

Calendar operator practices — Guidelines to protect against calendar abuse

Published Guide

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The Calendaring and Scheduling Consortium, Inc. 2019

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Foreword

The Calendaring and Scheduling Consortium (“CalConnect”) is a global non-profit organization with the aim of facilitating interoperability of technologies across user-centric systems and applications.

CalConnect works closely with liaison partners including international organizations such as ISO, OASIS and M3AAWG.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the CalConnect Directives, and in this case, also aligned with the procedures used at M3AAWG.

In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of CalConnect documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the CalConnect Directives.

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee *CALSPAM*.

Introduction

Rise of calendar spam

“Calendar spam” — unsolicited, or otherwise unwanted, calendar events and meeting invitations — is a recently exploited channel for abuse aimed at users of calendaring & scheduling systems.

It is a new form of application-specific spam which takes advantage of the application layer across multiple technologies that spans scheduling, calendaring and messaging systems.

As is the case with email spam, calendar spam is not only used to deliver unwanted information, but can also be used for malicious purposes such as phishing attempts and delivering dangerous payloads.

Because calendar events and meeting invitations are often (but not exclusively) transported and delivered via email, combatting calendar spam requires awareness, intervention and integration with email systems and services.

Calendar operator practices — Guidelines to protect against calendar abuse

1. Scope

This document specifies guidelines for calendar and mail system operators to:

- detect the occurrence of calendar abuse;
- consider processes and procedures to mitigate calendar abuse; and
- suggest acceptable (non-abusive) practices with calendar usage.

2. Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IETF RFC 6047, A. MELNIKOV (ed.). *iCalendar Message-Based Interoperability Protocol (iMIP)*. In: RFC. December 2010. <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc6047>.

IETF RFC 5546, C. DABOO (ed.). *iCalendar Transport-Independent Interoperability Protocol (iTIP)*. In: RFC. December 2009. <https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5546>.

3. Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1. Terms and definitions

3.1.1.

calendar spam

calendar events and meeting invitations containing *spam* [term defined in [Clause 3.1.3](#)] delivered through **term calendar systems, display calendar system not resolved via ID calendar-systems**

3.1.2.

calendar abuse

malicious usage of a *calendar system* [term defined in [Clause 3.1.5](#)], possibly leading to an *attack* [term defined in [Clause 3.1.4](#)] on the receiving user

3.1.3.

spam

unsolicited or unwanted information

3.1.4.

attack

attempt to destroy, expose, alter, disable, steal or gain unauthorized access to or make unauthorized use of an asset

[SOURCE:]

3.1.5.

calendar system

information system that provides calendar and scheduling functionality for user accounts

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3.1.6. mail system

information system that provides electronic mail functionality

3.1.7. user system

information system that provides authentication and authorization functionality

3.2. Abbreviated terms

ARF	Abuse Reporting Format
DNSBL	Domain Name System-based Blackhole List
iMIP	iCalendar Message-Based Interoperability Protocol (see IETF RFC 6047)
iTIP	iCalendar Transport-Independent Interoperability Protocol (see IETF RFC 5546)
SMTP	Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (see [SMTP])
URIBL	Realtime URI Blacklist

4. Main content

Here's where you place your main content.

Appendix A (informative) Annex One

This is an informative annex.

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Appendix B (normative) Annex Two

This is an informative annex.