



Aperero Newsletter

May 15, 2013

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Announcements

1. From the Executive Director

Welcome to the first Aperero newsletter. Over the next few months we'll be strengthening internal and external communications. This shouldn't and won't be a one-to-many process -- your contributions are vital. Please consider submitting news of interest to the community.

One of the most important legacies of Jasig is the incubation process it developed, which Apereo inherited. One of our early objectives is to subject that process to broad community review, and refresh it to meet changed circumstances. To that end, a working group of volunteers has constructed a community survey, and are currently engaged in a series of interviews to elicit perspectives on how the process might be improved. Incubation -- the process of nurturing and mentoring new projects to sustainability -- is a vital part of the software and community lifecycle. It is also essential for the future of Apereo. If you would like to know more about the incubation review, visit <http://www.apereo.org/incubation> ...and don't forget to complete the survey!

Regional events are particularly important in establishing Apereo as a relevant global organisation. I recently attended the second Sakai Mexico event, which was held in Puebla in April. The event had a great range of speakers -- it was especially good to share a platform again with Joseph Hardin, the Sakai Project PI and first Foundation Board Chair, and Chuck Severance, a former Sakai Executive Director. My thanks to U-Red, an Apereo Commercial Affiliate in Mexico, for taking the lead in organising the event. For streams of the event, go to <http://www.u-red.com.mx/sakaimexico2013/program.html> .

Whilst the Sakai Mexico event was organised as a Sakai event -- and planned before the merger of Jasig and Sakai -- it was interesting to note growing interest in the long-established former Jasig projects: uPortal and CAS, and newer initiatives such as the Student Success Plan Project. As we look towards future regional events, we'll factor stronger representation for these software communities into the program mix.

Last year Sakai and Jasig signed a practically-focused memorandum of understanding with a consortium of 72 universities active in producing and localising open source software in France. Our close relationship with that consortium -- ESUP -- is bearing early fruit. ESUP institutions are now collaborating closely in the uMobile initiative. ESUP colleagues were also instrumental in establishing a French Ministry of Higher Education and Research project to trial the Sakai CLE as a MOOC platform in France. There will be early news from this project and other MOOC trials at HEC Montreal and Universiteit van Amsterdam at Open Apereo 2013 in June.

Conference Information: Open Apereo 2013

I realise you'll have been a little bombarded by conference information, but don't forget to book your place at Open Apereo 2013 2nd-6th June, in San Diego. The program has an exciting range of speakers, including keynotes from Theresa Rowe, CIO of Oakland University, and Marilyn McMillan, CIO of NYU. There will be many opportunities to network with fellow community members, and both learn from and contribute effective

practice. Program, registration details and other information can be found at <http://conf2013.apereo.org/>

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2. Marist College to Help with Sakai OAE

The Apereo Foundation has announced that Marist College will formally join the Sakai Open Academic Environment (OAE) initiative to provide leadership and resources for initial pilots as well as further development of the OAE platform. Marist will be coming together with the University of Cambridge (UK) and Georgia Tech, current project partners, to help realize OAE's compelling vision for the future of academic collaboration.

"The University of Cambridge is delighted to be working with Marist on this groundbreaking project," said John Norman, Director for Cambridge's Centre for Applied Research in Educational Technologies, "We have always respected Marist's vision and openness in their approach to technology for higher education and will greatly value their contributions to the project."

Marist's involvement in the Sakai OAE project connects with its larger strategic goal of advancing its leadership in the use of information technology to support teaching, learning and scholarship.

"Marist has played a leadership role within the Sakai community for many years," said Marist College President, Dr. Dennis Murray, "We are excited about the ways in which OAE can open up our academic community to the world, and thereby enrich our students' learning experiences while also benefiting our larger global society."

Marist College will be providing financial support to the project as well as dedicating staff and student employee time for Quality Assurance testing, something that Marist has done for the Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment (CLE) for many years. They will also be participating in several pioneering pilots, both locally at Marist, as well as an inter-institutional pilot that will leverage OAE's unique "permeability," allowing participants at all three institutions to collaborate across separate OAE instances or "tenants."

"The ability for users to control whether content and interactions are shared with just their group, the entire institution, across institutions or even with the world is extremely powerful from a community building and collaboration perspective," said Josh Baron, Senior Academic Technology Officer and Pro-Tem chair of the Apereo Foundation Board of Directors, whose office has been piloting Sakai OAE with faculty for the past semester.

In addition to participating in this inter-institutional pilot, Marist will also be leveraging the unique capabilities of Sakai OAE to support a new initiative called the Academic Community Cloud or ACC. The initiative's goal is to "go beyond MOOCs" by opening up the Marist academic community, not just its courses, to the world, thus allowing the public to connect and collaborate with Marist as means to create new knowledge.

"As a center of excellence at Marist College, the Enterprise Computing Community (ECC) will be among the first groups to pilot Sakai OAE as part of the Academic Community Cloud initiative", said Dr. Roger Norton, Dean of the Marist School of Computer Science and Mathematics, "with the goal of helping our community connect with those interested in enterprise computing."

3. Winners of the Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award for 2013

The Apereo Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of the Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award (TWSIA) for 2013.

They are:

1. Introduction to Communication Science from the University of Amsterdam
(Fully-online course)

Arie Den Boon (Visiting Professor, Communication Science)

Category: Higher Education: Fully Online and Hybrid Courses

2. Advanced Research Design from the University of Cape Town

(Hybrid course)

Cheryl Brown and Cheryl Hodgkinson-Williams (Lecturers, Centre for Educational Technology)

Category: Higher Education: Fully Online and Hybrid Courses

3. Project Software Engineering, BSc Computer Science from the University of Amsterdam

(Other Uses of Sakai)

Alan Berg (Educational Consultant, Center of Information Technology), Tim Bloeme, Hans Dekkers.

Category: Project Sites and Other Uses of Sakai

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

Each of the winners will be recognized for their use of Sakai for teaching and learning at the Apereo (formerly Sakai-Jasig) Conference in San Diego, California, June 3-6, 2013. Details of their winning projects will be shared at the conference. For information about attending or viewing the proceedings, click the Apereo conference link, <http://conf2013.apereo.org/>.

Entries were received from schools and universities in the U.S. and from South Africa, the Netherlands, India, and England.

The Teaching with Sakai Innovation Award (TWSIA) is a project of the Sakai Teaching and Learning Community. This is the 6th year of the competition.

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

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Projects

4. OAE Progress Report

The fourth OAE progress update report can be found at [1], summarising the progress that has been made since the middle of January. It describes the architectural, feature, testing and production-related work that has been done on the way towards an initial OAE release, which is due in July 2013. Piloting will take place at Cambridge University, Georgia Tech and Marist College, and this report describes the scope and focus of this release and pilot.

[1] <https://oae-community.sakaiproject.org/content#p=pYK6vy0eie/April%20Progress%20Report.pdf>

Kind regards,

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Community

5. Linking to External Tools from a VLE/LMS

This entry by Adam Marshall in his WebLearn blog discusses linking to external tools from a VLE/LMS: IMS LTI, OAuth or Webauth, or any other web-based Single Sign-On. WebLearn (Sakai at Oxford) offers a number of technologies for people wanting to interoperate with external tools and services. This blog post attempts to explain each option and then make a suggestion as to which one should be used.

<https://blogs.it.ox.ac.uk/adamweblearn/2013/04/linking-to-external-tools-from-a-vlelms-ims-lti-oauth-or-webauth-or-any-other-web-based-single-sign-on/>

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6. Recommendations from WebLearn Student Experience

This entry in the WebLearn blog includes recommendations from the Student Digital Experience (DIGE) project, a small project that was run in late 2012 to study how students currently use WebLearn in support of their learning. (WebLearn is Oxford University's Sakai instance.) The investigators focused on gathering information about student behaviour in finding, navigating and interacting with their current WebLearn areas. The report is adapted from the project report by Fawei Geng, Joanna Wild and Jill Fresen.

<https://blogs.it.ox.ac.uk/adamweblearn/2013/03/recommendations-from-weblearn-student-experience-project/>

7. ComputerWorld Article Mentions uPortal and CAS

Read an article in ComputerWorld with an interview of James Webb from West Texas A&M and comments about uPortal and CAS.

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9238878/Sizing_up_open_source_Not_so_simple

8. Webinar -- Unicon Updates Open Source Support Service

Wednesday, May 22, 2 p.m. EST (11 a.m. PST) GMT -5

Enterprise open source projects require support to help institutions and organizations reap all of their advantages -- increased control, variety of choices, and reduced cost. In this webinar, learn about Unicon's updated commercial support service, Open Source Support. The service offers enterprise-level support at various SLAs to meet the needs of deployments of any size. This webinar will feature an overview of the updated program, highlighting how Unicon's team of open source experts can provide superior support for open source projects. Visit <http://www.unicon.net/support-webinar> to register.

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9. Events

Open Apereo 2013 - 2013
June 3 - 6, 2013
San Diego, California
<http://conf2013.apereo.org/>