ORACLE COMMUNICATIONS CALENDAR SERVER

The Oracle Communications Calendar Server is a secure, scalable, extensible, and rich communication and collaboration platform. It provides a rich collaboration feature set with flexible deployment architecture and multiple client support for enterprises and service providers.

Collaborative Time and Organizational Resource Management Tools

Oracle Communications Calendar Server offers outstanding collaboration features such as calendaring, group scheduling, event information sharing, task management, e-mail invitations, reminders via e-mail and instant messaging, and multiple-client support. With Oracle Communications Calendar Server, users can access their calendar via multiple clients, including Microsoft Outlook. The standards-based architecture enables Apple iCal, Apple iPhone, Mozilla Thunderbird/Lightning, or other CalDAV clients to access Oracle Communications Calendar Server.

With its rich feature set, highly scalable deployment architecture, integration with other Oracle Communications Unified Communications Suite products, and multiple-client options, Oracle Communications Calendar Server is ideally suited for enterprises as well as service providers. It provides the quality of experience and service that end users require as well as the open, extensible platform that IT administrators and developers appreciate—all at a low total cost of ownership (TCO).

Communication and Collaboration Services

Oracle Communications Calendar Server is a key component of Oracle Communications Unified Communications Suite, which provides secure and reliable communication and collaboration services at less than half the cost of alternative solutions. Oracle Communications Unified Communications Suite brings together

- Oracle Communications Messaging Server
- Oracle Communications Instant Messaging Server
- Oracle Communications Contacts Server
- Oracle Communications Mobile Synchronization Gateway
Outlook Connector
Convergence, a state-of-the-art Ajax client
Indexing and search service
Together, these products help solve the complexities of communicating and collaborating in today’s busy environment.

Quality of Experience
The use of electronic calendars to manage time and resources is increasing. Demand for calendar services and their continued use is driven by the quality of the end user experience, which, in turn, is determined by the features of the services and their ease of use, personalization, and accessibility through multiple media types and devices. Oracle Communications Calendar Server is designed to facilitate scheduling and resource coordination among communities of users. Enterprise customers appreciate the end user satisfaction and increased productivity; service providers benefit from customer satisfaction and retention, and both appreciate the positive effects on the bottom line.

Calendaring
Oracle Communications Calendar Server enables users to keep track of their appointments and tasks. Support for customized recurring rules makes it easy to set up repeating events and tasks. Ability to set different forms of appointment reminders help make sure users never miss their appointments or deadlines.

Group Scheduling
With Oracle Communications Calendar Server, organizers are able to create an event and invite others (who may accept or decline the invitation). Group scheduling functionality includes the ability to
- Invite others (including LDAP groups) to events
- Accept and decline events
- Delegate management of calendars and scheduling
- Designate events as public or private
- View availability information for attendees
Attendees do not need to be on the same calendar server to be invited to an event. When Oracle Communications Calendar Server detects that an attendee is not on the calendar server, the scheduling message is sent via e-mail as a Standard iCalendar Message-Based Interoperability Protocol (iMIP) attachment.

Resource Scheduling
Organizational resources such as conference rooms and overhead projectors can be scheduled with the Oracle Communications Calendar Server. It provides several features to make resource scheduling and
management easy, such as the ability to define an owner for the resource account, settings to automatically respond to invitations based on availability, and the ability to set booking windows.

Available-Time Search
An available-time search feature on multiple calendars enables users to see the availability of other people before events and appointments are scheduled. The Convergence client user interface offers a check availability feature that includes the ability to autoselect a free time slot, making group scheduling easier.

Information Sharing
Users can share information relevant to events or tasks by embedding file attachments, such as agenda or presentation materials in the event description. Users can also publish their calendars so that others can subscribe to them.

Text Search
Users can search all their calendars to quickly locate events, appointments, and tasks, such as a dentist appointment that was made three months ago.

Multiple Calendars per User
Oracle Communications Calendar Server users improve personal organization and efficiency by creating calendars for different sets of appointments—such as a work calendar to organize meetings, a team calendar to manage a product development schedule, or a personal calendar.

End User Privacy Controls
Oracle Communications Calendar Server provides both calendar- and event-level access policies. Granular privacy controls enable end users to grant different levels of access to their calendars, including any or all of the following:
- View availability only
- Schedule events
- Read, modify, and/or delete events and tasks

Calendar users can grant access to individuals or LDAP groups. Calendar users can also designate individual events as public, private, or time/date only and can optionally exclude events from free/busy calculations.

Flexible Access
Different users have different access requirements. Some view calendars only via an internet kiosk; some require an integrated, full-featured
personal information management client; and some require mobile and remote access.

Oracle Communications Calendar Server includes the Convergence client, a state-of-the-art Ajax-powered Web 2.0 client for unified Web-based access to calendaring, e-mail, presence, chat, and a common address book. The Convergence client provides the interface for all end user functionality of the calendar server, including multiple calendar views, resource scheduling, task management; and administrative functionality such as reminder options, time zone settings, and privacy controls.

Figure 1: Calendar view in Convergence

With the increasing interest in communications infrastructure consolidation, many IT departments are investigating alternative infrastructure solutions, but they are reluctant to disrupt their end user experience with a change in client access. The connector for Microsoft Outlook enables Outlook users to access the server-side features and functionality of both Oracle Communications Calendar Server and Oracle Communications Messaging Server by using the Microsoft Messaging API (MAPI). The connector uses the Web Calendar Access Protocol (WCAP) to query Oracle Communications Calendar Server for meetings, events, and tasks, which are then converted into MAPI properties. It also provides access to the server-based personal address book by making it available as Outlook contacts.

The connector for Microsoft Outlook supports Microsoft Outlook 2010 and Outlook 2013 and enables support for most Outlook functionality, including

- Access to mail, calendar, and address book services
- Ability to send and receive meeting requests and responses via e-mail
• Free/busy lookup, tasks, contacts, and attachments
• Calendar sharing and delegation
• Group scheduling
• Offline access
• Public and shared folders (mail, calendar, and address book)
• Advanced message and folder management

Oracle Communications Calendar Server also supports Apple iCal and its privacy and delegation model. Users can work seamlessly between Apple iCal, Convergence and other standards-based clients.

Mobile and wireless access is available through standards-based clients on mobile devices, the Oracle Communications Mobile Synchronization Gateway that supports ActiveSync, and mobile solutions from Oracle partners. With standards-based clients on devices such as the iPhone, customers can synch calendar data with a broad set of CalDAV-capable handsets.

Common Address Book

The Convergence client provides a full-featured contact management module, or address book, that provides common contact management functionality across both the e-mail and calendaring components of the Web interface and is also accessible from Outlook with the connector for Microsoft Outlook installed. Using the address book, users can

• Create, manage, and print address books
• Add, sort, edit, delete, and organize contacts and groups
• Send e-mails or invite contacts to events
• Import or export the contact information from or to other address book formats, such as Mozilla Thunderbird Address Book, Outlook Address Book, or Convergence’s address book component
• Search corporate or remote address books in addition to a personal address book

When users first select the address book tab, all the contacts and groups in the personal address book appear. A drop-down list enables users to select alternative address book categories with the contacts and groups in them. The list can have multiple personal address books as well as the corporate directory of the organization.

Open and Extensible Platform

Organizations must be able to accommodate enhancements or modifications to communication and collaboration services to reflect changing end user requirements and business needs, without disrupting existing services. Oracle Communications Calendar Server addresses these requirements, by providing

• A standards-based solution for protecting technology investments
• APIs for service extensions and product customization
• Service delivery mechanisms to support any business model—whether deployed internally or hosted externally

Open Standards Support

The ratification of internet standards for calendaring has been a catalyst in moving calendaring and scheduling into mainstream internet activities. Oracle contributed to the development of these new standards and has implemented them in Oracle Communications Calendar Server, enabling it to interoperate with other calendar products. Oracle Communications Calendar Server supports standards such as CalDAV (RFC 4791), Scheduling Extensions to CalDAV (RFC 6638), iCalendar (RFC 5545), iCalendar Transport-Independent Interoperability Protocol (iTIP—RFC 5546), and iMIP (RFC 6047). It also enables users to import and export iCalendar-formatted calendar information.

Event Notification and Presence Information

Oracle Communications Calendar Server uses a flexible notification service based on the Java Message Service (JMS) to dispatch event start and end, reminders and calendar database changes via e-mail, pager, or wireless devices. Enhancements to developer APIs enable customers to extend this notification to end-users through a variety of additional delivery mechanisms such as XML, Short Message Service (SMS), or instant messaging. Presence servers to automatically update user presence status based on their calendar availability can make use of the same mechanism.

Customizable User Interface

Oracle Communications Calendar Server software’s flexible Ajax-based user interface enables the integration of brands, logos, banners, and ads as well as a customized look and feel. And because the templates are reusable, investment in customization is easy to leverage in an upgrade to the next release of the product.

Customizable Event Feeds

Oracle Communications Calendar Server offers a standard event feed capability that enables real-time delivery of content tailored to a user’s areas of interest. A variety of content—such as weather, IPO schedules, and book release schedules—can be delivered to the user.

Quality of Service

End users demand secure, always-on, always-available services. From an IT perspective, downtime increases costs. Oracle Communications Calendar Server is a robust calendar solution designed to deliver the quality of service necessary to meet the demands of end users.
Security
Oracle Communications Calendar Server comes with built-in security features. Certificate based authentication is available for use in secure environments. Domain level access controls provide more flexibility for CSPs hosting multiple enterprises. Viruses scanning of data and DoS prevention help keep the environment secure.

Horizontal and Vertical Scalability
The lower the number of servers required to deliver services to larger communities, the easier it is to manage those servers, maintain quality of service, and keep costs down. Oracle Communications Calendar Server is based on a scalable architecture that helps maximize hardware investment by enabling it to handle a high volume of simultaneous real-time calendaring events.

High Availability
Oracle Communications Calendar Server, built on Oracle GlassFish Server, leverages the application server clustering capabilities. The architecture uses a standard MySQL back end, which means that tools do not need to be reinvented for administering the database. Because the database is based on MySQL, it leverages existing MySQL clustering solutions to support continuous availability and centralized cluster management.

Directory Integration
Oracle Communications Calendar Server is tightly integrated with Oracle Directory Server Enterprise Edition. Integration with the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP)-based directory server enables the central management and storage of user and account information, simplifying management and administration.

Administration
Oracle Communications Calendar Server provides a number of command-line utilities for easy administration of the servers and the user data.

PLATFORMS AND REQUIREMENTS

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CONTACT US
For more information about Oracle Communications Unified Communications Suite, visit oracle.com or call +1.800.ORACLE1 to speak to an Oracle representative.

Integrated Cloud Applications & Platform Services

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