Sakai Educational Partnership Program Update

June 2, 2004

Sakai Alpha Release
The Sakai 1.0 Alpha software can be downloaded from:

http://chefproject.org/project/sakai/1alpha1

Similar to the previous Sakai TP releases, this code is deployed using Maven. If you have never installed Sakai before, please follow the instructions for installing the "Sakai Development Tools". If you have installed a previous version of Sakai, please follow "Start Clean" instructions carefully. Install the "Quick Start" before installing the "Modules". There are significant differences in the alpha code versus the TP2 release that requires directories to be cleared out so that new code can be properly deployed.

This release includes working versions of CHEF legacy code running in the Sakai environment. The full complement of these tools is included.   A version of uPortal is included in this release which has been modified to work with Sakai. This will give you an idea of how Sakai will run in a portal environment, but this is still very preliminary and shouldn't be taken as final code.

For those interested in developing new Sakai tools or porting existing ones, three examples of Sakai tools are include. These are the module, announcement, and crud tools which show a simple JavaServer Faces example, access to legacy CHEF services, and persistence using hibernate. Developers are encouraged to join the new SEPP Developers Group to share tool development experiences.

SEPP Developer's Group - Mark Norton
The SEPP developer's group is intended to be a worksite where developers can share Sakai development tips. The forums will be monitored for questions. Resources will be posted as they become available. This worksite is not about requirements gathering, design, or architecture. It is intended to support the development of Sakai tools. While all SEPP members may join, programmers will get the most benefit out of participation.

SEPP Content Authoring Group - Dirk Herr-Hoyman
The content and authoring group has gotten off to a good start with a proposed content architecture document from Mark Norton. Dirk Herr-Hoyman has shared his experience with the IEEE requirements gathering approach, based on use cases. The group has started to explore how to coordinate requirements gathering activities with the SEPP Requirements Group.

The Content Authoring Group invites anyone with an interest in content, authoring, aggregation, or sequencing to join the group and participate. If you have existing requirements for these areas, they are being collected now.

SEPP Migration Group - Robert Catalano
If you have not filled out the migration needs survey, please take the time to do that at   http://courseworks.columbia.edu/survey/ .

SEPP Requirements Group - Mara Hancock
Reminder: The SEPP build list has been started. All SEPP institutions interested in collaborating on development projects should add themselves to the matrix. Input has already come in from several institutions and groupings have clearly appeared in the content authoring area (join the SEPP content site also if you are interested in this!) , and image management and presentation.

The goal of this initial build list is to identify functional areas that SEPP institutions are interested in either developing or seeing others develop. Once the matrix is complete, we will have a better sense of development clusters and can begin to create deeper requirements and specifications for these tools or framework functionality.

The site should also be used to discuss process for requirements gathering and gathering input from the SEPP community as we move ahead with our projects. To this end, you will find functional requirements posted there for the UC Berkeley gradebook project and the University of Wisconsin's LMS RFP. Please feel free to contribute requirements documents or templates to the resources area.

If you haven't already joined the Requirements site, email Brian for access. You will find instructions for completing the matrix in the announcements section or in the email archive.

SEPP UI Group - TBD
The SEPP UI Group needs a group leader. If you are interested in leading this group, please send email to markjnorton@earthlink.net

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. Reservations are no longer being taken by the Tabor Center. Attendees may 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.org/portal/) 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.