

MINUTES



CalConnect

THE CALENDARING AND SCHEDULING CONSORTIUM

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February 2012

From the Executive Director

Dear Members,

Thanks to Apple for drawing 35 member representatives, which included two individual member participants and reps from 14 organizations, to Cupertino, California for our January 30-February 3 testing event and Roundtable. Eleven participants came exclusively for the interoperability test event with another 10 taking part in both the testing event and the Roundtable.



The continued enthusiasm about our technical progress is certainly showing up in the commitment to



host upcoming events. In May, we will head to Chattanooga, Tennessee for the sessions

hosted by Patricia Egen Consulting. Later this year, CalConnect will be returning to Europe when Google hosts CalConnect XXV at their offices in Zurich, Switzerland, on October 1-5, 2012.

Other members have also stepped up and volunteered to host upcoming meetings through autumn of 2013, so the schedule through 2013 stands as follows:



- ♦ CalConnect XXIII January 30 – February 3, 2012 Apple, Cupertino, California
- ♦ CalConnect XXIV May 21-25, 2012 Patricia Egen Consulting, Chattanooga, Tennessee
- ♦ CalConnect XXV October 1-5, 2012 Google, Zurich, Switzerland
- ♦ CalConnect XXVI January 28 – February 1, 2013 TBD
- ♦ CalConnect XXVII June 3-7, 201 University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin
- ♦ CalConnect XXVIII September 30 – October 4, 2013 TBD

As you get quick updates on Technical Committee progress evidenced in the IOP Test Event report and TC summaries, consider

the growing role that CalConnect has in solving the day-to-day problems faced by both vendors and users in the calendaring and scheduling space.

I would particularly call your attention to a new series we are launching in this newsletter—member interviews—designed to give concrete answers to the question: What does CalConnect's work mean to my business and to my constituents? In this first interview, we get the “benefits and challenges” insights from Andrew McMillan, who conceived of and wrote the DAViCal CalDAV Server



Dave Thewlis



CALCONNECT XXIV

PATRICIA EGAN CONSULTING ♦ CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

INTEROPERABILITY TEST EVENT ♦ MAY 21 - 23

ROUNDTABLE ♦ MAY 23 - 25

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February 2012

IOP Test Event



A total of 21 people participated in the test event, which concentrated on CalDAV and CardDAV issues with related items such as WebDAV sync, as well as intensive testing of iMIP with servers with iMIP gateways and Microsoft Outlook participation. The group also tested timezone servers, and discovery, and nearly everyone implemented the Brief HTTP header at the event. In the course of testing a few small bugs were discovered and fixed.

Those participating in testing were the following:

Apple

- ♦ Cyrus Daboo
- ♦ Rhett Dickson
- ♦ Jacob Farkas
- ♦ Jeffrey Harris
- ♦ Helge Heß
- ♦ Morgen Sagen
- ♦ Wilfredo Sánchez
- ♦ Paul Seligman
- ♦ Sean Seguin
- ♦ Matt Shepherd
- ♦ Ben Smith
- ♦ Michael Yee

Ralf Becker

Carnegie Mellon University

- ♦ Ken Murchison

Andrew McMillan

Microsoft

- ♦ Mallikarjuna Nimmigadda

Oracle

- ♦ Ciny Joy
- ♦ Arnaud Quillaud

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

- ♦ Mike Douglass

Zimbra

- ♦ Praveen Burgu
- ♦ Mithu Mondal

WebDAV-sync

A number of client/server combinations tested this protocol. The problems that surfaced were fixed and implementations were upgraded to the latest draft of the specification.

CalDAV

This protocol is now fairly mature. There are some newer implementations and they are working their way through the usual issues. Etags and ctags seemed to cause some problems for both DAV protocols.

CardDAV

Some of the issues found here are related more to VCARD than the protocol particularly in how clients make use of various properties.

iMIP

Testing mostly involved servers with an iMIP gateway. In general this worked fairly well but some problems were discovered in both clients and servers mostly involving all day events and scheduling organizer issues.

Other Issues and Resolutions

Some problems were discovered and fixed involving timezone server interactions. During the session a number of participants implemented the (non-standard) "Brief" header which reduces the size of responses from servers. There was some testing of discovery implementations.

Discussions

For first time, participants in the IOP Test Event set aside time for BOFS on update versus replace capability in CalDAV/CardDAV and overall service autodiscovery. These were generally felt worthwhile to do, and so the practice will likely be repeated at the May event. In addition, the group had

the usual side discussions, in this case on recurrences (in particular THISANDFUTURE) and timezones.

In discussing how to better present testing results, it was felt that setting up a wiki/etherpad for issues as they come up would help to build a body of knowledge about what had been learned through prior testing events.

In the **Update versus Replacement BOF**, participants addressed update strategies to serve as alternatives to the complete replacement approach currently in place. The desire for a DIF-style update for iCalendar data emerged from the discussion on the form of the updates.

The **Autodiscovery BOF** covered how currently "domain-level" service discovery involves separate discovery for each type of service at a domain (email, chat, calendar, contacts, etc). This adds significant overhead to the account discovery process for clients. An alternative would be to have a site advertise all its services in a single place and have clients simply get that one piece of information. One proposed solution was to use a well-known HTTP location to advertise and autodiscovery document listing all the services. Key issues with this include how much detail needs to go into that document (generally as little as possible) and what format it should take. Participants agreed to continue discussions of this and also start probing the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) to see what interest in addressing the issues might exist in that group.

Mike Douglass, Senior Systems Programmer, Communication & Collaboration Technologies at RPI, served as Interoperability Testing Event Manager.

Tech Committee Summaries – Roundtable XXIII**TC CALDAV**

Since the last Roundtable, the WebDAV Sync draft has been approved by the IETF and the group submitted the CalDAV managed attachments and CalDAV extensions drafts to the IETF. At the Roundtable, the committee discussed further details on the managed attachments draft and how they might address attendee changes to attachments, private event properties and the new user-level notifications draft. Efforts going forward will involve continued work on completing managed attachments and user-level notifications.

TC EVENTPUB

During the months since the last Roundtable, the group continued discussions on features that aid event publishing, notably rich text and intellectual property issues. During that period, the committee lost its Chair, Dan Mendell of dotCal; at the meeting, they expressed appreciation to Dan for his hard work and enthusiasm.

The committee described two major topics for event publishers, rich text and multi-language support and addressed how they intend to focus on these two issues and try to get results in a reasonably short timeframe. There was a call for a volunteer for the chair, pointing out that this need not be a long term commitment— just long enough to handle these issues. They also expressed continued intent to work on the technical aspects of supporting rich text and multiple languages.

TC FREEBUSY

Members of the committee discussed work done on VPOLL and office hours scheduling. They are currently encouraging early implementations of this work. Their work on etherpad documenting VPOLL will move

forward, with a focus on filling out additional details. Interest was expressed in early implementations for the smart grid work. They concluded it might also be useful to document use cases for VPOLL.

TC ISCHEDULE

Since the last Roundtable, most participants had put their focus on TC-CalDAV, so the group had little to report. At this Roundtable, they discussed iSchedule implementations currently deployed in private network environments. Several vendors described how they are using iSchedule today to do server-to-server operations for handling things such as user migration from old to new servers, enabling freebusy for legacy users with new users, and so on. Additional discussions addressed SRV Lookups, webfinger and calendar user address formats.

The committee plans to do robust interoperability testing at the event in October 2012, anticipating that the key security and discovery elements of iSchedule will be in place by then.

TC MOBILE

Discussion centered on the future of the TC given lack of specific work items for the committee. Ultimately, the group proposed that the TC be shut down with a statement of its accomplishments and comments on work going on in other TCs that include impact on mobile calendaring. The primary reason for this is the fact that the distinction between mobile device platforms and their desktop/laptop counterparts has rapidly diminished as mobile devices have become “smarter.” As a result most of the key issues for mobile calendaring are already being covered by work in other TCs.

TC RESOURCE

The TC has worked on correcting the resource properties draft and resubmitting it to the IETF. This included splitting off standard LDAP/vCard properties into their own document for consideration of adopting

in the IETF vCard working group. Some additional properties for more detail auto-scheduling modes were discussed and will be incorporated into the next version of the draft.

TC TIMEZONE

The TC presentation covered the state of the timezone service draft and moved on to next steps. The group concluded they need to restart the work on registries and data formats. In the short term, they have a need for standard aliases and a way to share them. A suggestion was made that the group handle queries that allow discovery of which timezone applies to a location. This will probably become possible once there is a reliable source of border information. The committee intends to move the specification on to the next stage in the IETF; they will concentrate on the registries and data formats.

TC USECASE

Participants reviewed the final usecases for Event Ownership Changes and Specialized Freebusy, both now published on the wiki. The committee will continue to discuss further use case scenarios that they might want to work on in the future.

TC XML

In recent months, the group concentrated on finishing the new CalWS-SOAP specification and spent some time discussing VAVAILABILITY and how it might be used within the SmartGrid. During the Roundtable session, they present this work, particularly describing the new proposal for a VAVAILABILITY override mechanism based on the PRIORITY property.

Over the next few months, they plan to work on a number of new property specifications that were formerly being developed in other committees, but have relevance to the work going on with the Smart Grid. These include LINK and RELATED-TO. The group plans to complete public review and publish the CalWS-SOAP specification.

First Distinguished Service Award

Bernard Desruisseaux First Distinguished Service Award Winner

In early 2011, the CalConnect Board of Directors created an award to recognize individuals who have given extraordinary and/or exemplary service to CalConnect and to interoperable calendaring more generally.

The first recipient of the CalConnect Distinguished Service Award is Bernard Desruisseaux of Oracle, who was honored in absentia at the Roundtable XXIII dinner.

Bernard has been active in CalConnect since its founding in 2004. He was one of the original Oracle team at the very first interoperability test event, and helped to host the original CalConnect Roundtable in Montreal in 2004. He has chaired TC CalDAV and TC iSCHEDULE since their inception. In addition, Bernard has served on ad hoc committees and was most recently Oracle's representative to the Steering Committee.

In the broader calendaring and scheduling community, Bernard's contributions are also well known. He has authored, edited, and contributed to numerous Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and CalConnect specifications.

In terms of working to advance both the work and the value of CalConnect membership, Bernard efforts have been extraordinary. He has made recommendations on new members to help ensure that CalConnect's committees continue to be populated with complementary expertise, attended almost every Roundtable, and participated in most of the interoperability test events.

In doing so, Bernard has always displayed both great integrity and great collegiality and comradeship. He masterfully has balanced the interests and obligations of his employer with that of the greater good of the IT community and interoperable calendaring. As a Chair and contributor in Technical Committees, Bernard has always been able to express his opinions and positions strongly, but willing to adjust those positions and be convinced of other approaches when appropriate.

Bernard's duties have drawn him away from calendaring and from CalConnect, but we are much richer for his contributions and his presence, and hope that someday we may see him active once again.

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Note: The document establishing the CalConnect Distinguished Service Award, and describing the criteria and process, is available in the members area of the CalConnect website.



Bernard Desruisseaux "Sailing" to New Adventures in IT
(Special Effects by Andrew McMillan.)

Interview with Andrew McMillan

Andrew McMillan, who joined CalConnect as an individual member in August 2009, conceived of and wrote the DAViCal CalDAV Server and the aCal CalDAV Client for Android.



Q: Why did you join CalConnect?

A: I joined CalConnect because I wanted to make my calendar programs work better with other calendar programs, and I wanted to get a better insight into the standards. My first experience at CalConnect was actually an interoperability testing event and Roundtable hosted at Apple - just as the most recent one was.

Q: What did you test?

A: I have a free software CalDAV & CardDAV server called DAViCal (www.davical.org)

Q: What did you get out of that?

A: The experience at that first CalConnect showed me that I really needed to be in the room, to talk with the people who design the standards, and especially to meet the people who develop the software that people use to access my software.

Q: What do you get at CalConnect that you feel you wouldn't get elsewhere?

A: Specificity about calendaring, and the interoperability testing. I think that anyone who is working in the calendaring (and contacts) space should look seriously at CalConnect membership. To be able to have Microsoft, Apple, Oracle and Google developers in the room, testing with my software is just amazing.

Q: How have your CalConnect experiences impacted what you're doing?

A: Understanding the thinking behind the standards has changed the way that I write my code. Reading RFCs is pretty fantastic for the sleep-deprived. I'm sure I read RFC3744 ten times before I started to get the ideas, but when you hear the discussion in the room at the roundtable, or read the use cases that these standards are attempting to solve, you get much better understanding of the "why," and that helps decide "how" to implement stuff.

Q: What about insights into customer/constituent needs?

A: The people in CalConnect seem refreshingly interested in being helpful and they understand that everyone wants calendars to "just work."

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Note: This is a first in a series of interviews to deliver member perspectives on CalConnect membership.

New Member Welcome

CalConnect welcomes as an individual member **Pascal Robert**, currently based in Montreal and working as a freelancer at MacTI. Pascal has 16 years of IT experience in various fields (ISPs, internal IT, consulting services) doing system administration, documentation and software development. He contributes to ical4j-connector, an open source Java library for CalDAV, and is creating a groupware framework for Project Wonder, an open source collection of framework for Apple's WebObjects. Pascal earned a degree in Computer Sciences. His LinkedIn profile is at <http://www.linkedin.com/in/macti>



Roundtable XXIII provoked a great deal of intense thinking.

About CalConnect Minutes

- ♦ Issued after each CalConnect Roundtable, this newsletter provides highlights of those gatherings and links to more in-depth coverage on the CalConnect web site.
- ♦ You will also find links to new Technical Committee Reports.
- ♦ This is also a source for details on upcoming CalConnect meetings and conferences.
- ♦ To subscribe to CalConnect Minutes send an e-mail to minutes-subscribe@calconnect.org and put "Subscribe" in the subject line.

Thanks to our contributors to this issue of *Minutes*



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About CalConnect

The Calendaring and Scheduling Consortium (www.CalConnect.org) is a partnership among vendors, developers, and customers to advance calendaring and scheduling standards and implementations. The mission is to provide mechanisms to allow calendaring and scheduling methodologies to interoperate, and to promote broad understanding of these methodologies so that calendaring and scheduling tools and applications can enter the mainstream of computing. The Consortium develops recommendations for improvement and extension of relevant standards, develops requirements and use cases for calendaring and scheduling specifications, conducts interoperability testing for calendaring and scheduling implementations, and promotes calendaring and scheduling.



REGISTER NOW

CALCONNECT XXIV

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CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

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**INTEROPERABILITY TEST EVENT
MAY 21 - 23**

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ROUNDTABLE ◆ MAY 23 - 25

CalConnect members are:

- ◆ Apple
- ◆ Ralf Becker
- ◆ Cabo Communications
- ◆ Carnegie Mellon
- ◆ eM Client
- ◆ Genentech
- ◆ Google, Inc.
- ◆ IBM Corporation
- ◆ IceWarp, Ltd.
- ◆ Intand
- ◆ Kerio Technologies
- ◆ MailSite Software, Inc.
- ◆ Andrew McMillan
- ◆ Microsoft
- ◆ Mozilla Foundation
- ◆ NASA
- ◆ New York University
- ◆ Nokia Corporation
- ◆ OASIS
- ◆ The Omni Group
- ◆ Oracle
- ◆ Patricia Egan Consulting
- ◆ PeopleCube
- ◆ Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst.
(Bedework)
- ◆ Pascal Robert
- ◆ Synchronica Plc
- ◆ TimeTrade Systems
- ◆ University of California
- ◆ University of Wisconsin, Madison
- ◆ Yahoo!
- ◆ Zimbra, a division of VMware