

MINUTES



CalConnect

THE CALENDARING AND SCHEDULING CONSORTIUM

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June 2012

From the Executive Director

Dear Members,

The locations of CalConnect meetings give an interesting indication of the diversity of our membership. Within the past year, members and other interested parties came together for testing and discussions in Prague at a meeting hosted by Kerio, at Apple headquarters in Cupertino, and most recently, in Chattanooga, Tennessee,



the home base of host company Patricia Egan Consulting.

Next, we are off to **Zurich, Switzerland** for testing and Roundtable XXV hosted by **Google**. After that, we head back to the San Francisco Bay Area for meetings hosted by Oracle, and then to Madison, Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin.

As CalConnect grows, we find that our members are “all over the map” and encompassing a community of small-to-large vendors, universities, and consultants in the calendaring-and-scheduling space.

Roundtable XXIV, which took place on May 23-25, 2012, involved representatives from 11 organizations.



The CalConnect Interoperability Test Event was held immediately prior to the Roundtable on May 21-23. Eight participants from 4 organizations were present onsite, and one individual and implementation participated remotely.

The Roundtable was dedicated to technical committee sessions, and informal discussions and networking, with an all-hands Plenary meeting as the last item on Friday afternoon.



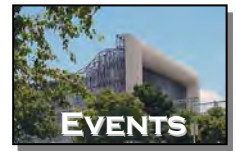
The Technical Committee sessions were organized sequentially, without competing parallel sessions, as is our standard practice to allow all attendees who wished to be involved in the discussions of each Technical Committee the opportunity to do so.

The special events at this Roundtable

included two “implementation” BOFS:

- CalDAV Test Suites and Performance Testing
- Shared Address Books

A special BOF on Autodiscovery was also held as a follow-on to BOFs in February and last October, and it was decided to form a Technical Committee to work in this area.



Plan to join us in Zurich the week of October 1!

Dave Thewlis



Thank you to Patricia Egan Consulting for hosting Roundtable XXIV in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

CALCONNECT XXV

GOOGLE ♦ ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

INTEROPERABILITY TEST EVENT ♦ OCTOBER 1 - 3

ROUNDTABLE ♦ OCTOBER 3 - 5

Inside this *Minutes*:

- Executive Director's Letter – page 1
- IOP Test Events – page 2
- Tech Committees Summaries – page 3
- Distinguished Service Award – page 4
- Member Interview – page 5
- AUTODISCOVERY Tech. Committee Formed – page 6
- Upcoming Event & *Minutes* Contributors – page 7
- About CalConnect – page 8

IOP Test Event

A total of eight people representing four organizations participated in the interoperability test event, which concentrated almost exclusively on CalDAV and related HTTP support. CalDAV and CalDAV scheduling are now relatively mature protocols, and those participants with relatively long-standing implementations were able to provide useful pointers to the developers of newer implementations.

Those participating included four from AOL with a new server, one from Apple with various clients and the calendar server, two from Carnegie Mellon University with Cyrus mail server and one from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with Bedework.

Clients from Andrew McMillan Software (acal) and Apple IOS and desktop clients were used as well as the test suite developed by Apple and available from its open source site.

The usual collections of small but significant bugs were discovered and corrected. In addition there was some extensive testing and development of some features that are either in use already by some vendors or will be used in the near future.

AOL is just starting out with their server and only recently got CalDAV support working. As a result they experienced a number

of issues when trying to test with the Apple test suite. They made some progress in getting iCal to connect to their server and worked on a few discovery issues.

The Bedework server was updated to support default alarms already supported by Apple. In the process, some changes were made to the draft of an RFC defining this feature. In addition, Apple's client pinpointed some new, non-conforming behavior in Bedework handling of etags, and that led to a fix.

CMU fixed a few bugs discovered by the Apple clients and successfully tested scheduling, accepting and declining events with the IOS client. In addition, the CMU participants worked with Apple on additions to the new HTTP header, Prefer, developing a feature to replace the Brief header. In the process, they discovered some issues with DAV:propstat and updated the draft RFC and their implementations. Along with those at the event there were other servers and clients available for remote testing, Kerio's server was available as was DAViCal. Andrew MacMillan's Android client aCal also proved useful for testing.

In addition to the testing, fixing and development, we continued with our new practice of putting

some time aside to discuss prospective calendaring features or issues with existing features. We spent more than an hour on Monday talking about address book sharing. Having these sessions during the testing events allows developers to discuss some of the more arcane implementation issues at length. We will be considering further topics for the next test event in Zurich.

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



Zurich at night.

Tech Committee Summaries – Roundtable XXIV**AutoDiscovery BOF**

Roundtable participants held a BOF on the topic of aggregated service auto-discovery: a way for a client to setup multiple services (email, calendar, contacts, chat etc) via a simple, efficient and secure protocol. This would replace the current process clients go through of having to do separate service discovery with each protocol a device might support. The group discussed the key issues with the current situation and looked at three possible solutions for an aggregated protocol. Working with the IETF was a key requirement to achieve the intended outcome. It was decided that CalConnect should setup a formal Technical Committee to address this subject. A charter for this TC has now been drafted. (Article on page 6.)

TC CalDAV

After a presentation of the latest CalDAV Managed Attachments draft, the committee discussed the few pending issues (caching by client, change of URI, batching). Those present came to an agreement on most of those. In addition, they described the work being done to leverage the new HTTP Prefer header in the context of WebDAV/CalDAV. They also

discussed future work, around sharing and smart linking.

TC Eventpub

The committee presented their work on new properties and talked about STYLED-DESCRIPTION, STRUCTURED-LOCATION, PARTICIPANT as well as two others: STRUCTURED-CONTACT and SPONSOR. During discussions it was agreed those last two can be expressed as types of PARTICIPANT. Members also decided that PARTICIPANT had uses in VPOLL.

TC Freebusy

A presentation on the work done on VPOLL led to a description of how VPOLL is used to set up and agree to meeting times. The group also talked about how VPOLL might be used in “office hours” applications to request a meeting invitation, for example a student requesting a meeting with a professor.

TC iSchedule

After an introduction to iSchedule, the group discussed what the next iSchedule Interop might look like, defining 3 levels of interoperability (basic, discovery and DKIM), and doing an informal survey: It seems as though at least 5 implementations might be available for testing in Zurich.

TC Resource

The committee discussed the TC charter, the work done so far and

the status of the drafts. They then had a short discussion on what standardization work can be done to make attendee searches for scheduling easier. Ultimately, they decided to continue discussions on CalDAV extensions for that in the Resource TC.

TC Timezone

Members described the status of the service draft and talked about the implications of JSON support. They agreed to work on JSON during the next few calls and see if they can get the service ready for last call with that support. They will also work on registries and data formats to support localization, aliasing, borders and other issues.

TC UseCase

First, the committee presented comments from real users that illustrate usecases for inter-system functioning, both in managing calendar data and inter-system scheduling. They then discussed iSchedule and how VPOLL is a new paradigm for considering scheduling unlike the “old” free/busy model.

TC-XML

The group went over some of the past work they have done within CalConnect and OASIS. They concluded they need to create draft RFCs to specify fully some of the work done in WS-Calendar and talked about the work done towards a JSON specification.

Patricia Egan Honored with Service Award



The recent meeting marked the first time CalConnect met for testing events and the Roundtable in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and it was a particularly appropriate time to do so. Members had elected to



honor Patricia Egan, of Patricia Egan Consulting and the host of the meeting, with the

CalConnect Distinguished Service Award. Patricia is the founder of CalConnect. The award, only the second to be bestowed, was presented at CalConnect XXIV on May 24th, 2012. (Bernard Desruisseaux of Oracle received the first CalConnect Distinguished Service Award in 2011.)

Pat has been involved with calendaring and scheduling for many years, and was responsible for a mainframe calendaring system—yes, such things really existed—some years ago. She is a long-time champion for users and interoperability, leading to her involvement in calendaring and scheduling standards in the Internet Engineering Task Force

(IETF), which took over the original calendaring specification and established the CALSCH Working Group to move forward with calendaring standards. Pat became co-chair of CALSCH in 1999, and she organized the initial interoperability testing efforts. When work on calendaring standards, CAP, iCalendar, iTIP and iMIP, stalled in the IETF in the early 2000s, Pat realized the need for a separate organization or entity to somehow “jump start” the calendaring effort, and set out to find other like-minded individuals to work on, and establish, what would later become CalConnect, starting with the first CalConnect Roundtable in Montreal in 2004, hosted by Oracle. Pat became the Interoperability Test Manager for CalConnect for the inaugural CalConnect event in January of 2005, and managed every interoperability test event until late 2011, when the press of business and schedule necessitated passing that responsibility on.

During the nearly seven years that Pat served in this position, in addition to running the interoperability test event, she compiled and published the post-event reports. Pat has served as a Director of CalConnect since its inception, most recently as Chair of the Board of Directors. Pat has also served on the Steering

Committee since its inception. Pat was the chair of TC IOPTTEST since its inception, and has participated when her schedule permitted in the work of other technical committees.

As Pat's own business grows and prospers, she has less time to be actively involved with CalConnect, but she has always had, and retains, a strong interest in the purpose, the work, and goals of CalConnect, and remains a passionate supporter of CalConnect and of interoperable calendaring and scheduling.

With this award, CalConnect members recognize Pat for the seminal role she played in the creation of the organization, and for service in many different roles over the last eight years.

The Patricia Egan story has another aspect: that of a tireless advocate of the customer's and user's needs in calendaring and scheduling. She advanced that perspective in discussions with vendors and customer members of CalConnect, reminding fellow members of the many ways each could contribute. Perhaps this thought, attributed to Margaret Mead, sums it up best, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”



Meet Bryan Otis and Scott Otis

In this issue, we profile Bryan Otis, CEO of Tandem, and Scott Otis, CTO, whom Bryan describes as “the smart one responsible for navigating where we’re headed technically.”

**From Bryan Otis –****Why did you join CalConnect?**

There are two definite reasons why we are part of CalConnect—and then there’s a “loose” third one.

First, we wanted to make sure everyone in the Town Square speaks the same language, so to speak! From Tandem’s perspective, working on interoperability within CalConnect gave us that common language, that common set of terms. There isn’t any other place like CalConnect that provides the forum to get the job done from an interoperability standpoint. Being able to make sure that Tandem works with other calendaring and scheduling applications out there is a monumental, tangible benefit to membership.

Second, we wanted to get perspective on what is currently happening in the calendar world. We are focused on providing schools and universities scheduling applications, and that takes up a lot of time. Attending the Roundtable every four months and participating in weekly calls helps give us perspective on what’s happening outside of what we’re working on.

The third, less tangible benefit—but still very important—is surrounding yourself with people who are passionate about the same thing you are. Calendars are relevant and real in everyone’s daily life, but there is only a small group of people who find joy in working with them. It’s not like a lot of other technologies out there. CalConnect draws the best and the brightest of this small group and being able to get together with them is energizing.

No group can boast to have the caliber of people who are experts in this field that CalConnect has.

What are some of the memorable moments you’ve had as part of CalConnect?

The act of joining. The amount of help we have gotten from the moment we joined is amazing. Everyone who participates has a set of deliverables and company or organizational goals, but despite the inherently competitive nature of some of the relationships, we realize we improve the calendaring landscape by achieving interoperability. Being in the same room with these people is memorable.

What do you think the future looks like in the C&S space?

Given that hundreds of millions of calendars have been shipped on mobile devices and desktops, the calendaring landscape will go through a number of different stages of user adoption. Those stages will reflect the extent to which people adopt the technology and the way they use it. We’re just at the onset of the first stage where more and more people are just starting to trust that their calendar is accurate, not just at work, but for their whole life.

When people start having that faith in the accuracy of their calendar, then you will see applications built on top of it. It’s a matter of trust, with more applications being built in waves as the trust of users builds. That’s what I’m excited about in the next couple of years.

What will drive a lot of the adoption is that personal perception of how a tool like a calendar can make it clear what your options are on using time—your most valuable commodity. When the relationship of time and event shows up on a single platform, the issue of “how will I spend my time?” becomes a lot clearer.

**From Scott Otis –****What practical, technical results have you gotten as a result of your participation in CalConnect?**

Most notably we have been able to validate our implementations of iCalendar and xCal.

It has also introduced us to many of the other calendar standards CalConnect supports that we were previously unaware of—like CalDAV.

What do you see as next steps/progress coming out of this work?

We are always looking for more ways to interoperate with other calendar systems in a standards-based way. Implementing CalDAV is something we are evaluating and being part of CalConnect has really helped us in that process. We are also very interested in the work currently being done by CalConnect in Timezones and interoperability with the Smart Grid.

AUTODISCOVERY Technical Committee Is Established

TC AUTODISCOVERY officially took shape on June 4, 2012, with Stepan Potys, Kerio Technologies, serving as the inaugural chair.

The rationale behind the new TC is as follows: There are currently various systems in place for discovery and configuration of individual protocols, but the process can often require a series of requests using different protocols to discover all of the details needed to set up the various client services which an individual might use to interact with an organization or provision a new device.

Consider a new employee at "Widget Enterprises". The employee needs to configure his e-mail program to use IMAP + TLS on port 143 against mail.widget.com, he needs to send mail on port 8557 via TLS+SMTP to smtp.widget.com, his calendar is on port 8443 at <https://caldav.widget.com:8443/calendar/>, and so forth. Some of these things can be discovered relatively easily, but the combination of DNS queries (including SRV lookups, certificate checking, and http requests) is complex; furthermore, some things cannot be discovered

readily at all. Similarly, an individual acquiring a new smartphone and wishing to configure services such as e-mail, calendar and perhaps address book faces this experience with far less knowledge and ability to cope with the complexity.

TC Charter

TC AUTODISCOVERY will define and produce a standard protocol which will allow discovery of a variety of services in as few HTTP requests as possible, allowing developers to simplify the user interface in client software, and in particular in multi-function client software such as a combined e-mail and calendar client, or a multi-function device such as a smartphone.

This protocol is intended to allow discovery of services based on Internet standard protocols, and should be based on existing technology and protocols to the extent possible, to ease the adoption of the new autodiscovery mechanism by developers.

In order to provide a standard which can be agreed upon in a timely manner, and which is

flexible enough to cover a wide variety of current and future protocols, it is expected that this standard will provide the framework and a registry of services, each of which will define their own set of parameters and which will be extended over time.

Milestones and Work Products

- June 2012 — Participate in IETF APP list discussion and achieve consensus on protocol base
- September 2012 — Complete initial protocol specification
- October 2012 — Review protocol specification at CalConnect XXV in Zurich
- January 2013 — Interoperability testing of first implementations at CalConnect XXVI
- February 2013 — Initial submission of protocol at Internet Draft to IETF

Please contact the Chair at spotys@kerio.com for more information or to join this Technical Committee.

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.

CalConnect Heads to Zurich



CalConnect XXV will be hosted by Google, Inc. in Zurich, Switzerland October 1 - 5, 2012.

New Member Welcome

CalConnect welcomes Gershon Janssen as an individual member. Gershon is based in Schiphol-Rijk, The Netherlands. He is active in OASIS and is Secretary of the OASIS WS-Calendar Technical Committee.

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 XXV

HOSTED BY GOOGLE



ZURICH, SWITZERLAND



**INTEROPERABILITY TEST EVENT
OCTOBER 1 - 3**



ROUNDTABLE • OCTOBER 3 - 5

CalConnect members are:

- ◆ Apple
- ◆ Ralf Becker
- ◆ Cabo Communications
- ◆ Carnegie Mellon
- ◆ eM Client
- ◆ Genentech
- ◆ Gershon Janssen
- ◆ 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 Egen 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