

Why Open Source?

Open-source software allows higher education institutions to have highly personalized, people-centered systems, rich in collaboration and community, while demonstrating responsible stewardship and sustainability.

Open source software is inherently connected to a community that fosters open communication, partnerships, and innovation to advance the common good. These communities collaboratively work together to creatively merge and expand the development and applications of the software. They believe that diverse applications of the software as well as the sharing of experiences of using the software enriches the source code and nurtures innovation.

Open source development is informed by the principle of subsidiarity as end users are treated as co-developers who guide the growth of the software. End users are empowered to suggest and make changes to the software as they are able to do so. Decisions are made democratically to ensure all voices and opinions are represented.

Why Sakai?

Sakai is a learning management system similar to Blackboard, WebCT, or Canvas. Unlike many other learning management systems that are commercial, Sakai is an open source project supported by a global community of individuals, organizations, and institutions that share the common goal of enhancing teaching and learning. From its inception Sakai has been focused on digital learning (education) not market share and profit.

Isidore is the University of Dayton's unique version of Sakai. Because Sakai is open source, we are able to customize our version of Sakai, Isidore, to fit the needs of the UD community. We are also able to share with the global Sakai community the work that we do to help improve Sakai for everyone who uses it around the world.

- By David Bauer, Lead Developer in the Office of eLearning



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