



Sakai Newsletter

October 7, 2010

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1. From the Executive Director

Over the course of this quarter I'm visiting as many Sakai institutions as possible. My objectives are pretty straightforward; to learn more about the real world institutional uses of Sakai, and how they relate to institutional strategies, reconnect with the broad community, and discuss how we can improve the ways in which the Foundation serves that community. I'm also engaging in a series of conversations with senior staff about how the community steps up and coordinates available resource -- particularly for the Sakai 3 managed project.

My first visits were to schools in the North East of the United States, spread over two weeks in September. There could be few better re-introductions to the diversity of the Sakai community. Highlights included learning more about:

- Plans for media delivery at Yale
- The planned use of ePortfolios across multiple programmes at Delaware

- The significant, and extending, range of support and pedagogical materials at Marist College
- Rutgers' work to provide structured and sequenced content authoring
- The use of LAMS with Sakai to sequence content and activities by NYU Medical School
- The planned use of the Sakai 3 Open Academic Environment to support scholarly networking at NYU

The picture is one of a vibrant and active community, deeply engaged in pushing the boundaries of software support for the key mission areas of learning, teaching and research. As a community, there's clearly much we're getting right. Conversations around how effectively the community coordinates resource to meet common problems or ambitions have been equally useful, but perhaps most useful from the perspective of flagging an area the Foundation can do more to help facilitate. Whether dealing with integration issues, such as how Kaltura or Googledocs can be integrated, or improvements in specific areas of functionality, the message I'm hearing in institutions is pretty consistent. The community needs a means by which those who direct institutional resource can network more effectively and inclusively to share problems or issues and develop solutions. As the Foundation moves to bring the review of the Product Council to a close, this objective is high on my priority list.

I'd welcome further perspectives. Please drop me a line at iandolphin@sakaifoundation.org -- or grab me for a chat at EDUCAUSE conference if you're there.

I couldn't let this opportunity pass to offer congratulations to two Sakai Commercial Affiliates, SunGard Higher Education and rSmart, on their recent agreement. This is great news, which going to open up the Sakai adoption options considerably, and provide considerable opportunity for growing the community.

Sakai Board member Michael Feldstein has provided an extended perspective over at <http://tinyurl.com/2belmfs>

<http://mfeldstein.com/sungard-delivers-sakai-support-through-rsmart-partnership/>

Whilst Chris Coppola of RSmart provides his own commentary <http://tinyurl.com/344wacg>

<http://coppola.rsmart.com/2010/09/28/an-open-path-rsmart-and-sungard-higher-education-partner-to-deliver-sakai/>

2. Jasig and Sakai Foundations To Pursue Merger

I'm excited to be able to share with the Sakai community the announcement below (and attached). The Sakai Board of Directors and Foundation staff look forward to engaging with all of our community members at the up coming EDUCAUSE conference, future regional meetings and, of course, online over the coming weeks to get your input and ideas as well as answer your questions. If useful, we will post a FAQ in the next week or two based on questions that come in and/or hold some live "webinar" sessions.

Jasig and Sakai Foundations To Pursue Merger

Early this year, Jasig, the parent organization for uPortal, CAS, Bedework and other open source software serving higher education, and the Sakai Foundation, which supports the Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment, formed Board-level groups to examine ways the two organizations could collaborate more closely. These Strategic Alliance Committees, led by Jasig Chair Aaron Godert, and Sakai Foundation Chair Josh Baron, met in New York in September to consolidate the outcomes of their discussions and bring proposals to their respective Boards.

Based on the recommendation of both Strategic Alliance Committees, the Jasig and Sakai Foundation Boards of Directors are today, October 7, 2010, jointly announcing an intention to pursue a merger of their two organizations, subject to the approval of their respective communities. The new entity would foster the development and use of open source software that supports the academic mission. This goal would be achieved through the identification and promotion of related best practices for increasing effectiveness, efficiency, and innovation in academic institutions, while lowering the risk of the development and adoption of open source software. It would support the further development of communities of interest and practice to explore the use of open source systems and tools to support teaching, learning, research, and other aspects of the academic enterprise. These communities of interest will strongly inform future software development effort.

"Through the discussions over the past several months it has become clear to me that Sakai and Jasig share, at a strategic as well as operational level, much in common", said Josh Baron. "I am excited by the coming together of our organizations, which I see as a natural step in the evolution of higher education open source initiatives, as it will facilitate many new and exciting opportunities across the academy."

The new organization would provide shared infrastructure, expertise, and other resources for the development of a wide range of open source software projects that are designed to meet the needs of academic institutions. It would conduct outreach and explore more meaningful relationships with a broad range of open source and standards organizations. It would provide a clearinghouse for best practices on related management issues such as

crafting open source-friendly procurement processes and assessing the adoption risks of open source software.

The Jasig and Sakai Foundation Boards of Directors share the conviction that the values of openness, transparency, and meritocracy that underpin successful open source projects are profoundly congruent with academic values. We believe that, beyond the benefits that the software itself can provide, fostering the skills and experience necessary to manage the development and implementation itself will strengthen both the commitment and the effectiveness with which our respective institutions uphold these values across the entire range of academic endeavors.

"As we look to position our products and communities for continued and sustainable success into the future, the opportunity for Jasig and Sakai to join efforts and create a more robust network of open source innovation and community engagement, is one I am enthusiastic about," said Aaron Godert.

Moving forward, the two Strategic Alliance committees will continue their due diligence regarding the mechanics and practicalities of a merger and will seek ongoing input from their communities. They will craft a detailed proposal to be approved by the respective Boards of Directors and then voted on by their respective communities in the coming months and will be regularly communicating as this work progresses.

About Jasig

Jasig is a global consortium of educational institutions and commercial affiliates sponsoring free and open source software projects for higher education. Jasig is a member supported, non-profit corporation aiming to attract, advance, and sustain communities developing enterprise-level, open source software that helps institutions fulfill their goals. Jasig connects people, provides infrastructure, and sponsors events that foster innovation and collaboration. Jasig's flagship projects include uPortal, an enterprise portal; CAS, the Central Authentication Service used for single sign-on and secure, proxied authentication; and Bedework, an enterprise calendar used for public events and personal and group calendaring. Jasig also manages a Project Incubator designed to mentor new open source projects and sponsors communities of practice, such as The 2-3-98 Project, which aims to help institutions understand how to exploit open source. For more information, visit the Jasig website at www.jasig.org.

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3. Invitation to EDUCAUSE Community Source Events

Traveling to EDUCAUSE in Anaheim, CA, Oct. 12-15, 2010?

Please join leaders from the open source software for higher education community -- DuraSpace (DSpace, Fedora, DuraCloud), Quali, Sakai and Jasig -- at a Community Source Reception and Poster Session at EDUCAUSE.

Community Source Reception

Wednesday

Oct 13th, 2010

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Laguna A, Fourth Floor, Hilton Hotel

Please join your colleagues in the open-source communities of Sakai, Jasig, DuraSpace, and Quali. Network with friends from institutions that have joined these communities, talk to colleagues from schools that may be considering joining one or more of these communities, and learn more about activities under way. The executive director from each community will be available to speak with attendees. Or, just come have fun!

Poster Session - Enterprise Systems

Wednesday

Oct 13th, 2010

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Learn about the power of open source from leaders in organizations that provide open-source offerings for higher education: DuraSpace, Quali, Jasig, Sakai, and Connexions. Come with questions about how to engage with these communities. There will be an interactive Q&A about current issues and breakouts where attendees can learn more.

Speakers:

Ian Dolphin
Executive Director
Sakai Foundation

Jennifer L. Foutty
Executive Director, Quali Foundation
Indiana University System

Michele Kimpton
Chief Business Officer
DuraSpace

Jonathan Markow
Executive Director
Jasig, Inc.

Joel Thierstein
Associate Provost/Executive Director, Connexions
Rice University

Kim Thanos
kim@thanospartners.com

4. Nominations for the Sakai Board of Directors are Still Being Accepted

Just a quick reminder that nominations for the Sakai Board of Directors are being accepted through Monday, October 18. Here is the original email from Ian Dolphin:

Dear Colleague

Over the course of October and November the Sakai Foundation will be holding elections for two positions on the Foundation Board. In line with Foundation by-laws, Josh Baron, of Marist College, ends his first three year elected term this December, and Jutta Trevinarus, of the Ontario College of Art and Design, ends her second term. I would like to offer my thanks, on behalf of the community, for their leadership in supporting Sakai over the years.

Anyone may be nominated for one of the two positions, although we would appreciate your best efforts to discover the willingness of anyone you may nominate to stand. Please forward your nomination to Mary Miles -- mmiles@sakaifoundation.org -- by midnight Monday October 18th (US Eastern Daylight Time).

Voting will take place between October 30th and November 12th, and will be open to Sakai Foundation Institutional Representatives. Further details of candidates, together with details of how to vote, will be mailed to Institutional Representatives in advance of the voting period. The availability of candidates' details will be notified on this list.

I would remind you that Board members may be elected for a maximum of two consecutive terms. The Sakai Foundation by-laws may be found at:

<http://sakaiproject.org/foundation-bylaws>

5. Spanish Sakai Conference IV in Barcelona

Hello everybody,

On November 8 - 9th, the Fourth Spanish Sakai Conference will take place in Barcelona (Spain). We will have very interesting sessions about virtual campus management, deployment, and development, both in institutions and companies. In addition, and for the first time, there will be technical demonstrations that show that R&D&I is possible with Sakai.

Registration and schedule questions should be sent to Ester Gabarnet (Ester.Gabarnet@sigmaaie.org), and for questions about sessions, contact David Roldán (darolmar@upvnet.upv.es).

See you in Barcelona! ¡Nos vemos en Barcelona!

Dr. David Roldán Martínez
Sakai QA lead for Internationalization
Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain

6. Pepperdine University -- Article About Our Switch to Sakai

Recently, Campus Technology published an article from our Vice Provost/CIO about our switch to Sakai. Here is the link in case you find the article interesting:

<http://campustechnology.com/articles/2010/10/06/why-we-switched-to-sakai.aspx>

Sincerely,

Alan Regan, MFA
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Alan.Regan@pepperdine.edu

7. Sakai-Related Job Postings at Tufts

Dear Sakai Community Members,

Tufts University's Schools of Arts and Sciences and Engineering will be moving to Sakai in fall 2011. In preparation for this move, we have recently posted three full-time Sakai related positions that we'd like to make the community aware of:

- Senior Client Support and Multi-media Specialist for Learning Management System
- Manager of Learning Management System (Sakai) services
- Project Manager for LMS (Sakai) implementation

A fourth position, Senior Systems Administrator -- LMS, should be posted later this week. Once posted, details on this position can be found here: <https://recruiter.kenexa.com/tufts/cc/Home.ss?ccid=bupJEdUjsTs%3D>

For details about the positions and to apply, go to www.tufts.edu/hr/jobs

Hannah Reeves
Hannah.Reeves@tufts.edu

8. Recent Email Group Discussions

[Building Sakai] **Adding data retrieved from UDP to new gradebook column**
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Adding-data-retrieved-from-UDP-to-new-gradebook-column-td5600559.html#a5600559>

[Building Sakai] **Anyone running headless OO.org in production or pilot?**
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Anyone-running-headless-OO-org-in-production-or-pilot-td5599482.html#a5599482>

[Building Sakai] **Apply SAM-756 to 2.7.1 - Where is samigo!?**
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Apply-SAM-756-to-2-7-1-Where-is-samigo-td5608475.html#a5608531>

[Building Sakai] **Blogwow with Sakai 2.7**
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-How-to-setup-logging-to-send-ERRORs-by-mail-td5587085.html#a5611180>

[Building Sakai] **Enrollment feeds from SIS**
<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Enrollment-feeds-from-SIS-td5601667.html#a5602758>

[Building Sakai] **Google Meets Sakai**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Google-Meets-Sakai-td5607655.html#a5607655>

[Building Sakai] **how can I manage multiple course sections using one course site**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-how-can-I-manage-multiple-course-sections-using-one-course-site-td5610281.html#a5612354>

[Building Sakai] **How much RAM for small installation?**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/template/TplServlet.jtp?tpl=search-page&node=1343168&query=How+much+RAM+for+small+installation&days=0>

[Building Sakai] **Instructor comments in Assignment showing in raw html**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Instructor-comments-in-Assignment-showing-in-raw-html-td5599906.html#a5599906>

[Building Sakai] **James email relaying stopped**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-James-email-relaying-stopped-td5615865.html#a5615865>

[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] **JSF upgraded to 1.1_02**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/sakai2-tcc-JSF-upgraded-to-1-1-02-td5610776.html#a5610776>

[Building Sakai] **MSGCNTR-2.7.2 Release Notification**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/MSGCNTR-2-7-2-Release-Notification-td5608371.html#a5608371>

[Building Sakai] **News Tool Picker**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-News-Tool-Picker-td5610880.html#a5610880>

[Building Sakai] **Oracle 11g release 1 or 2 compatible with Sakai 2.5x?**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Oracle-11g-release-1-or-2-compatible-with-Sakai-2-5x-td5613284.html#a5613284>

[Building Sakai] **Problem with the turnitin integration**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Problem-with-the-turnitin-integration-td5615010.html#a5615010>

[Building Sakai] **Reminder QA meeting tomorrow.**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/WG-Sakai-QA-Reminder-QA-meeting-tomorrow-td5597982.html#a5597982>

[Building Sakai] **Sakai 2.7.0 Realms Information Required**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Sakai-2-7-0-Realms-Information-Required-td5600785.html#a5600785>

[Building Sakai] **Sakai 2.7.1 performance issues**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Sakai-2-7-1-performance-issues-td5570475.html#a5575174>

[Building Sakai] **Sakai 3 on Windows?**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Sakai-3-on-Windows-td5613494.html#a5615542>

[Building Sakai] **Searching users with accent insensitive**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Searching-users-with-accent-insensitive-td5589310.html#a5589310>

[Building Sakai] **Update: Jira 4.1 upgrade**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/WG-Sakai-QA-Update-Jira-4-1-upgrade-td5594314.html#a5594314>

[DG: User Experience][Management] **Sakai 3 Q1 Status**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Sakai-3-Q1-Status-td5586571.html#a5586571>

[DG: User Experience] **Fwd: UIEtips: To Refresh, or Not to Refresh**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-Fwd-UIEtips-To-Refresh-or-Not-to-Refresh-td5616057.html#a5616057>

[DG: User Experience] **Jira 4.1 upgrade: email issues resolved**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Update-Jira-4-1-upgrade-td5594315.html#a5595251>

[Portfolio] **ePortfolio Training Interest**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-ePortfolio-Training-Interest-td5583742.html#a5583742>

[Portfolio] **Instructor Guidance**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-Instructor-Guidance-td5592179.html#a5600733>

[Portfolio] **xsl keys and xalan**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-xsl-keys-and-xalan-td5592153.html#a5592153>

[Using Sakai][Building Sakai] **Google Meets Sakai**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Google-Meets-Sakai-td5607655.html#a5607655>

[Using Sakai] **Chemistry VRE**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-Chemistry-VRE-td5599461.html#a5599461>

[Using Sakai] **End-User Documentation**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-End-User-Documentation-td5559113.html#a5559113>

[Using Sakai] **Gradebook setup bug (SAK-14201)**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-Gradebook-setup-bug-SAK-14201-td5599309.html#a5599309>

[Using Sakai] **Hide Sakai iframe link**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Hide-sakai-iframe-link-td5586597.html#a5586597>

[Using Sakai] **What is the relation parent-child between sites for?**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-What-is-the-relation-parent-child-between-sites-for-td5605638.html#a5605638>

10. Events

Sakai 2011 Conference

June 14 - 16, 2011

Ramada Hotel Berlin -- Alexanderplatz

Berlin, Germany