

Jeff,

This is Brett Bieber with the University of Nebraska- Lincoln, Allison Bloodworth gave me your contact information so that I might ask you some questions about the calendar project you're overseeing.

For some background information, which I shared with Allison - Our university is preparing to re-develop our online calendar system, and we are currently examining the systems used at other universities, as we obviously would like to avoid reinventing the wheel.

Are there any plans to release any portions of your project as open source or would there be any interest in collaboration on the project? We are pulling together developers from all over our campus to work on a calendar system that would be very similar to the new UC Berkeley Calendar. We may be in a position to offer programming assistance from our university if there would be interest in collaboration.

If you have any information you could provide I would really appreciate it.

Thanks for your time,

Brett Bieber
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University of Nebraska- Lincoln

Hi Brett,

Good to hear from you and glad to know of your interest.

To answer your questions: Yes, we do plan to release the application as open source. At this stage, we are focusing on building the application, and rolling it out in stages that will gradually open the door to all major departments on campus to join the network. We know that during the roll-out and ramp up, we'll encounter various bugs and, I suspect, a few issues we have not anticipated.

At the stage where we feel like we have a stable application, that would seem to be the sensible time to make this available to other universities. And at that stage, I would anticipate that we would be actively seeking programming collaborations.

I'm hoping that we can begin releasing the application and interacting with other universities within the next 12 months. We're on the cusp of hiring a calendar editor- coordinator to add to the team, and if we are fortunate, that could shorten these 12 months.

Best,

Jeff Kahn

Hey Jeff,

Thanks for your response. Since my last message, our project team has evaluated the calendaring projects out there and have decided that the Berkeley Calendar Network is the calendar system that is most similar to our needs.

We plan on moving forward and would like to base our system on the Berkeley schema, using the recommendations developed by Allison Bloodworth. Our team has also decided that our system would be built in PHP-MySQL, and would be developed as open source.

Our target deadline is end of summer 2006, is there anything you could provide to us to make sure our developments could be successfully merged once your work is ready to be released?

I understand that opening up your ongoing development would put quite an extra burden on your team right now, but I would like to see any system developed using the Berkeley calendar schema successfully merged with your project once your work is ready to be fully released.

Any input you could provide would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks for your time,
Brett Bieber

Hi Brett,

That's great...I'm glad to hear that our work will be helpful to you. Would you like me to see if I can get Jeff to give you the code when it's finished as long as his team doesn't have to support it? He's just not ready for it to be an open source project yet, but hopefully we could save you some work. We've made some progress and are currently projecting finishing the project by the end of June. I can provide you with some support for the app, even if it's on my own time.

Allison

Hey Allison,

As I'm writing this, I seem to be recalling that you may have mentioned that you would be out of the office on vacation. Feel free to not respond if you're on vacation ... but I just wanted to touch base with you, and let you know our position on a few things and ask you a couple questions.

Our group is convinced that your specs are the best out there for a university event publishing system... so thank you for all your hard work. The email from Jeff Kahn was a little discouraging, but definitely understandable. It's great that they're willing to collaborate with other universities, but unfortunate that our timeframes don't coincide and it looks like we'll have to redevelop some components of a similar system. We're very

open to collaborating, but if that isn't possible within our target deadline we still would like to use your work and the recommended schema(s), with the intention of contributing anything we develop.

So, given that our timeframes don't coincide very well and that we're adamant about finishing a re-design of our calendar by this fall, I'm proposing that we use what you have published to move forward.

But there are a few members of our group that are concerned about potential licensing issues we may run into, and what specifically we're available to use from your published documentation. Is it alright if we use your schema to complete our event publishing project? You might consider this email more of a formality than anything else, but I do want to make sure you're aware of what we're doing and appreciative of your work. If we can move forward using your schema(s), do you (or Jeff) have any considerations on licensing so that we might develop our system under a compatible license? (I'm guessing BSD is standard practice around there..?) If could you provide us any direction or input with regards to that I'd really appreciate it.

Thanks for your time,

- Brett Bieber

Hi Brett,

Looks like our emails are crossing...yes, you are welcome to use any of our documentation, especially the schema. I'm going to publish it at XML.org and ***want*** people to use it. The documentation on the system, everything, it's all available for you to use. Hopefully if it's helpful I can get you actual code...I'll let you know as soon as I can figure that out.

Allison

Hi Brett,

I talked with Jeff about giving you the code for the calendar now, and apparently it is going to be somewhat of a delicate process to ensure that Jeff's bosses, who paid for the software, will agree to do this. His former boss who we believe was committed open-sourcing it has left UCB so we need to wait for the right moment to ask the new boss (who hasn't been hired yet) in order to ensure that we don't get a flat-out 'no'. Additionally, apparently there is a (probably long) process we'll have to go through to get approval to open-source it and Jeff unfortunately doesn't have time to do it right now. We expect to start this process after the calendar is released to the campus, which we plan on doing within the next 2-4 months. I wish our timing were better but unfortunately it doesn't exactly coincide with your project plan. But if there's anything I can help you out with in the interim, please let me know.

Thanks!
Allison