



Sakai Newsletter

September 10, 2009

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1. From the Executive Director

This week, as I prepare to head to Australia for AuSakai 09, I want to draw your attention to an email that Sakai Product manager, Clay Fenlason, sent out just before Labor Day weekend here in the US. It provides a lot of good information about what is happening with Sakai Releases.

The email covers:

- 2.6 maintenance releases
- Preparations for 2.7, including staggered tool QA along the way to 2.7.0
- A proposed "maintenance team"
- The need for branch managers for 2.7

I encourage you to read the entire email if you haven't already and give Clay any feedback you might have:

<http://collab.sakaiproject.org/pipermail/management/2009-September/000166.html>

If you're interested in tracking these kinds of conversations I encourage you to subscribe to the "management" email list. You can do that here:

<http://collab.sakaiproject.org/mailman/listinfo/management>

See you in Bathurst!

Michael Korcuska
Executive Director, Sakai Foundation
mkorcuska@sakaifoundation.org
phone: +1 510-859-4247 (google voice)
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2. New Sakai Initiative Focused on "Instructional Visioning"

Following the 10th International Sakai Conference in Boston this past July, a diverse set of community members representing UX, Teaching and Learning, Portfolio, and others have been working to organize a new effort focused on the need to find new ways for our community to discuss, identify and document the types of instructional practices that Sakai needs to support now and into the near as well as distant future. In order to begin work on this new effort, the weekly Sakai Teaching and Learning phone conference is being rescheduled as well as refocused on this issue.

Any and all members of the Sakai Community are welcome to participate in this new effort. Our first phone conference is being scheduled for the week of September 14th. If you are interested in participating please go to our Doodle site at <http://www.doodle.com/fv6feshva2wybxf> to input times when you would be available. A final time will be selected and posted, along with call-in information, sometime next week to the Sakai Teaching and Learning and Using Sakai mailing lists. See the www.sakaiproject.org for details on subscribing to these lists.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions please email Josh Baron at Josh.Baron@marist.edu.

3. Gradebook2 Upcoming 1.1 Release

Hi All,

Just a heads up that we will be releasing the 1.1.0 tag of the new Gradebook 2 tool next week.

Highlights Include:

- Letter Grading
- Grader Permissions
- Course Grade and Item Level Statistics
- Scantron Import
- XLS Import
- Export / Import with Comments
- Weight Items by Points in Weighted Categories mode

If you're curious for details,

1.1.0-rc1 : tasks, fixes and enhancements for the current release candidate are visible here:

<http://jira.sakaiproject.org/secure/IssueNavigator.jspa?reset=true&pid=10491&fixfor=11605>

And here are known critical issues:

<http://jira.sakaiproject.org/secure/IssueNavigator.jspa?reset=true&pid=10491&priority=2&resolution=-1&type=1>

(For those who missed the 1.0 release:

<http://jira.sakaiproject.org/secure/IssueNavigator.jspa?reset=true&pid=10491&fixfor=11585>)

Best,

James Renfro
jlrenfro@ucdavis.edu

4. Update on Joint rSmart/IBM/Marist Work at Marist College

Starting this fall Marist College will be providing a hosted version of Sakai for five local school districts that are part of Marist's K-12 Greystone Consortium. The Greystone Consortium program offers an online education environment that includes online

undergraduate courses for high school juniors and seniors and graduate courses for K-12 teachers. This year, through this new Greystone pilot project (dubbed zSakai - <https://greystone.marist.edu/>), participating teachers at each of the schools will be able to use Sakai for their own classroom instruction. There are 10 teachers signed up starting this school year with more anticipated for the spring semester. This hosted version of Sakai is rSmart's 2.6.1 CLE running on a Websphere/DB2/Linux/z platform.

Howard Baker
hcbaker@us.ibm.com

5. Log Event Descriptions for Sakai 2.6 Now Available on Confluence

A full list of all user actions, or "events," that are logged within the Event Table for Sakai 2.6 are now available on Confluence at this URL:
<http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/x/5A7tAw>

The events are grouped by Sakai tool and include the tool, event code, a general description, and whether or not the event is being tracked in SiteStats 2.0. Also, a list of known Sakai tools (core, provisional, and contrib) are provided at the bottom of the page.

DEVELOPERS: Please check to make sure that the events for your tools are complete and accurate, particularly those with question marks (??) next to the description. Additionally, please add any missing events for tools that you have worked on or are responsible for.

Thanks,

Steven Lonn
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Usability, Support, and Evaluation (USE) Lab
Part of the CTools / Sakai Team
University of Michigan
slonn@umich.edu

6. Feedback on New Feature Contributions to Tests & Quizzes

The following new Tests & Quizzes features have been developed by Rice University. These features are running locally on Rice's local instance of Sakai, and Rice would like to contribute them back to the Sakai community. As part of the review process, the Tests & Quizzes team would like to gather feedback from the Sakai community on the

desirability of these features. For those Sakai schools currently using or considering using Tests & Quizzes, would any of these features fill an existing need at your particular institutions? Please review the specific JIRA entries and accompanying specs from Rice University for details on each feature.

Please send your comments directly to me at jamai@stanford.edu by **Tuesday, September 22**.

Partial Credit for Multiple Choice Assessments

<http://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAK-16823>

Sakai Samigo Pause Between Quiz Retakes

<http://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAK-16824>

Partially anonymous assessments

<http://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAK-16821>

The ability to choose "Average" for the "Recorded Score if Multiple Submissions"

<http://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAK-11690>

Thanks for your feedback,

Jacqueline Mai
User Experience Specialist
CourseWork Team
Stanford University
jamai@stanford.edu

7. Another Successful Google Summer of Code Winds Up

Google Summer of Code has now ended for 2009. Sakai's three students all had a great summer and passed all their programme evaluations!

Congratulations and many thanks to Shashank Agrawal, Andre Leger and Yuri Vishnevsky, who have all written useful code for Sakai and made really valuable contributions as GSOC students.

Many thanks for guidance and advice to the mentoring team, Oszkar Nagy, Amyas Phillips, Nicolaas Matthijs and Claude Coulombe. Our mentors all got good reviews from their students and did an excellent job.

It's been a great learning experience figuring out how the GSOC process works, and helping bring together volunteers to make more wonderful software. Google seems

really happy with our progress -- Sakai now counts as an experienced and successful project in GSOC terms! If anyone is interested in mentoring or administering GSOC next year, do get in touch (laura@caret.cam.ac.uk) -- the more the merrier.

You can find out more about GSOC here: <http://socghop.appspot.com>

Laura James
CARET, University of Cambridge
laura@caret.cam.ac.uk

8. Update on Unicon Gradebook Work

Unicon contributes monthly development to assist with the growth of the Sakai application. The progress made in August on the Sakai Gradebook Jiras SAK-14173 (<http://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAK-14173>) and SAK-14520 (<http://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAK-14520>) is a representation of work done within the Unicon Cooperative Development Team. We are happy to say there are many more hours of development to come and some exciting work ahead. We hope many institutions within the Sakai Community can take advantage of the output of our development.

Charise Arrowood
carrowood@unicon.net

9. Kualifoundation Job Opening

The Kualifoundation is looking for an exceptionally talented technology professional who has the vision and execution skills to lead a rapidly growing open source community's technical direction. This unique opportunity is for the Kualifoundation Rice Lead Architect position. Kualifoundation Rice is an enterprise middleware suite that provides the foundation for Kualifoundation's enterprise applications such as the Kualifoundation Financial, Student, and Research Systems. Kualifoundation Rice is also being adopted by educational institutions as a core part of a next generation enterprise architecture. This position offers the right candidate an opportunity to have an important impact improving the use of technology to further education globally. The successful candidate will have proven leadership abilities, experience with open source communities, exceptional communication and collaboration skills, and strong service-oriented architecture and design expertise. For more information please see: <http://kualifoundation.org/news/2009/architect.html>.

Qualified candidates should send a resume and letter of interest to jfoutty@kualifoundation.org.

10. Recent Email Group Discussions

[Building Sakai] **Question pool slowness**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Question-pool-slowness-td3606539.html#a3606539>

[Building Sakai] **qa2-us to be updated with new sakai-2.6.x.-qa tag**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-qa2-us-to-be-updated-with-new-sakai-2-6-x-qa-tag-td3626169.html#a3626169>

[Building Sakai] **about configuration of the new site**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-about-configuration-of-the-new-site-td3624492.html#a3624492>

[Building Sakai] **Sakai Slow Down**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-Sakai-Slow-Down-td3620984.html#a3620984>

[Building Sakai] **Calendar widget problem with IE7**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-Sakai-Slow-Down-td3620984.html#a3620984>

[Building Sakai] **YAFT: Single User View & Gradebook Integration**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-YAFT-Single-User-View-Gradebook-Integration-td3577139.html#a3621606>

[Building Sakai] **Base64 encoding/decoding, commons-codec 1.4, and K1**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Base64-encoding-decoding-commons-codec-1-4-and-K1-td3620694.html#a3620694>

[Building Sakai] **AssignmentAction.readGradeForm -> readAllowResubmitParams? Alert "Accept submissions deadline set to be in the past"**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-AssignmentAction-readGradeForm-readAllowResubmitParams-Alert-Accept-submissions-deadl-td3621027.html#a3621027>

[Building Sakai] **how to deal with figure in the test and quiz**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-how-to-deal-with-figure-in-the-test-and-quiz-td3619747.html#a3619747>

[Building Sakai] **When (if) plugin repositories go down..**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-When-if-plugin-repositories-go-down-td3620476.html#a3620476>

[Building Sakai] **IE6 users as percent of total**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-IE6-users-as-percent-of-total-td3614912.html#a3619214>

[Building Sakai] **PERL SOAP on Windows Gotchas**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-PERL-SOAP-on-Windows-Gotchas-td3611347.html#a3611347>

[Building Sakai] **rudimentary clicker device using report in email archive**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-rudimentary-clicker-device-using-report-in-email-archive-td3606527.html#a3606527>

[Building Sakai] **Log Event Descriptions for Sakai 2.6 Now Available on Confluence**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-Log-Event-Descriptions-for-Sakai-2-6-Now-Available-on-Confluence-td3605044.html#a3605044>

[Building Sakai] **2.5.x maintenance and Entity Broker**
<http://n2.nabble.com/WG-Sakai-QA-2-5-x-maintenance-and-Entity-Broker-td3603524.html#a3603524>

[DG: Teaching & Learning] **Tell us about your users: Rethinking the capabilities of learning activities tools, such as Tests & Quizzes, for 3.0**
<http://n2.nabble.com/DG-Teaching-Learning-Tell-us-about-your-users-Rethinking-the-capabilities-of-learning-activities-too0-td3629076.html#a3629076>

[DG: Teaching & Learning] **unconverted pinyin**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-unconverted-pinyin-td3615507.html#a3615507>

[Portfolio] **MetaAnalysis - Verbs and Primitives**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-MetaAnalysis-Verbs-and-Primitives-td3610266.html#a3610266>

[Portfolio] **Global template**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-Global-template-td3625815.html#a3625815>

[Portfolio] **Collaborative Portfolio Editing**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-Collaborative-Portfolio-Editing-td3529271.html#a3529271>

[DG: User Experience] **Creating groups without leaving current context...**
<http://n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-Creating-groups-without-leaving-current-context-td3627537.html#a3627537>

[Using Sakai] **Feedback on new feature contributions to Tests & Quizzes**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-Feedback-on-new-feature-contributions-to-Tests-Quizzes-td3616799.html#a3616799>

[DG: User Experience] **Swapping text links for icons**

<http://n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-Swapping-text-links-for-icons-td3603714.html#a3603714>

[DG: User Experience] **Searching Resources**

<http://n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-Searching-Resources-td3602749.html#a3602749>

11. Events

AuSakai '09

September 17-18, 2009

Charles Sturt University Bathurst Campus

Bathurst NSW, Australia <http://www.csu.edu.au/division/landt/ausakai09/ausakai09.htm>

1st Workshop: Learning Management Systems meet Adaptive Learning Environments
(LMS-ALE'09)

September 29 - October 2, 2009

EC-TEL Nice, France

<http://www.wis.win.tue.nl/lms-ale-09>

The Jasig Fall 2009 Unconference

September 28 - 30 Unconference sessions; October 1-2 Developer meetings

Urbana Champaign I Hotel and Conference Center

University of Illinois Urbana - Champaign, Illinois

<http://www.ja-sig.org/wiki/display/JCON/Fall+2009+Unconference+-+Urbana+Champaign>

Assessment Institute in Indianapolis

October 25-27, 2009

The Westin Indianapolis

Indianapolis, Indiana

<http://www.planning.iupui.edu/institute>

Online Educa Berlin 2009

December 2-4, 2009

Hotel InterContinental Berlin

Berlin, Germany

<http://www.online-educa.com/the-conference>