



Sakai Newsletter

January 8, 2009

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1. From the Executive Director

Greetings,

As you may know, Alan Berg is leading an effort to write a book on installing and using Sakai. We have a contract with Wiley and are working hard to write the initial drafts of the last few chapters. I'm taking the lead on the "using Sakai" portions of the book and want your help.

One of the chapters is entitled "Tips from the trenches". This chapter is intended to be a loosely coupled set of techniques for doing things with Sakai that might not, at first blush, seem possible or easy. I'm thinking of how Chuck Severance has made his site mostly public, or how Fred Hofstetter builds a home page with twist-down menus.

So, this is a call for all your tips and tricks on using Sakai. I'm looking for information on what the "tip" accomplishes, why it is important in an instructional or collaboration

setting, and how it is done (a sequence of steps). Feel free to email me directly or, better yet, send them to the pedagogy list (pedagogy@collab.sakaiproject.org) -- it would be great to compile these as a community resource in any case.

Thanks,

Michael Korcuska
Executive Director, Sakai Foundation
mkorcuska@sakaifoundation.org
phone: +1 510-931-6559
mobile (US): +1 510-599-2586
mobile (FR): +33 (0)6 31 11 58 97
skype: mkorcuska

2. 10th Sakai Conference

The 10th Sakai Conference will be held July 8-10 at the Cambridge Hyatt in Boston. Shortly, we will begin working on the program and other details for the conference. If you are interested in being a part of the Program Committee and providing your input to the agenda and events, please send me an email and I'll add you to our email group.

I hope you will choose to participate in making this the best conference ever!

Thanks in advance,

Mary Miles
Sakai Foundation
Administrative Coordinator
Phone: 734-764-3614
Fax: 734-763-7829
Cell: 734-395-2650

3. Sakai Foundation Board of Directors Chair and Vice-Chair

Each year, after the election of new board members, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors are elected. We are pleased to announce that for 2009, these officers are John Norman (Chair) and Lois Brooks (Vice-Chair).

Mary Miles
Sakai Foundation Administrative Coordinator
mmiles@umich.edu

4. Etudes Tools -- Adoption Data / Versions Questionnaire

Dear Colleagues,

If you are seriously using one or more of our Etudes tools (Melete, Jforum, or Mneme), could you please take a moment to complete the following short questionnaire?

<http://etudes.org/adoption-etudes-tools.htm>

We are interested in collecting data on who has adopted which tool (and version), and your Sakai version, to better inform our future roadmaps and plans on what to support. Please respond by January 31, 2009.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Best,

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

5. Google Summer of Code 2009

I was the lead mentor for the Sakai/IMS Google Summer of Code (SOC) effort. It is pretty cool -- Google pays selected students about \$5K to work for our open source project for the summer and pays the Sakai Foundation \$500. You as the mentor get no cash, but you may get a free trip to Google for the mentor retreat. I did this last year and while it was a lot of work, it was a blast and the mentor summit **rocked** because 150 different Open Source projects were represented. I have not yet decided if I want to lead our effort this summer, so I am checking to see if anyone wants to get involved and/or take it over from me.

Here are the 2008 details:
<http://code.google.com/soc/2008/>

Here is the page I produced for the 2008 SOC effort:
<http://141.211.144.161/soc2008/>

Let me know if you want to participate in or run this.

Chuck Severance
csev@umich.edu

6. Indiana University Releases “Empowering People: IU’s Strategic Plan for Information Technology”

IU’s 1998 IT Strategic Plan reshaped IT services across IU’s eight campuses. In March 2008, President McRobbie charged that a successor strategic plan be created to ensure efficiency and effectiveness for IT investments. The plan involved the work of five taskforces and over 140 people. It was endorsed by the IU Trustees in December 2008.

See <http://ovpit.iu.edu/itsp2>

Brad Wheeler
bwheeler@indiana.edu

7. Call for Chapters

I kindly invite you to contribute to a new book, “Learning Management Systems Technologies and Software Solutions for Online Teaching: Tools and Applications,” to be published by IGI Global. The main goal of this edition is to present high quality research by the leading experts on the state-of-the-art Theory, Technology and Applications in online as well as hybrid educational environment.

As you know, currently, many colleges function as exclusively online training or degree granting facilities, while others enrich their traditional curriculum with more and more online and hybrid courses. As the E-Learning market continues to grow, the choice of available stand-alone software modules as well as “software as a service” packages has been growing accordingly. Among the most prominent companies and/or products offering E-Learning software and services are Blackboard/WebCT and eCollege, ANGEL.

The book is intended to be a source of consolidated information for administrators, faculty, course developers and businesses on the available technological solutions in the area of online education. It will contain vital practical information, case studies, and conceived as a manual for all involved in the E-Learning environment.

I would like to invite you to contribute to this important publication. The topics to be covered include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Comprehensive Software Solutions for Online Teaching and Learning:
 - Commercial Learning Management Systems and services, such as Blackboard, e-College, ANGEL, WebCT, WileyPLUS.
 - Free-source LMS.

- The role of innovative social networking technologies, such as Second Life, in online education.
- Technological, financial, and academic issues related to the choice of the appropriate online educational platform.

2. Practices and Methodologies for Asynchronous Delivery of Online Course Content:

- Practices and methodologies corresponding to various LMS.
- Technologies employed to enrich asynchronous courses, including appropriate multimedia technologies among others.

3. Software Solutions and Methodologies for Synchronous Course Delivery:

- Key software solutions such as iLink and Adobe Connect.
- Teaching methodologies for live online seminars.
- Supporting technologies such as instant messaging software and a variety of Microsoft and Adobe products.

4. Hybrid Course Delivery in a Mixed Educational Environment:

- Technologies and practices available for hybrid courses.
- Advantages and disadvantages of hybrid courses vs. “pure” online and traditional courses.

Should you accept this invitation, I would like to kindly ask that on or before February 28, 2009, you submit via email a 2-3 page chapter proposal for review that clearly explains the mission and concerns of your proposed chapter. Should your proposal be accepted, you will be notified by March 15, 2009, and given until June, 15 2009 to submit your 7,000 to 8,000-word chapter. All submitted chapters will be reviewed on a double-blind review basis. IGI Global (formerly Idea Group, Inc.) is a publisher of the “Information Science Reference” (formerly Idea Group Reference) and “Medical Information Science Reference” imprints. For additional information regarding this publication and the publisher, please visit:

<http://www.igi-global.com/requests/details.asp?ID=538>

February 28, 2009 -- Proposal Submission Deadline

March 15, 2009 -- Notification of Acceptance

June 15, 2009 -- Full Chapter Submission

July 15, 2009 -- Review Result Returned

July 30, 2009 -- Final Chapter Submission

Best wishes,

Yefim Kats, PhD Assistant Professor
Rivier College
yefimkatz@yahoo.com, ykats@rivier.edu

8. Job Opening: Web Services Developer at University of Maryland

The University of Maryland at College Park
Office of Information Technology
Software Development Services

Position Title: Web Services Developer

Category: Permanent, 12 months, full time

Responsibilities: The University of Maryland, College Park seeks a Web Services Developer who will work within both an internal OIT group and inter-institutional Sakai working group designing and implementing the online course evaluation tool, CourseEvalUM, which is based on the Sakai-based Evaluation System project. The Web Services Developer will also work on in-house developed, JAVA-based extensions to the Sakai Evaluation Tool including the Evaluation Reporting module. The focus for this position is as a hands-on development team member working under the direction of the team lead. The Web Services Developer is responsible for: working within a development team in the implementation (coding) of the Evaluation System tool to meet Maryland requirements; for writing code according to specifications; for following a formal development methodology and working within scheduled timelines; for deliverables as required, peer code reviews, documentation, and formal testing. The Web Services Developer will work closely with the team lead in keeping to the development schedule and for proactively addressing issues.

Qualifications: To be eligible, the candidate must hold a bachelor's degree preferably in computer science or related field and have a minimum of two (2) years full-time experience as a Java developer (language and platform), including experience in object oriented principles, software design, and use of design patterns. Must have experience with at least one of each of the following technologies: ORM (hibernate, EJB, toplink, etc), MVC frameworks (Spring, Struts, JSF, etc.), SQL database (Oracle, MySQL, etc.), and view technologies (JSP, XSL, Velocity). Must have understanding of relational databases and experience working with databases in web-based applications. Must have understanding of established software engineering standards and methodologies including some or all of the following: creation and use of Use Cases, UML modeling, naming conventions, source control facilities, documentation; unit testing. Experience working productively within a software engineering team in the design, development, and implementation of software is required. Experience with Sakai community/open source projects or other community source project is highly desirable. Experience with Integrated Development Environments and tools such as Eclipse, Maven, and JUnit and source code management systems such as Subversion or CVS is preferred. The successful candidate will possess excellent communication skills, both written and verbal, be a self-

starter who is highly organized, learns quickly and has the ability to work independently and in teams

Salary: Commensurate with qualifications. Excellent leave, medical coverage, retirement, and tuition-remission benefits.

Applications: Screening of applicants will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. Please send resume and/or experience profile by email to:

oit-resume@umd.edu or to:

Web Services Developer Search
Office of Information Technology
University of Maryland
3317 Computer and Space Sciences Bldg. (224)
College Park, MD 20742-2411

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:

32 bits or 64 bits? Virtualization or physical machine? database or file systems? OS?
Load balancing? Session sharing? DEV
accessibility: jaws, windows eyes, zoomtext? USER

building with rhino DEV
Calendar synoptic view entries. DEV
Etudes Tools - Adoption Data / Versions Questionnaire USER
event tracking in melete DEV
Feedback requested on Fluid's Date-Time Picker UI, UX
Is everything content in Sakai 3? DEV, PORT, PED, UX
It's a new year and new UX opportunity for Sakai! UX
lecture delay question within Ctools aka Sakai USER
Migrating data from HSQL db to MySQL db DEV
Mod_proxy_ajp httpd-tomcat configuration was: Needing Dexterity With Apache2.2 &
Tomcat DEV
msgentr SAK-14929 DEV
Needing Dexterity With Apache2.2 & Tomcat DEV
Obtaining Date/Times from Sakai DB (Oracle) DEV
On thinking about content and collaboration... UX
Portfolio setup questions PORT, DEV
Problems with GenericDao and Clickers tool DEV
question concerning Oracle database PORT
Sakai 3: A proposal and request for input PORT, USER, UX
Sakai 3.0 Proposal comments DEV, PED
Sakai book PED
Shifting our gravitational center PED
Simple example of alternate form creation/rendering PORT
Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award, idea for publicizing at your campus
tracking in melete DEV

10. Events

2009 JASIG Spring Conference

March 1-4, 2009

The Sheraton Dallas Hotel

Dallas, Texas

<http://www.ja-sig.org>

Second Rhode Island Sakai Conference

March 31-April 1, 2009

Providence Biltmore Hotel

Providence, Rhode Island

www.rinet

eLearning Africa 09

May 27- 29, 2009

Le Meridien President

Dakar, Senegal
www.learning-africa.com.

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