Sakai Newsletter

November 15, 2007

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1. From the Executive Director

In the last newsletter I mentioned I'd be creating a place on our wiki to discuss the 2008 goals and priorities of the Sakai Foundation and Project. That page has been created and I'm inviting comments and contributions. I'm also in the process of adding some brief thought pieces that were written by members of the Sakai Foundation Board of Directors. Only three are there as I write this, but I hope to have more available soon. I encourage you to take a look and add your own comments or even your own page (which will get automatically linked from my page if you add a "sfgoals2008" label to it). You can find my page at:

http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/BQBV

I'll be synthesizing everyone's thoughts and making this part of my Sakai Foundation Update presentation at the Newport Beach Conference. Which reminds me, we already have more than 300 registrants for the conference. If you haven't registered yet, please do so now. See you in Newport Beach!

Michael Korcuska
mkorcuska@gmail.com

2. Critical Issues in 2.5 -- Your Assistance is Needed

Hi everyone,

One of the goals for the 2.5 release is to resolve not only the JIRAs flagged as blockers but to also knock out the critical items. I believe trying to resolve all filed items in JIRA to be a bit ambitious so it is my hope that we can at least target and resolve the blockers and critical specifically reported against a 2.5 tag. (If the community were to prove me wrong on the ambitious point, I would surely welcome that!)

I've been in contact with many of the project leads and most of the issues are on track to be resolved before Dec 13th. That said, that are some issues that teams do no have resources to resolve or could use assistance in resolving. I am requesting assistance from the community in resolving these issues. I believe it's an accurate statement to say that advancing the quality of the software is on the minds of many in the community. We're not going to be able to do this without rolling our sleeves up and working together. If you have the expertise needed to resolve one of these issues, I implore you to assist.

The issues at hand here are:

http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/jira/browse/SAK-10487   Roster & Profile / Profile and Roster permissions checks for institutional photos are not aligned

http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/jira/browse/SAK-11798   Forums / evaluate Forums Performance from a "site with a large number of groups" perspective

http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/jira/browse/SAK-12056   Gradebook / Inadequate UI hints leading to users entering incorrect scores when percentage grading is enabled

http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/jira/browse/SAK-12125   Chat / Ugly lines scrolling Chat iframes in Firefox

http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/jira/browse/SAK-11875   Chat & Courier / Chat messages aren't always delivered (developer actively working on this but could use assistance)

Please contact me if this is something you could help with,

Megan
mmmay@indiana.edu

3. Sakai Newport Conference Updates

Marriott Discount Rate --
Remember that the Sakai discounted rate at the Newport Beach Marriott ends on Monday, November 19. If you have not made your reservation yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. As always, if you have any difficulty, please let me know.

Conference Draft Schedule --
The draft schedule will be up on the conference homepage soon so that you can see what sessions are offered. https://sakai.educonference.com/conference/index.php

Conference Templates --
You can find the Sakai conference templates here:

PowerPoint:
http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/download/attachments/15500/Newport_PowerPoint_Template_Office2003.pot?version=1

Keynote:
http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/download/attachments/15500/Newport_Sakai_Template_Keynote.zip

Mary Miles
mmiles@umich.edu

4. 2007 Sakai Board Elections: Polls Are Open

The Sakai Board and the Elections Work Group are pleased to announce that the polls are open for the election for three vacant positions on the Sakai Foundation Board of Directors. The online voting site is now available to voting members (one representative from each member organization), and will remain so through Friday, November 23. Results of this election will be announced in early December and new Board members will take their positions at the Sakai Conference. The Sakai Foundation is dedicated to the design and development of collaborative, open source code, software efforts that are targeted at supporting education, research and related scholarly activities. The Board of Directors provides leadership for the Sakai Foundation by serving the interests of the entire Sakai community, promoting the objectives of the Sakai Foundation, representing and coordinating Foundation projects, ensuring that project management is consistent with the Foundation's mission, and that the Foundation operates within its fiscal resources. Board members serve staggered, three-year terms. A bio and platform statement for each candidate can be found at https://sakai.educonference.com/elections/.

Carl Jacobson, Elections Work Group Chair

5. rSmart Soliciting Feedback on New CMS Comparative Matrix

The rSmart Group has recently created and contributed a document that can help new users transition to Sakai from other CMS/LMSes. Because each system has its own names for various tools and functions, new Sakai users may not immediately understand that, for example, the Sakai Announcements tool does roughly the same thing as the Desire2Learn News tool they've used in the past. To ease the transition, The rSmart Group has created Similar Tools in Various CMSes and LMSes (http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/download/attachments/5315/Similar+Tools+in+Various+CMSes+and+LMSes.xls?version=1), a table that identifies comparable tools in Sakai, Blackboard Academic Suite, Blackboard Vista, Web CT Campus Edition (up to 4.2), Desire2Learn, Angel Learning with ePortfolio 2.0, and Moodle.

rSmart developed this table based on available marketing materials and user documentation. If you have experience with any of the other LMS/CMSes, please help the community improve the table: Edit entries as needed to correct tool names, add or delete tools if appropriate, etc. This is one of the many cases in which the wisdom of crowds is bound to be better than the wisdom of a few!

Jonny Brown

jonny.brown@rsmart.com
Sr. Information Architect
The rSmart Group

6. Update List of Sakai Properties for 2.5

Tony Atkins has completed a review of the configuration properties for Sakai 2.5, and is looking for feedback. The full data can be found here:

http://tinyurl.com/ypkfm6

Anyone with updates, questions or comments is encouraged to send mail to tony.atkins@uhi.ac.uk.

Thanks.

7. Recent Email Group Discussions

Here are some topics that have been discussed in the last couple of
weeks in Sakai email groups. Most of these discussions can be found at these Nabble
URLs:

- Sakai-dev - http://www.nabble.com/Sakai---Development-f18040.html
- Sakai Portfolio - http://www.nabble.com/Sakai---Portfolio-f18155.html
- Sakai Pedagogy - http://www.nabble.com/Sakai---Pedagogy-f24248.html
- Sakai UI - http://www.nabble.com/Sakai---User-Interaction-f25634.html
- Sakai Migration - http://www.nabble.com/Sakai-Migration-Group-f27621.html
- Sakai Announcements - http://www.nabble.com/Sakai---Announce-f28489.html

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.

Discussions:
- 2008 Sakai Foundation Goals   Discussion Groups -- Sakai-dev,
advocacy@collab.sakaiproject.org, sakai-user@collab.sakaiproject.org
- 2-5 assignments conversion script   Group -- Sakai-dev
- Alfresco progress   Group -- Sakai-dev
- alt-s   Group -- accessibility@collab.sakaiproject.org
- Branch Management for 2.5.x -- Group -- sakai-qa@collab.sakaiproject.org, Sakai-dev
- Group Aware Tools   Group -- Sakai-dev
- import 2.1.x site into 2.4.x?   Group -- Sakai-dev
- Method to add content through Content hosting WS?   Group -- Sakai-dev
- Mneme - Change & Deletion Policy   Group -- sakai-user@collab.sakaiproject.org
- Need some statistics about Sakai   Group -- sakai-user@collab.sakaiproject.org
- OSP Audience Tool   Group -- Sakai Portfolio
- OSP template development - looking for getting started advice   Group -- Portfolio
- Possible fix for 2.4.x Calendar/Schedule performance problems (was Re:
Calendar/Schedule performance in 2.4.x)   Groups -- Sakai-dev,
production@collab.sakaiproject.org
- Product Prototyping Tools   Groups -- Sakai UI, Sakai-dev
- rSmart Assignments + GMT enhancements   Group -- Sakai Portfolio
- SAK-8315 : Proposed Sakai configuration change   Group -- Sakai-dev
- Sakai pre-trunk checkouts broken?   Group -- Sakai-dev
- Timeout Alert tool   Groups -- Sakai-dev
- upgrading OSP 1.5 to 2.4   Groups -- Sakai Portfolio
- Which version of Content Packaging does Melete support?   Group -- Sakai-dev
- WYSIWYG Editor for RWiki   Group -- Sakai-dev

8. Events

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