



## Sakai Newsletter

July 1, 2011

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### 1. Sakai CLE Internationalization and Localization Improvement Process

Representatives of the Japanese (Shoji Kajita), Spanish (David Roldán Martínez), and French (Jean-François Levêque) Sakai communities working closely with other members of the Sakai Community have planned more joint work on internationalization (i18n) and localization (l10n). The main challenges proposed are the following:

### (1) Set an i18n bug fixing plan

- We will announce the to the community the plan and ask for feedback. Ja Sakai (Japanese Sakai Community), French and S2U (Spanish Sakai Universities) are going to review known remaining i18n bugs and prioritize them in "bug packages".
- We will set timelines for "bug packages" and start bug fixing process.
- We will send the final plan and monthly updates summarizing the work done.

### (2) I18n WG on Confluence

- We will take Chuck Severance's idea of creating an i18n School and we'll use Confluence as support.
- We will design new confluence structure making it more flexible, efficient and useful. This should be completed by the end of July.
- We will identify main use cases and request community feedback.

Dear Sakai developers, please let us know your proposals. We would love to hear what you would like to know about internationalizing your code.

This should be done by the end of July.

- Universitat Politècnica de València will record a set of videos explaining i18n best-practices and tutorials about the main uses cases formerly identified. This should be done by the end of this year.
- Provide content to i18n school. This is a continuous process.

### (3) I18n support

- We have been meeting some tool and project leaders and have established an explicit action plan to audit and report their tools and projects from the i18n point of view. Currently, we are going to help Samigo (indie project), Lesson Builder (contrib tool to be included at 2.9), Message Center (indie project), XWiki (contrib tool), OSP tools, and all the tools under MT responsibility. If others are interested on having code review (and having help, if needed or requested) or you want to collaborate with us, please let us know. A scheduled time is pending.
- Resurrect [i18n@collab.sakaiproject.org](mailto:i18n@collab.sakaiproject.org) making an intensive use of the list.
- Japanese community has offered Benten, which enables us to use Translation Memory as a standard tool for translations. If you want contribute with a translation, please, let us know.

We also would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank TCC, MT and Sakai Board members together with tool/project teams for their support and their willingness to collaborate. Additionally, we would like to thank Beth Kirscher for her suggestions, ideas and guidance.

And remember,

- if you own a project and volunteer for its i18n review and improvement with our help, or
- if you are translating or updating i18n resources including Java property files and you need help, or
- if you have any question about i18n/l10n or would like to contribute to this improvement process,

please contact us on [i18n@collab.sakaiproject.org](mailto:i18n@collab.sakaiproject.org)

Best Regards,

The i18n Team

- David Roldán Martínez
- Jean-François Leveque
- Shoji Kajita)

[i18n@collab.sakaiproject.org](mailto:i18n@collab.sakaiproject.org)

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## 2. Book Release: "Sakai CLE Courseware Management"

The Sakai Foundation and PACKT publishers are proud to announce the Sakai CLE Courseware Management book. This is the official guide to the Sakai CLE.

<http://www.packtpub.com/sakai-cle-courseware-management-for-elearning-research/book>

This book is the officially endorsed Sakai guide and is an update to the previous book, Sakai Courseware Management: The Official Guide. From setting up and running Sakai for the first time to creatively using its tools and features, this book delivers everything you need to know.

Written by Alan Berg, a Sakai fellow and former Quality Assurance Director of the Sakai Foundation, and Ian Dolphin, the Executive Director of the Sakai Foundation, with significant contributions from the Sakai community, Sakai CLE Courseware Management: The Official Guide is a comprehensive study of how Sakai CLE should be used, managed, and maintained, with real world examples and practical explanations.

Many thanks go to this hard working community credited in the book including Josh Baron, Michael Fieldstein, Tony Atkins, Steven Swinsburg, and Margaret Wagner who is a solid support for any budding book writer. Finally, let's not forget the PACKT crew including Mohd Sahil, Reshma Sundaresan and Joel Goveya. Good team work.

A press release from the publisher will follow in the next newsletter.

Alan Berg

Group Education and Research Services  
Central Computer Services  
University of Amsterdam  
A.M.Berg@uva.nl

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### 3. EuroSakai 2011 "Focusing on European Adoption" 26 - 28 September

Hello Everybody!!

Sakai is returning to Amsterdam for 2011 edition of EuroSakai. It will be held on the same beautiful waterfront as the 2007 Sakai conference.

The main theme of EuroSakai 2011 is "Focusing on European Adoption". Over the past years, Sakai has seen increased adoption by institutions and the community has grown steadily. However, the adoption of Sakai in Europe lags behind, particularly in comparison to Northern America. At the same time, higher and tertiary education in Europe are also confronted with budget constraints, and the end of many existing product licenses. A number of European institutions that had previously not considered open source software are now starting to give it serious consideration. Awareness of the benefits and flexibility of open source, and the possibility of collaborating between renowned institutions needs to be fostered in Europe. Meanwhile, policy makers such as the European Commission Digital Agenda are encouraging use of open standards and open source software. All summed up, the conference takes place at a time of great opportunities for Sakai.

Conference Themes:

We encourage the presentations to fit within one of the following themes. However, other suggestions are also welcome.

- Adopting Sakai, Best Practices in Implementation, Support, and Teaching
- Expanding in Europe, New Audiences
- Quality Assurance in Code and Practice
- Internationalisation and Localisation
- Innovation in Education and Technology

The registration fee is 100 EUR for Foundation Members and 125 EUR for Non-Members.

More Information and a link to the registration page are available on the sakaiproject.org website: <http://sakaiproject.org/news/eurosakai-2011-amsterdam-netherlands>

If you are planning to attend this conference, please visit the website and register as soon as possible. We also send a special invitation to all the (South-) African & Middle East Sakai members to join the conference.

**About PRESENTATION & WORKSHOP PROPOSALS:**

We need all your collaboration for the conference presentations, please. If you think you have any good experience to talk about, a new tool to show, or good practices you want to share, please think about doing a presentation in the conference.

Presentation proposals can be sent to the conference e-mail address:  
[proposals@eurosakai.nl](mailto:proposals@eurosakai.nl)

Additional information, registration, programme and forms for call for proposals on the conference website:

<http://communities.uva.nl/portal/site/6f062541-29d2-40a0-a9dc-80d1b4a13b1a>

More Information:

Please contact us at: [info@eurosakai.nl](mailto:info@eurosakai.nl)

On behalf of organizing committee,

See you in Amsterdam!

Frank Benneker (UvA)  
[frank.benneker@uva.nl](mailto:frank.benneker@uva.nl)

Jaeques Koeman (Edia)  
[jaeques@edia.nl](mailto:jaeques@edia.nl)

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#### 4. Columbia University Transitions Course Management System to Sakai CLE

Columbia University (CU) has begun transitioning its entire course management system, CourseWorks, onto the Sakai CLE Technology platform. Sakai already has been successfully piloted during the last six years at Columbia and is currently used by professors, students and administrators in 200 courses each term. The piloted user community has determined that the Sakai technology offers the robust set of tools required to provide state-of-the-art online learning and information sharing.

The transition to the Sakai platform that will launch the new CU CourseWorks will be completed during the next four school terms, starting September 2011. The first courses moving in Fall Term 2011 are from the schools of Medicine, Public Health, Nursing and Dental Medicine; the School of Social Work; and the departments of Anthropology and Statistics. By May 2013, all of the University's schools will transition to new CourseWorks.

Columbia University is a member of the Sakai Foundation Partners Program since 2004. Columbia has maintained an active role in Sakai community development work and hosts a QA server.

For further information on Columbia University's transition to Sakai CLE, contact Maneesha Aggarwal, Manager, Teaching and Learning Technologies, at [Maneesha@columbia.edu](mailto:Maneesha@columbia.edu).

Maneesha Aggarwal  
[Maneesha@columbia.edu](mailto:Maneesha@columbia.edu)

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## 5. Book Review - "Sakai: Free as in Freedom" by Charles Severance

Here is a great book review written by Alan Berg of Chuck Severance's book:

[http://www.freesoftwaremagazine.com/columns/book\\_review\\_sakai\\_free\\_freedom\\_written\\_charles\\_severance](http://www.freesoftwaremagazine.com/columns/book_review_sakai_free_freedom_written_charles_severance)

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## 6. Instructional Technology (at Virginia Tech) in 2020

Greetings All,

During the spring semester, Virginia Tech (VT) convened a task force to develop a vision for instructional technology at VT in 2020. We have posted our findings along with multimedia resources at <http://blogs.is.vt.edu/inventthefuture2020>.

We invite your comments and feedback on this blog and will include community input as we move towards this vision.

A couple of key points:

- The future of instructional technology will involve a network of changes spanning across the institution including pedagogy, assessment, organizational systems, and

incentives for innovation that is much broader than instructional technology.

- The case for change is here today and actually significant changes are happening now. See the cloud tag "Pew" for a presentation by Lee Rainie, Director, Pew Internet Project, for compelling stats.

We hope to see you there and thanks for your input!

Marc Zaldivar, Ph.D.  
Director, ePortfolio Initiatives  
Learning Technologies Virginia Tech  
marcz@vt.edu

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## 7. OpenSyllabus First Release!

HEC Montréal is proud to announce the release of the first Contrib version of OpenSyllabus.

### Description:

OpenSyllabus is an easy-to-use course site authoring tool that organizes quickly all the resources (files, citations, etc.) and tools (Assignments, Tests & Quizzes, etc.) to provide clear guidance to students in their learning. OpenSyllabus has many other nice features including the integration with announcements and the creation of PDF versions.

### Screencast:

<http://vimeo.com/24932699>

### Confluence page:

<https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/OSYL/Contrib+OpenSyllabus>

### Works with:

Sakai 2.6.1, 2.7.1

### Project dependencies:

To have OpenSyllabus up and running you will need to install the JSP-ADAPTER project. This project allows OpenSyllabus to be loaded in Sakai. If you don't install it you will have an error when Tomcat deploys.

HEC version of SDATA comes also with the OpenSyllabus source code. When you deploy, the sdata.war file is deposited in your Tomcat/webapps folder. Our version of SDATA allows you to use the document browser and the citations browser.

You can remove the war file if you don't want to use the sdata but the mentioned functionalities above won't be available.

Installation:

SVN: <https://source.sakaiproject.org/contrib/opensyllabus/tags/2.7.1>

Binaries: <http://osyltest.hec.ca/opensyllabus.tar.bz2>

1. Download Jsp-Adapter: <https://source.sakaiproject.org/contrib/caret/sakai-jsp-adapter/tags/sakai-jsp-adapter-0.10-K1>

2. Install Jsp-Adapter: mvn clean install.

3. Download OpenSyllabus using the SVN link or the binary link.

4. Install and deploy OpenSyllabus: mvn clean install sakai:deploy -

Dmaven.tomcat.home=%CATALINA\_HOME%

Contact information:

[opensyllabus@hec.ca](mailto:opensyllabus@hec.ca)

License:

OpenSyllabus is released under the Educational Community License Version 2.0.

- Jacques Raynauld

[jacques.raynauld@hec.ca](mailto:jacques.raynauld@hec.ca)

OpenSyllabus Team

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## 8. University of Virginia Upgrades to Sakai 2.7.1

The UVaCollab (Sakai) team at the University of Virginia is pleased to announce our successful upgrade to Sakai 2.7.1 on Tuesday, June 21, 2011. We have upgraded from version 2.6.x. We invite the Sakai community to review our "What's New" guide for a description of new features that this upgrade brings to our instance of Sakai:

<https://collab.itc.virginia.edu/portal/site/!gateway/page/b0f44cbc-054a-48d5-90ef-f0dfba383007>

Contact Trisha Gordon if you would like to know more about UVa's upgrade process.

Trisha Gordon

UVaCollab User Support Manager

[collab-support@virginia.edu](mailto:collab-support@virginia.edu)



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## 9. Gradebook2 v1.5.0 Released

We have released gradebook2 v1.5.0:

<https://source.sakaiproject.org/contrib/gradebook2/tags/1.5.0>

Best,

Thomas Amsler  
UC Davis  
tpamsler@ucdavis.edu

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## 8. Sakai CLE Polls 1.3.12 Released

A new version of Polls 1.3 has been released. This is primarily a bug-fix release aimed at supporting production deployments at the University of Michigan and Cape Town.

Version:  
polls-1.3.12

Highlights:

This is a maintenance release that includes bug fixes that may be desirable to the community.

For full details of fixes in this release, see:

<https://jira.sakaiproject.org/secure/ReleaseNote.jspa?projectId=10582&version=12188>

For general info, see:

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

Works with:

Sakai 2.7 (tested against sakai-2.7.x)

Database upgrade:

There is no database upgrade required that is specific to this release.

Availability:

Tag: <https://source.sakaiproject.org/svn/polls/tags/polls-1.3.12/>

Binaries:

<http://source.sakaiproject.org/maven2/org/sakaiproject/polls/>

2.7.x maintenance branch deploys msgcntr-2.7.4 as of r90848.

Installation:

I. Deployers running Sakai 2.7 should perform the following steps to upgrade:

- 1. Update the property <sakai.polls.version> in \$SAKAI\_SRC/master/pom.xml to 1.3.12
- 2. Remove the following Polls folders and files from Tomcat:

```
$CATALINA_HOME/webapps  
polls-too.war  
/polls-tool
```

```
$CATALINA_HOME/shared/lib/  
polls-api-*.jar  
polls-hbm-*.jar  
polls-help-*.jar
```

```
$CATALINA_HOME/components  
/polls-pack
```

- 3. Rebuild/redeploy the core-deploy project to fetch the new release and install it into Tomcat

II. Deployers building from source should perform the following steps:

- 1. Checkout the 1.3.12 tag using the SVN link above
- 2. Remove the Message and Forums folders and files from Tomcat as described ABOVE.
- 3. Build and deploy the 1.3.12 tag

Known issues:

None

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to the following Sakai community members (in no particular order) for their involvement in this release:

Development/QA/Release

Alan Berg, Sakai Foundation

Anthony Whyte, Sakai Foundation

Steve Swinsburg, Australian National University

David Horwitz, University of Cape Town

Matthew Buckett, Oxford

Jean-François Lévêque, University Pierre and Marie Curie, Paris

Zhen Qian, University of Michigan  
Gao Jun, Fudan

License:

Polls is released under the Educational Community License Version 2.0

David Horwitz

david.horwitz@uct.ac.za

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## 11. Sakai Checklist Tool

Hello,

At University of Michigan we have been working on a generalized Sakai Checklist Tool to allow users to create and manage checklists of various types.

General Overview:

The Checklist tool is based on the University of Michigan's (UM) Grad Tools, which is a checklist that is set up to help doctoral students navigate and keep track of the complex series of steps that are required in pursuing a PhD. UM Grad Tools is used as a tool within CTools (UM's Sakai implementation) and it exists in its own site. While GradTools is designed for an academic use, a checklist can be used for any process that can be defined in steps.

Checklists are not site-specific; they can be added to any site. They are created and then shared with those who will use them to track progress. They can also optionally be shared with users who will make additional changes, such as adding more steps, before they, in turn, share them with the final users. Checklists can be set up so that the completion of steps is viewed, approved, and checked off by someone who is not the checklist's user. As an example, a faculty member may approve steps completed by a student.

For more information, visit <https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/GT/Home>

Savitha Prakash

savithap@umich.edu

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## 12. Strengthen Your Sakai Skills this Summer with rSmart's Sakai Summer Bootcamp

Don't let your Sakai skills go to waste just because school is out! rSmart is hosting a free one-hour training on a variety of topics every week in the month of July for those that want to strengthen their skills or just want to learn more about a tool within Sakai!

For more information, go to: <http://www.rsmart.com/sakai/bootcamp>

Week 3: Test and Quizzes  
July 22, 2011  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM PDT  
Register

Week 4: Gradebook2  
July 29, 2011  
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM PDT  
Register

Megan Perrone  
[mperrone@rsmart.com](mailto:mperrone@rsmart.com)

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## 13. Job Opening: Marist College Seeking Instructional Designer

Marist College is seeking applicants for the full-time position of Instructional Designer. This position will report to the Assistant Director of Academic Technology and eLearning and play a central role in helping the college achieve new strategic goals associated with distance education and using instructional technologies to enhance the teaching and learning experience. The position will provide faculty with pedagogical and instructional design consultation related to course, module, and whole curriculum development activities for traditional, online, and hybrid courses. More details and application can be found at:

<http://jobs.marist.edu>

Joshua Baron  
Director, Academic Technology and eLearning  
Marist College  
[Josh.Baron@marist.edu](mailto:Josh.Baron@marist.edu)

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## 14. Recent Email Group Discussions

Building a new service - Advice on AutoDDL needed

<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Building-a-new-service---Advice-on-AutoDDL-needed-to31966709.html#a31966709>

Sakai 2.8 - Which institutions have upgraded already?

<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Sakai-2.8---Which-institutions-have-upgraded-already--to31965296.html#a31965296>

Bug in Firefox 4 and 5 in Samigo

<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Bug-in-Firefox-4-and-5-in-Samigo-to31912109.html#a31912109>

[Building Sakai] Logs on nightly2

<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Logs-on-nightly2-to31963797.html#a31963797>

Alert: Moving spring-webmvc out of shared

<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Alert%3A--Moving-spring-webmvc-out-of-shared-to31953323.html#a31953323>

JSTL in shared

<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--JSTL-in-shared-to31961700.html#a31961700>

Sakai Search Tool 2.6

<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Sakai-Search-Tool-2.6-to31961196.html#a31966329>

Sakai Maven Archetype

<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Sakai-Maven-Archetype-to31959541.html#a31959541>

peer marking

<http://old.nabble.com/forum/Search.jsp?query=peer+marking&local=y&forum=18101&daterange=0&startdate=&enddate=>

How to disable the default +Add Tool

<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--How-to-disable-the-default-%2BAdd-Tool-to31942703.html#a31942703>

Error starting 2.8.x

<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Error-starting-2.8.x-to31949728.html#a31949728>

Sakai Sharing Contents

<http://old.nabble.com/forum/Search.jtp?query=+Sakai+Sharing+Contents&local=y&forum=18101&daterange=0&startdate=&enddate=>

Bug in Firefox 4 and 5 in Samigo

<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Bug-in-Firefox-4-and-5-in-Samigo-to31912109.html#a31912109>

Sakai App Builder

<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Sakai-App-Builder-to31935791.html#a31935791>

Tapestry 5 Integration with Sakai

<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Tapestry-5-Integration-with-Sakai-to31926867.html#a31926867>

Learning from Google+?

<http://old.nabble.com/-DG%3A-User-Experience--Learning-from-Google%2B--to31965478.html#a31965478>

Using AssignmentService

<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Using-AssignmentService-to31944799.html#a31944799>

Search Function and Question Pool

<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Search-Function-and-Question-Pool-to31858937.html#a31858937>

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## 15. Events

AuSakai 2011 "Towards an Open Academic and Collaborative Environment"

Tuesday 13 & Wednesday 14 September, 2011

The Australian National University, Canberra

Networking Dinner: 13 September 2011

<http://ausakai.anu.edu.au>

EuroSakai 2011 "Focusing on European Adoption"

September 26, 27, and 28, 2011

Amsterdam

<http://communities.uva.nl/portal/site/6f062541-29d2-40a0-a9dc-80d1b4a13b1a>