



E-Portfolios and Learning Management:



Giving Your Students High-Altitude Introspection

OPEN SOURCE, SERENSOFT STYLE

Resources are Tight – How do I support an Open source solution with my already stretched IT resources?

Serensoft recognizes that Institutional IT resources are limited. Serensoft *lives* in the world of Open source. We maintain very close ties to the user communities for both Sakai and OSPortfolio. We constantly test new features and releases as they become available... before deploying them into the institutions. Why commit your precious resources to following the open source initiatives in detail? Let Serensoft do it for you... we are already doing it anyway. Leverage the economies of scale that Serensoft provides.

Technical Details are important, but what about the Users?

The question is not “can I download and install the software and get it running?” but rather “how do I get the technology diffused out to the user community?” Often these tools are completely new to faculty, and we all tend to resist change—a thoroughly thought-out approach to campus-wide adoption is a must!

Adoption is not a Given

You can’t simply put it out there on a server somewhere, point the faculty to it and say “Have fun.” Even for the rare cases where that may be adequate, are you striving for “adequate” or are you looking for self-sufficient users?

Technical Implementation is a relatively small piece of the whole picture. *Diffusion* of the technology—getting users to adopt it as part of their daily toolkit—is much more complex and difficult. Technology Diffusion includes an involved process of working directly with the users (and IT) through an iterative approach to learning.

Serensoft’s **Providence Methodology** involves seven components to tie together iterative learning and diffusion of technology. We like to think of Providence as a practical, yet holistic approach to institutional technology.

Serensoft focuses on diffusion AND the technical facets of implementation, through Providence.

Sakai

Sakai is a well-funded, well-directed community of participants from Higher Education and Corporate Affiliates

OSP

portfolios

Open Source Portfolio is a collection of Sakai tools which help your students reflect on their own learning progress

E-PORTFOLIOS

Institutions consider e-Portfolios for a number of reasons. The majority of the functionality of an e-Portfolio is designed from two perspectives—the *student perspective* and the *institutional perspective*. Virtually all of the functionality of an e-Portfolio falls into one or both of these two perspectives.

The Institution Perspective

If an institution is simply looking at an e-Portfolio for how a student may use it to store “artifacts” and present them in particular formats (like a résumé), there are several commercial tools and services available for schools that charge a per-student monthly fee. These solutions look at e-portfolios from the student perspective. This puts all the control in the hands of the individual student, but is of limited or no value from an institutional perspective.

The Student Perspective

When an institution has more complex needs...needs that require a student to be able to demonstrate specific achievements or competencies relative to a customized set of standards (whether they be state, Federal or institutional standards), more robust capabilities are required. The academic departments

need to be able to specify what those standards are and allow the individual to associate specific artifacts to specific standards set up and established by the faculty or department head.

Students See the Big Picture

Serensoft will help you translate your standards into an e-Portfolio “Matrix”. A single department may have many matrices customized to a specific pedagogy. The goal will be to allow students in different programs or cohorts to demonstrate through artifacts, reflection, faculty and peer review the ability to demonstrate that they have met the established standards. This level of institutional control also fosters “cumulative learning” on the part of students—something that is much more difficult to achieve without an e-Portfolio.

Sakai

Commercial Affiliate

The Sakai foundation has chosen Serensoft to be an official Sakai Commercial Affiliate

GET TO KNOW SERENSOFT

When you get to know Serensoft, you will see that we are a pure services company focused only on what is best for our higher education partners. Unlike software companies that try to frame your issues in relation to the software solution that they happen to be ‘selling’, Serensoft listens to you and offers a range of solutions—including Open Source systems that have *no software licensing cost whatsoever*. Looking out for your institution’s best interests is central to Serensoft’s Providence Methodology.

Whether it’s Learning Management / Course Management Systems, e-portfolios or Administrative Computing, Serensoft listens and designs fully customized solutions aimed at your institutional needs.

Cool concept, when you think about it.

