Minutes

CalConnect

From the Executive Director

At the recent Roundtable hosted by Microsoft, we had two new and different types of sessions on the agenda. Based on the response from those attending, we can expect to see sessions like this added in the future.

Our First Guest Speaker:

Ben Fortuna, the author of iCal4J, was with us almost the entire week, so the membership had many opportunities to meet and talk with him. Many thanks to Ben for making the long, long journey from Melbourne, Australia, to be with us. (See story on page 2.)

Timezone Workshop:

This was our second workshop, our first being a vCard workshop at Roundtable X . We look forward to hosting new workshops in the not too distant future. Your ideas for future topics are solicited and welcomed. (See story below.)

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

Dave Thewlis

Register Now:

CalConnect XV

Hosted by Oracle
Redwood Shores, CA

Interoperability Test Event

June 1-3

Roundtable

June 3-5

CalConnect Timezone Workshop Centers on Solution

CalConnect hosted a Timezone Workshop on Tuesday, February 3, 2009, at Microsoft in Redmond, Washington. Attendees discussed problems with timezones as implemented today, with one of the most fundamental being that there is no single source for timezone data. Specifically, the group discussed relevance of CalConnect's proposed direction to:

- define timezone registries,
- make recommendations on storage of timezone

sensitive data, and
- work with API developers to use the service.

Eighteen people participated in the workshop. Please see **Timezone Workshop** for a complete report of the event.

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April 2009

IOP Test Event Results

The fourteenth CalConnect interoperability event was held at the Microsoft campus in Redmond, Washington on February 2-4. Participants were Apple, Google, IBM, Microsoft (both Entourage and Outlook), PeopleCube, and Yahoo/Zimbra

Participants used predetermined test scenarios, which can be found at the CalConnect website. The documents used in this testing event were the CalConnect CalDAV Matrix for Draft 08, in particular the scheduling section and an iCalendar, iMIP and iTIP testing matrix.

The following tests were done against all the servers:

- authentication using HTTP basic auth
- PROPFIND on principle url
- creating new non-recurring events
- modifying non-recurring events
- creating new recurring events
- creating an exception to recurring events

This Interop showed continued improvement in iCalendar interoperability. On the CalDAV side of testing, issues regarding Cancellations of calendar events showed up during testing. This will receive focus at the next Interop session.

CalConnect's First Guest Speaker

Ben Fortuna, the author of iCal4J, claimed the distinction of being CalConnect's first guest speaker at a Roundtable.

Ben presented the history of iCal4j and some of its present features, for example, compatibility hints and the various issues it's designed to accommodate like line endings, relaxed parsing, and Outlook compatibility; timezones and associated issues with them; recurrence; parsing, iCal4j output, caching, indexing, X- attributes, and iTIP

validation. He then discussed future directions for iCal4j development that may involve Java5, iTIP/ iMIP parsing, and perhaps the new vCARD 4.0 initiative. He also mentioned CalDAV/ CardDAV, access to calendar stores, SyncML, and Android/J2ME as possible work the iCal4j community may undertake.

Thanks to our contributors to this issue of *Minutes*:

Cyrus Daboo
Apple

Bernard Desruisseaux
Oracle

Michael Douglass
RPI

Pat Egen
Patricia Egen Consulting

Michael Filip
IceWarp

Steven Lees
Microsoft

Chuck Norris
Eventful

Gary Schwartz
RPI

Guy Stalnaker
University of Wisconsin

Dave Thewlis
CalConnect

Roundtable XIV

Roundtable XIV took place February 4-6, immediately after the interoperability testing event. (See above story.) A total of 31 people from 19 organizations attended, including two representatives from Intand, who came as observers. Observers are organizations attending a Roundtable to see if they wish to join CalConnect.

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 each Technical Committee the opportunity to do so. (See story on page 3.)

A total of 18 people came to the Timezone Workshop (See story on page 1).

Members represented at the Roundtable were Apple, Dartmouth, Eventful, Google, IBM, Kerio, Microsoft, neutralSpace, Oracle, Patricia Egen Consulting, PeopleCube, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Scalix, University of California, University of Washington, University of Wisconsin, and Yahoo!/ Zimbra

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New Member: IceWarp® Limited

Welcome to the developers of the IceWarp® Server

IceWarp has become one of the 14 universities, 21 companies, and 2 open-source organizations that make up the consortium. Headquartered in the Washington, D.C. Metro Area, IceWarp has its development center in Prague and technical teams are located on both sides of the Atlantic.

IceWarp participated in CalConnect's second Mobile Calendaring Interoperability Test Event on November 4-6 in the Czech Republic and plans to be active in CalConnect's Technical Committees for Mobile, CalDAV and iSchedule.

"Having participated in a few CalConnect events, we were able to progress on the planned features of our upcoming product version faster and with confidence of compatibility," said Jakub Klos, the founder of IceWarp.

Thank you to **Microsoft** for hosting the February Interoperability Testing and Roundtable Events.

Join the Friends of CalConnect group on **Facebook**.

You can also get **LinkedIn** with Dave Thewlis and many other CalConnect colleagues.

Update on Technical Committees . . . *from Roundtable XIV*

TC CALDAV provided a status update on IETF Internet-Drafts relevant to CalDAV. A discussion on recent work on the CalDAV Scheduling extensions (that is, on the new Schedule-Tag as well as the reporting of errors on removal operations.) preceded debate on the numerous CalDAV extensions projects addressed during the TC conference calls.

TC EVENTPUB presented the current state of a draft proposal for a REFERENCE icalendar property allowing calendar entities to reference external data in a manner more useful than the current link property or altrep parameters. The favored target for such information is vCard. Suggestions on how to rework the draft emerged.

TC FREEBUSY presented the current state of the Freebusy URI draft and a few corrections surfaced. With those made, it was agreed the draft would pass the last call. The presentation moved on the possible next steps for the committee—these likely being availability and other freebusy extensions. Fuzzy scheduling, such as that provided by Doodle and other voting models, seems to offer big advantages to the current iTip approach.

TC iSCHEDULE presented an overview of the iSchedule model and existing standards iSchedule leverages along with an example of a typical iSchedule workflow. An overview of the mechanism an iSchedule Sender can use to obtain the capabilities of an iSchedule Receiver was also presented. A discussion ensued on iSchedule deployment scenarios where multiple iSchedule Receivers are deployed in the same Internet domain to handle incoming scheduling messages of different subsets of the entire calendar user population.

TC MOBILE reported the findings from the European Mobile Calendaring Interoperability Test Event held November 2008. There was a discussion on how to increase adoption of iCalendar on mobile platforms and what the scope of the CalDAV considerations for Mobile Interoperability Test Event white paper should be. Initial plans for the next event were made and will be finalized in future TC calls. It was agreed that the next work item for the TC will be a vision for interoperable mobile calendaring.

TC TIMEZONE reported on the Timezones workshop, in particular a presentation of service architectures followed by discussion of possible sources and form of timezone information. Ideas presented to Roundtable attendees led to discussion on compatibility issues for clients.

TC USECASE summarized the state of discussions on resources, the MinIOP Resources document, and ideas about future directions. Discussion centered on a possible initiative working towards a recommended schema for resources. It was agreed that work under a new TC for resources was warranted. The TC was asked to draft a new usecase document using a non-business/non-enterprise focus, i.e., focused more towards consumer uses of calendaring.

TC XML discussed the iCalendar<->XML mapping document. The latest proposal for the mapping was presented and discussed and the TC will soon finalize this for submission to the IETF. In addition an online conversion tool to be used to help "visualize" and test the new mapping will be available soon. Next steps include looking at a possible JSON mapping and exploring Web Services.

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Industry News: FYI

Speaking of time zones. . .

In his blog entry on internetnews.com, Sean Michael Kerner called the world's attention to an interesting time zone fact: At 6:31:30 PM (EST) on February 13, Unix time equaled 1234567890. That number is the number of seconds (1.23 billion) since the beginning of the Unix epoch on 00:00:00, Jan. 1, 1971.

Call to Action: Mozilla

Mid-February saw a flurry of blog postings related to Mozilla's need for developers for the

Calendar Project.

Lead developer, Phillip Kewisch, wrote that the Calendar project, which has been working on the Lightning add-on to Thunderbird and the standalone Sunbird project, "is at a critical juncture" due to the loss of some key contributors to the effort. His plea was "if you've been using Lightning for a while, and know a bit about Mozilla technologies (any of XUL, JavaScript, CSS), or want to help test, write documentation, or do something else not listed here -- get in touch!"

New CalConnect Sites

The CalConnect Blog (http://calconnect.wordpress.com) has made its debut. The primary purpose is announcements; it gives you a quick way to find out what you need to take action on—like registering for a Roundtable—or other items that merit prompt attention. The blog offers an RSS feed.

CalConnect also has a new **Wikipedia page**. Please help ensure that appropriate, related pages link to the CalConnect entry, and that CalConnect's own page stays up to date.

Member News and Announcements

This section is reader-generated.

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.

About CalConnect

The Calendaring and Scheduling Consortium (CalConnect) 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.

Organizational members are Apple, Cabo Communications, Carnegie Mellon, Dartmouth, Duke University, Eventful, Fresno State, Google, IBM, IceWarp, Kerio Technologies, MailSite, Microsoft, Mozilla

Foundation, neutralSpace, New York University, Oracle, Patricia Egen Consulting, PeopleCube, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Scalix, Sony Ericsson, Stanford University, Stockholm University, Sun Microsystems, SWAMI (Swedish Alliance for Middleware Infrastructure), Symbian, Synchronica, TimeBridge, University of California, University of Chicago, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, University of Washington, University of Wisconsin, Yahoo!/Zimbra.

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