

Bedework Provides Support to the Open Connector Project

Bedework, the open-source, enterprise calendar system for higher education, will be working closely with the Open Connector Project, developers of open-source extensions for Microsoft Outlook®, to better support CalDAV in Outlook 2003 and Outlook 2007. Bedework will be providing funding to the Open Connector Project, and will participate in testing the open Connector CalDAV support using Outlook in an Exchange environment as well as a standalone calendar client.

Since March 2007 when the IETF published RFC 4791, “Calendaring Extensions to WebDAV (CalDAV)”, significant progress has been observed in the number of CalDAV client implementations, as well as the quality and interoperability of these implementations. When the Apple ical calendar is made available as part of the “Leopard” release, the CalDAV landscape will be richer yet.

Nonetheless, until Outlook users can access calendars on CalDAV servers, CalDAV’s benefits will not be fully realized.

Bedework’s financial support for Open Connector is at once both an act of altruism and one of enlightened self interest.

From its initial conception, Bedework was designed to be standards compliant, with support for CalDAV clients. At Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), the host organization of the Bedework project, Outlook is the most widely used e-mail client. CalDAV support in Outlook would significantly improve calendaring interoperability at RPI, and this is undoubtedly true for many other large organizations which depend on Outlook/Exchange.

Ultimately what is good for CalDAV is good for Bedework, and in the absence of a native Outlook implementation of CalDAV, Open Connector has the greatest potential to spur CalDAV adoption and usage.

The Bedework development team look forward to this collaboration with the Open Connector project to provide CalDAV functionality and interoperability to Outlook users.

The Bedework web site can be found at <http://www.bedework.org>, the Open Connector Project at <http://openconnector.org>.