CLAIMS

1. The claims defining the invention are as follows :A computer-implemented method for providing a scheduling opportunity previewer comprising:

receiving, with an email application, a scheduling opportunity comprising a request to add a new appointment to a calendar;

retrieving, by a processor, a context of one or more surrounding appointments to the scheduling opportunity; and

displaying, in a preview pane in the email application, the scheduling opportunity with the context of surrounding appointments, without opening a separate calendar module.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving input to view further calendar details.

3. The method of claim 1 or 2, further comprising the steps of:

receiving input to accept or decline the scheduling opportunity.

4. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the displaying of the scheduling opportunity includes a mini-calendar format.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the mini-calendar format is shown in an e-mail preview pane.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the mini-calendar format is shown in a separate window.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein the mini-calendar format can be toggled on and off.

8. The method of claim 4, wherein the mini-calendar format can be adjusted in size.

9. The method of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein any conflicts occurring between the scheduling opportunity and the surrounding appointments are indicated visually.

10. The method of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein when multiple conflicts occur between a scheduling opportunity and the surrounding appointments, navigation among the multiple conflicts is enabled.

11. The method of any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the scheduling opportunity is received in an inbox.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the inbox is an email inbox.

13. The method of any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the context of surrounding appointments is shown for multiple users.

14. The method of any one of claims 1 to 13, further comprising the steps of:

from within the scheduling opportunity, receiving input to propose a new time for a scheduling conflict that has now arisen with another scheduling opportunity already confirmed.

15. The method of any one of claims 1 to 14, further comprising the steps of.

receiving input from a user to select an alternative schedule for the scheduling opportunity; and

displaying the alternative schedule graphically for review before sending the alternative schedule as a new proposal.

16. A computer-implemented method for managing scheduling conflicts with recurrent appointments comprising:

receiving, with an email application, a scheduling opportunity comprising a request to add a new appointment to a calendar;

identifying, by a processor, the scheduling opportunity as a recurrent appointment; and

displaying, in a preview pane in the email application, the scheduling opportunity for the recurrent appointment with a context of surrounding appointments, without opening a separate calendar module.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

receiving input to navigate between instances of the recurrent appointment from within the scheduling opportunity.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the displaying of the scheduling opportunity for the recurrent appointment includes a mini-calendar format

19. A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions that when executed by at least one compute are configured for :

receiving, with an email application, a request to create a new scheduling opportunity comprising a request to add a new appointment to a calendar; creating the new scheduling opportunity; and

displaying in a preview pane of the email application, within the new scheduling opportunity, a context of surrounding appointments to the new scheduling opportunity in a mini-calendar format, without opening a separate calendar module.

20. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the request is a user selection of an option to create the new scheduling opportunity for a selected calendar.

21. A computer-implemented method for providing a scheduling opportunity previewer, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying figures.

22. A computer-implemented method for managing scheduling conflicts with recurrent appointments, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying figures.

23 A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying figures.