Sakai Newsletter

April 29, 2010

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1. From the Executive Director

The first release candidate for Sakai version 2.7 (sakai-2.7.0-rc01) is scheduled for May 9. Development and testing of the Sakai software are done by the Sakai community, and about 50 people have contributed to this release. The contributions have come from universities, commercial partners and individuals. It's truly an international operation with participation from North America, Europe, Africa and Asia. Even with all this contributed effort, there is still a lot of validation to be done on the updates in 2.7 before the final release can be done.   The team needs a few more hands on QA to test new features and patches. If you are planning to run 2.7 in production, helping with QA now is time well spent, so please do consider getting involved. The Confluence page for the

release has up to date information.
http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/QA/2.7.0+Changes

We've had a few changes in the Sakai Foundation staff in the past few weeks. Pieter Hartsook has left the Sakai Foundation after serving since June 2009 as the Communications Manager. Following the model in place for several of the other Sakai staff who have dual roles at their home institutions and the Sakai Foundation, two community members are joining the team in a part time capacity. Sean Keesler of Three Canoes will be the Sakai webmaster, and Kim Thanos of Thanos Partners is taking over public relations work. Kim and Sean are long time, active members of the Sakai community, and it's a benefit to us all to have them each take on Sakai Foundation work in addition to their other efforts.

Lois Brooks
Executive Director, Sakai Foundation
lbrooks@sakaifoundation.org

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2. Denver Sakai Conference Updates

Early Registration is Open!

Registration is open for the 10th Sakai conference. The conference provides four days of learning, collaboration and interaction across our community of designers, developers, pedagogists, faculty and students. Program and registration details can be found at http://sakaiproject.org/static/conference-2010.htm

We're pleased to announce two featured events:

 - Anya Kamenetz, author of DIY U: Edupunks, Edupreneurs, and the Coming Transformation of Higher Education, (Chelsea Green, 2010), will keynote the conference. Anya will share her insights on how technology is disrupting the academy, and how our institutions must evolve to meet the challenges of the next century.

 - The winners of the Teaching With Sakai Innovation Award will inspire us with their successful pedagogical innovations. The award honors best practices in teaching and learning in a Sakai environment. Presentations by the award winners provide important insight into what we are doing well as a community, and stretch our thinking about what is possible.

Please share the invitation to participate with others. We collectively benefit when diverse experiences and perspectives come together at the Sakai conference.

Be sure to register by May 21 to receive hotel and conference discount rates.

10th Sakai Conference
Hyatt Technology Center, Denver, Colorado, USA
June 14-17, 2010

http://sakaiproject.org/static/conference-2010.htm

Lois Brooks
lbrooks@sakaifoundation.org

Group Discount

If your institution is sending 5 or more people to the conference, they qualify for a $25 per person discount. Contact Mary Miles prior to registration so that a discount code can be set up to take advantage of this discount.

Mary Miles
mmiles@umich.edu

Visa Invitations

If you need a letter of invitation for Visa purposes, please contact Mary Miles as soon as possible.

Thanks.

Mary Miles
mmiles@umich.edu

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3. Welcome to Sakai -- Umeå University

Sakai Welcomes new member Umeå University. Umeå U. was founded in 1965 and is Sweden's fifth oldest university. Today, we have a strong international and multicultural presence with students, teachers and researchers from all over the world. Our main campus - with its 29,000 students and 4,000 employees - is alive with enthusiasm, creativity and fresh ideas.

4. American Public University System Selects Sakai's Learning Management System

American Public University System (APUS) has announced that it has chosen Sakai as the foundation for its new Learning Management System (LMS).

"Our students deserve and expect high quality learning outcomes at a very reasonable cost," says Wallace E. Boston, President and Chief Executive Officer. "The new APUS Learning Management System will allow us to continually improve and enrich the already high-quality educational experience our students and faculty enjoy by providing the open source alternatives and resources offered by Sakai's collaborative community."

In selecting Sakai, APUS has committed to assisting the open source community in the shared goal of creating a robust learning environment that combines technology, content, and services to meet the evolving needs of higher education. Close collaboration with the other institutions using Sakai will influence the future development and direction of next-generation higher education technology.

In addition to adopting Sakai software for its faculty and students, APUS has become a member of the Sakai Foundation. The Sakai Foundation is supported by voluntary partner contributions. Sakai Foundations member organizations elect the ten-member Board of Directors, which provide the strategic leadership for the Sakai Foundation.

5. 10th Annual Cyber Teachers' Institute - Registration is Open!

You are invited to participate in the 10th Annual Cyber Teachers' Institute (CTI)!

CTI has served as a meeting place for great teachers to learn, unlearn, and relearn how to make effective use of web-based technologies to support online teaching, learning, and collaboration. The engaging dialogue on teaching principles and best strategies is the highlight of CTI.

CTI is offered entirely online in an asynchronous format, delivered through the Etudes course management system. It consists of the following professional development courses:

- CTI 100: You CAN Teach Online
- CTI 101: CLASSIC Cyber Teachers' Institute
- CTI 102: ADVANCED Cyber Teachers' Institute

Registration is now open! The courses are offered in June, July and August.

Learn more and register here: http://etudes.org/training-schedule-cti.htm

Each course is scheduled for three weeks. Many participants take all three courses and enjoy moving through the experience together, as a community. As per ex-participants, CTI is most valuable, rewarding, engaging, and fun.

"I laughed, I cried, I had a good time and I learned something new every day," wrote English professor Suzanne Floyd from West Los Angeles College in her evaluation of CTI.

"The courses challenged me to question my old habits more intensely than I have done in the past. I have experienced an exponential growth in those things I need to teach (and learn) in the future." - Russ

"I am going on my third year of teaching so I am considered new to academia. However, I have learned more in these short weeks than my 3 years of teaching." - Mark

For more information, see: http://etudes.org/cti/

We hope to "see" many of you online in CTI this summer!

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

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6. The 2nd Annual Etudes Users' Summit is a Week Away!

Join us at the 2nd Annual Etudes Users' Summit, at the Crowne Plaza SFO, California, on May 13 and 14, 2010. The Summit agenda is filled with presentations on best practices in the use of Sakai and Etudes, show & tell sessions, and updates on new tools and features for Etudes.

If you are interested in learning about new features and enhancements underway in Etudes tools (Melete, Jforum, and Mneme) and new tools under development, don't miss this event. The Etudes team will provide an overview of two new tools: a) "Course Map" - designed to allow instructors to guide students through the learning process and give them a single structure to help them navigate through everything they must do in the class, and b) "Activity Meter" - designed to monitor student activity and provide instructors with early alert mechanisms to intervene.

Dr. Ed Gould, President from Imperial Valley College, will kick off the Summit, on Thursday, May 13, 2010 with the keynote address: "Technology and Accountability: The Catalyst for Radical Change in Higher Education."

See agenda: http://etudes.org/summit/summit-agenda.htm

For more information and to register, visit the Summit website: http://etudes.org/summit/
We hope to see you there!

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

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7. 2010 AuSakai Conference

AuSakai, the annual Australasian conference, is being held in Sydney, Australia and
hosted by TAFE NSW - Northern Sydney Institute from 15 to 17 September, 2010.

Information on the conference theme of e3 engage, educate, evolve and other important
information can be found on the conference website:
www.nsi.tafensw.edu.au/AuSakai2010

- Conference Dates are Wednesday, 15th – Friday, 17th September

- Pre-conference technical workshop will be held on Wednesday, 15th September

- Location: North Sydney College, Northern Sydney Institute of TAFE, located in
northern metropolitan Sydney, Australia

Bookmark www.nsi.tafensw.edu.au/AuSakai2010 for upcoming information on
registration, call for proposals, workshops and conference activities.

For all enquiries, please send email to audrey.mcclue@tafensw.edu.au

Audrey McClue
Project Officer, Knowledge and Information Services Unit
http://www.nsi.tafensw.edu.au/
audrey.mcclue@tafensw.edu.au

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8. Mix and Match Sakai 2 and Sakai 3 Tools

I am very pleased to be able to share an important update with the Sakai community
regarding the ongoing efforts to create a flexible migration path from Sakai 2 to Sakai 3. I

have been blogging recently about the development of a new Basic LTI widget for Sakai 3. This effort builds on the existing capabilities of Sakai 3 which allow you to expose entire Sakai 2 sites within the Sakai 3 portal (i.e., with the addition of Sakai 3's social networking features).

The next step in this hybrid evolution adds the capability to expose individual Sakai 2 tools within Sakai 3 sites. Furthermore, since we were developing this new capability as a Sakai 3 widget, this means that an end user could place multiple Sakai 2 tools onto a single Sakai 3 page (i.e., something not currently possible in Sakai 2). This may sound like a subtle distinction, but as you will see in the video on this webpage (http://bit.ly/sakai32), it is an important distinction as it helps to break Sakai 2 tools out of their silos. Instructors can now author pages with custom workflows that may include both Sakai 2 tools and Sakai 3 widgets!

Lance Speelmon
Scholarly Technologist
lance@indiana.edu

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9. SMS 0.16 Released

University of Capetown is proud to announce the release of SMS-0.16. This is a bug fix release that addresses 21 issues that can be seen here:

http://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SMS/fixforversion/11844

The site for the release is available here:

http://source.cet.uct.ac.za/release/sms/sms-0.16/

Regards,

David Horwitz
david.horwitz@uct.ac.za

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10. Congratulations to Our Successful Google Summer of Code Applicants this Year

Ashish Mittal, 2nd year engineering student at Sardar Patel Institute Of Technology, India, is going to be working with mentor Ian Boston on an "event explorer" tool in 3akai for helpdesk staff.

Cyrille Mortier, just finishing a Master's degree in computer science at the University of

Savoy, will be working on the OpenSyllabus project with mentor Claude Coulombe.

Maria Teresa Gimenez Fayos, final year computer science student at the Polytechnic University of Valencia, proposed a project to develop a Sakai Android application, mentored by David Roldan Martinez.

The students will be discussing things in #sakai (http://twitter.com/#search?q=%23sakai), in our Google Group (http://groups.google.com/group/sakai-gsoc10), and this year they'll be keeping a GSoC blog (http://sakaigsoc2010.blogspot.com/). Look out for them on the lists too!

Amyas Phillips
amyas@caret.cam.ac.uk

11. Job Opening: Developer at Whitman College

Whitman College is seeking a Developer in its Enterprise Technology group, which manages, among other things, the College's Sakai instance and Datatel ERP.

We will begin reviewing applications on May 17, with a July 1 start date. Application details are available at:

http://www.whitman.edu/content/hr/employment_ops.

Thank you,

Mike Osterman
ostermmg.sakai@gmail.com

12. Recent Email Group Discussions

[Building Sakai] **Gradebook question - Sakai-graded tests and relative weights**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Re-Using-Sakai-Building-Sakai-Gradebook-question-Sakai-graded-tests-and-relative-weights-td5009620.html#a5009620

[Building Sakai] **Displaying number of units in a course**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Displaying-number-of-units-in-a-course-td5006440.html#a5006440

[Using Sakai] **Sakai Hardware/software Requirements**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-
Displaying-number-of-units-in-a-course-td5006440.html#a5006440

[Building Sakai] **When do scores from Assignments enter Gradebook**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-When-do-
scores-from-Assignments-enter-Gradebook-td5004437.html#a5004437

[Building Sakai] **Gradebook bug reports after MySQL upgrade**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-
archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/template/NodeServlet.jtp?tpl=search-
page&node=1343168&query=Upgrading+to+Sakai+2.7&days=0

[Building Sakai] **One instance of Tomcat, 2 Sakai servers**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-One-
instance-of-Tomcat-2-Sakai-servers-td4998053.html#a4998053

[Building Sakai] **Sakai 2.6.2 Problem with auto.ddl**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-
archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/template/NodeServlet.jtp?tpl=search-
page&node=1343168&query=Sakai+2.6.2+Problem+with+auto.ddl&days=0

[Building Sakai] **Question about assessment templates (samigo)**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Question-
about-assessment-templates-samigo-td4996665.html#a4996665

[Building Sakai] **Problems with rwiki performance**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-
archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/template/NodeServlet.jtp?tpl=search-
page&node=1343168&query=Problems+with+rwiki+performance&days=0

[Building Sakai] **Message disappeared in Forums, but it's there in the database**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Message-
disappeared-in-Forums-but-it-s-there-in-the-database-td4983456.html#a4983456

[Building Sakai] **Site Stats startup 'costs'**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Site-Stats-
startup-costs-td4980680.html#a4981562

[Building Sakai] **Tool placement id**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Tool-
placement-id-td4979902.html#a4979902

[Building Sakai] **issues with contemt-runconversion.sh in 2.6.x**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-issues-
with-contemt-runconversion-sh-in-2-6-x-td4978538.html#a4978538

[DG: Teaching & Learning] **3rd party portfolio with Sakai**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-3rd-
party-portfolio-with-Sakai-td4981298.html#a4981590

[Using Sakai] **Working Sessions at Sakai Denver**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Working-Sessions-at-
Sakai-Denver-td4967417.html#a4967417

[DG: Teaching & Learning] **Selection Level Feedback in Samigo**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/DG-Teaching-Learning-
Selection-Level-Feedback-in-Samigo-td4950969.html#a4951607

[Portfolio] **The Metaobj Resource Helper**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-The-Metaobj-
Resource-Helper-td4981390.html#a4981390

[Portfolio] **2.7.0: conversion scripts (OSP, metaobj)**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-2-7-0-
conversion-scripts-OSP-metaobj-td4943333.html#a4943333

[Building Sakai] **Gradebook question - Sakai-graded tests and relative weights**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Re-Building-Sakai-
Gradebook-question-Sakai-graded-tests-and-relative-weights-td5005264.html#a5008624

[Using Sakai] **FCKEditor Spell Check**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-FCKEditor-
Spell-Check-td4999157.html#a4999157

[Using Sakai] **Creating Library & Sakai 3 Integration Context Scenarios**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-Creating-
Library-Sakai-3-Integration-Context-Scenarios-td4971256.html#a4971256

[DG: Teaching & Learning] **3rd party portfolio with Sakai**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-3rd-
party-portfolio-with-Sakai-td4981298.html#a4993806

[DG: User Experience] **Fwd: UIEtips: Baking Social Interfaces Into Your Design**
http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-Fwd-
UIEtips-Baking-Social-Interfaces-Into-Your-Design-td4977379.html#a4977379

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

2010 AuSakai Conference
Wednesday - Friday, September 15t-17
Pre-conference session: Wednesday, 15th September
North Sydney College, Northern Sydney Institute of TAFE
www.nsi.tafensw.edu.au/AuSakai2010