



Sakai Newsletter

June 28, 2012

1. From the Executive Director
 - Change of Officers
 - Changes in the Sakai-Jasig Joint Working Group
 - Notice of Bylaw Amendment
2. Sakai OAE 1.3.0 Release Now Available
3. Sakai OAE 1.4.0 Near Completion
3. Sakai CLE 2.8.2 Release Now Available
4. New Enhanced Features for Sakai CLE Textbook Tool
5. Novel Use of WebLearn's Sign-up Tool by NPEU
6. Unicon Upgrades Learning Environment Test Drive to Sakai 2.8
7. LMS (Sakai) System Support Position at Pomona College
8. Events

1. From the Executive Director

Change of Officers

Following the resignation of Maggie Lynch as Foundation Board Chair, David Ackerman, Associate Vice President for .edu Services at NYU, has been elected Chair of the Board of the Sakai Foundation. Ian Boston, of CARET at the University of Cambridge, was elected Vice-Chair. Maggie is focusing her future activities on Open Educational Resources. We thank her for her service to the Foundation, and wish her all the best for the future.

Changes in the Sakai-Jasig Joint Working Group

Following changes in Foundation officers, here are the representatives on the Sakai-Jasig Joint Working Group:

David Ackerman, NYU
Nate Angell, RSmart
Steve Swinsburg, ANU
Josh Baron, Marist College

Notice of Bylaw Amendment

Having discussed the following amendment to the bylaws of the Sakai Foundation at its meeting of the 9th June 2012, the Sakai Foundation Board of Directors wishes to provide notice of its intent to vote on the amendment at the Board meeting of 17 July 2012. This announcement constitutes notice of a bylaw amendment under s10.1 of the Foundation bylaws. The Foundation bylaws may be found at:

<http://www.sakaiproject.org/sites/default/files/Sakai%20Foundation%20Official%20bylaws%20v%202.0.pdf>

Add new section 15

XV. Balloting

1. At least twenty-one calendar days before the deadline for completion of voting, a designated foundation representative shall provide to each eligible institutional representative, through the mail or electronically, either a mail ballot or instructions for voting electronically. This should be accompanied by all relevant texts, where necessary, or an electronic pointer to such texts, together with a timetable for the ballot, including the deadline for the return of the ballots or for electronic voting.

The purpose of this provision is to expressly authorize voting by electronic transmission, pursuant to Section 441(1) of the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act, which defines “electronic transmission” as “any form of communication that meets all of the following:

- (a) It does not directly involve the physical transmission of paper;
- (b) It creates a record that may be retained and retrieved by the recipient;
- (c) It may be directly reproduced in paper form by the recipient through an automated process.

2. In the case of mail ballots, each voter shall receive a plain envelope in which to enclose a marked ballot, and a second envelope addressed to a designated foundation representative, to be used for the return of the sealed ballot. The envelope addressed to

the designated foundation representative shall have a space for the signature of the voter. Ballots lacking this validating signature shall be deemed void.

3. In the case of electronic ballots, the designated foundation representative shall utilize a system that verifies each voter's identity and which maintains security.

4. The designated foundation representative shall deliver the results of the ballot to foundation officers within 24 hours of the ballot closing.

5. The designated foundation representative, in certifying the results, shall give the tally of votes, including invalid ballots.

6. Throughout these bylaws the term "ballot" shall denote either a mail or electronic ballot.

If any Foundation member has a question or concern regarding this amendment, please contact me.

Regards,

Ian Dolphin
Executive Director, Sakai Foundation
fiandolphin@sakaifoundation.org

2. Sakai OAE 1.3.0 Release Now Available

On June 1, 2012, the Sakai Community announced the release of the Sakai OAE version 1.3.0.

Sakai Open Academic Environment (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. OAE provides academic networking capabilities that encourage people to connect and participate in communities that span beyond the traditional boundaries of classroom and institution. Powerful content authoring capabilities permit mash-ups and remixable experiences of ideas, 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 1.3.0 introduces the following new features:

- A new permission option for Sakai OAE documents is now available. People can be invited to edit without surrendering ownership and the power to delete. Ideal for participatory learning environments or collaboration between colleagues.
- A new configuration setting is now available that allows institutions to configure who is allowed to share content in the system, based on the visibility setting of the content

- A password strength indicator has been added to the Sign Up page
 - Improved indicators of read/unread status of messages in mailboxes
 - We've added an extension to the Sakai Basic LTI consumer/provider and provided a set of default skins for designated Sakai CLE tools such as assignments, gradebook and Tests & Quizzes.
 - we also fixed some bugs,
- see <https://jira.sakaiproject.org/secure/IssueNavigator.jspx?mode=hide&requestId=13236>

DOWNLOADS

OAE 1.3.0 Web Start (one-click download/run for Demos)
<http://source.sakaiproject.org/release/oa/1.3.0/webstart/sakaioae.jnlp>

If you previously sampled our web start, be sure to check your /home directory and remove the /sling folder and, if desired, the /store folder if you previously added content and want to start fresh.

OAE 1.3.0 Binary (org.sakaiproject.nakamura.app-1.3.0.jar)
<http://source.sakaiproject.org/maven2/org/sakaiproject/nakamura/org.sakaiproject.nakamura.app/1.3.0/>

command line example: `java -Xms512m -Xmx1024m -XX:MaxPermSize=256m -jar org.sakaiproject.nakamura.app-1.3.0.jar 1> run.log 2>&1 &`

OAE 1.3.0 Source

Front-end: <https://github.com/sakaiproject/3akai-ux/tree/org.sakaiproject.nakamura.uxloader-1.3.0>

Back-end (Nakamura):

<https://github.com/sakaiproject/nakamura/tree/org.sakaiproject.nakamura-1.3.0>
sparsemapcontent:

<https://github.com/sakaiproject/sparsemapcontent/tree/org.sakaiproject.nakamura.core-1.3.5>

solr: <https://github.com/sakaiproject/solr/tree/org.sakaiproject.nakamura.solr-1.4.2>

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/>

Sakai CLE "OAE" skins

2.8.x: <https://source.sakaiproject.org/svn/reference/branches/sakai-2.8.x/library/src/webapp/skin/oa/>

2.9.x: <https://source.sakaiproject.org/svn/reference/branches/sakai-2.9.x/library/src/webapp/skin/oa/>

CHANGE LOG

<https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/OAEREL/oea-1.3.0+change+log>

KNOWN ISSUES

Below is a highlighted list of issues not addressed in the 1.3.0 release.

SAKIII-5412: <https://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAKIII-5412> - Content Authoring has numerous accessibility issues for user of screen reading software and keyboard only users

SAKIII-5061: <https://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAKIII-5061> - Group library permissions set to members cannot edit still allows member to upload content.

SAKIIIDESIGN-251: <https://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAKIIIDESIGN-251> - Deleting a course does not delete the Course website that was created as part of it.

SAKIII-4493: <https://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAKIII-4493> - Collection added to a group appears in My Library and can't be removed.

SAKIII-4266: <https://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAKIII-4266> - After creator removes content from their library, it remains in the system with no ability to remove it.

KERN-2773: <https://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/KERN-2773> - Content count can be temporarily incorrect when adding or deleting multiple pieces of content at once - IN PROGRESS

See our issue tracking system for a complete list of OAE known issues:

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

UPGRADING

Upgrading to oae-1.3.0 from an earlier version (e.g., oae-1.1.0) involves a number of steps that MUST be followed in order to avoid dropping your existing data.

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

INSTALL GUIDES

OAE Demo Web Start Guide: <https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/x/oxNJB>

OAE Configuration and Deployment Guide: https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/x/n4_CB

OAE/CLE Hybrid Deployment Guide: <https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/x/pIaCB>

Deploying OAE: University of Cambridge deployment notes:

<https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/3AK/University+of+Cambridge+Institutional+Deployment+Details>

DEVELOPER DOCUMENTATION

OAE Widget SDK and Library: <http://oae-widgets.sakaiproject.org/>

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

MAIL LISTS

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

Deployers: oae-production@collab.sakaiproject.org

Developers: oae-dev@collab.sakaiproject.org

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

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

LICENSE

Sakai OAE is released under the Apache license, version 2.0

<http://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0>.

Anthony Whyte

arwhyte@umich.edu

3. Sakai OAE 1.4.0 Near Completion

The next release of OAE 1.x is nearing completion and quick update is in order.

This release provides a set of UI performance optimizations, caching improvements, as well as fixes to a number of slow queries. A key goal is to reduce page load times along with the number of requests currently required to assemble a page. We've also made a number of other minor improvements. We hope too to include a number of accessibility fixes that are currently pending merge and being reviewed.

Assuming QA proceeds as planned we should be in a position to produce a release candidate in the next week or so, with a final release slated for mid-July.

For more information, see:

<http://comments.gmane.org/gmane.comp.cms.sakai.oae.devel/554>

Anthony Whyte

arwhyte@umich.edu

3. Sakai CLE 2.8.2 Released

The release of the Sakai CLE, version 2.8.2 was announced on June 10, 2012. CLE 2.8.2 is a maintenance release and builds on previous releases by refining and stabilizing the 2.x feature set.

A full list of features can be found in the release documentation:

<https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/x/xQl6B>

Obtaining the 2.8.2 Release

- Release artifacts are available at <http://source.sakaiproject.org/release/>
- Release documentation, including install guides, is available at <https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/x/xQl6B>

Licensing

Sakai 2.8.2 is licensed under the Educational Community License, version 2.0.

Older Releases

With the release of the Sakai 2.8 series, official Community support for Sakai 2.6 ceased. Organizations running Sakai 2.6 (or earlier versions) are strongly encouraged to upgrade to the latest versions of Sakai 2.7 or 2.8 in order to take advantage of continued maintenance support.

Our thanks go out to the dedicated Sakai Community volunteers from around the world for their tireless work on this release.

Regards,

Steve Swinsburg
steve.swinsburg@gmail.com

4. New Enhanced Features for Sakai CLE Textbook Tool

Columbia University is pleased to announce a set of enhanced features for the Sakai CLE Textbook tool, originally developed by the University of Michigan. These new features allow instructors and administrators to upload textbook information into courses and allow students to easily access the information.

Using the enhanced tool, course instructors are able to:

- Search for textbooks by ISBN against an external service (e.g., WorldCat)
- Save search results as "required" or "recommended" textbooks for a course
- Add textbook information manually if a search yields no results or if the ISBN is not available
- Import textbook information from a CSV file or previously taught course

Administrators and support staff are able to:

- Upload textbook information for multiple courses/sections at one time
- Send reminders to instructors who need to post textbook information
- Monitor courses for institutional compliance

These features were originally developed for Columbia's legacy Prometheus course-management system and have been very well received by the local community. Details of Columbia's enhanced features are available at:

<https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/TXB/Enhanced+Features>

Regards,

Maneesha Aggarwal PhD
Director, Teaching and Learning Applications
Maneesha@columbia.edu

5. Novel Use of WebLearn's Sign-up Tool by NPEU

The Clinical Trials Unit at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit (NPEU CTU) recently decided to use WebLearn (Oxford's Sakai implementation) to help streamline the administration of follow-up in a clinical trial. They commissioned a small amount of development of the web services interface to the Sign-up tool to provide integration with their appointments database. NPEU CTU contacted an external consultant to do this work for them.

To read the complete article and see the clinic, go to:

<http://blogs.oucs.ox.ac.uk/adamweblearn/2012/05/novel-use-of-weblearns-sign-up-tool-by-npeu/>

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

6. Unicon Upgrades Learning Environment Test Drive to Sakai 2.8

Unicon developed this test configuration to help users freely explore the features and benefits of Sakai through online tutorials and sample courses. Test Drive Sakai uses a branded, native community-source version of Sakai and provides users with a variety of course sites (including Biology 101, Business 315, and the Astronomy Club) as well as their own personal worksite (labeled "course shell"). Test Drive Sakai can be accessed at <http://www.testdrivesakai.com>.

Lisa Di Pietro
ldipietro@unicon.net

7. LMS (Sakai) System Support Position at Pomona College

Regular, full-time, 12-month position

Salary: Dependent upon qualifications

Pomona College is looking for a talented individual to join our service-oriented department of Information Technology Services as a Senior Academic Technology Specialist: Learning Management Systems. This position has primary responsibility for the support and administration of the Learning Management System (LMS) used by the member institutions of the Claremont University Consortium (currently Sakai). This position provides software application systems administration and systems administration services focused on the operation, maintenance and improvement of the consortial Learning Management System; provides administrative support for the Learning Management System (LMS), mostly focused on tier 3 level support; works with the LMS vendor as technical liaison to maintain the LMS and manage the upgrade/patch process; plans and implements tools to monitor production systems in support of LMS applications and services; performs performance tuning and troubleshooting of the LMS system; builds and maintains test systems to support application evaluation, troubleshooting and testing; collects and assesses requirements and translates them into technical implementation plans; documents server topographies, information systems, process flows, data flows for the LMS system; designs and develops automated approaches to systems management and maintenance.

The ideal candidate will have: a Bachelor's degree, a minimum of 4 years in technical system support responsibilities in a higher education environment; a minimum of 2 years experience with the administration and support of a learning management system (Sakai preferred); an employment history or educational background that reflects proficiency with various software systems including LINUX, SQL and Apache; extensive professional experience with Java and/or Javascript best practices and professional experience developing web applications with Java and related technologies; exemplary communication and interpersonal skills that enable effective leadership, team membership and proactive initiative.

Review of applications began 15 May 2012 and the position will remain open until filled. Please send cover letter, résumé, salary history, and a list of references to Pomona College, Attn: Human Resources, 150 E. Eighth St. Claremont, CA 91711. Documents may also be submitted via email to staffjobs@pomona.edu or by fax at (909) 607-1726.

Mary McMahan
Director of Instructional Services
Pomona College ITS
mary.mcmahan@pomona.edu

8. Events

AuSakai 2012
18 - 19 September
Bathurst Campus NSW, Australia
Charles Sturt University
www.ausakai2012.com.au

I Congreso Iberoamericano de Sakai
16th and 18th October, 2012
Rio de Janeiro
<http://sakai.ucam.edu/>