MINUTES

CalConnect
THE CALENDARING AND SCHEDULING CONSORTIUM

From the Executive Director

Dear Members,

CalConnect events generally consist of two parts: the first half of the week is interoperability testing, and the last half is the Roundtable Technical Conference. At CalConnect XXV in Zurich, our second full CalConnect event in Europe, nearly everyone who participated in the interoperability testing stayed for the Roundtable, and we had a few additional participants, making a total of 26 at the Roundtable, of which 17 were European, overall representing 11 members and 5 observers (prospective members).

CalConnect's European events are restructured to move the formal technical committee sessions to the afternoon (to allow remote attendance from North America), and special symposia and BOFs (birds of a feather sessions) are offered on Thursday and Friday mornings. The special offerings this time were:

- Improving the web calendaring experience for end users

- Calendaring futures and CalConnect directions

- Internationalization/Localization for calendaring data

- Best practices for publishing iCalendar data to ensure optimum interoperability

- BOF on VTODOs

- BOF on Consensus Scheduling

Following the BOF on VTODOs, a VTODO Ad Hoc Committee was formed to examine requirements and ongoing work on VTODOs and recommend future activity in this area to CalConnect. The Ad Hoc committee will report out at Roundtable XXVI.

More detail about the event may be found at Report on Roundtable XXV.

Next CalConnect events:

- CalConnect XXVI, January 28-February 1, 2013, Oracle, Santa Clara, California

- CalConnect XXVII, June 3-7, 2013, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin

- CalConnect XXVIII, Autumn, 2013, TBD

Based on the success of this event and last year's European event in Prague, we are looking forward to CalConnect XXVIII being hosted in Europe, and are soliciting offers to host the event from our European members. We hope to be able to announce the week, city, and host by our next event at Oracle in late January.
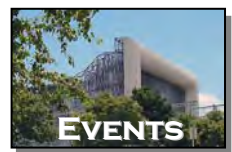
Dave Thewlis

TESTS
INNOVATION
MEMBERS
EVENTS

CALCONNECT XXVI

ORACLE CORPORATION ⬥ SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA

INTEROPERABILITY TEST EVENT ⬥ JANUARY 28 - 30

ROUNDTABLE XXVI ⬥ JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 1

CalConnect THE CALENDARING AND SCHEDULING CONSORTIUM

October 2012

Interop Report

The testing event drew 22 on-site participants, 14 from Europe, representing the following organizations and products:

- Apple (iCal Server, iCal Client, iCloud Server, iCloud Outlook Client, iOS 6)
- Bedework
- CalDAV-Sync and CardDAV-Sync
- Evolution plugin
- EGroupware
- emClient
- Google
- Kerio Technologies
- Mozilla
- SabreDAV
- Zimbra

In addition, the following organizations/products participated remotely:

- AOL (AOL Calendar Server)
- CMU (Cyrus Calendar Server)

- DaviCal
- Oracle (Oracle Communications Calendar Server)

A number of those present concentrated on iSchedule with DKIM and discovery. Testing was fairly intensive and participants found a number of issues with the draft protocol as well as with server implementations. A number of servers managed to connect successfully and interact with each other, handling freebusy requests and meeting invitations and replies.

Testing of sharing and notifications also took place with a generally successful outcome for all. Bugs in the client and server software were found and rectified when possible.

Discovery was also a hot topic and there were a number of issues discovered in the current use of .well-known and SRV records. Some participants also tested the Brief and Prefer header.

In addition, many issues surfaced when participants tested the basic CalDAV and CardDAV access protocols. The kinds of issues seen were:

- Misreporting of missing DAV properties

- Problems with content type
- Redirections causing issues
- Lack of support for required properties
- Errors in report formats

As ever, the benefits of working together in one room to discover and fix interoperability issues were enormous. Most of the participants test remotely during the year, however, these sessions provide a much more productive environment. Many participants were staying for the following Roundtable and took the opportunity to continue testing.

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

CalConnect XXVI

Oracle Corporation
Santa Clara, California

Interoperability Test Event
January 28 - 30

Roundtable XXVI
January 30 - February 1

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 THE CALENDARING AND SCHEDULING CONSORTIUM

Tech Committee Summaries – Roundtable XXV

TC-AutoDiscovery

The Committee presented the motivation behind autodiscovery in addition to introducing the technical solution itself to all CalConnect attendees. Members then went through open questions that need to be addressed and collected feedback. The next steps are continuing the standardization process and encouraging early implementations of the autodiscovery draft. TC participants believe that they will get some client support soon and anticipate being ready for testing by the next interoperability testing event in January 2013.

TC-CalDAV

The TC discussed managed attachments, sharing and notifications and the prefer header. On managed attachments, the group discussed the issue of what limits a server should advertise and how a client should react to those, as well as how they would handle the case of attendees being able to add attachments themselves. The latter option will need follow-up discussion and specification by the TC. For sharing, the Committee discussed the current sharing draft and how it might be extended to facilitate some "public events" style sharing modes, as well as per-event sharing. On prefer, they discussed the issue of whether servers need to indicate to clients that the prefer behavior was triggered, and settled on using the Vary header as a

means to do that, in consultation with the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).

TC-Eventpub

The Committee presented the new properties: styled descriptions (aka "rich text"), structured location, structured resource, and participants. They discussed some implications for CalDAV—size of the property, allowing suppression of rich text, language negotiation—and described how Participants and locations could refer to a vcard and about the overall requirement to search and index. It was noted that Structured location has superseded the earlier venue effort. Structured resources builds upon the work of TC-Resource. The value could be URI, with the same syntax as Structured location. Next steps include finishing the IETF RFC draft and starting on implementations.

TC-Freebusy

The TC had a lively discussion of the proposed VPOLL specification, drilling down into some key details of the specification. The group hopes to continue development of a full specification and encourage more implementations, particularly from clients. They also discussed the "reverse" poll idea as it pertains to booking systems.

TC-iSchedule

Members presented an overview of the iSchedule protocol including the new DKIM security pieces that the TC has been working on. Results from the successful interoperability event were discussed. Several issues found during testing were discussed and solutions proposed and agreed upon, and will be

incorporated into the next version of the draft. Testing will continue to verify that reliable levels of interoperability are achievable. The Committee will next progress the specification at the IETF.

TC-Resource

The TC presented information about the latest version of the Committee's calendar resource specification. They have moved to a new model, defining an "objectClass" that represents a schedulable entity with a set of attributes that can be added to any vCard to indicate how scheduling will take place with the entity that the vCard represents. Next steps are to take this work to the IETF for further discussion and to consider possible enhancements to CalDAV to provide a richer resource scheduling experience there.

TC-Timezone

The Committee presented a description of the timezone service as presently defined and implemented. The intent is to try to have systems treat timezones as data rather than system components. Participants talked about the possible future role of a timezone service and what, if any, were the implications of a JSON iCalendar representation on such a service. They presented the current state of the draft and the implementations.

The TC felt it was clear they should advertise the Committee's services on the CalConnect site so that others can test against them. They indicated how much timezone related data, such as borders, aliases, and even the names themselves, are politically sensitive. (*continued*)

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Tech Committee Summaries – Roundtable XXV (continued)

Continued from Page 3 –

A higher priority, however, is getting a registry of timezone ids.

They also talked about timezones by reference and the implications for CalDAV.

TC-XML
Committee members presented a summary of the status of RFC6321 - iCal in XML. They then addressed their work with OASIS, WS-Calendar, the CalWS RESTful and SOAP protocols, and where those might go in the future. A good part of the session was devoted to the TC's work with iCalendar in JSON and presenting the formats they had come up with. They had a presentation of the Mozilla javascript code for handling JSON calendar entities and then followed that with a discussion on how

to handle those types that were special cased in xCal. These are PERIOD, GEO, request status and recurrence rules. They decided to special-case those except recurrence rules. They expect to have additional TC call participants moving forward in order to make some rapid progress towards both an RFC and an API.

VTODO BOF
The BOF reviewed previous activity on VTODOs in CalConnect, including the 2007 Min-IOP Subset Use Cases on Tasks published by TC USECASE, and the Tasks Workshops in May and October of 2011. Participants noted that in the second Workshop, although they concluded there was work to do, they had no resources to move

forward. Two scenarios were then presented for areas of extension of VTODO.

The consensus was to form an Ad Hoc committee to assess current work items concerning, and deficiencies with, VTODOs, determine a scope of work and deliverables, and recommend a way to move forward, probably either to form a new TC or to morph an existing one to adopt this new area. Apple, DHL, Mozilla, and RPI are participating initially. A call for additional participants will be sent out after the Roundtable. Conference calls for this committee are tentatively bi-weekly Tuesday at 1100 Eastern, alternating with TC XML. The committee will report out at CalConnect XXVI.

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New Members Welcome

DHL Express

DHL Express is a global express delivery organization, which calls itself "the world's most international company." According to representative, Adrian Apthorp (pictured here), the company "has a natural affinity with a number of topics and objectives of CalConnect," including

1. Task / Event scheduling and recording – DHL's product is time sensitive and therefore scheduling and communication of tasks and events is critical

2. Locations - DHL's pickup and delivery from/to locations in 220+ countries and territories

3. Timezones – The company operates across all of them

4. Interoperability – standards enabling interoperability are key to communication with the company's customers and business partners

Adrian notes, "Given the heritage of Internet Calendaring standards in personal collaboration, I'd like to work with and see CalConnect take a more active interest in better support for business planning and

scheduling. This opens up a number of areas of to tackle and therefore in the short term we're focusing on specific tasks in our business."

♦♦♦♦♦

Patrick Ohly

In a past life, Patrick Ohly worked on performance analysis software for HPC clusters ("Intel Trace Analyzer and Collector") and cluster technology in general (PTP and hardware time stamping, included in Linux since 2.6.30). Since January 2009, he has worked for Intel's Open Source Technology on data synchronization+storage and more specifically SyncEvolution, his open source project, which synchronizes PIM data in various local storages (Evolution, KDE, Nokia N900/N9) using different protocols (SyncML, CalDAV/CardDAV, ActiveSync).

In parallel to his work on commercial, closed source software, Patrick has often contributed to free and open source software (including Evolution, mkisofs, doxygen, Roundup, gpsbabel, fcron, UAE) before he started his own SyncEvolution project. Patrick began his love/hate relationship with computers in his teens on the Commodore 64 and (more seriously) the Amiga, for which he wrote both public domain programs (DiskProtection) and shareware (MakeCD). Later he studied Computer Science in Karlsruhe and Edinburgh before working for Nero, Pallas and then Intel.

Patrick notes, "CalConnect is the right forum to meet with other developers working on calendaring solutions. The interoperability testing becomes a lot easier when meeting face-to-face and discussing (or even fixing) problems as they are found. The technical discussions about future standards provide early insights into what is coming next and what changes may be useful to implement.

♦♦♦♦♦

Marten Gajda

A Dresden, German native and current resident, Marten Gajda first began programming in 1990. After several semesters in computer sciences, he switched to Electrical Engineering. He launched his career as an independent developer in 2006 and started development for CardDAV-Sync and CalDAV-Sync for Android in February 2011.

Regarding his reason for joining Calconnect, Marten says, "My primary intention to join CalConnect was to get in contact with other developers of CalDAV and CardDAV software. I want to give the users of my apps a smooth synchronization experience with all kinds of clients and servers. The interop tests are a good opportunity to spot issues (in my software as well as in other software) ideally before the users do. Also, I want to be up to date with the latest news and developments in calendar and contacts synchronization."

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CalConnect XXV hosted by Google in Zurich, Switzerland

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October 2012

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.

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CALCONNECT XXVI

ORACLE CORPORATION
SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA

INTEROPERABILITY TEST EVENT
JANUARY 28 - 30

ROUNDTABLE XXVI
JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 1

CalConnect members are:

- Apple
- Ralf Becker
- Cabo Communications
- Carnegie Mellon
- DHL Express
- eM Client
- Marten Gajda
- Genentech
- Google, Inc.
- IBM Corporation
- IceWarp, Ltd.
- Intand
- Gershon Janssen
- Kerio Technologies
- MailSite Software, Inc.
- Andrew McMillan
- Microsoft
- Mozilla Foundation
- NASA
- New York University
- Nokia Corporation
- OASIS
- Patrick Ohly
- The Omni Group
- Oracle
- Patricia Egen Consulting
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Bedework)
- Pascal Robert
- TimeTrade Systerms
- University of California
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Yahoo!
- Zimbra, a division of VMware