



Sakai Newsletter

July 24, 2008

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1. From the Executive Director

On the heels of a very successful conference in Paris, I'm pleased to confirm that Virginia Tech will be hosting a Sakai meeting on November 11 and 12 in, of course, Blacksburg Virginia. We're finalizing the arrangements with the VT conference center and beginning to assemble a program committee. More details will be forthcoming over the next few weeks but mark your calendars! If you'd like to get involved in the planning process,

please contact John Moore (jmoore1@vt.edu) and Eddie Watson (edwatson@vt.edu) from Virginia Tech.

This is one of the "regional" meetings we've discussed, but that moniker isn't meant to keep people from other areas of the country or the world away. It's just a denotation that we're using for a smaller scale event than the big annual conferences. It also reflects an assumption that folks in Australia, for example, will probably spend their travel budgets to attend the annual International Sakai Conference (and/or an Australian regional meeting) rather than a smaller event in Virginia.

At the same time, Mary Miles and Lance Speelmon just returned from a site visit to Boston, the hoped-for location for our next International Sakai Conference. We're hoping to secure dates for next June or early July. Stay tuned...

Michael Korcuska
Executive Director, Sakai Foundation
mkorcuska@sakaifoundation.org
mobile: +1 510-599-2586 // phone: +1 510-931-6559
skype: mkorcuska

2. University of Delaware Adopts Sakai

The University of Delaware released the Sakai learning management system to UD faculty at the start of June. Faculty response has been very positive. Currently over 160 faculty have attended voluntary training sessions, and they have created over 240 course sites.

UD is phasing in Sakai as a replacement for WebCT and has integrated Sakai with UD's Student Information System. "We are in the process of introducing as many faculty as possible to the new LMS," said Leila Lyons, director, IT-User Services. "We've focused on Sakai at this year's Summer Faculty Institute, visited about a dozen faculty meetings and have set up a Web site that allows faculty to follow our progress and sign up for training."

Over the past year, about 15 faculty members, most members of a University-wide LMS committee, have run their classes on Sakai as a pilot.

During Summer Faculty Institute, more than 100 UD faculty members attended the opening plenary session -- "Selecting Sakai Tools Based on How People Learn" by Fred Hofstetter, professor of education -- which was followed by a panel of faculty members who discussed their experiences piloting Sakai.

For more information:

- Visit UD's LMS site at: www.udel.edu/udlms
- Check out examples of Sakai use at: www.udel.edu/udlms/examples.html
- Read "Campus prepares for new learning management system" at: www.udel.edu/PR/UDaily/2008/mar/sakai032008.html
- Go to Sakai@UD Training Resources: www.udel.edu/sakai/training

Janet de Vry
janet@udel.edu

3. Sakai Case Studies Available for Viewing

rSmart recently sponsored the development of several community case studies about Stanford University, University of Michigan and Cambridge (still under development) to share with anyone interested in Sakai's success. We unveiled these at the Sakai conference. See this wiki page for details:

<http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/CONF09/Marketing+Sakai+Partie+Deux+-+Developing+Case+Studies>

Our hope is that more community members create their own case studies. In the meantime, please feel free to share these more broadly with anyone interested in a few examples of Sakai's success stories. Special thanks to those at Stanford, Michigan and Cambridge for cooperating in this endeavor. PDF copies of the case studies will soon be posted on the new sakaiproject.org. In the meantime, PDFs can be found on the wiki page above or at:

http://www.rsmart.com/files/rsmart/SakaiCaseStudy-Stanford08-3p_0.pdf
http://www.rsmart.com/files/rsmart/SakaiCaseStudy-Umich08_0.pdf

Mike Zackrison
mikez@rsmart.com

4. A Brief Survey About Citations Helper

The Sakaibrary project has posted a brief online survey for people in the Sakai community who have implemented, evaluated, or looked at the Citations Helper feature in the Sakai Resources Tool. The survey will be available through Thursday, July 31 at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=VJrh62xqt_2fY0MePNIGI4BA_3d_3d

The purpose of this survey is to gather information on adoption and use of Citations Helper for the Sakaibrary project's final grant report to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and also to help guide future work on Citations Helper and other tools for integration of library resources and services within Sakai.

The survey is relatively short, and we expect that it will take only 5-10 minutes to complete. Thanks in advance for your participation, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Jon Dunn
Digital Library Program
Indiana University
jwd@indiana.edu

5. 2.5.1 Update

Colleagues,

I wanted to take a moment to update the community on the status of the first maintenance release of the 2.5 series. While testing the 2.5.1 release artifacts a regression introduced by a bug fix was discovered. We'll be removing the changes introduced by SAK-12842, an approach has already been tested on a local level. Given the delay, we'll be seizing the opportunity to include 2 fixes that relate to the content conversion.

- <http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/jira/browse/SAK-13919>
- <http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/jira/browse/SAK-13827>

We'll be forgoing what we've commonly referred to as 2.5.1 and will release the reverted change plus content conversion as 2.5.2 late next week.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

All the best,

Megan May
Sakai Quality Assurance Director
mmmay@indiana.edu

6. Come Join the 2009 Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award Committee!

If you were at the Paris Conference you hopefully got a chance to see the 2008 Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award (TWSIA) Winners present how they are using Sakai to transform the teaching and learning process at their institutions. If you missed these wonderful presentations you can view them online at:

http://www.cpm.jussieu.fr/CPM/activites/visioconf/sakai_conf.htm (See the Wednesday morning sessions in Durand.)

The Teaching and Learning Group hopes to build on this year's success and is in the process of forming the 2009 Award Committee. If you are interested in working on the committee you can sign up by going to the Teaching and Learning Confluence page at: <http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/PED/Home> (Follow the link to the TWSIA 2008 Committee Page.) Add your name to the list and take note of our meeting time on Wednesdays.

If you would like to view last year's entries, they are available on the OpenEdPractices.org website (<http://openedpractices.org/courses>). The evaluation rubric, which will be updated for next year's award program, is also available from this website (http://openedpractices.org/files/TWSIA_Rubric.pdf).

We hope to have representation from many different groups within the community so please don't hesitate to sign up even if you don't have a teaching and learning background!

Sue Roig
TWSIA 2009 Committee Chair
Director Academic Technology
Claremont Graduate University
susan.roig@cgu.edu

7. A Brief Survey About Teaching Fully Online Classes

Do you teach fully online credit-bearing undergraduate or graduate courses using a Sakai-based course management system?

Are you a full-time faculty member or professional staff at a "brick and mortar" higher education institution in the United States?

If yes, I invite you to participate in a brief electronic survey designed to investigate the experiences of full-time faculty and professional college/university staff teaching online

courses within the context of traditional U.S. higher education. This survey is part of my dissertation research and will take only 10-15 minutes of time to complete.

All information gathered in this survey is confidential. At the end of the survey there is an option to participate in an interview about your experiences teaching fully online classes. If you volunteer to be contacted for an interview your survey responses will be connected to that email address. If you do not choose to volunteer, your survey responses will be recorded anonymously.

Please follow this link to SurveyShare to complete the survey:
<http://www.surveymshare.com/survey/take/?sid=69900>

If you have any questions or are unable to access the survey, please contact me at rcyoung@iupui.edu

Jeani Young, M.S., Ph.D. Candidate
Indiana University

8. Sakai Google GWT Working Group

We have created a Sakai Google GTW Working Group where we can discuss integration issues, etc. There is a Collab, WG: Google GWT, site as well as a confluence space:

<https://collab.sakaiproject.org/portal> : site name WG: Google GWT
<http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/voAMAg>

Best,

Thomas Amsler
tpamsler@ucdavis.edu

9. Register Now for the JA-SIG Fall 2008 Unconference at University of Wisconsin-Madison

- Registration fee for the October 2008 JA-SIG Unconference: \$175/Members, \$225/Non-Members
- Nightly rate at the historic Edgewater Hotel: \$129
- Two-and-a-half days talking, learning, teaching, planning, coding, and hanging out with your peers - and with the uPortal, CAS, Fluid, JSR-168, SpringMVC experts: Priceless!

DATES:

October 6, 2008, 9am to October 8, 2008, noon

October 9-10, developer meetings and optional post-conference activities

PLACE:

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Pyle Center, 702 Langdon Street, Madison, WI 53706

Front Desk: 608-262-1122

REGISTRATION FEE:

\$175 - JA-SIG Members

\$225 - Non-Members

(Includes Breakfast, Mon/Tue Lunch, and Snacks)

Register here: <https://www.concentra-cms.com/register/start.action?confId=34>

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Edgewater Hotel, 666 Wisconsin Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53703 \$129/single/night

800-922-5512 (www.theedgewater.com)

Make sure you ask for the JA-SIG room block and rate!

Hotel registration is not available by web for this event.

WHAT'S AN UNCONFERENCE?

"An unconference is a conference where the content of the sessions is driven and created by the participants, generally day-by-day during the course of the event, rather than by a single organizer, or small group of organizers, in advance."

-Wikipedia

JA-SIG has always been about people coming together to share and learn in an open environment, and this is what an "unconference" is all about. Many attendees at last year's unconference said it was their favorite event of the year.

The October event will provide both spontaneous and planned opportunities to collaborate on community initiatives and topics.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

It's up to you! Ideas people are talking about so far include the following:

- Lightning Talks -- Volunteers talk for up to 10 minutes. Any topic goes.
- Code Clinics -- Bring your uPortal, portlet, or CAS code or problem and work on it with Core developers
- Screencast Factory -- Show off your work while a facilitator captures it to share with the community.
- Designer/Developer collaborations
- Strategic Planning -- What should JA-SIG be focused on next year? In three years? Join the conversation.
- How-to's. How-not-to's. Tips and techniques.

- See a list of ideas for activities and add your own: <http://www.ja-sig.org/wiki/x/BBTP>

As part of the unconference format, the final schedule will be determined in real-time, interactively with the attendees.

OK, I'M INTERESTED! WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

If you're planning to join us, please do the following:

1. Register for the Unconference right here: <https://www.concentra-cms.com/register/start.action?confId=34>
2. Visit and Add your Name on the Unconference Planning Site on the JA-SIG wiki. This is a great place to indicate your interests -- what you'd like to discuss, learn, share or teach: <http://www.ja-sig.org/wiki/x/DRTP>
3. Call the Edgewater Hotel to reserve a room: 800-922-5512. Mention the JA-SIG room block and rate.
4. Make travel arrangements. Tips are available here: <http://www.ja-sig.org/wiki/x/wRjP>

See you at the JA-SIG Unconference,

The Fall 2008 Unconference Organizers

10. Upcoming Event: The OPEN Forum for Higher Education Executives

December 7-9, 2008
Palm Springs, California

rSmart is sponsoring The OPEN Forum, which aims to provide an opportunity for leaders and decision makers from colleges and universities to come together to enhance their understanding and vision for openness across higher education.

The vision for The OPEN Forum is lofty. We seek to increase the strategic benefit of technology in higher education. We believe that this can be done by bringing together a diverse group of great minds and investing time to understand and to evaluate the intricacies of this new open environment.

To this end, the forum will be centered on A DIALOGUE, fed by insightful keynotes and facilitated to allow for talking, listening, debating, sharing, building, debunking and learning. We believe that the dialogue must ADDRESS THE OPPORTUNITIES AND COMPLEXITIES of openness that often require a fundamentally different approach to defining and evaluating options with a broader scope of impact.

The participants include HIGHER EDUCATION EXECUTIVES who have the ability to affect change, as well as the insight of corporate colleagues who have grappled with similar issues.

For more information and to register, visit this site:
<http://theopenforum2008.com/index.html>

Megan Perrone
megan.perrone@rsmart.com

11. rSmart Webinar: rSmart/Embanet Total Campus Solution: Migration Overview

3:00 PM Eastern Time, August 7, 2008

Institutions switching to a new learning management system are often faced with unexpected challenges and costs associated with course migration. To make course and content migration as efficient and streamlined as possible, Embanet and rSmart have joined forces to offer institutions the Total Campus Solution. This complete offering gives institutions a solution for migrating from their current learning management system to an open source platform, like the rSmart Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment (CLE), at a low cost.

Join an rSmart Sakai expert and Paulo Dias, Embanet's Director of Client Support Services, as they introduce you to the rSmart Sakai CLE, the Total Campus Solution, and the migration process.

Topics to be covered:

- * Brief introduction to the rSmart Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment
- * rSmart/Embanet Total Campus Solution offering
- * Institutional requirements for a migration
- * Content that can/can't migrate
- * Platforms where Embanet has expertise in migrating content
- * Migration timeline and process
- * Value/benefits of using Embanet's migration services

Register today! Seating is limited!
To register: <https://rsmart.ilinc.com/register/ttbwkj>

Megan Perrone
megan.perrone@rsmart.com

12. Position Opening at Arizona State University

The Applied Learning Technologies Institute at Arizona State University has recently posted a fulltime position opening for a Sakai developer: <http://snipr.com/33u97>

This position will be working as part of a fun team with big goals working on projects for both IDEAL (<https://www.ideal.azed.gov/>) and ASU.

Josh Ryan
josh@asu.edu

13. Position Opening at Virginia Tech

All,

I am excited to announce that we have a position opening with the Virginia Tech Electronic Portfolio Initiatives, working within Learning Technologies at Virginia Tech.

We are now collecting applications for the Assistant Director position through August 13, 2008. Position details can be found in this pdf:

<https://collab.sakaiproject.org//access/content/attachment/654d38c1-d157-4263-9369-690f82aa98ba/ePort%20Asst%20Dir%20Call.pdf>

Applications are handled through <http://jobs.vt.edu>; search for posting #080685.

Please pass the word along to related lists...

If you have any questions, I would love to hear from you.

Thanks,

Marc Zaldivar
mzaldiva@exchange.vt.edu

14. Position Opening: Web Technologist

We are looking for an experienced Web Technologist Independent Contractor for our Non-Profit PT Fellowship community Benefits Graduate Program. We are located in the San Francisco California Bay Area. This position is part time approximately 10-20 hours per week. We would appreciate working with someone who has the following qualifications:

- 3 + years experience in web development and design.
- Must be able to effectively 'manage' a Sakai Content Management System (be able to create content within Sakai, create the learner environment including reports, learner's transcripts, information on courses, filtering data according to needs).
- Thorough demonstrated knowledge of web development best practices, technologies and processes.
- Demonstrated experience in web development including in-depth knowledge of MS Office, Acrobat, Adobe Photoshop, Flash, JavaScript, and CSS.
- Understand core programming concepts and foundation.
- Working knowledge of FTP skills and HTML coding, and limitation & cross-browser functionality.
- Strong critical thinking and analysis skills.
- Ability to communicate and train technology information to non-technical personnel.
- Must be able to effectively communicate with an instructional designer/curriculum team to take e-learning course from concept to production.
- Must be able to effectively communicate with team to ensure the system meets the educational needs of the end user client/student.
- Must be available for in person meetings once or twice per month.
- Prefer experience: Melete Lesson Builder, Shockwave, Articulate, Dreamweaver, and experience with audio and video production.

Company name: Kaiser Permanente Physical Therapy Fellowship
<http://www.kaiserhaywardptresidency.com/portal.asp>

Please email your resume and salary request to: kimberly.powell@kp.org
Open until filled.

15. 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:

2.4.x and Chat DEV

2.4.x entity util build error DEV

Adding a Site Type DEV

Annotation missing for complexTypes in form passthrough xml PORT

Apache setup on sakai-dev DEV

Blackboard ProjectNG redefines "Open" to mean "Encompassing" UX, PORT, PED

body onLoad javascript in a custom form renderer PORT

Bulk content / resource extraction? DEV

Citations Helper Survey available USER

Group aware matrix and named evaluators PORT

how can I debug Sakai? DEV

how do your sites handle scheduling for freshmen? USER

Input sanitation in metaobj PORT

jcr in cluster DEV

jQuery for sortable table columns DEV UX

Matrix permissions PORT

Melete 2.5 upgrade DEV

Micro-portfolios PORT

Modal dialogs DEV

Need assistance testing 2.5.1 release artifacts DEV

Podcasts & Resource Limit DEV

Proposed Scorecard Evaluation USER

Sakai & Confluence USER

Sakai 2.6 Release Schedule DEV USER

sakai cafe + eclipse DEV

Sakai Get Together at Campus Technology USER

Sakai Google GWT Working Group DEV

sakai.assignment to sakai.assignment.grades migration DEV

Scorecard BOF and resulting WG USER

sdata/flat install DEV

site descriptions not saved resulting in 404 DEV

Skipping the Login Button DEV
snag with the default form renderer/CSS (v2.5.x): shrinking field group labels PORT
"Spring" cleanup on the Teaching and Learning group home page PED
updates to reference DEV
Use cases for the News tool? PED
Where and how should field lengths be checked? DEV
Wizard page status versus the status of the whole wizard PORT
wufoo.com for forms-mockup? PORT
Your views on community source PED

16. Events

JA-SIG Fall 2008 Unconference
University of Wisconsin-Madison
October 6-8, 2008
<https://www.concentra-cms.com/register/start.action?confId=34>

2008 International Eportfolio Conference
Maastricht, the Netherlands
October 22-24, 2008
<http://events.eife-l.org/ep2008/overview>

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

The OPEN Forum for Higher Education Executives
December 7-9, 2008
Palm Springs, California
<http://theopenforum2008.com/index.html>

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