Rensselaer and

UWCalendar 2

an institute-wide open-source Java events calendar

Communication & Collaboration Technologies
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
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Who We Are

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The UW Calendar project, founded by Greg Barnes and Information Systems, Computing & Communications at the University of Washington, "is building an open-source calendaring system for higher education. UW Calendar will support personal, public and group events, use existing open standards, and support web-based and other forms of access, including uPortal integration."

http://www.washington.edu/ucal

1. Our design approach
2. Our adoption of UWC al
3. Contributions towards UWC al Release 2
4. Future plans
5. Demonstration
Our Design Approach

- XML-based J2EE web applications built in the MVC framework
- Separate content from presentation and presentation from business logic so that each can be developed independently
- XSLT lives in designer’s world
- XSLT files live on the web “outside” our applications and are called over http
- We don’t need to redeploy an application to change its appearance or to deploy a new skin
- We contend that a designer with reasonable skill can handle XSLT development
Advantages

- Developers can concentrate on individual strengths
- Separation of roles (technically, not just conceptually) allows each area to be modified independently
- Applications are accessible to regular web designers

Our Adoption of UWCalendar
An institutional calendar could provide:

- Events publishing
- Personal calendaring
- Group calendaring
- Resource scheduling

Goals

- Institutional Calendar for events publishing
- Distributed, fine grained administration
- Integrated -- PDAs, Outlook
- Extensible
- No license or usage fees
- Customizable design
- Open Source
- Used and developed by multiple universities
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Requirements

- Java / J2EE / JBoss
- Linux
- XML

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Contenders

- WebEvent (SoE)
  - perl
  - not free
- Sun ONE Calendar server
  - Solaris, HP/UX, WinNT
- Corporate Time (Cornell)
  - purchased by Oracle from Steltor
    - integrated into Oracle Collaborative Suite
  - purchased by many universities prior to Oracle’s acquisition
- Homegrown / Open Source
  - Va Tech
  - Skidmore
  - University of Washington
Initial Goals for UWCal

- Expand UWCalendar community
- Customizable look and feel
- Public events only

Rensselaer’s 1st Release

- Created Struts / XML / J2EE versions of UWCal
  - Admin and Public (guest) clients
  - Did not fully implement personal client
- Added administrative features
  - admin groups
  - servlet role based authorization
  - location and contacts management
- Updated usability / configurability
- Generated Rensselaer skins, including support for html, rss, and ical on desktops and PDAs
Current State of Production

- Deployed December 1, 2003
- As of June 4, 2004
  - 1352 events
  - 63 admin groups
  - 170 admins
- No redeploy since December
  - added meta tags
  - added rss feeds
  - changed default view

Social Factors

- Past: sending email
- Future: posting to a central system
  - for events, the Campus Events Calendar
  - users can subscribe to calendars, pull rss feeds, or receive email as they choose

= Paradigm Shift
UWCalendar
Release 2

• Restructured to facilitate development:
  – Modular approach
  – Built around a service interface ("service oriented architecture")
  – No presentation logic in core calendar code
Motivations

- Make development manageable
  - Add features more easily
  - Add other applications more easily
  - Encourage others to participate

- Allow clustering
- Support Portlets - JSR 168
RPI’s Future Plans

- Events in multiple categories
- Email subscriptions
- “Departmental” views
- Dump / restore utility
- Rewrite back-end to support clustering
  - redesign service interface
  - Hibernate??
- JSR 168 portlet implementation

Opportunities for Development

- Group calendaring
- Room / resource scheduling
- True synchronization
Examples

- UWCalendar Project
  - http://www.washington.edu/ucal

- Rensselaer Institutional Calendar of Events
  - http://j2ee.rpi.edu/cal

- Washington Events Calendar
  - http://myuw.washington.edu/pubevents/servlet/uwcal.UWCal