



Sakai Newsletter

February 7, 2008

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1. From the Executive Director

I'm extremely pleased to announce, after an extensive selection process, that Nathan Pearson has been selected as the lead for the Sakai UX improvement project. Nathan is an experienced UX designer with previous Course Management System and Sakai experience. He has previously worked with both rSmart and Unicon. You can find out more about Nathan's background at the UX Improvement Initiative wiki page at <http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/PwAo>.

Please join me in congratulating Nathan and welcoming him to the community. If you are interested in contributing to this project with design or development resources or by

making a financial contribution, please feel free to contact me directly at mkorcuska@sakaifoundation.org.

Michael Korcuska
mkorcuska@sakaifoundation.org

2. Google, Microsoft, and Indiana University to Explore Integration with Sakai for Student Email

IU will partner with Google and Microsoft to expand student and alumni email options. This innovative deal will offer IU students and graduates more choices in email service and provide enhanced suites of collaborative software.

The partnership allows IU students and alumni to access these popular commercial services while still maintaining their traditional IU email addresses. Students who use these services now will be able to continue receiving mail at their IU email addresses (e.g.: jdoe@iupui.edu or jdoe@iusb.edu) long into the future.

"With this decision UITS begins a new model of delivering IT services, in which the best offerings in the marketplace are blended into a suite of complementary services -- open-sourced, in-sourced and proprietary -- in order to offer the breadth and depth that meet the needs of IU students," said Laurie G. Antolovic', IU deputy CIO and finance officer.

IU faculty and students served on a team that evaluated these products over the summer.

"The companies were very cooperative and presented impressive products," sophomore Brian Davis, an IU Student Association representative on the project, said. "Throughout the process, both partners provided information to help show how their products would fit well with IU student needs."

In addition to email, both services provide a diverse set of features including calendaring, instant messaging, document and spreadsheet applications, and more. They also provide large storage allocations for email and documents.

"The initial feature set is rich, and the future integration potential is quite promising," noted Dennis Cromwell, IU associate vice president for enterprise infrastructure. "Students will continue to create and manage their accounts using IU's Account Management Service, and we will look to integrate email and other services within the OneStart portal and Oncourse (Sakai) course management system," Cromwell said.

Additionally IU will continue to uphold current policies relating to student privacy. In accessing or granting access to an account, Google, Microsoft and Indiana University

personnel will comply with all applicable laws and policies. Information outlining when a user's stored data may be accessed, who may access it, and what permissions are necessary before that access takes place are available in Indiana University's Information Technology Privacy Policy.

Tom Martz, president and CEO of the Indiana University Alumni Association, praised the new services.

"Our alumni want to stay connected with their alma mater and their university friends," he said. "A lifetime IU identity supports a lifetime of engagement between the university and its alumni," said Martz.

The rollout of the services will begin this semester.

For answers to frequently asked questions about the IU email partnership, follow this link: <http://newsinfo.iu.edu/news/page/normal/7444.html>

Lance Speelmon
lance@indiana.edu

3. Paris in July: The 9th Sakai Conference

The Sakai Foundation is pleased to announce that the July 2008 Sakai Community Conference will be held in Paris, France at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie.

** Conference Details **

The main conference dates will be Tuesday-Thursday, July 1-3, with pre-conference sessions on Monday, June 30. All meetings and conference sessions will be held at Université Pierre et Marie Curie. The Technical Demonstrations on Wednesday evening will take place at the Marriott hotel nearby. For general information, please contact Mary Miles.

Main Conference:
July 1 - 3, 2008

Pre-conference workshops:
June 30, 2008
- Introduction to Sakai
- Introduction to OSP
- Pedagogy
- U-Camp
- Programmer's Cafe

**** Looking for Members for the Program Committee ****

The next Sakai Conference will be held July 1-3, 2008 in Paris. If you would like to participate as a member of the Program Committee, please drop me a note and I'll happily add you to the list! We hold weekly conference calls that generally last an hour or less. You will also be asked to review and vote on proposals that are submitted for consideration for the conference. Your input is important and we would welcome your participation.

Thanks in advance!

Mary Miles
mmiles@umich.edu

**** The Call for Papers and Proposals for the Paris Conference is Open ****

Go to: <http://testsakai.educonference.com/paris/proposals/index.php>

and follow the instructions on the screen.

4. Registration for the JA-SIG Spring Conference in St. Paul is Now Open

This year, CAS, DSpace, Fedora, Fluid, Kuali, Internet2, Sakai, and uPortal are planning a joint program.

Conference events run Sunday, April 27 through Wednesday, April 30.

Supplementary seminars are scheduled before and after the conference.

A BarCamp and a UCamp are scheduled on Wednesday afternoon. (See site descriptions for these unique events.)

Visit the main conference site at:
<http://www.ja-sig.org/conferences/08spring/index.html>

Early registration discounts end March 23, 2008. Register now at:
<http://www.ja-sig.org/conferences/08spring/registration.html>

We invite you to submit a presentation proposal. The Call for Proposals final deadline is Friday, February 22, 2008. Submit your proposal at:
<http://www.ja-sig.org/conferences/08spring/index.html>

Developers, designers, content providers, administrators, faculty, planners, strategists, decision makers... If you'd like to find out more about community source, learn from the experts, and collaborate with your peers... Come to "Higher Education Solutions: The Community Source Way!"

See you in St. Paul this April!

2008 JA-SIG Spring Program Committee:

Aaron Godert, Cornell University, JA-SIG Board and Conference Co-Chair

Jonathan Markow, JA-SIG Executive Director, Conference Co-Chair

Susan Bramhall, Yale University, uPortal Liaison

Daniel Davis, Chief Architect, Fedora Commons

John Ferreira, Cornell University, Web Master

Jim Helwig, University of Wisconsin, Madison, JA-SIG Board

Valerie Hollister, DSpace Liaison

Susan Inouye, University of Hawaii, Member

Michele Kimpton, DSpace Executive Director

Michael Korcuska, Sakai Executive Director

Phil McKown, Indiana University, Quali Liaison

Matt Smith, University of Connecticut, CAS Liaison

Ann West, Internet2 Liaison

Paul Zablosky, University of British Columbia, Fluid Liaison

Jennifer Cummings, CONCENTRA Management Services

Debbie Smith, CONCENTRA Management Services

5. Portfolio4u Has Launched a New Skin Design

Portfolio4u has launched a new skin design that fits better with the needs of users in the Netherlands. Portfolio4u uses large icons to navigate, clear and fresh colours, and changeable photos and school logos. From Portfolio4u, "We hope the new design makes Sakai nicer to work with." The base for the new design can be found at the University of New York, where the new design was started.

If you want to see how it looks, check out the OSportfolio website:

<http://osportfolio.org/practice/new-design-portfolio4u>

Jan van den Berge
jan@portfolio4u.nl

6. EU Funded Projects

Hello Everyone,

I would like to know whether anyone is interested in proposing or participating in EU funded projects with a Sakai component.

I am currently working as a consultant to a small business school in Slovenia. They would like to join the Sakai community and they view this as a suitable way to accelerate these efforts. Looking at the map, we would be the first in our region. In fact, we're kind of small, so Slovenia is not even labeled on the Sakai map ... :)

Some ideas:

- There are EU funded programs for transfer of knowledge or best practices between EU universities. We could set up such a project to help universities new to Sakai. Our activities could include a translation of Sakai that would be returned to the community.
- We are interested in joining others intending to propose EU funded projects, and could do research, development, testing, pilots etc.
- Is anyone planning a Sakai based FP7 project that we could join?

I am new to Sakai, but I have attended the Newport conference and met some of you. On the positive side, we are committed to Sakai and have J2EE programming experience.

I would much appreciate some feedback, including information about who to contact directly, or maybe other Sakai mailing lists I should post on.

Cheers,

Milan Palian
milan.palian@prosoft-consulting.si

7. Sakai QA Network Bug Reporting Live and More

Hi QA'ers and developers,

There now resides at http://qa1-nl.sakaiproject.org/codereview/bug_dashboard/ the live reporting of bugs generated as part of the QA cycle. The mail is checked every 5 minutes and if a bug has been sent then a new report is generated.

This is an alpha service and will live or die depending on its value and feedback from the community.

The site has the advantage of giving the community insight into which bugs are activated during functional testing and more, but that is another story...

On clicking on a bug the details are expanded out.

On clicking on the parsed stack trace, the relevant source code is viewable and also the static code review of the given class.

The one current mismatch is that the code reviews and htmlized source code is generated from trunk once a day instead of the beta branch. Generating from branch saves me personally a lot of time, which I don't have at present (even on paper).

The use of an automatic static code review live against triggered bugs is a powerful and unexplored technique. Yes as far as I know and please correct, my feelings won't be hurt, but Sakai is the first.

At first it may appear that there is a lot of noise in the reports, but a number of bad practices can easily be targeted and eliminated for the potentially unstable classes.

The generic example I was thinking of yet again are swallowed exceptions. When an exception is caught in the wrong place the debugging becomes harder. This is because the code that is causing the trouble may be somewhere very different from where the bug is reported or another exception is generated. This is a bit like a bath overflowing and getting water in a living room down the street. A plumber would be working in the wrong house and sending the bill to the wrong person.

One possibility for improvement is that if a bug is reported then a Jira for all swallowed exceptions in the `org.sakaiproject` classes in the stack trace are reported for removal, the generation of the Jira report can be made automatic. Further, the community can use this methodology for other relevant patterns. A point well worth discussing and then enacting.

Please note, Tom kuipers is responsible for the excellent use of jquery for the sortable tables in the report.

A second report is viewable at: http://qa1nl.sakaiproject.org/codereview/junit/2.5_beta_2/

This report explains how much of the Sakai code base is covered by Junit testing triggered by surefire reports as part of the maven build process. A fellow developer at the University of Amsterdam, Gigamesh Nootboos, intends to take the Junit coverage report further and automate coverage reports for qa1-nl. The community will then regularly

know how much of the code base is covered by functional testing. We intend the report to be generated incrementally once a day.

Please, check the sites out and comment. I am looking for active partners to sharpen the requirements and hope for a sincere debate.

Alan M Berg
A.M.Berg@uva.nl

8. Recently Added Contrib Projects

Learning Log -- A derivation of the Blog tool aimed at pedagogies where reflective learning takes center stage. Being worked on by Adrian Fish (Lancaster University). For more information:

<http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/LLOG>

Email Template Service -- A service providing localizable and internationalizable email templates for Sakai Applications. Under development by David Horwitz (University of Cape Town), Aaron Zeckoski (University of Cambridge), Steven Githens (University of Cambridge), and Tony Atkins (University of Highlands and Islands). For more information:

<http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/ETS>

9. rSmart Webinars for February

The rSmart Group will be conducting some important webinars in the month of February. All are encouraged to register!

**** Featured Webinar 1: Marist College's Sakai Journey: A Story of Innovation**

A large research institution uses Sakai with 19 resources. Marist College uses Sakai with 2 resources.

Join Josh Baron, Director of Academic Technology at Marist College, to learn about Marist College's use of rSmart Sakai CLE. Josh will talk about how this support is enabling them to free up their limited resources to focus on teaching and learning innovation. He will share the drivers that led Marist College to evaluate CMS options, the decision-making process and criteria, the transition planning process, and the results they have seen thus far.

February 12, 2008 1:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time TO REGISTER:
<https://rsmart.ilinc.com/register/tpkyvp>

**** Featured Webinar 2: Why Sakai is the right CMS for Higher Education**

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 course management system for higher education. Built by higher education for higher education.

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

February 26, 2008 1:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time TO REGISTER:
<https://rsmart.ilinc.com/register/frwtwb>

**** Rhode Island Sakai Conference**

SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS IMPORTANT EVENT!

The Rhode Island Network for Educational Technology (RINET), in association with The rSmart Group and the Sakai Foundation, will be hosting the first annual Rhode Island Sakai Conference April 8-9, 2008 in Rhode Island (exact location TBD).

Who should attend: Pre-conference Workshop (April 8, 2008): Anyone interested in creating and participating in a national work group to inform and support the development of Sakai as a Collaborative Learning Environment for K-12. Rhode Island Sakai Conference (April 9, 2008): Anyone interested in learning about enhancing teaching and learning with the Open Source Sakai Collaborative Learning Environment to support Rhode Island's Proficiency Based Graduation System, High School Course Credit Retrieval, Virtual Courses, Professional Development and more.

At this conference, attendees can also expect to:

- See RI students and teachers demonstrate how they use Sakai to manage coursework.
- See RI students and teachers demonstrate how they provide evidence of proficiency to Rhode Island's Proficiency Based Graduation requirements.
- Learn how Sakai tools including calendar, chat rooms, resources, discussion forums, glossaries, wikis, assignment and portfolio tools, drop boxes and more and can be used to provide a distance learning environment, credit recovery classes, and professional development.
- Learn about new tools that will soon be available in Sakai to support classroom instruction.

More details are to follow, along with information on how to register for this event. In the meantime, make sure to SAVE THE DATE on your calendars. If you are interested in learning more, or would like to receive information regarding registration, please email: events@ri.net.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Megan Perrone
mperrone@rsmart.com

9. 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> (DEV)
- Sakai Portfolio - <http://www.nabble.com/Sakai---Portfolio-f18155.html> (PORT)
- Sakai Pedagogy - <http://www.nabble.com/Sakai---Pedagogy-f24248.html> (PED)
- Sakai UI - <http://www.nabble.com/Sakai---User-Interaction-f25634.html> (UI)
- Sakai Migration - <http://www.nabble.com/Sakai-Migration-Group-f27621.html> (MIG)
- Sakai Announcements - <http://www.nabble.com/Sakai---Announce-f28489.html> (ANN)

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:

- 2.5 Testing QA
- Admin users with no access to the Administration Workspace? Sakai 2.4.1 USER
- Assignments and Sakai 2.4 DEV
- Bug report summary from 2- 5- x in production QA
- Calculating discrimination for MCQ questions PED
- Campus Technology Article by Joe Shedd PORT
- can't create course worksite unless you're an 'instructor'? USER
- can't open email archive in sakai- user on collab cutting down on subscriptions? USER
- Clustering Sakai DEV
- Copyright in Sakai DEV USER
- direct link to a joinable site? DEV
- Group release & item analysis features in T&Q DEV
- How should Help be displayed? USER
- Logout notification in Sakai DEV
- Maven Build Errors DEV

- Maven transitive dependencies DEV
- Melete 2.4.5 and Sakai 2.5.x/maven2 DEV
- MessageService: Integrating JMS with Sakai DEV
- Migration from WebCT 4.1: Calculated Questions MIG
- Portal Http Unit Testing DEV
- Portfolio Admin Worksite Roles PORT
- rwiki and URL rendering in the 2.4.x branch DEV
- (SAK- 9678) Adopt consistent terminology for delete / remove UX
- Sakai and Object Repositories - Links and More Info? DEV
- Sakai QA network bug reporting live and more DEV
- Sakai2.4.x_D2 Q1 is ready on sakai- c QA
- Selectable Matrix/Wizard form links PORT
- Teaching a course in a Public Manner - www.si182.com PED
- tomcat 6 support DEV
- trying to create a new course (2.5.x): Exception calling doSite_type DEV
- Ubuntu Colab DEV
- Ubuntu Tomcat5.5 DEV

10. Events

e-Learning 2008

February 16-19, 2008

St. Petersburg, Florida, USA

<http://www.itcnetwork.org/elearning2008.htm>

Sakai China

March 1, 2008

HuaZhong Normal University

Wuhan, China.

JA-SIG Spring 2008 Conference

April 27 - 30, 2008

St. Paul, Minnesota

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>

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