



Sakai Newsletter

February 2, 2012

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1. Share Your OAE Pilot Information

Planning a pilot of the Sakai Open Academic Environment? We'd love to hear about it. Drop iandolphin@sakaifoundation.org a line with a few details, including...

- Institution
- Contact email
- Number of participants
- Stack used
- Name use for branding purposes

If you have a screen shot of your OAE landing page you're willing to share, we'd appreciate a copy.

Please also let me know if you would like further details of participating in the Sakai OAE pilot group -- a way to share your experiences, learn from others, and interact with the core OAE team.

Ian Dolphin
iandolphin@sakaifoundation.org

2. Call for Entries for the 2012 Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award

The Sakai Teaching and Learning community is seeking entries for the 5th annual Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award (TWSIA) competition. The award recognizes innovation and excellence in technology-supported teaching, academic collaboration, and student engagement. Since the first call for submissions in 2008, educators from institutions around the world have submitted their entries in the annual competition.

New this year is the creation of a separate category for portfolio sites, which will be judged by updated criteria. The other award categories are: "Higher Education: Face-to-face," "Higher Education: Fully Online or Hybrid Course," "Primary and Secondary Education (K-12)," and "Project Sites & Other Uses of Sakai." We look forward to entries from those using the Sakai CLE and also those pioneering the Sakai OAE (Open Academic Environment).

Entries are now being accepted on the Open Ed Practices, which provides information for applicants on how to enter the competition, including a description of the award categories, and the rubrics and definition of innovation used to judge entries.

The closing date for entries is March 2, 2012. Winners will be notified May 1, 2012 and may have their expenses paid to Atlanta, Georgia to present their winning entries at the Jasig/Sakai Conference, June 10-15, 2012.

To apply for the award, and for more information, please go to www.openedpractices.org/twsia.

Contact: 2012 TWSIA Committee Chair: maggie@thanospartners.com

Kate Ellis
Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning
Indiana University Bloomington
kdellis@indiana.edu

3. Middle East Regional Sakai Meeting, April 4 & 5

The Higher Colleges of Technology & CERT (Centre of Excellence for Applied Research & Training) and Edia are pleased to announce the first Middle East Regional Sakai Meeting, to be held on April 4 & 5, 2012 in Abu Dhabi (UAE) at the HCT Abu Dhabi Women's College campus.

The aim of the meeting will be to bring together stakeholders from the region and provide a platform for exchange and fostering community development.

The program for both days will include invited speakers, stakeholder meetings, BoFs and various public demonstrations of Sakai. During the event, special attention will be given to mobile applications of Sakai.

At this point, the organizing committee wants to gauge the level of interest from people within the international Sakai community to participate in the meeting. We would like to invite those who are interested in participating to provide their information on the meeting's website at <http://hct.edia.nl/portal/site/regional>

Participation in the meeting will be free of cost and registration will start February 15th. More information on the meeting, traveling and accommodation will follow in the next weeks. In the meantime, feel free to spread the news and contact us if you have questions or suggestions.

We hope to welcome you in Abu Dhabi this spring!

On behalf of the organizing committee,

Saleem Raza, saleem.raza@hct.ac.ae
Jaeques Koeman, jk@edia.nl

4. Sakai in Spanish Hospitals

Samoo has finished the development of the "Sakai simplified tablet interface for children in hospitals," which we announced on Sakai mailing lists some time ago. The interface is built around restful services. The web interface (this is not a native client) shows only the basic tools of Sakai in a very simple way. It is designed to be used by children through a tactile interface, from their hospital rooms, and to enable them to continue learning during periods of illness.

You can see a demo (in English) here: <http://youtu.be/1o5296xIqa8>

In Spain, all the hospitals have a team of teachers for the children who are patients, together with a schoolroom for them. It is often still difficult, of course, for children to participate, because they are confined to bed, or can't move from their rooms. This adaptation of Sakai is designed so that teachers in hospitals can send tasks and resources to them (the teacher using the usual Sakai interface) and the children can accomplish them from their room. Several hospitals in Spain have a touch screen providing a range of services to each bed; now interactive leaning can be one of them.

Sakai has been modified also to improve the experience for parents. Parents can connect to the system (with a standard Sakai interface) and communicate with the teachers. These users are "student-related" -- they can view the work done by their children, but not the work done by other students. (This is new in Sakai and in general in LMS's. We describe it as the "individual watcher user".) To control this, a hierarchy of users can be defined in Sakai with parents and children. We have also added other tools, such as a "notes" tool, where a teacher can add information about the students and choose whether parents can read it or not.

You can see a demo of this changes (in Spanish) here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgaEJn-ribc&feature=player_embedded

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7Tc2JSiR04&feature=mfu_in_order&list=UL

If you are interested in this product or part of it, please contact Samoo through Diego del Blanco Oorbitg (diego.delblanco@samoo.es>) !

5. Free Book (limited time): Sakai -- Free as in Freedom (Alpha)

Hi All,

I just republished "Sakai: Free as in Freedom (Alpha)" book on the Apple iBookStore for reading with the iPad. Ultimately this will be a "for pay" \$4.99 book with a partial free preview, but until all my iTunes Connect accounts are set up, I have the entire book up for free as a preview.

Here is my blog post about Apple's iBooks Author:

<http://www.dr-chuck.com/csev-blog/2012/01/ibooks-author-here-comes-apple-the-publishing-world-ends-in-2017-rant/>

Here is the book on iTunes:

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/book/sakai-free-as-in-freedom-a/id498303410>

Grab it now while it is free. Comments / Reviews welcome. :)

Chuck Severance
csev@umich.edu

6. Call for Participation in Combined T&L Design Lenses, Portfolio Visioning, and Teaching and Learning with OAE Group

Greetings,

For the last two years, two subgroups within the Sakai Teaching and Learning communities -- the Portfolio Visioning group and the T&L Design Lenses group -- have been meeting regularly to articulate a functional vision and provide input into the next-generation Sakai platform, which is now known as Sakai Open Academic Environment (OAE). Recently, these groups decided to try to start meeting and working together given their many shared values, needs, and goals, not to mention the fact that many of the same people participate in both groups. The combined group will be facilitated by Jon Hays (UC Berkeley), Bob Squillace (NYU), and me, and Debbie Runshe will help with group communication and coordination. Our purpose will be to provide feedback to the OAE User Reference Group on OAE planning and design documents, as well as to document user needs, use cases, and requirements (from the T&L and portfolio perspectives) to help inform future design and development. Both Jon and I sit on the OAE URG (Jon as an institutional representative and I as an invited representative from the portfolio community) and are thus well positioned to serve as liaisons between our workgroup and the OAE URG.

I write today to extend an invitation to those of you who were once active members of either group as well as anyone interested in discussing user needs and requirements for OAE to join us. We will likely meet weekly or bi-weekly (schedule yet to be determined) and there may be some light "homework" between meetings. The OAE project uses an agile development methodology, which often translates to very brief windows for providing feedback, so we'll need to be equally agile.

To sign up, create an account on the new community instance of Sakai OAE (<https://oae-community.sakaiproject.org/>) and join the group named "Teaching and Learning with OAE". Bruce D'Arcus has graciously agreed let us use this space as the administrative

home for this activity since its purpose overlaps with ours. We hope that all who signed up for the Teaching and Learning with OAE group will also participate in the combined group.

We've set up a Doodle to try to find a meeting time that works all or most of the people who want to participate. This is often difficult when dealing with participants across the world, but we will do our best to make it possible for anyone who wishes to participate. When responding to the Doodle (URL below), please ignore the specific calendar dates and instead indicate your ability to attend recurring meetings on proposed day-of-week/time slot combinations. Also, make sure you've got the proper time zone selected so the time-slots reflect display in your local time.

<http://www.doodle.com/3pfuqy53qb4wpxiv#table>

We will be in touch soon with information about the first meeting of the new year. In the meantime, if you haven't had time to learn about or explore OAE, here are some useful resources

The OAE space in the Sakai Confluence wiki:
<https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/3AK/OAE+Home>

OAE Community Instance (This is a production server is where our group will do its work; please don't create test accounts or data on this server.)
<https://oae-community.sakaiproject.org/>

Demo instance of OAE for experimenting (has the latest code and data will be periodically wiped; good for exploration and experimentation):
<http://oae-demo.sakaiproject.org/>

QA instance rebuilt frequently with the latest code being developed for the upcoming release (good for exploration and experimentation):
<https://qa20-us.sakaiproject.org:8088>

QA instance that runs the previous release version of OAE (currently 1.1):
<http://qa1-uk.sakaiproject.org>

Best regards,

Lynn Ward, Principal Systems Analyst
Instructional Technology Systems and Services
leward@iupui.edu

7. WebLearn: Supporting Tutorials and a New Guidance Site

The tutorial system lies at the heart of Oxford's educational experience. To further this practice, we have produced a video case study entitled WebLearn: Supporting Tutorials. (WebLearn is Oxford's Sakai implementation.)

<http://blogs.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ltg-casestudies/2012/01/16/supporting-tutorials-weblearn/>

In addition, you can see and read about Oxford's new Guidance Site for WebLearn, which we have made easier to navigate and more visually appealing:

<http://blogs.oucs.ox.ac.uk/adamweblearn/2012/01/new-guidance-site/>

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

8. Webinar: "Increasing Student Engagement with the Sakai Wiki"

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the fifth session in the Teaching with Sakai webinar series!

Wednesday, February 22, 2012

3 pm ET; noon PT

Register @ <http://teachingwithsakai-05.eventbrite.com/> (URL provided the day before the event)

Session Description:

Dr. Scott Bowman, Assistant Professor, Department of Criminal Justice at Texas State University began the process of revising his Juvenile Justice course two years ago by adding the Sakai Wiki to his course site and by requiring students to do original research on the juvenile justice system in particular communities in the U.S.

The result was a transformed course and increased student engagement and excitement about course content. Bowman found students expended more time and effort on their wiki pages than he expected and delivered better quality work.

In the two years since Bowman won the Teaching With Sakai Innovation Award for his Juvenile Justice course, he has learned more about what works and what doesn't. He will share his learning experiences in this webinar.

Teaching with Sakai Webinar Series

The Teaching with Sakai webinar series highlights effective teaching practices using Sakai. Each webinar in the series begins with a 20-minute presentation followed by facilitated discussion.

We hope to see you online!

Kim Eke
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Jon Hays
University of California-Berkeley

Kate Ellis
Indiana University-Bloomington

9. Events

Middle East Regional Sakai Meeting
April 4 & 5, 2012
HCT Abu Dhabi Women's College
Abu Dhabi (UAE)

Jasig/Sakai Annual Conference
Sunday, June 10 - Friday, June 15, 2012
Supplementary half-day Jasig and Sakai Seminars on Sunday, June 10
Westin Peachtree Plaza
Atlanta, Georgia