Sakai: an online Collaboration and Learning Environment

I just read a good article about Sakai, an online collaboration and learning environment developed for universities.

From the website:

> *Sakai is an online Collaboration and Learning Environment. Many users of Sakai deploy it to support teaching and learning, ad hoc group collaboration, support for portfolios and research collaboration.*

> *Sakai is a free and open source product that is built and maintained by the Sakai community. Sakai's development model is called "Community Source" because many of the developers creating Sakai are drawn from the "community" of organizations that have adopted and are using Sakai.*

I used Oncourse, based on Sakai, as a graduate student at Indiana University - Bloomington. We had to use Oncourse to upload our projects for our courses. Several professors also inputed our grades with the Gradebook feature and we could check our progress throughout the semester. As an Associate Instructor for an undergraduate Database Information Systems course, I updated my students' grades and downloaded their assignments weekly with Oncourse. It was easy to use and maintain and my professor and I had no complaints about it.

Since it is free and open source, many universities here in Vietnam could deploy Sakai easily and inexpensively. With a help of some active Vietnamese Linux users, Sakai could be translated into Vietnamese. I highly recommend Sakai over Blackboard (propriety), WebCT (propriety), or Moodle (open source).

Read up about Sakai at the Free Software Magazine website http://www.freesoftwaremagazine.com/articles/create_your_online_project_site_with_sakai.

Sakai Project Website: http://sakaiproject.org/

Cross-posted from: http://www.saigonblogs.com/?p=23

This entry was posted on Monday, August 6th, 2007 at 5:58 pm and is filed under IT in Vietnam, Saigon Linux, Vietnam.

About Kevin Miller, Jr.

One fine April 16th day back in the year of our lord, opps, I meant in the Year of the Rat/Mouse (Nezumi, yeah part of the name of this website!!!), I was born in Mountain View, California, USA. Lucky me, eh, for good things spawned out of Mountain View, besides myself that is, such as Google.

(My sister and I when we were very, very little)

Unfortunately for me, I did not get to see the rise of Google. Instead, my father brought the family (made up of my sister and I, see above right picture) to this small southwestern Washington town called Centralia.

(My high school Senior picture)

After spending nearly 17 years of my life Centralia, I graduated in 1990, from Centralia High School (Home of the Tigers). In retrospect, I now know I owe much of my success from living my life in Centralia. Despite the complaints I hear about Centralia High School, the academic program gave me the tools I would later need to succeed in college. First, though, I needed to spend my time in the military.

(Private Miller, USMCR)

I remember the day I decided to join the US Marine Reserves very well. I signed my 8 year contract a couple of days before Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. Yeah, what luck but at the time, I did not care. I needed this thing called the GI Bill that would help pay for my college. After spending one year in training with the Marines, I headed to Seattle in 1991 and eventually would earn two bachelor degrees from the University of Washington.   Yep, I was an overachiever!

(My Kazakh students in Karatau, Kazakhstan)

After completing my degrees, I decided to join the U.S. Peace Corps. I was selected to serve as a Secondary School English Teacher in Karatau (which means Black Mountain in Kazakh), a small Kazakh town in southern Kazakhstan (About a 10 hour train ride from the Peace Corps Office in Almaty). I served two years in Kazakhstan.

(Kyrgyz High School Exchange Program Participants)

After the Peace Corps, I was given a 4-month contract to serve as a Program Recruiter for the Freedom Support Act's "Secondary School Exchange Program" with the American Councils for International Education (ACTR/ACCELS). I was sent to the Kyrgyz Republic to conduct the exams and interviews. It was an interesting job and I got to see most of Kyrgyzstan and parts of Uzbekistan. As part of the training, I got to visit Moscow, Russia, for one week.

(My Russian Class)

After my stint in Kyrgyzstan, I returned to Seattle and in the following summer enrolled in an intensive Russian course. I am not sure why I did this since I already knew Russian and I never studied for my classes. My Russian Instructor and her TAs were really great.

(My Indiana University IT Project Group)

Then in the summer of 2000, I started work on my Master's of Public Affairs at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University - Bloomington. During my three years at IU, I was lucky enough to make several trips to Turkey (Alanya, Antalya, Istanbul, and Manavgat) and my mother's hometown in Sasebo, Japan. While in Istanbul in 2002, I spent one month volunteering with the Education Volunteers Foundation of Turkey (TEGV). I really enjoyed my time with the kids at TEGV.

(My Turkish students from the TEGV Charshamba Education Park)

After three years, I earned my degree and eventually moved back to Seattle for a year before making my move to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Vietnam.

In Vietnam, I originally volunteered with an organization helping Amerasians (I still run the Amerasian Foundation online). Once in Vietnam, I decided to take a teaching position with SEAMEO RETRAC where I spent a year teaching English and overseas preparation courses. After a year I served as an IT Director for the American Pacific University International School

but left after four months to rest and relax (Roger Williams University is APU's partner university). I spent a year with the Center for International Education as the American History and Sociology Instructor and with the Saigon Institute of Technology where I still work as an Instructor.

(I am being harrassed by my Web Development Students at APU)

After living in Vietnam for roughly two years, I was offered a consultant position with Indochina Capital, one of the leading investment firms in Vietnam. Briefly I served as the Creative Services Manager with Indochina Capital but a month later I returned to my consultant position. I am currently now spending time forming my own little company, the VietKaz Group focusing on import/export with my former students in Kazakhstan. I hope to run this business out of my house in 2008. I will also work with some Linux geeks here in Saigon to form an IT company, the Saigon Linux Group. Wish me luck (^_^).
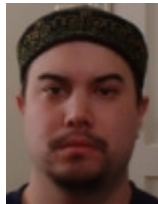

(Lounging around in a Saigon karaoke club)

More Fun Pictures of Me

(He survived, dull blade)

(All pictures of me!)

(Hello from Vietnam!)

Quan-Am (Kannon in Japanese) is Compassionate Loving-Kindness