

Sakai Educational Partnership Program Update

May 26, 2004

Update on Sakai Alpha

Sakai alpha is final at this point, except for minor bug fixing, and has been released to the Sakai core universities. It will be released to SEPP on Tuesday, June 1, 2004. Three example tools will be provided with the alpha release (announcement, module, and crud) which demonstrate how JavaServer Faces with backing beans form the user interface to a tool based on an application service.

Sakai Documents

A document titled, "Sakai Functionality" has been posted to the SEPP Community Site. It describes features common to all Sakai tools, such as tear off windows, skinning support, copying, etc. It goes on to describe the home page, worksite setup, information page, preferences, membership, gateway, scheduling, announcements, resources, assignments, discussion, drop box, chat, web content, news, chat, and other tools. While many of these capabilities come from the legacy CHEF system, this document includes features identified in the gap analysis done by Rob Lowden's Tool Group.

SEPP Migration Group

If you have not filled out the migration needs survey, please take the time to do that at <http://courseworks.columbia.edu/survey/>.

Requirements Group

The SEPP Requirements site is finally creaking to a start. A Build Matrix document has been started to begin capturing the SEPP interest in building or supporting the development of tools that aren't part of the core CMS tools planned for development by the core Sakai partners. To meet the desired outcomes, more institutions will need to contribute their interest level in the tools that are currently in the matrix and add tools that might be missing. The current process is for folks to send their list and interest level in an email to Mara Hancock (mara@media.berkeley.edu), and she will update the matrix.

The group can use the conference to review the matrix, refine it, talk about how to work with the core group on overlaps or gaps, and next steps.

UWisc sent out a great example of a similar matrix used in house to capture feature enhancements that could be a good model as we move into more specificity around each tool. If other institutions have identified best practices, please share them via the discussion forum in the SEPP requirements area.

Open Source Portfolio Initiative, Release 2.0

Release 2 of the Open Source Portfolio is being developed based on Sakai's Technology Portability Profile and will also work with uPortal. If your university is considering an ePortfolio initiative or migration, you are encouraged to attend the Open Source Portfolio User Conference on 16-17 July in San Francisco. Participation is limited to 100 attendees and discount conference/hotel rates are available until 17 June. Conference program and registration details are at www.theospi.org/conf/. The conference precedes the Syllabus and Alt-i-Lab Conferences in San Francisco.

Summer Conference Reminder

The SEPP conference will be held this year in Denver Colorado on June 23-25 at the Westin Tabor Center. Today is the last day to make hotel reservations at the Tabor Center. Attendees may also wish to investigate nearby alternatives, such as the Denver Hyatt. Denver is running a major celebration this week, so you should make your hotel reservations as soon as possible!

Each SEPP institution will be allowed to send two developers and as many administration personnel as needed. Although participation the conference is not mandatory for SEPP, it is highly encouraged as this is your opportunity to communicate directly with developers and other SEPP communities. If you intend on sending participants to the summer conference, please send a high and a low estimate of members that will be participating. This will allow us to better prepare for member needs as they arise. Conference and registration information is currently posted to the sakaiproject.org site. Registration requires a login which is "sakai", and "ironchef".

JA-SIG Denver uPortal Conference

SEPP members are invited to register for the tenth semiannual Java Architectures Special Interest Group (JA-SIG), that will be focusing on uPortal. The conference will be held in Denver on June 21-22, preceding the SEPP conference. Conference information and registration can be found at <http://www.ja-sig.org>.

Participating in the online SEPP Community

The SEPP community site (<http://chefproject.orgportal/>) is an on-line forum where topics of interest to SEPP members are being discussed. Official releases of Sakai documents and code are made through this site. Please take the time to register and express your views on Sakai and SEPP.

To join this site (which is restricted to SEPP and Sakai members), go to <http://chefproject.org/portal/> Use the "Create Account" button to enter your identity, then send email to Brian Diveley (bdiveley@umich.edu) to activate the account.

To join any of the SEPP discussion groups, you need to have an account on the SEPP Community Site , see above. Then, send a message to Brian Diveley (bdiveley@umich.edu) to join the Functional Requirements Group, the Cross Language Support Group, the Migration Strategy Group, or the UI Group.