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TC Mobile Interoperability Test Event Report

Introduction

The Calendaring and Scheduling Consortium's mobile technical committee (TC-Mobile) held a mobile interoperability test event in May 2010 at CalConnect's roundtable event hosted by Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA, USA. This was the third mobile test event that CalConnect has held.

This event was instigated by participants of TC-Mobile who had a strong interest in interoperability testing of their products. The event was focussed on testing the ActiveSync protocol. Previous events focussed on general iCalendar interoperability and SyncML testing.

TC-Mobile's primary role is to promote calendaring interoperability for mobile devices. As part of its efforts, it has developed a *Mobile Calendar Interoperability Test Suite* document (http://www.calconnect.org/pubdocs/CD0706%20Mobile%20Calendar%20Interoperability%20Test%20Suite.pdf) that contains a large number of testing scenarios to use as the basis of interoperability testing. This was used during the event reported here.

Event Summary

Participants in the test event are listed in the table below. We had five server products and four client products being tested. Some were released products, others were still in development.

Vendor	Server	Client
IceWarp	Yes	
Microsoft	Yes	Yes
MailSite/AstraSync	Yes	Yes
Notify Corp		Yes
Nokia		Yes
Synchronica	Yes	
Kerio (remote)	Yes	

Each participant provided their own systems for testing, either in the room itself, or remotely. A testing plan with a listing of client/server pairs was available and used to ensure we had full coverage of all relevant combinations. Some participants brought their own testing plans for use at the event, and these were shared with other participants. Facilities in the room included wired and WiFi internet access, as well as good wireless coverage from the major carriers. Servers were mostly hosted remotely, clients were running locally.

The biggest issues found involved protocol features that were implemented or expected by one side that had not been implemented by the other. The most frequent reason was ambiguity in the specifications which we hope to address with Microsoft. In other cases, products were simply under development and had not yet implemented the feature, however the participants were glad to know that such features were going to be important to implement, helping to prioritize on-going development.

Conclusions

The testing event was successful, with all participants being able to run through their detailed testing scenarios with the other participants in matched client/server pairs. Participants were able to share knowledge about mobile calendaring from both a server and client perspective. Participants considered this event valuable, especially as no other organization offers a similar event for testing calendaring aspects of ActiveSync (and indeed other similar protocols).

Future Work

Following on from this successful interoperability testing event, CalConnect is planning additional mobile testing events for the future. We would like to hear from members and non-members interested in participating in a future mobile interoperability testing event. In particular who would like to attend and what should be tested. In the past we have found that events focussed on a specific suite of tests or one particular technology have worked the best.

Please contact Dave Thewlis at CalConnect if you are interested (mailto:Dave.Thewlis@calconnect.org , tel:+1-707-840-9391).