rSmart Sakai CLE

Version 2.8.1

Release Notes

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Product Release Information

Product: rSmart Sakai CLE

Release Number: 2.8.1

Release Date: March 1, 2012

Customer Support: For more information, please visit the rSmart Support Network (RSN).

Overview

Version 2.8.1 of the rSmart Sakai CLE is based on the community release of Sakai CLE 2.8.1. This release provides several enhancements, as well as a variety of security fixes and other critical bug fixes from the community and rSmart support. In addition, this release collects bug fixes and enhancements from previous rSmart Sakai CLE maintenance releases (2.8.0.1 -- 2.8.0.29).

Release Highlights

Certification Management

This release includes the Certification tool, which is a new tool rSmart has developed and contributed to the Sakai community. With this tool, instructors can create a variety of awards to certify mastery and completion of course material, and set grading criteria that students must meet in order to access certificates. The tool includes the following features and functionality:

- Individualized certificates are generated by creating a PDF template that is uploaded to the Certification tool. In the tool, instructors enter information for corresponding fields in the template. These fields are then automatically populated, so each student receives an individualized certificate.

- Instructors define certificates by setting Gradebook criteria, such as a score for a particular Gradebook item. When students receive the appropriate score, they can print the certificate.

- Students may access the Certificate tool to check the status of a certificate by clicking a "check status" link for the certificate. If a student has met criteria for a certificate, a printable version of the certificate will be available. Instructors may also copy a "check status" link to insert into another page.

Gradebook2

With this release, Gradebook2 is upgraded from version 1.4.1 to version 1.7.0. The upgrade includes the following improvements:

- Gradebooks may be exported by individual sections.

- Exports of gradebooks can include section information.

- Gradebooks may be exported/imported in .xlsx format.

- Instructors may opt to include or exclude comments from gradebook export.

- Instructors may search gradebook items for a specific student by selecting from a variety of user attributes.

- Gradebooks set up for percentages may be imported.

- A toggle switch allows instructors to see effect of weights on the point values of gradebook items.

- Statistics charts are displayed to instructors when they are changing a grade scale.

- Instructors may opt to display statistics charts to students.

- The behavior of the "drop lowest" feature has been changed, so that items in a category are only dropped after the set number of "drop lowest" items have been scored.

- The interface displays additional text for user guidance.

External Integrations

This release includes the following support for integrations with external, third-party solutions:

- The Sakai integration with Kaltura, an open source media platform, has been updated to the latest version.

- Integration with Tegrity, a lecture capture solution, is now provided via the Link tool.

- Integration with Smartthinking, a personalized learning solution, is now provided via the Link tool.

Reports

With this release, the Reports tool is once again included in the rSmart Sakai CLE. Typically utilized for portfolio sites, the tool lets institutions run reports on user activity with matrices. Keep in mind, however, that the tool will remain stealthed and unsupported.

Security Fixes

Note: The security fixes included in Sakai 2.8.1 are not in response to actual exploits by Sakai users. Instead, they are preventative measures that address potential risks. These risks were discovered through the work of QA groups both within the Sakai community and at rSmart.

Security issues addressed in this release include the following:

- XSS vulnerabilities for several tools

- Other vulnerabilities for various tools, including the Account, Assignments, Basic LTI, Forums, Resources, Site Editor, and Tests & Quizzes (Samigo) tools

- Administration workspace/tools vulnerabilities

- Social network access vulnerabilities

- User ID vulnerabilities

For more information about specific security issues, please contact rSmart support.

CLE Platform Requirements

Supported Platforms and Browsers

For information about the platform/browser combinations rSmart has tested and currently supports, see rSmart Sakai: User Platform & Browser Compatibility.

rSmart Sakai CLE Server System Requirements

Component	Supported Versions
Operating System	• Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) AS, ES 4.0+ • CentOS 4.x+ • SuSE Enterprise Server 9+
Application Server	• Tomcat 5.5.34 (latest version)
Web Server	• Apache 2.2.16+ (with mod_jk connector 1.2.26+) • Tomcat 5.5.34 (latest version)
Java JDK	• Version 1.6
Database Server (RDBMS)	• MySQL 5.1.60, 5.5.18 • Oracle 10g+

Other Improvements

In addition to the enhancements listed above, this release also includes the following improvements.

Basic LTI
Basic LTI provider has been revised so course sites are created with an "admin" user to avoid permissions issues.

Customizer
Tool data can now be reloaded from the database without a restart.

Matrices/Assignments
Assignments can be unlinked from matrix cells even if there have been submissions.

Providers

- New LDAP provider created that allows up to five configurable properties to be read from LDAP and included as user properties.
- A Course Management (CM) evaluation group provider has been created.

Student Information System (SIS) Integration

- New property added to allow long description to be excluded when course data is updated.

- LIS integration modified to support encrypted sFTP transfers via user/password.

- Support added for a non-credit learner role to be sent via LIS, to allow for an "audit" or other special role in the CLE.

- Modified LIS audit logging to log actual xml message and created a purge job, to prevent the audit log from filling up.

- Cross listing enabled at the section level, by auto-generating offerings for linked sections.

- Added new site-title algorithm that aggregates information from all sections.

Web Services

- New web service created for user activity, to provide access to Sakai event data.

- Group properties data is included in "getGroupsInSite" web service.

- New web service created to check for the existence of a user by user ID instead of EID.

- New web service created for looking up sites by a site property.

- SakaiConfiguration web service added, so third-party systems can call into the CLE to access configuration items (some sensitive data, such as passwords, is filtered out).

- New web service created for counting active sessions.

Bug Fixes

This release includes fixes for the following issues.

Note: Although this release collects bug fixes for previous maintenance releases, the following list only includes bug fixes made after the last maintenance release. For information about bug fixes in previous maintenance releases, see the release notes for versions 2.8.0.1 -- 2.8.0.29 of the rSmart Sakai CLE.

Announcements
Email notification for an announcement does not include information from the "subject" and "message" fields of announcement.

Assignments

- Null scores are being converted to "0" value.

- Submissions are allowed after "accept until" close date.

- Permission helper links do not work, so clicking on a particular permission does not select/deselect permission for all site roles.

Basic LTI
LTI provider needs to unbind from webservices.allow=+ setting.

Calendar
Dates for "Calendar by Week" view do not match dates shown in header.

Customizer
When using the Customizer tool in a clustered CLE environment, configuration changes have to be made on each Tomcat.

Evaluation System

- Course Management (CM) group provider is not ignoring dropped enrollments.

- An error is displayed when a user creates an evaluation.

Job Scheduler
Course Management (CM) job does not allow configuration of membership.csv file in Quartz Job Scheduler user interface.

Kaltura integration
Videos embedded via the Kaltura plugin for the FCKEditor do not display with Internet Explorer (IE) browser.

Lessons (Melete) & Resources
Links in Lessons to items in Resources are not being updated upon site duplication or import from site.

Mailtool
Regex characters are not properly escaped during subject generation, which can lead to an error if site title has unusual characters.

Rich text editor
Change size of FCKEditor so it is not restrictively small.

Student Information System (SIS) integration

- Information from course template cannot be parsed when data contains more than two periods.

- Only the first extra property is updated in rsn.user tables.

- (LIS) Section associations in LIS are not looking up the course offering ID with the proper ID.

- (Sakora) Deleted cross listing not working.

- (Sakora) Extra courseOffering records being created when they shouldn't be, for sections in that same course.

Tests & Quizzes (Samigo)

- Students are not able to see published assessments.

- Tool crashes when an assessment with groups selected is imported. ([SAM-1383](#))