

# Sakai Newsletter

March 6, 2008

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#### 1. From the Executive Director

Greetings. I recently left China where the first official Sakai Day in China conference was held at HuaZhong Normal University in Wuhan. There were over 100 attendees present and the event was a great success. Our hosts, the Engineering & Research Center For Information Technology On Education, a Ministry of Education funded research lab at HuaZhong, did an excellent job organizing the conference and attracting attendees from around China. Other than my opening presentation and a presentation from William Wan at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, all of the proceedings were in Chinese. These include a "Sakai Best Practices" presentation from Melissa Zhou of Claremont McKenna College and a "Sakai Technical Architecture" presentation from Xingtang Wu of Indiana University.

There is a great deal of potential for Sakai in China as most of the universities we met with have their own homegrown course management systems built in Java. I'll be working with a variety of universities there to try to develop a "Sakai China" that will

help them work together. I'll be blogging about the rest of the trip (we visited four universities in Beijing) over the next week or so. You can follow my blog, as usual, at www.planetsakai.org.

Michael Korcuska mkorcuska@sakaifoundation.org

## 2. Paris Sakai Conference Updates

Proposal reminder: The ending date for the call for proposals is March 31, 2008.

Conference co-chair named: Yves Epelboin of the Pierre & Marie Curie University will be the conference co-chair along with Michael Korcuska.

Mary Miles Sakai Foundation Administrative Coordinator mmiles@umich.edu

#### 3. Ja Sakai Conference 2008

The first gathering of the Japanese Sakai community will be held on March 26, 2008 at Hosei University in Tokyo. To find out more about this conference, please go to:

http://www.ja-sakai.org/index-en.html

#### 4. Rhode Island Sakai Conference

The Rhode Island Network for Educational Technology (RINET), in association with the Sakai Foundation, The rSmart Group, IBM and OSHEAN will be hosting the first annual Rhode Island Sakai Conference, April 8-9, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency in Newport, Rhode Island.

- Are you ready to connect with your students on their terms, using electronic collaboration tools that they understand?
- Would you like to use safe discussion forums to prepare your students for classroom discussions?
- Would you like to use safe chat rooms to support your instruction?

- See RI students and teachers demonstrate how they use Sakai to manage coursework.
- Learn how K-20 institutions are using portfolios to meet national accreditation standards
- See RI students and teachers demonstrate how they provide evidence of proficiency to Rhode Island's Proficiency Based Graduation requirements.
- Learn how Sakai's Collaborative Learning tools including calendar, chat rooms, resources, discussion forums, glossaries, wikis, assignment and portfolio tools, drop boxes and more 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.
- Become a part of a rapidly growing community of Sakai users.

Who should attend the 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. This work group is affiliated with the Sakai Project (www.sakaiproject.org).

Who should attend the 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.

If you are interested in learning more about Sakai, please visit the Sakai Project (www.sakaiproject.org) or the rSmart Sakai CLE (www.rsmart.com/products/cle).

To register for the conference please visit the RI Sakai Conference web site:

www.ri.net/RINET/products/portfolio/sakaiconference.html

Steven Foehr steve@staff.ri.net

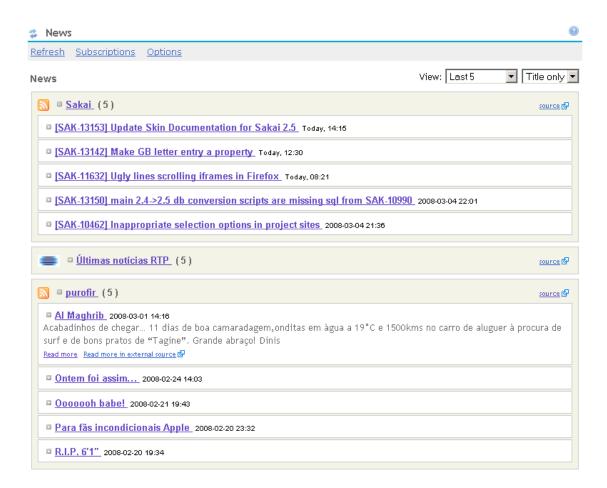
#### 5. News Feeds Tool

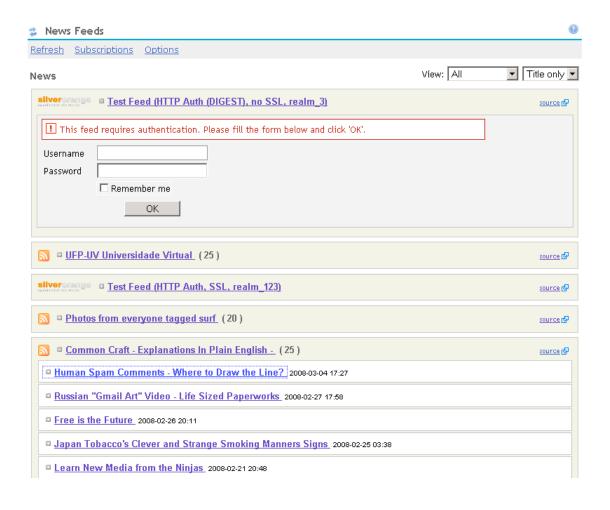
News Feeds is a feed aggregator tool developed for Sakai. The tool supports multiple feeds, user-provided feeds or selection from a pre-configured institutional list, BASIC/DIGEST authentication and feed attachments (enclosures).

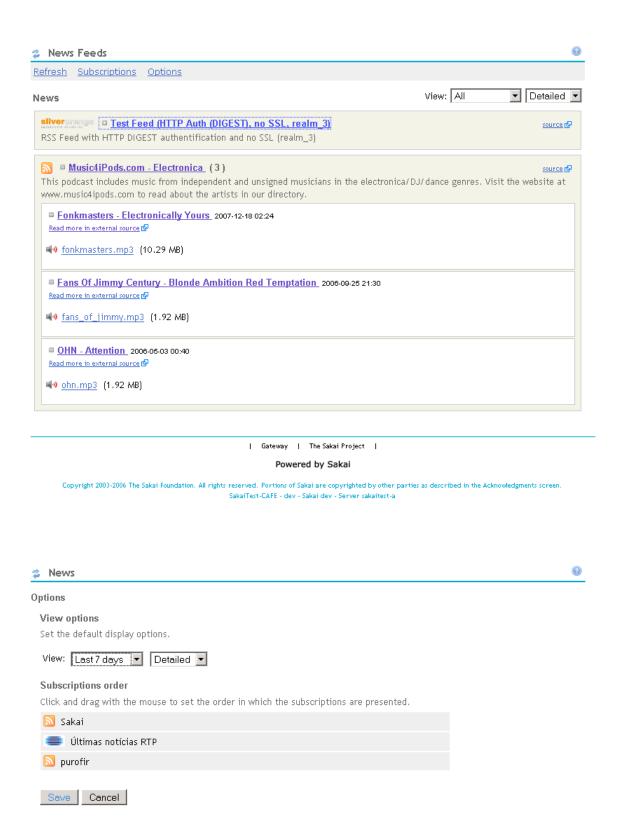
More information can be found at the Confluence page:

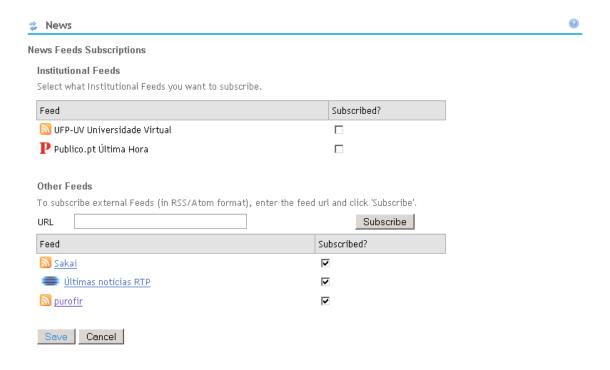
bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/NFS ---

Nuno Fernandes nuno@ufp.pt









## From Dr. Chuck's Web Log: IMS Learning Tools Interoperability: GVC SiteMaker and Sakai

Fresh on the heels of working with Marc Ritter of Wimba, I spent last week in Vancouver working with the developers of SiteMaker (www.gvcsitemaker.com) to do an initial integration of SiteMaker into Sakai using a prototype version of IMS LTI 2.0. Jonathan presented this approach in his SiteMaker talk at the Newport Beach.

Chuck Hill of GVC did a great job on the SiteMaker side. We produced a really simple user interface that mimics YouTube's approach -- "cut and paste this bit" to make this as simple as possible. The user never has to touch any XML. Jonathan Maybaum of the University of Michigan deserves the credit for the clever UI design -- he always tries to think about things from the user perspective and he wanted it as simple as possible.

We also implemented the shared secret security with message signing with SHA hashing. We spent some time thinking about how to improve the security further.

The code modifications to SiteMaker really support all of the UI including needed persistence, and the code is complete and checked into the trunk of SiteMaker.

Here are some screenshots of the SiteMaker Configuration Screens:

http://www.dr-chuck.com/images/2008/02/index.php?img=28-02-08 120238 01.jpg

SiteMaker Access Configuration SiteMaker Configuring Remote Participant Access:

http://www.dr-chuck.com/images/2008/02/index.php?img=28-02-08\_120238\_01.jpg

I ended up building a new Sakai JSR-168 portlet that is unique to LTI-2.0 to make it much cleaner and simpler than LTI 1.0 - this new portlet is now in SVN here:

https://source.sakaiproject.org/contrib/sakai-portlets/trunk/

Here are some Sakai screenshots:

Sakai Configuration Screen Sakai Launching SiteMaker using LTI in the frame set portal:

http://www.dr-chuck.com/images/2008/02/index.php?img=28-02-08 120238 04.jpg

There is more work to be done and the LTI specification is still being developed so this code will need to evolve over time -- but this much progress is a testament as to how much simpler Learning Tools Interoperability 2.0 is when compared to IMS Tools Interoperability 1.0.

See Dr. Chuck's Web Log at: http://www.dr-chuck.com/csev-blog/000445.html

# 7. Sakai iSeminar - eLearning Solutions: Hosted Sakai Implementation Lessons Learned

Dave Melone, FIDM's eLearning Supervisor will highlight best practices in converting an existing course management system to Sakai and share with attendees the institution's problem statement, approach and process for requirements gathering, selection criteria that Sakai met and decision-making factors resulting in selection of the CEAI Hosted Solution for Sakai. Enclosed below are the dates and times for the Briefings:

- 1) Sakai Briefing Date: Wednesday, March 5th, 2008 Time: 11:00 am 12:00 pm ET
- 2) Sakai Briefing Date: Wednesday, March 19th, 2008 Time: 11:00 am 12:00 pm ET

To Register: http://regonline.com/sakai

For more information on the Consortium's eLearning initiatives, visit any of the links below:

CampusEAI Consortium Announces Comprehensive, Hosted Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment Solution for Education:

https://ceai1.campuseai.org/portal/page?\_pageid=93,12323007&\_dad=portal&\_schema=PORTAL

FIDM/The Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising Selects CampusEAI to Host and Support Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment for Education: https://ceail.campuseai.org/portal/page?\_pageid=93,12387009&\_dad=portal&\_schema=PORTAL

University Of Windsor Launches Campus Portal With Secure, Single Sign-On To Sakai; CampusEAI Consortium Selected As Implementation Partner: https://ceail.campuseai.org/portal/page?\_pageid=93,12617048&\_dad=portal&\_schema=PORTAL

FIDM/The Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising Launches CampusEAI Consortium Hosted Solution for Sakai:

https://ceai1.campuseai.org/portal/page?\_pageid=93,12831049&\_dad=portal&\_schema=PORTAL

About FIDM/The Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising

With campuses in Las Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego and Orange County, FIDM is a co-educational, specialized, private college dedicated to educating students for the Fashion, Graphics, Interior Design and Entertainment industries. It has 6,700 current students and more than 35,000 alumni. FIDM has a large population of students earning a variety of Associates of Arts (AA) degrees, including the Professional Designation in Merchandise Marketing AA. The college recently added a Bachelor of Science in Business Management (BSBM) degree program, with students and faculty that will benefit from the powerful Sakai tools. FIDM is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). For more information, visit www.fidm.edu.

#### About CEAI

CEAI is a global not-for-profit information technology services and consulting provider focused on helping its members implement enterprise e-business solutions cost-effectively and timely.

More than 200 members belong to CEAI, including Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the City of Cleveland, Portland Public Schools, McGill University, AmTrust Bank, The University of Exeter, the University of Montana, The Hong Kong Institute of Education, Foothill-De Anza

Community College District, The University of Melbourne and Xerox. For more information, visit www.campuseai.org.

About the CampusEAI Consortium (CEAI) Hosted Solution for Sakai Please refer to the following sites:

CEAI Hosted Solution for Sakai Overview:

https://ceai1.campuseai.org/portal/page?\_pageid=933,12715145&\_dad=portal&\_schema =PORTAL

FIDM Launches Sakai – Snapshot:

https://ceai1.campuseai.org/pls/portal/docs/page/campuseai\_new/images/FIDM\_snapshot.pdf

Nik Ram nik ram@campuseai.org

# 8. Higher Education Solutions: The Community Source Way!

The Spring JA-SIG Conference, "Higher Education Solutions: The Community Source Way!", is fast approaching. Ira H. Fuchs of the Mellon Foundation will speak on "Moving Community Source to the Mainstream: Overcoming the Obstacles to Adoption." Kaye Howe of the National Science Digital Library will present her views on "Ubiquity, Interdependence, and the Age of Collaboration."

The spring event (April 27th - 30th) is being collaboratively planned with Sakai, Fedora, DSpace, Internet2, Fluid, Kuali, uPortal, and CAS all providing content.

Pre- and post-conference seminars will present an introduction to Sakai, portlet development, JavaScript usage, and identity management, among other topics. A substantial portion of conference content will be particularly applicable to the Sakai community. A management track will feature panels on community source business models, strategy, and planning.

Early registration is still available on the conference site:

http://www.ja-sig.org/conferences/08spring/index.html.

We hope to see you there!

2008 JA-SIG Spring Program Committee

### 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:

(Melete) Configuring FCK Editor DEV

\*ANY\* javadocs available for trunk or 2.5.x ??? DEV

[VLES] e-Portfolios PORT

2.4.1 db to filesystem content migration not working DEV

2.4.x to 2.5.x convert DEV

A problematic use case in sections tool DEV

Argument for Sakai PED

Blackboard-Desire2Learn verdict UX

Clickers and Sakai PED

Date Picker thoughts UI

description for collab WG UI

Escaping File Names DEV

Glossary PED

I need an installation - follow up UX

Importing students from CSV file DEV

IMS Global Learning Consortium Announces Agreement with ISO/IEC on Emerging

Metadata Standards for Learning Accessibility and Personalization] UI

JForum 2.4 in Sakai 2.5 (M2) DEV

iforum: Data truncated for column 'mimetype' at row 1 (safari OSX) - .pptx only DEV

Multiple evaluators - two evaluators no routing PORT, UI

Official line on styling of the actions bar? UX

ordering synoptic tools in home page DEV

OSP Confluence Reorganization PORT

OSP-related Conference at LaGuardia April 11 and 12 PORT

Patch for SAK-6332 (was Re: a short URL version for WebDAV access) DEV

Polls UX

Post 2.4 and 2.5.x Gradebook Bug DEV

Quartz + cluster DEV

removing events from SAKAI\_EVENT, does this reset Forums read/unread message count? DEV

RFP for Assessment Institute in Indianapolis PORT

SAK-7397 PORT

Sakai 2.6.0 and Java 1.5/1.6 DEV

Sakai and Daylight Savings Time DEV

Sakai Data Dictionary DEV

Sakai Restore Service Level Agreements -- What SLA does your school have? DEV

Sakai Skin Showcase on Confluence DEV

Samigo and QTI Question DEV

Site Stats DEV

subclipse and Eclipse on Mac-OS-X DEV

Talking points for judges PED

#### 10. Events

NERCOMP 2008 Annual Conference, organized by EDUCAUSE

March 10-12, 2008

Providence, Rhode Island

http://www.nercomp.org/events/event\_single.aspx?id=1328

Ja Sakai Conference 2008

March 26, 2008

Hosei University

Tokyo, Japan

http://www.ja-sakai.org/index-en.html

ePortfolio SIG

March 28, 2008

Eastern Connecticut State University

Willimantic, Connecticut

http://www.ctdlc.org/

Supported by the Davis

**Educational Foundation** 

Rhode Island Sakai Conference

April 8-9, 2008

Newport, Rhode Island

www.ri.net/RINET/products/portfolio/sakaiconference.html

National ePortfolio Conference @ LaGuardia April 11-12, 2008 LaGuardia Community College Long Island City, N.Y.

JA-SIG Spring 2008 Conference April 27 - 30, 2008 St. Paul, Minnesota

2nd Annual Pan-American and Francophone ePortfolio and Digital Identity Conference May 5 -7, 2008 Montreal, Quebec Canada http://events.eife-l.org/ilearn2008/conference

eLearning Africa 2008 May 28 - 30, 2008 Accra International Conference Centre Accra, Ghana http://www.elearning-africa.com

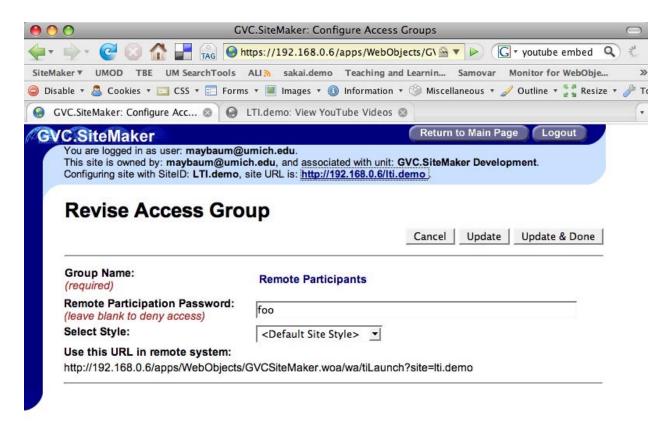
Portal 2008 "Measurement & Assessment" Conference Gettysburg College June 3-6, 2008 Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA https://biz.gettysburg.edu/it/portal08/index.cfm

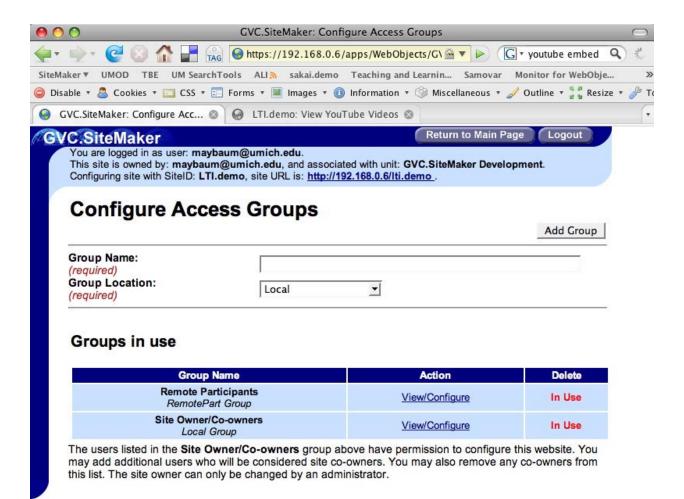
CANHEIT 2008 Canadian Higher Education and Information Technology Conference
June 15-18, 2008
Calgary, Alberta Canada
http://canheit.ucalgary.ca/

EUNIS 2008 European University Information Systems Organisation June 24-27, 2008 Århus, Denmark http://eunis.dk/

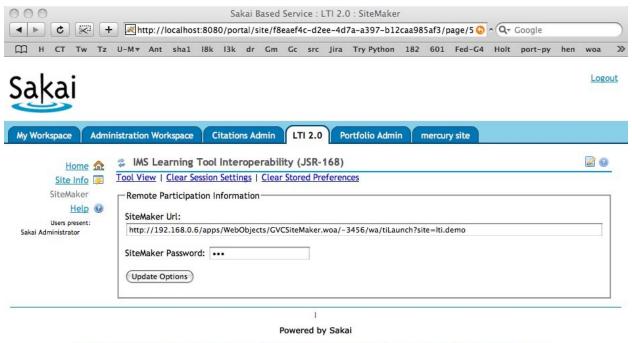
9th Sakai Conference Université Pierre et Marie Curie July 1 - 3, 2008 Paris, France https://sakai.educonference.com/paris/index.php

# Screenshots of SiteMaker and Sakai



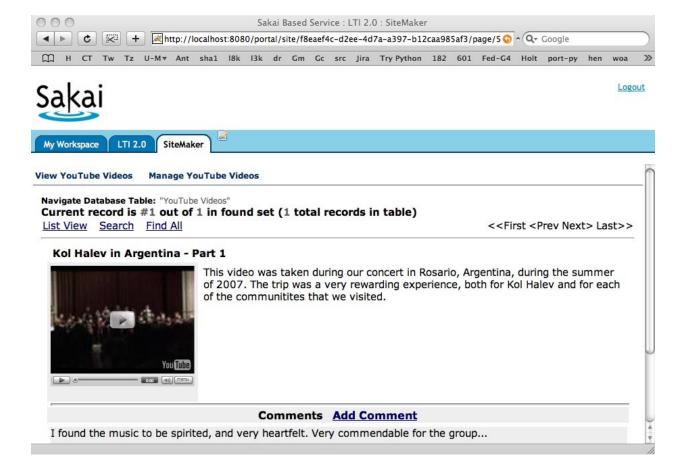


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Sakai Based Service - dev - Sakai dev - Server charles-severances-macbook-air.local



# dr. chuck's web log

[www.dr-chuck.com/csev-blog/000445.html]

# February 29, 2008

# IMS Learning Tools Interoperability: GVC SiteMaker and Sakai

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Posted by csev at February 29, 2008 05:10 PM