

From: [Stull, Tiffany \(tls6u\)](#)
To: [alan.regan](#); [Sakai Users Group](#)
Cc: [Platt, Shawn](#)
Subject: [EXT] Re: [EXT] Re: [sakai-user] Publish Now in Course Site: Notification
Date: Monday, July 22, 2019 11:40:44 AM

I think a check box next to the publish options would be fine, because that's what is used for email notification when adding folks to a site via *Site Info > Add Participants*.

I don't think the notification options for this would need to be as advanced as the option in *Tests & Quizzes* (where you can customize the message content on publishing a test) or *Announcements* (where you can specify a date), or even tools where you can select high vs. low priority notifications. It should just be sent out or not, depending on the instructor's selection of the check box and user preference to get the notification or not.

Tiffany

On 7/19/2019 3:05 PM, alan.regan wrote:

I like the intent of the feature request; I can see a real benefit to enrolled users that the site is now available if an instructor is ready for students to know. Similar to Dave E, we currently suggest an announcement or message to welcome students to the site once it's published.

Rather than two buttons, what about one button and a checkbox to "Send notification" nearby or below (the setting could be checked or unchecked by default based on an institution's preference in Sakai properties)? This might be similar to how you can add a notification (or not) when sharing a document with a user in Google Drive. Or the checkbox in Assignments to grade the "Next" student with a submission.

OR one button with a down-arrow selection at the side that some of Google's buttons have nowadays. For example, the "Send" button in Gmail has an option for "[Scheduled Send](#)" via a side option. Perhaps a similar approach for the "Publish" button to keep the interface clean? The Publish button by itself would publish without a notice. The optional feature would add the notification, perhaps even select the date/time for the notice to go out and/or to whom? Any accessibility concerns would need to be evaluated and addressed.

OR the same "Publish Now" button but it opens an option pane to add notification (check or uncheck) and if notification is desired, then have selections for All Users (default) or Select Roles (e.g. student, teaching assistant, etc.)...? All of the defaults could be controlled for the entire instance via Sakai properties. My only concern here would be that if someone simply wanted to Publish with no notification, they'd have to complete several clicks rather than one, easy click. Perhaps instructors or site maintainers could save this preference as a default for themselves for future class or project sites?

(And Tiffany has fantastic points. I agree that it would be critical to have a global setting to turn on/off the capability instance-wide of "Publish Now" notifications depending on another institution's existing practices, such as a separate auto-publish and notification process, etc. I also like the user preference on whether or not to receive the notices. If an institution tends to enroll support staff into multiple sites (rather than Delegated Access), I could see support people becoming frustrated if they receive multiple "publish" notices at the start of the term from tens of sites.)

Just brainstorming...
--Alan

On Friday, July 19, 2019 at 9:36:35 AM UTC-7, lcira wrote:

I really like the idea of the notification for a site being published.

I believe at its most basic, and at its most useful setup for 95% of the instances, a simple buttochoice of "Publish" or "Publish with Notification" would be all we need. In every instance I can think of, all site participants would benefit from knowing the site has been published. If it's unpublished then published again, the button would be there on the UnPublished banner to make that decision again (whether to publish or publish with notification).

I can be a very simple thing. And very useful!

Laura Cira
Sakai LMS Specialist

Office of Information Technologies
University of Notre Dame
phone: 574-631-3674

On Fri, 19 Jul 2019 at 11:16, Stull, Tiffany (tls6u) wrote:

Hi Shawn,

I like Dave's suggestion of having an option like how you can automatically notify users of being added to a site when you add them, to have a check box in the **Site Info > Manage Access** page, and the same check box in the banner with the **Publish Now** button:

Notify site participants that the site has been published.

I imagine the check box could be set with a property at the institutional level to be checked or unchecked by default. That way, instructors/site administrators would be able to let everyone else in the site know when they

publish it (or, after unpublishing it, when they republish the site), but it wouldn't have to go out automatically to everyone.

Tiffany

On 7/18/2019 10:23 AM, Jennifer Loudiana wrote:

>
> We do the same for Dave, but this would be nice for our hybrid courses that are in class and use it for Resources or a few things, it would save a lot of calls to our help desk asking why they can't click on their course.
>
> Jennifer Loudiana
> Information Technology Services
> 330-490-7430
>
> From: On Behalf Of David Eveland
> Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 10:21 AM
> To: Platt, Shawn ; Sakai User
> Subject: Re: [sakai-user] Publish Now in Course Site: Notification
>
> CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.
>
> I can see the benefits of this, esp. if it's done 'just once'. I currently encourage faculty to publish and then to send an opening announcement or message – as it communicates more directly (information about the course not that it's just published).
>
> I'd think this would work well with a "Publish on" option in Site Info- so that it would 1) publish the course as you've suggested with email notification (perhaps also bullhorns?) and 2) do so at the time designated.
>
> Ideas floating...
> -----
> Dave E.^[1]_{SEP}
> 865-251-2320^[1]_{SEP}
> <end of reply or forward>

On 7/19/2019 10:11 AM, Platt, Shawn wrote:

Hi Tiffany,

You bring up some very good questions and comments that are all valid...thank you!

ShawnP

From: Stull, Tiffany (tls6u)
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 1:45 PM
To: Platt, Shawn; Sakai User
Subject: [EXT] Re: [sakai-user] Publish Now in Course Site: Notification

Hi Shawn,

That's an interesting idea - students are always asking for more notifications, so I think some might like it!

Some questions about proposed implementation:

1. It's my understanding that if the instructor unpublishes the site, and then republishes it, the students would **not** get a new notification? Is this correct?
2. What if an instructor doesn't want students to get the notification? Could they opt out? (Not sure why they wouldn't want students notified, but you never know.)
3. Would it only apply to the **Student** role in course sites? Some members of project sites might like to get notified when the site is published, too. Related questions:
 - What if there are other student-like custom roles (e.g., UVA's **Waitlisted Student**) - shouldn't those users get the notifications too?
 - Would whether a role gets notifications be controlled by a new realm permission, or just **section.role.student**?
4. Would the notifications only go out to roster-added users, or would they go to manually-added users too?
5. If the notifications can also apply to other roles, and you're a TA or co-instructor, could you choose to get a notification if a different instructor/TA published the site? In this case, it might be helpful to include in the email who published it (since questions arise occasionally of who did what in a site).

And a couple comments:

If implemented, there should definitely be a user **Preferences** setting associated with the site publication notifications, so users can turn off the notifications if they don't want to get them. I

imagine the following related settings might also be useful (depending on the implementation):

- **Only notify me when sites in the current and next term are published** (or something like that)
- Which **types** of sites (**course/project**) to receive notifications about.
- Whether you want to get notification of a different site administrator publishing a site where you're also in an administrative role.

Finally, it should be behind a Sakai property that's easy to enable/disable at an institutional level, in case someone has an automated service that publishes all their sites at once - it might be annoying to get an email for every one of your sites being published at the same time!

Thanks,
Tiffany

On 7/18/2019 9:09 AM, Platt, Shawn wrote:

Hi All,

I didn't see any JIRAs but this doesn't mean I may have missed it so I'm just wondering if there was any thought on notifying students that the course site is Published via email and done automatically the one time? This question came up today with an instructor and I thought I mention it here. I'm sure there will be instances, at least in our case, that a student has not been added to the course yet therefore won't get a notification but we do have a lot of instructors who don't publish their courses in a timely manner, have all enrollments completed so it would be good if the student was notified even though they can look for it as a Favorite or by clicking on Sites/My Sites.

Not sure if there are any cons involved but I thought I throw it out there.

Thanks as always to this great community!

ShawnP

Shawn Platt '86

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