



Sakai Newsletter

January 10, 2013

1. Michigan Upgrades to CLE 2.9.0
2. Sakai OAE Progress Report
3. Apereo Board Elections
4. ELI Pre-Conference Session on Analytics Readiness
5. Shopping Period Tool for Sakai CLE 2.8.2+ and 2.9.0+
6. Signup Tool, 2013 Release
7. Interesting Video about Sakai Implementation at the U. Valencia (In Spanish)
8. Programmers Café held by Aaron Zeckoski at U. Amsterdam
9. Security Contacts -- Reminder
10. Events

1. Michigan Upgrades to CLE 2.9.0

The University of Michigan upgraded its "CTools" Sakai CLE installation from 2.7.2 to 2.9.0 on 29 December 2012. Students and faculty returning last week from the holiday break for the start of the new semester were greeted with a redesigned skin, a variety of new capabilities and, not least (and thus far), a stable and performant user experience. [1]

In the run up to our campus release we experienced elevated database CPU usage during load testing. This issue was traced back to portal changes and the new caching strategy of retrieving at login a list of all tools associated with a user's site memberships. A fix for this problem has been merged to the 2.9.x branch and is slated for inclusion in 2.9.1 [2].

Note too that during the initial hours immediately following the upgrade a noticeable degradation in CTools 2.9 performance was detected. The issue was eventually resolved with a reboot of the system, but the cause or causes that triggered the system slow down remain under investigation. During this period it was also observed that borrowed connections (as opposed to new connections) in the Oracle database connection pool

were retrieving long textual CLOB data at very slow rates. An outdated connection pool or long-established database sessions may explain the slowdown in this case.

A small number of other issues have surfaced since the upgrade for which tickets are being generated in Sakai's Jira instance. [2] Also, a major refactoring of site object retrieval, handling and caching is currently under way that should result in improved 2.9.x performance for both the SiteService and the portal. [3]

We encourage all Sakai schools to consider upgrading to Sakai CLE 2.9 and we look forward to news of other successful upgrades from around the Community during 2013.

Cheers,

Anthony Whyte
arwhyte@umich.edu

[1] <https://ctools.umich.edu/gateway/>; <http://www.ur.umich.edu/update/archives/130109/ctools>

[2] <https://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAK-22907>

[3] For example, <https://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/SAK-23120>

[4] <https://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/KNL-1011>

2. Sakai OAE Progress Report

Hi everyone,

The third Sakai OAE Progress Update Report, which can be found at [1], summarises the progress that has been made against the end-of-year milestone that was set back in September. It also provides an overview of the progress that has been made since the last progress report, mostly in the areas of search, activities, preview processing and the user interface.

The team is planning to organise a community webinar later this month, where the implemented functionality will be demoed. An announcement will be made once a date has been chosen.

[1] <https://oae-community.sakaiproject.org/p/oQUSwec4mg/Christmas%20Progress%20Report.pdf>

Kind regards,

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

3. Apereo Board Elections

Dear Colleagues,

As you will be aware, Jasig and Sakai have merged in order to better serve the needs of the higher education community. Our new organisation, Apereo, came into being in late December.

Within this new framework, our projects will remain largely self-organising and continue to rely to a significant degree on contributed and volunteer effort. The same is true of our new Foundation. Over the course of the next eighteen months we will develop Apereo to better serve existing projects and their communities, and help incubate new and innovative software and approaches.

To accomplish this we need the active engagement of our communities and a strong, representative board. During January, we will be electing four new Apereo board members. These will be elected by the membership as a whole, and will join the four representatives each of Jasig and Sakai who have already been appointed.

The timetable for the election process is as follows:

Monday 14th January - Call for nominations

Tuesday 22nd January - Nominations close

Wednesday 30th January - Publish candidates' personal statements on Apereo website - election notice out - polls open

Thursday 7th February - Polls close

There will be a membership meeting associated with the ballot. Notice of this teleconference will be circulated shortly. This is a tight schedule, but we have much to do, and I am sure you understand the need for solid, inclusive governance.

Information on the responsibilities of Board members can be found in the Apereo bylaws, which can be found at <http://www.apereo.org/governance/bylaws>. The existing Board has also put together a guidance note on expectations associated with Board membership which can be found at <http://www.apereo.org/governance/board-member-expectations>.

If you wish to nominate someone to serve on the Board, please mail Deborah Smith (dsmith@concentra-cms.com), providing the nominee's name and contact details. It would be helpful if you could check that the individual is willing to stand, but this is not essential. Please note that self-nomination is allowed.

Lastly, please consider standing for Board election yourself. This represents a significant opportunity to play a shaping role in the formative stage of our new organisation. Your participation and energy would be greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Ian Dolphin

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

4. ELI Pre-Conference Session on Analytics Readiness

Hello all,

If you will be attending the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative (ELI) Annual Meeting in February, please consider registering for our pre-conference seminar on analytics readiness. Our goal is to come out with the core of an analytics readiness survey. Your brainpower would be a wonderful asset! Please let me know if you have any questions!

http://bit.ly/laready_eli

Presenters:

Kimberly Arnold
Evaluation Consultant, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Steven Lonn
Research Specialist, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

Matthew D. Pistilli
Research Scientist, Purdue University

From the seminar webpage:

What is necessary for an institution to begin using analytics to inform teaching and learning? This session will review and discuss current findings and components of learning analytics frameworks as identified by experts in the field. The audience will engage in discussion and hands-on activities that synthesize these ideas to begin to identify the readiness of learning analytics success at their own institutions. Furthermore,

participants will collaboratively develop the core elements of a crowdsourced survey instrument that will focus on the elements necessary for institutional-level readiness and the likelihood of achieving success in learning analytics.

Steven Lonn, Ph.D.

Research Specialist

USE Lab, Digital Media Commons, The Duderstadt Center

Learning & Teaching, MLibrary, University of Michigan

Web: <http://www.umich.edu/~slonn>

Skype: stevelonn | Twitter: stevelonn

5. Shopping Period Tool for Sakai CLE 2.8.2+ and 2.9.0+

Dear Fellow Sakai Users,

Columbia University is pleased to announce the release of the Shopping Period tool for the Sakai CLE. This tool is an extension of the Delegated Access tool and allows schools, departments and instructors to open course content to the public and/or authenticated users during a specific time period for the purpose of registration. Individuals, courses and tools within each course can be made available. Like in the Delegated Access tool, institutions can choose what role (permissions) students shopping for course content will inherit.

The Shopping Period tool was conceived of and designed by Columbia University and was developed by The Longsight Group under contract. Bryan Holladay of Longsight is the lead developer. The tool is licensed under the Educational Community License, Version 2.0.

The tool was first launched in Jan 2011 as a pilot and production launched in September 2011. During the fall-2011 term, course content of over 2300 courses was made available to students during the registration period. While most course content is limited to authenticated users, a list of open courses may be viewed at "Search Viewable Courses" on the gateway page: <https://courseworks.columbia.edu/welcome/> or directly at https://courseworks.columbia.edu/portal/site/VIEWABLE_COURSES

See more information about this tool below. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Maneesha Aggarwal at Maneesha@columbia.edu.

Documentation:

Confluence site with screen shots are available at:
<https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/DAC/Delegated+Access+Tool>

Conference:

We plan to demonstrate this tool at the upcoming 2013 Sakai Conference in San Diego.

Release 3.0 tag & 3.x branch:

The 3.0 tag is available at
<https://source.sakaiproject.org/contrib/delegatedaccess/tags/delegatedaccess-3.0/>

The 3.x maintenance branch is available at
<https://source.sakaiproject.org/contrib/delegatedaccess/branches/3.x/>

Getting it to work on your instance:

The Delegated Access and Shopping Period tools are capable of running in Sakai 2.8.2+ and Sakai 2.9.0+ without any patches to core tools.

Please reference
<https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/DAC/Delegated+Access+Tool#DelegatedAccessTool-Building> (header "Building") for more instructions and for earlier versions of Sakai.

Once it's built, look how to set up the tool at
<https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/DAC/Delegated+Access+Tool#DelegatedAccessTool-UsingtheTool>

Jira:

The Jira project is named Contrib: Delegated Access and has a prefix of "DAC"
<https://jira.sakaiproject.org/browse/DAC>

Live Demo:

- Log into <http://nightly2.sakaiproject.org:8085/portal>

username: admin

pw: admin

- Add "Delegated Access" to your My Workspace. (You have to do this through the "Worksite Setup" tool in MyWorkspace or the Administration Workspace.)
- Add "Shopping Period" to your Gateway page. (You have to do this through the "Sites" tool in MyWorkspace or Administration Workspace.)
- Go the Delegated Access tool and click "Search Users."
- Search for yourself (or another user you want to grant access to) and click the ID. This is where you can grant access to specific nodes in the hierarchy. Checking the boxes will enable the permissions. Doing this enables additional options in the tool, which will show up when reloaded.
- Grant yourself "Shopping Admin" permission on the top node and save.
- Refresh the browser.
- Click top nav link "Shopping Admin."
- Choose what sites and what permissions you want to test and save.
- Log out (or log in as a normal user) and go to the gateway page and use the Shopping Period tool.

Bryan Holladay
holladay@longsight.com

6. New Signup Tool -- 2013 Release

Hi All,

We are pleased to announce a new annual 2013 release of the Signup Tool (version: Sign-up 1.0.0). We, at Yale, have just deployed this new version into production after our successful QA. We greatly appreciate Oxford University and Steve Swinsburg for their major contributions to this release. This release has many rich new features, bug fixes and it resolved up to 53 Jira issues.

It is now available for sakai-2-8-x and sakai-2-9-x version. For any other Sakai versions, you need to modify the pom.xml files in the signup tool accordingly to your selected Sakai version.

The major new features from this release are as follows:

- Provide the ability to auto-generate site-groups according to the time slot in the event
- Provide the iCal attachment for external Apps such as MS Outlook and Google Calendar
- Allow Event organizer to select multiple co-organizers (or coordinators) for managing the event
- Allow Organizer to define a category metadata
- Numerous bugs haven been fixed

Related Jira Issues shown below:

[https://jira.sakaiproject.org/secure/IssueNavigator.jspa?reset=true&jqlQuery=project+%3D+SIGNUP+AND+fixVersion+%3D+%221.0+\[Tentative\]%22+AND+status+%3D+Resolved+ORDER+BY+priority+DESC&mode=hide](https://jira.sakaiproject.org/secure/IssueNavigator.jspa?reset=true&jqlQuery=project+%3D+SIGNUP+AND+fixVersion+%3D+%221.0+[Tentative]%22+AND+status+%3D+Resolved+ORDER+BY+priority+DESC&mode=hide)

The Signup Tool installation and configuration guides are available at:

<https://confluence.sakaiproject.org/display/SIGNUP/Home>

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks,

Peter Liu
peter.liu@yale.edu

7. Interesting Video about Sakai Implementation at the Universidad Politécnica de Valencia (In Spanish)

Hi,

This link will take you to the video (in Spanish) of a speech about the implementation of Sakai at the Universidad Politécnica de Valencia. Really interesting!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okDhfL9leJk>

Saludos

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8. Programmers Café held by Aaron Zeckoski at the University of Amsterdam

Aaron Zeckoski delivered a programmers café at the University of Amsterdam on the 8th and 9th of January. The café taught 60 graduate software engineers the basics of developing in Sakai. The event took place at the science department (Faculteit der Natuurwetenschappen, Wiskunde en Informatica). The programmer's café is part of a larger month-long event where the students are split into scrum teams, which then build Learning tools using the BasicLTI protocol.

For more details about the event, feel free to read the abstract of two presentations that Alan Berg and Hans Dekkers from the University of Amsterdam are giving at the Sakai Conference in Paris (<http://www.congres.upmc.fr/sakai2013/29.html>).

Potential advantages of immersion of software engineers within a higher Education community source sphere are:

- Creation of a pool of software engineers who can build learning tools
- A nucleation point for collaboration between member organizations in a community
- The acceleration of key community goals within its software roadmap
- The immersion of software engineers in the mentality and ethics of a higher ED community

For more information, feel free to contact us by email or in person at the Paris conference.

Regards,

Alan Berg

Innovation working group
On the use of ICT in Education & Research
University of Amsterdam
A.M.Berg@uva.nl

9. Security Contacts -- Reminder

Dear Community,

To those of you responding to these requests, thanks. You can ignore this one -- it is a repeat.

Please make sure that your institution is being kept apprised of the latest Sakai security updates. Email security at sakai@foundation.org with the security contacts from your institution, including their full name and email address.

If your institution is a new adopter of Sakai and you don't have any listed contacts, we recommend you provide two, but there is no absolute limit on the number of contacts and we will review on a case-by-case basis.

If your institution is an existing Sakai school and your list of contacts has not been updated recently, we recommend you review the list of contacts provided in the past and update as necessary. We will be happy to work with you on this.

Thanks for your attention.

Sincerely,

Neal Caidin
Sakai CLE Community Coordinator
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nealcaidin@sakaifoundation.org

10. Events

First Apereo Conference - 2013

June 3 - 6, 2013

San Diego, California

<https://wiki.jasig.org/display/JCON/Apereo+2013+Conference>

2013 EuroSakai Conference

In association with ESUP and Jasig

Jussieu Campus, University P.M. Curie (UPMC-Sorbonne Universités) Paris, France

January 28 - 30

January 30 - ESUP Days at University Paris-Descartes

[http://www.esup-](http://www.esup-portal.org/display/ESUP/Bienvenue+sur+le+site+du+consortium+ESUP-Portail+%21)

[portal.org/display/ESUP/Bienvenue+sur+le+site+du+consortium+ESUP-Portail+%21](http://www.esup-portal.org/display/ESUP/Bienvenue+sur+le+site+du+consortium+ESUP-Portail+%21)