



Sakai Newsletter

October 6, 2011

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1. From the Executive Director

An Appeal: Please Share your Sakai Experiences!

We're continuing to redevelop the Sakai Foundation website. One of our objectives is to make the site much more reflective of the practice of the Sakai community: to showcase what we are, and what we do. I'd like to start the ball rolling by making an appeal for you to consider writing a case study of Sakai deployment in your school. When a university or college begins to consider a change of learning management system, or begins to work through issues surrounding broader collaboration, they want to hear stories. Stories of evaluation, success, setbacks and failures; warts-and-all genuine community experiences, not marketing puff-pieces. One of the reasons why I love my work with the Sakai

community is its honesty and openness. Please help put that on show by sharing your experience.

Guidelines for writing a Sakai Implementation Case Study

This is a set of pointers to the creation of a Sakai implementation case study. Your story is important to the reader precisely because it is **yours** specifically. Feel free to depart from this suggested outline, and to provide as much (or as little) detail as you are comfortable with. Remember, quotes from senior leaders, faculty and students are particularly powerful. There is also particular interest in cost of ownership details -- both from other potential adopters, and from analysts who shape industry perspectives.

An illustration or two will help the Foundation present your case study in as attractive way as possible. Photographs of individuals quoted, learners or faculty using Sakai, or framing shots of your campus are great. Don't worry about layout, the Foundation is happy handling that side of things. If you are comfortable with using video, short clips are often tremendously useful communicators. Again, don't feel pressure to include all these media types; whatever you feel able to provide will be of use.

Your case study will be made available on the Sakai Foundation website. Please include rights information (normally which type of Creative Commons license you prefer) with your copy.

Outline

- 1 Enough background on the institution/adopter for the reader to make sense of the story.
- 2 The institutional problem space; strategic motivators for change.
- 3 The selection process itself; criteria, how the process was organised, the choice. Comments from faculty and institutional leadership are useful throughout, but particularly in this section.
- 4 If a pilot took place, then details are useful; why the pilot group was selected, any detailed objectives? Faculty and student experience of pilot -- again, any quotable comments useful. Interactions with Sakai Community which helped?
- 5 Implementation. Phased over what period, with which target groups? Comments from faculty and students regarding their experience. Interactions with Sakai Community? Statistics -- how many users, how many sites, over what period? Usage stats where available. Strategies for content migration are of considerable interest to other institutions. Consider including major systems integration challenges.
- 6 How adoption contributed to/met institutional strategic objectives. Comparative total cost of ownership information is particularly useful here. Specific stories of teaching,

learning and research collaboration "successes". Outstanding issues -- what were the "warts", what problems did you overcome, or do you still have? Any general or specific lessons to be drawn for other adopters?

Please send any materials for the case study to iandolphin@sakaifoundation.org. If you would like to discuss any aspects of a potential case study, please drop me a line at the same address.

Ian Dolphin
Executive Director, Sakai Foundation
iandolphin@sakaifoundation.org
Twitter: [d iandolphin24](#)

2. Jasig and Sakai Foundations Finalize Merger Plans

In 2010 the Jasig and Sakai Foundations undertook an evaluation of the benefits and feasibility of bringing our two organizations together. Following a positive initial investigation, work began after the 2010 EDUCAUSE conference to merge organizations. We are now approaching the final stages of this process and wanted to take this opportunity to report our progress.

The Jasig and Sakai Foundation Board of Directors have now independently elected four members from each of their existing Boards to serve on the "Founding Board" of the new common organization. A list of the members elected by each Board is included below. A Founding Board is a legal precondition for incorporating a new 501(c)3 Not-For-Profit entity which necessitates its formation at this point in the process. Although the Founding Board will not have any legal authority prior to incorporation they will be consulted and heavily engaged as we finalize the merger process. Once incorporated, community elections will be held to elect four additional Board Members (details of the election process are being finalized in the bylaws). Following a timeline to be established by the new Board (of no more than three years in length), members of the Founding Board will rotate off to allow their position to be filled by individuals elected directly by the combined communities.

Following approval by our two communities, we plan to file for incorporation early in the new year and gain non-profit status within the first quarter of 2012. The specific timeline for finalizing the incorporation process depends heavily on how quickly we gain state and federal approvals. During this time, the Founding Board will also likely be working to form an Advisory Council of international leaders within higher education to provide guidance as the new organization matures. Additional details on this Advisory Council and the merger, including an updated version of the bylaws and a draft membership model, will be released to our communities for review and comment in the coming weeks.

As we move into this final phase, we will also select a name for the merged organization. It is important to emphasize that bringing together Jasig and the Sakai Foundations will not dissolve or merge our respective software communities or projects. Existing brands will not go away, but will benefit from being exposed to the new audiences reached by the new organization. The Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment will still be promoted and maintained as the Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment, Jasig uPortal as uPortal, and so on. The new organization will build on the successes of the past in developing brand recognition, without seeking to supplant existing brands. Managing this branding issue is critical, and our respective Boards have been dedicating significant attention to this issue. It is within this context that we are now seeking input and suggestions from our communities, and beyond, for the name of the new Foundation.

Next week, following the EDUCAUSE conference, we will be announcing a Community Naming Process which we hope will stimulate community members, instructors, and student groups to assist in this effort as means to draw on the wealth of expertise within our communities. As part of this initiative we are also releasing an updated version of a document articulating the value of the new organization which was first released in April 2011. The new version, which has been re-titled "The Value of a Common Foundation" (see attached, web version coming soon), provides new content based on feedback and questions from our communities. It is important that our new name reflect the communities and values of the new organization and we hope this updated document will be useful in identifying appropriate names for consideration. The final selection of a name for the new Foundation will be the responsibility of the members of the Founding Board.

We thank all of the members of our communities, as well as the many other interested third parties that have provided invaluable feedback as we have made progress towards merging our two organizations. We truly believe that the new joined foundation will represent a positive step forward both for our founding communities, but also for the use of open source in institutions of higher education around the world.

Founding Board Members

Jens Haeusser, University of British Columbia
John Lewis, Unicon
Josh Baron, Marist College
Maggie Lynch, Thanos Partners
Michael Feldstein, Cengage Learning
Nate Angell, rSmart
Robert Sherratt, University of Hull
Tim Carroll, University of Illinois

Josh Baron
Chair, Sakai Foundation Board of Directors
Co-Chair, Jasig-Sakai Joint Working Group

3. uMobile 1.0 GA Released!

Jasig is excited to announce the first general audience release of the uMobile platform. uMobile provides an enterprise framework distributing personalized, role-based content in a mobile environment. The platform consists of 1) a server application providing a web-based experience optimized for recent smartphone and tablet browsers and 2) optional native apps for iOS™ (iPhone™, iPod Touch™, and iPad™) and Android™ devices.

A uMobile quickstart download is available at <http://www.jasig.org/umobile/download>. More information about uMobile, including information on engaging with the community, can be found at <http://www.jasig.org/umobile>, with a dozen screen shots available at <http://www.jasig.org/umobile/see-it>.

Thanks,

Robert Sherratt
R.Sherratt@hull.ac.uk

(To see the full announcement, please go to <http://www.jasig.org/umobile-1-0-release-announcement>.)

4. Mary Miles Retires

Mary Miles, Sakai Foundation Administrator, retired on October 4 after 8 years of dedicated service. Here are some tweets and comments from Sakai people:

"A big thank you from everyone in the Sakai community for 8 years of service. Your dedication, professionalism and commitment to the community. You'll be missed by the thousands of faces you've greeted at the conferences each year."

"The Sakai Community is losing one of its great contributors today with the retirement of Mary Miles. Best of luck and wishes Mary!"

"Mary probably met more people in the Sakai Community than anyone."

"Mary enjoy a well deserved retirement -- we will miss your tireless efforts."

"It takes a lot of patience to wrangle Sakai nerds, I'll always remember how well Mary Miles took care of us. Happy retirement!"

"Mary, thank you for everything. You kept this boat afloat!"

5. OAE 1.0.1 Release Is Now Available

Sakai Open Academic Environment (OAE) 1.0.1
RELEASE DATE: 11 OCT 2011

The Sakai Community is pleased to announce the release of the Sakai Open Academic Environment (OAE) version 1.0.1.

Sakai OAE is an open-source platform that promotes collaboration and sharing between users and interoperability between systems. It embraces a new vision for academic collaboration informed by the needs of learners, teachers and researchers. Academic networking capabilities encourage people to connect and participate actively in communities that span beyond the traditional boundaries of classroom and institution. Powerful capabilities around content — creation, authoring, reuse, presentation, and commenting — permit mash-ups and remixable experiences of ideas, connectivity, dialog and media. Enhanced search capabilities aid discovery of people and content. A widget-based architecture simplifies both development and integration with external systems.

WHAT'S NEW

OAE 1.0.1 is a maintenance release that addresses over 80 issues. Accessibility improvements are a major area of focus as is ensuring initial support for Sakai OAE/CLE "hybrid" integration. Users who are members of Sakai CLE sites can now access each site including their CLE "My Workspace" from their personal dashboard. For a complete list of changes see the release notes below.

DOWNLOADS

OAE 1.0.1 Web Start (one-click download/run for Demos)
<http://source.sakaiproject.org/release/oea/1.0.1/webstart/sakaioae.jnlp>

OAE 1.0.1 Binaries

<http://source.sakaiproject.org/release/oea/1.0.1/binary/>
Command line example: `java -Xms512m -Xmx1024m -XX:MaxPermSize=256m -jar org.sakaiproject.nakamura.app-1.0.1.jar 1> run.log 2>&1 &`

OAE 1.0.1 Source

Front-end: <https://github.com/sakaiproject/3akai-ux/tree/1.0.1>
Back-end (Nakamura): <https://github.com/sakaiproject/nakamura/tree/1.0.1>
SparseMapContent Bundle: <https://github.com/sakaiproject/sparsemapcontent/tree/1.1-20110928>
Solr Bundle: <https://github.com/sakaiproject/solr/tree/org.sakaiproject.nakamura.solr-1.0.1>

Sakai CLE 2.8 Hybrid Integration Module

Tag: <https://source.sakaiproject.org/svn/hybrid/tags/hybrid-1.1.5>

Tomcat zip overlay:

<http://source.sakaiproject.org/maven2/org/sakaiproject/hybrid/hybrid-assembly/1.1.5/>

RELEASE NOTES

<https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/OAEREL/OAE+1.0.1+release+notes>

KNOWN ISSUES

<https://jira.sakaiproject.org/secure/IssueNavigator.jspa?mode=hide&requestId=13017>

INSTALL GUIDES

OAE Demo Web Start Guide

<https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/x/oxNJB>

OAE Deployment Guide

https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/x/n4_CB

OAE/CLE Hybrid Deployment Guide

<https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/x/pIaCB>

DEVELOPER DOCUMENTATION

OAE Widget SDK (alpha)

<https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/x/CCYhB>

OAE Nakamura

<https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/x/HoDzAQ>

MAIL LISTS

Subscribe at <http://collab.sakaiproject.org/mailman/listinfo>

Deployers: oea-production@collab.sakaiproject.org

Developers: oea-dev@collab.sakaiproject.org

Technical Reference Group: oea-trg@collab.sakaiproject.org

User Reference Group: oea-urg@collab.sakaiproject.org

LEAD INSTITUTIONS

OAE project leadership is provided by the following institutions with support from the Sakai Foundation:

Cambridge University

Charles Sturt University

Georgia Tech

Indiana University

New York University

University of California, Berkeley
University of Michigan

LICENSE

Sakai OAE is released under the Educational Community License Version 2.0
<http://sakaiproject.org/foundation-licenses>.

Anthony Whyte
arwhyte@umich.edu

6. Jasig Unconference - November 2011

Each Northern Fall/Autumn, our colleagues in Jasig run an unconference. The event is participatory, with content contributed and driven by attendees themselves. It presents a great opportunity, particularly for software developers and implementors within the Sakai community, to learn more about Jasig projects first hand.

If you are interested, more information about the 2011 Jasig Unconference, which will be held Nov 7-11th at the UMass Online Offices in Shrewsbury, MA, is available from:

<https://wiki.jasig.org/display/JCON/Fall+2011+Unconference+-+Shrewsbury+-+UMassOnline>

Jasig have reserved a block of rooms at the DoubleTree Boston/Westborough at the special rate of 119.00/night, including internet. Reserve your hotel room by Oct 15th to lock in this rate, and be sure to mention the password: Jasig. For more about the hotel:

<https://wiki.jasig.org/display/JCON/Fall+2011+Unconference+Hotel+Information>

Best,

Ian Dolphin
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7. Call for Sakai to Participate in W3C Social Business Jam (8-10 November 2011)

At a recent meeting with IBM, I learned about a "Social Business Jam" that the W3C is sponsoring to explore a range of issues around the topic of deployment of social media

within business settings. I mentioned some of the work that is taking place within the Sakai Community, both through the work on Profile 2 in the CLE and the work around academic networking being done with OAE, and there was a high level of interest in the use cases around them. The "jam" (which is an open online collaboration session that spans several days) is free to participate in and those at W3C and IBM would be very interested in having folks from the Sakai community who have been working on issues around social media/networking participate. I am including some more information below and a link to where you can get more details and register (which opens Oct. 11th)

Josh Baron
Senior Academic Technology Officer
Marist College

The W3C Social Business Jam is an online conversation among leaders from around the world about the current state of social business, the future role that social technologies can play in improving the bottom line, and how social technology should evolve in order to support business objectives. A primary objective of the Jam is to cooperatively explore key trends and concepts in social business with an eye towards how social standards can facilitate business goals. The Jam should produce a better understanding for participants of how businesses are using social technologies and the challenges they face integrating the technologies into their existing environments.

Exploring new business approaches

The rapid growth of social networking inside and outside businesses as well as the ability to access social technologies from mobile devices enables employees to tap into the experience of others to accomplish anything — ranging from problem solving to the way goods and services are purchased. How does this affect your business?

A world-wide, web-based event

The W3C Social Business Jam is a world-wide web-based event that takes place over a 72 hour period. A variety of business and technical discussions will take place online. Key decision makers and leaders in the social business space, both from business and technology providers, will attend the Jam to lend their insights to the discussion.

Building a blueprint for Social Business

In keeping with the cooperative nature of the social revolution, W3C will summarize key findings and highlight creative ideas generated during the Jam and share this content with the participants. The output of the discussion serves as a collaboratively created blueprint for continued discussions in community groups at W3C.

REGISTER AND GET DETAILS AT: <http://www.w3.org/2011/socialbusiness-jam/>

8. Pedagogy Screencasts from the NYU OAE Pilot

Dear Colleagues,

The NYU OAE team has begun to create and post screencasts from our pilot focusing on the use of OAE to achieve key pedagogical goals. The first ones showcase using OAE for teaching portfolio-based writing courses, which have important needs that are unmet by traditional LMS's.

Here is the direct link to our first: <http://youtu.be/umZGVICtmAw> .

You can read about it in context on our blog:
<http://chartingatlas.blogspot.com/2011/10/pedagogy-screencasts-using-oae-for.html>.
More screencasts are being developed.

We will continue to post these screencasts to the ATLAS channel on YouTube and in our blog this semester; future subjects will include using OAE for a game in science course, to create a library of multimedia "expert" pages for a humanities course; for rich discussion and networking in a graduate level nursing course; and more general interviews with faculty and students.

Please let me know if you have questions or would like more information.

Best,

Lucy Appert, PhD
Director of Educational Technology
New York University
lucy.appert@nyu.edu
Kimberly Eke, Ph.D.
Sr. Mgr., Teaching & Learning Interactive
ITS Teaching, Learning, and Research Computing
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
<http://blog.sakai.unc.edu>
(919) 445-9472

9. EuroSakai -- a Great Success

Here is an entry about Euro Sakai 2011 from the blog "Sakai in UK Higher Education":

Posted on October 3, 2011 by Adam Marshall

11 people from UK HE attended the European Sakai conference. Delegates from the UK represented the following bodies: the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Bath, Newcastle, Hull and Leeds and JISC/CETIS.

The highlight of the conference was almost certainly the extended Sakai OAE demonstration.

The OAE is based upon the Sakai Learning Capability Design Lenses:
<https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/PED/Sakai+Learning+Capabilities+v+1.0>.
OAE is not yet complete but a combination of it and the Sakai CLE running as a Sakai Hybrid do just about cover every aspect. (Sakai CLE tools or sites can easily be displayed within the OAE.)

The scenario that was demonstrated was the construction of a collaborative research projects (with industrial contact). This demonstrates:

- openness: layers of content opened up at appropriate levels: "unlocking your content"
- reuse of material
- collaboration: authoring, review publishing

The demo showed how a student or researcher could go about putting together a research proposal by collecting material from within Sakai OAE and from material located on the web. Then people with similar interests can be found and invited to help collaborative author a proposal. The proposal can then be opened up for evaluation for public consumption. Collaborators can be from within the University or from external companies/institutions.

Other aspects of OAE were covered during other sessions: NYU spoke about their impressive pilot (<http://www.youtube.com/user/nyuatlas>) and the project team outlined the two-year road map. The emphasis will be on integration with Sakai CLE, annotating documents, content collections, lists of people and a widget SDK to allow individuals and institutions to easily develop their own "tools".

The OAE is currently in a very usable state. It has just had it's first release and is ready for institutions to download and deploy as a pilot.

There were many other interesting sessions including presentations about Mobile interfaces and the Mobile Sakai project, Open Courseware, the benefits of open source software, new tools, the upcoming "Neo" portal and integration with Internet2 Grouper.

The social side of the conference is also very important and it was nice to hear more about the Sakai initiatives at Leeds, Newcastle and Bath Universities. It is great to see that the word is spreading in the UK.

There have also been many opportunities for UK institutions to engage in collaborative projects with European and American partners. The Sakai Mobile Project is a good example of this.

10. Longsight Job Opening

Longsight is looking for another talented and motivated Java developer to join our team in supporting Sakai. This is a great opportunity to work on diverse and exciting projects with an exceptional group of colleagues.

This full-time, salaried position comes with a very competitive salary and benefits, including fully-paid health/dental/vision/life insurance, paid vacation and holidays, and the opportunity to work from nearly any location. We support professional development and expect our employees to grow and evolve their positions.

Details of the position are posted at <http://www.longsight.com/blog/position-open-java-developer>

Scott Siddall
siddall@longsight.com

11. Recent Email Group Discussions

[Building Sakai] trunk / nightly2 broken ...

<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--trunk---nightly2-broken-...-td32669332.html>

[Building Sakai] Student's Dropbox name

<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Student%27s-Dropbox-name-td32669253.html>

[Building Sakai] Problem with email templates in Sakai Trunk

<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Problem-with-email-templates-in-Sakai-Trunk-td32668668.html>

[Building Sakai] Sakai Trunk and Maven 3

<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Sakai-Trunk-and-Maven-3-td32668654.html>

[Announcements] Jasig and Sakai Foundations Finalize Merger Plans
<http://old.nabble.com/-Announcements--Jasig-and-Sakai-Foundations-Finalize-Merger-Plans-td32668386.html>

[Building Sakai] [stuart.freeman@et.gatech.edu: [oae-dev] CAS Authentication for Hybrid deployments]

[Building Sakai] Create Turnitin Class & Assignment Process Flow in SAKAI
<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Create-Turnitin-Class---Assignment-Process-Flow-in-SAKAI-td32667187.html>

[Building Sakai] Another slow query
<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Another-slow-query-td32667518.html>

[Building Sakai] Heavy Samigo query
<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Heavy-Samigo-query-td32638333.html>

[Building Sakai] for people running mysql 5.1.33 - 48
<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--for-people-running-mysql-5.1.33---48-td32656327.html>

[Building Sakai] Urgent help: How to change the height pixels between two tools
<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Urgent-help%3A-How-to-change-the-height-pixels-between-two-tools-td32644424.html>

[Building Sakai] Portal Chat
<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Portal-Chat-td32645007.html>

[Building Sakai] new svn accounts for msub
<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--new-svn-accounts-for-msub-td32655678.html>

[Building Sakai] Gradebook 2 in project sites
<http://old.nabble.com/-Building-Sakai--Gradebook-2-in-project-sites-td32647096.html>