



## Sakai Newsletter

September 6, 2007

1. Université Pierre et Marie Curie Switches to Sakai
2. Gert Sibande College Installs 2.4
3. 8<sup>th</sup> Sakai Conference in Newport Beach -- Updates
4. University of Michigan's CTools Hits the 100,000 Unique Users Mark!
5. Strength Through Diversity: Longsight's Small College Clients Contribute
6. Two Announcements from rSmart -- Training and Best Practices
7. Registration is Still Open for the 5th International ePortfolio Conference
8. Unicon Announces Upgraded Sakai Test Drive
9. Events

---

### 1. Université Pierre et Marie Curie Switches to Sakai

The Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France has the pleasure to announce the start of Sakai as the official e-learning platform of the university this year. Previously the university was using WebCT. After a one-year test project, the decision was made to switch to Sakai, which is in line with the use of the French version of UPortal (ESUP) for the university's portal. Our contribution to the community this year will be to contribute to the translation into French, which has been started by our colleagues from Quebec. We hope that this will help in convincing other French universities to switch for Sakai.

Yves Epelboin  
yves.epelboin@upmc.fr  
Information Technology Department  
Université Pierre et Marie Curie  
<http://australe.cpm.jussieu.fr/portal>

Welcome **Message of the day**

[About](#)  
[Features](#)  
[Sites](#)  
[Training](#)  
[Acknowledgements](#)  
[Help](#)

Australe est en production pour les enseignants qui en font la demande. Elle ne sera ouverte aux étudiants que le 17 septembre.

**Attention, des redémarrages sont encore possibles.**

**Welcome!**

**Bienvenue sur Australe**

Australe est la plate forme d'enseignement de l'université Pierre et Marie Curie. Elle utilise la technologie Sakai.

Sakai est un outil Open Source dont vous trouverez les informations détaillées sur le site [sakaiprojet.org](http://sakaiprojet.org).

Australe comprend des sites pédagogiques publics et des sites pédagogiques privés. Ces derniers sont réservés aux étudiants qui y ont été inscrits à la demande de leurs enseignants ou par ceux-ci. En aucun cas l'accès à un site privé ne peut être accordé par le personnel du Centre de Production Multimédia.

| projet Sakai | Université Pierre et Marie Curie | Centre de Production Multimédia |

Powered by Sakai

Copyright 2003-2006 The Sakai Foundation. All rights reserved. Portions of Sakai are copyrighted by other parties as described in the Acknowledgments screen.  
Sakai@UPMC - 2.4.x - Sakai 2.4.x - Server sakai-prod1

### *Sakai at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie*

## 2. Gert Sibande College Installs 2.4

Gert Sibande College, (Mpumalanga), South Africa is pleased to inform all Sakaigers that the source version of Sakai 2.4 has been downloaded and installed. We are currently working on the customisation of the worksite setup and tools for utilisation in eGSC and creating subject pages for our college. The Blended Tuition Unit Team members are working in close collaboration with the Universities of Unisa and the North West University of Potchefstroom Campus to which we are very grateful for their kind assistance! Check out the following website: <http://www.gscollege.co.za/>

Shereen Dindar  
[shereendindar@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shereendindar@yahoo.co.uk)

---

### 3. 8th Sakai Conference in Newport Beach, California

Go to <https://sakai.educonference.com/> for details on each of the following:

- Call for Proposals Now Open -- Submission deadline is September 15, 2007.
- Registration opens September 4, 2007 -- Cost: \$395 per person (fee waived for Sakai member organizations)
- Hotel Information -- Discount rate is now available.
- Information about the conference tracks, pre-conference sessions, and more.

---

### 4. University of Michigan's CTools Hits the 100,000 Unique Users Mark!

In the early hours of September 4, 2007, the University of Michigan's Sakai implementation, CTools, logged its 100,000th unique user since the first pilot in Fall, 2002.

---

### 5. Strength Through Diversity: Longsight's Small College Clients Contribute

Longsight has been around for 29 years, but exclusively focused on open source apps in higher ed for the last eight years. Clearly there's magic in community source projects because our revenues have grown by no less than 60% per year for six consecutive years. Longsight's focus is on providing customized hosting, support, training and development for Sakai and open source portal projects. We have more than 90 clients throughout the US including several consortia whose uses of Sakai have brought their members to new levels of collaboration.

Most of our clients are consumers of Sakai. They don't aspire to develop new tools; they teach and collaborate using Sakai. Many rely exclusively on Sakai as "the" campus learning and collaboration framework. In other words, they need Sakai to meet all their needs. These institutions provide a fertile ground for incubating new pedagogical methods, but they are also a great place for QA assessments.

Most recently, John, a professor of English at small college of no more than 590 students, began to use Modules in his Sakai courses. What a great tool (thanks, Vivie and friends!). Now one might not conjure up the image of a small college English prof as the

exemplar of a QA analyst, but determination, motivation, patience and perseverance were all part of John's make-up. John detected that students were unable to access resources in a module if that module was in a site that had been duplicated. The instructor can access the resources, but not the students. He proceeded to document meticulously the problem (now this is beginning to sound more like a humanities faculty member, eh?). Over the course of a week (mind you... this is at the start of classes this fall!), John was able to document and replicate the problem. Longsight support staff have posted the issue and are looking at solutions as well.

The morale of the story is that the Sakai community is strong from its diversity – university developers, commercial providers, and even English professors who help us all create a better product. Kudos all around!

Scott Siddall  
Managing Partner, The Longsight Group  
siddall@longsight.com

---

## 6. Two Announcements from rSmart

### rSmart Sakai Training Workshops

rSmart recently launched a series of Sakai training workshops that cover diverse topics from deployment planning and system administration to advanced functional user training. Our courses cover aspects related to using Sakai for managing courses and groups as well as ePortfolios.

For more information please visit:  
<http://www.rsmart.com/products/cle/training>

### Best Practices in Sakai Migration Initiative

rSmart is launching an initiative to gather and document Best Practices surrounding community migrations to Sakai. To this end, we are interested in talking with anyone who has migrated course content from a legacy commercial system into the Sakai 2.3 or 2.4 releases.

The objective behind this initiative is to supplement material that is already in the community by gathering specific examples of what's been done, sharing this information with members of the Sakai community in an organized way, and ultimately driving adoption by facilitating knowledge transfer in this area.

We hope to make this Best Practices documentation a powerful community based resource for:

- Analyzing current challenges and existing capabilities
- Networking with people and organizations involved in Sakai implementations
- Exploring alternative approaches to content migration
- Facilitating technical and functional cooperation within the community
- Sharing information on tactical and policy related issues faced by campuses of all sizes and demographics

If you are interested in sharing your migration story with the community, please contact Hannah Reeves at: [hreeves@rsmart.com](mailto:hreeves@rsmart.com)

Thanks,

Mike Zackrison  
VP of Marketing and Strategy  
The rSmart Group, Inc.  
[mike.zackrison@rsmart.com](mailto:mike.zackrison@rsmart.com)  
<http://www.rsmart.com>

---

## 7. Registration is Still Open for the 5th International ePortfolio Conference, 17-19 October in Maastricht, the Netherlands

This year's conference theme is "Employability and Lifelong Learning in the Knowledge Society." The conference is organised in two main tracks: an academic track with peer-reviewed research papers, and a practitioner track with peer-reviewed short papers, case studies and work in progress. The objective of the conference is to explore how the ePortfolio can contribute to finding the solution to the challenges we are facing today and will be facing tomorrow, in building an inclusive and sustainable knowledge economy and society. We shall explore the ability of the ePortfolio to capture the most advanced work in the field of technology and research, and get the best out of emerging social and business practices in order to promote employability and lifelong learning.

ePortfolio 2007 is the key international event for the growing community of professionals interested in, and working with, ePortfolios. It brings together policy makers, researchers, teachers, trainers, human resource managers and technologists.

Next week the program will be published for the ePortfolio 2007 conference.

There is also a plugfest on the 17th of October for engineers and technology specialists. Maybe somebody can show the OSP/Sakai portfolio system.

Have a look at the website. It is still possible to register for this conference.

<http://events.eife-l.org/ep2007/programme>

In addition to this conference, there are also other meetings. You can see them here:

<http://events.eife-l.org/HCSIT2007>

For more information, contact:

Marij Veugelers

[M.H.C.H.Veugelers@uva.nl](mailto:M.H.C.H.Veugelers@uva.nl)

Universiteit van Amsterdam/SURF NL Portfolio, member program cie ePortfolio 2007

---

## 8. Unicon Announces Upgraded Sakai Test Drive

Unicon has announced an updated test drive program for the Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment. This Unicon-hosted site allows colleges and universities to evaluate Sakai 2.4.x, the latest version of the community source software. The free, 90-day program will provide educational instructors and IT personnel at colleges, universities, and K-12 with a fast, easy way to evaluate Sakai without incurring the cost of software licensing fees, development time and resources, or hardware purchases. Since Unicon first started the test drive program at the beginning of 2006, over seven thousand users have registered at the site. To test drive Sakai for Free, visit: <http://www.testdrivesakai.com>.

"Industry interest in Sakai has grown substantially over the past year as academic institutions must make serious decisions for their long term plans and options for a learning management system," said John C. Blakley, CEO of Unicon, Inc. "Unicon created the Sakai Test Drive to help support the Sakai community by giving educators an easy way to evaluate Sakai before engaging in a pilot program or full implementation."

Highlights of the Sakai Test Drive -- This special test configuration on the latest Sakai Version 2.4.x gives users a full 90-day period to experience a broad range of Sakai's features and power, including:

- Using the extensive Sakai toolset
- Online tutorials to help get started
- Learning best practices by viewing populated courses and project worksites

Joe Waldygo

[joe@topspincommunications.com](mailto:joe@topspincommunications.com)

---

## 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](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

<http://www.sakaiproject.org>

### 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>