

JA-SIG uPortal on Road to Sakai Version and Version 3.0

The uPortal 3.0 development team has posted the roadmap for version 3.0. In addition to meeting Sakai requirements, the new version of uPortal is being developed with a new architecture and new features to meet broader community needs. Based on four years of experience and hundreds of installations, the Unicon team posted target dates and features for interim versions.

uPortal M1 became available Friday, April 15, 2005. Version M2 is expected May 20. This version will include portlet administration, skin selection portlet and WSRP (Web Services Remote Portlet) consumer. Applications, like Sakai, incorporating WSRP producer can begin testing using this version.

uPortal 3.0 Sakai Alpha release is planned for June 16, 2005 following the JA-SIG Conference in Baltimore. This version will support localization and use of XLIFF standard international formats. Aggregated layout and distribution layout manager—two methods used in instruction to control the layout of students—will be ported from the latest uPortal version 2.

Sakai Beta release can be expected June 30. This version will be supplemented with “back button” support, WSRP registry, and layout fragment administration and released as an Alpha version 3.0—incorporating features not required for Sakai integration, but needed by the uPortal community. Alpha is targeted for August 12th followed by a Beta version August 31st. The first release candidate of uPortal 3.0 is planned for the end of September or early October with the release expected early November.

Will uPortal be available for fall rollout? uPortal Project lead Eric Dalquist wrote: “With an estimated 3.0 final release date of October 31, 2005 I don't think trying to plan a fall 2005 rollout on uPortal 3 would be prudent unless your school has a rather late fall start date.” He also notes the Sakai releases are to meet the specific requirements for Version 2.0 of the Sakai collaborative learning environment due to be released June 15th with the WSRP version to follow. Dalquist observed, “The Sakai tagged releases are fulfilling different levels of feature requirements that the Sakai project has for uPortal 3. They still may be short on non-Sakai related items.”