



## Sakai Newsletter

September 9, 2010

1. Jasig to Host New Open Source Community of Practice
2. Sakai 2.8 Release Activity Schedule
3. Teaching & Learning Group Priority Initiatives
4. REMINDER: Call for Judges -- Teaching With Sakai Innovation Award
5. Presentations on Distance Learning: Sakai T&L Distance Learning Group
6. TWSIA: Participation Needed To Support New Initiatives and Expansion
7. Job Opening at Oxford: Senior Programmer - Sakai Developer
8. Miami University Job Openings
9. Recent Email Group Discussions
10. Events

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### 1. Jasig to Host New Open Source Community of Practice

"The 2-3-98 Project" to Provide a Forum for Higher Education Managers, Administrators

Jasig, the non-profit consortium sponsoring open source, higher education technology projects, has announced the launch of a new community of practice, "The 2-3-98 Project".

The 2-3-98 Project will provide self-support for college and university administrators, managers, and practitioners wishing to take best advantage of open initiatives, in order to reduce costs and increase choice. The project will deploy mailing lists, wiki, white papers, and events to define, assess, and articulate practices promoting success for higher education adopters.

Jasig announced the new project at SUNY Delhi's third annual 2-3-98 Conference, an event promoting open source in higher education. Patrick Masson, Chief Technology

Officer at UMassOnline, and former Chief Information Officer at SUNY Delhi, and Ken Udas, UMassOnline CEO, are organizers of the new Jasig project.

"The 2-3-98 Project reflects a growing recognition that openness is becoming part of a broader dialogue within many organizations," said Udas. "I believe that Jasig is doing something quite unique and valuable by providing a venue to help explore the relationships between OSS and the organization. It is my feeling that the exploration will lead well beyond the formal information and technology functions and extend beyond software to OER, open access research, and to open governance."

"Considering that the value of open source software, and even the ideas around openness, remain the subject of much debate, I would hope that the 2-3-98 Project can foster discussion, contribute understanding, and advance technology development and adoption throughout higher education," said Masson. "I am very excited to be working with Jasig. Jasig's years of experience supporting open source projects and the communities that contribute to their development, as well as their focus on higher education, will provide tremendous resources for 2-3-98 and advance an honest dialogue around open initiatives. Considering the success of Jasig's other projects, I know we have a lot of hard, and fun, work ahead."

"By looking together at the risks, rewards, challenges, and methods of implementing open source applications, we hope to create a dialog that will provide insights and practice guidelines to help campuses be successful," said Jonathan Markow, Jasig Executive Director. "The 2-3-98 Project is a great fit with Jasig's values of peer support and collaboration. We believe that providing a forum and resources for this initiative fills an important, unmet need in the higher education community."

Jasig has created a mailing list for The 2-3-98 Project. To subscribe, visit the Jasig wiki at:

<https://wiki.jasig.org/display/JSG/2-3-98>

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## 2. Sakai 2.8 Release Activity Schedule

Colleagues,

The release activity schedule has been drafted, commented upon and accepted. The TCC would like to take a moment to draw your attention to a few important milestones for the 2.8 release:

21 September 2010 -- Code Freeze @ 23:59 UTC. The 2.8.x branch will be created, alpha tags will be produced every two weeks on TUESDAYS and test plans are in progress or complete.

02 November 2010 -- Beta tags begin on two week cycle, test plans are due, string freeze date & help documentation changes have been made. Translations begin.

30 November 2010 -- Outstanding bugs in JIRA are reviewed on project-by-project basis. Bugs that are no longer issues are closed, any bug that must be resolved for the 2.8 release (i.e., a Blocker) is marked as such and tagged correctly in JIRA.

11 January 2011 -- Release Candidate tags begin.

25 January 2011 -- Translations for the 2.8.0 release are checked in and merged to the 2.8 branch.

15 February 2011 -- Release Readiness Decision Point: The Sakai 2 Technical Coordination Committee will vote on whether or not the release is ready.

1 March 2011 -- Sakai 2.8 is released by the Sakai Foundation.

A more detailed schedule is available on Confluence at <http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/x/8RkhB>.

Sakai 2 Project Leads - The TCC is in the final stages of scoping the Sakai 2.8.0 release. There are currently a number of Confluence pages with wish lists, discussions and updates from midsummer (<http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/x/pCYhB> & <http://confluence.sakaiproject.org/x/RwghB>). Seth and I will be collecting and creating a document with a list of all changes in the release. Can you please take a moment to let us know your plans?

It would be helpful if you could tell us if there are no changes, bug fixes only, list of any API changes and a list of enhancements (w/ JIRA #'s)? Please indicate if any of these are still in progress and we'll touch base with you just prior to code freeze.

All the best,

Megan May  
[mmmay@indiana.edu](mailto:mmmay@indiana.edu)

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### 3. Teaching & Learning Group Priority Initiatives

Following work at the 2010 Sakai Conference in Denver, the Sakai Teaching and Learning (T&L) group has identified priority initiatives for the upcoming year. During the year leading up to the 2011 Sakai Conference in Berlin, the T&L group will focus on the following four areas:

- Expanding the Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award (TWSIA)
- Continuing advancement of the learning capabilities design lenses
- Sharing best practices and resources for the use of Sakai for distance learning
- Increasing student engagement in the Sakai community
- Enhancing the current functionality of OpenEdPractices.org

Structurally, the T&L group has formed an initiative group for each of these categories that will meet on a regular basis. The full T&L group will hold a call together each month to share progress across the initiatives. Each quarter, the T&L group will also host a virtual community gathering to share the work that has been accomplished on these initiatives and to create opportunities for discussion, feedback and additional input.

To learn more about the specifics of each of these groups and their current initiatives please visit the Sakai Teaching and Learning (T&L) group page: <http://bit.ly/SakaiTL>.

To Join our the mailing lists or to see the meeting calendar visit the T&L Communications Page: <http://bit.ly/TLCommunication>.

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#### 4. REMINDER: Call for Judges -- Teaching With Sakai Innovation Award

The Teaching With Sakai Innovation Award (TWSIA) committee is seeking distinguished individuals to serve as judges for the fourth annual competition for this international award. We are looking for judges who have a passion for teaching, and whose life-long work includes championing effective learning opportunities first, and technology second but who are not currently involved in the Sakai community.

The purpose of the award is:

- To drive innovation on teaching and learning within the Sakai community.
- To share best practices, understandings and experiences among faculty members and between faculty and other Sakai community members.
- To communicate the goals and issues of the teaching and learning community to contributors in Sakai including developers, user interface, system administrators, documentation, support, and quality assessment.

Judges will select the finalists using the award evaluation rubric and through interviews with the finalists, which are conducted through web-conferencing technology during the Spring 2011 semester. If you know anyone who might be interested or whom you would like to nominate, we would be delighted to hear from you to discuss this further and answer any questions.

Past entries, finalists and the rubric can be found at <http://openedpractices.org/twsia>.

Please email any nominations or questions to Sue Roig (Susan.Roig@cgu.edu) no later than Friday September 24, 2010.

Read the FULL CALL FOR JUDGES Announcement at:  
<http://openedpractices.org/twsia-2011-call-for-judges>

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## 5. Presentations on Distance Learning Best Practices: Sakai T&L Distance Learning Group

Originated at the Sakai 2010 Denver Conference, the Teaching and Learning (T&L) Distance Learning group was created to explore the following:

- Share best practices in distance learning and for faculty development
- Build a repository for distance learning
- Create faculty development courses
- Explore Sakai's strengths and weaknesses for distance learning

Starting with our September 16, 2010 call we will begin sharing brief presentations on Distance Education and Faculty Development in the area of Distance Education.

If you would like to join us to view the presentations or to join the conversations of the group please see: <http://bit.ly/SakaiDL>.

Our full meeting calendar and email list signup can be found at:  
<http://bit.ly/TLCommunication>

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## 6. TWSIA: Participation Needed To Support New Initiatives and Expansion

As part of these changes, the 2011 TWSIA (Teaching With Sakai Innovation Award) committee has proposed Award Categories for submissions, from which winners will be selected. This replaces the current process of selecting 1st and 2nd place winners and honorable mentions from all submissions.

The new Award Categories are:

- Fully Online/Hybrid Courses
- K-12 (primary and secondary education)
- Traditional Higher Education (including web-enhanced courses)
- Non-Traditional/Non-Course Sites (including Project Sites, Student Sites, Portfolios)

The committee has also provided a definition of innovation that will be used for the Award, revised the TWSIA Rubric to reflect aspects of the new categories, and is refining a new judging process.

While we have accomplished a lot, there is still a significant amount of work to do.

We are asking at this time for additional support from members of the Sakai community. In order to determine if there is a better meeting time we are setting up a Meeting Poll through Doodle (<http://www.doodle.com/saribz6k3pni4bdw> ). If you are able to participate on the TWSIA committee, please indicate your availability by participating in the poll, or sign up for our TWSIA email list at <http://collab.sakaiproject.org/mailman/listinfo/twsia> ).

Help to the committee can be in many forms:

- Helping Write (Press Releases, Flyers, Text for Website)
- Publishing (Flyers)
- Preliminary Judges
- Participating in the Committee (Helping shape the Award)
- Communication (Spreading the news about the Award around your institution)
- Nominating a Final Judge
- Applying for the Award

Additional information about the TWSIA including past entries and award winners is available at <http://openedpractices.org/twsia>

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions,

Rob Coyle  
2011 TWSIA Committee Chair  
[rcoyle@jhu.edu](mailto:rcoyle@jhu.edu)  
<http://openedpractices.org/twsia>

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## 7. Job Opening at Oxford: Senior Programmer - Sakai Developer

Do you have:

- Extensive knowledge of Java, Tomcat, Spring, SQL, Hibernate, XML and version control systems?
- Enthusiasm for designing and building new software for learning?
- Proven ability to work well with senior academics and IT specialists?
- Excellent communication, presentation, planning and organisational skills?

- Experience of developing the Sakai collaborative learning environment?

If so, you may be the person we are looking for to join our VLE (WebLearn) team.

You will work alongside other VLE developers and learning technology support officers in the Learning Technologies Group (LTG) within Oxford University Computing Services (OUCS) to develop the service and support the requirements of our growing user community.

As an experienced developer you will be responsible for planning, managing, designing, testing and documenting major software developments.

If you have a track record of successful Open Source code development and the enthusiasm to keep abreast of new developments, please submit your application.

The LTG forms an important section within Oxford University Computing Services (<http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk>), and is home to many interesting initiatives to support teaching and research. Benefits include flexible working, a good pension, excellent career prospects and holiday provision.

Title -- Senior Programmer - Sakai Developer (Java)

Salary -- £36,715 -£43,840 (If no suitable applicant is forthcoming, an appointment on the scale £28,983 - £35646 [with an appropriate adjustment of duties] may be considered.)

This post is offered for one year in the first instance -- it should be possible to offer this as a "year-long secondment". Please obtain further details and an application form from:

<http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/jobs/>

and

<http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/jobs/sakai-developer.xml>

Completed applications must be received by 12 noon on Monday 27th September 2010. Interviews will be held on Monday 11th October 2010.

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## 8. Miami University Job Openings

Applications Analyst  
Miami University  
Oxford, OH

Miami University is currently seeking an Applications Analyst to provide support to clients by analyzing, defining, developing, implementing, training and maintaining computer applications. Require Bachelor's degree in Systems Analysis, Computer Science or a related field earned by date of hire, or Bachelor's degree in another field by date of hire and 2+ years full-time work experience developing web-based applications, or 4+ years full-time work experience developing web-based applications. Demonstrated experience (either work experience or educational experience) developing web-based applications. Demonstrated experience (either work experience or educational experience) developing applications using database management systems. Any equivalent combination of education and/or experience providing the knowledge/skills/abilities listed above may be substituted. Experience in these knowledge/skills/abilities may be earned concurrently. Miami University is an EOE/AA employer with smoke-free campuses. Campus Crime and Safety Report – [www.muohio.edu/righttoknow](http://www.muohio.edu/righttoknow). Hard copy upon request. Employment will require a criminal background check according to University guidelines. For this search, applications will be accepted online only.

[www.miamiujobs.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=51180](http://www.miamiujobs.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=51180)

Learning Systems Coordinator  
Miami University  
Oxford, OH

Miami University is currently seeking a Learning Systems Coordinator to provide learning systems support through working with the faculty governance group, helping to develop strategic understanding of Collaborative Learning Environment, CLE, roadmap and helping implement solutions based on input from faculty and IT advisory boards. Assist in determining the strategic direction of the CLE; recommending and planning upgrades, etc. Require Bachelor's degree earned by date of hire. Demonstrated experience in planning, designing, and delivering learning systems must be shown. Demonstrated experience in project management must be shown. Any equivalent combination of education and/or experience providing the knowledge/skills/abilities listed above may be substituted. Experience in these knowledge/skills/abilities may be earned concurrently. Miami University is an EOE/AA employer with smoke-free campuses. Campus Crime and Safety Report – [www.muohio.edu/righttoknow](http://www.muohio.edu/righttoknow). Hard copy upon request. Employment will require a criminal background check according to University guidelines. For this search, applications will be accepted online only.

[www.miamiujobs.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=51200](http://www.miamiujobs.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=51200)



Systems Analyst  
Miami University  
Oxford, OH

Miami University is currently seeking a Systems Analyst to participate in multiple levels of computer application development; including analysis, design, requirements definition, development, testing, implementation, training, and production support. Require a Bachelor's degree in Systems Analysis, Computer Science, Business, or related field required earned by date of hire, or Bachelor's degree in another field by date of hire and 4+ years full-time work experience developing web-based applications, or 6+ years full-time work experience developing web-based applications. 2+ years work experience using database management systems in application development. 2+ years work experience in web-based, application development. Any equivalent combination of education and/or experience providing the knowledge/skills/abilities listed above may be substituted. Experience in these knowledge/skills/abilities may be earned concurrently. Miami University is an EOE/AA employer with smoke-free campuses. Campus Crime and Safety Report – [www.muohio.edu/righttoknow](http://www.muohio.edu/righttoknow). Hard copy upon request. Employment will require a criminal background check according to University guidelines. For this search, applications will be accepted online only.  
[www.miamiujobs.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=51179](http://www.miamiujobs.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=51179)

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## 9. Recent Email Group Discussions

[DG: User Experience] **Sakai 3 Technical Architecture Documentation?**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Re-DG-User-Experience-sakai-nakamura-KERN-934-Was-Planning-for-W-C-2010-08-16-td5455405.html#a5544046>

[Building Sakai] **Tomcat x 2**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Tomcat-x-2-td5543316.html#a5543316>

[Building Sakai] **graphical display of polls tool results**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-graphical-display-of-polls-tool-results-td5542008.html#a5542008>

[Building Sakai] **New Sakai Build**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-New-Sakai-Build-td5542472.html#a5542472>

[Building Sakai] **Site Info Add Participants, role names not sorted in 2.6.2**  
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Site-Info-Add-Participants-role-names-not-sorted-in-2-6-2-td5540498.html#a5540498>

[Building Sakai] **Mneme on sakai 2.7.0**  
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Mneme-on-sakai-2-7-0-td5541964.html#a5541984>

[Building Sakai] **Restoring deleted files from drop box**  
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Restoring-deleted-files-from-drop-box-td5540047.html#a5540047>

[Building Sakai] **Jira upgrade: 3.13.2 -> 4.1.2**  
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Jira-upgrade-3-13-2-4-1-2-td5539597.html#a5539597>

[Building Sakai] **LDAP Account information mapping with Sakai**  
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-LDAP-Account-information-mapping-with-Sakai-td5541386.html#a5541386>

[Building Sakai] **Site Info Add Participants, role names not sorted in 2.6.2**  
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Site-Info-Add-Participants-role-names-not-sorted-in-2-6-2-td5540498.html#a5540498>

[Building Sakai] **Had a possible strange tool issue resulting in a DoS**  
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Had-a-possible-strange-tool-issue-resulting-in-a-DoS-td5540022.html#a5540022>

[Building Sakai] [WG: Accessibility] **Proposed PDA Portal Wording Change - SAK-19061**  
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Proposed-PDA-Portal-Wording-Change-SAK-19061-td5534890.html#a5534890>

[Building Sakai] **Kernel and bug with en\_DEBUG locale**  
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/WG-Sakai-QA-Kernel-and-bug-with-en-DEBUG-locale-td5537532.html#a5537532>

[Building Sakai] **T&Q Export not exporting questions in 2.7.0**  
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-T-Q-Export-not-exporting-questions-in-2-7-0-td5536359.html#a5536370>

[Building Sakai] **Sakai Build**  
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Sakai-Build-td5535067.html#a5535067>

[DG: Teaching & Learning] **Significant Changes - Pre-Announcement: Teaching With Sakai Innovation Award**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Significant-Changes-Pre-Announcement-Teaching-With-Sakai-Innovation-Award-td5544155.html#a5544155>

[DG: Teaching & Learning] **HEC Montreal and Sakai**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-HEC-Montreal-and-Sakai-td5543833.html#a5543833>

[Portfolio] **Suggestions for XML/Oxygen training**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-Suggestions-for-XML-Oxygen-training-td5543291.html#a5543360>

[Portfolio] **info on transitioning from TaskStream to Sakai**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-info-on-transitioning-from-TaskStream-to-Sakai-td5528135.html#a5528135>

[DG: User Experience] [DG: Teaching & Learning] **micro-commentary use case for gradable content in Sakai 3?**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-micro-commentary-use-case-for-gradable-content-in-Sakai-3-td5523745.html#a5523745>

[DG: User Experience] **Proposal: There should be (a) reserved super-user account(s)**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-Proposal-There-should-be-a-reserved-super-user-account-s-td5488093.html#a5488093>

[Using Sakai] **University of Montreal is leaving Sakai**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-University-of-Montreal-is-leaving-Sakai-td5540292.html#a5542597>

[Using Sakai] **Assignment : error at bulk upload on nightly build**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Assignment-error-at-bulk-upload-on-nightly-build-td5518745.html#a5518745>

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## 10. Events

Sakai 2011 Conference

June 14 - 16, 2011

Ramada Hotel Berlin -- Alexanderplatz

Berlin, Germany