Date: Wed, 05 Jul 2006 10:10:45 -0400
From: "Masson, Patrick" <Patrick.Masson@suny.edu>
Subject: Who are We?
To: pedagogy@collab.sakaiproject.org

I think Chuck is right: we are Sakai, but who are we?

I have found Sakai, the community, to be a welcome discussion (and often
education) on many of the issues I am dealing with in my organization such
as: legitimacy of Open Source, portals/frameworks, scope of services
(redundancy of functionality across systems), technology issues, etc. The
knowledge base and experiences of the people within the Sakai community,
whether they are actually contributing code or not, or whether they are even
running Sakai on their campus, is a valuable resource for me as I work
within my own organization.

So as Michael Feldstein's colleague working just two doors down and often
assaulted by him with yet another request for the latest techno-widget that
would make his faculty really connect with their students, and coming from
an organization, that has long prided itself on implementing technology to
meet teaching and learning goals, I was wondering as I read these posts just
who "we" are and what are "we" talking about. As a technologist, I would not
define myself as an educator. I have never held a faculty position and the
only teaching I have done have been technical workshops. So while I find
both the Sakai discussions as well as the Sakai community extremely
valuable, I wonder if what "we" are discussing and is of interest to me
would also be useful to others with different interests and backgrounds?

So I did a little research:

Attached are several tables/graphs depicting the activity of the Sakai
discussion groups (and the raw data in Excel). The idea was to see what the
primary topics of discussion have been within the Sakai community. So if,
we are the ones, who by our investment of resources and talent make Sakai
whatever it needs to be, then what is it that we are investing in?

To gather this data I simply went to each Discussion Group at
collab.sakaiproject.org and counted the emails posted from each groups'
inception through the end of June 2006. The thought was that the level of
email chatter would be an indication of the Sakai community's
involvement‹and thus interest‹of the that topic: low email count equals low
interest, high email count, high interest.

Results

Average emails per month by Discussion Group:

Discussion group   Monthly Avg.
Portfolio......................... 2.17
Migration......................... 3.71
Portal............................ 8.00
Libraries & Repositories.......... 8.92
Content & Authoring............... 11.21
Pedagogy.......................... 11.82
Integration....................... 16.89
Strategy & Advocacy............... 22.35

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Open Forum........................ 32.33
User Interaction.................. 32.42
User............................. 51.86
Development...................... 429.71


Discussion Group emails, percentage of total:

Discussion Group              Percent
Portfolio......................... 0.31%
Portal............................ 0.69%
Migration......................... 0.82%
Open Forum........................ 1.53%
Pedagogy.......................... 1.58%
Libraries & Repositories.......... 1.76%
Content & Authoring............... 2.12%
Integration....................... 2.53%
Strategy & Advocacy............... 4.05%
User Interaction.................. 4.86%
User.............................. 8.59%
Development....................... 71.16%
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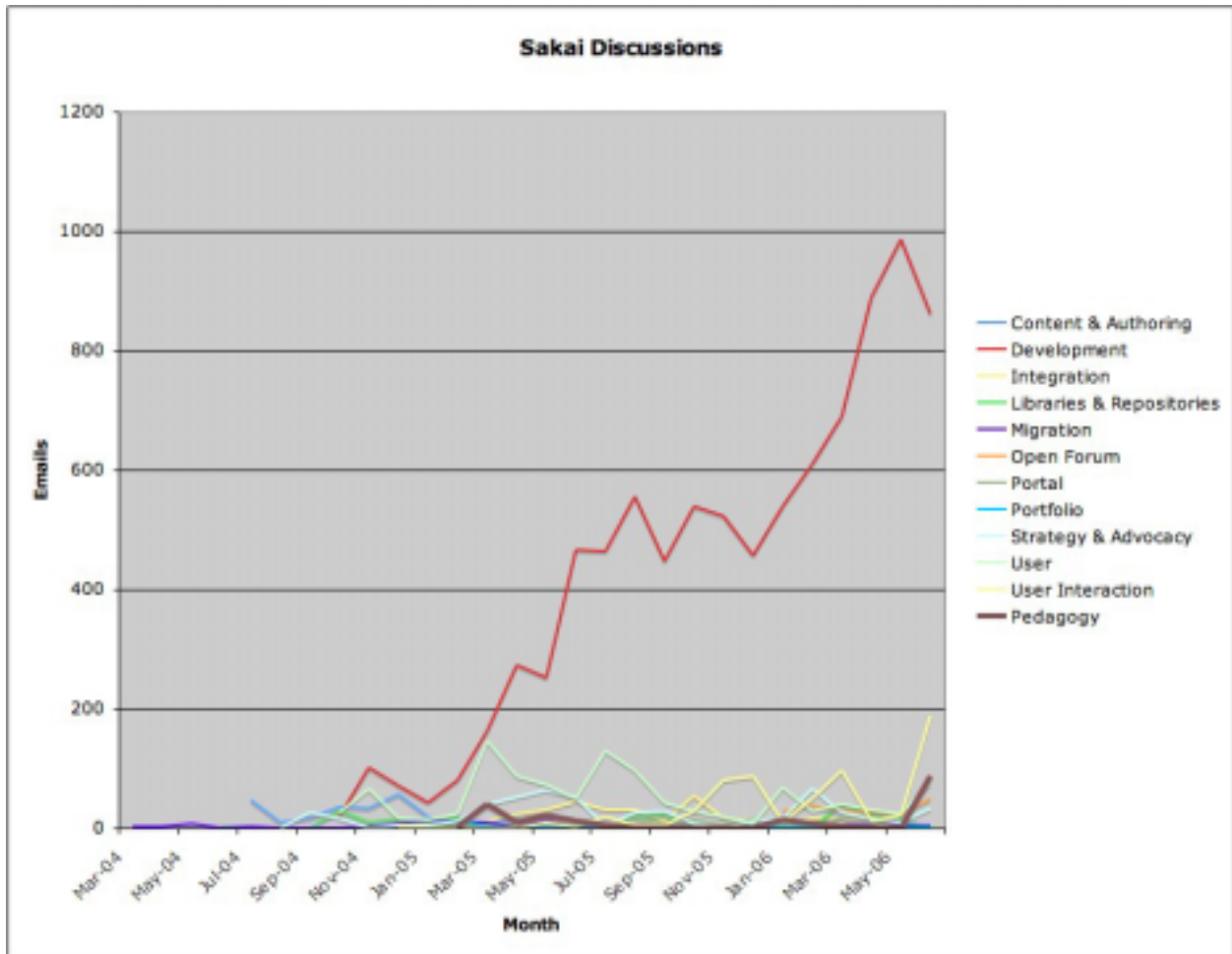
Attachments to the eMail

Sakai Discussions

Legend:
- Content & Authoring
- Development
- Integration
- Libraries & Repositories
- Migration
- Open Forum
- Portal
- Portfolio
- Strategy & Advocacy
- User
- User Interaction
- Pedagogy

Figure 1 – Number of Sakai Email by Discussion Group by Month
March 2004 through May 2006
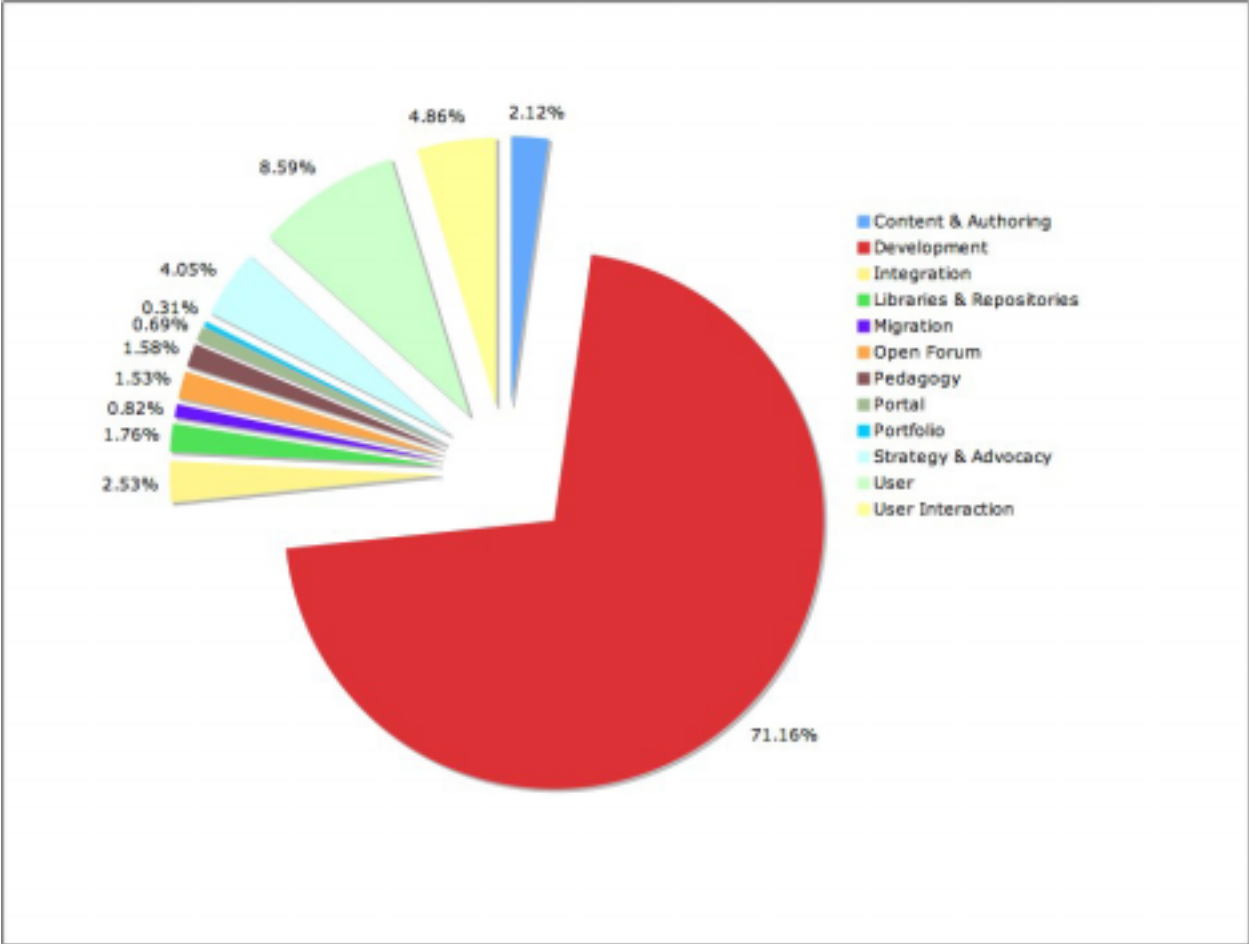
Figure 2 – Sakai Average Monthly Email by Discussion Group
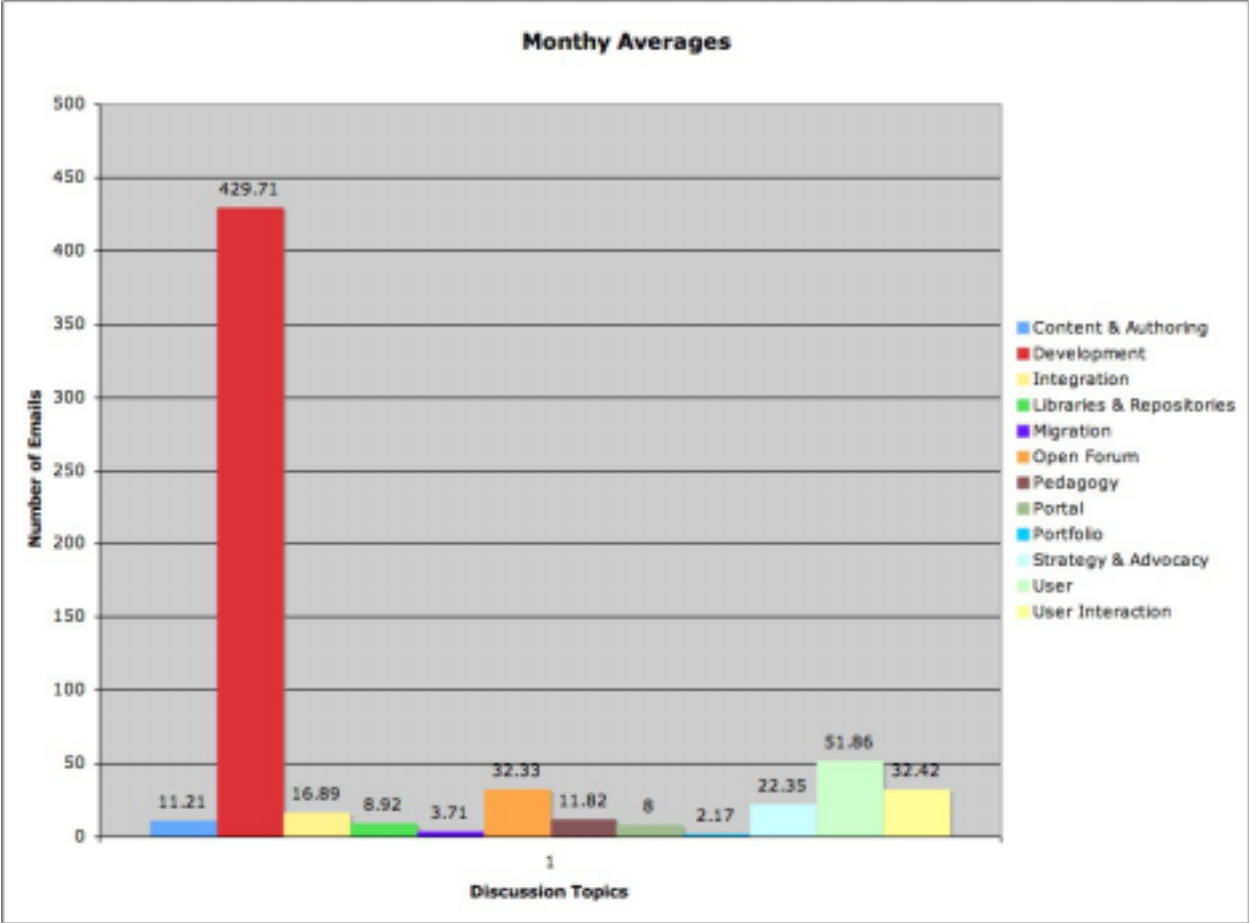March 2004 through May 2006

Figure 3 – Sakai Average Monthly Email by Discussion Group
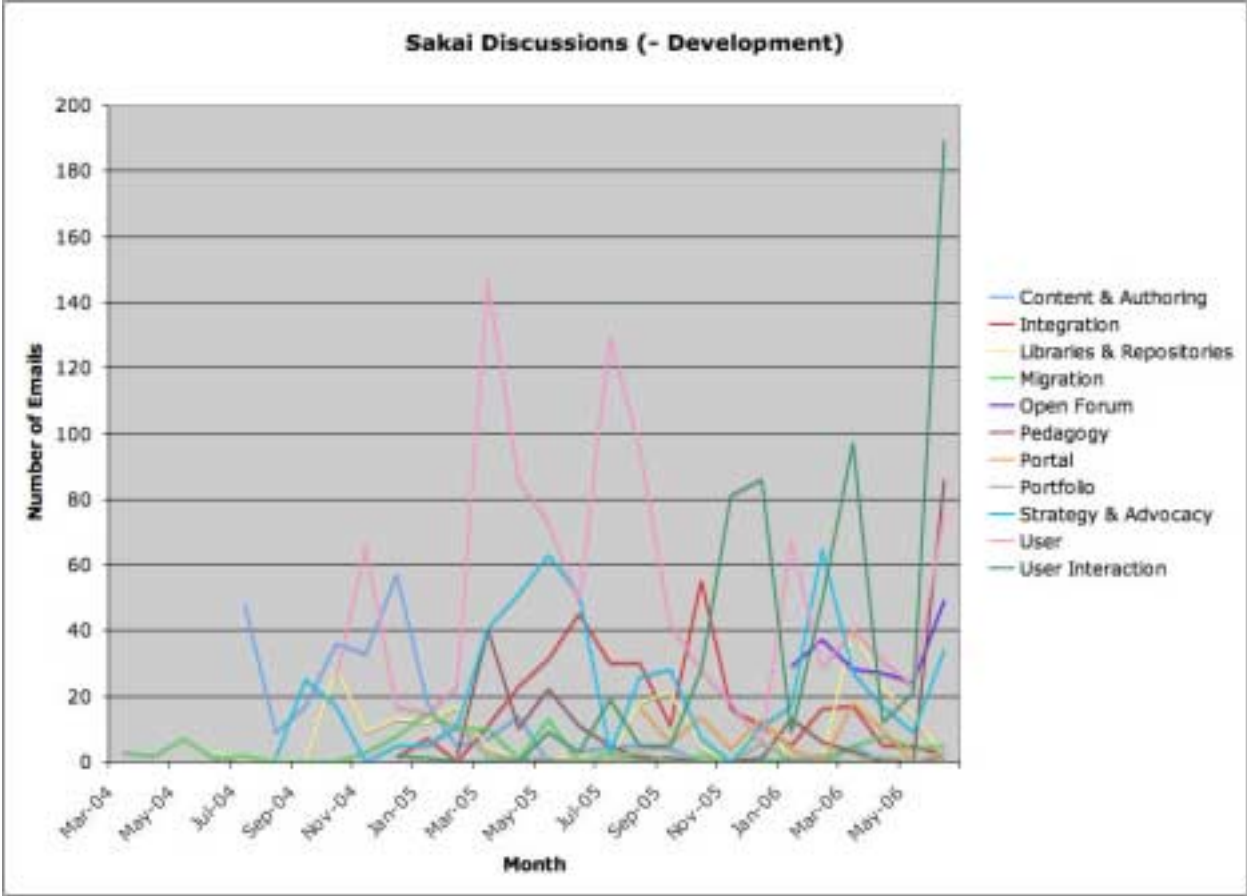March 2004 through May 2006

Figure 4 – Sakai Email by Non-Development Discussion Group
March 2004 through May 2006

07 July 2006