

Minutes

CalConnect

THE CALENDARING AND SCHEDULING CONSORTIUM

Volume 2, Issue 4

November 2009

From the Executive Director

At the end of the recent Roundtable hosted by Apple, several members responded to a general call for testimonials—something we would like to get from all members. It is gratifying to see words such as “practical” and “ground-breaking” describe CalConnect’s output and to describe fellow members as “major players” in the space and see other CalConnect organizations as good business partners. I encourage you to write a short testimonial at your earliest convenience. These are messages that not only communicate CalConnect’s value to prospective members—organizations that will help us get the work done—but also serve as reminders to us of CalConnect’s role in solving interoperability

problems and, ultimately, making the calendar as ubiquitous as email.

Throughout the newsletter—as usual—you will see highlights of Roundtable XVI, recent news of our work and related to it, and summaries of the TC’s work and recent test event.

In addition, I call your attention to a new column by Bryan Otis of Intand, who will cover promotion of widespread adoption of digital calendaring.

If you have an idea for a column, let us know! The newsletter is meant to reflect items of interest to members and to the broader audience of people who care about calendaring and scheduling issues.

Feel free to pass this

newsletter around. Use it to update colleagues and media on why CalConnect serves a practical need.

Dave Thewlis

Register Now:

[CalConnect XVII](#)

Hosted by The University of California at Irvine

Interoperability Test Event

February 1-3

Roundtable

February 3-5

CalConnect To Hold Roundtable Test Event in Europe

The CalConnect Plenary meeting at the end of Roundtable XVI reached a momentous decision: to hold a Roundtable and an Interoperability Test Event, a full CalConnect week, in Europe in the next two years.

In November 2008, CalConnect held a Mobile

Calendaring Interoperability Test Event, hosted by Kerio in Plzen, Czech Republic, and two introductory “Meet CalConnect” half-day events, in London and Prague. Building on that very positive experience, CalConnect will be holding a full week of events, comprising an Interoperability Test Event

and a Roundtable members’ meeting.

More than 20 percent of CalConnect’s member organizations are European, or primarily European. Many small companies and open source organizations are active in the calendaring space in Europe, and more are appearing.

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.

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IOP Test Event Results

The 16th CalConnect interoperability event took place immediately prior to the Roundtable at Apple. The documents used in this testing event were the CalConnect CalDAV Matrix for Draft 08, in particular the scheduling section and an iCalendar, iMIP and iTIP testing matrix. A small amount of initial CardDAV testing was done this event

as well.

Participants were Apple, Kerio, PeopleCube, RPI (Bedework), and Sun. DaviCal participated as an observer. Sun tested a preliminary version of a CalDAV client for the Symbian OS which they will be contributing to Symbian R3. Full test scenarios can be

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.

Thank you to Apple
for hosting
Roundtable XVI

See event photo on
page 5

Roundtable XVI Roundup

Meet the Apple Engineers

Held prior to the official Wednesday start of Roundtable XVI. Thirty people attended the session, which was open to all. Apple's engineers for iCal Client, iCal Server, and iPhone Calendar teams were extremely collegial, as well as frank. Including the CalConnect-hosted reception which followed the session, participants enjoyed 4 hours of professional and social interaction.

Published Documents

TC IOPTTEST published the [public](#) and internal IOP Test Event Reports from June. **TC XML** published its [iCalendar XML Representation Proposal](#) and submitted it to the IETF as an Internet Draft.

New Work Areas

TC XML has revised its [Charter](#) to accommodate new work at the behest of NIST (See page 4) TC XML strongly encourages CalConnect members to become involved in this work, which is being undertaken with an aggressive timeline.

TC EVENTPUB will be

reactivated with a revised charter after several people expressed interest in this work, including a new prospective Chair for the TC

User Special Interest Group
The User Special Interest Group which was formed following the June meeting held its first in-person session on Wednesday morning.

Digital Calendaring Outreach BOF: This BOF, proposed by Intand, focused on whether and how CalConnect should help promote the general adoption of digital calendaring. The User SIG and the Publicity Committee will be considering this issue going forward.

New Members
[Intand](#) and [Andrew McMillan](#) have joined. Intand is based in the Seattle area and specializes in calendaring services for the K-12 schools community nationwide. Andrew McMillan, an individual member, is based in Wellington, New Zealand, and is the author of [DAViCal](#).

Other News

At the Plenary Session on Friday, CalConnect decided

to hold a full CalConnect week in **Europe** within the next two years. See page 1.

CalConnect will create a **mailing list for calendar developers**, analogous to the Calendar Admin list already supported. This will be publicly announced shortly.

An internal **jabber** environment linked to CalConnect's LDAP directory now exists. It requires the use of your CalConnect userid and is open to everyone with a userid on the CalConnect system.

The IETF has published **RFC 5545**, iCalendar, which obsoletes RFC 2445. Congratulations to Bernard Desruisseaux of Oracle, the editor for the revision.

Members represented were Andrew McMillan (Individual member), Apple, Carnegie Mellon, Google, Intand, Kerio Technologies, Mailsite, Microsoft, NASA, neutralSpace, Notify Technology, Oracle, PeopleCube, RPI, Stanford, Sun, University of California, University of Wisconsin, Yahoo/Zimbra.

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

Cyrus Daboo, Apple

Bernard Desruisseaux, Oracle

Michael Douglass, RPI

Pat Egen, Patricia Egen Consulting

Steven Lees, Microsoft

Chuck Norris, Eventful

Bryan Otis, Intand

Gary Schwartz, RPI

Guy Stalnaker, University of Wisconsin

Dave Thewlis, CalConnect

Update on Technical Committees . . . *from Roundtable XV*

TC CALDAV

acknowledged the publication of RFC 5545 (iCalendar) and RFC 5689 (Extended MKCOL) and provided a status update on different Internet Drafts relevant to CalDAV. The group held open discussions on CalDAV Extensions including calendar alarms, calendar attachments, calendar push notifications, shared calendars, and WebDAV synchronization.

TC EVENTPUB will be reactivated with participants from three new members and with a new Chair.

TC FREEBUSY discussed work on a proposal for support of consensus scheduling, that is, the polling for a meeting time suitable for all or most attendees, and will be working on a data format that can be carried in scheduling messages.

TC IOPTTEST reported on the IOP test event just completed (See page 2). Initial testing for CardDAV and Timezone Service are expected to begin in February, with initial iSchedule testing either in

February or at the June event.

TC ISCHEDULE discussed the progress on the protocol and reviewed methods of deploying the iSchedule protocol in various scenarios. Open discussions were held on well-known URIs, attachment support, migration issues, and tracing of iSchedule requests.

TC MOBILE presented a summary of the outreach, vision and calendar questionnaire discussions that have taken place in the TC over the last few months, and surveyed customer members present about their experiences with mobile calendaring to better inform the direction of the TC. Ongoing work will include more outreach attempts, and a look at device certification possibilities.

TC RESOURCE summarized the work of the TC to date, determining attributes to better define a resource that can be standardized and thus ease client server interoperability in resource

discovery. The TC also discussed the draft being developed for LDAP and vCARD mapping for resource attributes.

TC TIMEZONE presented work to date on its draft RFCs on a Timezone Registry, a Timezone Service protocol, and the Timezone Data XML format. The TC expects to publish these documents in the next several weeks.

TC USECASE discussed current work with Non-Institutional/Non-Enterprise/Free-Range users (NINEFR) and their usecases. The Glossary Revision which is underway was briefly reviewed.

TC XML has 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 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.

Policy Established on Membership Mergers and Acquisitions

In light of developments such as Oracle's recent acquisition of Sun—both are members—CalConnect's Board of Directors has adopted a Policy on Membership Mergers and Acquisitions.

The processes for transferring membership, schedule of dues payment, and related issues are covered in a document at <http://www.calconnect.org/policies.shtml#0910>.

CalConnect to Contribute to Smart Grid Standards

CalConnect has been asked by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to contribute calendaring standards expertise and specifications as part of the agency's mandate to deliver the body of standards necessary to support the Smart Grid. The purpose of the Smart Grid is to lower energy costs and reduce energy consumption through the intelligent and coordinated use of digital technology.

NIST identified CalConnect as a major player in international standards work in the area of calendaring and scheduling. Of specific interest was members' work in providing an XML representation of calendaring data, with the possibility of extending that to support Smart Grid needs.

CalConnect's Technical Committee on XML recently expanded its charter to meet NIST's challenge. In addition

to needed extensions of the XML representation of calendaring data, the TC will provide an abstract API (application programming interface) for calendaring to create, consume and manage calendaring data, that can easily be supported by existing and future calendaring servers and integrated into a broad range of applications, applets, and widget facilities via web services and other specific protocol implementations.

Teachable Moments and Transitions with Digital Calendars

by Bryan Otis, Intand

Dear Colleagues: This inaugural article in a series is designed to give you ammunition in explaining to a non-technical person to switch to a digital calendar.

In a teachable moment, you are open to learning or doing something that you would not have considered previously. Before finally using a digital calendar, you will have scheduling teachable moments when you will want your scheduling tool to do something it cannot. In these moments, you will be open to a new tool—one that allows you to do something better than the one you currently use. Let's walk through a few teachable moments and the transitions between the different scheduling tools.

At some point in our early life, we figure out that getting schedule-making out of our head and writing it on a piece of paper is a good idea. This can happen anytime between ages 0-18. Your "I just need to write this down" moment represents your first, and most important, teachable moment. For many of us, up until the summer after high school, our daily schedules can be managed on a single piece of paper. It's at this point that using a piece of paper for scheduling your day simply won't do any more, and the second scheduling teachable moment happens.

Whether you choose to go to college or directly to the work force, you quickly realize your entire schedule cannot be contained within a single piece of paper. There are too many variables: time, location, energy, commitments, and so on. This is when most people get a daily planner because it's easy to use with a pencil or pen, always available, and can be taken anywhere.

At some point the third scheduling teachable moment happens, most frequently when going to work for a company, or looking at a schedule online. Meeting requests or syncing a schedule to your calendar are not functionally possible with a daily planner. Your daily planner has no way of communicating automatically with another daily planner to let it know you are available for a meeting or that your local yoga class has been canceled. It is possible, however, with a digital calendar.

If you have had a teachable moment and you are looking to make the third transition to using a digital calendar, here are four criteria to check off to make sure your transition is successful. Your digital calendar must do the following

1. Run on your operating system as a native program.
2. Be on a portable device that can be carried on you most of the time.
3. Be available to you online from any computer that can access the internet.
4. Quickly sync among all three of these.

By doing this, you've put yourself in the best position to enjoy using a digital calendar as a way of scheduling your day. I know because I have made the transition for myself and it is liberating.

Bryan Otis is the President and Co-Founder of Intand, which provides school districts with Tandem for Schools, an online calendar and facility management application to help schedule all of the district's events. He lives in Bellevue, WA

November 2009

CalConnect Board for 2010

CalConnect officers for the upcoming year are

President: Gary Schwartz, Director of Communications & Middleware Technologies at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He is a 25-year veteran of higher education IT.

Chairman of the Board: Pat Egen. Pat has been in the field of computers for over 28 years, working in IT

Management for Ryder System in Miami and Unum Provident in Chattanooga. In 1997 she started Patricia Egen Consulting, an IBM Business partner.

Chief Financial Officer: Kellie Hunter. Kellie's career spans nearly 20 years in the high tech industry with a focus on developing innovative,

dynamic software for large-scale enterprise

deployments. As the Director of Product Management at PeopleCube, she manages the development of all product lines.

Secretary: Dave Thewlis, executive director of CalConnect. Dave has been involved in computing and information technology for more than 40 years.

About CalConnect

The Calendaring 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.

New Member: Intand

Intand has joined CalConnect and President/Co-Founder Bryan Otis will be a regular contributor to *CalConnect Minutes* about the collaboration and promotion activities related to the adoption of digital calendars soon to be launched by the organizations

Intand aims to help schools nurture a

greater sense of community within schools by providing tools to streamline the event scheduling process. The company provides schools with a web-based event management system to help manage events, facilities and transportation in one calendar.

Bryan's first article begins on page 3.

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



Many of the Roundtable XVI attendees in front of Apple