Apereo Newsletter

May 15, 2014

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Announcements

1. Apereo Sakai PMC Election Results: Severance and Swinsburg Next Chair and Vice-chair

On behalf of the Sakai Project Management Committee (PMC) I'm pleased to announce that Dr. Charles Severance will serve as the next chair and Steve Swinsburg the next vice-chair, commencing 30 June 2014. The good doctor and Steve are veteran Sakai committers and recognized leaders in the community. Their willingness to take on these leadership roles in addition to their other responsibilities is greatly appreciated.

Cheers,

Anthony Whyte
Apereo Sakai PMC chair
arwhyte@umich.edu

Seth Theriault
Apereo Sakai PMC vice-chair
slt@columbia.edu

2. Open Apereo 2014 -- Innovate. Incubate. Implement.

June 1-4, 2014 - Miami, Florida

http://conference.apereo.org #apereo14

Register now! The fee includes breakfast (Monday-Wednesday), lunch (Monday-Tuesday), two receptions, and 2 1/2 days of conference presentations. Select pre-conference workshops are also available at no extra charge (seating is limited, though!); other workshops may require an additional fee. Limited space is available for groups to meet post-conference, at no additional charge. Please contact conference@apereo.org for more information.

The program will include over 100 sessions on all the Apereo projects (Sakai, OAE, CAS, uPortal, uMobile, Bedework, OpenRegistry, Student Success Plan and more). Find out the latest updates and see how your peers are using these tools to improve teaching, learning and research on their campus. Talks will focus on leadership, advocacy, analytics, teaching and learning, identity management and technology.

On Monday, June 2nd, 2014, conference attendees will have the opportunity to

participate in a number of fun and exciting social events. Each event offers a unique opportunity to experience some of the culture and cuisine of Miami, Florida while getting to mingle with a group of fellow attendees. (See item #6 in this newsletter for more information.)

Quick links:
- Conference Web Site: http://conference.apereo.org
- Conference Registration: http://conference.apereo.org/registration
- Hotel Registration: http://conference.apereo.org/travel
- Schedule: http://conference.apereo.org/schedule

June 1: Pre-conference workshops
June 2-4: Main conference
June 4-5: Post-conference project collaboration time

Sincerely,

Ian Dolphin, Executive Director, Apereo Foundation
Laura McCord, Open Apereo 2014 Planning Committee Chair
Reba-Anna Lee, Open Apereo 2014 Program Committee Co-chair
Alan Regan, Open Apereo 2014 Program Committee Co-chair

3. Crowdsourcing an Open Apereo Presentation

Hi all,

A small group of us are giving a presentation on community at Open Apereo 2014. The theme is that all are welcome in the community, the great benefits of participating actively, and how to get started.

We are going to share some user or institutional stories to demonstrate ways to participate. While we have some examples in mind, would love to hear your stories and maybe include a snippet for our Powerpoint slides!

If any of the themes resonate for you, please email me at neal.caidin@apereo.org to share your story (or to discuss if you are not sure it is relevant).

Thanks!

A few example use cases for participation and the benefits:

- Participating in the surveys, like the Tool use survey. Can use local results in your annual report. Can use community results as a way to get a sense of which tools are well

supported and used. SQL queries provided!

- Diving into Jira for feature requests. Ways to contribute. Identify community interest in development. Also a way to help fix things.

- Easy fixes. Developers needed for some bug fixes require less deep knowledge of Sakai. Fixing these provides experience and frees up time for senior developers to work on more difficult and challenging problems.

- Adopt-a-Tool - Some institutions participated in Sakai 10 testing and in the process, asked Sakai Coordinator questions to learn more about the state of the community, and how to open Jiras. Felt more comfortable with the upcoming Sakai 10 upgrade.

- Participating in Bug Bashes/ Test Fests. Some similar benefits as Adopt-a-tool.

Share your story! We want to hear them.

Thanks,

Neal Caidin
Sakai Community Coordinator Apereo Foundation
neal.caidin@apereo.org

4. Flipped Presentations for Open Apereo!

You have the opportunity to try the conference's new flipped sessions. Flipped Sessions allow you to start learning and using exciting new technology before you attend the Apereo Conference in June. After completing the preparatory work, you will be ready to engage with the presenter(s) and others (who have done their homework) at the conference session with questions and ideas to advance the new technology.

We are currently making these presentations available now for participation. If you are interested in participating in any of these presentations, the pre-session materials are available at the following locations:

- Sakai 10 Documentation Project
https://www.concentra-cms.com/cfp/program/program%21digest.action?sid=2192

- Open Source Cross Platform Developer Toolbox
https://www.concentra-cms.com/cfp/program/program%21digest.action?sid=2161

- Player 1 Start: Gamification in Sakai
https://www.concentra-cms.com/cfp/program/program%21digest.action?sid=2167

- Beyond Help: Sakai User Stories
https://www.concentra-cms.com/cfp/program/program%21digest.action?sid=2199

- Using Selenium IDE to Automate QA Testing
https://www.concentra-cms.com/cfp/program/program%21digest.action?sid=2152

- Google Analytics: Understanding your Audience Through Numbers
https://www.concentra-cms.com/cfp/program/program%21digest.action?sid=2239

Stay tuned to the announcements for more flipped presentations!

Sincerely,

Ian Dolphin, Executive Director, Apereo Foundation
Laura McCord, Open Apereo 2014 Planning Committee Chair
Reba-Anna Lee, Open Apereo 2014 Program Committee Co-chair
Alan Regan, Open Apereo 2014 Program Committee Co-chair
Jennifer Cummings, jenn@concentra-cms.com, Open Apereo 2014, Conference
Coordinator

5. Networking Café for Open Apereo 2014

Networking Café -
is back again at Open Apereo. Networking Café is a fun way to discuss issues of
importance to the Apereo community and make new friends. The Networking Café for
2014 is based on the Networking Café from 2013. This year we've made it simpler,
shorter, and we hope, even more inviting.

Using the "Wisdom of the Crowd" -
We are using Google Moderator to enable our community to generate and vote on ideas.
The top vote getters will get a table at the event. We will also have a couple of tables for
folks who just want to network, but not necessarily discuss any of the proposed ideas, and
there is space for spontaneous meetings in the center of the room. All types of
connections are welcome.

Help make this event a success.

Share your ideas and start voting
https://www.google.com/moderator/#16/e=212688

FAQ
http://conference.apereo.org/news/networkingcafeisback

Thanks for your attention.

Sincerely,

The Networking Café Team

6. Open Apereo 2014 Social Events

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a number of fun and exciting social events on Monday, June 2nd. Each event offers a unique opportunity to experience some of the culture and cuisine of Miami, Florida while getting to mingle with a group of fellow attendees.

We encourage you to visit the social events page (http://conference.apereo.org/events) for details, and then sign-up for an event NOW by doing the following:

Review the details on the social events page (http://conference.apereo.org/events). Go to the Eventbrite tickets part of the page at the bottom. Enter the number of tickets you wish to purchase and click on the "Order Now" button. Pay using a Visa, Mastercard, American Express or Discover card - these social events MUST be pre-paid with a credit card! Helpful hint: You do not have to use the same credit card that you used to register for the conference. Fill in the required information and click "Pay Now" You have completed your social event registration when you get to the page with the "Exit" button.

If you are interested in the **Monday evening Dine Around** event: Review the Dine Around options on the social events page (http://conference.apereo.org/events). Sign up for the restaurant of your choice by "purchasing" a free ticket under the Eventbrite Tickets section at the bottom of the page.

Everyone Show Your Colors! - Bring a shirt to wear during the day Tuesday that bears your institution's symbol and/or colors.

We look forward to seeing you in Miami!

Open Apereo 2014 Social Events Subcommittee

7. Apereo Annual Members Meeting

The Apereo Annual Members Meeting will take place at:

Open Apereo 2014

Monday 2nd June 3:15pm
Hilton Downtown - Miami Florida
1601 Biscayne Blvd.
Miami, FL 33132

Best,

Ian Dolphin
Executive Director Apereo Foundation
ian.dolphin@apereo.org

8. Apereo 2014 Sakai Bootcamp -- Sunday 1 June 2014

The Sakai bootcamp 1/2 day pre-conference workshop will be offered
again at Apereo 2014 in Miami (more here:
http://conf2014.apereo.org/home)

Sunday 1 June 2014
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Concerto D

This half-day seminar will focus on installing, configuring, and
integrating with Sakai for system administrators, developers, and
technical support staff. This will be an introduction to Sakai from a
technical perspective and will cover the following topics:

- What is Sakai
- Brief history of Sakai
- New tech in Sakai 10
- Installation gotchas and tips
- Basics of branding
- System configuration
- Sakai admin tools and basics of site setup and management
- Authentication and User providers
- Installing contributed tools and plugins
- Integrating with other systems (LTI, SOAP Webservices, REST)
- Managing local code changes and customizations
- Basics of Sakai development (code structure and conventions)

Participants will be exposed to everything they will need to basically
install, customize, and support a Sakai installation at their
institution.

Other members of the community below will be presenting along with me:

Matthew Jones (matthew@longsight.com) Senior Software Developer, Longsight, Inc.
Robert Long (rlong@unicon.net) Developer, Unicon
Earle Nietzel (enietzel@anisakai.com) Software Engineer, Asahi Net International
Steve Swinsburg (steve.swinsburg@gmail.com) Principal Consultant,
Flying Kite Australia

If you are new to Sakai or want to better understand Sakai technically
then this is the workshop for you.

Aaron Zeckoski
azeckoski@unicon.net

9. 2014 Apereo Board Elections

Under New Jersey legislation governing non-profit entities, annual elections to the
Apereo Board of Directors will take place at the Apereo Annual General Meeting at Open
Apereo 2014. The meeting is scheduled for Monday 2nd June 3:15pm Hilton Downtown
1601 Biscayne Blvd. Miami, FL 33132. The meeting agenda will include the election of
four candidates to fill vacant seats on the Apereo Foundation Board of Directors.

Candidates details can be found at:

http://www.apereo.org/apereo-board-nominees-2014

Nominated organizational representatives are eligible to vote for candidates in the
elections. There are three ways a vote may be registered:

1) By the organizational representative attending the meeting and casting a vote.

2) By the organizational representative nominating a different, voting representative who
is attending the meeting. The name and contact details of this representative should be
sent to the Apereo Foundation Secretary, Doug Johnson doug.johnson@apereo.org,
copied to Ian Dolphin, Apereo Executive Director ian.dolphin@apereo.org

3) By returning the ballot paper to a nominated proxy, the Apereo Foundation Secretary,
who will ensure votes are recorded appropriately. Again, this should be mailed to the
Apereo Foundation Secretary, Doug Johnson at doug.johnson@apereo.org, copied to Ian
Dolphin, Apereo Executive Director at ian.dolphin@apereo.org

Ballot papers have been issued to Apereo Organizational Representatives. If you are a
representative, please check your inboxes, determine which voting option you wish to

take, and take the appropriate course of action. If you are a member of staff at an Apereo Foundation affiliate and you are unsure who your nominated representative is, please contact me.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in these elections.

Regards.

Ian Dolphin
Executive Director Apereo Foundation
ian.dolphin@apereo.org

Community

10. 2014 Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award Winners

Dear Colleagues

The Apereo Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of the Teaching With Sakai Innovation Award (TWSIA), for 2014, sponsored by Asahi Net.

Higher Ed Face to Face category
Entry: the FOLD Melissa Halvorson (Adjunct Professional Lecturer), Marist College

Higher Ed Online/Hybrid category
Entry: SPA 231 Reading and Composition Shannon Hahn (Discipline Chair/Instructor), Durham Technical Community College

Portfolio category
Entry: Pre-Health Professions Program at Wake Forest University Pat Lord (Director of the Health Professions Program), Jolie Tingen (Instructional Technology Analyst), Wake Forest University

Projects and Other Uses category
Entry: the FOLD Josh Baron (Senior Academic Technology Officer), Melissa Halvorson (Adjunct Professional Lecturer), Marist College

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

Each of the winners will be recognized for their use of the Sakai CLE and Apereo OAE for teaching and learning at the Apereo Conference in Miami, FL, June 1-4, 2014.

Details of their winning projects will be shared at the conference. For information about the conference, go to http://conf2014.apereo.org/

The Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award (TWSIA) is a project of the Sakai Teaching and Learning Community. This is the 7th year of the competition.

We thank our sponsor Asahi Net for their support of the Teaching With Sakai Innovation Award.

Thanks also to our Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award Committee members for their energy, enthusiasm and professionalism: David O'Steen, Fatima Rahiman, Guillermo Rodriguez, Janice Smith, Jim Mezzanotte, Marc Zaldivar, Cheryl Brown, Zora Rizzi, Mary Jo Carnot, Armanda Lewis, Luisa Li and Teggin Summers.

Learn more about the winners at Open Apereo 2014.

Best,

Ian Dolphin
Executive Director Apereo Foundation
ian.dolphin@apereo.org

11. Thank You to EdSurge

Thank you to the great people at EdSurge (edsurge.com) for including the Open Apereo 2014 Conference in their Event listing and in their upcoming Newsletter.

edSurge is a great way to stay on top of what is happening in the Edtech market, and you can sign up for their newsletters at edsurge.com/signup

John A. Lewis
john.lewis@apereo.org

12. Sakai User Stories

Users often learn about Sakai through training sessions and online Help, but they may have little exposure to concrete examples of how Sakai tools are used in the "real" academic world.

Toward that end, we've created a "Sakai User Stories" site. The goal of the site is to showcase narratives that range from common activities to unique cases of cutting-edge technology and pedagogy, and to promote discussion via comments.

Visit https://userstories.anisakai.com to learn more, read some initial examples, view the style guide, and submit your own stories. We're looking for modest narratives -- about 500 words, with a screenshot or two and/or a brief screencast.

We'll be doing a flipped presentation at the upcoming Apereo conference to provide a workshop for story drafts and hopefully generate more narratives for the site. We look forward to your stories and seeing you at the conference!

Chris Clark (University of Notre Dame)
Siobhan Ross (Providence College)
Jim Mezzanotte (Asahi Net International)

13. OSI Working for Open Source

The Open Source Initiative, alongside the Free Software Foundation, filed a "friend of the court" brief in Alice Corp. v. CLS Bank, a case currently being considered by the United States Supreme Court. In this case, the Court has asked, in essence, under what conditions (if any) software is "patent-eligible subject matter" under Section 101 of the US patent statute:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patentable_subject_matter#United_States. *(Remember the Blackboard patent case?)*

Drafted by the Software Freedom Law Center, the OSI-FSF brief argues that the "machine or transformation" test is the correct, and exclusive, bright line test for patent eligibility of computer-implemented inventions. In particular, the brief argues that this test is in keeping with the Supreme Court's existing patent jurisprudence, including the recent Bilski v. Kappos case; and that this position is also consistent with freedom of speech and the First Amendment (a position also supported by the ACLU in this case). Most current software patents would not be able to meet the requirements of this test.

OSI joined this brief because of OSI's overall position on software patents: that they do more harm than good to the software industry, and that they are particularly damaging to free and open source development, which depends on the unencumbered exchange of ideas between community members. Beyond the legal arguments already mentioned, the

brief seeks to educate the Court about the recent history of software innovation, and free and open source software's role in that history, to show that following the Court's rulings in cases like Gottschalk v. Benson would help, not hinder, innovation in the industry. (EFF also focused on this argument in their brief.) We hope the Court will find this persuasive and lift this onerous burden, so that the entire industry -- and open source in particular -- can focus our resources on creating software that enriches all of us, instead of on legal battles over the ownership of abstract ideas.

Patrick Masson
masson@opensource.org

Projects

14. Apereo OAE Release -- Emperor Penguin is Now available!

The Apereo Open Academic Environment (OAE) project team is extremely proud to announce the next major release of the Apereo Open Academic Environment; OAE Emperor Penguin or OAE 6.

OAE Emperor Penguin brings a fully responsive UI, ensuring that OAE works seamlessly on mobile and tablet devices. OAE Emperor Penguin also adds a range of usability improvements and a full Brazilian Portuguese translation.

CHANGELOG

Responsive UI

An increasing number of people expect to be able to use applications on mobile and tablet devices, and Apereo OAE is not an exception. Usage statistics already show that many of our users are accessing OAE through these devices.

Apereo OAE uses Twitter Bootstrap (http://getbootstrap.com) as its CSS framework. When they released their latest version, introducing support for responsive applications, it seemed like an appropriate time to make the OAE UI fully responsive. Despite using this responsive CSS framework and the fact that OAE has been designed tablet first, making the UI fully responsive has been a massive undertaking that has ended up touching most of the application.

However, we are extremely pleased with the end result and OAE now works well on a wide range of mobile and tablet devices. Whilst all OAE functionality works seamlessly

on these devices, it is especially pleasant to keep track of your user and group activity feeds.

Screenshots of how the UI looks on various devices can be found at [1], [2], [3], [4] and [5].

[1] http://i.imgur.com/BdeNt1F.png [2] http://i.imgur.com/Pvt7ZAg.png [3] http://i.imgur.com/uocHXFm.png [4] http://i.imgur.com/ao2TTuY.png [5] http://i.imgur.com/7yrd0N4.png

Brazilian Portuguese translation

A complete Brazilian Portuguese translation is now available for the OAE UI. Many thanks to César Goudouris for providing this translation!

TRY IT OUT

OAE Emperor Penguin can be experienced on the project's QA server at http://oae.oae-qa0.oaeproject.org. It is worth noting that this server is actively used for testing and will be wiped and redeployed every night.

The source code has been tagged with version numbers 6.0.0 and can be downloaded from the following repositories:

Back-end: https://github.com/oaeproject/Hilary/tree/6.0.0
Front-end: https://github.com/oaeproject/3akai-ux/tree/6.0.0

Documentation on how to install the system can be found at:
https://github.com/oaeproject/Hilary/blob/6.0.0/README.md

Instruction on how to upgrade an OAE installation from version 5.0 to version 6.0 can be found at:
https://github.com/oaeproject/Hilary/wiki/OAE-Upgrade-Guide

The repository containing all deployment scripts can be found at:
https://github.com/oaeproject/puppet-hilary

GET IN TOUCH

The project website can be found at http://www.oaeproject.org. The project blog will be updated with the latest project news from time to time, and can be found at:
http://www.oaeproject.org/blog.

The mailing list used for Apereo OAE is: oae@apereo.org. You can subscribe to this by sending an email to: oae+subscribe@apereo.org.

Bugs and other issues can be reported in our issue tracker at: https://github.com/oaeproject/3akai-ux/issues.

Nicolaas Matthijs
nicolaas.matthijs@caret.cam.ac.uk

15. Sakai 10 Help has a New Look!

The Documentation Work Group has completed the first phase of a comprehensive documentation rewrite planned for integration in Sakai 10. This rewrite was done as a pilot using the Screensteps collaborative authoring software as a content creation tool. Using Screensteps, the documentation team created nearly 400 help articles in Screensteps which were then imported into the Sakai context-sensitive online help tool to replace the previous help content. Many thanks to everyone involved with this effort!

The new Sakai help features content collections, or books, for Instructor, Student, and OSP help articles. It also features extensive use of annotated screen images to illustrate how to complete tasks in Sakai. And, as before, the online help is both context-sensitive, and searchable by keyword.

The new Sakai help is available for previewing on the Apereo Screensteps website: https://sakai.screenstepslive.com/ We encourage you to view and comment on the documentation there. This site is external to Sakai and is where the authoring group will be publishing any new content prior to importing it into Sakai as part of the release cycle.

Additional documentation development is ongoing, and we welcome your input. We currently plan to add an Administrator guide, and would also like to incorporate help for Contrib tools, as well as translations for other languages.

Wilma Hodges
Director of Training & eLearning Initiatives
Longsight
wilma@longsight.com

16. Incubation News

Karuta, OpenCast, UniTime enter Apereo Incubation Process

The Apereo incubation process is now well underway, guided by volunteer mentors from the Apereo community. Three new projects entered the process earlier this year after approval by the Apereo Incubation Working Group and the Apereo Board:

OpenCast Matterhorn -- a lecture capture and media services platform
http://opencast.org/

UniTime -- a higher education scheduling/timetabling solution
http://www.unitime.org/

Karuta -- a next generation eportfolio solution
https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/OSP/Portfolios+for+the+Future+of+Sakai

Jaeques Koeman, Chair of the Incubation Working Group commented, "We've been able to welcome a number of new, appealing incubating projects and I'm very pleased to see the enthusiasm with which the incubation process is handled by all those involved. To me, it shows the relevancy the Apereo foundation as an umbrella for open source ed tech, and the Incubating process in particular."

Opencast Matterhorn and UniTime are established projects that were formed outside the Apereo community or its predecessors. Karuta springs from the experience of the Sakai ePortfolio community. Tomáš Müller of UniTime said "We believe that UniTime fits well within the Apereo portfolio. We would like to develop closer relations with other Apereo projects and to grow the open source community around UniTime."

The new additions join several other incubating projects: the Apereo Open Academic Environment, a next generation environment supporting academic collaboration; ThinkSpace, an instructional and collaborative environment supporting real-world problem solving by students; OpenRegistry, a community-based identity management system; and a series of specialist portlets integrating Twitter, contacts, learning management systems, and Peoplesoft HR systems with uPortal.

The incubation process begins with a lightweight audit by mentors and project participants of project status using the exit criteria set out in the Apereo incubation process (http://www.apereo.org/content/s4-exit-criteria). This establishes priorities and is used to set an approximate anticipated timeframe for the process. It also helps identify specialist areas of experience and help for developing projects.

Mentors have commented favourably on the training opportunities negotiated by the foundation with Open Source Software Watch at the University of Oxford. As Susan Bramhall (Yale) put it "The training by OSSwatch was both enjoyable and valuable. I

especially appreciated the deep dive into the various types of communities - practice, interest, circumstance - and the exploration of Deep-Level Diversity."

The Apereo incubation process is vital to the realisation of our vision. It provides direct benefits to both projects -- by sharing experience of both success and failure -- and to adopters, who can be assured that the software they are adopting meets clear published criteria.

Our community is rich in expertise and experience. If you feel you have something to offer our incubation work, and have a small amount of time to contribute, please get in touch. We intend a second group of mentors to join the first shortly after the Miami conference in June. It's great time to gain experience and training, and contribute to the development of the community.

Ian Dolphin
Executive Director, Apereo Foundation
ian.dolphin@apereo.org

17. Sakai Upgrade Survey Results 2014

Look here to see the results of the 2014 Sakai Upgrade Survey:

http://www.apereo.org/content/sakai-upgrade-survey-results-2014

Neal Caidin
neal.caidin@apereo.org