

**Apereo Newsletter
November 2016**

From the Editor

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From the Editor:

With one semester winding down and preparations for another gearing up, there is a lot of news in the Apereo community this month.

Remember that the Apereo newsletter provides an important opportunity for communicating within and across the many projects in our community. This is your vehicle to share what you're doing and invite others to join. Our newsletter is also an important place for sharing strategies and success stories for pursuing an open source philosophy in educational technology.

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.

NOTE: We are especially looking for Case Studies of any length for our next issue. Have you undertaken an upgrade, implementation, feature rollout, or redesign? Tell us about what you did and what you learned! The next submission deadline, for the December/January Newsletter, will be January 6.

-- *Lucy Appert, Newsletter Editor*

Upcoming Events

- 1) **November 28 PROPOSAL DEADLINE for Open Apereo 2017**

The Call for Proposals for Open Apereo 2017 is open through November 28, 2016. Get your proposals in now! (Final program available by January 2017.)

https://www.eventsforce.net/concentra/frontend/reg/tOtherPage.csp?pageID=6632&ef_sel_menu=76&eventID=12&eventID=12

DETAILS

The Open Apereo Conference is an international, inclusive event. Click the link above to learn more! Get ready to learn new things, make new friends, and share your experiences implementing and developing open source software at our Open Apereo 2017 conference in Philadelphia, June 4 - 8.

NEW THIS YEAR

Peer-reviewed research track! We are hoping this will both encourage greater participation from faculty as well as enable us to produce more detailed online proceedings that will profile the research-oriented work we do in the community.

DEADLINE AND REVIEW

The proposal deadline is November 28, 2016. The committee expects to have all proposals reviewed and final acceptances by December 16.

We look forward to your proposal!

-- *Ian Dolphin, Executive Director, Apereo Foundation*

Laura McCord, Open Apereo 2017 Planning Committee Chair

Jennifer Cummings, Open Apereo 2017, Conference Coordinator

2) Apereo Webinar Nov. 29, 12 Noon EST: Ethical Challenges in Learning Analytics

Should students be asked for their consent for their data to be used in learning analytics? What happens if they try to game the system? How can we avoid overly-simplistic metrics that reduce the individual to a number?

In this interactive session, Niall Sclater will outline some of the ethical challenges faced by the many universities that are now implementing learning analytics, and will propose some ways forward.

Niall is an independent educational technology consultant in the UK. He developed Jisc's Code of Practice for Learning Analytics, and is working with Jisc to roll out learning analytics at universities across the UK. He is author of *Learning Analytics Explained*, to be published shortly by Routledge. His blog and publication list are at www.sclater.com.

November 29th, 2016 at Noon US Eastern

Join via the web at

<http://apereo.blindsidenetworks.net/>

Choose "Apereo Room 1" from the drop-down

Enter your name and the password - apereo

To join this meeting by phone, dial:

[\(352\) 327-4267](tel:(352)327-4267)

[\(855\) 215-5935](tel:(855)215-5935) (United States toll-free)

Then enter 27354 as the conference pin number.

Please send any questions to analytics-coordinator@apereo.org

-- *Patrick Lynch*

3) Learning Analytics Webinar Dec. 13 10 am EST: "Deploying Open Learning Analytics at National Scale: Lessons from the Real World"

Tuesday, December 13, 10:00 a.m. EST

Speakers: Jisc, Marist College, Unicon

Through the Jisc's **Effective Learning Analytics initiative**, institutions are realizing one of the world's first open-source academic early alert and intervention systems that leverages predictive analytics. Leaders of this U.K.-based initiative will share lessons learned from technical, implementation, and strategy perspectives and explain how others can get involved. Register at: <http://bit.ly/2fjeMx>

-- Lisa DiPietro, Unicon

4) Apereo Webinar Dec. 14 Noon EST: Active Learning with Image Quiz

Active student engagement is essential for effective learning but can be difficult to achieve. Apereo's new incubation project, Image Quiz, addresses this need by adapting proven cognitive strategies to create effective homework. The Image Quiz programs are aimed creating effective study routines for use outside of the classroom. This webinar will introduce to the three programs in the Image Quiz family, and will review some of the basics of effective learning. As its name suggests, Image Quiz is focused on visual learning. With the proper selection and presentation of images, students can quickly and effectively learn new concepts outside of class. This frees class time for other types of learning.

14th December, Noon US Eastern

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[\(352\) 327-4267](tel:(352)327-4267)

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Then enter 27354 as the conference pin number.

5) Sakai Camp: January 21-25 in Orlando, FL

We are pleased to announce a SakaiCamp un-conference in Orlando, FL, January 21-25, 2017 .

SakaiCamp is an informal gathering that is focused solely on Sakai. The people who show up decide on the topics of discussion, and in some cases, working sessions. Attendance includes a nice mix of developers, instructional designers, managers, etc.. And we have break out sessions so that developers can talk tech and users can talk function. We all come together in full group debriefs and discussions.

The outcome of the last SakaiCamp was a big push on Sakai 11, which as you know has been a big success; a reinvigorated QA group; a new Marketing group; Apereo Tsugi discussions; and some exploration of NGDLE (Next Generation Digital Learning Environment) and how it relates to Sakai. And even more. Plus a great time.

We hope you will join us this year!

Registration (free) : <http://bit.ly/apereosc17>

Announcements & Presentations

6) Open Position: Senior Developer/Technical Lead, Open Academic Environment (OAE) Project

We are looking for a senior developer/technical lead to work with us on the OAE project. The position allows for remote work.

For more information, follow this link to the full job listing:
<http://stackoverflow.com/jobs/128344/senior-full-stack-developer-technical-lead-research>. Or
send questions to Salla Karppinen at sk@researchresearch.com .
-- Salla Karppinen, *Unity

7) New Mailing List, open@apereo.org: Join in the Apereo Open Community-Wide Discussion

Apereo strives to be an open, inclusive, and collaborative community. One venue for sharing information of interest across the Apereo community is the open@apereo.org discussion list. Perhaps you have discovered something that works well in your project and you would like to share it with other projects. Or maybe you see a need that other projects may also share and would like help addressing it. Maybe you read an article that you would like to recommend to others in the open source community.

Whether you are new to the community or have been around for years, I encourage you to join in the discussion at open@apereo.org, a project-agnostic, community wide list. To join, send an email to open+discuss@apereo.org or visit the online forum at <https://groups.google.com/a/apereo.org/forum/#!/forum/open>.

Start a new thread today!
-- Jim Helwig, Chair, Apereo Board of Directors

8) uPortal Presentation at Educause 2016 Now Available

Beyond Portals, U of Wisconsin-Madison Lead Strategist and Apereo Board of Directors Chair Jim Helwig's presentation at Educause 2016 on a user experience-led redesign of the U of Wisconsin instance of uPortal, is now available on the conference website. Helwig's presentation unpacks the reasons behind two key observations for software success in our post-portal world:

-- It's not about the technology; it's not a destination. What we are talking about is really a gateway, strategy, or service that helps users quickly find what they need to take action.

-- It's identifying and prioritizing actions that your campus community are trying to take and creating a curated set of cards or widgets that are contextualized to your campus and perhaps aware of the roles a person has.

View the entire presentation here: www.tinyurl.com/jxu3h8e

Project News & Releases

9) Sakai 11.2. Release Now Available

We are pleased to announce on behalf of the worldwide community of participants that Sakai 11.2 is released and available for downloading [1] !

Sakai 11.2 has 220 improvements [2] in place including

- 44 fixes for Gradebook (aka GradebookNG)
- 32 fixes in Lessons
- 26 fixes in Samigo
- 10 fixes in Portal

Other areas improved include:

- Assignments
- Chat room (tool level, not portal chat)
- CK Editor (aka WYSIWYG editor ; aka Rich Text Editor)
- Forums
- Help documentation (inline)
- Messages
- Preferences
- Profile
- Resources
- Roster
- Site Info
- Statistics
- Worksite Setup

Two security issues fixed in 11.2 (details will be sent shortly to the Sakai Security Announcements list)

[1] Downloading information available at - <http://source.sakaiproject.org/release/11.2/>

[2] Improvements in 11.2 -

<https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/DOC/Sakai+11.2+Bug+Fixes+and+other+improvements> or look directly in the Jira filter - <https://jira.sakaiproject.org/issues/?filter=15871> and Github issues (for GradebookNG only) -

<https://github.com/sakaiproject/sakai/pulls?utf8=%E2%9C%93&q=is%3Apr%20is%3Aclosed%20milestone%3A11.2%20>

-- Neal Caidin, on behalf of the hard working Sakai Core team, Sakai QA team, Sakai documentation group, Sakai security WG, and more

10) News from the Opencast Project

- **Call For Papers:** The call for papers is now open for the 2017 Opencast Summit! Universitat Politècnica de València is hosting the Opencast Community Summit on March 1-3, 2017. The program committee is calling for proposals in one of two tracks (user/developer). For more details visit: <http://opencast2017.blogs.upv.es>
- **Upcoming Release:** Opencast 2.3 is on its track. The planned release is December 13, 2016. We are still looking for people testing the current version.

-- Lars Kiesow