



Sakai Newsletter

August 9, 2007

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1. From Sakai's Executive Director, Michael Korcuska

Greetings! As you probably know, the Sakai Conference this year will be in Newport Beach from December 4th - 7th. It's going to be a great conference in a fantastic location and I am looking forward to meeting more members of the Sakai Community in person.

As you may have seen if you follow the collaboration lists, Joseph Hardin and I will be serving as co-chairs for the conference and we are currently soliciting suggestions for keynote speakers, so please send your ideas along to me. We are also looking for volunteers to participate on the program committee. Program committee members help with the important work of reading session proposals and determining how they sessions are organized. Let Mary Miles know if you are interested in helping (mmiles@sakaifoundation.org).

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank Brigid Cassidy who served as Program Chair for the last two Sakai Conferences. Brigid spearheaded the introduction of track leads into the conference programming process. Because of the effectiveness of this track lead

structure, we have been able to streamline the work and are planning the Newport Beach conference without a formal Program Chair. Thanks, Brigid!

Michael Korcuska
Executive Director Sakai Foundation
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2. Update on the Blackboard Patent Reexamination

To read about recent important developments, go to the following sites:

<http://coppola.rsmart.com/>
<http://mfeldstein.com/first-35-claims-of-blackboards-patent-ruled-invalid/>
<http://www.desire2learn.com/patentinfo/>

3. OSP Documentation Available Now – “ePortfolios and the CLE Portfolio Tools”

With fall fast approaching, many of you may be considering various ePortfolio initiatives. A fantastic resource has been made available to you to aid in these activities. In early 2007, rSmart worked with four universities to create and contribute to the Sakai community a much-needed document on the basics of designing and developing ePortfolios by using the Sakai CLE portfolio tools. This document, "ePortfolios and the CLE Portfolio Tools," is now available to all and can be accessed at the top of the page here: <http://rsn.rsmart.com/>

If you download the documentation and find it valuable please take a moment to read the Acknowledgments and see how Charles Sturt University, Kapi'olani Community College, Rider University, and the Rhode Island Network for Educational Technologies made this contribution possible. The document was actually produced by Jonny Brown, Janice Smith, and Hannah Reeves.

This is yet another example of how building a vibrant commercial ecosystem around Sakai can benefit the entire community.

Thanks,

Mike Zackrison
mike.zackrison@rsmart.com

4. Log Event Description Page Now Available in Confluence

This log event description page lists the event code from the Sakai Event Table, the associated tool, a description, and whether the event is captured by SiteStats.

<http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/67c>

Log events are triggered by individual user and/or system actions. For example, when a user accesses/downloads a resource, a content.read event is triggered and records date/time, user information, and pertinent system information. This Confluence page is designed to help the community remain aware of what events are logged within Sakai, what these events mean, and keep data analysis efforts current with the latest version of the Sakai software.

Many, many thanks to Nuno Fernandes for helping with this project. All Sakai community members are encouraged to update this page if the events/descriptions for your tool are incorrect or need updating.

Steve Lonn
slonn@umich.edu

5. Change Announcement: IP Address of IU Video Bridge

On Monday, August 13, 2007, the IP address of the IU Video Bridge will change from 129.79.6.44 to 156.56.240.9. This change will only affect participants (particularly non-IU participants) that call the IP address of the IU Video Bridge Auto Attendant to connect to meetings. Participants who connect to Video Bridge meetings through the IU Polycom Global Address Book are not affected by this change. Similarly, telephone participants are not affected.

If you are a meeting organizer who includes the IP address of the IU Video Bridge in your meeting invitations, please notify your attendees of this change.

For more assistance, please contact the Video Help Desk: 812-856-2020, or video@indiana.edu.

Steven Egyhazi
segyhazi@indiana.edu

6. Unicon Announces 26 New Customers/uPortal Cooperative Support Program

Unicon, Inc. has announced that twenty-six universities and colleges have joined its uPortal Cooperative Support Program in the first six months of the program. The uPortal Cooperative Support Program provides member institutions with many benefits including a predictable cost support solution by maintaining a dedicated team of expert development and technical support specialists for uPortal for direct technical support and assistance. Under the program, features and fixes done for individual institutions are contributed back and shared with the uPortal community.

A partial list of member institutions includes: Brooklyn College - CUNY, Roanoke College, Shenandoah University, University of Southern California, and University of Tulsa. A full list of colleges and universities in the program can be found at: <http://www.unicon.net/node/733>

"The Cooperative Support from Unicon provides an innovative solution to our portal project development. We are excited to work closely with this friendly team and eager to take advantage of the support solutions this program will provide," said Maliwal Sauntry, Web Administrator, Shenandoah University

"The success of our new cooperative support program is based on our close understanding of our customers' requirements and providing them with a program and services that offers real value," stated John C. Blakley, CEO of Unicon, Inc. "When it comes to uPortal, Unicon is unmatched in its technical knowledge, successful track record, and significant contributions to the uPortal software platform and community."

About Unicon's uPortal Cooperative Support Program

Participation in the program requires an annual subscription fee that enables institutions to access the support services and also funds a dedicated support and development team. Support issues are managed on a priority basis with an escalation mechanism available for high priority issues. All development work performed by the team will be undertaken in direct participation uPortal open source Web portal initiative. The uPortal Cooperative Support Program is a strong complement to Unicon's professional services for uPortal which include various bundled services comprised of implementation, project planning, installation, configuration, branding, and training components.

Unicon's uPortal Cooperative Support Program Provides Institutions with:

- An experienced, reliable vendor accountable for their uPortal deployment.
- Help with uPortal production issues.
- Direct and timely assistance with reported software defects.
- Answers and advice to general product questions.
- Ongoing software maintenance for past, present and future releases of uPortal.

- The ability to influence code development priorities for future uPortal releases.
- Visibility into the support team's activities.

Joe Waldygo, joe@topspinpr.com

7. Unicon Turn Key Pilot Program for Sakai Provides Educational Institutions with Enterprise Class Evaluation Environment

Unicon, Inc. has announced its new Sakai Pilot Program designed as a first step for educational institutions wishing to implement or convert to the Sakai Community Source Collaboration and Learning Environment for Education. The pilot program provides a fast and affordable hosted environment for colleges and universities to develop, run, and evaluate a fully-functional Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment for its faculty, administrators, and students. The Pilot Sakai program costs \$4995 for 6 months of hosting for up to 500 users and includes all Sakai Core and Provisional tools. As part of the program, Unicon will install, configure and connect the MySQL database with the Sakai implementation, provide Webinar training for staff, and apply a basic brand for the institution's look and feel. Additional levels of support, service, and customization are also available.

More program details can be found at: <http://www.unicon.net/sakai/pilot>

As educational institutions face increasing costs of proprietary software licenses and maintenance fees, Unicon provides an increasingly attractive alternative with open-source and hosted solutions for cost-conscious, resource-constrained organizations for their online campuses and communities.

“Our new Turn Key Pilot Program for Sakai provides an excellent, enterprise-class evaluation platform for universities and colleges serious about migrating to Sakai, and wanting to fully explore its features, capabilities, and performance,” stated John C. Blakley, CEO of Unicon, Inc.

Pilot Sakai Program – Features & Benefits

- Fully Functional: Educators, administrators, and up to 500 students can experience the full functionality of Sakai's Collaboration and Learning Environment.
- Fast Deployment: ASP model enables pilot classroom launch in a matter of days.
- Low Cost: Zero hardware and software costs.
- Low Risk: Very little time, resources, or budget needed to run complete pilot project.
- Accurate, Real-World Testing: Enables educators and administrators to evaluate solution capability and plan for scaled deployment to more classrooms, departments, and campus wide.

Joe Waldygo, joe@topspinpr.com

8. Job Openings: Software Support Analyst and Two System Administrator Positions at the University of Missouri

The Division of IT and Educational Technologies at Missouri (ET@MO) at the University of Missouri are currently seeking applicants for a Blackboard/Sakai software support analyst position. This position provides assistance for the technical operations, support and development of online learning and e-portfolio systems Blackboard and Sakai/OSP on the Columbia campus. This position will also act as a liaison in communicating with different departments, vendors, support communities, and other appropriate parties. For a complete list of responsibilities, required and preferred qualifications, see <https://web.missouri.edu/~employment/vacdetails.php?vac=1008048>

To apply for this position, please visit <https://web.missouri.edu/~employment/index.php>

The University of Missouri - Columbia also has two full-time system administrator positions available for our Learning Management Systems (Blackboard and Sakai). This position will install, configure, and maintain multiple servers in support of institutional course management systems including Blackboard and Sakai running in a Red Hat Linux/Oracle environment. Please see the official posting below for more details.

<https://web.missouri.edu/~employment/vacdetails.php?vac=1007721>

To apply for this position, please visit <https://web.missouri.edu/~employment/index.php>

David Reid
ReidDa@missouri.edu

9. 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>