Sakai Educational Partnership Program Update

May 18, 2005

SEPP Discussion Groups

SEPP QA WG Update – Carol Dippel

Sakai QA 1.5.1
- The 1.5.1 release is very close to public deployment. The reason for its existence is to fix a significant Samigo integration issue on MySQL. The release also includes fixes for many Jira items.
- The release was regression tested against HSQLDB, MySQL and Oracle on Solaris.
- There will be two 1.5.1 release deployment packages: QuickDemo (QD) and QuickProd (QP). The QD package runs on HSQLDB and is intended for demonstration purposes only. The QP package includes separate instructions for MySQL and Oracle.
- The QD and QP instructions have been extensively tested with the goal of making deployment painless for SEPP institutions. The QD/QP will make it easier to start using Sakai quickly without wasting time trying to determine how to configure it.
- The QA process is improving. As a young, highly distributed team from multiple institutions, we're defining our own best practices as unique conditions arise. It's a rather fascinating QA organizational puzzle we have here!

Sakai QA 2.0
- - Preparations are in-progress for the 2.0 QA effort. However, 1.5.1 release activities have impeded progress so we're in catch-up mode.
- - We expect to have an initial test version of 2.0 deployed on stable at MIT sometime in the next few days. Tests will begin against HSQLDB as it's the easiest version to make operational.
- - REQUEST: Please contact me ASAP if you are willing and able to contribute time to join the Sakai 2.0 QA effort: dippel@ix.netcom.com.

SEPP Library/Repository DG – Jim Martino

The Library/Repository DG will hold two sessions at the Baltimore Summer Conference. The first session will address the development of use cases for repository connectivity and library services, and will include representatives from Yale and the University of Colorado at Boulder as well as a representative from the core Sakai institutions' libraries.

In the second session, Susan Hollar will give a technology demonstration of the UMich Sakai reserves tool which extends the Naew Tool. She will also lead a BOF session for those interested in exploring further development of this tool for possible use at other institutions.

User Support DG – Pamela Crisman-Stefanuca

The User Support DG recently had their first conference call on April 29th, attended by 16 people from at least 10 institutions. Topics ranged from help and training resources and user support across versions to the Summer conference. We encourage those who are interested to visit the User Support DG Resources section to view the meeting minutes. Thanks to everyone in attendance! We'll see you at the Baltimore Conference.

Other Sakai News

Planning an EPortfolio Pilot or Roll-Out?

The Open Source Portfolio Conference follows the Baltimore SEPP meeting from noon Friday - 1pm on Saturday. Join colleges and universities that have implemented and are planning to implement portfolios. Sessions will demonstrate OSP Release 2.0 based on Sakai. See the full program at http://www.theospi.org/conf/2005 with sessions for both academic technologists and faculty/administrative leaders.

Announcing the Release of the Project Matchmaking Tool for SEPP

Want SEPP members to know what project you are working on or plan to work on for Sakai? Want to know what other members are doing or planning and make connections? Thanks to Vince Chang, a UC Berkeley undergraduate, the Sakai Project Matchmaking Tool is now here!

Easy to use:
* Post your projects or requirements
* Link your projects to other projects
* Find collaborators and make contacts

Link to it directly: http://sakai.berkeley.edu/pm/ or from the navigation panel on the SEPP DG (labeled "MatchMaker"). This is not currently a Sakai tool, so you will need to create a separate profile and login.

Please let others in your institution that are working on Sakai know about this tool. This is a student project, a volunteer project, it is an experiment. We expect there will be enhancement requests and suggestions. UCB staff, Adam Hochman (adam@media.berkeley.edu), will be maintaining this site and managing input. If anybody is interested in partnering on this project, let me know.

Updated Style Guide Available

The Sakai Style Guide for 1.5 is now available at: http://cvs.sakaiproject.org/cgi-bin/cvsweb.cgi/%7echeckout%7e/scratch/styleguide/resources/styleguide-15.pdf

This new version includes all previous material and:
- A substantive edit to all text to ensure coherence and consistency among sections
- An integrity edit to make Appendix A: Glossary and Appendix C: Writing Guidelines cover only Style Guide content
- Notes about designing for accessibility added to wireframes

Invitation to Join a Sakai Tool Development Exercise - Mark Norton

Are you interested in learning how to write Sakai tools? Confused about JSF, dependency injection, tool registration, and portals? I would like to extend an invitation to 4-6 developers to join with me in developing a new Sakai tool from scratch as an exercise in learning how to write Sakai tools. The development process will consist of:

1. Deciding on what to build (two proposals so far)
2. Gathering use cases and requirements
3. Creating a user centric design and extracting system requirements
4. Distributed development
5. Review, Testing, and Results reporting

The intent is to design, build, and deliver the tool in time for the December 2005 SEPP Conference (Austin). The project will kick-off at a BOF Session in Baltimore on Wed., June 8th from 11am to Noon in a TBD location. There will be no other face to face meetings in order to avoid travel costs. However, project members should be prepared to participate in weekly phone calls (TBD) for the duration of the project. Attendance at the June 8th meeting is not required to participate in the project.

You should be a sound Java programmer with some experience in Tomcat web application development. I expect the level of effort will average to five hours per person per week over the course of the project. If you have questions or wish to sign up, please contact Mark Norton at markjnorton@earthlink.net.

Calendar Update

SEPP Summer 2005 Conference

The Summer Conference will take place during the Community Source Week in Baltimore, MD on June 8-14. The SEPP conference will start on Wednesday, June 8 with pre-conference DG planning sessions, tutorials, and an early evening welcome reception. Conference sessions continue on Thursday, June 9 and Friday, June 10, concluding at 12:30 p.m. A draft of the conference agenda is on the website, but it continues to be subject to change.

Contacts: Chuck Powell, charles.powell@yale.edu, John Norman, john@caret.cam.ac.uk, and Jim Farmer, jxf@immagic.com, and Mary Miles at mmiles@umich.edu. Please send with any comments or inquiries to these contacts, with a cc: to Mary Miles.

SEPP June Videoconference

There will not be a June VTC due to the Conference in Baltimore. Watch this newsletter for details on upcoming calls.