



Sakai Newsletter

November 1, 2007

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1. From the Executive Director

Not all open source projects are open with their communications. In my first ninety days on the job I've found Sakai to be incredibly open. Even though we could certainly do better at times, the vast proportion of Sakai's business is conducted publicly on the collaboration lists or at least summarized there relatively rapidly. On that note, I'm working through the process of developing a 2008 budget and priorities for the Sakai Foundation. While I've had a number of individual conversations that have informed my current thinking, it's time for an open discussion on the lists. In the next few days I'll be creating a wiki page with some ideas about Sakai's direction and priorities I'd like to get your input on. I'll be presenting the result in Newport Beach as part of the Sakai Foundation Update presentation. As you know, the Sakai community is much larger than the Foundation, so this isn't about what the community as a whole will be working on over the next year. It's simply a statement of what types of activities the Foundation intends to spend its resources and influence on. Those priorities should be reflective of the community direction, though, so I encourage you to contribute.

Michael Korcuska
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2. 8th Sakai Conference at Newport Beach -- Reminder!

We are rapidly approaching the Newport Beach Conference and we need your help! If you have not registered for the conference, please do so. Go to the Sakai home page (www.sakaiproject.org) and click on the 8th Sakai Conference link on the right side. Follow the link to register for the conference.

You will also need to register for the hotel separately, but you can do so from the conference page as well. Remember that the cut-off for the group rate of \$159/night is Monday, November 19.

Looking forward to seeing many of you there. Please let me know if you have any difficulties, or if I can be of assistance.

Mary Miles
mmiles@umich.edu

3. Charles Sturt University to Host QA server

Colleagues, I'm pleased to announce that Charles Sturt University will be creating a permanent community QA server running Solaris / Oracle. This is especially exciting as this will be the first server to join the network from Australia. The community can expect the server to be available early in the new year.

Welcome QA1-AU!

Megan May
mmmay@indiana.edu

4. OSS Oracle Users Group Usage Survey Sponsored by MySQL

A new OSS usage survey sponsored by MySQL, produced by Unisphere Research and conducted among members of the Independent Oracle Users Group (IOUG) is available online. The survey is based on 226 respondents, 11% of which represent higher education. Many of the findings are what one might expect to see these days but it is interesting to read about the inroads OSS is making within Oracle Data Centers.

http://www.ioug.org/IOUG_Open_Source_07.pdf

Anthony Whyte
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5. rSmart Sakai Webinar

Let's face it – no one knows teaching and learning better than you do. It is at the heart of what you do. That's why Sakai is the right learning management system for higher education. Built by higher education for higher education.

Today, Sakai is evolving at a faster rate than any other LMS. Come join Chris Coppola, Sakai Foundation board member and President of The rSmart Group to learn about today's robust functionality and the service and support models that make it the right choice for your faculty, your students and your institution.

Save the Date: November 6, 2007 Time: 2 p.m. EST

To Register:

<https://www.yugma.com/scheduler/enroll.php?meetid=UmZYKeJwD0yku+HRg7Lbdw==>

Thanks,

Hannah Reeves
hreeves@rsmart.com

6. Elluminate and Unicon to Integrate Elluminate Live! with Sakai

Elluminate, Inc. and Unicon, Inc. have announced a strategic technology alliance to integrate Elluminate Live! with the Sakai CLE. As part of the development partnership, Elluminate and Unicon will develop and contribute the new technology to the open source community. The companies are actively seeking additional sponsors and contributors for this project to participate in the development, testing, and implementation, and to help accelerate the delivery of this important application to the community. The Elluminate/Sakai integration is targeted for completion and general availability to the public in spring 2008.

The Elluminate Live! interface will enable academic institutions using Sakai to easily and seamlessly integrate live, synchronous distance learning and collaboration into their coursework. This latest integration includes new functionality that allows instructors to:

1. Add synchronous content to distance learning
2. Create Elluminate Live! sessions for live classroom delivery
3. Include recordings of live classroom sessions for students who miss class or wish to review

4. Create recorded tutorials and assign as part of course requirements
5. Create virtual rooms students can use to work together without an instructor
6. Invite remote guest speakers to attend or even moderate sessions
7. Create virtual offices and share with all courses

"At Elluminate, we respect our customers' choices, including those who have chosen Sakai and open source," said Maurice Heiblum, President of Elluminate, Inc. "We are happy to work with Unicon to provide access to a real-time instruction delivery solution that easily duplicates any learning activity, from lectures and presentations to small group discussions and debates."

"Higher ed institutions gain the greatest flexibility and receive the highest value by utilizing both commercial and open source applications, and integrating them together," said John C. Blakley, CEO of Unicon, Inc. "This integration between Elluminate and Sakai is a great example for this and represents the best of both worlds."

About Elluminate, Inc. -- Elluminate, Inc. provides proven, best-in-class solutions for real-time online learning and collaboration that deliver exceptional outcomes, including enhanced learning experiences, increased retention and completion rates, and higher ROI. Elluminate Live! features high-quality voice over the Internet, robust interactive functionality, and unique No User Left Behind™ technology that supports multiple platforms and low-bandwidth connectivity. Elluminate has served more than 200 million web-collaboration minutes to over 3 million teachers and students located in 184 different countries. For more information, visit <http://www.elluminate.com>.

Joe Waldygo
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7. Job Opening: Director of User Support in University of Indiana Information Technology Services

Indiana University is in search of a new Director of User Support in University Information Technology Services. This position is responsible for user support on the Bloomington and Indianapolis campuses, has a customer base of ~115,000, and a staff of close to 400. It's a challenging position, and we're looking for just the right person to move IU IT support further and create the next level of best practices. We are turning to our friends and colleagues around the state and around the nation to help identify potential candidates. The job posting and application instructions are found at: http://www.indiana.edu/~uitshr/services/jobs/Dir_Support_18038.html.

8. Recent Sakai Email Group Discussions

Here are some topics that have been discussed in the last couple of weeks in Sakai email groups. To join an email group, go to <http://www.collab.sakaiproject.org>. While you are in your workspace, click the "Membership" link in the left-hand menu and then click the "Joinable Sites" link. Click "Join" next to any of the groups. Some items below can be accessed using the Gmane URL provided. You can also use Google.

2007 Requirements Report (Draft)

Email group: Requirements Working Group

<http://news.gmane.org/gmane.comp.cms.sakai.req/cutoff=262>

Dojo

Email group: Development Discussion Group

<http://news.gmane.org/gmane.comp.cms.sakai.devel/cutoff=18012>

Accessibility survey

Email group: Accessibility Working Group

Another way to tackle WebCT CE4 Content Modules

Email group: Sakai Migration Working Group

Eclipse 3.3 on OSX?

Email groups: Development Discussion Group, Open Forum Discussion Group

Ideas for Sakai U-Camp & Programmer's Cafe

Email groups: Development Discussion Group, User Interaction Discussion Group

<http://news.gmane.org/gmane.comp.cms.sakai.devel/cutoff=17668>

Ideas for uCamp sprint

Email groups: Development Discussion Group, User Interaction Discussion Group

<http://news.gmane.org/gmane.comp.cms.sakai.devel/cutoff=17820>

Integrations and strategy

Email groups: Strategy and Advocacy Working Group

OSP in Australia/ NZ?

Email groups: Development Discussion Group

<http://news.gmane.org/gmane.comp.cms.sakai.devel/cutoff=18008>

Redesigned Home/landing page

Email groups: Development Discussion Group, User Interaction Discussion Group

TinyMCE or FCKeditor
Email group: Accessibility Working Group

UNE Migration Utility
Email group: Sakai Migration Working Group

9. Events

AuSakai 07
November 5 - 6, 2007
The Australian National University, Canberra
<http://ausakai.anu.edu.au>

JA-SIG Winter 2007 Unconference
November 12 - 13, 2007 (November 14 -16 - optional post-conference)
New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA
<http://opensource.meetup.com/74/calendar/>
<http://www.ja-sig.org/wiki/display/JCON/Winter+2007+UnConference+Participants>

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
<https://sakai.educonference.com/conference/index.php>

e-Learning 2008
February 16-19, 2008
St. Petersburg, Florida, USA
<http://www.itcnetwork.org/elearning2008.htm>

eLearning Africa 2008

May 28 - 30, 2008

Accra International Conference Centre

Accra, Ghana

<http://www.elearning-africa.com>

Portal 2008 "Measurement & Assessment" Conference

Gettysburg College

June 3-6, 2008

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA

<https://biz.gettysburg.edu/it/portal08/index.cfm>