

# Sakai development getting started

## Information

This page contains links to all the information a developer should need to get started developing tools and apps for Sakai. This is meant to be a kind of Sakai development walkthrough. It contains a section on where to get more information and then links to get you on the path from regular a Java programmer to Sakai superstar (or something like that). If anything is missing or confusing please contact [Aaron Zeckoski](#).

([Development Tips \(PPT\)](#)) ([Technical intro to Sakai \(PPT\)](#))

## Really Getting Started

1. [Developer links and resources](#)
  - Also listed at the bottom of this page*
  - Check out the developer links and resources, bookmark most of them, use them to do the steps below
    - a. Sign up for the sakai-dev email list
    - b. Get an account on Sakai Confluence and JIRA
2. [Development Environment Setup Walkthrough](#)
  - Getting a good development environment setup is critical to working with Sakai code
    - Complete step by step instructions and various tips that will make developing in Sakai easier
  - [Sakai Programming Best Practices](#)
    - Familiarize yourself with the Sakai programming best practices before getting started
3. [Sakai AppBuilder plugin](#)
  - Generate and try some sample code
    - a. Install the appbuilder plugin in your eclipse environment
    - b. Generate a sample tool in your Sakai source directory
    - c. Build and Deploy the tool using maven
    - d. Startup Sakai
    - e. Test the new tool by adding it to a project site
    - f. Modify the tool
  - Alternatively use the maven 2 template generator to build a basic Sakai app structure:  
[Maven Sakai Template generator](#)
4. [Sakai application \(tool\) structure](#)
  - Make sure you are familiar with the structure of a Sakai tool or application
5. [Sakai app and tool naming tips](#)
  - Learn the various Sakai app and tool naming conventions
6. [Developer Guides](#)
  - Learn about the possible presentation technologies and persistence technologies in Sakai
7. [Sakai Programmer Manual](#)
  - Reference the various guides and tutorials in the Sakai programmer manual as needed

## Where to get more information

- [Sakai foundation website](#) - the main website for the Sakai foundation and Sakai project
  - Find information about upcoming Sakai conferences and other Sakai related news
  - Find out what schools are using Sakai
  - Figure out why it is called Sakai
- [Programmers Cafe](#)
  - The best source of information for developers wanting to work in Sakai
  - Info you can find there:
    - Tutorials
    - Tips
    - Documentation
    - Sample code
- [sakai-dev email list](#)
  - The sakai-dev email list is a great place to ask development questions
  - How sign up for sakai-dev email list
    - Use the mailman page here: <http://collab.sakaiproject.org/mailman/listinfo/sakai-dev>
  - Send email to the list at: [sakai-dev@collab.sakaiproject.org](mailto:sakai-dev@collab.sakaiproject.org) (membership required)
- [Sakai Confluence](#)
  - Sakai uses [Confluence](#) (an enterprise Wiki) to document projects and Sakai related activity
- [Sakai JIRA](#)
  - Sakai uses [JIRA](#) (bug tracker) for issue and bug tracking related to Sakai development
- [Sakai source repository \(SVN\)](#)
  - The Sakai source code is stored in a [Subversion](#) repository
  - [Main Sakai source](#)
    - Includes the entire Sakai source plus provisional tools
  - [Sakai Contrib](#) (community contributions)
    - Includes contributed source for various Sakai projects
- [Sakai release documentation](#)
  - [Javadocs for the Sakai API](#)
    - The Sakai API Javadocs are available with the release documents ([current release javadocs \(2.4.1\)](#))
      - The link to the Javadocs is a little over halfway down (link named "JavaDocs")

- [Javadocs for the trunk](#)
- [Eclipse Development Environment](#)
  - The vast majority of Sakai developers use [Eclipse](#) for development
  - You can use other development environments but Eclipse has some advantages:
    - Supported (eclipse files in the Sakai code base)
    - Well understood (support docs and knowledge)
    - Extended tools (appbuilder plugin)
  - Can get commercial support if desired: <http://www.myeclipseide.com/>