kualif Community and Strathmore, the resulting system is installed. Probably the greatest plus to this process is the fact that the installed system is taking maximum advantage of the system design. This resulted in a smooth and effective installation and one that will serve them well.

Congratulations to those whose enormous efforts and contributions resulted in this first "real" success. This is a landmark for the Community Source path to an integrated enterprise solution for HE. There will be hundreds more schools following suit with the Kualif Financial System and, most probably, hundreds more installing Community Source Enterprise modules. You have successfully contributed to the first phase of a business model that will become the new model of choice in years to come. Hopefully this will become even more gratifying for all of us who believe so strongly in the commitment we are making to this model.

We're delighted to be able to share this good news with you,

Your partners at rSmart

Article in Campus Technology about Kualu going live:
<http://www.campustechnology.com/articles/48971/>

The announcement on the rSmart website:
<http://www.rsmart.com/news/strathmore-university-goes-live-with-the-first-implementation-of-the-kuali-financial-system>

2. MELETE 2.4 Released!

The ETUDES Project team at Foothill College is pleased to announce Melete 2.4! Melete 2.4 is a significant release that introduces integration of Melete with Sakai's content hosting. Other highlights of Melete 2.4 include sub-section support for up to 10 levels (per section), integration with 'import from site,' licensing of learning objects and content at the section level, re-use of site material, i18n internationalization support, and much more.

FOR FEATURES, ISSUES, OR TO DOWNLOAD MELETE 2.4

For a list of the new features, enhancements, and issues that were addressed in Melete 2.4 (207 issues), or to download the source, visit <http://etudesproject.org/release>
Melete 2.4 can be run with Sakai 2.4 or a patched Sakai 2.3.x. See readme files included in the release packages for installation or upgrade steps to Melete 2.4, or for Sakai 2.3.x patch instructions.

Please note that as Melete's content is now stored in content hosting instead of filesystem, upgrading to Melete 2.4 from Melete 2.3m2 requires serious migration of content. A migration program is included in the release and makes the process easy. Depending on how much content you have in MeleteDocs, the migration may take a while. With thousands of sites with Melete, our migration took about 3 hours.

KNOWN ISSUES, BUGS, & FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

For bugs and known issues (10 open issues), feature requests, and future development, go to http://etudesproject.org/melete_features.htm

CREDITS

Special recognition goes to Mallika Thoppay and Rashmi Maheshwari, ETUDES Project Senior Java developers, for their exceptional work in making this great release possible. Rashmi and Mallika had to refactor Melete completely for content hosting. Despite major interruptions in their work (both got pulled out to work on Jforum and Melete 2.3, and help with production issues, last fall for 3 months), with their deep commitment to Melete, we were able to meet our goals and timelines.

We are also most grateful to Diego del Blanco Orobítg, Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, España, for his significant contributions, internationalizing Melete 2.4! Diego literally touched all Melete Java pages.

Additionally, many thanks to Glenn Golden, University of Michigan, for his help and mentoring with content hosting, security, etc., and to Joshua Ryan, Arizona State University, for his contributions with FCK Editor and Melete's content hosting collection. This release would not be possible without the on-going iterative testing of Kathy Fransham and Vivie Sinou, Foothill College, since February, Kyong Kim's (sys admin) help in setting up the environments to test migration, and the QA testers who participated in the final QA of Melete 2.4: Kathleen O'Brien, Foothill College; Suzanne Floyd, West Los Angeles; Sarah Phinney, Porterville College; Norah Glover, College of the Siskiyous; Margie While, College of the Siskiyous; Riba Taylor, Mendocino College; Phil Simons, Porterville College; and, Vicente Sanchez, West Los Angeles College. Finally, we are grateful for the generous funding support for Melete development from the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation and the State Chancellor's Office for California Community Colleges.

QUESTIONS OR ISSUES?

Write to etudes-dev@foothill.edu or sakai-dev@collab.sakaiproject.org.

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ETUDES Consortium
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3. German International University Network oncampus Chooses HarvestRoad Hive and IBM for Sakai and Moodle

oncampus GmbH realizes e-learning courses for an International University Network comprising 25 German and Baltic Universities representing thousands of distant education program students from around the world.

After extensive evaluation, oncampus has chosen HarvestRoad Hive® and IBM systems as its future digital marketplace Learning Object Repository infrastructure solution. The capability is planned to go live in October 2007.

oncampus GmbH requires this capability to have direct connections to the open source Learning Management Systems Moodle and Sakai to manage, reassemble, reuse and deliver content for the university consortia – a capability at which HarvestRoad Hive excels due to its business partnerships with Moodle, RSmart Sakai and IBM -- and to respond to the needs of approximately 2000 Power Users and to manage over 150 different courses each with 300 Html pages and 15000 media items altogether.

"HarvestRoad Hive's flexibility and high performance will allow oncampus GmbH significant cost and productivity gains, the ability to rapidly expand their network reach to new markets globally and to meet the German government needs of extending higher education course material services to the small to medium enterprise market. The combined capability will enhance oncampus' status within Europe as an elearning 'mega content provider' and to more easily meet the international course interoperability requirements in Europe based on the Bologna Declaration," said Grame Barty, Managing Director HarvestRoad Limited.

"It is our first deployment into Germany and an outstanding example of the collaborative learning environment solution we have recently announced with IBM, Moodle and rSmart Sakai and we couldn't be more thrilled," Barty said.

Andreas Wittke
wittke@oncampus.de

4. Abilene Christian University's ePortfolio Site

Abilene Christian University, in Abilene Texas, has gone into production with their ePortfolio website:

<http://eportfolio.acu.edu>

For more information, contact:

Chris Faulkner
cgf00a@acu.edu

user id: password:

e portfolio

Welcome
About
Features
Sites
Training
Acknowledgements
Help

Message of the day

Welcome to OSPPortfolio at ACU.edu

This is the "sandbox" for the [Open Source Portfolio](#), on the ACU campus. At first, we're just going to have one worksite active -- and that's the "M.Ed" worksite. It'll have a matrix for structured placement of student artifacts, plus a portfolio template to build portfolios based on student's use of the matrix.

In order to explore this system, you need to request a user account -- contact XXX at ###.

Welcome!

Welcome to the Open Source Portfolio

Your studentry will benefit from OSPPortfolio because:

- it encourages them to look at their assignments and homework in the context of a larger learning experience
- they'll be able to easily convert their school work into a showcase portfolio for prospective employers
- the convenient file storage system allows them to re-use their work in many places
- there's nothing to install -- it works in any web browser
- they can conjure up their own uses for OSP/Sakai without any additional maintenance issues

5. Kaleidoscope 2007 Symposium -- Interface for Researchers, Industry Representatives and Policy Makers -- Agenda Now Online

Kaleidoscope has announced the program for its 2007 Symposium. Europe's leading research network in the field of technology-enhanced learning (TEL) will host the event from November 26 to 27 at the Hotel InterContinental in Berlin, Germany.

<http://www.noe-kaleidoscope.org>

The Kaleidoscope 2007 Symposium is the only international forum this year that brings together Europe's leading scientists in the field of technology-enhanced learning with a diverse set of stakeholders including policy makers, industry representatives, and end-users. At the two-day event participants will discuss the latest developments and future research priorities relating to the use of technology in learning. The symposium serves to demonstrate the impact, excellence, key synergies, and value of research in the field. The agenda is available online at <http://www.noe-kaleidoscope.org/group/symposium/program/>.

World-renowned experts Prof. Roger Säljö, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, and Francesc Pedró, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), France, will open the event with keynote presentations.

On the first day, Kaleidoscope researchers will present, exhibit, and demonstrate the tangible outcomes of the unique activities undertaken over the last four years. Sessions will cover areas such as mobile, inquiry, and collaborative learning, as well as the use of design patterns and trails in learning. A focus will be set on a range of crucial issues and potential solutions, from new needs arising in work-place learning to the challenges concerning setting scientific quality criteria for TEL research. The first day will be concluded by Sten Ludvigsen, Scientific Manager of the Kaleidoscope Network, presenting a keynote entitled "Learning across Sites: Crossing Boundaries with Digital Resources".

Prof. Frank Fischer, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, Germany, Dr. Vanda Luengo, Université Joseph Fourier, Grenoble, France, and Prof. Diana Laurillard, London Knowledge Lab, London, UK, kick off the symposium's second day. Their keynotes will tackle current issues relating to research in the technology-enhanced learning field and provide the framework for a range of discussion sessions with researchers and stakeholder representatives. These highly interactive discussions will focus on the relevance of research activities to the needs of stakeholders, ways to improve communication of research priorities and suggestions for enhancing the impact of research..

In an adjoining exhibition area, the multidisciplinary research teams will showcase their activities through hands-on demonstrations and poster displays, as well as make available copies of reports, best practices, resource guides and other research outcomes.

A limited number of places at the symposium are still available, and individuals interested in attending can apply online at <http://www.noe-kaleidoscope.org/group/symposium>.

About Kaleidoscope

Kaleidoscope is the European research network shaping the scientific evolution of technology-enhanced learning. It integrates the leading research teams in the field, who work collaboratively across educational, computer and social sciences to transform the quality and reach of the learning experience. Kaleidoscope fosters innovation and creativity through the development of new technologies, methodologies and concepts, defining the challenges and solutions for interdisciplinary research.

Kaleidoscope's goal is to inform knowledge transfer between education, industry, and the wider society. Through its scientific program, Kaleidoscope is helping to build a dynamic knowledge-based economy for Europe, engaging with social, economic and political stakeholders at all levels. Kaleidoscope is supported by the European Community under the Information Society Technologies priority of the 6th Framework Programme.

Kaleidoscope PR

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6. Amsterdam Conference Videos Online

It took a week extra but the videos of the 7th Sakai Conference in Amsterdam are online. They are available at the following website:

<http://mediasite.uva.nl/mediasite/catalog/>

under the Sakai button.

Unfortunately non-MS Windows users might experience some problems. The mediasite application is optimized for Microsoft file formats. The video file format is *.wmv

Individual links to presentations listed according to the conference agenda are available on the blogpost on the blog of the Dutch Sakai Community:

<http://sakai-nl.blogspot.com/>

Frank Benneker
University of Amsterdam
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7. Job Openings at Columbia University

Columbia University is currently interviewing for two new positions on its Teaching & Learning Technologies team. These junior and senior developer positions are fully described at the following links:

<http://jobs.columbia.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=105969>

<http://jobs.columbia.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=105970>

Candidates must submit a resume through the supplied link(s) for serious consideration, but preliminary inquiries and questions are welcome and should be addressed to Maria Mosca, Director of Teaching & Learning Technologies, at meb36@columbia.edu.

Seth Theriault
slt@columbia.edu

8. Events

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/>

8th Sakai Conference

Newport Beach Marriott

December 4-7, 2007

Newport Beach, California, USA

e-Learning 2008

February 16-19, 2008

St. Petersburg, Florida, USA

<http://www.itcnetwork.org/elearning2008.htm>

Portal 2008 "Measurement & Assessment" Conference
Gettysburg College
June 3-6, 2008
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA
<https://biz.gettysburg.edu/it/portal08/index.cfm>