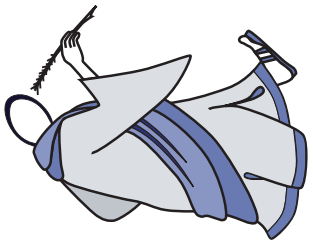
bedework calendar

bedework.org

An Institutional Calendar



Bedework is an open-source institutional calendar designed to conform to current calendar standards. It has a centralized server architecture allowing immediate update of public and personal information. Based on version 2 of the UW Calendar it has been significantly rewritten to support many new features.

Features described below are either complete or imminent.

Java

Written completely in Java, Bedework is system independent. Currently it will compile and run in Java 1.4 or Java 1.5

Hibernate

The core of the calendar uses Hibernate for all database transactions giving support of many database systems and enterprise level performance and reliability. A number of caching schemes are implemented for Hibernate including clustered systems giving further options for improving availability.

Sharing

Full access control is being implemented allowing the sharing of calendars and calendar entities based on authentication status and identity.

Scheduling

Support for scheduling of meetings including invitations and their responses is to be developed in the near future. Work is already taking place to support Caldav scheduling.

Icalendar

Events can be imported and exported in icalendar (RFC2445) format This provides an option for populating the calendar from external sources.

Calendar Subscriptions

Users may subscribe to calendars to which they have access, including public and personal calendars. For example they may subscribe to a class schedule or the theater calendar.

In the near future users will be able to receive email notification of events in subscribed calendars.

Multiple Calendars

The core system supports multiple calendars for users and for public events. Web support for calendar creation will soon be available.

Web Access

Currently the main client for Bedework is the web client which provides access to public events in guest mode and to public and personal events in authenticated mode. The clients are skinnable allowing a high degree of customization.

Web Based Administration

Event entry and maintenance is carried out through a web client which is also xml/xslt and skinnable allowing localization and possible customization for differing uses. For example a different skin for each department.

XML/XSLT based

The web clients are xml and xslt based allowing a number of options. For example, there are preproduction versions of Open-Laszlo (Flash based) clients and a Konfabulator desktop widget.

Localization is carried out be creating a new skin. The skin selected is based upon skin name and locale allowing a significant degree of multilanguage support in the client.

RSS

RSS feeds are implemented simply by applying a different skin to transform the data appropriately.

Caldav Support

Bedework has support for Caldav which will allow caldav aware clients access to the server. Mozilla lightning and Evolution are two desktop clients currently developing support. In addition Caldav has some synchronization features which may provide an alternative to other approaches.

Public Events

Bedework supports public events and calendars. All public entities are subject to full access control allowing an institution to limit visibility of events and calendars to specific groups, users or any authenticated user. Events and calendars may be world readable for guest access. The public view is configured through preferences allowing adminstrators to change the default skin, the default view and add or remove subscriptions from the public view,

Portal Support

Bedework has been shown to work as a JSR168 portlet in Jetspeed and uPortal using the portal-struts bridge.

Departmental Support

Support will soon be available for departmental calendars allowing sub-organizations to maintain their own calendars with whatever degree of visibility is appropriate. Departmental events will be owned by a special departmental owner to which preferences are attached allowing special skins for the departmental view.

Timezone support

Full timezone support is in the process of being implemented. There will be a set of system defined timezones based upon externally available sets of timezone definitions. In addition users will be able to store their own timezone definitions.

Recurring events

Recurring event support is being developed. Currently it is possible to add recurring events via caldav and display the result in the web clients. Web client support for recurring events, at least on a limited basis, will be available very soon.

Event References

Work is in progress to allow annotation of events to which a user has a reference but no write access, for example, events from a subscribed public calendar.

Pluggable Group Support

Bedework uses a pluggable class implementation to determine group membership for authenticated users allowing organizations to implement a class which uses an external directory. The default class uses internal tables to maintain group membership.

Different implementations can be used for administrative and personal use allowing the separation of any given users roles.

Container Authentication

There is no authentication code in Bedework which behaves as a standard servlet. All authentication is carried out through external mechanisms. Standard container authentication (via tomcat or jboss) and filter based Yale CAS authentication have been shown to work.

Visit bedework.org for the latest news and to download the latest version of bedework.

There will be frequent updates over the next few weeks as we prepare this version for deployment and for full release.