



Sakai Newsletter

February 10 , 2011

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1. From the Executive Director

The Sakai North American Conference 2011 will take place on the 14th, 15th and 16th of June, at the Westin Bonaventure, Los Angeles. The 13th and 16th will be available for pre-conference workshops and project coordination meetings. The conference committee, chaired by Chuck Powell of Yale University, will be making further announcements in coming weeks. Thanks for your patience and forbearance whilst we completed the initial conference arrangements.

Preliminary conversations have begun to shape the Sakai European Conference. Whilst this remains a primarily regional event, the Foundation will be providing some

coordinating support. Likely dates are around the end of September or beginning of October. Again, further details will be posted as they become available. European colleagues willing to serve on an organising committee should contact me directly at iandolphin@sakaifoundation.org

Ian Dolphin
Executive Director
The Sakai Foundation
iandolphin@sakaifoundation.org

2. Hallway Technologies Gains Sakai Commercial Affiliate Status

Hallway Technologies is proud to announce that the Sakai Board of Directors has accepted our application for Sakai Commercial Affiliate membership. While we were already active in the Sakai community, we felt it was important to formalize our support of the foundation's goals and advocate for the growth of the ecosystem by becoming an official member.

Becoming an SCA member will allow us to increase our resource contributions to the foundation as our company grows, as well as provide us with a platform from which we can more deeply engage the community. In addition to supporting institutions as they reach their technological goals, it is the basis of our business to advocate for the use and growth of the Sakai ecosystem. We have and will continue to support the Sakai Foundation and community through development contributions made to member and non-member institutions and especially our work on Sakai OAE (Open Academic Environment).

Realizing that Sakai is a sum of its parts, we have enjoyed engaging ancillary projects and will continue contributing to those projects for the gain of their communities as well as Sakai's. We feel it is important to encourage the Sakai community to form close relationships with other open source communities to meet the growing technological needs of higher education.

We are honored and excited about receiving Sakai Commercial Affiliate status and all of the new possibilities in the coming years.

Michelle Hall
michelle@hallwaytech.com

3. Indiana University Leverages Linux and VMware for its Sakai Oracle Database

Indiana University (IU) was an early adopter of virtual services and VMWARE as IU ran virtualized web and application server layers since the initial Sakai deployment in 2004.

On October 30, 2010, the Oracle database that supports the IU system, branded Oncourse, is also running on Linux and VMware. IU staff moved the database from an AIX system running on an IBM p Server. Oncourse is one of the largest installations of Sakai, supporting over 100,000 students and seeing 12,000 users on its busiest days.

IU chose this direction to provide the most flexible, recoverable, and cost-effective data computing environment possible. It introduces new manageability and dynamic business continuity features supplied by VMware, as well as an overall decrease in service cost through the consolidation of physical server assets into commodity hardware.

Additionally, notable operational advantages will be realized as systems are standardized on a common build and structure.

More information can be found at <http://uits.iu.edu/page/bajn>.

Robert Lowden
rlowden@iu.edu

4. New Tool: Attendance

Everyone,

We are putting together some specifications and designs for a new tool that will track student's attendance, partially sponsored by some of Longsight's clients. The idea is to have a simple table that lists each day the class meets where a teacher can insert in attendance records for each student. (To see a mockup, go to <https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/ATTEND/Home>.) I've heard there's been some interest in the community for a tool like this and it would be great to get the community involved. I'm hoping to get input from everyone about any ideas or features they'd like to see. Also, any collaboration with design, UI, coding, or internationalization would help a lot. I've set up a wiki page where anyone can contribute input/ideas or sign up to help:

<https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/ATTEND/Home>.

Here are some quick ideas for specifications:

- Show a listing of dates (similar to a calendar, but in a spreadsheet-like format, rather

than a monthly calendar-style view, and with the students' names listed in one column on the left)

- Have the ability to select only certain days of the week for viewing as the default for a particular site (for example, Mondays and Wednesdays only, if it is a M-W class)
- Enter an attendance mark for each student for each date the class meets, such as P (present), A (absent), T (tardy), E (excused), H (holiday), etc.
- Listing would be sortable by name, or specific date column
- Students displayed could be filtered by group or section
- Allow faculty to export and/or print the attendance data for offline record keeping if needed
- Allow students to access the tool and view ONLY their own attendance data for that class

Additionally, it would be really great if:

- Faculty had a place where they could define the start and end dates of class for that term
- There were a way to tabulate the number of absences per user and record it somewhere easily visible to faculty and students
- The instructor could choose to assign points for attendance, and this data could be (optionally) linked to the gradebook to give an overall attendance score

Even if you are unable to contribute, it would be nice to know the interest level within the community for this tool, so please reply with your thoughts or add comments to the confluence page.

Thanks,

Bryan Holladay
The Longsight Group LLC
holladay@longsight.com

5. Gradebook2 Version 1.4.0 to be Released

UC Davis is wrapping up QA for gradebook2 v1.4.0. We will deploy this version to production on February 18, 2011.

Best,

Thomas Amsler
tpamsler@ucdavis.edu

6. Register Now for Jasig Spring 2011: "Spotlight on Open Source"

When:

- May 23 - 25, 2011
- Supplementary Seminars May 22nd and 25th
- Developer Days, May 26 - 27

WESTIN WESTMINSTER
10600 Westminster Blvd.
Westminster, Colorado 80020 USA
Hotel Front Desk: +1-303.410.5000
Toll Free, Reservations only: 1.800.937.8461
Special rate reservation: <http://bit.ly/fceB44>

We are bringing a little touch of Hollywood to Denver and celebrating the increasingly vital role open source software plays in organizations around the world. It's time to put the Spotlight on Open Source!

See presentations and seminars on new technologies soon to impact higher education. You'll be hearing about Spring 3, Groovy, REST, mobile applications, etc.

Plus, be a part of history as the executive directors of Jasig and the Sakai Foundation discuss the future of these two organizations. (More keynotes to be announced shortly.)

Spend seminar time implementing and upgrading uPortal, deploying CAS, and optimizing your enterprise calendar; learn how to use uPortal's new mobile theme; build dynamic JavaScript user interfaces using the jQuery toolkit. Learn how to develop next generation portlets, lay the foundation for an enterprise identity management architecture; learn how to submit a project to the Jasig Incubator.

Attend presentations on Identity & Access Management, Sakai OAE, OpenRegistry, Open Source HelpDesk, Internet2 Middleware Solutions, OpenCast, Quali, and learn

about the FIFER initiative.

Visit the Jasig Conference Site for more information: <http://www.jasig.org/jasigs-spotlight-open-source>

Register now! <https://www.concentra-cms.com/register/start.action?confId=48>

But wait -- there's more!!

The Jasig conference is followed by the InCommon Advance CAMP: Identity Services Summit 2011, May 25 - 27 (same location, separate registration).

The ACAMP program committee has invited all Jasig conference attendees to join them for the first half day's sessions on Wednesday afternoon, at no cost! ACAMP attendees, Jasig invites you to attend our Wednesday morning sessions, too!

Visit the ACAMP event site for more information: <https://spaces.internet2.edu/display/ACAMPIdSummit2011/Home>

Two great conferences. One great location!

See you in Denver!

- The Jasig Spring 2011 Program Committee

7. Deadline Extended for Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award (TWSIA)

The TWSIA Committee has extended the submission deadline for entries to the Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award to Monday, February 21, 2011. Submissions will be accepted until midnight the evening of the 21st. The Award has been restructured to allow for entries from the larger Sakai Community including primary and secondary schools, portfolios, and non-course specific sites. You can learn more about the award and view the evaluation rubric at <http://openedpractices.org/twsia>. Select winners of the 2011 award will have expenses paid to present their winning entries at the 12th Sakai Conference in Los Angeles, California.

To apply for the Award, go to <http://openedpractices.org/twsia/apply> and follow the step-by-step guide.

Robert M. Coyle,
Instructional Designer, Instructional Technology and Distance Education
rcoyle@jhu.edu

8. Release Notes Now in JIRA

Hi all,

We were doing a bit of brainstorming on how we could make the construction of release notes better, faster, and more accurate (and hoping that we don't have to choose 2 out of 3). Currently release notes are compiled after the fact, usually by one person (thanks Anthony!), and often fall victim to having either too much information, too little information, or missing information.

Anthony was kind enough to entertain the idea that we could create a new "Release Notes" field in JIRA so that developers can create release notes at the time an issue is resolved (if not before). The JIRA Release Notes field could be used to document a change in behavior, a required manual conversion, deprecated/changed/new features, or outstanding problems.

The aggregation and composition of release notes could be a less onerous and more accurate task if developers make use of this new field. Please give it a try -- it benefits us all when we upgrade to a new Sakai release if we don't have any unplanned surprises.

Keep in mind that the "Release Notes" tab will not be visible until you either (1) edit a JIRA entry or (2) have content in the Release Notes field. Here are some JIRAs with example release notes:

<https://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAK-18655>

<https://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAK-19707>

Beth Kirschner
bkirschn@umich.edu

9. Article about Oauth and Sakai

Here is a blog post I added of a recent article by Matthew Buckett about our OAuth work.

<http://blogs.oucs.ox.ac.uk/adamweblearn/?p=1083>

Adam Marshall
adam.marshall@oucs.ox.ac.uk

10. Call for Papers -- the International Journal of ePortfolio (IJeP)

Beginning today, January 21, the International Journal of ePortfolio (IJeP), a double-blind, peer-reviewed, open access journal, began accepting manuscripts. The call for papers, along with full journal details, can be found at:

<http://www.theijep.com>

The mission of the International Journal of ePortfolio (IJeP) is to encourage the study of practices and pedagogies associated with ePortfolio in educational settings. The journal's focus includes the explanation, interpretation, application, and dissemination of researchers', practitioners', and developers' experiences relevant to ePortfolio. It also serves to provide a multi-faceted, single source of information for those engaging in projects and practices associated with ePortfolio. A refereed (blind) peer-reviewed journal, IJeP embraces inquiry into ePortfolio in educational settings holistically; therefore, manuscripts considering the following areas of investigation are welcomed:

- instruction and principles of learning that utilize and inform practical, effective ePortfolio methodologies;
- evaluation and assessment methodologies and practices supported by ePortfolio;
- case studies and best practices regarding applications of ePortfolio for learning, assessment, and professional development supported by scholarship of teaching and learning practices and research methodologies;
- theoretically rich accounts of the principles grounding ePortfolio work and its relationship to larger social and cultural phenomena; and
- innovative development and applications of technologies that enable new ePortfolio practices.

Authors with questions regarding their manuscript's suitability for IJeP should direct their inquiries to the Executive Editors at ijep@vt.edu.

Please feel free to share this announcement with interested colleagues and on appropriate listservs.

Kind regards,

C. Edward Watson, Ph.D., Peter Doolittle, Ph.D.
Co-Executive Editors
International Journal of ePortfolio (IJeP)
<http://www.theijep.com/>

11. Sakai OAE Demo/Discussion, Monday, February 21 at 5:00 pm EST

Lynn Ward will be presenting an informal Sakai OAE (Open Academic Environment) technology update, including a live demo, for the Sakai Teaching & Learning Design Lenses working group on Monday, February 24 from 5-6pm EST (gmt -4) . This session is open to anyone who'd like to attend. Participation details are available on the meeting agenda page in Confluence -- <https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/x/WIJxB> -- and will be posted to multiple lists later in the month.

Lynn E. Ward
leward@iupui.edu

12. Longsight Group Open Position: Sakai Developer

Position announced February 10, 2011

The Longsight Group is looking for an experienced developer to join our team of Sakai experts who contribute to our clients' success and to the Sakai community. Longsight builds, customizes, hosts, and supports open-source applications for higher education and non-profit clients. We are a rapidly-growing firm with a national reputation for outstanding service and deep understanding of our higher education and non-profit clients. You can learn more about Longsight at <http://www.longsight.com>

You will thrive in this position if you are a conscientious and independent worker who creates sustainable code, is articulate, organized, and can learn new systems quickly. You will earn a competitive salary plus fully-paid health/dental/vision/life insurance, retirement package and vacation days. As Longsight continues to grow, you will have the opportunity to expand your scope of work, take on additional responsibilities, hire additional developers, manage staff, travel to conferences, and evolve your position as the company expands. Applicants with a strong history of working remotely will be considered. Longsight has staff in New York, Ohio, Indiana and California.

Required credentials for this position are:

- strong experience with Java, Spring, Hibernate, SOA, web services
- experience with MySQL and database optimization
- excellent communication skills — both oral and written
- ability to work independently; results- and detail-oriented

- a bachelor's degree from an accredited undergraduate institution

Desired qualifications are:

- Software development in a higher education environment
- Experience with open source and community source projects
- Experience with Sakai

To apply:

Your application should consist of a brief cover letter and résumé emailed to search@longsight.com. We will confirm receipt of your application by email. Tell us in your brief cover letter why your skills, experience, and work style meet or exceed our expectations. Your résumé should provide the details of your education and work experience along with the names and email addresses of three references. Please do not request letters of your references at this time. This search will remain open until the position is filled.

Scott Siddall
siddall@longsight.com

13. Recent Email Group Discussions

[Building Sakai] **Exception when using HibernateTransactionManage**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Exception-when-using-HibernateTransactionManager-and-ContentHostingService-td6031018.html>

[Building Sakai] **Questions regarding Sakai configuration for multiple schools**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Questions-regarding-Sakai-configuration-for-multiple-schools-td6029809.html>

[Building Sakai] **Reminder: Proposed change in courier for 2.9.x**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Proposed-change-in-courier-for-2-9-x-td6007835.html#a6029029>

[Building Sakai] **support for Admin Lite users**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-support-for-Admin-Lite-users-td6028639.html>

[Building Sakai] **Oauth and Sakai**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Oauth-and-Sakai-td6028476.html>

[Building Sakai] **Update on 2.8 Oracle conversion scripts**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/WG-Sakai-QA-Update-on-2-8-Oracle-conversion-scripts-td6027947.html>

[Building Sakai] **Sakai on VMware?**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Sakai-on-VMware-td5983631.html>

[Building Sakai] **Passing text field value from one page to other page**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Passing-text-field-value-from-one-page-to-other-page-td6026419.html>

[Building Sakai] **Can we have lesson and course feedback in Sakai?**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Can-we-have-lesson-and-course-feedbac-in-Sakai-td6026396.html>

[Building Sakai] **Signup Tool error**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Signup-Tool-error-td6025986.html>

[Building Sakai] **CLE/2x trunk: new pack project (replaces pack-demo)**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-CLE-2x-trunk-new-pack-project-replaces-pack-demo-td6025481.html>

[Building Sakai] **Issues with upgrading**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Issues-with-upgrading-td6023620.html>

[Building Sakai] **for sakai and IMS Content Package import/export**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-for-sakai-and-IMS-Content-Package-import-export-td6012612.html>

[Building Sakai] **build Error: On adding gradebook service API**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-Pom-build-Error-On-adding-gradebook-API-td6015702.html#a6018484>

[Building Sakai] **how to solve POM Error**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Building-Sakai-how-to-solve-POM-Error-td6022538.html>

[Building Sakai] **Sakai 2: Important Change for Maintenance Branches**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Sakai-2-Important-Change-for-Maintenance-Branches-td6022049.html>

[Portfolio] **Collections Tool in NYU Sakai OAE Instance**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-Collections-Tool-in-NYU-Sakai-OAE-Instance-td6005924.html>

[Portfolio] **Update on Portfolio Reports Meetings**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-Update-on-Portfolio-Reports-Meetings-td6005067.html>

[Portfolio] **Remaining Critical OSP Jira Issues**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-Remaining-Critical-OSP-Jira-Issues-td6001454.html>

[Portfolio] **Use of xalan:evaluate**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-Use-of-xalan-evaluate-td5993636.html>

[Portfolio] **Status of OSP Jira Issues**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Portfolio-Status-of-OSP-Jira-Issues-td5991267.html>

[DG: Teaching & Learning] **CSU SakaiOAE pilot started (Calvert, Dawn)**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/CSU-SakaiOAE-pilot-started-td6017739.html>

[DG: User Experience] **AI-based "prompts" (hints) to improve user behaviour - do they have a formal name?**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-AI-based-quot-prompts-quot-hints-to-improve-user-behaviour-do-they-have-a-formal--td6013877.html>

[DG: User Experience] **Important: Re-factoring lists**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/DG-User-Experience-Important-Re-factoring-lists-td5936928.html>

[Using Sakai] **Images in T/Q**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-Images-in-T-Q-td6024793.html#a6024826>

[Announcements] **Sakai Test Fest 2/11**

Sakai Test Fest 2/11

[Using Sakai] **Site-stats only reflect Sakai users and not users from LDAP**

<http://sakai-project-mail-list-archives.1343168.n2.nabble.com/Using-Sakai-Site-stats-only-reflect-Sakai-users-and-not-users-from-LDAP-td6015980.html#a6026784>

14. Events

Jasig's "Spotlight on Open Source"

Monday, May 23 through Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Westin Westminster Hotel, Westminster, CO

Sakai North American Conference

June 14 -16, 2011

Westin Bonaventure, Los Angeles.

June 13 and 16 - pre-conference workshops and project coordination meetings