



Sakai Newsletter

July 26, 2007

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1. New Executive Director Begins Tenure

On Monday, July 23rd, Michael Korcuska became the Executive Director of the Sakai Foundation. (For the original announcement, see the June 14, 2007 Sakai Newsletter, available on sakaiproject.org.) Michael intends to provide brief updates in the newsletter on a regular basis. Here is his first submission:

After a long (by United States standards) vacation in France, I'm now officially onboard at the Sakai Foundation and eager to get to work. As those of you who attended or viewed the Sakai Foundation update at the Amsterdam conference may remember, the first order of business for me is listening and learning. I'm going to do that by talking to as many people as I can. The



institutional representatives of Sakai Foundation member organizations can expect contact from me or Mary Miles to set up some time. But Sakai is, of course, not defined by Foundation membership and, so, if you'd like to organize a meeting with me in the next 60 days, please send me or Mary an email. The end result of all of this talking will be to develop, in conjunction with the Board, a strategic plan for the foundation, a set of short term goals and a budget. I've already started on these conversations, in fact. During my last week of vacation, I took some time to visit the Pierre and Marie Curie Institute in Paris who are piloting Sakai this coming term. Philippe Alves and Jean-François Lévêque gave me a tour of the Jardin des Plantes, introduced me to their colleague Christian Cousquer, and we discussed the challenges on their campus and their hopes for Sakai. I also took a quick side trip to Cambridge (via the Chunnel) to meet with the team there. As you know, they have been doing a great deal of excellent work on Sakai and it was fantastic to see their work environment and understand what besides Sakai is happening there.

In order to be as available as possible, I won't be traveling extensively over the next few months, but I will be in Michigan, Washington D.C. (IMS meeting) and Seattle (Educause). In addition to visiting schools close to my home in Berkeley, California, I'll also be planning a trip or two to visit a few Sakai campuses, probably in the New York and Boston areas. Please let me or Mary know if you'd like to schedule some time with me while I'm in your neighborhood.

Other than that, I will be getting my arms around the administrative aspects of the job, getting to know the existing Foundations staff a bit better, helping with the Newport Beach conference, and starting to look at those items (e.g., the UX lead, the Fellows program, etc.) that have been awaiting the arrival of the new Executive Director.

Finally, I can be reached at mkorcuska@sakaifoundation.org, on my cell at +1-510-599-2586 or as mkorcuska on Skype. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

2. New Sakai Releases: University of Dayton, Oregon Health and Science University and Universidad Nacional de Colombia

Pilot: University of Dayton

- <http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/jira/browse/PROD-137>
- <http://isidore.udayton.edu>
- Contact: Matt Mize Matt.Mize@notes.udayton.edu

Production: Oregon Health and Science University

- <http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/jira/browse/PROD-136>
- <http://sakai.ohsu.edu/osp-portal>
- An implementation of rSmart CLE
- Contact: David W. Robinson, Ph.D. robinsda@ohsu.edu

Production: Universidad Nacional de Colombia

- "Sofía Aprendizaje Virtual"

- <http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/jira/browse/PROD-138>

- <http://www.sofia.unal.edu.co:8080/portal>

- Sofía es un ambiente de trabajo virtual diseñado para promover la enseñanza y el aprendizaje, así como también la colaboración entre los miembros de la comunidad de la Facultad de Medicina. Es un proyecto desarrollado al interior del Grupo de Investigación Bioingenium, con el apoyo de la Decanatura de la Facultad.

- Contact: Miguel Triana edwintriana@gmail.com



3. 2.1.X-ers: Last Call?

Hey, 2.1.x-ers:

I recently received an email from Peter Knoop asking if he could start archiving "2.1-related stuff."

According to

<http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/SCP/Sakai+Releases>

"The Sakai Foundation will support a maintenance branch and a series of maintenance releases for each feature release for one year from the date of the initial release. If there is continuing community interest in maintaining older releases, the interested parties can do

so by either taking on the task themselves or hiring one of our commercial partners (or others) to keep the release maintained for as long as there is interest."

Based on that document, as well as the upgrade plans of my clients, my plan had been to work with the community to support the 2.1.x branch until about June or July of this year.

This timeline also seemed to be a pretty good fit with what the known 2.1.x community had listed as its upgrade dates on our 2.1.x homepage:

<http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/REL/Sakai+2.1.x+Maintenance+Branch>

With less than a week left in July, unless there is someone who would like to volunteer to support 2.1.x, is it fair to say that the 2.1 line has reached end-of-life?

Thanks,

Brian Jorgensen
brian@moosetrout.com

4. Seen the Sakai Registry Lately?

Recent articles include John Blakley of Unicon, Lois Brooks of Stanford, and Mara Hancock of UC Berkeley. Nearly 60 applications are now profiled on the registry. More coming! It's a great way to see what's available and its current tool status. Cruise on over to <http://www.sakairegistry.com>.

Mark Norton
markjnorton@earthlink.net

5. Want to Know What It's Like Inside rSmart?

Read these rSmart employee profiles that were recently published on Matt Asay's CNET blog:

Read about Jonny Brown, Sr. Information Architect: http://blogs.cnet.com/8301-13505_1-9740199-16.html?tag=head

Read about Janice Smith, Educational Consultant: http://blogs.cnet.com/8301-13505_1-9745708-16.html?part=rss&tag=feed&subj=TheOpenRoad

Mike Zackrison
mike.zackrison@rsmart.com

6. M2 Release for Melete 2.4 -- Now Available

A maintenance release of Melete 2.4 (m2) is available for Sakai 2.4 or a patched version of Sakai 2.3.x.

The m2 release mainly fixes a bug in the migrate program (from MeleteDocs to ContentHosting) that has to do with <embed> tags in sections that were composed using the editors. Embedded media files did not get migrated nor translated, AND code for such files is missing in earlier Melete 2.4 releases in IMS import / export and 'import from site.'

However, the impact is probably minimal. With over 22,000 Melete modules in our production and over 4,500 sites that use Melete, only 5 course sites had Flash embedded media that we needed to re-upload, individually. Please do let us know if this impacts you greatly.

If you have already run the migrate program, you can check to see if any of your sections contain <embed> tags with references to embedded media residing within the meleteDocs filesystem that got left behind. Go to your meleteDocs filesystem. At the prompt, type:

```
find . -name Section.html|xargs grep '<embed'
```

If you have deployed Melete 2.4, you want to upgrade to m2 at some point so that embedded media does get exported and imported as instructors transfer content from site to site.

Download Melete 2.4 m2 from: <http://etudesproject.org/release>

Issues addressed in this maintenance release include:

- ME-473 - Missing embed tag processing in import and migrate code
- ME-476 - Remove numbering from student view - change to bullets
- ME-475 - Bug report on viewSectionsPage
- ME-474 - Bug report on viewNextStepsPage
- ME-472 - npe in view section page

If you have any questions, please contact etudes-dev@foothill.edu or sakai-dev@collab.sakaiproject.org.

Vivie Sinou
Dean, Learning Technology ETUDES Consortium Foothill College
SinouVivie@foothill.edu

7. Reminder: rSmart Sakai CLE 2.4 is Now Available as a Free Download

The download includes an easy installer and pre-configured options to help you and your colleagues start experiencing Sakai quickly. Here's the link:

<http://www.rsmart.com/products/cle/downloadregistration/>

8. New Community Poll Question

Here is the Community Poll Question for this week's Sakai Newsletter. The question is open from now until 10 August 2007, 12:00AM Eastern US Time.

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

Please note that the "community poll" has moved to the Announcements site on Collab, from the DG: Open Forum site. To respond to this question, please use the Polls tool in the "Announcements" site on Collab. (Note: This is the same site to which the Newsletter is published, so if you are receiving the Sakai Newsletter you should already have access to the site. Otherwise, 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 Announcements site is:

<https://collab.sakaiproject.org/portal/site/sakai-educ>

Please vote!

Peter Knoop
Sakai Project Coordinator
knoop@umich.edu

9. Fluid Project is Hiring a Project Coordinator in Toronto!

Hi everyone,

The Fluid Project team at the University of Toronto's Adaptive Technology Resource Centre is hiring a project coordinator. This position involves working with the community to lead the planning, communications, and strategy efforts of the project.

The posting is available at:

<http://tinyurl.com/3xn8ae>

If you know anyone who might be interested in this position, please feel free to forward it along. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Colin Clark
colin.clark@utoronto.ca

10. 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

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>