Sakai Newsletter

August 21, 2008

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(Executive Director Michael Korcuska has been on vacation during the past week and will return with an item in the next Sakai Newsletter.)

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1. SOLO Now in Pilot Phase

North West University (South Africa) will be running SOLO in a pilot phase on a small number of distance students until the end of this year. SOLO will enable these students to work off-line and only go online to synchronize announcements, resource and Melete e-guides. During this time we will resolve any issues that may arise.

The first official release will then be available from early next year. The current release can be seen as pre-release code and the current version is recommended for testing and evaluation purposes. The beta version has been tested with Sakai 2.5.x and is available in SVN at https://source.sakaiproject.org/contrib/nwu/solo/trunk/.

Please note the following folders in SVN:

-- soloclient_sakai:
Contains the GWT (Google Web Toolkit) source code that must be compiled to
Javascript using the GWT compiler. This code contains good examples of how to use
RPC (Remote Procedure Calls) to Sakai, reading remote XML files, populating grids and
treeviews etc.

-- soloserver_sakai:
The tool source code. Check out the use of a pure ext-js grid that is integrated into the
Solo tool.

-- deployments:
For users that are interested in trying it out. Just check out the latest deployment in the
deployments folder and follow the installation instructions in the zip.

Some additional info is available at:
http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/SOLO/Home

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2. Content Authoring Summit

The content authoring summit dates have been confirmed for September 23-25 on the
Dearborn campus of the University of Michigan. The Hyatt Hotel
(http://dearborn.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp) and The Hampton Inn
(http://www.hamptoninn.com/en/hp/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhocn=DTTDRHX) are both
walking distance to the campus, and there is a shopping center nearby so a car isn't
necessary.

Jim Eng has added two pages to Confluence to help get started on the agenda:

UI and UX issues: http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/xgFTAg
Technical Issues: http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/xwFTAg

You can add items directly to these pages. You're also welcome to discuss the issues and
the agenda using the email alias for content-authoring: content@collab.sakaiproject.org

3. University of Virginia Upgrades to 2.5

The University of Virginia is excited to announce our successful upgrade to version 2.5
on August 11, 2008. This upgrade is particularly timely as the University gears up for the
Fall 2008 semester.

We owe the success of this upgrade to the efforts of the core Sakai team at UVa in collaboration with faculty representatives and others around the University. We'd like to recognize Unicon for their contribution on reskinning Sakai for our upgrade. In addition, the enhanced system capabilities, particularly the improvements to the Tests & Quizzes and Gradebook tools are being very well received as has been the cleaner Active Sites Tab. UVa appreciates all of the Sakai community's contributions to this new version and all of the positive feedback that is already being received from our users.

In addition to new tools and enhancements to existing tools included in version 2.5, we have also incorporated the Anonymous Feedback tool from Yale and are testing use of the Clicker Registration tool. We are currently configuring the iTunesU tool for use this fall. Visit our "New Features in 2.5" documentation for more details: https://collab.itc.virginia.edu/portal/site/!gateway/page/f14825b7-a922-4b4c-00af-9f2a7198b111.

Patricia Gordon
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4. Dutch Sakai User Group Launches Their Website

The Dutch Sakai User group has launched a new website. On this website you can find information for Sakai users in the Netherlands and Belgium. The website is in Dutch but in the near future some pages will also be available in English.

The address of the website is: http://www.sakai.nl

The website was designed by Jan van den Berge of Portfolio4U.

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5. Call for Proposals -- Sakai Fall 2008 Regional Conference – Deadline: September 8

Dear Sakai/OSP Colleagues,

You are enthusiastically invited to be a part of the Sakai Fall 2008 Regional Conference at Virginia Tech on November 11 and 12, 2008. This conference will offer many opportunities for professional development, strategic planning, and the sharing of best practices.

Proposal are invited which focus on one of two general themes: 1) pedagogy and instructional strategies supported by Sakai, and 2) migration/adoption strategies. Subthemes might include positioning Sakai as a platform for new pedagogies, student engagement, ePortfolio, and assessment. Other topics might include faculty development, user support, marketing Sakai within a legacy scenario, diffusion strategies, and building support for change.

We are especially interested in crafting a conference program that includes faculty and student voices, case studies, evolving best practices, and lessons learned. New voices will be exceptionally welcomed; first time presenters and new members of the Sakai community are strongly encouraged to submit proposals. Multi-institution presentations and panels are also encouraged.

Your proposal should include:

Presentation title
Presenter(s) names, contact information, and institution(s)
200 word summary
30 word abstract
Suggested length (45, 60 , 75 or 90 minutes)

By September 8, please send your proposal to John Moore (jmoore1@vt.edu). If you have questions, please contact either Eddie Watson or John Moore.

The conference will take place at the Inn at Virginia Tech, http://www.theinnatvirginiatech.com. Registration for the conference will open soon.

Thanks very much, and we look forward to seeing you in Blacksburg.

John Moore (jmoore1@vt.edu)
Eddie Watson (edwatson@vt.edu)
Co-chairs, Sakai Fall 2008 Regional Conference at Virginia Tech

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6. Unicon Chief Software Architect John A. Lewis Named to JASIG Board of Directors

Unicon, Inc has announced its Chief Software Architect John A. Lewis has been named to the JASIG Board of Directors. Unicon is a founding JASIG Commercial Affiliate and has provided over 150 colleges and universities with open source enterprise portals, applications, and related services and support for online campus deployments. The company specializes in delivering enterprise-class services for the JASIG uPortal platform, the JASIG CAS single sign-on framework, the Sakai learning management

system, and the Zimbra next-generation messaging and collaboration software -- all open source technologies.

"The JASIG board is very pleased to welcome John Lewis as a new board director," said JASIG's executive director Jonathan Markow. "John's industry expertise, open source experience, and deep knowledge of JASIG and its projects make him particularly well qualified to serve in this role. John's election by the JASIG membership is also testimony to the many contributions he has already made to our community."

"I am thrilled at the opportunity to further contribute to the JASIG community by serving on the Board of Directors," said John Lewis. "JASIG has charted the course for community-based open source enterprise software in higher education and continues to be very relevant today. As a member of the JASIG Board of Directors, I will continue to support initiatives for improving the membership program, strategically using JASIG funds, and forging stronger relationships with other enterprise open source communities like Sakai, Kuali, and Apache."

John A. Lewis Bio -- As Chief Software Architect, John is primarily responsible for developing the technology strategy of Unicon's solutions portfolio for higher education. John is a 16 year veteran of the software engineering industry with expertise in large-scale enterprise architectures, open source technology, and agile software development methods. His team helps seamlessly integrate the latest technologies into Unicon's world class solutions and services for higher education. John is a regular speaker at national and international conferences on enterprise open source technologies in higher education. John has been a long-time advocate and contributor in the open source software community. He is the lead developer of Spring Portlet MVC, the JSR 168 Java Portlet development framework that is part of the wildly popular Spring Framework project. He is also active in several higher education open source communities, including uPortal and Sakai.

Joe Waldygo President
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7. 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:

2.5.2 startup problem   DEV
2.6 Code Freeze Dates   UX
A UX Look Toward 3.0   DEV, UX
Agenda for Content Authoring Summit   UI
Broken trunk build :: mailarchive   DEV
Changes to courier code (impending merge to trunk) for SAK-11875   DEV
CM first walk through..   DEV
Content conversion in windows   DEV
Content Hosting SQL   DEV
Dav and short user refs   DEV
Fixing the Build - two little things jldap-mock and polls   DEV
Great web site - HIgh Scalability   DEV
How can I change the label "import to sakai" in google scholar?   DEV
How to make copies of a site to use as a template?   PED, UX
How to make student grades and related professor comments available to the advisor
PED
Interest in a Turnitin-Sakai Integration?   PED, UX
K1 Organization - Tool Title Localization   DEV
Kernel Commit Practice -- part 2   DEV
Kernel Freeze: 7-Sep-2008   DEV
Maven pom clean up - stage 3 done   DEV
performance issue when building portfolio   PORT
Portfolio Downloads and css images   PORT
portfolio rendering   PORT
Reminder: Sakai-NYC Meetup (Thu 8/21 @ 1:30PM - ECC Newark, NJ)   DEV
removing user account but user trace remains in site   DEV
Resources - sub folder creation question...   DEV
Running a quartz job on one specific node   DEV
Sakai 2.4.1 : BaseContentService and EventTrackingService   DEV
sing Sakai web services? read this.   DEV
sites x worksite setup   UX
start-up errors from blog   DEV

User messages   UX
using Sakai web services? read this.   UX
UX Implementation - Status Update   DEV, UX
web service session show in presence   DEV
Wrapping woes   UX

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8. Events

Content Authoring Summit
September 23-25, 2008
University of Michigan – Dearborn
Dearborn, Michigan
The Hyatt Hotel and The Hampton Inn
http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/x/xgFTAg

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

Sakai Fall Regional Conference
November 11 and 12, 2008
The Inn at Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia

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