Minutes

CalConnect THE CALENDARING AND SCHEDULING CONSORTIUM

Volume 2, Issue 3 July 2009

From the Executive Director

At the recent Roundtable hosted by Oracle, we held a Shared Calendar Workshop; officially released new documents in the areas of XML, USECASE, and Freebusy, welcomed new members—and that was in addition to our regular meeting agenda and the interoperability testing event. In short, this issue of *CalConnect Minutes* has a great deal of news.

I want to call your attention to a need as well. CalConnect's blog (calconnect.wordpress.com) has a Blog roll. Your recommendations for additional blogs to be added to this list are welcome. Help your fellow members stay informed by making sure we don't miss any important sources of news and opinion.

One final note: Working with Technical Committee Chairs, the Publicity Committee has created summaries to use in communicating with non-technical people about our work. Each presents name, goal, and value proposition.

Please turn to page 4 of the newsletter—you may find these summaries very helpful in communicating with media as well as colleagues who are not "in the trenches."

Feel free to pass this newsletter around. Use it to update colleagues and media on why CalConnect serves a practical need. I also encourage you to contribute to it directly by sharing the developments that affect our industry and our technical efforts.

Dave Thewlis

Register Now:

CalConnect XVI

Hosted by Apple
Cupertino, CA

Interoperability Test Event
October 5-7

Roundtable
October 7-9

First CalConnect Shared Calendar Workshop Held

On Wednesday afternoon of the Roundtable, a short workshop on shared calendars provided opportunity for discussion of issues many members have wanted to find solutions for. Discussion centered around models and use cases for shared, group and public calendars, how they should work, what technologies or standards need to be in place, what security features are needed, and how best to proceed. As part of the discussion, Jason Miller of NASA provided a briefing on NASA's NOMAD project and calendaring efforts.

The consensus was that shared calendars is an important area to focus on. In the short term, TC USECASE and TC CalDAV will pick up work items to continue this effort.

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.

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Inside this issue:

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IOP Test Event Results

The 15th CalConnect interoperability event took place at Oracle. Four CalDAV servers and two CalDAV clients were tested. iCalendar, iMIP and iTIP protocols were also tested between three applications.

Participants found several bugs and corrected them at the event. They noted continued progress in CalDAV scheduling; there was some CardDAV testing as well.

This was the second event for one of the servers and the participating company had made significant progress on its code so many more items tested cleanly.

Some servers saw 500 errors. The HTTP 500 error is a generic error message that a browser passes out when your web site errors for some reason; it provides no useful information at all. This makes it tough during testing. Freebusy lookups were tested against several servers and worked well.

The next interoperability event will occur before the Fall Roundtable at Apple in Cupertino, CA . Plans include Freebusy Read URL interoperability testing.

Thank you to Oracle for hosting Roundtable XV

See event photos on page 5, with more photos on the web.

http://picasaweb.google.com/calconsortium/CalconnectJune200902#5345762773268811298

Roundtable XV

Roundtable XV followed the interoperability testing event. (See above story.) A total of 32 people from 22 organizations attended.

The workshop on shared calendars was the featured session on Wednesday afternoon. (See story on page 1). It was followed by technical committee meetings, BOFs, and informal discussions and networking, with an all-hands plenary meeting as the last item on Friday. TC sessions were held sequentially so attendees who wished to be involved in the discussions could do so. (See story on page 3.)

Attendees discussed launching a "special interest group" for the customer side of CalConnect. Those members focused on using (rather than developing) new and improved calendar systems will be able to discuss their needs and usecases in a way that can both help clarify their own needs and provide input to developers in CalConnect.

Another highlight was the announcement of newly published documents:

TC FREEBUSY published Freebusy Read URL Proposal before the Roundtable.

TC USECASE documents were approved for publication at the Roundtable—

State of Resource Interoperability for Calendaring, Groupware and Project Management

Use Cases for Resources

A Recommendation for Minimum Interoperability of Resource Information

TC XML submitted its newest document, iCalendar XML Representation Proposal, to the IETF as an Internet Draft earlier in the week.

Members represented were Apple, Cabo, Chris Colomb, Google, Mailsite, Microsoft, NASA, neutralSpace, Notify Technology, Oracle, Patricia Egen Consulting, PeopleCube, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Stanford University, Stockholm University, Sun Microsystems, SWAMI, University of California, University of Wisconsin, Yahoo!/Zimbra, and ZideOne.

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

Cyrus Daboo, Apple

Bernard Desruisseaux, Oracle

Michael Douglass, RPI

Pat Egen, Patricia Egen Consulting

Steven Lees, Microsoft

Chuck Norris, Eventful

Gary Schwartz, RPI

Guy Stalnaker, University of Wisconsin

Dave Thewlis, CalConnect

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

TC CALDAV provided a status update on the IETF Internet-Drafts relevant to CalDAV. The TC also demoed the ZideOne Outlook Connector (see New Members) and held an open discussion on the following extensions projects: WebDAV Synchronization, calendar alarms, shared calendars, and calendar attachments.

TC EVENTPUB discussed the interaction between TC Eventpub and the shared calendaring workshop. In particular, public events use cases previously developed by this TC are directly relevant to ongoing work by TC Usecase. The TC also addressed work on their document describing how vCard can be used with iCalendar to provide richer attendee and location/venue information. They intend to keep this aligned with the vCard 4.0 update being undertaken in the IETF. When IETF work on vCard is done, it will be integrated into the TC's resource proposal.

TC FREEBUSY covered the publication of a document and a proposal for support of consensus scheduling. "Freebusy Read URL" is CalConnect document CD 0903. Consensus scheduling refers to approaches to finding a meeting time that involve voting or presentation to the group of alternative times and determining a best match. This is contrasted to the iTIP approach suggesting a single time attendees can accept or reject. Some online services provide this consensus based approach; the TC is looking for a way to incorporate this within the calendaring standards.

TC iSCHEDULE reviewed the security model of iSchedule and addressed 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 focused on (1) the vision for the mobile calendaring wiki page. Discussion on what participants thought needed to be included covered specific use cases for organizations, as well as personal calendaring; (2) the next mobile interoperability event. The TC may hold another event early next year; other options were discussed. For future directions it was suggested that working on a document describing how CalDAV could be effectively used by mobile devices would be worthwhile. **Nominations are being solicited for a new chair for TC Mobile.**

TC RESOURCE (*first session*) reviewed reasons for establishing the TC and the first order of business: creating a list of attributes describing a resource. It was suggested that the existing list be put in an extendable Registry. The TC discussed the format to be used to represent the attributes in the document and decided to use an abstract schema, slightly more complicated than a simple name-value pair, with an LDAP mapping example at the end of the document. The TC will track other topics on the wiki to tackle later.

TC TIMEZONE presented progress toward developing the standards to support a global timezone service. The TC discussed the need for a well defined name registry and the likely form of the service. The state of the 2 RFC drafts was presented. The publisher and timezone ID registry draft is almost complete apart from the necessary discussion on timezone identifier form. The service RFC draft is in outline form. Still to be defined are the operations and parameters and defining a client API to reflect the service operations. Three independent implementations will be available for inter-operability testing by October.

TC USECASE presented an overview of new documents:

State of Resources,

Resource Use Cases, and

MinIOP Resource Recommendation.

[All were approved by TC Chairs at the Wrap-up session.] Three areas of work will be tackled in the next quarter: draft use cases for non-institutional/ non-enterprise calendar users; draft a set of use cases drawn from the Shared Calendar wiki/ session notes and the Eventpub wiki; and update the CalConnect Glossary. Discussion about shared calendars revealed inconsistencies on what a "shared calendar" is. The TC decided the wiki will be the locus of work.

TC XML announced submission of their XML protocol to the IETF as an internet draft. It will also be published as a protocol on the CalConnect website pointing to the IETF document to ensure that viewers get the current version of the protocol as it goes through the IETF process. The OASIS oBIX working group is eager to take advantage of this work in the development of their WS Calendar specification for intelligent building management. The TC expects to begin next on a JSON document for the protocol.

New TC Summaries: For Public Use

The **CalDAV** Technical Committee intends to define the problems members of CalConnect want to solve with Calendaring Extensions to WebDAV, or CalDAV, which is a standard allowing a client to access scheduling information on a remote server. The TC also addresses potential extensions to CalDAV. ***Define use cases and requirements for CalDAV; assist in development of CalDAV and CalDAV Scheduling specifications***

The **Event Publication** Technical Committee works to establish standards and best practices in the public events space. The iCalendar specification grew out of a need for interdepartmental and intercompany scheduling, and does not have adequate support for events intended for a public audience. As the public events space has grown, the need for structured data about events such as city, street address, cost, and performer have grown. These fields enable event categorization and search. ***Define event publishing & establish differences from normal calendaring and scheduling***

The **Freebusy** Technical Committee promotes calendaring and scheduling interoperability with respect to the sharing and exchange of Freebusy information. Its activities include identifying and publishing use cases and pinpointing opportunities to improve standards. ***Develop and conduct Federated Freebusy Challenge Response; Freebusy URL protocol; availability and office hours***

The **iSchedule** Technical Committee is developing a proposal for the Internet Calendar Scheduling Protocol (iSchedule). iSchedule will enable interoperability between calendaring and scheduling systems by allowing calendar scheduling transactions such as schedule, reschedule, and freebusy requests specified in iTIP (iCalendar Transport-independent Interoperability Protocol) to be exchanged via HTTP. ***Develop Internet Scheduling Protocol (iSCHEDULE) (iTIP over HTTP) for submission as proposed standard to IETF***

The **Mobile** Technical Committee aims to identify issues associated with mobile calendaring and scheduling and propose recommendations on how to address any problem areas. ***Define issues for mobile support of standards-based Calendaring and recommend extensions to standards for mobile support***

The **RESOURCE** Technical Committee intends to help facilitate seamless scheduling of resources, between any client and any server. A resource in the scheduling context is any shared entity that can be scheduled by a calendar user, but does not control its own attendance status. The main steps involved in resource scheduling are discovery of the right resource, scheduling the resource and sharing the information on that resource with other attendees. ***Standardizing each of these aspects of resource scheduling.***

The **TimeZone** Technical Committee (reactivated) builds on work done by the original TC, which published Timezone Registry and Service Recommendations. Its activities include development of an approach to a central authoritative Timezone Registry and requirements for a Timezone Registry Service. ***Develop proposals for a formal, authoritative Timezone Registry and a Timezone Service Protocol***

The **USECASE** Technical Committee develops use cases in the calendaring/ scheduling field. Use cases describe ways that users and developers of calendar and scheduling software use or develop the software in various contexts, e.g., use of mobile devices, interacting with resources, managing tasks, XML representation, etc. Use cases help software developers and calendaring system administrators to better create useful products and environments for users. They also help prevent the development of "kitchen sink" protocols and products that include functionality not commonly used. Additional work may involve surveys of deployed products to determine how products were designed to help inform Technical Committee work. ***Develop sets of real world use cases that can be used to validate identified functionality & testing scenarios for existing & future C&S implementations***

The **XML** Technical Committee is developing a mapping between iCalendar and XML to allow iCalendar data to be converted into XML and vice versa. The mapping is two-way or "round-trippable", so that an original iCalendar data stream can be converted to XML and then back to iCalendar, and correctly preserve the original iCalendar data. The main audience will be software developers who want to implement the mapping. ***Develop XML specification for iCalendar that is fully round-trippable***

The **IOPTest** Technical Committee ***Supports interoperability testing for all technical committees, develop test suites & reference implementation, publish IOP test results***

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Summaries of New TC Documents

Documents are in the Work Products area of the CalConnect website.

Proposal for Freebusy Read URL defines a standardized form of Freebusy read URL to improve interoperability between client and server implementations, while extending the functionality and utility through the use of optional parameters. Several CalConnect members have committed to implementing the proposed formats of the Freebusy URL; DAViCal has also done so.

State of Resource Interoperability for Calendaring, Groupware and Project Management is a survey of the state of resource interoperability for a representative sample of calendaring, groupware, and project management applications.

Use Cases for Resources lists use cases that utilize resources within the calendaring and scheduling application domain.

A Recommendation for Minimum Interoperability of Resource Information presents a view of how to enhance inter-operability of resources within the calendaring and scheduling application domain.

iCalendar XML Representa -tion is a specification to define an XML format that allows iCalendar data to be converted to XML, and then back to iCalendar, without losing any semantic meaning in the data.

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.

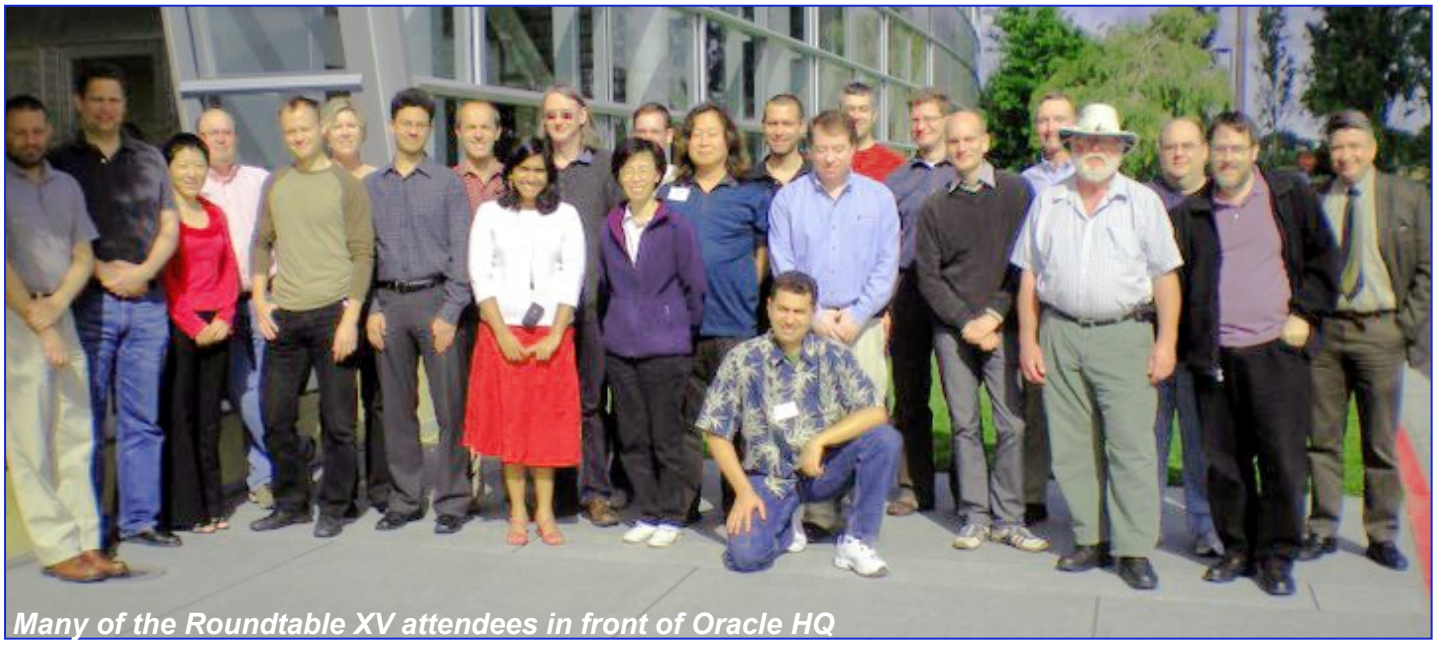
Organizational members are Apple, Cabo Communications, Carnegie Mellon, Dartmouth, Duke University, Eventful, Fresno State, Google, IBM, IceWarp, Kerio Technologies, MailSite, Microsoft, Mozilla Foundation, NASA, neutralSpace, New York University, Oracle, Patricia Egen Consulting, PeopleCube, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Scalix, Sony Ericsson, Stanford University, Stockholm University, Sun Microsystems, SWAMI, Symbian, Synchronica, TimeBridge, University of California, University of Chicago, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, University of Wisconsin, Yahoo!/Zimbra, ZideOne

New Members: NASA, ZideOne, and Notify Technology

NASA has joined CalConnect with member representatives based at the Shared Service Center (NSSC) at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi.

ZideOne's first contact with CalConnect was participation in the "Meet CalConnect" event in Prague, Czech Republic. Headquartered in Magdeburg, Germany. ZideOne aims to add Internet standards based calendaring and contact management to Microsoft Outlook. "ZideOne Connector" can be used to connect arbitrary CalDAV and CardDAV servers to the calendaring and contact management client of Microsoft.

Founded in 1994, **Notify Technology Corporation** develops mobility products for organizations of all sizes. Notify's wireless solutions provide secure synchronized email and PIM access and management to any size organization on a variety of wireless 2-way devices and networks. The company is headquartered in San Jose, California.



Many of the Roundtable XV attendees in front of Oracle HQ