

MINUTES



CalConnect

THE CALENDARING AND SCHEDULING CONSORTIUM

Volume 4, Issue 3

November 2011

From the Executive Director

Dear Members,

Perhaps the recent Roundtable in Prague hosted by [Kerio](#) may be seen in retrospect as the launch event for CalConnect: Phase Two. (Unlike Hollywood producers, I won't add a catchy subtitle like CalConnect Reloaded.)



Our very first full CalConnect in Europe drew 22 participants, including four non-member

organizations, namely, ARC Informatique, DHL, Intel Open Lab, and Stylite AG. Combining on-site attendance with the remote participation of several members in North America via GotoMeeting, the sessions demonstrated that CalConnect's work now decidedly has the involvement of an international community.

We also added symposia — “The Evolution of Internet Calendaring Standards” and “Integrating Internet Calendaring Systems into products and



services” — and focused squarely on serving CalConnect's growing international membership through the BOF “CalConnect Internationally.”

The BOF yielded solid ideas on what CalConnect can do to facilitate greater involvement and participation from our colleagues based in Europe. We received suggestions for our Technical Committee operating processes, our Steering Committee and our Board on possibilities going forward.



Adding to robust agenda, we also included a workshop on Tasks (VTODOs), discussing how iCalendar should be extended to support new requirements such as project management and energy scheduling.

Finally, we are also delighted to announce that Apple will host CalConnect XXIII, which will be held the week of January 30 – February 3 in Cupertino, California.



Dave Thewlis

Dave Thewlis



CALCONNECT XXIII

APPLE INC • CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA

INTEROPERABILITY TEST EVENTS • JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 1

ROUNDTABLE • FEBRUARY 1 - 3

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.
- ♦ To unsubscribe, send an e-mail to minutes-unsubscribe@calconnect.org with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Inside this Minutes:

- ♦ Executive Director's Letter – page 1
- ♦ IOP Test Events – page 2
- ♦ Tech Committees Summaries – page 3
- ♦ New Member Welcome – page 4
- ♦ A Short History – pages 4 & 5
- ♦ About CalConnect – page 6
- ♦ CalConnect Members – page 6

IOP Test Events

The interoperability testing event involved fifteen people onsite, plus one testing remotely. They

represented eight organizations and individual members, as follows:

- Andrew McMillan – DAViCal server and aCal Android client
- Apple – Apple clients and servers
- Intel – SyncEvolution open source client
- Kerio Technologies – Kerio Connect
- Oracle – Oracle Communications Calendar Server
- RPI – Bedework open source CalDAV server
- Stylite AG – EGroupware
- Synchronica – Synchronica Mobile Gateway

The introduction of first-time participants, and new calendaring and synchronization products introduced great energy to the test event. The panoply of mobile and desktop clients resulted in very productive interaction among the participants.

Most of the testing concentrated on CalDAV and CardDAV. There were also implementers testing SyncML; in addition, we were able to test some new services such as the timezone service. A number of issues were identified and often resolved, ranging from problems in understanding and implementing protocols to fixing small but important incompatibility issues.

Some particular issues we tackled were problems associated with the handling of etags and how these should be used with multiple content types and different encodings. This is an issue which will need further discussion and more testing. Callback or notifications are another interesting area and some vendors tested their implementations of some solutions. Again this requires more work.

Other issues that came up were problems with:

- restricting entity types in collections;
- library issues with escaping characters;
- Compressed content;
- The use of cookies;
- Time-range queries in CalDAV filters.

At the next event we hope to be able to test some or all of:

- implementations of CalWS-REST and SOAP.
- iSchedule
- Timezone services
- Different representations of calendar data such as XML.
- WebDAV Sync
- New CalDAV features

Mike Douglass, Senior Systems Programmer, Communication & Collaboration Technologies at RPI, managed the event in the absence of Pat Egen of Patricia Egen Consulting, who serves as Interoperability Testing Event Manager.

NEXT TEST EVENTS

CalConnect invites all interested parties to participate in test events to be held January 30 – February 1, 2012 hosted by Apple Inc. in Cupertino, California immediately prior to the CalConnect XXIII Roundtable. Information: www.calconnect.org/calconnect23.shtml

Tech Committee Summaries



TC CALDAV – The Committee received updates of the current state of drafts and progress at IETF, specifically, that CalDAV Schedule and WebDAV Sync drafts are at Area Director evaluation and informal last call, respectively. The group talked about specific sets of extensions that have been worked on for the last few months. These include attachments, enhanced query reports and default alarms. Everyone agreed to continue work on those items.

TC EVENTPUB – As part of a recap of discussions since the last Roundtable, the Committee reviewed various properties that event publishers would like to see in events. These include such items as better location and sponsor. Rich text is of general interest, as well as in event publication, as is categorization to those who redeliver public events. The group briefly discussed intellectual property and how information can be transported so it is easily accessible within the event to those who are interested. Among the IP-related issues that received attention are moving a silo to a network and modification of content. The Committee has a goal of returning to the next Roundtable with several approved RFCs and offering an initial proposal around category tracking, filtering, and IP.

TC FREEBUSY – The Committee talked about consensus scheduling with VPOLL object. They are just launching efforts in the area of Free/Busy Office Hours Scheduling and, as part of the discussion, viewed demos of the Jasig Scheduling Assistant and the Google

Calendar facility for office hours.

TC ISCHEDULE – After a quick overview of protocol using DKIM versus DOSETA, the Committee talked in more depth about canonicalization of header and body. They looked at how the “relaxed-ischedule” header canonicalization algorithm must apply particular steps in order. Part of the discussion was how to do different transfer encodings to avoid proxies changing the data between sender and receiver. Next steps for the Committee are to update the iSchedule draft and continue security discussions, moving forward as efficiently as possible through the IETF publication process.

TC MOBILE – After reviewing the work program over the past few months, each participant contributed experiences with their mobile products. They focused on particular challenges, especially those related to SyncML and ActiveSync. The group posed questions related to the future scope and operation of the TC, such as whether or not to hold additional interoperability testing events focused on mobile issues, the possibility of developing additional usecases and the value of integration into a Task TC. They concluded they are still very interested in developing usecase information and will focus on that through the next period and revisit status of the TC at the next Roundtable.

TC RESOURCE – The Committee mainly discussed the special implementation considerations for resources, what the major requirements are, and whether or not any standardization would help in interoperability. Another point discussed was how to make scheduling resources more intuitive by providing better error messages on scheduling failures, and making

sure that resource booking works. These actions should be taken before other attendees are invited. The group also reviewed the status of schema for representing resources for calendaring and scheduling the services (draft-cal-x-resource-schema-05) and concluded the next step is to publish the draft and either go ahead with possible DAV properties or close the TC.

TC TIMEZONE – Among the items discussed was the work done with the Timezone Service Protocol, which is now at version 2 and the RFC on IANA Procedures for Maintaining the Timezone Database, which describes how Olson Timezone data will be administered now that Mr. Olson is retiring.

Other discussion focused on interop testing of service implementations and the additional testing elements that should be added at a future event. The group also addressed the impact on timezones and service of dropping leap seconds and aliasing to deal with mapping MS timezones onto Olson timezones.

TC USECASE – After reviewing the work and work products the TC has delivered since its inception, the group then spent the majority of the session discussing the usecases the TC has prepared in its two current areas of work: changing meeting (event) ownership, and scheduling scenarios with VAVAILABILITY and VPOLL for TC FREEBUSY.

TC XML – The XML format for iCalendar is now published as RFC 6321. The group reviewed details of what was done since the last Roundtable, and centered the discussion primarily on work being done with OASIS. They noted there had been significant progress on CalWS-SOAP and discussed how VAVAILABILITY could be used by SMART grid and other schemes.

November 2011

New Member Welcome



CalConnect welcomes as an individual member, Ralf Becker, who joined following his participation in the Prague interoperability testing event. As Director of Software Development for Stylite AG, a German based company offering services around EGroupware, he works full time on this open-source project. His team implemented a CalDAV/CardDAV subset called GroupDAV, and then enhanced it to full CalDAV and CardDAV, and just recently, to CalDAV Scheduling as well. His academic background is in physics and mathematics.



CalConnect and Timezones – A Short History

Accurate timezone information is essential for calendaring and scheduling, so timezones have always been of interest to CalConnect. CalConnect's original activities focused largely on developing recommendations for areas in the existing calendaring standards that needed improvement, and one of these was timezone support. Our first Timezone Technical Committee developed recommendations for the VTIMEZONE component of iCalendar, and followed that with a paper recommending a separate timezone service mechanism.

In anticipation of Extended Daylight Savings Time in 2007, our DST Ad Hoc Committee invested substantial effort developing an information base of links and recommendations for resolving potential DST conflicts in a wide variety of operating systems and platforms. The group followed this with a paper reflecting on the impact of the EDST implementation and suggestions on how the problem could be avoided in the future. The core issue was the timeliness of

timezone data to applications such as calendaring and scheduling, when this data was generally distributed by vendors via patches or periodic software updates. Key variables, of course, were the customers and users who had the responsibility to implement the changes in time.

Based on this EDST-related need, we reactivated our Timezone Technical Committee to look further into the issue. The committee has since developed a draft standard for a Timezone Service Protocol. It is somewhat analogous to NTP (Network Time Protocol), where timezone data would be available from timezone servers on the internet, rather than embedded into systems and into the VTIMEZONE objects in iCalendar data files. Initial implementations of this service have been tested during our last two interoperability test events. Having timezone data available by reference is a long-term goal for CalConnect, and should be for all system environments that need to understand timezones and daylight saving time shifts. *(continued)*



Scenes from CalConnect XXII Roundtable in Prague, Czech Republic.

CalConnect and Timezones – A Short History (*continued*)

Having the data available by reference is a great step forward, but obviously it is only as good as the data itself. For many years, the Olson Timezone Database, initiated by Arthur David Olson at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and supported by several hundred volunteers around the world, has been the authoritative source for timely and accurate timezone data. The Olson data (or a derivative) are essential to nearly all systems (Microsoft has its own timezone definitions) requiring timezone data today.

Two years ago, when Arthur David Olson indicated he was going to retire in the next few years, discussions began as to a future home for the Olson database and process. CalConnect supported the notion that the Internet Society (ISOC), and in particular the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA), consider providing a new home for the database and process, perturbing the process as little as possible, yet ensuring its long-term survival. While I seriously doubt we were the only one making that recommendation; ISOC did in fact decide to make such an offer.

Very recently, a federal civil lawsuit was filed against the co-managers of the Olson process, concerning alleged copyright violations in supporting documentation for the database. That action resulted in the Olson database and the related mailing list becoming unavailable. Without regard to the merits of the suit, the impact of not having the database available or correct was clearly enormous. CalConnect provided a statement to ISOC and related bodies concerning the impact of having the Olson database unavailable, or not being updated as decisions on timezones and daylight savings time continue to be made. Our statement was subsequently published on the CalConnect blog, supporting the Olson process and database and the undeniable importance of having it available and correct.

Even more recently, ISOC and ICANN have announced their hosting of the Olson database and discussion list. The announcement was probably rushed by the lawsuit being filed and a large amount of subsequent speculation and concerns about what was going to happen, and consequently was a little sparse on details. Nonetheless,

the ISOC community and ICANN rose to the potential situation and provided a needed home for the Olson community. Given the importance of the Olson database and volunteer community, CalConnect congratulates ISOC, ICANN, and IETF for acting in a responsible and proactive manner.

In the near future, our Timezone Technical Committee will be ready to recommend Last Call for the Timezone Service Protocol to the IETF, which hopefully means it will be published as an RFC next year. Meanwhile the TC is turning its attention to related work such as recommendations for a registry for Timezone databases and publishers.

Hopefully, the legal situation will be resolved in a rational and fair fashion. Moving forward, there is real promise for making Timezone data and updates readily available to computing processes without having to embed the data, and we will not see a repetition of the complications resulting in the conversion from EDT to EST in the United States in 2007.

Dave Thewlis
Executive Director
CalConnect – The Calendaring
and Scheduling Consortium

Thanks to our contributors to this issue of *Minutes*



Cyrus Daboo, Apple



Andreas Fuchsberger, Microsoft



Tomas Hnetila
Kerio Technologies, Inc.



Dusan Vitek
Kerio Technologies, Inc.



Michael Douglass, RPI



Gary Schwartz, RPI



Joseph Jackson
Carnegie Mellon University



Guy Stalnaker
University of Wisconsin



Ciny Joy, Oracle



Bernard Desruisseaux, Oracle

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 XXIII

APPLE INC

◆◆◆

CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA

◆◆◆

**INTEROPERABILITY TEST EVENTS
JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 1**

◆◆◆

ROUNDTABLE • FEBRUARY 1 - 3

CalConnect organizational members are:

- ◆ Apple
- ◆ Cabo Communications
- ◆ Carnegie Mellon
- ◆ dotCal
- ◆ eM Client
- ◆ Genentech
- ◆ Google
- ◆ IBM
- ◆ IceWarp
- ◆ Intand
- ◆ Kerio Technologies
- ◆ MailSite
- ◆ Microsoft
- ◆ Mozilla Foundation
- ◆ NASA
- ◆ New York University
- ◆ Nokia
- ◆ OASIS
- ◆ The Omni Group
- ◆ Oracle
- ◆ Patricia Egen Consulting
- ◆ PeopleCube
- ◆ Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst.
(Bedework)
- ◆ Synchronica
- ◆ TimeTrade
- ◆ University of California
- ◆ University of Wisconsin
- ◆ Yahoo!
- ◆ Zimbra