



Sakai Newsletter

February 4, 2010

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1. From the Executive Director

I'm very pleased to announce the availability of the latest maintenance releases for Sakai, versions 2.6.2 and 2.5.6. A great deal of effort across the community went into making these available. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who participated in this process. A special thanks to Anthony Whyte who not only coordinated the process but pulled the releases together.

The Sakai 2.6.2 maintenance release provides a set of bug fixes that improve upon the Sakai 2.6.1 release. Over 80 issues have been addressed by 2.6.2. More details can be found on these release pages:

- Sakai 2.6.2 Release Documentation (Overview, Installation, Configuration, etc.) is on the wiki at: <http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/DOC/Sakai+2.6>
- Sakai 2.6.2 fixes are listed with details at: <http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/DOC/Sakai+2.6.2+Fixes>
- Sakai 2.6.2 Release Artifacts (source, binary and demo versions) are available at: <http://source.sakaiproject.org/release/2.6.2/>

The Sakai 2.5.6 maintenance release provides a set of bug fixes and security enhancements that improve upon Sakai 2.5.5. Over 130 issues have been addressed in this release and, again, more details can be found on these pages:

- Sakai 2.5.6 Release Documentation (Overview, Installation, Configuration, etc.) is on the wiki at: <http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/DOC/Sakai+2.5>

- Sakai 2.5.6 fixes are listed with details at:

<http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/DOC/Sakai+2.5.6+Fixes>

- Sakai 2.5.6 Release Artifacts (source, binary and demo versions) are available at:

<http://source.sakaiproject.org/release/2.5.6/>

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2. Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award: Deadline March 15

Greetings,

For those of you at schools running Sakai, you may be interested in applying for this teaching award:

Sakai Teaching Award Call for Entries

Have you used Sakai to create a dynamic learning environment that has enriched your students' experience? If so, consider applying for the Teaching With Sakai Innovation Award. This award is intended to highlight good pedagogy and innovation in teaching and learning with technology and to share best practices. The winners are awarded with a trip to the 2010 Sakai Conference, June 15-17, in Denver, Colorado, USA (<http://sakaiproject.org/static/conference-2010.htm>) to give a presentation about their teaching. All entries become part of the openedpractices (<http://openedpractices.org>) repository of teaching practices.

Deadline for entries is March 15. For more information and to apply for the award, go to the Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award website: <http://openedpractices.org/twsia> .

Please forward this information on to your faculty, teaching centers, and other appropriate folks.

Many thanks,

Kate Ellis
kdellis@indiana.edu

3. Google Summer of Code 2010

Would anyone in the Sakai community be interested in taking part in Google Summer of Code (GSOC) in 2010? We've had two successful years so far, and if we want to be considered as an open source project for GSOC this year, we'll need to apply between the 8th and 12th March. If anyone would like to take part as an administrator or mentor, I'm happy to talk about our experiences last year and to explain what it might involve.

Expressions of interest (email Laura@caret.cam.ac.uk) in taking part before the beginning of March would be really helpful, as then we can coordinate our efforts before applying as an organisation.

There's lots of information online:

General info: <http://socghop.appspot.com>

Last year's FAQs:

http://socghop.appspot.com/document/show/gsoc_program/google/gsoc2009/faqs

Thanks,

Dr. Laura James
Centre for Applied Research in Educational Technologies
University of Cambridge
<http://www.caret.cam.ac.uk>
Laura@caret.cam.ac.uk

4. Open Ed 2010 Call for Papers Open Through May 15

The Open Ed Conference theme for 2010 is "OER: Impact and Sustainability."

<http://openedconference.org/2010/>

On November 2-4, 2010, the seventh annual Open Education Conference moves to Barcelona for its first convening outside of North America! The 2010 conference venue is CosmoCaixa, designated Europe's best science museum in 2006.

The call for papers will be open through May 15. Submit your paper now!

<http://openedconference.org/2010/call-for-papers>

The Open Education Conference has been described as "the annual reunion of the open education family." Each year the conference serves as the world's premiere venue for research related to open education, while simultaneously creating the most friendly and energetic atmosphere you'll find at any academic conference.

Open Ed 2010 is jointly organized by the Open University of Catalunya, the Open University of the Netherlands, and the David O. McKay School of Education at Brigham Young University.

5. The Schedule for EuroSakai 2010 in Valencia is Now Available

Hello!

The Schedule for the 3rd European Conference to be held in Valencia, Spain from 1-3 March 2010, is now available at:

http://www.upv.es/var/eurosakai_schedule.html

All the information about the conference can be found at <http://sakaiproject.org/sakai-european-regional-conference-2010>

Remember to register before the 15th of February to get the benefit of the Early Bird Registration Fee at

https://www.upv.es/pls/sosak/sic_eusakai.REGISTRATION?p_vista=poliformat&P_IDIOMA=i

If you have any question, concerns, or you need more information, please contact: eurosakai2010@upv.es

WE HOPE TO SEE ALL OF YOU IN VALENCIA.

Raúl Enrique Mengod López
Universidad Politécnica de Valencia
rmengod@cc.upv.es

6. Assignments 2 Incubating

Assignments 2 has entered incubation.

As many of you know, assignments 2 has been baking for some time at Indiana University. Although it's another unavoidable case of a project not entering incubation until it's rather far along in its development -- and so our Sakai 2 precedents may mislead the casual observer about the process -- I'm still happy to have it incubated so far in advance of any release decisions. More room to breathe and do the right thing.

So far I see a feature-driven development process which is then polished with usability testing. I think the Product Council could use the occasion to flesh out our review criteria, e.g., those for accessibility with the help of the WG already making big strides.

I'd also like to point out the fronts along which assignments 2 has been compelled to engage -- with gradebook and a variety of helpers, with OSP, TurnItIn, and maybe others. This may be a challenge for UX coherence in Sakai 2 contexts, but I think it helps confirm that the underlying capability is pivotal, and should inform the Sakai 3 UX at an early stage, provided we can trace it back to its essentials well enough. As with many things in Sakai 3, it won't be enough to first develop a tool and then look for horizontal integration points after the fact.

Clay Fenlason
khomotso@gmail.com

(This write-up can be found at: <http://sakaiproject.org/blogs/khomotso/assignments-2-incubating>)

7. Reminder: Sakai Multi-Institutional Survey Call

Colleagues,

We look forward to our first Sakai 2010 Multi-Institutional Survey Initiative (MISI) meeting next week. We hope you will be able to attend the phone conference on:

Wednesday February 10th at 1330 (1:30pm Eastern Time, GMT -5:00)

This call will be available via telephone and internet on the Sakai 001 conference bridge. The Conference Bridges support both Internet (e.g., Polycom, XMeeting [for MacOS], Ekiga [Linux, Windows]) and telephone connections:

- Telephone: +1 812 856 7060
- Internet: 156.56.240.9
- Sakai001
- Conference Code: 348#
- PIN: 72524#

If you are not able to attend, please send Steve an email and he'll be happy to find an individual time to discuss your questions and comments.

PLANNED AGENDA:

1. Welcome to MISI
2. Description of planned activities: "core" survey question development, distribution, collection, analysis (quantitative), presentation of results
3. TO DO #1: Institutional Review Board (Human Subjects) approval/exemption
4. TO DO #2: Voting and comments on last year's survey questions and creation of new questions
5. Future conference call -- discussion of survey items
6. Questions/comments

We look forward to talking with all of you very soon.

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Stephanie D. Teasley, Ph.D.
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8. Recent Email Discussion Groups

[Building Sakai] **Test & Quizzes Nuance - score in grade book but no submission attempt listed**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Test-Quizzes-Nuance-score-in-grade-book-but-no-submission-attempt-listed-td4514640.html#a4514640>

[Building Sakai] **JIRA cleanup and stagnant issues**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-JIRA-cleanup-and-stagnant-issues-td4508635.html#a4508635>

[Building Sakai] **general Jira question**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-general-Jira-question-td4514719.html#a4514719>

[Building Sakai] **Adding new contrib module**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Adding-new-contrib-module-td4514149.html#a4514149>

[Building Sakai] [sakai-kernel] **Version numbers**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Re-Building-Sakai-sakai-kernel-Version-numbers-td4502920.html#a4502920>

[Building Sakai] **Clean Install Compilation Error**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Clean-Install-Compilation-Error-td4513648.html#a4513648>

[DG: User Experience] **Learning Activities Investigation: Persona review on Feb 8 and 9**

<http://n2.nabble.com/DG-Teaching-Learning-Learning-Activities-Investigation-Persona-review-on-Feb-8-and-9-td4510010.html#a4510010>

[Building Sakai] **JIRA cleanup and stagnant issues**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-JIRA-cleanup-and-stagnant-issues-td4508635.html#a4508635>

[Building Sakai] **KNL-205 binary incompatibility**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Re-Building-Sakai-sakai-kernel-Version-numbers-td4502920.html#a4508039>

[Building Sakai] **problem of the day... forums error**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-problem-of-the-day-forums-error-td4508032.html#a4508111>

[Building Sakai] **Mneme/Samigo sub-menu items as sites(tabs)**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Mneme-Samigo-sub-menu-items-as-sites-tabs-td4506384.html#a4506384>

[Building Sakai] **OutOfMemory error when importing Gradebook Spreadsheet**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-OutOfMemory-error-when-importing-Gradebook-Spreadsheet-td4505024.html#a4505024>

[Building Sakai] **RSF Present and Future**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-RSF-Present-and-Future-td4504975.html#a4522006>

[Building Sakai] **Wimba integration on 2.6**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Wimba-integration-on-2-6-td4465415.html#a4470670>

[Portfolio] **Duplicate portfolio: for review**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-Duplicate-portfolio-for-review-td4497829.html#a4497829>

[Portfolio] **Evaluation and Group workflow**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-Evaluation-and-Group-workflow-td4266674.html#a4266674>

[Using Sakai] **Sakai 2.6.x, LDAP and withdrawing studenty -- best practices?**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Sakai-2-6-x-LDAP-and-withdrawing-studenty-best-practices-td4494616.html#a4494616>

[Using Sakai] **Campus-wide Surveys**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-Campus-wide-Surveys-td4503726.html#a4503726>

[DG: User Experience] **sakai 3 ux, use fl-push instead of clearboth**

<http://n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-sakai-3-ux-use-fl-push-instead-of-clearboth-td4517009.html#a4517009>

[DG: User Experience] **Usability testing results for Sakai 3 assignments**

<http://n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-Usability-testing-results-for-Sakai-3-assignments-td4498156.html#a4498156>

9. Events

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-proposals-now-open>