

# MINUTES



## CalConnect

THE CALENDARING AND SCHEDULING CONSORTIUM

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February 2011

### From the Executive Director

Dear Members,



CalConnect XX was a great success!

CalConnect holds three IOP test events and

Roundtables (members' meetings) each year, and the first week of February both events were hosted by the University of California, Berkeley. The interoperability test event featured two mobile CalDAV clients, one for Android, plus a new Project Management tool from The Omni Group, OmniPlan, implemented as a CalDAV client.

The Roundtable featured presentations and discussion sessions from each Technical Committee, plus a presentation from Shel Waggener, the CIO of the University of California, Berkeley, on *Calendaring at a Public University*, and the need for calendaring to transition to an inclusive model rather than an exclusive one.



Here are a few highlights from the Roundtable, with more detail in the article featuring TC Summaries:

- A new proposal for iCalendar extensions to support event publication, which is about to be submitted to the IETF as an Internet Draft, and an in-progress specification for the LINK property in support of the work was discussed.
- Version 2 of CalConnect's *Calendaring and Scheduling Glossary of Terms*, originally published in 2006, is ready for publication and will be published following the event.
- Progress on CalWS-SOAP, the SOAPy version of the CalWS *Calendaring Web Services API* (the RESTful version has already been published as a CalConnect Proposal). This work is being done in conjunction with OASIS and the NIST Smart Grid Standards effort; CalWS is fully embedded in the OASIS WS-Calendar specification.
- Progress on VPOLL, a new extension to iCalendar to support group scheduling within mainline calendaring and scheduling



systems, was presented.

Shel Waggener's presentation on *Calendaring at a Public University* highlighted the need for calendaring to become inclusive (i.e. broader than enterprise orientation to involve people outside an organization), and resonated strongly with us as it focused on many issues which are being discussed, and addressed, in CalConnect.



Our next Roundtable will be at NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California May 23-27. October 3-7, 2011 will be the first CalConnect full-week event in Europe, hosted by Kerio Technologies in Plzen, Czech Republic.

Dave Thewlis



#### 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](mailto:minutes-subscribe@calconnect.org) and put "Subscribe" in the subject line.
- To unsubscribe, send an e-mail to [minutes-unsubscribe@calconnect.org](mailto:minutes-unsubscribe@calconnect.org) with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

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**IOP Test Event**

The February testing event held at the University of California at Berkeley included representatives from

DAViCal, Apple, Carnegie Mellon (observing), Microsoft, Nokia and the Omni Group. Oracle and Icewarp provided servers remotely and participated in the testing via CalConnect's Jabber room. The majority of the testing centered around CalDAV. Interesting to note this time was the fact two of the clients being tested were on mobile devices. The trend is a positive one!

Apple, DAViCal, IceWarp, Microsoft, Omni Group, Oracle and Nokia participated in the testing. Four new clients were tested, including aCal, an Android CalDAV client from Andrew McMillan (DAViCal) and Microsoft's Outlook for Mac.

As usual, some items were found and either fixed on the spot or put into the "going to be fixed" queue.

occur, the more participants see better interoperability. Every session shows improvement on both the client and server side. With respect to testing in person, one participant said that doing testing in person had a nice side affect of being able to find out best practices from people who actually knew the specification. Further, the ability to have side discussions was invaluable.

**Next Test Event**

CalConnect invites all interested parties to participate in test events to be held May 23-25, 2011 and hosted by [NASA Ames](#) Mountain View, California immediately prior to the CalConnect XXI Roundtable.

**Test Event Summaries**

Public documents containing summaries of all test events can be found by going to the [CalConnect website](#).

**Test Event Manager**

Pat Egen of Patricia Egen Consulting serves as Interoperability Testing Event Manager.



After the IOP Test Event ...



... comes the reception.

## Tech Committee Summaries



**TC CalDAV's** session began with updates on various specifications including the publication of the update to iMIP (RFC6047). The group then spent the majority of time discussing issues with the proposed CalDAV "managed" attachments protocols. This protocol is meant to allow clients to store attachments easily on a CalDAV server, with the server taking charge of ensuring only attendees of the meeting that the attachment is in are able to access it.

Several open issues (mostly related to handling recurring events) were discussed and will be followed up during calls after the meeting. The committee also discussed a proposal for an iCalendar "patch" format to allow clients and servers to send only changes to data rather than an entire iCalendar object for more efficient network use.

The **TC DSI** session started with the goals and charter of the committee. The group discussed progress on creating an icon to represent that calendar data is available on a web page; the CalConnect Board approved hiring a design firm to create the icon. Members of the committee put out a call for more participants, but additional volunteers have not stepped forward yet. The group also looked at a few examples of links that can be constructed to initiate a download or subscription in the default calendar application. Another link facilitated event creation within Google Calendar where all meeting details were pre-populated by the event publisher. The demos kicked off a very helpful discussion on the user experience that the TC would like to provide to calendar users.

**TC Eventpub** held a rousing meeting, which included presentation of Event Pub extensions to the current iCalendar specification. The group generally approved the specification for submission for final call the following week.

A new proposal for a LINK property was presented to the group and the feedback was to simplify its structure by moving some of its capability into the existing RELATED-TO property. The Event Pub team accepted this feedback and generally agreed that this may be a good idea. An extended discussion followed around how standards should relate to current practices verses future capabilities and Event Publication.

**TC Freebusy** started with an update on the committee's "consensus scheduling" protocol based around a new VPOLL iCalendar component. The group showed several protocol exchanges to describe how it is expected to work. A formal spec and implementations still need to be produced. TC members also had a discussion about the need to improve iCalendar to better support "booking" systems, that is, scheduling of fixed time "slots" with various constraints. They agreed that this would be a useful area to do more work and requested that TC UseCase produce some common use cases for this type of scheduling.

**TC iSchedule** had open discussions on the following topics: iSchedule Receiver discovery workflow, a new XML-based error response body format, and new iTIP method to allow organizer to convey attendee's replies to all participants in a more efficient manner. Work on the main specification is ongoing and we expect a new version of the draft soon.

**TC Mobile** held a good discussion of mobile protocols and where they are

going. In particular interoperability issues with synchronization protocols were discussed. An issue related to "hijacking" of events also commanded attention; this led to a request for TC Usecase to look into use cases for how an event can be adjusted when an organizer leaves an organization or needs to be adjusted for other reasons. Going forward, the TC will emphasize investigating the ways that the mobile experience is different and best practices for that.

**TC Resource's** session brought everyone up to speed on the status of the Resource schema draft. The committee addressed the best source for Contact/Location information for calendar clients. Members decided to further explore the idea of the Calendar server suggesting one or more CardDAV servers and address books to calendar clients for such information. The new "Conference" iCalendar property was mentioned that could be used for adding information like call-in numbers. Although it was not discussed during the session, there was an expressed interest in addressing what happens when an invited attendee resource's owner changes.

**TC Timezone** discussed the current state of proposals for IANA to take over hosting the Olson time zone database, which is an ongoing effort in the IETF supported by CalConnect. The group then covered details of CalConnect's time zone service protocol. In particular, members discussed how updates and variants to time zone definitions should be handled in the protocol and the fact that some degree of "latency" always exists in the protocol between different participants of an event. They also addressed the "time zone by reference" model for CalDAV. (cont.)

**Tech Committee Summaries (continued)**

**Tech Committee Summaries**
**Continued from Page 3 –**

There is a need to do some experimentation with current clients to see whether this approach will just work with those clients without the need for them to be updated. If that were the case it would greatly simplify how the protocol extension would work.

**TC Usecase** talked about the final draft of the Glossary Revision version 2 document, which is ready for publication. The group also confirmed new usecase work for reservation systems and ownership changes—new issues brought up during the course of the Roundtable XX event.

**TC XML** presented updates to the CalWS, WS-Calendar and iCalendar-in-XML work, all of which have formal specifications or drafts currently being reviewed and used or implemented by external parties. Some newer work on XML schema and SOAP was also described. The committee discussed the need to incorporate the VAVAILABILITY and VPOLL iCalendar extensions for smart grid work.

**Calendaring in a Public University**

*By Mimi Mugler  
UC Berkeley Calendar Administrator  
University of California Primary  
Representative to CalConnect*

Associate Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Shel Waggener (<http://technology.berkeley.edu/cio/biography.html>) addressed the CalConnect Roundtable XX attendees as part of the group's tradition of having the host organization supply an overview of calendaring issues that are important to it. Shel touched on many aspects related to calendaring at the University of California, some unique to its role and composition as a public, heterogeneous institution and some where the University is experiencing calendaring pains now that will soon be experienced by many organizations.

Privacy issues are very important to university faculty members, while the ability to make reports and to respond to public information requests are also needs of public institutions as calendaring data becomes a more recognized part of the public record. Finding the right

licensing model for software that will allow for an accurate estimate of its cost is also an issue as the cost of calendaring is often hidden when it's bundled with other systems

Access issues for systems will become increasingly complex and interoperability will be key as event attendees will be both internal and external to the originator's system. As Shel notes, "The most important meetings are often with those outside one's own organization." The diverse computing platforms have always been a problem in providing an effective calendaring platform; now that problem is being compounded with the proliferation of mobile devices. Interoperability will be a requirement as these devices evolve.

Shel's presentation may be found at: <http://www.calconnect.org/presentations/Calendaring%20in%20a%20Public%20University.pdf>.

***"Temporal relevance  
is the key."***

—Will Gill, RPI

**FUTURE EVENTS**

- ♦ **CalConnect XXI:** May 23-27; NASA Ames Research Center, Mountain View, California
- ♦ **CalConnect XXII:** October 3-7, 2011; Kerio Technologies, Plzen, Czech Republic
- ♦ **CalConnect XXIII:** January 31-February 4, 2012; TBD

**Calendaring and Scheduling Glossary of Terms**



The Calendaring and Scheduling Glossary of Terms, first published in 2006, came about in an effort to compile a common set of terminology with respect to calendaring and scheduling applications and standards. Beginning with “access control” and ending with “xCal”, the newly updated Version 2 covers a total of 73 key terms in a succinct manner.

The document incorporates terminology already existing in

calendaring standards such as RFC5545 [Internet Calendaring and Scheduling Core Object Specification], RFC5546 [iCalendar Transport-Independent Interoperability Protocol (iTIP)], RFC6047 [iCalendar Message-Based Interoperability Protocol (iMIP)], RFC4791 [Calendaring Extensions to WebDAV (CalDAV)], as well as input from members of CalConnect.

Some glossary terms may not appear in published standards today. These are common calendaring terms that are included so that everyone refers to components in the same manner.

As new standards evolve, the glossary will serve as a resource for those creating documents so that all the standards share a common set of terms.

Calendaring and scheduling implementers will be able to utilize the glossary to assist them as they read and decipher calendaring standards. Calendaring and scheduling users will be able to use the glossary to help them better understand the terminology deployed by applications written using calendaring standards.

The glossary is available at:  
<http://www.calconnect.org/CD1102/Glossary.shtml>

**REGISTER NOW**  
**CALCONNECT XXI**  
**NASA AMES RESEARCH CENTER**  
**MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA**  
**TEST EVENT • MAY 23 -25**  
**ROUNDTABLE • MAY 25 -27**

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



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