Sakai 2.8

Open Source Collaboration and Learning Environment

Free to Use, Free to Develop, Freedom for Education

Sakai is an enterprise online collaboration and learning environment (CLE). The Sakai framework and tools add value to instructors, researchers, and students by supporting teaching and learning, allowing ad hoc groups, and by facilitating community and research collaboration. These capabilities enable instructors to efficiently develop and manage courses, communicate with students, and facilitate research.

Sakai is a free and open source project that is built and maintained by the Sakai community. Sakai's development model is called "Community Source" and includes developers from the "community" of universities and organizations that have adopted, supported, and are using Sakai. Active members such as system administrators, user-support specialists, and end users share their experiences and best practices.

The Sakai Foundation is a non-profit organization supported by voluntary partner contributions. The Foundation is dedicated to coordinating activities that foster software development and community health to ensure Sakai's long-term viability.
Powerful and flexible tools that enhance online teaching, learning, assessment, research, and collaboration.

Flexible Tools
Sakai enables "worksites" and has tools to help organize communication and collaborative work on campus and around the world. Using a Web browser, users choose from Sakai's tools to create a worksite that meets their needs. To use Sakai, no knowledge of HTML is necessary.

Sakai OAE
The Sakai Open Academic Environment is a new system that embraces a new vision for academic collaboration. Tools in Sakai OAE provide:

- **Personal control over content**
- **Social networking to connect those with similar work interests**
- **Connections with tools outside the organization**
- **Remixable content and connections on an open canvas**

Effective Instruction, Research, and Collaboration Tools
Faculty, students, and staff benefit from a rich array of tools that enhance and support course development, instruction, and collaboration

Advantages of adopting Sakai include:

- **Automated test and quiz grading for improved accuracy**
- **Convenient course and project worksite setup**
- **Easy import/export of content modules**
- **Electronic document distribution**
- **Multiple messaging options with an integrated calendar**
- **Fully functional gradebook**

Highly Customizable
It is well known that instructors teach in a variety of styles and students learn through different methods. Sakai meets the needs of the institution, the individual instructor, and the group leader through its highly customizable nature.

Sakai has a modular architecture with additional tools available for installation, and APIs for site management, user accounts, tooling, and authentication integrations.

Available site types, site skins, sets of tooling associated with site types, groups and sections, permissions, and terms are all configurable and customizable to deliver an institution-specific Sakai experience.

The community-source Sakai Collaboration and Learning Environment allows institutions to engage students with compelling courses, projects, collaboration, and learning opportunities via the online campus.
Delivering Multiple Capabilities to the Online Campus

**Tool Examples**

The following are just a few examples of the many tools available that can facilitate the different critical functions of an online campus.

---

**Sakai 2.8**

The Sakai CLE 2.8 series builds on previous releases by refining and stabilizing the 2.x feature set. It offers dozens of new features and improvements to key areas like accessibility, internationalization, performance, and security. Sakai CLE 2.8.1 includes over 250 bug fixes that address key areas like accessibility, internationalization, performance, and security. Highlights from this new release include:

- **Accessibility, performance, and security enhancements**
- **Improvements to the core tool set**
- **Support for IMS BasicLTI outcomes and improved external integration capabilities**
- **Enhanced user profile options**
- **Language / locale updates**

New to Sakai 2.8 are the Lesson Builder, Assignments2, and Gradebook2 tools. The Lesson Builder is a tool that allows an instructor to organize resources, quizzes, tests, and media on a single page. Assignments2 enables instructors to create, distribute, collect, return, and grade assignments. Each student's submissions are private and can only be seen by the instructor and that student. Gradebook2 allows instructors to calculate, store, and distribute class grade information to their students.
Services and Support for Sakai

Full Support from Start to Finish
Implementing and maintaining Sakai is a long-term project involving multiple phases. Finding resources within the institution to provide expertise and guidance at every step can be a challenge. Unicon offers services for each phase of the LMS project life cycle, from evaluation and implementation to customization, support, and upgrades.

The Unicon team includes architects, developers, integration consultants, and system administrators who are open source systems experts with extensive community and project knowledge.

Services for Sakai
With help from the Sakai Project and its community members, many resources are available to help educate on best practices for implementing and maintaining Sakai. Nevertheless, attempting to educate the institution’s IT team and installing an open source solution can result in the loss of valuable time and resources.

Unicon’s strength lies in getting the job done right the first time. Unicon’s Sakai services and support teams are open source systems experts with deep community and project knowledge. Leveraging experience gained from hundreds of open source framework implementations, Unicon’s services and support teams can help the institution design, implement, and maintain an online learning environment.

- Platform Evaluation
- Implementation Planning
- Branding and User Experience
- Installation and Configuration
- Training (Administrative, Developer, and Functional)
- Customization and Integration
- Consulting and Mentoring
- Cooperative Support for Sakai

Support for Sakai
Cooperative Support for Sakai is a commercial support program featuring direct access to qualified technical staff, under four SLAs ranging from “Developer” (for those just getting started with Sakai) to “Dedicated” (for those seeking unlimited 24x7 support). Participation in the program requires an annual subscription fee that enables institutions to access the support services and also funds a dedicated support and development team. All development work performed by the team is done in direct participation with the open source communities. Cooperative Support is also available for CAS, Grouper, Shibboleth, uMobile, and uPortal, with discounts available to subscribers needing support for multiple open source software products.

The Sakai Foundation
The Sakai Foundation is a non-profit organization that evolved from the original Sakai Project. The Foundation actively develops a large, self-sustaining community of more than 100 members representing universities, colleges, and institutions worldwide that share the Sakai Foundation’s open source vision for leveraging the economics and innovation of common academic software. For more information, visit the Sakai website at http://sakaiproject.org.

Unicon is a Commercial Affiliate of the Sakai Foundation
Unicon, as one of the original Sakai Commercial Affiliates, has vested interest in ensuring Sakai’s long-term success. Unicon provides a full range of services and support for an institution’s instance of Sakai. For a full list of services visit: http://www.unicon.net/services/sakai.

For more information please contact us at:

Unicon, Inc.
1760 East Pecos Rd. Suite 432
Gilbert, AZ 85295
480.558.2400 Phone
480.558.2320 Fax
info@unicon.net
www.unicon.net

Unicon is a Registered Trademark of Unicon, Inc. All other product or service names are the property of their respective owners. © Copyright 2012, Unicon, Inc. All rights reserved.