

Sakai Newsletter

January 21, 2010

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1. From the Executive Director

Well, its January, and that means that planning for the 2010 Sakai Conference in Denver is heating up. After last year's outrageously fun, educational and successful conference in Boston, I'm personally very excited for this year's event. The main conference will be from June 15-17, with pre-conference workshops on the 14th.

And you should get involved!

- Register for the conference. The registration opens on Monday, February 1.
- Submit a proposal. I especially want to encourage those folks who have been using Sakai but haven't presented before.
- Design a logo! Sakai conference logos are designed by community members. If you're interested in designing one we can provide you with the source files for the existing Sakai logo.
- Suggest a keynote speaker. I'm on the lookout for great speakers and could use your suggestions.
- You can join the conference committee. Send email to Mary Miles (mmiles@umich.edu) or Pieter Hartsook (hartsook@sakaifoundation.org) for details.

Finally, attending a Sakai Conference is a great way for those considering Sakai to learn more about why Sakai is more than just a product. So I'd ask you to encourage your colleagues at other institutions to attend.

Visit the conference website (http://sakaiproject.org/static/conference-2010.htm) for details. There is also a LinkedIn Events page (http://events.linkedin.com/Sakai-2010-Conference/pub/217956).

See you in Denver!

Michael Korcuska Executive Director, Sakai Foundation mkorcuska@sakaifoundation.org phone: +1 510-859-4247 (google voice)

skype: mkorcuska

2. Call For Proposals for the 2010 Sakai Conference

The deadline for proposal submissions is Feb. 28, 2010.

The conference Tracks are:

- 1. Building Sakai
- 2. Deploying Sakai
- 3. Using Sakai
- 4. Portfolio
- 5. Sakai Showcase
- 6. Multiple Audiences

This year you will also be able identify the focus of your presentation by selecting a "subtrack" area of interest to help attendees in their session planning. The subtrack tags are:

- 1. Newcomer
- 2. Research
- 3. Pedagogy
- 4. QA
- 5. Faculty Practices
- 6. Sakai3
- 7. Student Involvement
- 8. Innovation
- 9. User Support

You can find further details on the conference website: http://sakaiproject.org/static/conference-2010.htm.

We look forward to your proposals.

2010 Sakai Conference Planning Committee

3. Sakai Board of Directors Elects Officers -- Josh Baron, Chair, Maggie Lynch, Vice-Chair

The Sakai Foundation is pleased to announce the re-election of Josh Baron, Director of Academic Technology and eLearning at Marist College, to serve as Chair of the Sakai Foundation Board of Directors for the coming year. Josh was elected to the Sakai Board in December of 2007 for a three-year term and served as Chair since August of 2009. He is responsible for supporting a wide range of instructional technology initiatives at Marist College, including distance learning, faculty training, and student support. He also plays a leadership role in strategic planning for the College in areas of academic and information technology.

Maggie McVay Lynch, Dean of Academic Technology and Distance Education at College of the Redwoods, has been elected to serve as the Sakai Foundation Board of Directors Vice-Chair for the coming year. She has been a part of the Sakai community since 2002. Her most recent contributions have been as part of the Teaching & Learning Group, developing the evaluation rubric for the Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award, and providing input to a number of pedagogical and user-related issues. In 2008 she received recognition as a Sakai Fellow.

Please join the Sakai Foundation in welcoming these stalwarts of the community in their new leadership roles.

You can see the information about the current Board of Directors at: http://sakaiproject.org/board-directors

Pieter Hartsook hartsook@sakaifoundation.org

4. Sakai Foundation Executive Brief Webinar Slides Posted

The slides from the webinar are on the Sakai Foundation page: http://sakaiproject.org/sakai-foundation

along with a link to download the .ppt file: http://sakaiproject.org/sites/default/files/2010%20January%20Exec%20Brief.ppt

Pieter Hartsook hartsook@sakaifoundation.org

5. JForum 2.7.1 for Sakai Now Released!

The Etudes team is pleased to announce the release of JForum 2.7.1 for Sakai 2.6.x.

DOWNLOAD JFORUM 2.7.1

Instructions on how to download and build JForum 2.7.1 can be found at: http://etudes.org/release/discussion/

In addition to implementing several new features and enhancements, with this release, Jforum no longer uses Jboss cache. Additionally, we have moved all Jforum configurations to sakai.properties. And, Jforum now uses Sakai's email settings.

FEATURES & FIXES

For highlights of this release (with screen shots), please see: http://etudes.org/release/discussion/2.7/

For a complete list of Jira issues addressed in 2.7.0 and 2.7.1, please see: http://etudes.org/release/discussion/jforum_past.htm



For information on future development, see: http://etudes.org/jforum features.htm

CREDITS

Many thanks to Murthy Tanniru, Senior Java Developer, Etudes, for his ongoing work in making Jforum a better teaching, collaboration, and communication tool.

QUESTIONS?

To report issues or ask questions about Jforum, send a message to: <u>dev@etudes.org</u>, or <u>sakai-dev@collab.sakaiproject.org</u>.

Vivie Sinou

Executive Director, Etudes, Inc.

http://etudes.org/

6. The Etudes Team is Pleased to Announce the Release of Melete 2.7.2 for Sakai 2.6.x.

DOWNLOAD MELETE 2.7.2

Instructions on how to download and build Melete 2.7.2 can be found at: http://etudes.org/release/melete/

In addition to implementing several new features and accessibility improvements, with this release, Melete's "import from site" and IMS CP import/export functionality has been greatly enhanced and streamlined.

Also, import of Moodle packages is now supported by Melete's IMS CP code, as well as import of eXe packages.

FEATURES & FIXES

For highlights of this release (with screen shots), please see: http://etudes.org/release/melete/2.7/

For a complete list of Jira issues addressed in 2.7.0, 2.7.1, and 2.7.2, please see: http://etudes.org/release/melete/melete_past.htm

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

For information on future development, see: http://etudes.org/melete_features.htm

CREDITS

Many thanks to Rashmi Maheshwari and Mallika Thoppay, Learning Systems Developers, Etudes, Inc. for their ongoing work and commitment to making Melete a super lesson builder tool.

Many thanks also go to Chuck Severance for his continued contributions in enhancing LTI support in Melete. Several LTI improvements and fixes were added by Chuck in this Melete release

QUESTIONS?

To report issues or ask questions about Melete, send a message to: <u>dev@etudes.org</u> or <u>sakai-dev@collab.sakaiproject.org</u>.

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

7. Profile2 1.4.0 Preview Release Available

I am very pleased to announce that a preview release of Profile 21.4.0 is available. This release gives a sneak peek into some of the new features that Profile 2v1.4.0 will bring.

Notable features included in this release:

- Private messaging
- An image gallery and the ability to choose your profile image from your gallery
- Improved Wicket AJAX performance
- Direct, easily bookmarked URLs to various pages and views

and dozens of other fixes and features!

For the full list of issues and features in this release, see Jira: http://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/PRFL/fixforversion/11740

As always, the full installation/upgrade/configuration guide is available in Confluence: http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/PROFILE/Profile2

How to get it: This release is available in the Sakai subversion repository at: https://source.sakaiproject.org/svn/profile2/tags/profile2-1.4.0-preview-01/

and as a binary Tomcat overlay in the Sakai Maven repository at: http://source.sakaiproject.org/maven2/org/sakaiproject/profile2-assembly/1.4.0-preview-01/

A big thanks to everyone who has contributed to the development of Profile2, and a special thanks to the Centre for e-Science, Lancaster University, UK, who contributed the Image Gallery feature!

Steve Swinsburg
Profile2 lead developer and evangelist
steve.swinsburg@gmail.com

8. Search 1.2.0-rc03 Has Been Released

Hi All,

Search 1.2.0-rc03 has been released. This is the latest bugfix release in the search service targeted for the upcoming 2.7 release. This release addresses three issues. All of them are aimed at eliminating potential resource leaks identified by the static code review:

http://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAK-17638 http://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAK-17639 http://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAK-17630

As usual, the release site can be found at: http://source.sakaiproject.org/release/search/1.2.0-rc03/

Regards,

David Horwitz david.horwitz@uct.ac.za

9. Sakai-2.7.0-b01 QA Tag Available

I've generated the sakai-2.7.0-b01 QA tag. It downloads, installs and starts up in Tomcat 5.5.28 running inside a Java SE 1.6.0_17 JVM. QA server admins should download and deploy the tag to 2.7-supported servers as quickly as is possible so that QA can have at it.

This tag was originally scheduled for release on 21 January 2010. It was bumped to 25 January so that we could address issues with edu-services as well as reduce a backlog of fixes that had yet to be merged to the 2.7.x maintenance branch.

The next beta tag is scheduled for Friday, 5 February 2010.

THIS TAG

Get it: https://source.sakaiproject.org/svn/sakai/tags/sakai-2.7.0-b01/

What gets deployed: http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/REL/sakai-2.7.0-b01

Fixes (n=111): http://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAK/fixforversion/11681

What got left out (n=47): http://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAK/fixforversion/11775

DATES

Next tag: sakai-2.7.0-b02, scheduled for Friday, 5 February 2010

RM calendar:

http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/REL/Release+Management+Calendar

MORE INFO

http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/REL/Release+Management+Working+Group

Cheers,

Anthony Whyte arwhyte@umich.edu

10. Registration Deadline: Jasig 2010 Early Registration Ends Jan 31

A message from our friends at Jasig...

Come to the most inclusive conference on open/community source higher education projects you will attend this year!

Jasig Spring 2010: "Ten Years of Open Source Innovation"

When:

- March 8 10, 2010
- Supplementary Seminars March 7th and 10th
- Developer Days, March 11 12

Where:

- Town and Country Resort, San Diego, California

Early Bird Registration and Hotel Discounts are available through January 31st.

Register for both at the conference site: http://www.jasig.org/conferences/10spring/index.html

Keynotes by:

- Gregory A. Jackson, Vice President for Policy and Analysis at EDUCAUSE
- Justin Erenkrantz, President of the Apache Software Foundation
- Rod Johnson, Founder of the Spring Framework Project

11. Teaching and Learning Group to Hold Virtual Working Session on 2/4 and 2/5

As many may already know, the Sakai Teaching and Learning group has scheduled a two-day "Virtual Working Session" which will take place on February 4th and 5th from 12 Noon EST to 7 PM EST. The goal is to dedicate a block of time to taking the "Learning Capabilities" documentation that we've been working on associated with the Sakai 3 development effort "to the next level". Details of what this means and background on the effort can be found at:

http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/PED/Virtual+Working+Session+planning+page

We have over 20 people signed up to participate but would love more (feel free to join in even if you've not had time to engage up until this point). The website referenced above also has a place to sign up.

Joshua Baron
Director, Academic Technology and eLearning
Marist College
Josh.Baron@marist.edu

12. European Sakai Conference 2010 in Valencia, Spain

The conference will consist of a BootCamp/Workshop on the 1st of March followed by two days of conference presentations and BOF meetings on the 2nd and 3rd of March. You can find all the information about the conference on the Sakai website: http://sakaiproject.org/sakai-european-regional-conference-2010

You can register and make your payment at: https://www.upv.es/pls/sosak/sic_eusakai.REGISTRATION?p_vista=poliformat&P_IDIOMA=i

The registration fee is 100 EUR and includes all the meals for the conference.

About PRESENTATION PROPOSALS: Please, we need all your collaboration for the conference presentations. If you think you have good experiences to talk about, a new tool to show, or any best practice you want to share, please think about doing a presentation in the conference. Presentation proposals can be sent to the conference e-email address: eurosakai2010@upv.es.

About the BOOTCAMP/WORKSHOP: The schedule includes a Bootcamp/Workshop that is focused on the configuration and maintenance for the Sakai 2.x instance. As you may know, Sakai 3 is gaining momentum and you may be interested in a second, parallel BOOTCAMP for Sakai 3. Please send feedback if you are interested. If there's a strong demand, we will schedule it.

About the SPORTS ACTIVITY: We are planning a sports activity for the evening of the 1st of March. It will consist of a basketball match and a indoor soccer match. If you are interested in this, please select the mark that you will find it in the registration form.

Please if you have any questions, please contact eurosakai2010@upv.es

Thank you.

Raúl Enrique Mengod López rmengod@cc.upv.es

13. Announcing the 2nd Annual Etudes Users' Summit!

Etudes develops the Melete, Mneme, and JForum tools for the Sakai community and uses the Users' Summit to showcase the latest and planned features for these tools, as well as gather user requirements for the roadmap for these tools going forward. The Users' Summit also showcases how teachers effectively teach with Sakai.

This year's Summit will be held on May 13 and May 14, 2010, in Burlingame/San Francisco, California, at the Crowne Plaza San Francisco International. Last year's Etudes Users' Summit was held in Los Angeles, California and had over 125 attendees.

Dr. Ed Gould, Superintendent/President from Imperial Valley College, will kick off the Summit on Thursday, May 13, with the keynote address. The program will include show and tell sessions, tool demos, roundtable discussions and breakout sessions on best practices, retention strategies, tips and tools to become a better teacher, and much more.

EARLY REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Early registration is now open! Please go to: http://etudes.org/summit/

The registration fee is \$150 for Etudes members and \$200 for non-members.

Registration fees will help defray the costs of meals (breakfast and lunch, both days, are included), reception on Thursday evening, meeting room accommodations, AV equipment, and other event needs.

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

We are now accepting presentation proposals. The DEADLINE for submissions is February 12, 2010. For more information about program themes, presentation types, and to submit a proposal, see: http://etudes.org/summit/summit-proposal-call.htm

LODGING

We have negotiated a great guest room rate of 99.00 US\$ / night with the Summit hotel, Crowne Plaza. This rate will be honored up to the cut-off date of April 30, 2010. Please don't put off planning your travel. For reservations, call 650-342-9200 and ask for the Etudes' room block.

The rate will also be available to Etudes attendees two days prior and two days after the event. Bring your family and stay for the weekend and plan to visit the city! The hotel is close to Caltrain and the BART station.

Complimentary transportation is provided to and from the SFO Airport. Additionally, complimentary Internet Service will be available for guests. For more details on the hotel accommodations and location, please see: http://etudes.org/summit/summit-lodging.htm

Please plan to join us and your colleagues and experience in person the vibrant Etudes community. We promise a repeat of last year's energizing and valuable event. The attendees, Etudes members and non-members alike, will appreciate and benefit from the interaction and exchanges.

We hope to see you in San Francisco, California, in May!

Vivie Sinou Executive Director, Etudes, Inc.

About Etudes:

Etudes is a non-profit 501(c)(3), public charity organization providing hosted Application Services Provider (ASP) using Sakai targeted at small-to-medium schools. Etudes provides a low-cost end-to-end e-learning technology solution including software development and maintenance, hosting, and faculty training. Etudes training ranges from teaching faculty to use the Etudes software to best practices for online teaching. Etudes can be used to support an entire campus as the campus enterprise learning platform or it can be used to compliment an existing campus learning platform.

If you would like more information about Etudes, please send a message to inquiry@etudes.org or visit http://etudes.org/

14. Call for Entries: Teaching With Sakai Innovation Award 2010

Have you used Sakai to create a dynamic learning environment that has enriched your students' experience? If so, consider applying for the 2010 Teaching With Sakai Innovation Award. This award publicly honors successful pedagogical innovation and best practices in teaching and learning in a Sakai environment. Winners will receive a trip to the 11th Sakai Conference, June 14-17, 2010, in Denver, Colorado, USA (http://sakaiproject.org/static/conference-2010.htm) to give a featured presentation about their teaching with Sakai. All entries will become part of the OpenEdPractices.org (http://openedpractices.org/courses) repository of best teaching practices. The award is sponsored by IBM, with additional support from rSmart and John Wiley & Sons.

For more information about the award and the submission deadline, go to the Teaching With Sakai Innovation Award website: http://openedpractices.org/twsia

15. Draft 2.7.0 Release Schedule

I've added the calendar plugin to the release management space in Confluence and laid out a draft release schedule for the upcoming Sakai 2.7.0 release (see links below). The plan is a tentative one but assumes the generation of six QA tags (beta/rc) starting on Thursday, 21 January, 2009 and released every other Thursday thereafter until we judge that sakai-2.7.0 is ready for public release (tentative release date: 22 April). If necessary the schedule outlined below will be adjusted should circumstances require it.

For me a critical determinant of whether or not we can keep to the schedule below involves transitioning successfully from beta tags to release candidates. Alan Berg has proposed that the transition occur only after the following conditions are met:

Beta -> rc transition

- 1. elimination of all blockers
- 2. no unassigned critical issues

We should discuss the above criteria (as well as other proposals). At a minimum, I'd like to see a fall in the number of issues lodged against successive beta tags before we decide to cut a release candidate; however, tracking changes in the defect rate may prove challenging.

Tentative schedule (Jan-Feb: beta tags, March-April: rc tags)

21 Jan: sakai-2.7.0-b01 4 Feb: sakai-2.7.0-b02

17 Feb: Properties files string freeze (e.g., i18N)

18 Feb: sakai-2.7.0-b03

4 March: sakai-2.7.0- (beta/rc) 18 March: sakai-2.7.0- (beta/rc) 1 April: sakai-2.7.0- (beta/rc)

15-19 April: sakai-2.7.0 tag/binaries prep

22 April: sakai-2.7.0 release

Indie Projects should consider synchronizing their beta/rc candidates with the above.

If anyone objects to the draft schedule above please do not he sitate to contact me.

Cheers,

Anthony Whyte arwhyte@umich.edu

16. Recent Email Group Discussions

How to make roster tool available only to maintainers Solaris Architecture Affects Performance?

http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-How-to-make-roster-tool-available-only-tomaintainers-td4457527.html#a4457716

Floating Chat and business networking

http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Floating-Chat-and-business-networkingtd4467453.html#a4467453wrong encoding with accents Wimba integration on 2.6

Create and share Google Sites with new Sites Data API features

http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Create-and-share-Google-Sites-with-new-Sites-Data-API-features-td4465391.html#a4465391

T&Q -- multiple choice question always scores zero?

http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-T-Q-multiple-choice-question-always-scores-zerotd4462036.html#a4464244

A consolidated assignment submission?

http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-A-consolidated-assignment-submissiontd4464148.html#a4468328

Size of welcome pannel

http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Size-of-welcome-pannel-td4461460.html#a4464231

Evaluation system on nightly or demo

http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Evaluation-system-on-nightly-or-demotd4453159.html#a4454139

trouble patching calendar-impl

http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-trouble-patching-calendar-impltd4458937.html#a4458937

Forums tool and .anon

http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Forums-tool-and-anon-td4454629.html#a4454629

Sakai Presence Question

http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Sakai-Presence-Questiontd4455168.html#a4455168

Is there a better way to render subforms?

http://n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-Is-there-a-better-way-to-render-subforms-td4443762.html#a4444147

Matrix preview behavior

http://n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-Matrix-preview-behavior-td4440230.html#a4440230

iRubric for Sakai

http://n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-iRubric-for-Sakai-td4426570.html#a4426570

AAC&U Essential Learning Outcomes and VALUE Rubrics in Sakai

http://n2.nabble.com/DG-Teaching-Learning-AAC-U-Essential-Learning-Outcomes-and-VALUE-Rubrics-in-Sakai-td4427351.html#a4427351

learning capabilities categories - updated

http://n2.nabble.com/DG-Teaching-Learning-learning-capabilities-categories-updated-td4464237.html#a4464237

Call for testers

http://n2.nabble.com/Call-for-testers-td4434875.html#a4434875

Google Apps Integration in Sakai

http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Google-Apps-Integration-in-Sakai-td4429782.html#a4429782

Update on Sakai 3 CSS refactoring

http://n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-Update-on-Sakai-3-CSS-refactoring-td4468741.html#a4468779

17. Events

Connexions Conference 2010 February 2, 2010 Houston, Texas http://cnxconference.rice.edu/

European Sakai Conference 2010 in Valencia, Spain March 1-3, 2010 Valencia, Spain http://sakaiproject.org/sakai-european-regional-conference-2010

Jasig 2010 Ten Years of Open Source Innovation March 8-10, 2010 The Town and Country Resort San Diego, California http://www.ja-sig.org/conferences/10spring/index.html

2nd Annual Etudes Users' Summit May 13 & May 14, 2010 Burlingame / San Francisco, California Crowne Plaza San Francisco International http://etudes.org/summit/

11th Sakai Annual Conference Date and Time: Tuesday - Thursday, June 15-17, 2010 Pre-conference sessions: Monday, June 14, 2010 Hyatt Regency Tech Center Denver, Colorado http://sakaiproject.org/news/2010-sakai-conference-website-goes-live-call-proposalsnow-open