Sakai Newsletter

April 17, 2008

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1. From the Executive Director

I'm extremely pleased to announce that Diana Laurillard, Professor of Learning with Digital Technologies at the London Knowledge Lab, will be the keynote speaker for the 9th Sakai Conference in Paris. Diane is a recognized authority in technology-based teaching and learning and author of the excellent book "Rethinking University Teaching: A Conversational Framework for the Effective Use of Learning Technology." She will be speaking on Wednesday morning, July 2nd. You won't want to miss it.

I'm also pleased to note that we have confirmed two excellent featured speakers. James Dalziel, Director of the Macquarie E-Learning Centre Of Excellence at University of Macquarie and the creator of LAMS, will be speaking on Learning Design and pedagogy. Wendy Mackay, Research Director with INRIA, Futurs, in France, will be speaking about her lab's work on interaction design.

You can find out more about all three of these speakers at the following sites:

Diana Laurillard: http://www.lkl.ac.uk/cms/index.php
James Dalziel: http://www.melcoe.mq.edu.au/index.htm
Wendy Mackay: http://www-ihm.lri.fr/~mackay/research.html

And now is a great time to register for the conference and reserve your hotel room at:

https://sakai.educonference.com/paris/index.php

See you in Paris!

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2. CampusEAI Announces New Hosted Sakai Packages

In 2006, CEAI selected Sakai as its best-of-breed eLearning platform. Today, CEAI provides comprehensive hosted solutions and services for Sakai. The CEAI Hosted Solution for Sakai is designed to be tailored to each organization's requirements, time frames and budget and provides a full range of services including project management, installation and configuration, course migration, technical training and end user training, 24/7 Tier-1 technical support and end user support, student information system integration, and identity management integration. CampusEAI Consortium (CEAI) has provided the following new packages for CEAI's Hosted Solution for Sakai offerings:

- CEAI Hosted Solution for Sakai - Pilot Package @ $5,000 Up to 100 users 1-year term Includes: Custom branding (logo), self-paced training resources and Sakai evaluation services.

- CEAI Hosted Solution for Sakai - Basic Package @ $10,000 p/y Up to 5,000 users 3-year term Includes: Custom branding, LDAP integration, Support (email and toll free phone number) and self-paced training resources.

- CEAI Hosted Solution for Sakai - Standard Package@ $25,000 p/y Up to 10,000 users 3-year term Includes: Custom branding, LDAP and SIS integration, Support (email and toll free phone number) and major upgrades, self-paced training resources, 2-day admin and 1-day train-the-trainer remote training.

- CEAI Hosted Solution for Sakai - Premium Package @ $50,000 p/y Up to 25,000 users 3-year term Includes: Custom branding, LDAP and SIS integration, High Availability, Support (email and toll free phone number) and major upgrades, self-paced training resources, 2-day admin and 1-day train-the-trainer remote training and 2 days on-site training.

"We are pleased to provide institutions and organizations with cost-effective hosted solutions for Sakai," said Anjli Jain, Executive Director of CEAI. "The Pilot, Basic, Standard and Premium options allow campuses to rapidly evaluate and implement Sakai to support their teaching and learning needs."

For more information on the Consortium's Sakai 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

CEAI Hosted Solution for Sakai Overview
https://ceai1.campuseai.org/portal/page?_pageid=933,13181059&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

FIDM Launches Sakai – Snapshot
https://ceai1.campuseai.org/pls/portal/docs/page/campuseai_new/images/FIDM_snapshot.pdf

CEAI joins Sakai Foundation as a commercial affiliate
https://ceai1.campuseai.org/portal/page?_pageid=93,13045052&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

To receive more information on CEAI's eLearning solutions and services, contact info@campuseai.org

Anjli Jain
Executive Director
anjli_jain@campuseai.org
216-589-9626, Ext: 102

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3. UX Improvement Project Reaches its Mid-Point Milestone

The first UX Improvement project (Improving the CLE v1.0) has reached its mid-point milestone. There are four more weeks to go. These will include additional work in the area of finding and joining a site, plus visual design, cleanup, and html/css production.

The best places to find info on the current designs are here:

http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/UX/CLE+1.0+Presentation+-+Week+1
http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/UX/CLE+1.0+Presentation+-+Week+2
http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/UX/CLE+1.0+Presentation+-+Week+3
http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/UX/CLE+1.0+Presentation+-+Week+4

For information on the project profile, follow this link:

http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/UX/Project+Profile+ 28CLE+1.0 29

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4. Sakai Goes Offline with SOLO

During the late 1990's the Pharmacology Department at the North-West University (NWU) in South Africa started a programme for the further education of health care professionals. Due to low bandwidth connections and high internet access costs, a combined off-line/on-line mode of study was proposed. Most of the study material was developed to be used off-line with internet connection only necessary to participate in interactive learning activities. To manage this dual mode of study with a simple user interface for less sophisticated users an off-line client was developed for Sakai.

Psybergate Cape Town has long been a development partner of NWU and was contracted by them and UNISA to development this component. Psybergate is a commercial company developing Learning Management Systems and Sakai solutions.

A proof of concept project was conducted and finalized at the end of 2007. Google Gears combined with Google Web Toolkit were selected as key building blocks. This made it possible to develop rich web-based AJAX applications with the ability to cache online files and to synchronize database content to a local database. The AJAX application itself is also cached by Google Gears so that it can be run offline.

SOLO enables announcements, resources and Melete to be available off-line for learners. This is done by implementing a Sakai tool to fetch data and send it to the Ajax application using Remote Procedure Calls. The user is notified when site content is potentially outdated. Only changed and new content is downloaded during the synchronization process. Large resource files can be skipped for later download via a CD-ROM.

For more information contact louis@psybergate.co.za or boeta.pretorius@nwu.ac.za Come and visit us for a demonstration at the Sakai conference in Paris in July. Visit http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/SOLO/Home

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5. Article on businesswire.com: "Cdigix Launches Sakai Integration Tool at Yale University"

Cdigix, Inc. has announced the implementation of its Sakai integration tool at Yale University. The integration tool allows Yale's students and faculty to seamlessly access C-Labs digital media content directly from within the Sakai course management system.

Cdigix powers the C-Labs platform, which Yale has used since 2004 to deliver, manage and access rich digital media securely and legally for students and faculty anytime, anywhere. Students have utilized C-Labs in more than 400 Yale courses accessing approximately 2,200 media titles since 2004. Now Yale's students and faculty will be able to easily access assigned media on-demand through the C-Labs platform without ever navigating outside of their Sakai courses or entering additional login credentials.

"The initial tests of the Sakai integration tool have been successful, and we're thrilled to provide our users with easier, integrated access to their course materials," said Chuck Powell, Senior Director of Academic Media & Technology at Yale University. "We're grateful to Cdigix for its willingness to create a tool that supports teaching and learning anytime, anywhere."

The integration tool is being piloted at Yale this semester, and will be widely deployed

for the fall term. The tool will help Yale provide better accessibility and management of rich media.

"As one of the early adopters, I believe this integration tool enhances both the teaching and learning process," said Michael Kerbel, Director of the Film Study Center at Yale University. "Not only do I have the opportunity to complement existing curriculum with an added wealth of resources, but my students can easily take advantage of content directly from within Sakai. This tool is an asset in improving student productivity."

The Sakai integration tool leverages the C-Labs API, enabling users to automatically view assigned media titles and download the files to their computer from within the Sakai course management system. The flexibility of the API allows Cdigix to easily customize an integration plan that meets the needs of any university's Sakai open source implementation.

"Our Sakai integration tool has been extensively tested with excellent results, and we are excited to launch it at Yale," said Anthony Ravani, Senior Vice President of Technology for Cdigix. "Because Sakai is implemented differently within each university, we've developed a flexible set of API that can be integrated with any instance of a Sakai implementation at any university within a very short period of time."

The Sakai integration tool is included with the C-Labs platform at no additional cost to the institution. Institutions can learn more by going to www.cdigix.com or contacting sales@cdigix.com.

About Cdigix, Inc. -- Cdigix, Inc. is the leading provider of secure digital educational media to the college marketplace. The Seattle-based company operates C-Labs, a complete turnkey service that allows universities to post and maintain course-critical digital audio and video media online for on-demand access by students. More information about the company and its services is available at www.cdigix.com.

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6. OpeniWorld:Europe2008 Conference

For those of you planning to attend the Sakai conference in Paris, the OpeniWorld conference in nearby Lyon offers a tremendous opportunity to leverage your travel plans to encompass two great events. The OpeniWorld conference is the week prior to the Sakai conference. While the proposal deadline for OpeniWorld has passed, registration is still open. Here is the conference announcement:

Please join us for OpeniWorld:Europe2008, June 24-27, Lyon France

"Federating Resources Through Open Interoperability"

For its first European event, to be hosted in France by the Lyon 2 University (member of the Lyon University Consortium) in collaboration with MIT's Open Knowledge Initiative, OpeniWorld will focus its attention on resource federation, one of today's key educational technology challenges. Federation offers much promise for inter-institutional collaboration towards more effective learning as well as significant market opportunities for providers and consumers of educational content, software and services.

Registration for OpeniWorld:Europe2008 is now open. You will find more information, including key speaker information, preliminary schedule, limited offer early registration and hotel packages, pre-conference activities, and pointers to Lyon area information at http://www.openiworld.org/. Note that the early registration deadline is April 30th, so please sign up soon to take advantage of reduced rates.

For more information about OpeniWorld:Europe2008 visit:

http://www.openiworld.org

And don't forget to register for the Sakai conference at:

https://sakai.educonference.com/paris/index.php

Best regards,

Michael Korcuska
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7. Reminder: Nominations for Sakai Fellows are Due April 30th

A quick reminder that nominations for Sakai Fellows are due by April 30th. The wiki page for the program, which includes the simple nomination form, is located at:

http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/cS0

Please get those nominations in!

Best,

Michael Korcuska
Executive Director, Sakai Foundation
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8．The ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN 2008 Call for Papers is Open

This year's conference themes are now finalised and we look forward to receiving your suggestions and ideas for presentations, workshops, seminars, expert sessions, discussion topics, debates and demonstrations. Don't forget -- the deadline for submissions is April 30th!

For more information about the Call for Papers, please visit -- http://www.online-educa.com/proposals

9. Announcing Mneme -- Test Center 1.1.2, A Small Maintenance Release

What's Changed in this Release?
Grading views show auto-score in objective assessments based on current grading logic rather than what it was when the submission was made. This leads to an inconsistency -- the value sent to the gradebook is from the database; the values shown in the grade views for auto-score and final-score are based on live calculations. These can be different if there was a change in how auto-score is computed since the time of the submission. This is now addressed.

This does not affect anyone outside of ETUDES. We changed the grading logic for the matching question since the start of the term (1.1.0 Beta) and thus the implications for us. If you haven't deployed Mneme yet, this is the tag to get.

Download and Install
http://etudesproject.org/mneme/download.html

Questions
For technical or user support questions or to report issues, contact sakai-dev@collab.sakaiproject.org.

Best,

Vivie Sinou
Dean, Learning Technology
ETUDES Project Foothill College
SinouVivie@foothill.edu

10. 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:

(SAK-12992) Email Archive should preserve HTML formatting in messages   DEV
2.4.x Branch Manager Needed   DEV
Add Role's to a Site   DEV
Calling Sakai webservices from VBA   DEV
create course site   DEV
EmailTemplateService   DEV
Evaluating OSP 2.4 and 2.5, anyone can share sample forms, styles, matrix, templates etc?   PORT
I have a question about installing Sakai   DEV
Issues with disabling course sectioning   DEV
maven 2 pom structure in Sakai ?   DEV
more chat oddities   USER
Multiple Login Links   DEV
Navigating in the iFrame tool   DEV
Need Panelists for User Support Panel at Paris Sakai Conference   USER
Opened Practices Licensing & Copyright   PED, PORT
OPS portfolio template createion - passthrough.xml   DEV
OSDPL Pattern group kick-off meeting postponed to   USER
OSP in 2.4   PORT
OSP Portfolio creation   PORT, DEV
osp.upgrade25   PORT
'page order' tool name & other irksome wordage   USER, UX
Perm gen problem on qa1-nl.sakaiproject.org again   DEV
populating a new role to all sites   DEV
Provider Users Cache?   DEV
refresh of db from prod to dev but not the filesystem   DEV
requesting documentation and guidance in using portfolio tools   PORT
SAK-13378 in 2-5-x   DEV

SAK-800 - Upload, download and extract Zip archive files in Sakai   PORT
Resources Tool - Patch Merge   PORT
sakai cluster   USER
Sakai videos or screencasts   USER
Slow Resources rendering time in 2.5 with large numbers of items in a folder   DEV, UI
Thunder Screen Reader Free   USER
UX Design - Improving the CLE v1.0 - Week 4!!   USER
UX Improvement Project Status   DEV, UX

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11. Events

JA-SIG Spring 2008 Conference
April 27 - 30, 2008
St. Paul, Minnesota
http://www.ja-sig.org/conferences/08spring/index.html

Portlet Development Training
May 1 - 3, 2008
St. Paul, Minnesota
http://www.unicon.net/node/975

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

IMS Learning Impact Conference
May 12-15, 2008
Omni Downtown Austin
Austin, Texas
http://www.imsglobal.org/learningimpact2008/agenda.html

Kuali Days VI
May 13 -14, 2008
Westin Chicago Northwest
Chicago, Illinois
www.kuali.org

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/

2-3-98 Conference: An Open Discussion on Technology in Education
SUNY Delhi
June 19-20, 2008
Delhi, New York
https://snydelwd.delhi.edu:8443/display/ODD/2-3-98+Conference

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

Here are email addresses to contact if you encounter problems with
various Sakai Community systems:

Collab -- collab-admins@umich.edu
Confluence -- confluence-admins@collab.sakaiproject.org
Jira -- jira-admins@collab.sakaiproject.org