



The year is coming to a busy end! In this newsletter you'll find release news, project reports, and exciting events ahead in 2018. We welcome feedback on the new format, as well as contributions large as small, from think pieces to snippets. Send them along to newsletter@apereero.org!

The deadline for the January 2018 Newsletter is January 3, with publication by January 15.

News

2018 OpenAperero Call for Proposals Is Open!

Affordability of education has become a key issue, not simply for students and educational institutions, but for society as a whole. Open source software can be a key element in developing an institutional IT strategy that focuses on enhancing student success, while helping to control costs.

At Open Aperero 2018, you'll find out more about how your institution can engage with open source software and the communities that support it. You'll learn how open source works, and how it can work for your institution. You'll see first-hand how a community responds to the challenges of today by innovating for tomorrow. Above all, you'll return with real data based on real-world experiences of development and deployment that can inform your institutional practice and strategy. We look forward to seeing you at Open Aperero 2018 conference in Montreal, Quebec, June 3 - 7.

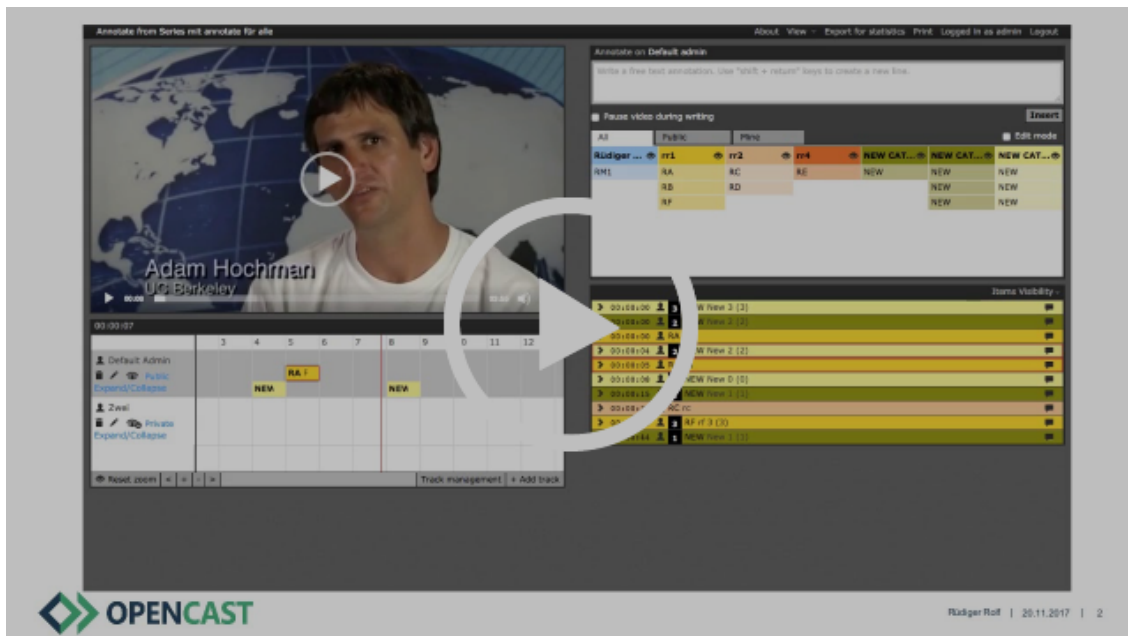
[We invite you to submit a proposal now!](#)

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November 2017 Aperero Lightning Talks

The latest Apereo Lightning talks highlighted representatives from four Apereo project communities: uPortal, Opencast, Xerte, and OAE (Open Academic Environment). The topics covered included engaging with the uPortal community and open source in general; a tool to analyze videos in an academic way with Opencast; the latest development for managing content created with Berte; and an easier way to engage with the OAE community than ever before.

This version of Lightning Talks, and our previous Lightning Talks, are all available on our Apereo Youtube channel in a Lightning Talks playlist.



Save the Date: Apereo Teaching and Learning Awards (ATLAS) 2018

The Apereo Teaching and Learning community is seeking submissions for the annual Apereo Teaching and Learning Awards competition. The award recognizes innovation and excellence in the use of digital technologies to enhance teaching, academic collaboration, and student engagement and learning.

This year, the award applicant selection process opens on January 16, 2018 and closes on February 26, 2018. During this time period, applications will be accepted at the [ATLAS page](#) in Apereo.org. Additional information on the award (mission statement, a definition of innovation, criteria, rubrics, and previous winners) will be also available on the site.

Please read the ATLAS FAQs to find out more details about the award.

Upcoming Events



2018 SakaiCamp

When: Sunday January 21st - Wednesday morning January 24th, 2018

Where: Orlando, Florida

What: 3rd Annual SakaiCamp

SakaiCamp is an annual small-ish (roughly 20 people +/-) unconference style working meeting. This means that the group decides on the agenda itself with large group discussions, small group breakouts, and working sessions. It's a fun and productive 2.5 day meeting with an extra day tacked on for team building. Come learn about our newly formed traditions of late night putt putt golf, Cafe Tutu Tango, and having a blast while getting work done.

Who: Open meeting. All are welcome, though space is limited. There is no registration cost, though you are responsible for your own transportation, accommodation, and food.

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Apereo Webinar - Learning What Works When Scaling Analytics Infrastructure

When: Wednesday, 24th January at 1200 US Eastern / 1700 GMT

Abstract: With student success as a primary institutional goal, NC State's DELTA organization has taken initial steps in building a scalable analytics infrastructure. This webinar provides insights into the open source frameworks, analytics technology, and strategy required to deploy analytics infrastructure with efficient IT delivery. We will discuss planning an architecture to accommodate large amounts of data, while still providing predictions in short order. We will also touch on some work we are doing building cohorts of sub-populations to improve scalability and accuracy. In addition, we will discuss ongoing and future work to improve the infrastructure even further.

- DELTA

Linda Feng, Software Architect, Unicon

Gary Gilbert, Software Architect, Unicon

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2018 ESUP Days/Aperero Paris

The ESUP-Portail Consortium and the Aperero Foundation are pleased to invite you to the fifth edition of the [ESUP-Days/Aperero Paris event](#).

This joint conference will take place at the Université Paris Descartes (Paris, FRANCE) on February 6, 2018.

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Opencast Community Summit 2018: Call for Participation

The annual Opencast conference will be hosted from February 14 to February 16, 2018 at the University of Vienna. The meeting will allow participants from the Opencast community to present their current activities related to Opencast and academic video management in general.

The Opencast community is an international collaboration of individuals, higher education institutions and organizations working together to develop, define and document best practices for the management of audiovisual content in

Project News

EQUELLA

Release of EQUELLA 6.5

New version is first to be developed as open source with usability at the core

PRINCETON, N.J. - Dec. 5, 2017 -- The Apereo Foundation today announced the upcoming release of EQUELLA 6.5, the first open source version of the award-winning digital repository. EQUELLA, a digital repository for housing teaching/learning, research, media, and library content in one platform is currently in use in a wide range of schools, universities, colleges, TAFEs, departments of education, government agencies, and corporations worldwide.

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Sakai Virtual Conference Recordings

The recent 2017 Sakai Virtual Conference was another successful event! This year, we had 334 enrolled attendees from 11 countries, 43 presentations, 50 presenters, and we raised approximately \$13,000 in funding for Sakai development.

(Sorry - the Virtual Karaoke was NOT recorded. You had to be there for that one!)
For viewer convenience, the presentation recordings have been collected in this
playlist:

Unicon Simplifies Getting Started with Learning Analytics by Introducing Efficient, Four-Step Process for Success

LA Quick Start service offers a guided path and the technology institutions need to start the learning analytics journey with confidence. The service features implementation and integration services for [Aperero](#)

[OpenLRW](#) and [OpenDashboard](#).

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uPortal Steering Committee Election Results

Jim Helwig announced the results of the most recent set of elections for representatives on the uPortal Steering Committee. The full committee now stands at:

Developer representatives

- Marissa Warner-Wu, University of Edinburgh
- Drew Wills, Unicon
- Andrew Petro, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Brandon Powell, Oakland University

Community representatives

- Julien Gribonvald, GIP RECIA Université d'Orléans
- Steven Ragusa, Texas A&M University
- Aaron Grant, Oakland University
- Benito Gonzales, Unicon

Supporting Subscriber representative

- Lauren Anderson, Brigham Young University

Aperero board liaison

- Jim Helwig, University of Wisconsin-Madison

I look forward to working with all of them as we strive to make 2018 a great year for the project!



Unicon Announces Services and Support for Apereo uPortal 5

uPortal 5, the leading open source enterprise portal framework built by and for higher education institutions, K-12 schools, and research communities, is now available! uPortal 5 is the newest major version of the portal, and offers many significant improvements over previous versions.

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Opencast Releases

- Opencast 4.0 Release
- Opencast 2.3.5 and 3.4

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