

**Date:** Fri, 4 Nov 2005 18:39:42 +0100 [11/04/2005 12:39:42 PM EST]

**From:** Seiler Eva <eva.seiler@access.unizh.ch>

**To:** Mark Norton <mjnorton@umich.edu>, Jim Farmer <jxf@umich.edu>

**Cc:** hardin@umich.edu

**Subject:** University of Zurich's LMS and Sakai

Dear Mr. Norton, dear Mr. Farmer

By the end of June 2005, I was referred to you by Mr. Hardin, as you hopefully remember when checking the e-mail exchange between Mr. Hardin and me below. You had been cc'ed, but it's quite some months ago now, so you might have lost the track.

It was only now, by the end of October, that I was able to discuss the matter of an eventual development collaboration between Sakai and our own open source LMS «Online Learning and Training» (OLAT) with the OLAT-developers. After defining further needs in LMS development at our University, we came to the conclusion that it might be wise to just observe Sakai's further progresses. Given that the impressively rapid progress of Sakai keeps going on, it seems promising to us to consider the benefits of a possible collaboration at a later stage.

We will observe Sakai's further evolution attentively. Please feel free to visit [www.olat.org](http://www.olat.org) and if you like to contact us, we'll be happy to hear from you any time.

Kind regards,

Eva Seiler Schiedt  
E-Learning Center  
University of Zurich

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Von: Seiler Eva <eva.seiler@access.unizh.ch>

Datum: 30. Juni 2005 09:52:13 GMT+02:00

An: hardin@umich.edu

Cc: Mark Norton <mjnorton@umich.edu>, Jim Farmer <jxf@umich.edu>, Steinemann Conrad <conrad.steinemann@id.unizh.ch>

Betreff: Re: University of Zurich's LMS and Sakai

Dear Mr. Hardin

Thank you very much for your reply. I'll check out together with the OLAT staff on how to continue best.

Thank you anyway for providing us with the names of Mark Norton and Jim Farmer. We will contact them as soon as we have elaborated a clearer perspective about the benefits of an eventual collaboration ourselves.

With my best wishes from Zurich,  
Eva Seiler Schiedt

Am 29.06.2005 um 03:27 schrieb Joseph Hardin:

Dear Eva Seiler Schiedt,

We would be most interested in seeing what would be the best way for us to work together. I'm cc'ing two of the Sakai support staff, Mark Norton, who is a Senior Technical Support person and can discuss the relative merits of various technical routes forward, and Jim Farmer, who is the Sakai Community Liaison, and can talk with you about any aspects of the Sakai organization, including the Sakai Educational Partners Program, and how we might interact with you. If you have any questions that don't get answered, please don't hesitate to contact me. Looking forward to the discussion,

Joseph Hardin

Seiler Eva wrote:

Dear Mr. Hardin

I'm referred by Ms. Phoenix M. Wang of the Hewlett Foundation to contact you. I met her at the OECD Conference on E-Learning, taking place these days in Calgary, Canada.

I'm interested in getting to know whether there might be any possibility of cooperation between the University of Zurich's Open Source Learning Management System OLAT (Online Learning and Training, see <http://www.olat.org> ) and the Sakai Project. There seems to be some complementarity in the functionalities which might make a cooperation fruitful.

I myself am working at the Rectors Office for Teaching at the University of Zurich and I'm responsible for the E-Learning development of our university. We are most interested in a high quality LMS infrastructure and would like to check out whether a cooperation would be possible. OLAT has been developed during the past three years into an up-to-date LMS and has a «Swiss Quality» level.

Please let me know whether you are interested to check out the possibility of OLAT taking part in the Sakai project. The University of Zurich (see <http://www.unizh.ch>) is a leading institution in E-Learning within Switzerland. In E-Learning development, the University of Zurich also closely cooperates with the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich ( [http://www.ethz.ch/index\\_EN](http://www.ethz.ch/index_EN) ).

I'm looking forward to your reply. Thank you!  
Kind regards,

Eva Seiler Schiedt  
Director of E-Learning Center, University of Zurich

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Joseph Hardin Director, Collaborative Technologies Lab, Duderstadt Center Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Information University of Michigan Ann Arbor  
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-- Dr. Eva Seiler Schiedt  
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