Sakai Architecture and Roadmap

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KYOU / sakai

Boundary, Situation



It takes a village to build a CLE....

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Collaboration Happens

• As individuals, we are parts of many groups and have many roles in those groups







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Maintaining the Map

- Read E-Mail and move to proper folders
- Copy attachments into folders
- Searching for information
- Making calendar entries from E-Mail



Imagine Software

- That could create a new "context" in a few clicks
 - Enroll/invite others to the context as necessary in a few more clicks
- Context capabilities
 - E-Mail list (automatically extracts attachments and places them in folders which appear on your desktop)
 - Schedule (you can either see a "federated" schedule across all contexts or look at one context)
 - Persistent browser-based chat quite useful during meetings when the Polycom or VRVS messes up :)
 - Resource area where anyone can upload files which appear on everyone's desktop at the same time (WebDAV)
 - Threaded discussion area for the context
- Problem: There are literally hundreds of solutions to portions of this problem.



More Software

- A single place to see new activity in your "contexts"
- These contexts are stored on backed-up production servers rather than your desktop for many years
- A search across your contexts that would be really cool
- The ability to customize each context in terms of look, feel, and capabilities
- The ability to build unique domain specific tools and interfaces to extend the mechanism using Portlets, Servlets, or Applets



A 10-Year Collaborative Mission @ UM







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Science of Collaboratories



http://www.scienceofcollaboratories.org/

NSF Funded ITR



CHEF 1.0

- Fall 2001: CHEF Development begins
 - Generalized extensible framework for building collaboratories
 - "Best-of" CourseTools, SPARC, WorkTools
- Integrate across current UM projects and adopt relevant standards
- Funded internally at UM as replacement for CourseTools
- All JAVA Open Source
 - Jakarta Jetspeed Portal
 - Jakarta Tomcat Servlet Container
 - Jakarta Turbine Service Container
- Build community of developers through workshops and outreach



Not "just" a portal

- Portals are a framework to deploy tools (aka rectangles) and focus on how the user wants to arrange their own "rectangles"
- While CHEF technically is a portal, the goal is for the tools to work together closely and seem to really be parts of a larger "tool"
- CHEF has a lot of features, (services, presence, notification, etc..) which bridge the gap between portal and application framework



CHEF Applications

- CourseTools Next Generation
- WorkTools Next Generation
- NEESGrid
- NSF National Middleware Grid Portal



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Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation





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NSF National Middleware Iniative Indiana, UTexas, ANL, UM, NCSA

es community participation on severl levels. If you which to contribute v to participate, please contact us at webmaster@ogce.org.



What we learned in 10 years.

- Portal technology is a good idea forces component approach functionality does not "smear"
- Portals are not just aggregators of independent information but can be an application framework
- Many (but not all) tools can be used for both teaching and learning and research collaboration
- Separating functionality into lightweight GUI components and pluggable services with strong and well-specified APIs allows significant reusability
- GUI elements program to abstract service interfaces not databases, file systems, LDAP, etc. this allows great flexibility.



While we were building collaboratories...

- The Open Knowledge Initiative (OKI) at MIT was developing APIs for learning management systems involving many universities (UM, Indiana, Stanford, and MIT were strong participants)
- Indiana, Stanford, MIT all developed learning management system
- Java Community Process (JCP) produced JSR-168 The "unified" portal standard API
- Oasis developed the Web Services for Remote Portals (WSRP) standard
- The open-source uPortal portal project had quietly moved into the #1 open source portal (#4 including commercial vendors)



So we got together and drew an über collaboration picture...



Conforming tools to Tool Portability Profile

Intensive community building/training

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Today's News

Thursday, January 22, 2004

4 Colleges Collaborate on Open-Source Courseware

By ANDREA L. FOSTER

In what may be a big threat to commercial providers of coursemanagement systems, four universities have announced a \$6.8-million collaborative venture to create opensource courseware tools and related software for higher-education institutions.

The universities developing the system, called the Sakai Project, are the Indiana University system, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, which will lead the effort.

HEADLINES

Bush proposes \$250-million job-training program in visits to community colleges

U. of Pennsylvania to name Amy Gutmann of Princeton as its new president

Record companies sue 532 computer users, accusing them of illegally sharing songs

4 colleges collaborate on opensource courseware







Boundary, Situation

• Universities

- Indiana
- Michigan
- MIT
- Stanford
- Projects
 - Open Knowledge Initiative (OKI)
 - uPortal JaSIG
- Funding (\$6.8M 2 Years)
 - Mellon Foundation
 - Hewlett Foundation
 - Partners Program
 - Core member match



What we agreed to build...

- A Collaborative Learning Environment
 - Open Source
 - Uses OKI (Open Knowledge APIs)
 - Uses uPortal as its portal framework
- Similar to
 - Blackboard
 - WebCT
- And all four core institutions would deploy the commonly developed software



Sakai 1.0

- Site based collaboration environment
 - Worksite management
 - E-Mail Lists
 - Threaded Discussion
 - Resources (folders) with WebDav support
 - Chat
 - No search yet :(
 - Many other tools
- Beta Release July 15, 2004
- Production site available at ctools.umich.edu



More Sakai Beta Tools

Admin: Alias Editor (chef.aliases) Admin: Archive Tool (chef.archive) Admin: Memory / Cache Tool (chef.memory) Admin: On-Line (chef.presence) Admin: Realms Editor (chef.realms) Admin: Sites Editor (chef.sites) Admin: User Editor (chef.users) Announcements (chef.announcements) Assignments (chef.assignment) C. R. U. D. (sakai.crud) Chat Room (chef.chat) **Discussion (chef.discussion)** Discussion (chef.threadeddiscussion) **Dissertation Checklist (chef.dissertation) Dissertation Upload** (chef.dissertation.upload) Drop Box (chef.dropbox) **Email Archive (chef.mailbox)**

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Sakai Going Forward

- Focus on the"Learning" of Collaborative Learning Environment through 2Q05
 - Getting ready for production deployment at the four partner sites
 - Improving the look and feel of the software
 - Many feature enhancements (to satisfy four + 60 schools)
 - New GUI Programming Environment based on Java Server Faces
 - Building new set of Sakai APIs (Java)
 - Based on OKI Enabling RDF
- Move into OGCE and NEESGrid starting 3Q04
- Release 2.0 2Q04



Sakai Architecture

QuickTime™ and a TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor are needed to see this picture. QuickTime™ and a TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor are needed to see this picture.



Portlet Design Patterns - Where does the information come from / go to?

	The Portal API						
Presentation	Presentation	Presentation					
The medium-thin portlet which depends on a locally instance standardized API for all persistence, communication, etc.	Portlets handle interaction patterns, event handling, and state management.	Portlets use many different APIs (there is not a 1-to-1 crrespondence) between portlet and API components.					
Strong layer with many APIs with a pluggable implementation capability for each API allowing							

for significant reconfiguration and reorientation of the portal without modifying tools.

TCP/IP, JDBC, File-system, low-level web services, grid-services etc...



The Sakai Tool Portability Profile Framework

The Sakai API is based heavily on the OKI API but focused on the portability and interoperability of Sakai tools. The Sakai API should be though of as value add on top of the OKI APIs. The Sakai APIs encode what OKI would call "out-of-band" agreements explicitly into method calls, parameters and return values.



Sakai Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)

- Make tool development easier
- Promote data and tool portability between Sakai environments
- Hide some data management details
- Error handling
- Provide re-usable system and application services to tool developers



Simple Deployment

In a simple deployment, the Sakai system may just use the Sakai provided API implementations and point it at a database connection, let Sakai build the tables - and off we go.


Basic Local Customization

In the most common situation, local sites will want to customize a few things - perhaps AUTHN, AUTHZ, a few DR's. Sites will write/procure/configure OKI implementations which plug into the Sakai implementations. The Sakai implementations are configured to "federate" between data from the plug-in and the Sakai data as desired by the site.



Drastic Local Customization

At some level, it would be possible to completely reimplement the entire Sakai API for the particular component (i.e. grading). Because the Sakai APIs have no "out-of-band" agreements, the tools cannot perceive that the implementation has been changes.



Concepts and Terminology

QuickTime[™] and a TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor are needed to see this picture. QuickTime [™] and a TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor are needed to see this picture.



Sakai Technology

- Hibernate for object persistence
- Sakai APIs that imitate OKI OSIDs
- Tools are based on APIs and servlets
- JavaServer Faces separate out the presentation from tool logic
- uPortal integrates tools at the UI level



Specific TPP Elements

- GUI: Java Server Faces + Sakai Widgets
- Framework API
 - Best practice: Setter-style dependency injection
 - Both tools and services are components*
 - Cross-webapp service framework
 - Service locator also supported
- No (zip, zero, nada) framework imports required



JSF Mini Tutorial

- Document-based layout which relates a view stored in a set of beans using a set of widgets (button, input, drop-down) and a set of action methods associated with buttons, etc.
- There are no URLs (munged or otherwise)
- Additional Sakai widgets within JSF in insure look and feel at a higher level across tools

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<sakai:tool_bar>
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action="#{AnnouncementTool.processActionListNew}"
value="#{msgs.annc_list_new}" />
<sakai:tool_bar_item
action="#{AnnouncementTool.processActionListDelete}"
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JSF is Used to Describe the UI

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Model View Controller Mini Tutorial

- Domain Model
 - Long Term Persistence
- Controller
 - Orchestra conductor
 - Retrieves the Model (subset of Domain Model)
 - Holds state in terms of the user interaction
 - Decorates the Model with view specific information
 - Selects Layout
 - Hands layout and Decorated-Model to View
 - Processes the returned Decorated-Model from View
- View
 - Renders Decorated-Model to user using layout
 - Handles user interaction (possibly with validation)
 - Returned Modified-Decorated-Model to Controller



MVC Mini Tutorial

- Domain Model
 - Persistence
- View
 - Renders decorated model
- Controller
 - Orchestrates
- Model
 - Data moved between elements



Inversion of Control Mini Tutorial

- Components code to interfaces, not implementations
- When a component needs an implementation for a particular interface, how does it find the implementation
- Four basic approaches (formerly known as Level 0-3 IoC)
 - Service Locator (Turbine, Avalon)
 - Interface Injection (Avalon)
 - Setter Injection (Spring)
 - Constructor Injection (Pico)

http://www.martinfowler.com/articles/injection.html



Service Locator

- Component calls a service locator with the desired interface as a parameter
 - Can gather dependencies dynamically this is useful if dependency lookup is expensive
 - This does force an explicit dependency on the framework

class MovieLister...

MovieFinder finder =

(MovieFinder) ServiceLocator.getService("MovieFinder");



Interface Injection

- The component declares that it "implements serviceable" which triggers the framework to poke in the implementations via wellknown methods (Avalon)
 - Often this is used to inject a service locator and then that service locator is used to garner other dependencies



Setter Injection (Sakai preferred)

- The component simply provides bean-style setter and getter methods for the dependent interfaces it needs - framework constructs object then calls the setter for anything that is already in the framework (auto-wire)
 - No explicit dependency on the framework at all
 - Articulates well with all of the bean support in lots of places
 - Not able to declare which of the setters are required for safe operation unless this is in a XML config file



Constructor Injection

- The component provides a number of constructors with the dependencies as parameters the framework picks one and constructs the object will all of its needed dependencies.
 - The object is never in a "partially ready to go" state
 - Can express multiple acceptable dependency sets using different construtors
 - No explicit dependencies on the framework
 - Cannot work unless the framework is doing the constructing (I.e. no chance to "fake it" in Servlet of JSF managed objects)



IoC Summary

- Setter injection is the best practice for new code
 - No explicit dependencies
 - Leverages bean support
 - Can be "simulated" easily when framework is not constructing objects
- We will always support Service Locator



Sakai Presentation

QuickTime™ and a TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor are needed to see this picture. QuickTime™ and a TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor are needed to see this picture.



The Sakai User Interface Process







Sakai then pokes config data and auto-wires service implementations into beans

JSF Servlet Render



Action runs, accesses services through config beans, sets view beans, selects layout mode.

JSF Servlet Render







Tool		
Config Beans	View Beans	Action



Framework/Config









Sakai and uPortal / JSR-168

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uPortal Portlet Roadmap

- uPortal 2.3
 - Support Portlets (JSR-168) via adapter
- uPortal 3.0
 - Implement Portlet
 Specification
 (JSR-168)
 - Support IChannel via adapter



portal

UNICON

Portal => Application Framework

- Portals are a framework to deploy tools (aka rectangles) and focus on how the user wants to arrange their own "rectangles"
- While Sakai has chosen to use a portal as a component integration technically, the goal is for the tools to work together closely and seem to really be parts of a larger "tool"
- Sakai has a lot of features, (services, presence, notification, etc..) which bridge the gap between portal and application framework



Sakai 1.0 and uPortal

- The embedded version where the entire Sakai tool set appears as a single channel much like the "SuperChannel". This can be installed in any standard uPortal environment.
- The "injected" version which uses a modified version of uPortal 2.3 with two-level navigation and configuration information coming from Sakai. This is pretty much a stand-alone learning management system using uPortal. The uPortal theme and structure will be altered to precisely display the hierarchical navigation needed by Sakai.



Sakai 1.0: Embedded Version (uPortal 2.3)





Sakai 1.0: Injected Version (uPortal 2.3)

Home	CS101 EE499 EE499-	s01 Chess	Home	CS101	EE499	EE499-s01	Chess
Help Play FAQ Meeting Admin	QuickTime™ and a TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor are needed to see this picture.	Fred: He will move P- K4 Joe: Nah - he did that last time Mary: It does not matter what he does - I will beat him again Watch me now mary!	Qui TIFF (Uncomp are needed	Play ickTime™ and a pressed) decom I to see this pict	FAQ oressor ure.	Meeting Ac Fred: He will mo K4 Joe: Nah - he di last time Mary: It does no matter what he I will beat him a Watch me now mary!	Jmin ove P- d that does - gain



Sakai 2.0 and uPortal

- The integrated version where Sakai tools simply are part of the set of channels which can be added to any uPortal environment. By placing a Sakai tool anywhere within the navigation hierarchy of uPortal, it becomes a collaborative element at that location.
- This is more complex than it sounds and as such will only work within uPortal and will require some modifications to uPortal that the Sakai effort is undertaking and contributing to the uPortal project.



The Hierarchy Challenge



Portlets/Channels need to know "where" they fit for inherited access control and to know the "context" in which they operate - "I am the Chat for CS101". There are fragment administration issues. This is not specified in the JSR-168 spec. SuperChannel and Sakai Embedded are solutions which hide the hierarchy from the portal - but this is less than ideal because it would be nice to drop a context-sensitive "chat" tool anywhere in the portal.

Sakai 2.0: Integrated

MyPage	Athletics Events Courses	MyPage Athletics Events Courses
+ CS101 + EE499 + Main - Sec01 Help Chat FAQ Meeting + Sec02 + Chess + Motor	Fred: He will move P-K4 Joe: Nah - he did that last time Mary: It does not matter what he does - I will beat him again Joe: What if he pulls his goalie? Watch me now mary!	EE499 -> Sec01 New Course New Section Help



Advanced Sakai

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Sakai Framework Possibilities

- Web server / Browser
 - This is what we are committed to do in 2 years
- Swing desktop
- Web Services a few places
- Web Services everywhere



Plan A - Clusters of JVM's JSF implementations from SUN.







What if SUN provided a SWING JSF Render capability and we hand-build desktop versions of services or hand-build stubs which used ROMI or Web Services?





•How do we launch non-JAVA elements passing in basic identity, session information? WSRP? Ad hoc? cWebProxy? Do we include a back-reference handle to help resolve web services?

•How do we secure the web-services calls? What languages support

•Do we refactor services? Do we we implement that critical subset? Do we end up with new methods that are "yucky" but well-suited for web-services?

•Do we hide things in PHP behind an API with methods? Or do we just lay down some web services code in the PHP?





What if we built a version of the framework that examined an interface using reflection and dynamically built a proxy, generated WSDL, and just made web service happen pretty much transparently other than declaring where services were to run in configuration...

Hopefully there will be a mechanism for secure web services, or perhaps we could simply use two-way SSL certificate exchange to force transport security...



What if the frameworks were highly coordinated and in addition to dynamically generating stubs and placing web services, provided standardized mechanism for moving identity securely across web services, and the frameworks could perform dependency injection automatically when one service had a dependency on a service running on another server...

Hmmm. Sounds like the Grid.



Why wait for web services?

- Our APIs and services will not really be mature until early 2005 we may have to do major re-factoring as our code base grows and problems are identified
- Secure, identity preserving web services at a distance seem to be churning every 6 months.
- We are committed to deliver a full-featured high-performance product in the Java / Web Server / Browser space in two years.
- We don't have time to be the "tip-of-the-spear" on tracking every single web-service technology twitch.
- Web services are great fun for "point solutions" but are painful as a basis for a framework right now



Why start on web services?

- Short term: Sakai API implementations can use Web Services hidden behind the API (collecting point solutions)
- Web services are changing right now
 - WSRF Web Services Resource Framework
 - Generic Security Services Application Program Interface (GSS-API) defined in RFC 2853 and JDK 1.4.2
- Service Injection means that it is "Possible" to build a Sakai Web-Services Framework without changing services code.



Summary

- This a journey we are just at the beginning
- Thank you for your time
- Sakai is a well funded effort which will product a portal framework which will support both basic JSR-168 portlets and Sakai-style portlets as well.

