

# MINUTES



## CalConnect THE CALENDARING AND SCHEDULING CONSORTIUM

Volume 3, Issue 1

April 2010

### From the Executive Director

Dear Members,

In addition to providing Roundtable and Interoperability Testing news, I decided to use this first newsletter of 2010 to give you some highlights of 2009.

In 2009, CalConnect's fifth year of operation saw eight work products, and new, exciting collaborations with other organizations. We welcomed five new organizations, participated in a NIST Smart Grid Workshop and a Smart Grid Conference, and forged a partnership with OASIS, the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards. Let's look at the year in terms of TIME—Tests, Innovation, Membership, and Events.



Members held three rounds of interoperability testing.

Held at the Microsoft campus in Redmond, Washington, the 14<sup>th</sup> IOP Test Event used the CalConnect CalDAV Matrix for Draft 08, in particular the scheduling section and an iCalendar, iMIP and iTIP testing matrix.

The next interoperability event took place at Oracle. Four CalDAV servers and two CalDAV clients were tested. iCalendar, iMIP and iTIP

protocols were also tested between three applications.

The third interoperability event took place immediately prior to the Roundtable at Apple. The documents used in this testing event were the same as those used in the 14<sup>th</sup> session, but also include a small amount of initial CardDAV testing was done this event.



TC XML revised its Charter to accommodate new work at the behest of NIST, the National

Institute of Standards and Technology, in response to the NIST Smart Grid Interoperability Standards Project. This work, which will be done cooperatively with OASIS, includes an update to the iCalendar-to-XML Protocol, and the development of an abstract calendaring API which will allow multiple protocol bindings, one of which will be a web services protocol.

Our Technical Committees published eight reports and recommendation documents, including two proposals submitted to the IETF as Internet Drafts. Members also established a new Technical Committee, TC RESOURCE, and reactivated the EVENTPUB Technical Committee.



CalConnect welcomed five new organizational members: IceWarp Limited,

Intand, NASA, Notify Technology, and ZideOne. And as part of our collaborative support of the National Smart Grid effort, CalConnect and OASIS agreed to a reciprocal membership arrangement.

Attendance at Roundtables (member working meetings) and participation at CalConnect Interoperability Test Events held more or less steady through the year.



Finally, CalConnect has decided to hold a full CalConnect week (including an IOP Test Event and a Roundtable) in Europe in 2011.

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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**TC IOPTTEST XVII: A CITE First**



the Roundtable at UC Irvine. The interop was small but quite effective with testing centered around Sync report. The emClient people tested their Caldav client via the Jabber room and while not as good as being here in person, felt it was extremely valuable.

The CalConnect Interoperability Test Event (CITE), held immediately prior to the Roundtable, involved a pioneering step: For the first time, remote testing was usefully employed with three people and two servers located remotely, including two client testers in another country, communicating via the Consortium's internal secure jabber environment. Six members and 9 people participated in the regular test event, performing interoperability testing between their calendaring and scheduling implementations.

Testing participants were Oracle (remotely), emClient (remotely), Sun, Apple and Peoplecube. The DaviCal server was also available remotely.

Full test scenarios can be found at found at <http://www.calconnect.org/ioptesting.shtml>. Public documents containing summaries of all test events can be found by going to <http://www.calconnect.org/eventreports.shtml#calconnectiops>. Pat Egen of Patricia Egen Consulting serves as Interoperability Testing Event Manager.

The 17th CalConnect interoperability event took place immediately prior to

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**REGISTER NOW**

**CALCONNECT XVIII**

**HOSTED BY**  
**CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY**  
**PITTSBURGH, PA**

**INTEROPERABILITY TEST EVENT**  
♦  
**MAY 24-26**

**ROUNDTABLE**  
♦  
**MAY 26-28**

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



Cyrus Daboo, Apple



Chuck Norris, Eventful



Bernard Desruisseaux, Oracle



Bryan Otis, Intand



Michael Douglass, RPI



Gary Schwartz, RPI



Pat Egen,  
Patricia Egen Consulting



Guy Stalnaker,  
University of Wisconsin



Steven Lees, Microsoft

Dave Thewlis, CalConnect

## Tech Committee Summaries



**TC CALDAV** announced the publication of RFC 5546 (iTIP) and provided a status update on Internet-Drafts relevant to CalDAV. Members held open discussions on the following CalDAV extensions: scheduling, WebDAV synchronization, calendar attachments. They also discussed the upcoming Internet-Draft on new iCalendar properties.

**TC EVENTPUB** became reactivated, with the following people contributing significantly to its new agenda and work program: Mike Douglass of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Scott Otis of Intand, Aron Roberts of University of California, and CalConnect's Executive Director Dave Thewlis. The group's mission is to work toward establishing standards and best practices for the event publication community. Public events tend to be outwards facing, managed, and consumed by multiple and diverse clients.

The group accomplished saving the TC from a death by non-committee, agreeing first upon a new and improved charter. The initial meeting centered on Eventpub Use Cases. The group discussed what to do with non-standard data and "reference and categories" and achieved buy-in on the "reference" property. The group also raised the idea of a Certification program and acknowledged how CalConnect PR can drive new Event Publication adoption.

Upcoming plans include submission of a draft RFC to IETF for "Reference."

**TC FREEBUSY** has concentrated mostly on consensus or poll scheduling. Eric York of Apple gave a presentation describing the concepts and an example flow of information. In addition, a possible icalendar extension (VPOLL) was presented and discussed. Members considered the CalDAV and iSchedule implications and how vpoll items would be stored on the server.

**TC ISCHEDULE** presented an overview of the first iSchedule Internet-Draft. Members discussed an approach that allows an iSchedule receiver to test the authorization of an iSchedule sender. They also formulated a plan for the next iSchedule interoperability event scheduled for May 2010.

**TC MOBILE** concentrated on a mobile interoperability event focused on synchronization technologies, mainly ActiveSync. General sync technology problems and issues vendors have were discussed, including a detailed presentation by MailSite. Consensus was to push forward with an ActiveSync-focused IOP test event in May. Members aim to get key participants into place by March-April.

**TC RESOURCE** went over its draft recommendations document and discussed open issues that remain. Members decided some attributes need better definition and better examples; they discussed whether or not it makes sense to add attributes that depend on the policy decisions of a deployment, and how to best define it to give maximum flexibility. Further, they considered what the main purpose of the attributes would be: to query, or to just get information. They concluded it would be advisable to go through the list again and make a distinction on which attributes should be used for which.

**TC TIMEZONE** members summarized the problems they are trying to solve and gave a brief description of how far they have gotten with the draft RFCs they are working on. The two major outstanding issues were discussed: timezone identifier format and the retirement of Arthur David Olson and the implications for the supply of timezone data. (Note: The tz database, also known as the Olson database, is a collaborative compilation of information about the world's time zones, primarily intended for use with computer programs and operating systems.)

**TC USECASE** discussed the glossary revision, *RFC3283 Guide to Internet Calendaring, NINE Usecases*. Their proposal was accepted for the glossary to remove current link, initiate a wiki page with updated state, and then continue discussions about broader wiki and target audiences. The consensus regarding RVC3283 is to work on the wiki glossary then move to an HTML format. After that, members will look at the broader picture with a guide to calendaring with more than one target audience. What to do with RFC3283 still up in the air. Wikipedia clean-up would be worth considering too, they agreed. Members will continue work with NINE usecases to publish a document that is useful for information and outreach.

**TC XML** discussed the status of the XML iCalendar format specification. Members are working on an updated draft with additional examples. One additional draft is planned that will include a resource-linking proposal. Members spent the bulk of their meeting time discussing design issues for the calendar web-services specification. The feedback from discussion participants was helpful in narrowing the scope of the initial specification. They will use the next call to discuss the logistics of producing an initial draft that they can publish at the May roundtable.



## Why should anyone switch to a new calendar?



*Dear Colleagues: This second article in a series is designed to help you influence a non-technical person to switch to a new calendar.*

We all have appointments, events and commitments to keep track of. Meetings, gym dates, deadlines at work—the list seems endless. While a paper calendar is easy to use to keep track of your schedule, a calendar on your phone or computer can help you stay more organized, give you better perspective on your weeks, and put you more in control of what you are choosing to do.

Let's just call it a "personal calendar."

A personal calendar can do several things that are vital to staying organized in this fast-paced world. While there are innumerable features that help a personal calendar stand out over a paper calendar, here are four key features that serve as a baseline for why someone would make the switch from paper to digital.

### 1. Meeting requests

The meeting-requests feature of a personal calendar gives you the ability to both request and receive an appointment with someone else. Several years ago, the type of "meetings" that were requested were just that, a meeting between you and your boss or team members. Now, "meeting request" has evolved in my life to include a request to grab coffee with a friend or a time to watch a college basketball game with my brothers.

### 2. Automatic updates

Ever wanted a sports schedule or your weekly yoga schedule synchronized directly to your calendar? An ical feed can do that. Think of ical feeds as the RSS for calendars. They give users the ability to grab specific schedules and sync them to their device. By syncing the weekly spinning classes to your calendar, you save yourself time in having to enter them all in yourself. Further, if the schedule ever changes, an ical feed will automatically update the schedule on your calendar.

### 3. Recurring events

Need to schedule a haircut every third Tuesday at 3 PM for the next six months? With recurring events in your personal calendar, scheduling 50 events is a breeze. I know someone who is a personal trainer, who has clients on the same day and the same time, every week. She has saved herself a significant amount of time by adding her client's workout times to her calendar as recurring events as opposed to writing them down every week.

### 4. Your calendar will never get lost!

Have you ever lost your paper calendar? It can be a dreadful feeling. With a personal calendar, there is no way to ever lose your calendar again! It can be sync'd to a website, backed up on your computer and even stored on a portable device, such as your cell phone.

You don't have to ignore the appeal of a personal calendar, assuming that someday you will get one for your birthday and then you will start using it. Most likely, you already own one! Most computers come with a calendar already on the operating

system. You will probably also find one on your cell phone, smart phone, or as part of your email client. Further, there are some great (free) calendars online. Get started today!

*Bryan Otis*  
intand



### About CalConnect

The Calendar and Scheduling Consortium (CalConnect) 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.

Organizational members are Apple, Cabo Communications, Carnegie Mellon, Dartmouth, dotCal, Eventful, Fresno State, Google, IBM, IceWarp, Intand, Kerio Technologies, MailSafe, Microsoft, Mozilla Foundation, NASA, New York University, Nokia, Notify Technology, Oracle, Patricia Egen Consulting, PeopleCube, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Scalix, Stanford University, Stockholm University, SWAMI (Swedish Alliance for Middleware Infrastructure), Synchronica, TimeBridge, University of California, University of Wisconsin, Yahoo!, and Zimbra.

**Roundtable XVII Roundup**



Roundtable XVII took place on February 3-5 2010, hosted by the University of California at Irvine in Irvine, California. The event was attended by 26 people from 18 members.



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 as usual 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.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

Attending members enjoyed a presentation on UC Irvine's calendaring environment. This was

the first of a regular User SIG (Special Interest Group) Profile; we look forward to more whenever a customer organization hosts CalConnect.

**OTHER NEWS FROM ROUNDTABLE XVII**

CalConnect's first European CalConnect week will be hosted by Kerio Technologies in Plzen, Czech



Republic, in the autumn of 2011, probably the latter half of September or early in

October. SWAMI (The Swedish Organization for Middleware Infrastructure) has offered to host a Meet CalConnect introductory half-day for prospective members in Scandinavia the week before or after the CalConnect week.

CalConnect has implemented the [Calendar Developer](#) mailing list as announced in October. The list now has several dozen subscribers and is beginning to see activity.

CalConnect has established an internal Jabber service requiring a userid on the CalConnect system, as a secure tool for remote IOP testing, TC meetings, etc.

Thank you  
to the  
University of California, Irvine  
for hosting  
Roundtable XVII



**REGISTER NOW**

**CALCONNECT XVIII**

**CARNEGIE MELLON  
UNIVERSITY  
PITTSBURGH, PA**

**INTEROPERABILITY  
TEST EVENT  
♦  
MAY 24-26**

**ROUNDTABLE  
♦  
MAY 26-28**

**FUTURE EVENTS**

- ♦ **CALCONNECT XVIII**: May 24-28, 2010, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh PA
- ♦ **CALCONNECT XIX**: October 4-8 2010, IBM/Lotus, Littleton, MA
- ♦ **CALCONNECT XX**: January 31 - February 4, 2011, TBD