CALCONNECT THE CALENDARING & SCHEDULING CONSORTIUM

the *MINUTES*

May 2008

Welcome to the premiere issue of CalConnect's newsletter, designed to give you about 1,000 words on key events and progress of CalConnect calendaring and scheduling efforts, the Consortium's membership, and an update on specifications and standards in the Calendaring & Scheduling arena.

Feel free to pass it around. Use it as a way of updating colleagues and media on why CalConnect continues to serve a practical need. And contribute to it directly in the "Member News and Announcements" section.

Dave Thewlis
Executive Director

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Overview of Roundtable XI

Roundtable XI and the accompanying IOP Test Events set precedents for CalConnect. Hosted by Sun Microsystems in Menlo Park on February 6-8, the week of sessions not only included a Technology Preview attended by two media representatives, but it also featured the largest IOP Test Event in CalConnect's history (see below).

The sessions involved 53 representatives from 25 organizations, including representatives from five observers, that is, organizations attending a Roundtable to see if they wish to join.

Roundtable XI began Wednesday morning, and ran through early afternoon on Friday. Special events at Roundtable XI included:

- A Technology Preview demonstrating live interoperability in the areas of CalDAV Scheduling, Server-Server, and Free/Busy URL. A presentation about this Technology Preview is available at Roundtable XI Technology Preview.
- Presentations on the Danish eKalendar.dk project from representatives of the Danish Government and of Cabo Communications, the prime contractor on the project. The presentations are available at Danish eKalendar Project and eKalendar from a Developer's Perspective.

The remainder of the Roundtable was dedicated to technical committee sessions, BOFs, and informal discussions and networking, with an all-hands Plenary meeting as the last item on Friday afternoon. The Technical Committee sessions were organized sequentially, without competing parallel sessions, to allow all attendees who wished to be involved in the discussions of a Technical Committee the opportunity to do so.

C.I.T.E.

The CalConnect Interoperability Test Events (C.I.T.E.) were held immediately prior to the Roundtable, running all day Monday and Tuesday, February 4-5. Ten organizations participated in the regular IOP Test Event, performing interoperability testing between their calendaring and scheduling implementations. In parallel, CalConnect hosted its first Mobile Interoperability Test Event, attended by three organizations interested in conducting mobile calendaring tests. A total of 30 people attended the two IOP Test Events, including four observers.

Organizations participating in the C.I.T.E. events were Apple, Kerio Technologies, Marware, Microsoft, Oracle, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Scalix (a Xandros company), Sony Ericsson, Sun Microsystems, and Zimbra (a Yahoo! company).

The Mobile IOP event focused on the synchronization protocols used to "sync" mobile device calendars.

> **Why the Mobile IOP Event was important**
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> The problem related to synchronization protocols is that they are not sensitive to the validity of the data, only that the bits were transmitted successfully. As a result, regular synchronization testing cannot detect whether the data transferred is valid. The Mobile Calendar Interoperability Test Suite was developed to allow tests of the real calendar data at the calendar application layer.
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> Mobile devices have limited capabilities, so calendar data is usually transformed to send to or from mobile devices, resulting in interoperability challenges. In addition, in the mobile world, data must exchange between multiple device manufacturers, mobile operators, and calendaring systems. To complicate the issue further, most mobile devices use the obsolete "vcalendar" standard instead of the current icalendar standard, which means they cannot reliably support the same functions as user's desktop calendaring systems, resulting in problems with data synchronization, multiple and lost events, etc.

Technical Committees and Initiatives

TC CALDAV: TC CALDAV reported on its plan to incorporate implicit scheduling into the CalDAV Scheduling Specification.

TC EVENTPUB: TC EVENTPUB reviewed the current state of the VVENUE proposal and initiated a discussion on whether the approach was correct, or whether CalConnect should be encouraging the appropriate extensions to vCARD now that the IETF has undertaken a Working Group to revise the vCard RFC.

TC FREEBUSY: TC FREEBUSY reviewed work on Free/Busy URL and in preparing for the Technology Previews of CalDAV Scheduling, server-server, and Free/Busy URL and discussed synergies with the Danish Government and the eKalender.dk project.

TC IOPTEST: TC IOPTEST reported on the IOP test events just completed, including the first Mobile Interoperability Test Event, discussed early plans to implement an issue-tracking mechanism, and decided to adopt a work item on a formal test suite and capabilities to support virtual IOP testing.

TC MOBILE: TC MOBILE presented its work since the publication of the Mobile Calendar Interoperability Test Suite, and discussed the first Mobile Calendar Interoperability Test Event just completed. Future directions in work for extending the test suite for vCard testing, and a focus on mobile requirements for CalDAV, were adopted into the work plan. TC MOBILE is also exploring having the next Mobile Interoperability Test Event in Europe, possibly in the autumn of 2008.

TC REALTIME: TC REALTIME presented and discussed its work on the REALTIME messaging protocol, Discovery, and Authentication and Authorization, and in particular needs for additional expertise in security within CalConnect to inform this work.

TC TIMEZONE TC TIMEZONE presented the conceptual work to date for the registry and service proposals and led discussion on various elements of the proposals.

TC USECASE: The TC presented its in-progress work on Resources generating a lengthy discussion on the subject and some recommendations from other participants.

NEW INITIATIVES:
- CalConnect will initiate TC-XML in the area of XML representation of iCalendar data.
- CalConnect will support vCard via existing work within extant TCs plus a coordinating function in TC CHAIRS, but will not initiate a new TC for vCard at this time. The public vcard-workshop-l mailing list will be retained as a way of continuing to involve external participants in ongoing focus in this area.
- CalConnect is exploring offering an invitational "meet CalConnect" event in Europe later this year as a way to introduce potential members to the Consortium.
- CalConnect has initiated a Guest Speaker program to invite selected individuals to speak to CalConnect who are unlikely to attend Roundtables due to locale or work interests.

Special Report: CalConnect's "EuroTour 2007"

In November 2007, Dave Thewlis, CalConnect's Executive Director, and Gary Schwartz and Mike Douglass from the Bedework open source project, a CalConnect member organization, made a whirlwind 10 day tour of Europe.

They attended joint Bedework/CalConnect meetings at The Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, the Danish National IT and Telecom Agency, and Stockholm University. Additionally, in London they

met with Chris Dudding, chair of CalConnect's Mobile Technical Committee, and in Stockholm with prospective CalConnect members Uppsala University, UIQ and Astonsoft.

In Stockholm, Gary and Dave gave presentations at Swedish University Computer Network conference, TREFpunkt Stockholm, 14-15 November 2007 (video available at http://www.compodium.se/trefpunkt17/)

After Stockholm, Dave went to the Czech Republic (home of CalConnect member Kerio Technologies) to meet with Kerio and with the University of Western Bohemia, while Gary and Mike flew to meetings at the Public University of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain. Yes, their arms were very tired.

Subsequent to EuroTour 2007, Stockholm University and Cabo Communications became members of CalConnect, and The Danish IT Ministry and Cabo Communications attended RT XI in Menlo Park, CA, presenting on their very impressive ekalender.dk project (https://ekalender.dk/calendar/calendar/view?set_language=en)

We would like to thank all of the people we met with in Europe for their gracious hospitality.

(contributed by Gary Schwartz, RPI)

New CalConnect Members

Welcome to Sybase iAnywhere, Cabo Communications, and Synchronica. CalConnect membership now stands at 41 active members.

Sybase will tune into CalConnect's work in the mobile arena; the company's iAnywhere mobile software platform combines email/messaging, mobile device management, enterprise-to-edge security and back-office application extension capabilities.

Cabo also has an interest in CalConnect's Technical Committee on Mobile. Cabo's Irigo Work offers hosted email, calendar, chat, and network with a Web 2.0 interface and is based on a Zimbra product from Yahoo (Zimbra/Yahoo is a CalConnect member).

Carsten Brinkschulte, CEO of Synchronica, explained his company's interest in CalConnect as follows: "Open industry standards represent the future of mobile technology, and I am confident that our partnership with CalConnect will help us to further improve our solutions. Our industry standards approach is particularly important when dealing with high-growth emerging markets." Synchronica's award-winning Mobile Gateway provides push email and synchronization services for virtually all mass market feature phones and Smartphones on the market today.

Updates on Specs and Standards

Work has completed on the iCalendar update document (2445bis). The iTIP update document (2446bis) is now in working group last call, while the iMIP update document (2447bis) is nearing completion

Member News and Announcements

This section is reader-generated. To contribute, send your article of no more than 150 words to maryann@karinch.com. Product announcements are acceptable as long as they are linked to the standards and interoperability solutions that are the focus of CalConnect's work.