Happy New Year! In this newsletter you'll find release news, project reports, and exciting events ahead for 2018. We welcome feedback on the new format, as well as contributions large as small, from think pieces to snippets. Send them along to **newsletter@apereo.org**!

The deadline for the February 2018 Newsletter is February 1, with publication by February 15.

From the Executive Director

Apereo was born 4 years ago – in January 2014. Since that point we've grown to encompass seventeen software communities focused around delivery or support of the academic mission. Some of those communities – such as Opencast and Xerte - existed independently before joining Apereo, and were attracted by the "better umbrella" the new foundation represented.

Some others were born within the Apereo community. The Karuta next generation ePortfolio solution, for example, an international partnership of HEC Montreal, the University of Grenoble, and Kyoto University, was facilitated by the participation of those organisations in the Apereo Community, and our incubation process. Karuta is attracting significant attention in France at present, and that reflects a further aspect of the work of Apereo – our growing network of partnerships. Our sister organisation in France – ESUP-Portail - is now actively engaged in around half our software communities, and encompasses 80% of French Higher Education institutions.

The relationship between Apereo and ESUP-Portail is growing stronger at the same time that our range of partnerships is growing larger; late last year the LAMP consortium of some eighteen smaller institutions ranging from Costa Rica to Wisconsin became Apereo members. Our "inner network" of members and partners currently runs to some 180 institutions – and that isn't counting

2018 will see something of a focus on those non-member adopters and contributors. Apereo provides a range of services to our communities, perhaps most importantly providing a legal entity to safeguard the intellectual property our members create together in the service of education.

To get better at that, we need to grow available resource, and in the main, that means growing membership. If you're at a school which is an Apereo member, you have the sincere thanks of everyone in our community. If you're at a school that relies – to whatever extent - on Apereo sponsored software, or even if you simply believe that a vibrant open source community is useful insurance against commercial- proprietary vendors, consider joining. You'll find an extended community of peers, with a global reach, engaged in solving the same problems you face.

Let's make that community stronger still in 2018. Happy New Year!

Wanted: Your Institution's Story

Consider submitting a vignette for apereo.org
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

News

Now Open! 2018 Open Apereo Call for Proposals!

Affordability of education has become a key issue, not simply for students and educational institutions, but for society as a whole. Open source software can

At Open Apereo 2018, you'll find out more about how your institution can engage with open source software and the communities that support it. You'll learn how open source works, and how it can work for your institution. You'll see first-hand how a community responds to the challenges of today by innovating for tomorrow. Above all, you'll return with real data based on real-world experiences of development and deployment that can inform your institutional practice and strategy. We look forward to seeing you at Open Apereo 2018 conference in Montreal, Quebec, June 3 - 7.

We invite you to submit a proposal now!

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Now Open! Nominations for Apereo Teaching and Learning Awards (ATLAS) 2018

The Apereo Teaching and Learning community is seeking submissions for the annual Apereo Teaching and Learning Awards competition.The award recognizes innovation and excellence in the use of digital technologies to enhance teaching, academic collaboration, and student engagement and learning.

This year, the award applicant selection process opens on January 16, 2018 and closes on February 26, 2018. During this time period, applications will be accepted at the ATLAS page in Apereo.org. Additional information on the award (mission statement, a definition of innovation, criteria, rubrics, and previous winners) will be also available on the site.
Please read the ATLAS FAQs to find out more details about the award.

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Upcoming Events

2018 SakaiCamp

Where: Orlando, Florida

What: 3rd Annual SakaiCamp

SakaiCamp is an annual small-ish (roughly 20 people +/-) unconference style working meeting. This means that the group decides on the agenda itself with large group discussions, small group breakouts, and working sessions. It's a fun and productive 2.5 day meeting with an extra day tacked on for team building. Come learn about our newly formed traditions of late night putt putt golf, Cafe Tutu Tango, and having a blast while getting work done.

Who: Open meeting. All are welcome, though space is limited. There is no registration cost, though you are responsible for your own transportation, accommodation, and food.

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Apereo Webinar - Learning What Works When Scaling Analytics Infrastructure

When: Wednesday, 24th January at 1200 US Eastern / 1700 GMT

Abstract: With student success as a primary institutional goal, NC State's DELTA organization has taken initial steps in building a scalable analytics infrastructure. This webinar provides insights into the open source frameworks, analytics technology, and strategy required to deploy analytics infrastructure with efficient IT delivery. We will discuss planning an architecture to accommodate large amounts of data, while still providing predictions in short order. We will also touch on some work we are doing building cohorts of sub-populations to improve scalability and accuracy. In addition, we will discuss ongoing and future work to improve the infrastructure even further.

Speakers:

Lou Harrison, Director of Educational Technology Services, NC State University - DELTA

Linda Feng, Software Architect, Unicon

Gary Gilbert, Software Architect, Unicon

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2018 ESUP Days/Apereo Paris

The ESUP-Portail Consortium and the Apereo Foundation are pleased to invite you to the fifth edition of the ESUP-Days/Apereo Paris event.

This joint conference will take place at the Université Paris Descartes (Paris, FRANCE) on February 6, 2018.

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Opencast Community Summit 2018: Call for Participation

The annual Opencast conference will be hosted from February 14 to February 16, 2018 at the University of Vienna. The meeting will allow participants from the Opencast community to present their current activities related to Opencast and academic video management in general.

The Opencast community is an international collaboration of individuals, higher education institutions and organizations working together to develop, define and document best practices for the management of audiovisual content in academia.

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Project News

Unicon Open Source Support Briefing - EQUELLA

When: Thursday, January 25, 9:00 a.m. PT / 12:00 p.m. ET
Unicon Open Source Support Briefings inform the public and community members of the development activities and contributions Unicon has made on behalf of its clients and its Open Source Support program subscribers. Briefings are not meant to take the place of community-driven mechanisms for communication or coordination, but to provide a look at how Unicon participates as an active community member.
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Opencast 4.0 has been released
A new version of Opencast has been released on December 8th 2017. The lecture capture software is now at stable version 4.0. It features the new asset manager, scheduler and many improvements in scalability and stability.
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Unicon Open Source Support Briefing - uPortal
When: Wednesday, January 24, 10:00 a.m. PT / 1:00 p.m. ET
Unicon Open Source Support Briefings inform the public and community members of the development activities and contributions Unicon has made on behalf of its clients and its Open Source Support program subscribers. Briefings are not meant to take the place of community-driven mechanisms for communication or coordination, but to provide a look at how Unicon participates as an active community member.
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