



Sakai Newsletter

March 6, 2008

1. From the Executive Director
2. Paris Sakai Conference Updates
3. Ja Sakai Conference 2008
4. Rhode Island Sakai Conference
5. News Feeds Tool
6. From Dr. Chuck's Web Log: GVC SiteMaker and Sakai
7. Sakai iSeminar: Hosted Sakai Implementation Lessons Learned
8. Higher Education Solutions: The Community Source Way!
9. Recent Email Group Discussions
10. Events

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

The screenshot shows the News Feeds Tool interface. At the top, there is a "News" header with a refresh icon and a help icon. Below the header are links for "Refresh", "Subscriptions", and "Options". The main content area is titled "News" and includes a "View:" dropdown menu set to "Last 5" and a "Title only" dropdown menu. The news items are organized into three feed categories:


- Sakai (5)**:
 - [SAK-13153] Update Skin Documentation for Sakai 2.5 Today, 14:15
 - [SAK-13142] Make GB letter entry a property Today, 12:30
 - [SAK-11632] Ugly lines scrolling iframes in Firefox Today, 08:21
 - [SAK-13150] main 2.4->2.5 db conversion scripts are missing sql from SAK-10990 2008-03-04 22:01
 - [SAK-10462] Inappropriate selection options in project sites 2008-03-04 21:36
- Últimas notícias RTP (5)**
- purofir (5)**:
 - Al Maghrib** 2008-03-01 14:16
Acabadinhos de chegar... 11 dias de boa camaradagem, onditas em água a 19°C e 1500kms no carro de aluguer à procura de surf e de bons pratos de "Tagine". Grande abraço! Dinis
[Read more](#) [Read more in external source](#)
 - Ontem foi assim...** 2008-02-24 14:03
 - Ooooooh babe!** 2008-02-21 19:43
 - Para fãs incondicionais Apple** 2008-02-20 23:32
 - R.I.P. 6'1"** 2008-02-20 19:34


News Feeds

[Refresh](#) [Subscriptions](#) [Options](#)

News

View: All Title only


 [Test Feed \(HTTP Auth \(DIGEST\), no SSL, realm_3\)](#) [source](#)


 This feed requires authentication. Please fill the form below and click 'OK'.


Username


Password

Remember me

 [UFP-UV Universidade Virtual](#) (25) [source](#)

 [Test Feed \(HTTP Auth, SSL, realm_123\)](#) [source](#)

 [Photos from everyone tagged surf](#) (20) [source](#)

 [Common Craft - Explanations In Plain English -](#) (25) [source](#)

- [Human Spam Comments - Where to Draw the Line?](#) 2008-03-04 17:27
- [Russian "Gmail Art" Video - Life Sized Paperworks](#) 2008-02-27 17:58
- [Free is the Future](#) 2008-02-26 20:11
- [Japan Tobacco's Clever and Strange Smoking Manners Signs](#) 2008-02-25 03:38
- [Learn New Media from the Ninjas](#) 2008-02-21 20:48


News Feeds




[Refresh](#) [Subscriptions](#) [Options](#)

News

View:


 [Test Feed \(HTTP Auth \(DIGEST\), no SSL, realm 3\)](#) [source](#)

RSS Feed with HTTP DIGEST authentication and no SSL (realm_3)


 [Music4IPods.com - Electronica](#) (3) [source](#)

This podcast includes music from independent and unsigned musicians in the electronica/DJ/dance genres. Visit the website at www.music4ipods.com to read about the artists in our directory.


[Fonkmasters - Electronically Yours](#) 2007-12-18 02:24
[Read more in external source](#)

 [fonkmasters.mp3](#) (10.29 MB)

[Fans Of Jimmy Century - Blonde Ambition Red Temptation](#) 2006-09-25 21:30
[Read more in external source](#)

 [fans_of_jimmy.mp3](#) (1.92 MB)

[OHN - Attention](#) 2006-05-03 00:40
[Read more in external source](#)

 [ohn.mp3](#) (1.92 MB)

| Gateway | The Sakai Project |

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.
SakaiTest-CAFE - dev - Sakai dev - Server sakaitest-a

News



Options

View options

Set the default display options.

View:

Subscriptions order

Click and drag with the mouse to set the order in which the subscriptions are presented.

-  Sakai
-  Últimas noticias RTP
-  purofir

News Feeds Subscriptions**Institutional Feeds**

Select what Institutional Feeds you want to subscribe.

| Feed | Subscribed? |
|---|--------------------------|
|  UFP-UV Universidade Virtual | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  Publico.pt Última Hora | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other Feeds

To subscribe external Feeds (in RSS/Atom format), enter the feed url and click 'Subscribe'.

URL

| Feed | Subscribed? |
|--|-------------------------------------|
|  Sakai | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|  Últimas notícias RTP | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|  purofir | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

6. 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://ceai1.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://ceai1.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, Kualu, 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
jforum: 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/illearn2008/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

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "GVC.SiteMaker: Configure Access Groups". The address bar shows the URL "https://192.168.0.6/apps/WebObjects/GVC...". The browser's menu bar includes "SiteMaker", "UMOD", "TBE", "UM SearchTools", "ALI", "sakai.demo", "Teaching and Learnin...", "Samovar", and "Monitor for WebObj...". The browser's toolbar includes "Disable", "Cookies", "CSS", "Forms", "Images", "Information", "Miscellaneous", "Outline", "Resize", and "To". The browser's tab bar shows two tabs: "GVC.SiteMaker: Configure Acc..." and "LTI.demo: View YouTube Videos".

The main content area of the browser displays the "GVC.SiteMaker" interface. At the top left, it says "GVC.SiteMaker". To the right, there are two buttons: "Return to Main Page" and "Logout". Below this, a blue banner contains the following text: "You are logged in as user: maybaum@umich.edu. This site is owned by: maybaum@umich.edu, and associated with unit: GVC.SiteMaker Development. Configuring site with SiteID: LTI.demo, site URL is: http://192.168.0.6/lti.demo".

The main heading is "Revise Access Group". Below this heading, there are three buttons: "Cancel", "Update", and "Update & Done".

The form contains the following fields:

- Group Name:** (required) Remote Participants
- Remote Participation Password:** (leave blank to deny access) foo
- Select Style:** <Default Site Style>

Below the form, there is a section titled "Use this URL in remote system:" with the URL "http://192.168.0.6/apps/WebObjects/GVCSiteMaker.woa/wa/tiLaunch?site=lti.demo".

The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "Done" on the left and "192.168.0.6" on the right, along with a green checkmark icon.

GVC.SiteMaker: Configure Access Groups

https://192.168.0.6/apps/WebObjects/GVC... youtube embed

SiteMaker UMOD TBE UM SearchTools ALI sakai.demo Teaching and Learnin... Samovar Monitor for WebObje...

Disable Cookies CSS Forms Images Information Miscellaneous Outline Resize

GVC.SiteMaker: Configure Acc... LTI.demo: View YouTube Videos

GVC.SiteMaker [Return to Main Page](#) [Logout](#)

You are logged in as user: **maybaum@umich.edu**.
 This site is owned by: **maybaum@umich.edu**, and associated with unit: **GVC.SiteMaker Development**.
 Configuring site with SiteID: **LTI.demo**, site URL is: <http://192.168.0.6/lti.demo>.

Configure Access Groups

[Add Group](#)

Group Name:
(required)

Group Location:
(required)

Groups in use

| Group Name | Action | Delete |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Remote Participants <i>RemotePart Group</i> | View/Configure | In Use |
| Site Owner/Co-owners <i>Local Group</i> | View/Configure | In Use |

The users listed in the **Site Owner/Co-owners** group above have permission to configure this website. You may add additional users who will be considered site co-owners. You may also remove any co-owners from this list. The site owner can only be changed by an administrator.

Done 192.168.0.6



[Logout](#)

[Home](#)
[Site Info](#)
SiteMaker
[Help](#)
Users present:
Sakai Administrator

IMS Learning Tool Interoperability (JSR-168)
[Tool View](#) | [Clear Session Settings](#) | [Clear Stored Preferences](#)

Remote Participation Information

SiteMaker Url:

SiteMaker Password:

Powered by Sakai

Copyright 2003-2008 The Sakai Foundation. All rights reserved. Portions of Sakai are copyrighted by other parties as described in the Acknowledgments screen.
Sakai Based Service - dev - Sakai dev - Server charles-severances-macbook-air.local

Sakai Based Service : LTI 2.0 : SiteMaker

http://localhost:8080/portal/site/f8eaf4c-d2ee-4d7a-a397-b12caa985af3/page/5

Google

H CT Tw Tz U-M Ant sha1 l8k l3k dr Gm Gc src Jira Try Python 182 601 Fed-G4 Holt port-py hen woa


Sakai [Logout](#)

My Workspace LTI 2.0 SiteMaker

[View YouTube Videos](#) [Manage YouTube Videos](#)

Navigate Database Table: "YouTube Videos"
Current record is #1 out of 1 in found set (1 total records in table)
[List View](#) [Search](#) [Find All](#) <<First <Prev Next> Last>>

Kol Halev in Argentina - Part 1



This video was taken during our concert in Rosario, Argentina, during the summer of 2007. The trip was a very rewarding experience, both for Kol Halev and for each of the communitites that we visited.

Comments [Add Comment](#)

I found the music to be spirited, and very heartfelt. Very commendable for the group...

dr. chuck's web log

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

February 29, 2008

IMS Learning Tools Interoperability: GVC SiteMaker and Sakai

Fresh on the heels of working with Marc Ritter of Wimba, I spent this 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 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 UM 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

SiteMaker Access Configuration
SiteMaker Configuring Remote Participant Access

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

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 testimate as to how much simpler Learning Tools Interoperability 2.0 is when compared to IMS Tools Interoperability 1.0.

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