



Sakai Newsletter

September 4, 2008

1. From the Executive Director
2. Etudes Project -- New Beginnings
3. Fluid Infusion 0.5beta1 Released!
4. Texas State U. Completes Transition from Blackboard to Sakai (TRACS)
5. OSP Gets a Facelift -- Just in Time for 2.6!
6. Call for Papers -- AUSA KAI 2008 Conference
7. UX Improvement Update
8. Job Opening: Instructional Designer, Marist College
9. Recent Email Group Discussions
10. Events

1. From the Executive Director

I'm pleased to announce that registration for the Virginia Tech Sakai Meeting is now open. There is limited space for this event so please register quickly to ensure your spot. The conference will take place at the Inn at Virginia Tech (<http://www.theinnatvirginiatech.com/>) in Blacksburg, Virginia, on November 11 and 12.

Remember that proposals for the meeting are due Monday, September 8. Please send your proposal to John Moore (jmoore1@vt.edu). If you have questions, contact either Eddie Watson (edwatson@vt.edu) or John Moore.

You can register and find information about lodging at:
<https://educonference.com/sakai/virginiaTech/index.php>

I'll be there. I hope to see you there as well.

Michael Korcuska

Executive Director, Sakai Foundation
mkorcuska@sakaifoundation.org
skype: mkorcuska

2. Etudes Project -- New Beginnings

It is my pleasure to inform you that as of July 1, 2008, Etudes has transitioned from a campus project (originated at Foothill College) to an independent, non-profit organization, Etudes, Inc. This change is a natural evolution and an indication of the continued success of Etudes.

Over the past several years, the Etudes Project has evolved to become a software development center of open source learning technologies for higher education internationally, and an Application Service Provider (ASP), serving 24+ institutions, mainly California Community Colleges.

Etudes Project has been progressively becoming an independent entity, operating with revenue from the members that it serves, and grant funding support for new open source development. With the deployment of Etudes-NG (Next Generation), the Etudes Project has continued to grow and prosper, to the point where it is now supporting the educational opportunities of over 75,000 students in California.

I remain Executive Director for the Etudes organization. Our offices will remain at Foothill for now, and possibly long-term. The majority of our team is continuing on with Etudes, Inc. Additionally, it is my great pleasure to inform you that Glenn Golden, formerly of University of Michigan, has joined Etudes, Inc. as Chief Architect of Etudes. My and our team's efforts will continue to focus on servicing our clients, further developing our tools and Etudes system, and supporting our users and adopters of our tools.

Effective immediately, you can reach the etudes dev team at dev@etudes.org (etudes-dev@foothill.edu will NOT reach most of us). Of course, you can always reach out to us on sakai-dev or sakai-user.

Thank you for your support, and I look forward with enthusiasm to the future. If you have any questions, please contact me, sinou@etudes.org.

Best,

Vivie Sinou
Executive Director Etudes, Inc.
sinou@etudes.org
<http://etudes.org/>

3. Fluid Infusion 0.5beta1 Released!

The Fluid team is proud to announce a Beta release of version 0.5 of Fluid Infusion. It is ready for download from: <http://fluidproject.org/index.php/downloads>

This Beta release is intended to give our users a "heads-up" regarding changes that will be coming in the 0.5 release. In particular:

- Our APIs are changing: we are consolidating the "look and feel" of the component APIs
- Huge improvements to the Reorderer (and more to come)
- New Inline Edit feature: Undo
- Many bug fixes

We encourage you to use and experiment with Fluid v0.5beta1. You will find tutorials to help you upgrade from 0.4 at <http://wiki.fluidproject.org/display/fluid/Upgrading+to+version+0.5>

If you encounter any problems, let us know. You can file bug reports at <http://issues.fluidproject.org> or discuss issues on our mailing lists:

- fluid-talk at fluidproject.org
- fluid-work at fluidproject.org

or join our IRC channel (see <http://wiki.fluidproject.org/display/fluid/IRC+Channel> for information).

The Fluid components are dual licensed under ECL 2.0/BSD. See the Fluid source code repository for the text of these licences: <https://source.fluidproject.org/svn/LICENSE.txt>

The Fluid source code is also available for download from the repository: <https://source.fluidproject.org/svn/>

Many thanks to everyone who helped with this release!

Anastasia Cheetham a.cheetham@utoronto.ca
Software Designer, Fluid Project
<http://fluidproject.org>
Adaptive Technology Resource Centre
University of Toronto

4. Texas State University Completes Transition from Blackboard to Sakai (TRACS)

Texas State University is pleased to announce that our transition from Blackboard to Sakai (TRACS) was completed on August 25, 2008 when Blackboard was unplugged. Starting with the fall semester of 2008, TRACS, which is the Texas State brand of Sakai, will be the university's only online collaboration and learning management system.

Texas State began the transition to Sakai in 2005, with a small pilot group of faculty. Over the past three years, we have migrated 1580 faculty and staff to TRACS from Blackboard. The process was gradual and involved thousands of hours of user support in producing documentation, conducting workshops and tutorials, providing phone and email support, as well as numerous one-on-one handholding sessions.

Texas State faculty, staff and students guided TRACS development by providing feedback during the move through user surveys and interviews, and have been an important factor in making the transition work.

Throughout we also received support from the Sakai community by way of individual email help and advice, conference workshops and presentations and the wide shared knowledge and wisdom available on the confluence and JIRA websites. We thank everyone in the community for their help and generosity.

Texas State has been a Sakai Educational Partner since 2005.

Salwa Khan
Coordinator, IT Projects Instructional Technologies Support
sk16@txstate.edu

5. OSP Gets a Facelift -- Just in Time for 2.6!

For the past few weeks, Nathan Pearson (me@nathanpearson.com), Sakai's UX Lead, has been working with the OSP group to smooth out some of the rough edges around this fantastic tool in hopes that schools who previously expressed reservations due usability issues reconsider and take another look how this functionality can help their students succeed! To check out the new designs, click here:

<http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/UX/Improving+OSP+v1.0>

Stay tuned for more developments as these screens continue to get refined and implemented over the course of the next few weeks.

6. Call for Papers -- AUSAKAI 2008 Conference 27-28 November 2008

Dear Sakai Colleagues:

Monash University is proud to be hosting the AuSakai '08 conference on 27th and 28th November, 2008*. The conference will be held at Monash University, Caulfield Campus, Victoria. Additional information is available at this website:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/eeducation/ausakai08index.html>

We hope you will be able to join us!

The AuSakai 2008 conference theme is Open Education: Community-developed learning and teaching tools.

You are invited to develop and submit papers for AuSakai '08 with the following key dates and deadlines:

Call for papers opens: 27th August 2008

Call for papers closes: 24th September 2008

Paper acceptance notifications: 8th October 2008

This conference will offer many opportunities for professional development, strategic planning, and the sharing of best practices. You may provide papers on anything related to Sakai in particular, open source learning and teaching in general.

Possible topics include:

- Sakai in education (case studies of particular units, tools, new developments, how educational outcomes have driven tool usage/adoption, ...)
- Sakai in research (for HDR students, research staff, research groups, ...)
- Sakai in project management (case studies of particular projects)
- Sakai as a collaboration environment (team/workgroup collaboration, multi-site or multi-organisation collaborations, document management, ...)
- Sakai and Moodle (comparing features, running both as complementary systems, which works best for certain tasks/tools, ...)
- Sakai and Blackboard (comparing features, running both as complementary systems, which works best for certain tasks/tools, ...)
- ePortfolios in Sakai (or Mahara)
- Other open source learning and teaching tools:
 - OpenCast and ePresence (for lecture capture/playback)
 - Campus portals and integrated learning and teaching tools (e.g., uPortal)
- New open source tools that we do not know about yet, e.g.:

----- federated search across library databases, public search interfaces, etc.
----- essay analysis (for spelling, grammar, plagiarism, auto-grading and feedback)
----- virtual instrumentation toolkit (use a microscope, spectrophotometer or synchrotron on your desktop - a generic toolkit to build these)
----- collaboration (from simple multi-user collaboration like SubEthaEdit or Google Docs through to comprehensive enterprise collaboration including desktop videoconferencing, email, calendar, web teamspace, etc.)

Specific guidelines on paper submissions will also be available on the website. Please send your submissions or any enquiries to Christina Thor (christina.thor@adm.monash.edu.au).

Registration for the Conference will open soon.

*Please note: A full day of pre-conference workshops will be offered on 26th November for new users. No papers are required on this day.

Thanks very much, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Regards,

Kerryn Morey
Executive Officer, eEducation Centre
Monash University

7. UX Improvement Update

For those who don't know, the UX Improvement project has been picking up steam lately as universities have come on board with the implementation effort. So far, developers, designers, and other contributors from Cambridge University, Indiana University, University of Michigan, Berkeley University, and Georgia-Tech have been participating in bringing the new design to life!

If you've been quietly and patiently waiting for this new Sakai UX to make it into the product, give these folks a quick "shout out" and let them know you appreciate their efforts.

Also, despite the forward moving moment, there still remains a lot of work to be done and any one who does get involved will surely benefit from working with a great team and learning some of the most cutting edge Sakai technologies and development practices to-date!

To learn more about the project, take a look here:

<http://bugs.sakaiproject.org/confluence/display/UX/Improving+the+CLE+v1.0>

To get involved, just contact Nathan Pearson at me@nathanpearson.com and let him know you'd like to pick up a small piece of the project (or heck, maybe a large piece ;-)).

8. Job Opening: Instructional Designer, Marist College

Marist College is seeking applicants for the full-time position of Instructional Designer. This position will report to the Assistant Director of Academic technology and eLearning and play a central role in helping the college achieve new strategic goals associated with distance education and using instructional technologies to enhance the teaching and learning experience. The position will provide faculty with pedagogical and instructional design consultation related to course, module, and whole curriculum development activities for traditional, online, and hybrid courses.

Job responsibilities and additional details are at: <http://jobs.marist.edu> (click on the "Administrative" job button).

Joshua Baron
Josh.Baron@marist.edu

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:

[contrib] svn commit: r52759 - tfd/trunk/sdata/tool DEV
2.6 Kernel freeze: updates on SAK-10868 and SAK-14230 DEV
a different kind of facebook integration USER
about file artifacts PORT
add new Javascript DEV
Call for Proposals - Sakai Fall 2008 Regional Conference USER
chat errors DEV
Component Manager and IOC DEV
configuring FCK so content looks like other sakai pages DEV
enhanced web view of resources: rutgers or NY DEV
Etudes Project - New Beginnings USER
Facebook Goes Back to 'Schools' PORT
How do i recover my passord if i forgot it? PED USER
How to make student grades and related professor comments available to the advisor
PED
Improving OSP User Experience (Vote!) [revised] PORT
Improving OSP v1.0 - Week 1 PORT UX
Improving OSP v1.0 - Week 2 UX
Improving the CLE v1.0 - Status Update UX
Interest in a Turnitin-Sakai Integration? USER
Job Posting > Instructional Designer (Marist College) PORT
Kernel 2 DEV
Kernel-api DEV
Maven, Eclipse, Plugins, Repositories? DEV
messages update losing old messages DEV
'move folder' only moved half the folder contents DEV
quick time is proven working around https well PORT
Release Guidelines DEV
renaming pages in Sites tool/Page Order breaks Site Info tool list DEV
SAK-13987 for Sakai 2.6 UX
sakai migration windows to linux DEV
Selecting items out of MyWorksite PORT
Sousa Video Screen Captures DEV
Student View in Sakai (SAK-7924) DEV
Tool Title Localization Fix Checked In DEV
UPDATE - Improving OSP v.1 - Week 2.2 DEV PORT UX
Updating messagectr issue DEV
Uploading Podcasts - Sakai 2.5 DEV
USER
UX

10. 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

<https://educonference.com/sakai/virginiaTech/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

The OPEN Forum for Higher Education Executives

December 7-9, 2008

Palm Springs, California

<http://theopenforum2008.com/index.html>

10th Sakai Conference: Boston

July 8-10, 2009

Cambridge Hyatt

Cambridge, Massachusetts

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