



Sakai Newsletter

March 4, 2010

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1. From the Executive Director -- Transitions

This is my final "From the Executive Director" newsletter item. This isn't a format that lends itself to comprehensive analysis and I'm quite sure I can't synthesize the last few years into a pity parting paragraph. What I will say is that it has been a privilege to work with the members of the Sakai community and I move onto my next challenges much wiser than when I started. I am deeply grateful to have had this opportunity.

Sakai is doing important work in education and, while oft-stated, it is no cliché to say that the active engagement of the community is what has brought, and will bring, its success. So find a way to invest in the project. I don't say "contribute" because that sounds like charity. It is really an investment that will pay substantial dividends both for yourself and your institution. It is a cooperative effort and that sometimes makes the investment seem more speculative, but here we are on the verge of releasing 2.7. It is the ultimate proof that the community works and that your efforts do pay off.

-- Michael Korcuska
mkorcuska@sakaifoundation.org

2. Sakai Conference Proposal Deadline Extended: March 15

We have received multiple requests to extend the deadline for proposals for the 2010 Sakai Conference in Denver. Although the Conference Program Committee has begun to review and evaluate submitted proposals, we will continue to accept additional submissions through March 15.

Please review the Proposal Guidelines at: <http://bit.ly/9RWnUj>

To submit a proposal fill out the online form: <http://bit.ly/9ALf9v>

Thanks,

Pieter Hartsook
Sakai Foundation Communications Manager
hartsook@sakaifoundation.org

3. rSmart Welcomes University of the Pacific

Last week rSmart welcomed University of the Pacific to the Sakai Community as a recent rSmart Sakai CLE support customer. Pacific is one of the West's most distinctive, student-centered national universities. Recognized as the first chartered institution of higher learning in the State of California, Pacific is a private university with about 6,700 students on three campuses in Northern California.

Pacific offers an extensive selection of undergraduate, graduate and professional programs on three campuses in Stockton, San Francisco, and Sacramento. With nine schools and colleges and more than 80 majors and programs of study -- including continuing education, law, pharmacy and dental programs -- Pacific has that rare combination of small-university friendliness and programs found at much larger universities.

University of the Pacific decided on the rSmart Sakai CLE in June 2009 and began transitioning students and faculty across its campus enterprise in August 2009. After using a leading proprietary course management system, Pacific made Sakai part of its overall plan to reduce TCO through the use of open source solutions. The University also chose to utilize rSmart's Application Hosting Services for Sakai in a move designed to reduce overall hardware infrastructure costs.

rSmart provided Pacific with implementation services to switch from their commercial software and deploy Sakai. In addition, rSmart assisted with the integration of several of Pacific's systems as part of a 3-year Premium Support services agreement.

"We've been very satisfied with our move to Sakai and with rSmart for support," said Peggy Kay, Director of Enterprise Applications and Interim Chief Information Officer at Pacific. "The resources and budget we're saving by deploying Sakai, hosting with rSmart, and utilizing rSmart's support services will enable us to fund other important projects and services to the benefit of our students and faculty."

Mike Zackrison
VP of Marketing and Strategy
www.rsmart.com

4. Release: Kernel 1.1.1

Hi All,

We're pleased to announce the release of the latest 1.1 Kernel. This release addresses 8 issues. It includes an important fix for the handling of UTF8 characters in some cases (KNL-414).

Full list of changes can be found at:
<http://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/KNL/fixforversion/11788>

As always the project site can be found at:
<http://source.sakaiproject.org/release/kernel/1.1.1/>

Regards

David Horwitz
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5. WebDAV & Windows 7

WebDAV has been a common problem (in various forms) for our users since forever. At different times it's been specifically problematic for Vista, Windows 7, and Mac. We evaluate each issue on a case-by-case basis but since the problem usually lies outside of Sakai itself, we came up with some free and locally-tested 3rd-party clients that have

worked for our users almost without fail. Subsequently, we've reworked our local "Upload-Download Multiple Resources" page to provide download links and use instructions for these clients. I offered these to the community through [SAK-15280](#).

Direct link:

https://ctools.umich.edu/access/content/public/webdav_instructions.html. Feel free to use or adapt.

Jeff Ziegler
ziegler@umich.edu

6. Sakai 3 and WebDAV or Other Mass File Upload Options

Sakai 3 is currently using the Fluid Multi-File Uploader. While this is not a drag and drop solution it does allow the user to easily upload multiple files at the same time.

However, the Fluid Uploader uses Flash to achieve its magic and because it is Flash-based it has some issues, especially around accessibility. There are some better implementations of a Flash-based multi-file Uploader but they all struggle to work around the limitations imposed by Flash.

There are some very nice Java-based multi-file uploaders. We dismissed these as an option on Fluid because we felt that Java's security dialogs are just too scary for most users.

So multi-file upload via the browser continues to be problematic.

One glimmer of hope is HTML5, which implements a native multi-file upload form object. It should be possible to build some nice UI around this functionality. The question is when *and if* Microsoft supports this functionality.

Eli Cochran
eli@media.berkeley.edu

7. Recent Email Discussion Groups

[Building Sakai] **Integrating Sakai with eyeOS**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Integrating-Sakai-with-eyeOS-td4710788.html#a4710788>

[Building Sakai] **Deprecating reports and warehouse tools**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Deprecating-reports-and-warehouse-tools-td4705715.html#a4705715>

[Building Sakai] **Gradebook import/export features**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Gradebook-import-export-features-td4702599.html#a4708819>

[Building Sakai] **Add Participants MySQL table lock**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Add-Participants-MySQL-table-lock-td4579848.html#a4706801>

[Building Sakai] **MySql binary files to File Server hosting conversion**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-MySql-binary-files-to-File-Server-hosting-conversion-td4698963.html#a4698963>

[DG: User Experience] [Building Sakai] [WG: Accessibility] **CKEditor 3.2**
<http://n2.nabble.com/WG-Accessibility-CKEditor-3-2-td4656152.html#a4656152>

[Building Sakai] **how to future-proof Sakai 2 tools?**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-how-to-future-proof-Sakai-2-tools-td4696839.html#a4701200>

[Building Sakai] **Fwd: Sakai BigBlueButton integration**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Sakai-BigBlueButton-integration-td4661565.html#a4661565>

[Building Sakai] [WG: I18N & L10N] **i18n Memorandum of Understanding - Process to fix i18n issues**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Re-Building-Sakai-i18n-Memorandum-of-Understanding-Process-to-fix-i18n-issues-td4702436.html#a4703288>

[Building Sakai] **Upgrade portal to Velocity 1.6.2?**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Upgrade-portal-to-Velocity-1-6-2-td4701112.html#a4701112>

[Building Sakai] **Usage of LDAP attributes for Signon and Course/Site Management**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Usage-of-LDAP-attributes-for-Signon-and-Course-Site-Management-td4700736.html#a4700736>

[Building Sakai] **Cambridge Autojoin tool**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Cambridge-Autojoin-tool-td4701415.html#a4701415>

[Building Sakai] **Certificate tool in sakai**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Certificate-tool-in-sakai-td4665778.html#a4696377>

[DG: User Experience] **GSoC 2010 projects**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-GSoC-2010-projects-td4701130.html#a4701130>

[Building Sakai] **sakai-2.7.0-b04 now available**

<http://n2.nabble.com/WG-Sakai-QA-sakai-2-7-0-b04-now-available-td4694478.html#a4694478>

[DG: User Experience] **Having Sakai-ux package itself**

<http://n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-Having-3akai-ux-package-itself-td4705272.html#a4705272>

[WG: Accessibility] **Sakai 3 UX Accessibility Page in Confluence**

<http://n2.nabble.com/WG-Accessibility-Sakai-3-UX-Accessibility-Page-in-Confluence-td4705105.html#a4705105>

[DG: User Experience] **ScreenCast on a new Group Manager UI for Sakai**

<http://n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-ScreenCast-on-a-new-Group-Manager-UI-for-Sakai-td4673380.html#a4701322>

[DG: User Experience] **GSoC 2010 projects**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-GSoC-2010-projects-td4701130.html#a4701130>

[Using Sakai] **Learning Capabilities Theme Counts and Theme Sheets**

<http://n2.nabble.com/DG-Teaching-Learning-Learning-Capabilities-Theme-Counts-and-Theme-Sheets-td4675165.html#a4709178>

[DG: Teaching & Learning] **Learning activities project: Persona follow up**

<http://n2.nabble.com/DG-Teaching-Learning-Learning-activities-project-Persona-follow-up-td4668941.html#a4668941>

[DG: User Experience] **Learning activities project: moving on to scenarios**

<http://n2.nabble.com/DG-Teaching-Learning-Learning-activities-project-moving-on-to-scenarios-td4669032.html#a4669032>

[Portfolio] **Learning Design Lens Concept**

<http://n2.nabble.com/DG-Teaching-Learning-Learning-Design-Lens-Concept-and-T-L-Call-Reminder-td4668633.html#a4668633>

[Portfolio] **Sakai Mail and ePs**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-Sakai-Mail-and-ePs-td4667643.html#a4667643>

[Using Sakai] **Largest Site Membership / Potential Tool Issues?**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-Largest-Site-Membership-Potential-Tool-Issues-td4696477.html#a4696477>

[Using Sakai] **Sakai and MySQL**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-Tests-Quizzes-Issues-td4660985.html#a4705080>

[Using Sakai] **Random drawn quiz [Scanned]**

<http://n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-Tests-Quizzes-Issues-td4660985.html#a4703837>

8. Events

2nd Annual Etudes Users' Summit

May 13 & May 14, 2010

Burlingame / San Francisco, California

Crowne Plaza San Francisco International

<http://etudes.org/summit/>

2010 Sakai Annual Conference

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>