

The page features several decorative rounded squares in blue and grey, arranged in a staggered pattern. One blue square is in the top left, another blue square is below it and to the right, a grey square is to the left of that, and another grey square is on the right side. A blue square is also in the bottom right, and a grey square is in the bottom left.

# Academus™ 2.0 Release Notes

**Prepared Exclusively for**

UNICON Academus Customers

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# Functionality Introduced in Academus 2.0

## Notification Portlet

A Notification Portlet has been added to facilitate sending notifications within the portal to portal users and other recipients. The Portlet has been integrated with notifications from the Personal Calendar, Groupware Calendar, Groupware Roster and Survey channels. The Portlet also enables the composition of notifications with attachments and email options along with the priority status of the notification/mail.

## Blogging Portlet

A Blogging Portlet has been added that supports the ability to publish multiple blog instances – each instance in its own channel. Access is controlled through Academus and Admin users are able to single sign on (SSO) to the administration console. With the appropriate privileges a user can add, modify and delete blog categories and entries and also add and delete files. Also supports management features to set up and update blog properties.

## Permission Portlet

A Permissions Portlet has been added to manage group and user permissions in the Notifications Portlet, Briefcase Portlet (optional in migration), Blogger Portlet and Academus Web Content Management Portlet. In the Briefcase Portlet, administrator can set up permissions for Groups/users to view, edit, delete, and share folders. In Notifications Portlet permissions can be set to Compose, Attach, Delete, Save, Import, Export and Message viewing. In the Blogger Portlet permissions can be set to edit categories and entries, file upload and properties editing. In WCP Portlet permission can be set to view to provide access to WebContent editor.

## SSO Gateway Portlet

Academus 2.0 can be configured to support different 3<sup>rd</sup> party applications integrated and published through Portlet including multiple instances of the applications. This new SSO Gateway kit will allow for streamlined integration with third-party applications. System administrators are able to apply SSO to applications through Academus quickly by editing a single configuration file.

Single Sign On configuration and certification for number Gateway Portlets have been included as part of the Academus 2.0 release these include:

### Academus WCM

A Content Management Solution has been integrated that allows multiple instances of published content to be accessed within their own channel(s) in Academus. A link within the WebContent channel provides authorized users the ability to SSO from the Academus Portal to the Academus Web Content Management system. Users have the ability to display a “page” of content authored in the Academus WCM to a Portlet published in Academus. A refresh button within the corresponding Academus Portlet is available to display updates made to a “page”– following a “Publish” action –

without republishing the Portlet in Academus or restarting the portal. Contact your Unicon Account Manager for more information on licensing the Academus WCM solution.

### Live Text

A single sign-on tool for Live Text has been integrated with Academus providing users with privileges to LiveText the ability to click on a link to that application in the Gateway Portlet and be signed in. The SSO Link can be configured to launch the target application in a new browser window or in the channel as an inline frame. The SSO provides error handling for the scenario when a user clicks a link in the Gateway Portlet but has not been granted privileges to LiveText. Contact your Unicon Account Manager for more information on licensing the LiveText portfolio solution.

### Sakai

A single sign-on tool for Sakai has been integrated with Academus providing users with privileges to Sakai the ability to click on a link to that application in the Gateway Portlet and be signed in. The SSO Link can be configured to launch the target application in a new browser window or in the channel as an inline frame. The SSO provides error handling for the scenario when a user clicks a link in the Gateway Portlet but has not been granted privileges to Sakai. Contact your Unicon Account Manager for more information on Unicon's support and deployment service offerings for the SAKAI learning management system.

## Additional Browser Support

Academus has been enhanced to support Netscape 8.0, FireFox 1.0.6, and Safari 2.0 on Mac OS 10.4

# Enhancements to Academus 1.5 Functionality

## uPortal Framework

In the spring of 2005, JA-SIG released uPortal 2.4.2. As part of Unicon's effort to be an active supporter of uPortal and its community, the Academus 2.0 release has been designed to run on top of uPortal 2.4.2

Unicon made some changes to the group service provided with the base instance of the uPortal framework to improve the overall performance of the portal. Your institution should see no impact from these changes beyond improved system performance. However, if your institution has coded custom channels or Portlets that are dependent on the reference implementation of the local individual group service you may encounter errors following the 2.0 upgrade. This type of a dependency is widely recognized as a poor coding practice so is not typically expected to be an issue for most customers. If you are encountering problems, Unicon can assist you with mentoring on the best practices for your custom development.

## Navigational Enhancements

Navigational enhancements focus on the main navigation systems, both enhancing the traditional tabs as well as adding new components for convenience and redundancy.

### QuickLinks

A persistent callout area that displays links to channels prioritized by the system administrator, utilizing one-click access to popular channels. Clicking one of the Quick Links will take the user to a focused view of that channel. Institutions have the option to enable or disable the Quick Links feature, as well as specify the desired presentation location within the portal layout.

### Expanding Menus

Expanding (drop-down, fly-out) menus on each of the main navigation tabs. The expanded menu displays a list of links of the channels on that tab. Clicking one of the menu links takes the user to a focused view of that channel. Institutions have the option to enable or disable the Expanding Menu feature. Expanding Menus are available only to Netscape, Mozilla and FireFox users. These menus are not supported in Internet Explorer or Safari.

### Sub Navigation

A left-hand navigation component comprised of a list of links of the channels on the current tab. Clicking one of these links will take the user to a focused view of that channel. Institutions have the option to enable or disable the Sub Navigation feature.

### Web Search

An optional, persistent Web search feature that links to third-party public search engines. The list of third party search engines is configurable by the institution. Institutions have the option to enable or disable the Web Search feature.

## Preferences Enhancements

Preferences enhancements focus on improving the preferences interaction and interface, both enhancing the current views as well as adding new features for convenience and usability.

### Preference Shortcuts

A set of links (add content, change layout, and pick colors) appear on the tab-view. These links are shortcuts into the corresponding preferences workflow.

### Usability Improvements

Enhancements to the preferences mode to strengthen the modal interaction and increase the usability of the interface. Modified presentation of fragments to more clearly communicate which tabs can be edited by the end users versus which tabs are actually fragments locked down by the system administrator.

## View Enhancements

View enhancements focus on the two main types of view into the portal, the tab view and the focused view to provide a more standard, visually appealing “web page” view and increasing the elegance of column sizing and layout.

### Focus View

Strengthen the usability of the focused view by simplifying the focused view (reducing extraneous information and navigation systems) and giving the focused channel more real estate on the page.

### Channel Usability

The presentation, button and link labeling, and channel workflows have been revised in a number of Academus channels as part of the overall changes to improve the end user experience in their day to day interaction with Academus functionality. Channels with significant presentation changes include Calendar, Survey Author and Bookmarks

### Column Size & Layout

Simplify the column size and layout interaction. Increase usability by limiting the maximum number of columns to three. Allow for an optional left navigation column. Change column preferences to a graphical layout selection for column width distribution with column width options of narrow, wide, or even.

## General Skin and Theme Enhancements

General enhancements focus on improving the standardization, consistency, and flexibility of the theme code to provide greater skin support and make training for and enabling of client modifications to the theme and skin easier.

### Skin Flexibility Enhancements

Variable-controlled logic add to the theme to produce (or not produce) hooks in the rendered (X) HTML for various institution-specific options (branding, navigation components, or copyright and legal information). Structure (X)HTML to provide for more skin design possibilities.

## Code & Services Enhancements

Performed Maintenance on UI code for greater standards compliance and consistency in component architecture and naming conventions. Coded the theme (X)HTML output to validate to the W3C XHTML Transitional DTD. Comments were added to the code for greater ease in understanding and modifying the UI code.

## Preference Lock Down

Changes were added to the theme to provide a configuration parameter which allows institution to enable or disable the Preference (Customize) link.

## ADA Skin

A default Academus 2.0 installation will have "academus" and "academusADA" skins registered within the portal as selectable skins.

## Channel and Portlet Enhancements

### Bookmarks

The ability to edit existing bookmarks was added. Additionally the bookmark description field was made optional when creating or editing a bookmark.

### Classified

The phone number validation for Classified was removed to support international phone numbers, as well as phone numbers which included extension information.

### Survey Author

Additional confirmation messages for users deleting an unsaved survey.

### Poll

Enhanced the poll channel to support multiple concurrent distributions of the same survey, if each survey is published to the poll channel under a different distribution name.

## Issues Resolved in Academus 2.0

### Calendar

Previously when a Calendar event is sent to multiple groups, users that belong to more than one group will receive multiple notifications for the event.

When a user shares a calendar with an LDAP user and gives write access, the LDAP user is not able to write to the calendar. If the user selects 'Everyone' instead of a specific LDAP user, the LDAP users are able to add entries. This issue has been resolved in this release.

### Briefcase Portlet

If a user publishes multiple Briefcase Portlet instances to the same tab, actions taken on the second instance will be repeated in the first Portlet (Ex: Click Open a folder etc.). This issue has been resolved to show action on just one Portlet.

While attempting to remove users from the shared LDAP folders, the channel would fail to render when the 'Remove' button is clicked after selecting the user. This issue has been resolved.

In the briefcase folder view, when the 'Size' column link is selected to sort the folders and files contained in the selected folder, only the files are sorted and not the folders. This issue has been resolved to sort the folders and files.

When a briefcase Portlet drive is deployed with owner access and drive sharing turned off (sharing button disabled), the portal will fail to render when a folder is edited in that drive. This issue has been resolved.

### Group Chat

While accessing a Group Chat channel to launch a Chat window as a PAGES group user that belongs to the group that has been given the access, the screen displays a message that the user has been removed from the group. This has been resolved to give user the access.

### Campus News

Parent Topics were not displaying while viewing articles under different topics. This issue was resolved to display the topics correctly.

### Bookmarks

When a folder was added to Bookmarks channel without a title the channel just refreshed without giving any warning or error messages. It has been fixed to generate a warning message to the user to enter a title.

## CMS

While adding a note from Notepad Channel, a blank page is displayed while using Fire Fox.1.0.4 browser. The page has to be refreshed every time a note is added to see contents. This was a browser related issue specific to Fire Fox 1.04 and has been resolved in Fire Fox 1.0.6

While launching a Chat window from the CMS chat link, an instance of the CMS channel window opens instead of the Chat window. This was noticed in Fire Fox 1.0.4, Netscape 7 Mozilla 1.7.8 browsers and the issue has been resolved to display only the chat window.

In the discussion forums the edit and delete icon for the forums created was displaying incorrect mouse over text as forums instead of edit and delete. This issue is resolved to show correct text.

## Supporting Hardware and Software

### Certified Server and Database Combinations

The following server and database combinations have been tested and certified for use with Academus:

- Redhat Linux ES 3.0 with Postgres 7.4.3
- Redhat Linux ES 4.0 with Postgres 7.4.3
- Solaris 9.0 with Oracle 9i
- Solaris 10.0 with Oracle 9i
- Windows 2003 with SQL Server 2000

### Supporting Application Updates

The following supporting applications are now being used:

- IIS 6.0 (Windows); Apache 2.0.54 (Linux/Solaris))
- Tomcat 5.0.28 for all Windows, Linux and Solaris
- Jnet Direct SQL Server driver: 3.0.23
- Mod\_Jk 1.2.14 for Windows, Mod\_Jk 1.2.13 for Linux/Solaris
- Sun Java 1.4.2\_05
- Coffee Link NNTP Server 1.3.1
- Jboss 3.2.5 JMS Server
- Aspell 0.60 ( Spell Checker)
- Blojsom 2.26 ( Blog)

### Supported Browsers

A table with the supported operating systems and browsers for Academus 2.0 is included below.

**Academus 2.0: Supported OS and Browsers**

	FireFox	Internet Explorer	Mozilla	Netscape		Safari	
	1.0.6	6.0	1.7	7.2	8.0	1.2.3	2.0
Win2000	X	X	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
WinXP	X	X	X	X	X	N/A	N/A
Mac OSX*	X	N/A	X	X	X	X**	X***

\*Mac users will not be able to use the Chat channel if SSL is enabled.

\*\*Mac OS X10.3 only

\*\*\*MAC OS X10.4 only

**Note: JavaScript must be enabled on all versions**

## Known Issues in Academus 2.0

### Expanding Menus

Due to the Academus theme and skin, the QuickLinks feature (tab dropdowns) only functions on Mozilla based browsers.

### Tab Limitations

Based on the custom skin for your institution there will be an upper limit to the number of tabs that can be displayed properly and the length of the names for the tab. For reference the default Academus 2.0 skin can support the presentation of 15 tabs for a single end user and tab names of up to 20 characters.

### Groups Manager

While creating a group in the Groups Manager that are not local like PAGES or LDAP, if the portal is not restarted after the group has been created than in some channels like Briefcase and Notification Portlets where the user queries for individual user while adding recipients using the substring that matches the group names that were created will cause the channel to fail. Example: "P" or "AG" etc.

### Fragments

Fragments may only be published targeting groups and not individual users even though the group selector allows the individual users to be selected when publishing. The CfragmentManager Channel simply ignores any users that were selected.

Fragment Manager times out with large data set when loaded with large amount of fragments (Example 2000 fragments). This is caused because on each screen rendering each fragment is reloaded one by one regardless of whether it's going to be utilized in the workflow.

Excess PersonDirectory queries are being generated by Unicon services during user login. This increases the data source hits even more when aggregated layout fragments are added. This issue is being investigated and will be fixed in the next patch release.

### Briefcase Portlet

The web application name in the download URLs generated in the Briefcase Portlet is hard coded. At the moment, all downloaded URLs expect that the Briefcase Portlet and downloaded servlet will always be deployed within a web application named "AcademusApps". If the name changes, the download links will be pointing to an obsolete location and they will not work.

In an windows environment some special characters like "| : " < > . ? \ / " cannot be used to name a folder. An error message is generated.

In the briefcase folder a user cannot view the available disk space for a shared, LDAP and Network

folder.

When a folder is shared between 2 different groups and the user tries to copy or move the folder/files, the channel fails to respond. This issue will be resolved in the next patch release.

## Notification Portlet

While composing a message, uploading any attachment file that is above the configured file size limit will not generate any warning message. The user is simply taken to the compose page and the file is not uploaded.

## Calendar

In Personal Calendar a user can use export function even if no event exist. An error message notifying the user will be added in the next release.

While importing a Task List, the time imported is always 12 am when the actual Task time is different.

While adding a composite view to the Personal Calendar and the pressing the “Enter” key on the keyboard instead of clicking on the OK button on the screen generates a java warning message.

While creating a calendar event and sending notifications, if the users email is entered directly in the Email field and than notification and email checkbox is selected, the email users will not receive the email. This works only when the email checkbox is selected. This issue will be resolved in the next patch release.

## Classifieds

When selecting people to add as approvers for classifieds, individual names are duplicated if that person is in multiple groups.

While assigning Classified Permissions if the user is granted the delete permission only, it does not let the user delete any posted classified, instead it works only if the user is granted the ability to manage classified topics.

## Survey

Within the Survey Author channel Results Summary, the information provided in the Sent Field can be misleading. This field does not represent the number of individual users a survey was distributed to when distributing to group. Currently, it only show one if distributing the survey to one group, two if distributing the survey to two groups, if individual recipients are selected by name for a distribution then each of those individuals will be counted

## Collaborative Groupware

In the roster channel while importing a roster XML file without an enrollment status makes the change fail to render.

If a duplicate user exist within the LDAP and both users appear on the same page when adding users to a roster the enroll link does not work. There is no error displayed in the log.

Some FireFox browsers users may have difficulty viewing the Gradebook column headers. These users should download the flash plug in from <http://www.mozilla.org/products/firefox/central.html>

## PAGS Group

PAGS group users will not receive email whenever a Calendar event is added or a survey is published to the PAGS group. The user will receive notification and will be able to access the event and survey when they access the respective channels.

## Sakai

When a user logs into Academus and accesses the SAKAI gateway Portlet they will need to click the Login link and enter their SAKAI username and password. If the user logs out of SAKAI using the SAKAI logout link they will need to click the login link again the next time they access the channel and re-enter their credentials - so the behavior is not that of a true single sign on. Unicon is currently investigating changes that can be made to the SAKAI application or customizations to the Academus gateway Portlet to accommodate the SAKAI limitations for a more consistent SSO experience.

After the user has signed on to Sakai Portlet through Academus, if the user/admin changes the password, next time the user logs into Academus and single signs into Sakai, the user has to use the old password. New changed password is not recognized by Sakai.

## Live Text SSO

While using Netscape 8.0 selecting Logout or Help link will take the user out of Academus. To get back into Academus the user has to click on the back button on the browser window.

## LDAP

In the change LDAP password channel, if the new passwords (New & Confirm) do not match an error message is thrown but the password is changed to what was entered in the New password field.

## Academus WCM

Refer to Red Dot CMS 6.1 Release notes for browser limitations.

## Known Issues in uPortal Framework 2.4.2

### Search Feature in Content Subscriber

The search feature in the Content Subscriber returns inaccurate results. The search functionality is sensitive to capitalization within the search term. This is a known issue in the uPortal community.

### Preferences/Customize

Within Preferences/Customize Your Portal mode, the list of available channels is not alphabetized, making it more cumbersome to locate and subscribe to the desired channel. This is a known issue in the uPortal community.

Within Preferences, when a user with permission sets up a two-column format for a new content fragment each column shows a column width of 100%, causing the second column to be very small and un-usable. The user can correct this by setting each column width to 50%, thus making them both equal in width. But these changes will not be saved once the user logs out of the portal. This is a known issue in the uPortal community. As a work around, Unicon has taken out the ability to adjust column widths by percentage when creating fragments and tabs, and forces the column sizes to even or a narrow and wide column.