Sakai Educational Partnership Program Update

February 9, 2005

SEPP DISCUSSION GROUPS

Announcing: SEPP Pedagogy – Malcolm Brown
All current Sakai Educational Partner Discussion Group participants are members of this new DG. Email sent to the following address will be archived and sent to participants: sepp-pedagogy@collab.sakaiproject.org

CHARTER: The SEPP Pedagogy discussion group (Pedagogy DG) is intended to be a forum to enable the Sakai community focus on the issues of the practice of teaching and learning and their relationship to the Sakai project. The DG is informed by the idea that good practices in teaching and learning have a role to play in helping shape the direction of Sakai development. This DG will be relevant to those with an interest in (1) developing tools and facilities that promote good practice in teaching and learning; (2) those who support users of Sakai and who want to assist these users in the realization of good T&L practice; and (3) those with theoretical and research interests in what kinds of practices encourage deeper learning. As is the case with the other discussion groups, the Pedagogy DG can spawn more specialized investigations, work groups, and other efforts as the opportunities present themselves.

OTHER SAKAI NEWS:

Sakai 1.5 and 2.0 – Chuck Severance
As Sakai development continues, the developers have provided a "draft" roadmap for the next two releases of Sakai. Sakai 1.5 will contain the SAMigo Assessment Manager, new tools including user profile and syllabus tool , context sensitive help , the Sakai collaborative tool set (Chat, Discussion, and others) from version 1.0, significant performance improvement over Sakai 1.0 , and improved development environment with the ability to integrate non-Sakai tools into Sakai as webapps .

Sakai 2.0, due in summer, will add grade book functionality, module authoring capability (Melete from Foothill College) , support for hierarchical organization of classes/sites throughout , improved resources tool capabilities, improved support for groups, roles, and security, tool compliance to the Sakai Style Guide, and continued improvement of the existing Sakai tools

Availability of Sakai Common Services – Mark Norton
Those who are building Sakai tools or who are planning integration may be interested in the status of Common Services. According to the Sakai developers, six common services are planned for the Sakai 1.5 distribution in late February or early March. These include:

Authorization - Hibernate-based using inheritance via a hierarchy
Hierarchy - The basis for course/section/offering/study groups.
Agent/Group - Hierarchical, Hibernate-based.
Site - The basis for worksites
Type - A Hibernate-based type manager. This is a departure from OKI.

UUID - Globally unique identifiers per Java 1.5.

The collection does not include Authentication. In Version 1.5 authentication will be handled by a Sakai legacy service. A File Store and Repository Service is also under development. These APIs are loosely based on the OKI 2.0 OSIDs. There has been one code review of the APIs and updates are pending.

CALENDAR UPDATE

uPortal Developers Meeting hosted by Sakai Commercial Affiliate Unicon, Inc.
March 21 -22, 2005, 9 AM to 4 PM each day

Developers are encouraged to stay for the remainder of the week (March 23-25) for a coding session. A wireless internet connection will be available, but developers will need to bring their own laptops. The purpose of this coding session is to give developers a chance to work together in person mostly on the coding of uPortal 3. What we do depends on how far along uPortal 3 code is at the time, any decisions made at the developers meeting, and the interests of those participating in the coding session.

For more information go to: http://jasigch.princeton.edu:9000/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=1

The next **SEPP Newsletter** will be published February 23, 2005. Please send content requests guest submissions to jkoich@umich.edu.

The next **SEPP Monthly Videoconference** is scheduled for March 9, 2005 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.r