



Sakai Newsletter

April 8, 2010

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1. From the Executive Director

Last week we kicked off a new project to develop the next generation of Sakai software, Sakai 3. This project brings together the tremendous accomplishments already achieved on Sakai 3 into a single, coordinated effort, and aims for a completed version that is feature- equivalent to Sakai 2 in mid-2011. The active design and development work accomplished by the Sakai community for the past year will be gathered into the new project, enabling it at the start with a large existing design effort and code base. While there is a lot yet to be done, the work accomplished to date shows tremendous promise.

Indeed, even as we ramp up the coordinated effort, Cambridge and NYU are each preparing a local deployment of Sakai 3 for use this summer. Six universities have already dedicated resources to the coordinated effort: Berkeley, Cambridge, Charles Sturt, Indiana, NYU and Stanford, and this roster will grow in the coming months. You'll hear a lot more about Sakai 3's composition and progress, and how you can get involved, as the project unfolds.

In addition to the huge amount of work contributed directly to Sakai 3 development, credit for this work must be given to the community for Sakai 2. Our collective intelligence and effort has enabled a robust and highly functional product used on hundreds of campuses today. The early innovation in Sakai 2 has led directly to our continued ability to envision and create new tools such as Sakai 3, and it is a testimony to the diversity and strength of the Sakai community that both products can be in active development and use.

Sakai 2.7, which includes new features in Tests & Quizzes (Samigo), Assignments, and Messages and Forums, as well as many fixes, is scheduled to ship in about a month. The QA team, a community gathering of shared effort, is undertaking a final push to validate the new features and fixes in the latest version, and can use additional hands over the next few weeks. If you've got a spare day, or a few half-days, check the QA site at <http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/QA/2.7.0+Changes> to see how you can help.

Lois Brooks
Executive Director Sakai Foundation
lbrooks@stanford.edu

2. T & L Show & Tell

At the 2010 Sakai conference in Denver, we invite Sakai users to participate in the Teaching and Learning preconference workshop, "T & L Show & Tell," during the afternoon of Monday, June 14th. We solicit short presentations of teaching methods in Sakai, illustrating specific techniques, tips, scenarios, or solutions, with printed or web takeaways. Both instructors and instructional designers are invited to share answers to questions such as:

- What enhancement have you made to Sakai out-of-the-box?
- What teaching practice have you finally been able to implement?
- What teaching problem have you solved with Sakai?
- What special request or situation have you accommodated with Sakai?

These short talks will be appetizers for the main conference sessions, whether they relate directly to a conference talk or serve generally to pique interest.

Please volunteer for a presentation of 5-20 minutes, by signing up at our Confluence planning page by May 28th:

<http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=68165032>

We will schedule the presentations and assemble all materials (to be submitted by June 4th) into one document and website. Presenters are invited to bring something to offer the attendees -- a help sheet, a screen shot or illustration, a configuration file, or other takeaway.

Robin Hill, University of Wyoming
Mathieu Plourde, University of Delaware
Rob Coyle, Johns Hopkins University

3. 3rd Annual Ja-Sakai Conference Summary

I was very pleased to join Lois Brooks at the 3rd Annual Ja-Sakai Conference hosted by Kumamoto University in Japan. One of the exciting OSP-related developments we witnessed was a new dashboard tool Kumamoto University calls "Notifications" and an integration of their WebCT learning management system with Sakai 2.6 OSP. The workflow looks something like:

1. Students land on a uPortal course page which is the launch point for both the WebCT and OSP related tools.
2. Students submit learning artifacts to the WebCT system using existing workflows.
3. Via an automated batch process, the artifacts are migrated into the corresponding OSP Matrix tool for evaluation.
4. The new "Notifications" dashboard provides a birds-eye view of Matrix updates to support deep learning.

This work is in support of their competency-based curriculum and will be presented at the 2010 Sakai Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado. For more information about Kumamoto University's portfolio practices, see: <http://www.gsis.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/en/gp>.

Some other key takeaways from conference:

1. Nagoya University has officially announced their plans to migrate from WebCT to Sakai.
2. Kansai University, the largest private university in Japan, has adopted Sakai in partnership with a commercial entity. Their biggest hurdle with Sakai is the lack of custom workflows and were very excited to see the work coming out of Sakai 3 to help resolve this concern.

3. Learning Java is presenting a problem to Sakai related development and lowering this barrier to entry is an important concern (e.g., think PHP developers). Much of Sakai development is occurring at the edge in Japanese Universities.
4. Japan now has at least two commercial partners that are active in the Sakai space.
5. Internationalization and localization of both Sakai the software and Sakai the website continue to be a hurdle for Japan.

For more details, see: <http://sakaiproject.org/blogs/lancespeelmon/3rd-annual-ja-sakai-conference-report>

Lance Speelmon
Scholarly Technologist
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4. New Version of Elluminate Bridge for Sakai

Elluminate is pleased to announce the release of the Elluminate Bridge for Sakai. This bridge seamlessly integrates live, synchronous distance learning and collaboration into the Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment.

Instructors can schedule and deliver sessions and classes using Elluminate Live!®, providing users with superior voice over the Internet, multipoint video, integrated teleconferencing, shared whiteboards, public/private chat, best-in-class breakout rooms, application/desktop sharing, file transfer, PowerPoint import, and more.

With the Elluminate Bridge for Sakai, students can launch a synchronous session or interactive recording using Elluminate Live! directly from their familiar Sakai environment. This bridge is available to both hosted and self-hosted Elluminate customers.

The Elluminate Bridge for Sakai features include:

- Session creation by instructors and teaching assistants
- Ability to display, list and modify scheduled sessions
- Single signon launch of classroom from within Sakai
- Scheduling and delivery of Elluminate Live! sessions
- Single-click access to Elluminate Live! Sessions
- Ability to create, store and view Elluminate Live! recordings
- Ability to assign moderator and participant roles
- Assign sessions to sections within Sakai
- Sessions can be created for specific Sakai sites or for all sites

For more information:

http://www.illuminate.com/Products/Elluminate_Learning_Suite/Bridges/Sakai/?id=179/

In keeping with its commitment to support open standards, Elluminate will be contributing this integration to the Sakai community.

Steve Schoen
steves@illuminate.com

Rick Ruden
rickr@illuminate.com

5. Article in Campus Technology about ePortfolios - Mentions Sakai

"Portfolios, Finally!"

http://campustechnology.com/articles/2010/04/07/eportfolios-finally.aspx?sc_lang=en

The article also includes a reference page with ePortfolio resources:

<http://www.eportfolio-source.org/>

Pieter Hartsook
Sakai Foundation Communications Manager
hartsook@sakaifoundation.org

6. Etudes Publishes Rates for Sakai Hosting, Training and Support

Etudes has published its hosting and support services rates for fiscal year 2010-2011.

<http://etudes.org/hosting-fees.htm>

The average per-user cost for Etudes hosting and support is \$5.25 per-user. This price represents a 20% reduction from the 2009-2010 per-user Etudes rates. The lower rates were made possible by a move to a new high-performance hosting facility with completely up-to-date high-performance hardware capable of supporting a much larger user population at lower cost. Since Etudes is a non-profit, member-supported organization, these cost savings were passed onto the customers.

The Etudes Board of Directors is committed to stable pricing from year-to-year. A sincere effort will always be made to keep rate increases within 3-5% or less. The Etudes Board of Directors also feels that having uniform pricing and publishing pricing details is important for a non-profit organization.

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 institutions. Etudes provides a low-cost end-to-end e-learning technology solution including software development and maintenance, hosting, and faculty training. The Etudes training program ranges from introducing faculty to good uses of the Etudes software to best practices for online teaching, learning and collaboration. Etudes can be used to support an entire campus as the campus enterprise learning management platform or it can be used to complement an existing campus learning platform.

If you would like more information about Etudes, please send a message to Vivie Sinou, Executive Director, sinou@etudes.org, or visit <http://etudes.org/>

7. Project Management for E-Learning

A special issue of the "Journal of Distance Education" (Canada) has been published with the theme "Project management for e-learning" (<http://www.jofde.ca/index.php/jde>). This special edition of the Journal examines the critical partnership between teaching and learning and project management by presenting detailed examinations of a range of issues that readers might encounter at their own institutions. Amongst other papers, this issue includes a case study of aspects of project management in the implementation of Sakai at Charles Sturt University, Australia:

Buchan, J. (2010) Putting Ourselves in the Big Picture: A Sustainable Approach to Project Management for e-Learning. Journal of distance Education (Revue de L'Education a Distance) VOL. 24, No. 1, 55-76.

Janet Buchan
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8. New Mail List: Sakai3 ui-dev

The sakai-ui-dev list will be focused on issues particular to UI development, which tends to involve different assumptions and skillsets than the Java service development which reigns on sakai-dev. It's Sakai 3's heavy use of front end technologies which prompted the formation of this list, but it shouldn't be only for Sakai 3. That said, JIRA notifications for the Sakai 3 front end are being routed to sakai-ui-dev for the time being, and so it's those actively engaged in this work who will most benefit from the list. Others are welcome to participate depending on their tolerance for this level and quantity of detail.

There will often be overlap with discussions on sakai-ux, but in general user experience and design discussions should continue to be directed to sakai-ux."

Clay Fenlason

clay.fenlason@et.gatech.edu

9. Job Opening: Dir. of Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning at Indiana University

The New Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL) is being established to bring together expertise in the areas of curriculum design and development, learning technologies, evaluation and assessment, writing across the curriculum, and service learning. CITL is a partnership between the Office of the Vice President for IT (OVPIT) and the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (OVPUE). The Director of the CITL will provide vision and leadership to support excellence in teaching and learning at IU Bloomington. The Director will work with faculty from across the campus and establish strong relationships and creative partnerships, in addition to maximizing the ways in which the Center serves the central teaching and learning mission. A key responsibility will be leading initiatives connected to new directions in Indiana University's teaching and learning strategy and the development of strategic collaborations. Candidates are expected to be well-versed in innovative teaching approaches; effective use of technology to support instruction; assessment strategies that support student academic achievement and persistence to graduation; effective learning environments for teaching and learning; multicultural teaching, and internationalization of the curriculum. Candidates must have a terminal degree; supervisory and administrative experience; college teaching experience; excellent oral and written communication skills; appreciation and advocacy for diversity; excellent organizational, interpersonal, and management skills; external funding experience; professional development experience; record of publication and participation in national organizations; and a willingness to work collaboratively and strategically to support institutional priorities.

Candidates should submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to: Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Sonya Stephens, Chair, CITL Director Search Committee, OVPUE, Maxwell Hall 100, 750 E Kirkwood Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47405.

Electronic applications are welcome. Please send materials to: citl-dir-search@oncourse.iu.edu

The Committee began reading applications on April 15, 2010. The successful candidate may begin as soon as July 1, 2010, or as soon thereafter as possible. The institution is particularly interested in and values candidates who have experience working with faculty and students from diverse backgrounds, along with a demonstrated commitment to improving access and the conditions in higher education for persons from less represented populations.

David Goodrum
goodrum@indiana.edu

10. Job Opening: Application Development Manager at U. Mich

The University of Michigan is seeking an exceptional Application Development Manager to lead our local Sakai implementation team (see position details below).

To apply for this position through 04/29/10 (posting end date), please visit www.UMjobs.org. Once you have established your profile, go to Search for Jobs, click Start Here and enter Job ID 39563. For more information about building your career at the University of Michigan, please go to www.UMjobs.org and select "Why U-M". A Non-Discriminatory/Affirmative Action Employer.

Thanks,

Sean DeMonner

Working Title: Application Development Manager
Market Title: Applications Systems Analysis and Programming
Manager Department: Application & Information Services
Job Code: 102189 FLSA
Status: Exempt
Salary Range: **\$77,000-\$110,000
Appointment: 100% / 40 hours per week
Posting Start Date: 4/15/2010
Posting End Date: 4/29/2010

The Information and Technology Services (ITS) organization at the University of Michigan has an exciting opportunity for an Application Development Manager working on CTools, the University's central collaboration and course management system. CTools is based on Sakai, a robust Community Source J2EE product that is in use by hundreds of institutions around the world. As leader of our development team, you will be responsible for maintaining and improving our enterprise-class system. In addition to working with local constituencies at the University of Michigan, you will also interact with a globally distributed community to help evolve Sakai into a next generation environment for highly interactive and integrated online collaboration.

**The potential salary may vary depending on the qualifications and experience of the selected candidate.

A cover letter and resume are required. The cover letter should be PAGE 1 of your resume and specifically address your interest in the position and outline particular skills and experience that directly relate to this position. Please include your current or ending salary.

Duties: Manages a team and provides strategic leadership for the division. Participates in strategic planning in collaboration with customers and product managers. Directs the development, maintenance and production support efforts for enterprise application systems. Assures project deliverables are produced. Contributes to technical and project planning. Establishes operational processes, procedures and standards. Collaborates with other divisions to manage technical infrastructure and the production application environment. Continuously monitors and improves divisional processes in conjunction with other organizational divisions. Conducts effective cross-organization communications and communicates status to management and customers on a regular on-going basis.

Recruits, coaches, and counsels employees for success, conducts performance reviews, develops salary planning proposals, and assists employees with career development planning and training.

Analyzes business requirements and creates detail designs. Develops, tests, documents, and implements application programs, reports and queries. Maintains all appropriate documentation.

Leads and participates in internal initiatives and process improvement efforts. Proposes, reviews and approves modifications to systems and identifies integration points with other applications. Identifies and resolves dependency and integration issues across product areas. Evaluates and recommends vendor products for purchase. Collaborates with units to ensure proper integration across functional areas and that appropriate technologies are in place.

Ensures projects are completed within time and budget requirements utilizing standard project management tools and techniques. Provides input and guidance to ensure the planning and execution of deliverables meet the objectives of the organization and the customer.

Provides technical liaison to relevant constituencies within U-M as well as to external groups, including the Sakai Community.

Qualifications Bachelors degree in Business, Computer Science, Information Systems or equivalent combination of education and experience. Minimum 8 years experience in application systems analysis, design, development, testing, implementation, and support, process improvement (modeling, analysis, redesign), and technical writing (system documentation, training materials), and systems development methodologies. Minimum 4 years supervisory experience, to include recruiting, mentoring, career development, performance management, leadership, and team building, and a proven ability to lead a project team to meet customer expectations.

Minimum 4 years experience programming, ideally on enterprise class product/service using modern web architecture (e.g. J2EE, .Net).

Demonstrated knowledge and skills in project management, negotiation, and conflict resolution.

Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing with all levels of staff
Demonstrated analytical skills and in-depth business knowledge.

Experience working with relational database technology in a client/server or Web environment, and design and developing software using structured techniques.
Proficient skills utilizing word processing, spreadsheet, and database applications and thorough understanding of relational database concepts and SQL.

Demonstrated experience with budget planning and conformance, determining project objectives and requirements, anticipating and solving problems, and developing standards and guidelines for diverse activities.

Demonstrated successful performance with independent problem solving, presentations, leadership and coordinating and completing multiple tasks within and across departments to meet changing deadlines.

Demonstrated skills in researching and writing proposals and purchase justifications.

Preferred Qualifications Experience working with Open and Community Source development projects.

Experience working with Teaching and Learning applications and/or large scale collaboration systems.

About ITS For more information about ITS please go to: <http://its.umich.edu/>

11. Job Opening: Starfish

Sakai Developers –

Starfish is looking for a reasonably-priced consultant to help us customize our solution (www.starfishsolutions.com) for Sakai. We'll probably need around 20 or 30 hours initially and then an hour or two every once in a while.

The consultant should know the gradebook's database and APIs very well, understand the authentication infrastructure, and also should be familiar with adding simple components to the user interface.

Please email me with information about your background if you are interested..

Best,

David A. Yaskin, CEO & Founder, Starfish Retention Solutions, Inc.
dyaskin@starfishsolutions.com
www.starfishsolutions.com

12. Recent Email Group Discussions

[Building Sakai] **Filenae sorting in Sakai 2** <http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Filenae-sorting-in-Sakai-2-td4907740.html#a4907740>

[Building Sakai] **User Membership tool** <http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-User-Membership-tool-td4908787.html#a4908787>

[Building Sakai] **Problem found on qa-nl Server - Sakai 2.7beta-07, Poll**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Problem-found-on-qa-nl-Server-Sakai-2-7beta-07-Poll-td4907987.html#a4908627>

[Building Sakai] **Mailtool question** <http://n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-Mailtool-Question-td2954090.html#a2954090>

[Building Sakai] **Sakai 2.6 upgrade** <http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Sakai-2-6-upgrade-td4906664.html#a4906664>

[Building Sakai] **Sakai 2.6 version in pom.xml** <http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Sakai-2-6-version-in-pom-xml-td4905865.html#a4905865>

[Building Sakai] **Question about RSF** <http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Question-about-RSF-td4905953.html#a4905953>

[Building Sakai] **question about UsageSessionServiceAdaptor refreshUser call** <http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-question-about-UsageSessionServiceAdaptor-refreshUser-call-td4903132.html#a4903132>

[Building Sakai] **Too many open files?** <http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Too-many-open-files-td4898350.html#a4901322>

[Building Sakai] **My Workspace update** <http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-My-Workspace-update-td4896650.html#a4896650>

[Building Sakai] **help! Ical export bringing up 404 sakai 2.6** <http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-help-Ical-export-bringing-up-404-sakai-2-6-td4900609.html#a4900609>

[Building Sakai] [Deploying Sakai] **Load balancing and sticky sessions** <http://n2.nabble.com/Deploying-Sakai-Load-balancing-and-sticky-sessions-td4895753.html#a4895753>

[Building Sakai] **2.6.2 java heap space error** <http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-2-6-2-java-heap-space-error-td4896653.html#a4896653>

[Building Sakai] **iCal feeds only viewable in MONTH view?** <http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-iCal-feeds-only-viewable-in-MONTH-view-td4897460.html#a4897460>

[Building Sakai] **Is Sakai 2.7 ready for download now?** <http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Assistance-for-Presentation-td4742290.html#a4894834>

[Building Sakai] [Deploying Sakai] **Load balancing and sticky sessions** <http://n2.nabble.com/Deploying-Sakai-Load-balancing-and-sticky-sessions-td4895753.html#a4895753>

[Building Sakai] **Multiple Default Skins for My Workspace?** <http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Multiple-Default-Skins-for-My-Workspace-td4880136.html#a4880136>

[WG: Accessibility] [Building Sakai] **Adding text-to-speech support to Sakai**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Adding-text-to-speech-support-to-Sakai-td4858225.html#a4858225>

[DG: User Experience] [VOTE] **Sakai 3 UX 0.3.0 release from v_0.3.0_rc1**
<http://n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-VOTE-Sakai-3-UX-0-3-0-release-from-v-0-3-0-rc1-td4877449.html#a4877449>

[DG: User Experience] **Sakai 3 Widget specification proposal**
<http://n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-Sakai-3-Widget-specification-proposal-td4909013.html#a4909013>

[Building Sakai] **User Membership tool** <http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-User-Membership-tool-td4908787.html#a4908787>

[DG: User Experience] **Sakai3 ui-dev mailing list** <http://n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-Sakai3-ui-dev-mailing-list-td4890900.html#a4890979>

[DG: User Experience] [3akai UI dev] **jQuery 1.4.2 and evalJSON()**
<http://n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-3akai-UI-dev-jQuery-1-4-2-and-evalJSON-td4898680.html#a4898680>

[DG: User Experience] **Dynamic profile information** <http://n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-Dynamic-profile-information-td4891904.html#a4892971>

[DG: User Experience] [Building Sakai] **Question regarding names**
<http://n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Question-regarding-names-td4869790.html#a4869790>

13. Events

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>

Advance CAMP (Campus Architecture and Middleware Planning) Workshop

"The Second Identity Services Summit"

June 23-25, 2010

Raleigh, North Carolina

www.incommon.org/camp