Mail :: Inbox: TPP Discussion

Date: Thu, 29 Sep 2005 04:00:06 -0400 (EDT) [09/29/2005 04:00:06 AM EST]

From: Charles Severance <csev@umich.edu>

To: sakai <sakai@ctools.umich.edu>

Cc: sakai@ctools.umich.edu>, Mark Norton <markjnorton@earthlink.net>

Subject: TPP Discussion

I sent this note again with a better Subject line.

/Chuck

On Sep 29, 2005, at 3:52 AM, Charles Severance wrote:

[Hide Quoted Text]

On Sep 26, 2005, at 1:53 PM, Mara Hancock wrote:

Yes, thanks for the update Chuck. Very interesting. You use the term "TPP tool" several times, but based on our conversation a couple of weeks ago, I thought we didn't really have the TPP yet. Can you describe what you mean when you use that term?

Thanks, Mara

Mara,

I did that very much on purpose to bring the topic of TPP back up in my mind and start the discussion again. :)

The UK folks used the term "TPP" far more than I do and I kind of liked how they used it in a sentence and realized that it could be defined to be very sensible and useful.

The way they used the "TPP" was not as if it were a book or a single spec, but instead they used the term to indicate the set of APIs and capabilities that Sakai provides to a tool. So a typical sentence was as follows:

"It is great to write a TPP tool. If you write a JSR-168 tool, as soon as the first version of your tool is done and you want to add a new feature you have to start hacking up some AUTHZ stuff or crazy non-portable message passing in the back to compensate for the lack of features in JSR-168. With a TPP tool, authorization, message passing, events, database support - it is all "there" and ready to use with admin tools and everything." (Adrian Fish - adapted)..

Adrian's definition of the TPP is simply those features and services available in *any* release of Sakai. As such, the definition changes over time as the "TPP" gets better and more well documented. It also means that it is not really a separate document "per-se" - perhaps someday we will coalesce things in such a way that we could put a cover on it and call it the TPP, but until things slow down enough to really write it all down in one place, the TPP is some combination of the release docs, developer docs, Sakai's wiki, JavaDoc, and sample programs.

The definition of the TPP is what the Sakai Framework provides to Sakai tools and services in any release.

In a way, this has always been the definition of the TPP - we have always hoped that there would be "one document" that held "all truth". Unfortunately, Sakai is just too big (and for now dynamic) to expect that there will be one big consistent design document for it covering the whole thing.

My Sakai Java Framework document and the attached "Sakai Architecture" document are the closest things we have at a high-level which have the scope of the TPP.

Thoughts?

/Chuck

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