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CalConnect
g r o - t

Interoperability Testing and Standards Development

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*CalConnect is a Service Mark of The Calendaring and Scheduling Consortium

- What is Interoperability Testing
- History of past events
- Current Event testing and benefits
- Virtual Test Lab
- Future plans

What is Testing outside of CalConnect

- Several organizations do testing for conformance purposes
- This is usually against a small subset of operations and uses testing tools
- The goal is to “pass certification”
- Some groups do very large TEST-FESTs again with the goal of conformance testing
 - ◆ Typically limited to very specific test cases

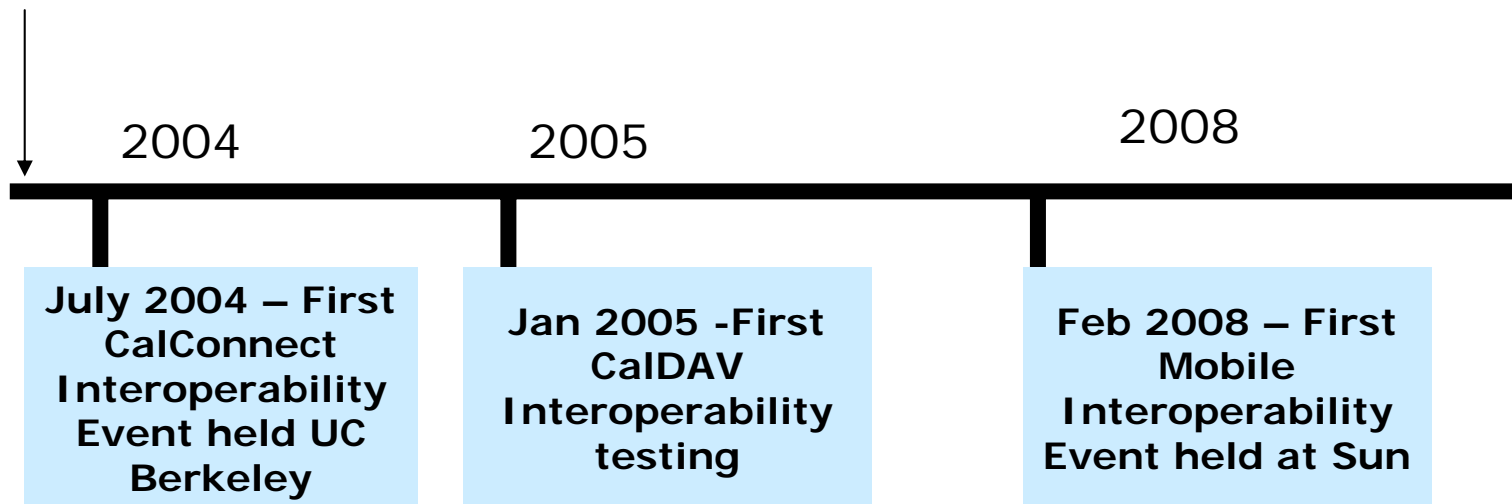
What is Interoperability Testing at CalConnect?

- At CalConnect, we test partner pairs, at face to face functions
 - ◆ Specific test cases are outlined and documented
 - ◆ Testing typically done by developers
 - In some cases, the developers are the authors of the specifications being tested
 - ◆ They are able to find and often times fix existing problems onsite
 - ◆ Discussions with other developers are held
 - ◆ Even though they are testing a specification, the developers know their products
 - ◆ The ultimate goal is better interoperability across vendor implementations

Testing Timeline

IETF testing
prior to
CalConnect

CalConnect Interoperability Testing



Standards Development

- As a protocol advances, our testing expands to accommodate the new specifications added to a protocol
 - ◆ For example, Scheduling was added to CalDAV in the latter part of 2007.
 - ◆ In 2008, we started testing vendor implementations of the specification
 - ◆ This allows the vendors to see in real time how their applications perform against other products
 - Seeing quickly what works or doesn't work allows the authors of the specification to make changes that will encourage interoperability
 - Case in point – at the October 2008 Interoperability Testing Event, 8 servers and 4 clients held CalDAV testing and two of the clients supported CalDAV Scheduling

Interoperability Testing Pre-Specification

- iSchedule is new in 2008
 - ◆ Still in the discussion mode
 - ◆ Not yet defined as a specification
- The CalConnect Community enabled members to work together and actually have interoperability happening prior to a specification creation
- In October, we tested implementations of the new “specification under development”
 - ◆ This is an example of vendors quickly rolling out software using a proposed new specification
 - ◆ In this case, it will lead to a specification that has a good chance of acceptance and interoperability

How Do Organizations Participate

- Any member or non-member may participate in a CalConnect Interoperability Test Event
 - ◆ Submit a registration application
 - ◆ Agreement to abide by the rules of the event
 - ◆ Payment of the appropriate fee.
- Any member or non-member may attend a single CalConnect Interoperability Test Event as an Observer
 - ◆ The same bullet points as above apply
- CalConnect provides the location, Internet connectivity, testing documents, and food
 - ◆ Typically, a CalConnect member organization hosts the event

What Happens at an Interoperability Event

- Participants provide details on how to access their servers and clients
- Test suites and/or Test Matrices are used for testing
- Partner testing pairs are set up and each pair tests using the testing documents
- Participants document findings and deliver them to the Interoperability Testing Manager
- Impromptu meetings are held during the event to allow participants to have adhoc discussions
 - ◆ This is often the first time people who have been testing together informally meet for the first time
 - ◆ Face to face testing has proven to be invaluable to participants

Our October 2008 Event – Yahoo Campus



8 CalDAV Servers

4 CalDAV Clients

IBM / Microsoft iCalendar testing



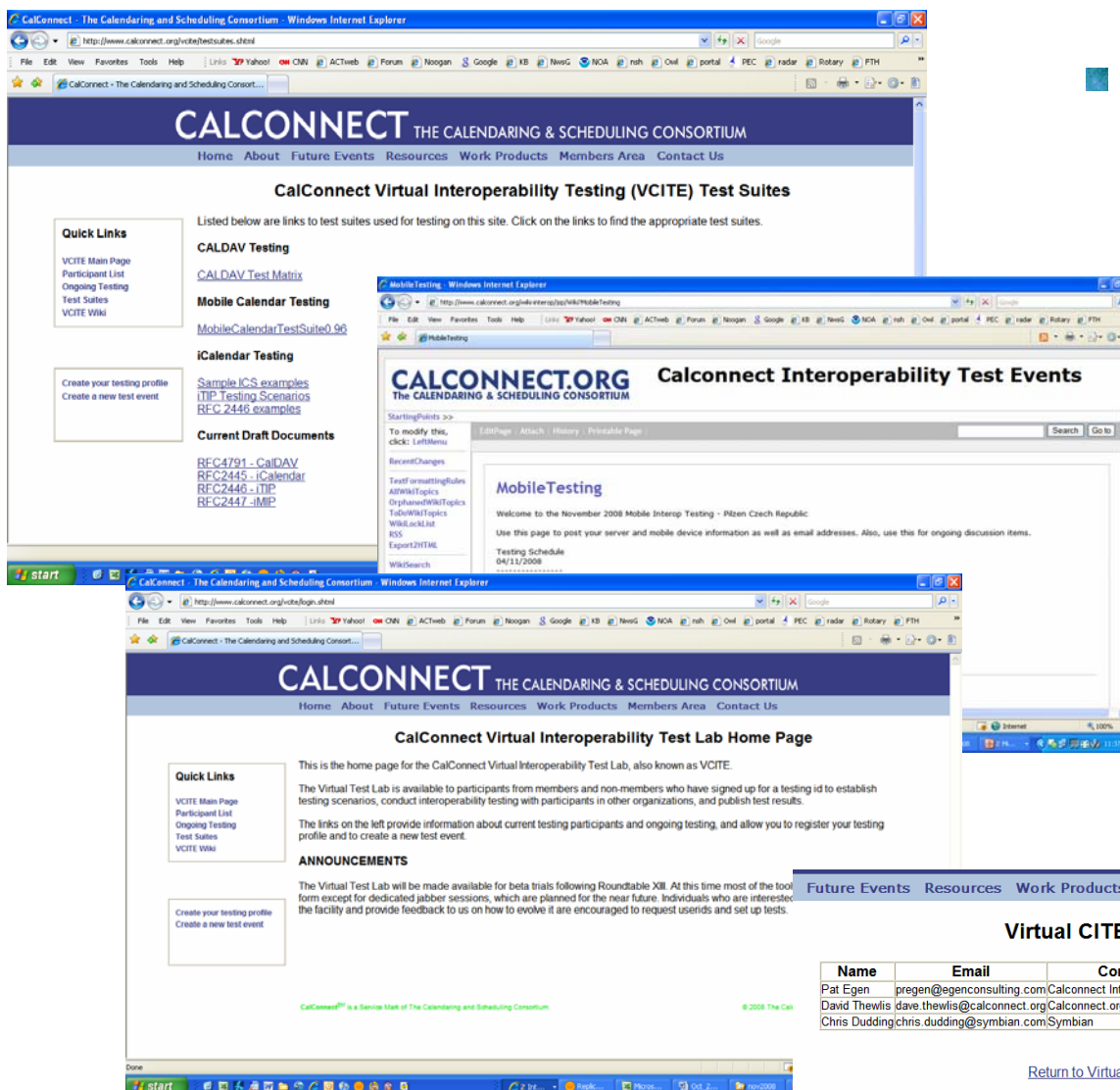
What is Produced from the Testing

- CalConnect produces two documents several weeks after the Testing is completed
 - ◆ An **members-only internal document** details in depth who tested what, with whom and what failed or succeeded.
 - ◆ A Public document outlines what was tested and general observations but excludes actual references to vendor results
- The Public documents are shared with Standards organizations to assist them with modifications and/or enhancements to the tested specifications
- Prior CalConnect Reports available back to July 2004
 - ◆ <http://www.calconnect.org/eventreports.shtml>

What is Publicly Available

- Test suites are publicly available on the CalConnect website
- Past Public reports can be downloaded and reviewed
- A new Virtual Testing Lab is in Beta now
 - ◆ Once complete, external developers can use the Virtual Lab to further test their implementations

Virtual Test Lab



The site is a series of work areas

- ◆ User id request
- ◆ Logon screen
- ◆ Profile Setup
- ◆ Create a Test or
- ◆ Join a test event in progress
- ◆ Report findings on a Wiki page

Future Projects

- Complete the Virtual Testing Lab (VCITE)
- We are currently working on an iCalendar validation tool that will reside on our website
 - ◆ The goal is that people can paste iCalendar streams into the tool and it will identify issues and validate that the text is structured correctly
- Continued Interoperability testing on:
 - ◆ CalDAV Scheduling
 - ◆ CalDAV Security and Roles
 - ◆ iSchedule
 - ◆ Mobile Calendaring Testing