



UNIVERSIDADE FERNANDO PESSOA

Universidade
VIRTUAL




The use of Sakai to deploy the UFP Virtual University initiative



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The University Fernando Pessoa



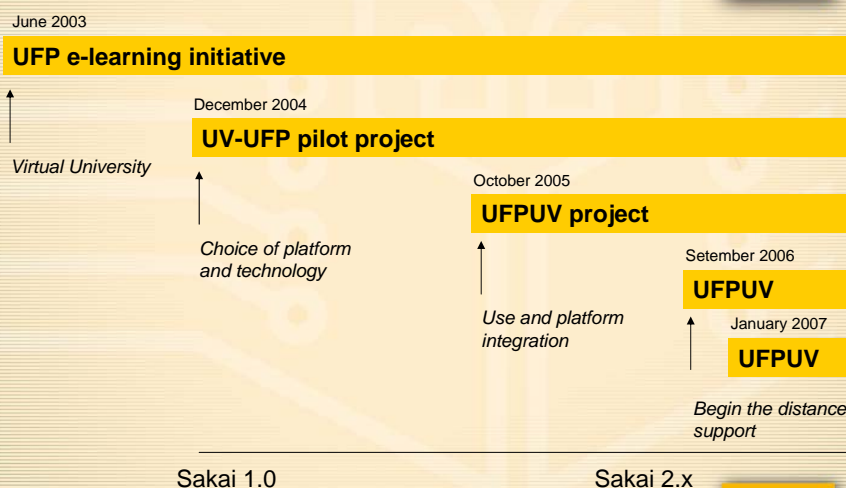
- Small university located in Porto, Portugal
- Another campus in Ponte de Lima (north of Portugal)
- Has around 22 000 m2 of building area (another 11 0000m2 in construction)
- Some UFP dates (the first twenty years)
 - Higher education project initiated in the 1980's with the creation of two higher education institutes;
 - First students (merge of the institutes): 1989/90;
 - Official university start date: 1995;
 - recognised as a public interest organization by the Portuguese State in July 1996;
 - First PhD programs start at end 2005;

The University Fernando Pessoa



- the University is organised in three faculties (Health Sciences, Human and Social Sciences, Science and Technology), one School of Health Sciences and one autonomous unit (Ponte de Lima College);
- 3853 undergraduate students, 262 postgraduate students, 37 PhD students, 124 administrative and technical staff members and 228 academic staff members (62.7% holding a doctoral degree);
- Bologna process started this academic year (first and second cycles);
- Following the motto, *nova et nove*, e. g., “teaching new things in a new way”.

A bit of history



How it happened

- UFP started and funded the project
- Use Sakai for everyone, for evaluation purposes
- Initial configuration was Tomcat, MySQL, 1 PC as server, no support staff
- In the pilot our colleagues were invited to create their courses and register their students (no providers used)
- A couple of 5-6 page “how to” documents were produced
- A couple of presentations, and meetings with “selected” colleagues



Sakai 1.0 screen

The screenshot displays the Sakai 1.0 web interface for Universidade Fernando Pessoa. The header includes the university logo and name, along with a 'Logout' link. A navigation bar contains links for 'MyWorkspace', 'Conselho Científico', 'FCT - UFP', 'GSI - MBA, EGE', 'Gestão da Informação', 'SI e- mkt & e-pub', and a 'more' dropdown. The main content area is titled 'Chat Room' and shows a list of messages from participants like Vera Cunha, Rita Leal, Laura Nogueira, Susana Rocha, Joana Teles, and Claudio Trovisco. A 'Users in Chat' list is visible on the right. The footer shows the browser address bar with the URL: <https://elearning.ufp.pt/tunnel/sakai-chef-tool/courier?site=1108404561192-74456&page=1108574017380-8633&auto=couri>.

Evolution of the pilot



	start	Dec-04	Feb-05	May-05	July-05	Sept-05
Courses	2	10	50	67	72	85
Projects	2	5	12	34	43	58
total	4	15	62	101	115	143
Instructors	1	5	18	35	70	105
Students	25	80	400	550	700	938
total	26	85	418	585	770	1043

For the history...



- *“Since 2004, 44% of teachers, 62% of students and 28% of staff use the Virtual University (UFPUV) platform. With the motto “knowledge and proximity”, the UFPUV initiative provides an extension of current traditional university facilities. They take advantage of information and communication technology, in order to support human centered learning. Besides e- and b-learning courses, the UFPUV is also used for complement in-class teaching and it is fully integrated with the university information systems. The platform is also used by some university services as a mean to communicate and give access to specific documents to internal public.”*

UFP Quality report, EUA Assessment Exercise- July 2006

What results?



- Version 1.0 was easy to run and use
 - Limited set of tools, but communication with students and resource sharing were priority
 - Assignments was the winner
- Reliable, stable for simple use (still running)
- Major problems:
 - I18N, character support, WebDAV
- Project areas were used for projects and for special groups (all instructors in a Faculty,...)
- Overall evaluation positive from students and instructors

What was asked?



- Continuation of the project
- Integration with SIS, ldap
- More tools
 - Test & Quizzes
 - Discussion tools
 - Groups
 - Grading tools
- Training and e and *b*-learning strategies

The production phase



- Moving to Sakai 2.0
- Integration with Idap
- Integration with course and student providers
- Hiring staff (Nuno Fernandes, N. Gomes)
- Getting physical space
- Upgrading to server hardware
- Defining course tools added/available

Hardware...



New look

The screenshot displays the updated look of the Universidade Virtual website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the university logo and a login section with fields for 'user id:' and 'password:' and a 'Login' button. On the left, a vertical menu lists various site sections: Bem-vindo, Sobre..., Características, Áreas, Formação, Créditos, Condições de uso, and Help. The main content area is titled 'MESSAGE OF THE DAY' and contains a red 'Atenção!' (Attention!) warning about login issues. Below this, a section titled 'Notícias recentes:' (Recent News) lists several updates from early 2006, including course availability for the 2nd semester, new areas, and changes to the site's appearance and student lists.

Some marketing

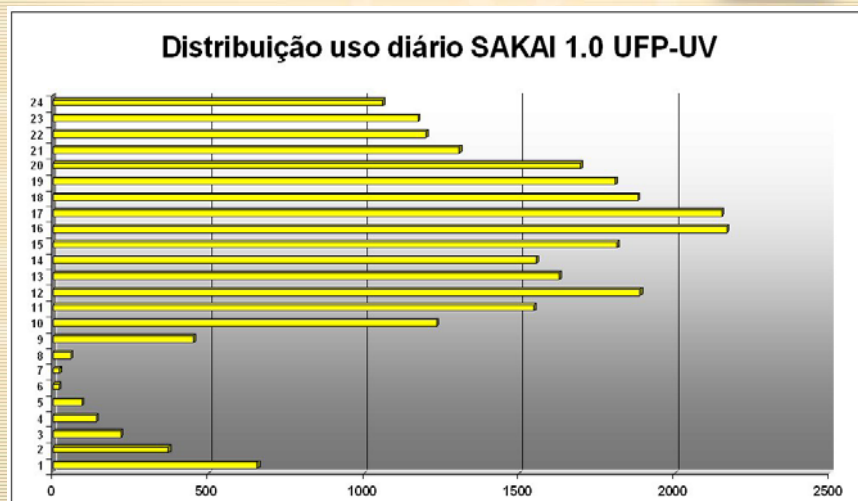
This section illustrates various marketing materials used for the Universidade Virtual. It includes a 'EU USO A' (I use) sticker with the university logo and the text '... e TUP'. A graphic shows 'Stickers for students to place everywhere!' with a URL and email address. A poster titled 'Conhecimento e Proximidade' (Knowledge and Proximity) features the university logo and the text 'Universidade VIRTUAL'. A 'UFP-UV' logo is also shown. The text 'A number of open events, workshops and tutorials' is positioned to the right of the sticker and graphic. At the bottom, it mentions 'A Blog & a Wiki page' with the URLs 'ufpuv.blogspot.com & elearning.ufp.pt/wiki'.

Usage patterns



- Announcements, Assignments and Resources heavily used
- Calendar used
- Chat not used, Discussion little used
 - Maybe to change with Bologna?
- T&Q not used after initial problems
- Drop Box used in different ways

USage patterns (daily use) (sample from 01/05 to 07/05)



Access patterns (sample from 01/06 to 08/06)



5604 users, 61740 sessions

# Users	# Sessions
1354	10
867	20
311	50
82	100
18	200

Access patterns report from use



--	value
Maximum simultaneous users (online evaluation)	255
Tools available (default)	22 12
Tools available (for choice)	28
Non available hours per week	Less than 1h
Day with less accesses	saturday

Current usage numbers (cumulative numbers since october 2004)



- Around 60% of instructors
- Around 67% of the students
 - Over 4000 students use UFPUV in one or more courses
 - From the 2100 courses a total of +400 has usage, 25% of them with regular usage
- Around 20% of the UFP (non teaching) staff also use Sakai
- *Overall, 65% of the university population has been covered until now (running two and half academic years)*

Evaluation so far (2.3.x)



- What was learned from support and meetings:
 - Need for content presentation (SCORM ?)
 - Site statistics, summary calendar, what's new, and to do list tools
 - Development started on some of these
 - Need for Test & Quizzes tool
- Better group support and resource management
- Translating to portuguese
- May will be the month for Sakai 2.4

What's next?



- Technology stable but need to continue improvements
 - Translating to portuguese
 - Business intelligence concerning elearning usage
 - More functionalities and better user experience
- But, need to start developing more than technology, and turn people/learner the main focus
 - Documentation and support
 - Bologna support and e- portfolios
 - Advanced procedures for
 - E learning strategies for all

Aknowledgements



- University Rectorate and Fernando Pessoa Foundation for their direct support and sponsorship
- Sakai Foundation to deliver such a rich community and an evolving quality product as the Collaborative Learning Environment
- The UFPUV team, as they – with so little resources – provide strategy, development, and support for our educational community.
- Some words goes to my colleagues Feliz Ribeiro Gouveia and Nuno Fernandes, two “wizards of those domains”

The use of Sakai to deploy the UFP Virtual University initiative



- Considering the actual context of globalisation at a world level, the Bologna process at a European level, and a demographic negative curve at national level, new ways to reinvent higher education practices are urgent.
- One simple move can be taking advantage of existing technology to provide the same electronic environment to support traditional presential, that normally is used to elearning initiatives. This move will provide better support to time management for university students and professors and support for their increasing electronic interactions. It also prepares the move to blended learning and distance education initiatives as it prepares educational staff for the use of electronic mediation strategies.
- As a result University Fernando Pessoa adhere to an open software collaborative learning environment named Sakai where plays an active role in its development. Since November, UFP deploys Sakai 2.3 as the elearning platform in traditional and blended learning, after a year-long pilot with Sakai 1.0 in end 2004. The platform, named UV, after Virtual University, is a central part of the University's concern with distance education.
- The platform is integrated with the Student Information System and the Course Roster, granting access to 5457 users (instructors, students and staff), and to 2088 sites. Although is too early to gather statistics, use of the platform has been increasing, and 40% of the population is currently active, with regular visits and covered 65% of the university students.
- University Fernando Pessoa is located in Porto, Portugal, and offers twenty undergraduate study programs, thirty master degrees and two doctorate programs in three faculties: Social Studies, Science and Technology, and Health Studies. UFP has been established since 1989, and has a long-standing effort to use Information and Communication Technologies in its activities, an example being the introduction of laptop computers for freshman students since 1994.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

Luis Borges Gouveia Short Biographical Description



- *He is an Associate Professor at Science and Technology Faculty, University Fernando Pessoa, where teaches Information Systems.*
- *He belongs to the Virtual University board where he is one of the two responsible members for its implementation since end 2004.*
- *He earned a PhD in Computer Science from Lancaster University (UK) and a MSc in Electronic and Computing Engineering from University of Porto (PT).*
- *His main interests are related with the use of computers and networks both in e-learning and e-government uses. He authored eight books and more than hundred papers within its research areas.*
- *Can be reached by Imbg@ufp.pt, and have both a Web page (www.ufp.pt/~Imbg) and a Blog (Imbg.blogspot.pt)*



SPEAKER SHORT CV