



There's a lot going on in the Aperero Community that you'll learn all about in this combined March/April newsletter -- release news, project reports, and exciting events ahead. We welcome feedback on the format, as well as contributions large and small, from think pieces to snippets. Send them along to newsletter@apereero.org!

The deadline for the May 2018 Newsletter is May 9, with publication around May 15.

From the Executive Director

Open Aperero 2018 Conference Program Now Available

"The Open Source Conference for Education"

June 3-7, 2018 | Montréal, Quebec

[Register Now!](#)

We're excited to announce that the full conference program for Open Aperero 2018 is now available! Topics include Artificial Intelligence, NGDLE, teaching and learning, analytics, development, and much more.

At Open Aperero 2018, you'll learn the latest project news, connect with peers, and take away useful tips and strategies on using (or creating!) Aperero tools to improve teaching, learning, and research at your campus or organization.

If that's not enough, this year's conference is in beautiful Montréal, Quebec. With great food, sights, culture, and people, this is a vibrant place for our diverse Aperero community to come together. We've arranged several social activities - <https://tinyurl.com/y9xs87mp> - and the conference is happening the week before the city's famous Grand Prix.

Don't forget to register now to take advantage of early bird pricing. The deadline

Quick Links:

Conference Program - <https://tinyurl.com/y8tdu838>

Hotel Registration - <https://tinyurl.com/yaxn8m6u>

With tons to learn at the conference and an amazing city to explore, we look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Ian Dolphin, Executive Director, Apereo Foundation

Alan Regan, Open Apereo 2018 Conference Committee Chair

Jennifer Cummings, Open Apereo 2018 Conference Coordinator

[Read More](#)

Sakai Coordinator: Funding in 2018

The Apereo Foundation is five years old. In that time we've grown from a handful of software communities serving higher education to almost twenty. The network of contributors to our software communities has grown significantly, encouraged by the global partnerships we forge.

We have structured our membership of educational institutions and commercial affiliates to be as inclusive as possible, and to reflect differing levels of financial resources available to higher education internationally. Large institutions are and remain important - but the voices of smaller institutions, or those with less available resource, should not be excluded or lost.

Membership subscriptions and in-kind contributions support everything we do. We have no endowment or other sources of revenue. Our membership structure has two main components - a core membership subscription, which supports the functions and activities the Foundation provides for all our software communities, and individual software community subscriptions supporting the specific activities of our constituent software communities.

Last year Foundation membership grew by more than twice the numbers we lost. In overall financial terms, our core membership revenue more or less broke even. Sakai supporting subscription revenue did not meet its target. In these circumstances, reluctantly, the post of Sakai Community Coordinator is

Neal Caidin, the current postholder, has done an amazing job, and this decision does not reflect on the ability, enthusiasm and good humor Neal has brought to the role. In addition to Neal's management of the Sakai release process worldwide, Neal has been a valuable coordinator and contributor from the introduction of the Lessons tool in 2.9 through the responsive and mobile design of Sakai 12 to the WCAG 2.00 AA certification effort - and much more. Sakai has matured to become a more inclusive and effective community as a result of Neal's leadership and capacity to facilitate with sensitivity and empathy. Apereo itself has benefited from Neal piloting processes such as Funding and Resource Management (FARM), feature prioritization, and conference planning. We would like to thank Neal and to wish him well on his next ventures. Neal's last day is April 30.

Sakai is losing a Community Coordinator, but is not losing community coordination. In the coming weeks the Sakai PMC will work with the Foundation to evaluate the best means to deploy available resources to meet the needs of the Sakai community. The Sakai Supporting Subscription will continue to make a very significant contribution to meeting those needs. We will conduct as much of this work in the open as possible, and ensure regular community communication and consultation.

Chuck Severance, Chair of the Sakai PMC

Ian Dolphin, Apereo Foundation Executive Direc

News

Winners Announced: 2018 Apereo Teaching and Learning Awards (ATLAS)

The intent of the award is to highlight examples of educational applications of Apereo tools which fall into an innovative or transformative category.

Winning Entries:

Michael Friesen, University of Western Ontario, Canada

Course: Social Media and Organizations

Eric Giraudin, IUT2 Grenoble Alps University, France

Kevin Abbott, Alex Ambrose, Maureen Dawson, and Paul Manrique,
University of Notre Dame, U.S.A.

Course: Moreau First Year Experience

[Read More](#)

Upcoming Events



Sakai 12 Lunch and Learn Training Sessions

Longsight is offering Sakai 12 Lunch and Learn training sessions in April and May. There is no cost to register.

This is a three-part series designed to provide an overview of current features and functionality in Sakai 12, with an emphasis on new items or recent changes. Instructional designers or faculty familiar with Sakai are the target audience, but new users are also welcome to attend. We will focus on a selection of tools for each session. There will be time for questions.

Wed. April 25th at 12pm ET - New Skin, Assignments, Commons

Tues. May 8th at 12pm ET - Lessons, IMS Content Item, Chat tool

Wed. May 23rd at 12pm ET - Gradebook, Tests & Quizzes

Registration link:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ke22a2oAR8atEQW5ut9wCA

Project News



Sakai 12.0 is now available.

- Improved look and feel. New skin. More attractive and functional.
- Improved responsive design, better performance on mobile devices.
- Gradebook - performance enhancements, plus a number of minor interface improvements such as progressive rendering of student grades for large classes, and a new feature which allows instructors to view and adjust final grade distribution.
- Assignments - Refactoring of Assignments tool. Makes Assignments more maintainable and easier to enhance.
- Lessons has a new optional subpage left menu navigation feature. In addition, a number of useful enhancements such as a forums widget, announcements widget, calendar widget, resources widget, and personalization of text.
- Test and Quizzes (Samigo) - Extended delivery of assessments for select individuals and groups.
- Chat tool - updated interface.
- Pluggable ContentReview which contains 4 plagiarism detection integrations.
- Standards - support for IMS Content Item, including a "shopping cart" ubiquitously available in the rich text editor.
- Accessibility improvements.

[Read More](#)



Registration for Open Apereo is now open and as you make your travel plans, please consider staying for the uPortal Collaboration Days that will be occurring Wednesday afternoon and all day Thursday (June 7-8).

This is a great opportunity to be more interactive and have deeper discussions on topics from earlier in the conference, demo your work and get feedback from others in the community, hash out roadmap details, and/or work together on coding. The agenda is loosely structured to allow it to be molded to meet the needs and interests of those that attend.

This is one of the few times you can meet face-to-face with your peers in the uPortal Community. We also invite members from other Apereo projects to participate and look at ways we can collaborate. Developers, implementors, managers, and designers are all welcome!



2018 Opencast Summit, Vienna

75 members of the Opencast community convened at the University of Vienna to join the 2018 Opencast summit. The Austrian Academic Moodle Cooperation (AMC) was our host this year and organized a flawless event. Participants from 12 countries presented and discussed latest developments and enjoyed opportunities to network. Talks have been recorded and are available at <http://opencast2018.univie.ac.at/programme-and-recordings/>.

Opencast Release News

Opencast recently released maintenance versions 4.1 and 3.5 which resolve a number of issues in their respective branches. Feature development is occurring in the 5.x branch, scheduled for feature freeze on April 3rd 2018, and release in early June.

North American Opencast Workshop Inquiry

From Gregory Diogan

I'm considering trying to organize a North American Opencast workshop, and I'm hoping to get some feedback from the community:

1) Is a workshop where you learn about how to set up and optimally configure Opencast something that you would be interested in attending? This would cover everything from getting a basic Opencast all-in-one installation set up, to configuring Opencast for scaling in the cloud.

2) Is a workshop where you learn about how to get started developing in Opencast something that you would be interested in attending? This would cover everything from basic development environment setup to in-depth development (new services, modifications to existing services, etc).

I'm picturing a few days in a conference room with Opencast developers presenting. To be clear, this is **not** replacing the main Opencast conference. The goal here is for more of a classroom setting.

Is this something that interests you? If you are at an institution interested in Opencast, but using third party support services please forward this on to them as well. My goal here is to get people using Opencast, and I'm happy to train service providers in how to build and run Opencast too!

Please reply on list if possible, but if you are unable to post to list I'm still interested in hearing directly as well at [gregorydlogan \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:gregorydlogan[at]gmail.com) .

ELMS: LN & Headless Authoring Experience (HAX)

Once you see HAX, and realize how it works, you won't be able to unsee it.

What is HAX? HAX is short for Headless Authoring eXperience; meaning that we've decoupled the authoring of content and media from any backend storage system. This frees us to build the best authoring solution for the web. Not specifically for ELMS:LN, or Sakai, or Tsugi but for the web in general. HAX does this through a front-end technology called web components.

Web components have been in the pipeline of the web for many years, but the time is finally right to start jumping on board and planning for how to use them in the future. Web components in short are a four part specification already in most browsers fully (or polyfilled in) which allows for the creation **of new, custom html tags that the browser recognizes**. This nets you modular / component driven development without the need for bloated frameworks like Angular, React, etc.

HAX leverages this technology to build a form of web components authoring web components. This means that we can build new custom elements that any browser understands, and have it fire up a single JSON object and IF hax is around it will understand how to build a UI for it. HAX based content will never appear to have been made with HAX, because it's just writing data into web component properties the same way any developer could.

This means faculty can start authoring advanced HTML without ever looking at it. It also means we as developers can build and expand our systems using open standards without frameworks limiting who can plug and play where. The #usetheplatform movement is lively and is ultimately the replacement for all frameworks or at least huge chunks of them while allowing us to share visual and functional assets.

Interested in helping us #haxtheweb? Check out some links:

- <http://haxtheweb.org> - this is a demo which is completely headless
- <https://github.com/LRNWebComponents> - our open element library, currently north of 130 elements that work anywhere
- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJQuipiji7J5eTqv8JFiW8SZpSeKouZACH> - #haxtheweb playlist of tutorials, demonstrations, and ramblings

Wanted: Your Institution's Story

If you've not looked at www.apereo.org recently, go take a look. On the landing page we're promoting Apereo sponsored software in a series of what we're calling "vignettes". These are short stories and messages about what problems adopters are using Apereo software to help solve. Check out the solutions we've highlighted so far!

Have a message about Apereo software you'd like to communicate to others? Why not take five minutes to write a vignette and forward to ed@apereo.org



Copyright © 2018 Apereo Foundation, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Apereo Foundation · 2723 South State Street · Suite 150, PMB 187 · Ann Arbor, Michigan MI48104 · USA

