

Apereo Newsletter
January 25, 2016

From the Editor

Upcoming Events

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- 2) ESUP-Days #21 / Apereo Europe 2016 (Feb. 1-2, 2016 in Paris)**
- 3) Call for Entries: Apereo Teaching and Learning Awards (ATLAS) 2016**
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From the Editor:

Happy New Year! In our first newsletter of 2016, we have several opportunities for community participation, announcements of new releases, and background on an exciting new project now in the Apereo Incubation Program.

What are you planning for the new year? What do you see as major issues facing educational technology and open source communities in the coming year? Remember that the Apereo newsletter provides an important opportunity to share what you're doing and invite others to join. We are looking for contributions of all kinds -- examples might include (but are not limited to) articles, video clips, screencasts, graphics, or short announcements on:

- How you're using software produced by an Apereo community at your institution
- Major releases or minor tweaks
- Ideas for new projects you'd like to get feedback on or gauge interest in
- Important discussions of general educational technology issues that emerge on community email lists

Contributions of all lengths, from snippet to think pieces, are welcome. Send your submissions (and any questions!) to newsletter@apereo.org .

Deadline for items for the next newsletter is Monday, February 22.

-- Lucy Appert, Newsletter Editor

Upcoming Events

- 1) 2016 Opencast Community Summit March 14-16: Call for Papers**

The call for papers for the 2016 Opencast Community Summit in Cologne, Germany has been extended to **January 29th**. For more details, please visit:

<http://opencast.org/events/2016-opencast-conference>

The conference registration will be open from January 15th.

2) Apereo Europe 2016/ ESUP Days 21 Feb. 1-2

Apereo Europe 2016 / ESUP Days 21 will take place Feb. 1-2 at Université Paris Descartes Faculté de Médecine, off Boulevard Saint-Germain in Paris.

Topics include 'What comes after the Learning Management System/Virtual Learning Environment?', use of the Apereo Open Academic Environment in France and internationally, deploying responsive uPortal at UPMC, the use of free software in Quebec and much more. A full programme is available at

<https://www.esup-portail.org/conference/index-EN.html#program> (English)

<https://www.esup-portail.org/conference/index.html#program> (French)

Registration is available from - <https://www.esup-portail.org/registration/>

Join the community conversation in Paris!

3) Call for Entries: Apereo Teaching and Learning Awards (ATLAS) 2016

The Apereo Teaching and Learning community is seeking submissions for the annual Apereo Teaching and Learning Awards (formerly TWSIA) competition. The award recognizes innovation and excellence in technology-supported teaching, academic collaboration, and student engagement and learning.

With our new name, ATLAS, the awards committee welcomes a broader audience in the Apereo open source education community. We invite submissions that demonstrate innovative teaching and learning using not only Sakai, OAE and Karuta, but also Xerte and Opencast. Based on merit, we hope to select up to six winners.

This year, the selection process will consist of two steps:

Step 1: Filter Questionnaire

Opening Date: Dec 28, 2015

Deadline: March 15, 2016

In order to provide the awards committee with a bit of background about your course/ project or portfolio as well as to enable you to select the application rubric that best applies to you, please complete a brief filter questionnaire and then download the appropriate application form.

Click here to start the brief filter questionnaire:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1RhPE2WHipMgXOWYAAAdd-6ptYwuPGwYuC1nQixcaugA/viewform>

Step 2: Application Submission

Opening Date: Jan. 20, 2016

Deadline: March 15, 2016

Each applicant will submit an in-depth description of the innovative teaching method, practice or strategy submitted and how it addresses the award criteria.

Please submit your application form at <https://www.apereo.org/communities/atlas>.

Additional information on the award mission statement, a definition of innovation, criteria, rubrics, and previous winners are also available on the site.

Winners will be announced in early April 2016 and recognized at the Open Apereo Conference in May 22-25, 2016, hosted by New York University in New York City.

Registration and travel expenses will be covered for award winners.

For further inquiries, please email luisa.li@apereo.org or cheryl.brown@apereo.org.

-- Luisa Li

4) OpenID Connect Workshop

Apereo and Internet2 would like to invite you to a two-day hands-on workshop on OpenID Connect, led by Roland Hedberg and Rebecka Gulliksson of Umeå University, in Sweden. Roland is a world-renowned expert in OpenID Connect and a senior architect in the IAM community. This workshop is intended to give SAML architects direct experience working with OpenID Connect in preparation for its likely expanded use in our space, and to allow us to have useful conversations on what needs to be done to help make OIDC useful for our use cases and then execute strategy for doing those things.

Dates for the two workshop sessions are February 22-23 and February 24-25, 2016. The two workshops are identical in content.

The course has a capacity limit of 20 people per session. We will work with Roland in the future to look for other opportunities to present this material in different ways/venues. In addition, as part of his work on GÉANT GN4, he will be conducting this same training in the EU. Please be mindful of the limited and targeted nature of this invite when discussing this with colleagues.

Internet2 has made a hotel block available (information on that in the links below). Please use the hotel block to book your lodging, since we have a hold on the rooms and have negotiated a good rate for downtown Denver. The sessions will be conducted at Internet2's Denver offices, 475 17th St, Denver, CO 80202.

To register and book your lodging, please choose one of the sessions below:

<https://meetings.internet2.edu/2016-02-22-openid-connect-workshop/>

<https://meetings.internet2.edu/2016-02-24-openid-connect-workshop/>

-- Ian Dolphin

5) Call For Proposals: Open Apereo 2016 May 22-26 at New York University

The call for proposals for Open Apereo 2016: 100% Open for Education is open, with a final proposal deadline of **February 8, 2016**.

The program committee will review and accept submissions during the open submission period. Early Bird Proposals entered by January 22 will be eligible for early review decisions by February 5. The committee expects to have all proposals reviewed and final acceptances by February 23.

Please note that you may login and edit/review this proposal only through the cutoff date of February 8, 2016.

We look forward to your proposal!

SUBMIT A PROPOSAL here:

https://www.eventsforce.net/concentra/frontend/reg/tOtherPage.csp?pageID=3952&ef_sel_menu=56&eventID=9&eventID=9

Announcements

6) Opencast 2.2 Release Schedule

The Opencast 2.2 release schedule has been published. Most importantly, the feature freeze will be on April 4th and the final release is planned for June 15th.

The complete schedule can be found at: <http://bit.ly/1PSkRyA>

-- Lars Kiesow

7) Sakai 10.6 maintenance release

The Sakai Core Team is happy to announce the Sakai 10.6 maintenance release for general availability! Congratulations worldwide team!

There were 100 fixes in this release across the core tools. The list of all fixes is here: <https://jira.sakaiproject.org/issues/?filter=15480>. Highlights include:

* *Nine blocker priority and fourteen critical priority issues fixed.*

* *Five new security fixes.*

* *Feature enhancements for Assignments tool:* Send comments to gradebook from Assignments, even if the gradebook item was created separately; Re-word the checkbox options to make group and peer assessment settings clearer; CVS export of Assignments includes submission time and if submission was late; Assignments history reflects when instructors submit on behalf of students.

Detailed release notes (functional and technical) available at

<https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/DOC/Sakai+10.6+changes>

-- Neal Caidin

Project News & Releases

8) Image Quiz: A New Incubation Project at Apereo

"What is hardest of all? That which seems most simple: to see with your eyes what is before your eyes."

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

The goal of the *Image Quiz Project* is to increase comprehension of complex subjects through visual learning. This goal is accomplished through the development of a series of computer-based visual training programs under the working title *Image Quiz*. Programs in the *Image Quiz* family are designed to rapidly help users become visual experts. Unlike novices, visual experts are able to quickly recognize patterns. This allows chess masters to recognize meaningful chess configurations, and field biologists to identify organism from a mere glance.

Programs in the *Image Quiz* family help users achieve this mastery in a fraction of the time normally required. They do this by adapting learning techniques from areas of cognitive psychology concerned with expertise. The programs are designed to teach pattern recognition, and promote holistic visual processing, the visual processing mode used by experts. They do this through a series of active learning activities. Active learning engages brain areas associated with visual expertise, while passive learning does not. The training techniques embodied in the *Image Quiz* family are based on research protocols that were used to define holistic processing.

In addition to recognizing patterns, visual experts are also able to segment their perceptual field in order to pick out relevant details. The ability to see relevant details is not something realized on first exposure to a new visual domain; rather it emerges from experience. The *Image Quiz* programs provide this experience. In the area of organism identification, the *Image Quiz* programs provide the perceptual basis necessary for mastering the complex terminology of classification. Rather than learning terms for characteristics for which they have no experience, users first learn to recognize the characters and can then easily learn their names.

The *Image Quiz* programs also help users form mental images. These images are the basis of pattern recognition, and are important stepping stones in the formation of scientific intuition. The *Image Quiz* programs accomplish this goal by exposing users to many examples, covering the range of variation of the relevant concepts. Exposure to variation is important because concepts encode information not only about the prototype of a category, but about its variation. Exposure to variation forms the basis of the visual concept.

Although the *Image Quiz* programs accomplish all of these goals, they are not intended as a replacement for traditional teaching methods. They are supplements that provide users with effective homework and make traditional teaching methods more effective.

Stand-alone versions of programs currently exist in Java[1] and C++ and are used for teaching organic chemistry functional groups, amino acid structure, plant identification, plant life cycles, and plant structure terminology. It is easy to add your own images to the software and create custom versions in other subject areas.

Controlled experiments and pre-test, post-test protocols have both shown that the

software is effective in promoting learning.[2]

The mentors for the project are Ian Dolphin and Benito Gonzales.

Our greatest current need is or a C++ developer who will help us release the C++ code on GitHub. Please contact Bruce Kirchoff (bruce.kirchoff@apereo.org) if you are interested in joining the team.

-- Dr. Bruce Kirchoff, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Department of Biology

[1] <https://github.com/Jasig/ImageQuiz>

[2]Kirchoff BK, Delaney PF, Horton M, Dellinger-Johnston R. 2014. *Optimizing Learning of Scientific Category Knowledge in the Classroom: The Case of Plant Identification*. CBE-Life Sciences Education, 13: 425-436; Burrows GE, Krebs GL, Kirchoff BK. 2014. 'Visual Learning – Agricultural Plants of the Riverina' – A New Application for Helping Veterinary Students Recognise Poisonous Plants. Bioscience Education, DOI: 10.11120/BEEJ.2014.00028