



Sakai Newsletter

June 12, 2008

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1. From the Executive Director

We're gearing up for the Sakai Conference at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie (UPMC) in Paris. The schedule has been finalized, the BOF rooms are available for scheduling, the project planning meetings are taking shape, and the invitations to the Newcomers Reception have gone out. There are a lot of little details, of course, that the Sakai staff, Program Committee, and the folks at UPMC are handling.

One exciting piece of news, courtesy of UPMC, is that two of the rooms at the conference will be set up for a live webcast, which will also be archived. So if you can't make it to Paris you'll be able to watch some of the presentations over the internet. The rooms in question are Salle des Thèses and Amphitheatre Durand, so take a look at the conference schedule and mark your calendars (or should I say set your alarms, as Paris is +6 from Eastern Daylight Time in the US). It also looks like University of Michigan will be opening up a Second Life Island during the conference for those who want to get together virtually.

I'm very pleased that we're able to offer these carbon-friendly forms of access for those who can't make it to Paris. A big "Thank you" to UPMC and the University of Michigan for making this possible. Stay tuned for more details on both of these developments.

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2. Paris Conference -- More Updates and Details

Two new features have been added to the conference website -- an attendee list and Sakai Faces. In order to see these, you will need to log in to the conference site and be registered for the conference.

You can now schedule a BOF session online. There will also be a sign-up board available at registration to indicate the space available. You should know that we only have two rooms available for BOFs so space may become an issue.

For those of you that may be new to Sakai or to the Sakai Conferences, we have indicated sessions that may be more helpful for you to attend. This will hopefully make it easier for you to find sessions that are geared to you. We will also be hosting a "Newcomers Reception" on Monday evening at the Marriott Rive Gauche (the conference hotel). This will be an opportunity for you to meet the Sakai Staff and Track Leads for the Conference. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to mmiles@umich.edu, as space is limited.

Hope to see you in Paris...

Mary Miles
mmiles@umich.edu
Sakai Foundation Administrative Coordinator
Phone: 734-764-3614 Fax: 734-763-7829 Cell: 734-395-2650
216-589-9626, Ext: 102

3. New Version of myUnisa Goes Live

The new version of myUnisa (my.unisa.ac.za) went live on Friday 6 June 2008. We upgraded from Sakai 2.3. to 2.5.X. Our previous Melete implementation was also

upgraded. Approximately 160 000 student accounts were migrated. Actual downtime was only three days, suffice to say, this was preceded by several months of preparation. We encountered a few minor glitches in the first day or two, primarily related to institution specific customizations, but the system is running stable now. All feedback from faculty (and other users) have been positive so far.

Regards

Deon

Deon Van der Merwe
DVanderm@unisa.ac.za

4. Fluid Infusion 0.3 Released!

The Fluid Project is pleased to announce the final release of Fluid Infusion 0.3, featuring our new Layout Customizer and Uploader components.

Infusion 0.3 is available for download at:

<http://fluidproject.org/index.php/downloads>

What's new in this release?

- Layout Customizer
- Preview version of Uploader
- Tons of improvements to the Reorderer
- Keyboard accessibility plugin for jQuery
- Uploader design pattern

What is Fluid Infusion?

Fluid Infusion is a collection of rich, reusable, accessible user interface components built for the Web. These components have been designed by a cross-disciplinary team and thoroughly tested for usability and accessibility. By incorporating Fluid components into your web application's user interface, you will make your application easier to use by more people. Easier to use means happier users.

Known issues

An up-to-date listing of known issues with this release is available at:

<http://issues.fluidproject.org/secure/IssueNavigator.jspa?mode=hide&requestId=10063>

Help us build a usable web for everyone

The Fluid Project is an open, collaborative development project. Our goal is to improve the user experience of community source web applications, so if you are a designer or developer and want to help change the world, consider getting involved! The Fluid component library includes not only full source code but also a designer's toolkit that offers useful design, accessibility, and usability strategies and documentation, all backed by a growing community of interaction designers, user interface experts, and software developers contributing a wealth of expertise in usability and accessibility.

Thanks to everyone in the community for their hard work and support for this release. Special acknowledgements go to Justin Obara, Kathy Moore, and our other volunteers for their generous assistance.

Colin Clark
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Technical Lead, Fluid Project Adaptive Technology Resource Centre
University of Toronto
<http://fluidproject.org>

5. UX Improvement Planning Survey

Hi All,

We are beginning the process of selecting the next UX Improvement Project. One key factor in this process is finding out what you think we should work on next, so I've created an online survey and encourage everyone to take 5 minutes and respond to it.

The survey can be found here:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=1uhIX2GEKhkNb45U8ovUxw_3d_3d

I look forward to seeing the results and will share them with you once the survey is complete.

Thanks,

Nathan Pearson
UX Lead
Sakai Foundation
me@nathanpearson.com
602.418.5092 npearson99 (Yahoo) npearson99 (Skype)

6. The Sakai Bootcamp at Marist College

Marist College hosted a 5-day Sakai Bootcamp last week at their Poughkeepsie, New York campus. Aaron Zeckoski, Senior Research Engineer at Cambridge University's Center for Applied Research in Educational Technologies led the bootcamp. The bootcamp was attended by members of Marist's IT staff, undergraduate and graduate students from Marist, rSmart, SerenSoft, IBM, a dozen colleges and universities including Manchester Community College, Saginaw Valley State University, University of Maryland, University of Michigan, University of Dayton, Catholic University, Rutgers, Columbia University, University of California, Virginia Tech, University of Hawaii, University of Windsor, and two K-12 institutions - Minisink Valley School District in Slate Hill, New York, and the New Hampshire School Administrative Unit from Pembroke, New Hampshire. More details regarding the bootcamp including the specific topics covered can be found at:

<http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/BOOT/Marist+College>

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7. 2.5.1 Testing Assistance Needed

Hi everyone,

The "official" QA cycle for 2.5.1 began a few weeks ago but there is still a lot of testing we need to perform before a release can occur. Regression Testing will be our #1 priority for 2.5.1 testing since 90% of individual fixes underwent testing prior to being merged. While there is a higher level of confidence in the changes than ever before, we still need to do thorough testing to ensure that functionality has not regressed.

Components (i.e., tools) needing testing along with regression testing guidelines can be found at: <http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/LQBpAQ>

The community relies solely on volunteer testing from the community, so if you have any time available, please consider testing! If you have any questions or would like further information on getting engaged in QA, please contact me at mmmay@indiana.

All the best,

Megan May

8. 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

9. Events

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>

ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN 2008

14th International Conference on Technology Supported Learning and Training

December 3 - 5, 2008

Hotel InterContinental Berlin

Berlin, Germany

www.online-educa.com

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