

Key Features:



The following are some of the powerful features of this software:

- Convenient course and project worksite setup
- Easy import/export of content modules
- Electronic document distribution
- Fully functional gradebook
- Tests and quizzes grading automation for improved accuracy
- Multiple messaging options within integrated calendar

Powerful Teaching & Collaboration Tools:

Faculty, students, and staff can make use of myriad tools that assist them in course development, teaching, and collaboration. These consist of core, portfolio and teaching tools:

Core Tools:

Announcements	Preferences
Drop Box	Presentation
Email Archive	Profile / Roster
Resources	Repository Search
Chat Room	Schedule
Forums	Search
Threaded Discussion	Web Content
Message Center	WebDAV
Message of the Day	Wiki
News/RSS	Site Setup

Teaching Tools:

Assignments
Gradebook
Module Editor
QTI Authoring
QTI Assessment
Section Management
Syllabus

Portfolio Tools:

Forms
Evaluations
Glossary
Matrices
Layouts
Templates
Reports
Wizards



The Sakai Project

The Sakai Project started as multi-million dollar educational community software development project. It was founded by the University of Michigan, Indiana University, MIT, Stanford, the uPortal Consortium, and the Open Knowledge Initiative (OKI). The objective of the venture, that received a \$2.4 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, was to develop an open source Collaboration and Learning Environment (CLE) software.

The Product: The Sakai framework and tools add value to instructors, researchers, and students alike through supporting teaching and learning, allowing ad hoc groups, as well as facilitating community and research collaboration. These capabilities enable instructors to efficiently develop and manage courses, communicate with students, and facilitate research.

Sakai leads the market in providing innovative features. When one organization creates a new capability that enhances learning or research, the full Sakai community benefits from the new development that occurs. This model keeps Sakai's functionality on the forefront of the industry.

Sakai offers a number of advantages over more well-known commercial learning management systems (LMS), such as Blackboard, WebCT and Desire2Learn. Some of these are mentioned below:

- Sakai is extremely flexible and customizable: the hallmark of any well-developed open source solution;
- Since there is no licensing cost, the application offers scalability at no additional expense
- It offers multiple rosters and cross-listing of courses: one Sakai site can import rosters from any other course, provided you have access to the roster.
- Sites have multiple purposes, so part of a site can be public while part is only available to students. Sites can be used for research or work groups, committee work, student groups, etc.
- Flexible permissions allow the instructor to change what students can do in a site. If the instructor wants students to manage part of the site, they can be allowed to do so without giving them access to the entire site.

- Multiple roles: the instructor can add different levels of access for TAs, visitors, course auditors. These can then be given limited or expanded access to the site.
- Collaborative tools. By using tool permissions or additional sites, the instructor can create a collaborative environment where students can review and comment on each other's work, or work on group projects.
- Group project (wiki) pages allow students to edit documents together. Sakai records the changes and who made them, allowing faculty to evaluate individual student contributions, or review older revisions of the documents.
- By choosing Sakai a University joins the burgeoning open source community worldwide

Licensing and Development: Sakai is a free and open source product 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, support, and are using Sakai. Active members such as system administrators, user-support, and end users share their experiences and best practices.

Integration with PeopleSoft Campus Solutions

Techlogix has used Oracle Student Administration Integration Pack (SAIP) to integrate Sakai with PeopleSoft Campus Solutions.

What is SAIP: A licensed, supported and maintained product from Oracle that uses web services to provide standards-based (IMS Learning Information Services) integration between Peoplesoft Campus Solutions and other academic systems, such as Sakai.

Why use SAIP: It provides an out of the box, standards-based product that integrates the courses, enrollments, people and grades in Student Administration 9.0 to other academic solutions. SAIP does not require additional middleware and uses Peoplesoft Integration Broker for all transformations and routings.